

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



WHEN MINUTES MATTER MILLE LACS BAND WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS ARE READY

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Wildland fires are the fastest-growing fire threat in the country. In 2021, there were over 4,600 wildfires that originated on Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) protected lands, resulting in nearly 400,000 acres burned. Wildland firefighters and support personnel are the backbone of the wildland fire community. These men and women work to save lives, property, infrastructure, and precious natural and cultural resources every year.

Wildland fires spread quickly and can easily grow out of control in a matter of minutes and destroy hundreds to thousands of acres of everything in its path, including woodlands, homes, and infrastructure. The Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland crew is prepared to help mitigate that threat. The Wildland crew is a highly trained group of individuals prepared to battle the blazes should sparks begin to fly.

The peak season for wildland fires starts as soon as the snow melts, typically beginning in April and runs through October. The Wildland crew is on high alert and on standby. They

are always with their trucks with radios at hand, ready to go at a moment's notice. They can be seen driving around checking for threats throughout the Reservation during the highest-threat portion of the season, which is typically from snow melt until green-up. But don't let the green grass fool you. Wildfires can and do happen any time before the snow falls again.

Jake Horbacz is Forester of the DNR Wildlands Program. Horbacz said in his experience, the number one cause of wildfires is humans. Horbacz has been a Forester with the Wildlands DNR since 2014 and those nearly 10 years, there has not been one incident caused by lightning on the Reservation. "In super dry conditions, anything can start a fire. All it takes is a spark from anything to cause an incidental start." He listed off the most common causes of incidental starts, including a spark from a bonfire, burning brush, fireworks, kids playing with matches or lighters, improperly extinguished cigarettes,

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'PUBLIC SAFETY DOES NOT SEE BORDERS'

Bipartisan approval received to remove the statutory requirement for tribal police to have a cooperative agreement with Mille Lacs County

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

A bill which will improve public safety for everyone in Mille Lacs County — Mille Lacs Band members and non-Band members alike — has passed both the House and Senate and has been signed by the Governor as part of a larger public safety bill. The bill removes from Minnesota Statutes the requirement for the Mille Lacs Band to hold a law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's office and allows for the Band to exercise concurrent law enforcement jurisdictional authority within the boundaries of the 1855 Treaty.

This amendment to the statute also extends the same authority to other Minnesota tribal police departments and the counties in which they are located as well as the Mille Lacs Band.

Currently, in accordance to Minnesota Statute 626.90, the Band's police department must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff. This bill removed that legal requirement and expands the law enforcement authority of the Band's police department under state law to all persons on all lands within the 1855 Reservation.

This change will ensure that the tribal police officers are always allowed to enforce the criminal law on all lands within the Reservation. This law only applies to criminal activities and does not include civil jurisdiction.

"This is a win-win for everyone in Mille Lacs County," Mille Lacs Band Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle said. "This is a good opportunity to keep our communities safe for everyone. Public safety does not see borders."

Although it will not be a requirement for the Band to have a joint powers agreement with Mille Lacs County, the Band would likely pursue an agreement with Mille Lacs County, according to Dogeagle. "We do have a temporary agreement in place currently," he said. "We would like to pursue an agreement with Aitkin County, and we have a pretty good relationship with Pine County. We think there are good reasons to collaborate in keeping our communities safe for everybody,

LAW ENFORCEMENT see page 4

LEVEL II OF THE ROSETTA STONE OJIBWE LANGUAGE LEARNING NOW AVAILABLE

Level II of the Rosetta Stone language learning platform has been released and is now available for everyone. Native languages and cultures are at a critical point in their existence. We know culture and language are a core part of who we are.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has partnered with Rosetta Stone to create a language learning platform for our Ojibwe language to empower our community, maintain our identity, and help us be successful.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about this project, visit <https://www.culture.aanji.org/ojibwe-rosetta-stone/> or you can contact Aanji at one of the phone numbers or emails below:

Aanjibimaadizing Office: 320-532-7407

Dan Pagnac: 320-532-7563 dan.pagnac@millelacsband.com

Karen Pagnac: 320-362-4139 karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com



PROTECT YOUR PET WITH VACCINATIONS — SEE PAGE 17

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! The State Legislature just completed its work and ended its session. I have very exciting legislative updates that I want to focus on this month, including some big wins that will positively affect the lives of nearly every Band member.

After Mille Lacs County revoked our joint powers law enforcement agreement in 2016, many may recall that our Band was faced with a very dangerous public safety crisis. For approximately two years, Mille Lacs County officials took the position that our tribal law enforcement officers no longer had authority to enforce state criminal law and threatened to arrest our officers for impersonating police officers if they carried out their duties. District I became known as a “police free zone” and drug dealers from all over the Midwest moved into the Reservation. Public safety became so at-risk that the Secretary of Interior came to Mille Lacs and assigned federal BIA Law Enforcement officers to help us. This was a horrible period of time that impacted nearly every Band member in District I. We are still recovering from this period.

I am pleased to report that the county will never again have that kind of power over the Band. The provision in state law that required that the Band have a joint powers agreement with Mille Lacs County as a condition of our POST-certified tribal police being able to enforce state law has been removed. The county no longer has any authority to determine or influence whether or not our police officers are authorized to protect and serve our Band.

The county's 2016 decision to revoke the joint powers agreement was about spite. It was done in retaliation after the United States had issued an M-Opinion concluding that our Reservation boundaries never ceased to exist. After revoking the agreement without any advance warning, the county insisted that it would not re-enter the law enforcement agreement unless the Band would agree that our Reservation boundary no longer existed. Now that this legislation has been passed, from this point forward the county will never again be able to threaten our public safety. That era has ended.

A second significant win for the Band and for all of Minnesota is that, more than 20 years after the discussion began about possibly building high speed rail to transport Minnesotans from the Twin Cities to Duluth, funding for the Northern Lights Express (NLX) with a stop in Hinckley was also included in the Omnibus Transportation Conference Report at \$195 million. When this project was first proposed decades ago, we began our efforts to advocate for a train stop in Hinckley, but support for the NLX dwindled. Advocates brought this idea back during this session, so we renewed our efforts to seek support for a stop in Hinckley that our employees and guests could use. This funding was almost taken off the table during debate on the House bill, but with a lot of work and support, it remained. More information about the Northern Lights Express will be coming later in the year.

The Legislature also passed an Omnibus Tax Bill that includes an historic level of funding for tribal governments to support the most critical needs faced by our people called State Aid to Tribal Nations. One half of the funding will be divided equally among the tribal nations in Minnesota, and the other half will be distributed according to a formula. This funding will include local homeless prevention aid for Tribal governments. Additionally, a housing bill was passed that appropriates \$10 million to tribal nations in Minnesota to invest in homelessness prevention and assistance programs. The tax bill also clarifies language pertaining to electric pull-tabs that could be helpful as we seek to broader revenue-generating op-

portunities where it makes sense.

We also have positive news for our high school and college-aged students. The House and Senate have passed \$24 million in funding to establish the American Indian Scholars Program, which will provide full tuition and a fee waiver for Native students to pursue at public colleges and universities in Minnesota. I hope that our many students who are graduating in June are paying attention and see the doors being opened for them. I look forward to joining families and teachers as we celebrate the graduation and transition of so many Band children and students in June. With these children and young adults, our future is looking bright! Let's be sure to support them in any way we can.

This support for our young people starts in both the community and the government. The State Legislature also included new funding that will support our planning and implementation to become the fourth tribe to join the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative in Minnesota. This tribal child welfare initiative will allow us to build more capacity to offer our children the services they would otherwise receive from the state so that we can provide culturally sensitive and response social services to our families. This will allow us to establish our own best practices and assess a child or parent's eligibility for membership. It reflects our efforts to keep our children safe and rooted in the community, and connected with our culture and community. Miigwech to Representative Keeler, who was a very strong advocate on child protection issues — this work will make all the difference in the happiness and stability of our children and young adults.

The Legislature also approved funding to promote tribal food sovereignty and sustainability by providing resources for culturally connected food, materials to support program sustainability, and technology for low-contact food distribution. The Band continues to grow our agriculture and fishery programs, and this funding will be extremely helpful for our local food production efforts. Our food sovereignty goal is to expand locally produced, healthy food options for our tribal members. This is as key to our health as a nation as offering social and medical services. Getting in touch with our traditional diet is medicine to our community.

Also new is the First Generation Down Payment Assistance Program included in the Housing Omnibus bill. This program was created in response to concerns about the racial gap in home ownership in Minnesota. Funding provided will serve people who have not owned a home or have lost it due to foreclosure, or whose parents or guardians experienced this. Home ownership is one of the most important factors in reducing poverty, because it allows people to build equity in their homes that they can one day get back, rather than rental payments, which renters will never get back again. This program provides substantial down payment assistance and is ready for use. If you have any questions about this program, please get in contact with the Band's Housing Department.

Additionally, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan were key in securing additional support for the Office of the State Archaeologist. You might recall an incident that occurred a few years ago when funerary objects were unintentionally unearthed by a utility company doing work on the Reservation. Under federal law through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, those items should have been transferred to the custody and care of our Tribal Historic Preservation office to determine next steps. Instead, the State Archaeologist took these objects and sent them to

a facility in Wisconsin for study. Through this experience, we learned that Minnesota's laws were out of compliance with federal laws, and more support was needed in Minnesota to protect our rights and the rights of those who came before us. We worked closely with the State, and this additional support will help ensure that human remains and funerary objects of any ancestry must at all times be treated with dignity and respect.

There are many thanks to go around for everything we accomplished during this state legislative session. Under our Band laws, the Chief Executive is charged with sole responsibility and authority for conducting external relations with other governments, which is called “government affairs.” A significant amount of my time as Chief Executive is spent conducting government affairs at the state and federal level, but I'm able to do this work effectively because we have such a strong and talented team of Government Affairs staff and contractors who staff these efforts. They provide the expert support and advice that is so critical for moving our legislative agenda forward. We have a strong partnership that keeps our relationships with state and federal leaders strong. It takes a lot of work to be continuously educating current and new elected officials in St. Paul about our Band and our priorities, and we are always seeking to build new relationships. Miigwech to our fantastic Government Affairs team for all of their wonderful work they do to support this critical work of external relations.

Chi miigwech to Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman and Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic. As a Band, we have much to look forward to and are grateful to this state leadership team for including Native Americans in its legislative agenda.

Finally, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland will be visiting our lands on June 3 for her ongoing regional meetings about the boarding school era. This is a regional meeting is for all tribes in the midwest area, and Secretary Haaland chose to hold the meeting here on our lands. This meeting is open to all survivors of the boarding school era and their families who are encouraged to provide testimony to Secretary Haaland. It is open up to all boarding school survivors and family members to provide testimony to Secretary Haaland. This will be at the District I Community Center.

Miigwech!

YOU MAY HAVE MONEY COMING

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has a number of checks that have not been claimed. Please visit the website at the link below and then carefully review the list below to see if your name, or a family member's name is on the list. If your name is on the list, please contact OMB to verify that you have funds available to you. If you have a family member on this list, please have them contact OMB directly. There are a number of checks for deceased Band members. OMB is looking for the person or persons responsible for their estate. If the responsible person has the appropriate legal documents, OMB will release the estate check to that person only. Contact Katy at 320-532-7471 or Stephanie at 320-532-7743.

Link:
millelacsband.com/government/resources1/office-of-management-and-budget.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SPECIAL SESSION FOR MAY AND JUNE

Band Assembly is currently in Special Session and will meet if necessary, during the months of May and June. If there are any meetings scheduled, the agenda will be shared to the Mille Lacs Band Legislative Branch Facebook page.

During regular session, Band Assembly conducts formal

SWEARING IN



On May 1, 2023, District Court Judge Richard Osburn swore in Brenda Moose as District II Associate Justice. Speaker of Assembly Sheldon Boyd, District III Representative Harry Davis, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District I Representative Virgil Wind, District II Associate Justice Brenda Moose, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and District Court Judge Richard Osburn.



On May 1, 2023, while in Special Session Band Assembly met to approve and swear into office Caleb Dogeagle to serve as Solicitor General and Mel Towle to serve as Commissioner of Finance. District II Representative Wendy Merrill, Speaker of Assembly Sheldon Boyd, Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, District I Representative Virgil Merrill, and Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle.



On May 1, 2023, Caleb Dogeagle was approved by Band Assembly and sworn in to office for a second term as Solicitor General.



On May 1, 2023, Mel Towle was approved by Band Assembly and sworn in to office for another term as Commissioner of Finance.



On May 18, 2023, Brenda Moose was sworn in as District II Associate Justice.

business every Wednesday at 10 a.m. You may view Band Assembly in-person or via live-streaming. Band members may view previous meetings online in the archives and are encouraged to do so.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly Meeting, May 8, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda. Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 30-23. The hearing commenced at 11:48 a.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements and comments from the District Representatives. There was further discussion on the veto process. The meeting was closed at 12:50 p.m. with continued compromise hearing scheduled for May 9 at 11 a.m. The full video recording of the hearing can be viewed by Band members on the live streaming link of the archives found at <https://millelacsband.com/members/live-streaming>.

Band Assembly Meeting, May 10, 2023

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 27-23. The hearing commenced at 3:05 p.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements and comments from the District Representatives. There were statements by TERO Director, Lori Trail, TERO Chair, Cheryl Miller, TERO Co-Chair, Scott Tossey, and Associate General Counsel for Corporate Ventures, Chad Ambroday. Closing statement from sponsor Representative Wind. The meeting was closed at 4:18 p.m.

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 31-23. The hearing commenced at 4:18 p.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements and comments from the District Representatives. There was a comment from the Commissioner of Finance, Mel Towle. The meeting was closed at 4:53 p.m. The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Bill 20-03-32-23 (A Bill amending Title 15, Chapter 1 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes ("MLBS*"), to make comprehensive reforms to the Gaming Regulatory Act). The full video recording of the meeting can be viewed by Band members on the live streaming link of the archives found at <https://millelacsband.com/members/live-streaming>.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-22-23: A resolution ratifying the Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to join the Mississippi - Grand Rapids Watershed Collaboration for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Band Assembly Workshop, May 12, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding proposed revisions to HR personnel policies and procedures.

Band Assembly Meeting, May 18, 2023

The District Representatives denied nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Lyle Mitch Corbine to serve as the Commissioner of Community Development for the term ending June 30, 2023. The District Representatives denied nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Gordon Matrious to serve on the Corporate Board, District 3 Position. Current term ends March 31, 2024.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund proposal passes off House floor: The Minnesota House of Representatives passed legislation to renew and modify the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, with an 87-41 vote. The legislation proposes a constitutional amendment in the 2024 general election that would extend the dedication of lottery proceeds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) through December 31, 2050. The bill is authored by Rep. Athena Hollins (DFL-Saint Paul). If the constitutional amendment passes, the bill will also establish a new ENRTF Community Grants Advisory Council that would oversee 1.5% of the fund and provide recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the administration of the grant program for communities that are overburdened or underserved. The ENRTF is a constitutionally dedicated fund that may be spent only on the "protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources." The fund currently receives 40 percent of the net proceeds from the state lottery which is the amount required to be dedicated to the fund under the constitution until 2025. The other 60% goes to the general fund. HF 1900 also increases the amount available for the Legislature to appropriate from 5.5% of the Fund to 7%. Source: *Red Lake Nation News*.

'Road to Healing' Will Visit Boarding School Survivors in Minnesota on June 3: The Department of the Interior announced Friday that Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community) will travel to Mille Lacs County, Minnesota on Saturday, June 3, 2023 for the seventh stop on "The Road to Healing" tour. This tour includes the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Minnesota hosted at least 16 federal Indian boarding schools, according to the Interior's 2022 investigative report listing 408 federally supported boarding schools. The report was one outcome from the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to shed light on the troubled history of Federal Indian boarding school policies and their legacy. Source: *Native News Online*.

Citizen Scientist Group: More Problems Along Line 3 Pipeline Corridor Suspected: Enbridge's oil replacement pipeline known as Line 3 has officially been in operation for more than a year. The construction of the pipeline in Northern Minnesota led to several aquifer breaches, millions of dollars in fines for the company and even criminal charges. In Clearwater County, an uncontrolled water flow was first noticed in January 2021 after large sheets of metal used to reinforce the soil breached an aquifer. In total, three aquifer breaches were identified by the state, which led to \$11 million in fines for Enbridge. The company claims on its website to have fixed those breaches. Enbridge declined the FOX 9 Investigators request for an interview but referred to company-produced videos that detail their restoration efforts. Jeffrey Broberg is a geologist with four decades experience under his belt, including 10 years working in the oil industry. He's concerned about the potential problems within the pipeline corridor, like aquifer breaches near the Fond du Lac reservation. Source: *FOX21*

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

CELEBRATING AROUND THE RESERVATION

Success is measured in many different ways, especially at the end of the school year. Students from preschool to premed and beyond can be proud of whatever level success they have accomplished during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Students of Onamia Public Schools were treated with an all-school powwow in May, Abinoojiiyag 5th-graders held a special celebration on May 24, Pine County American Indian Education advisors hosted an event for all Native American students in Pine County on May 24, and Nay Ah Shing graduation ceremony was held on May 31 (after this issue had gone

to press so watch for photos in next month's issue). But we are not done yet! More events are coming in June including Pine Grove Kindergarten Graduation on June 6 and 6th grade promotion, the Mille Lacs Band Education and Scholarship program will be hosting an all-grad party for all graduates for the years 2020 through 2023 on June 15 at Grand Casino Hinckley from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. including special guest entertainment. Watch for next months issue and look for more photos online at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



Onamia Public Schools held an all school end of the year powwow with hundreds of people in attendance. Students of all ages, teachers staff and faculty participated.



Abinoojiiyag 5th grade celebration on May 24, 2023.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave the welcome during the Pine County Native American Graduate Dinner on May 24, 2023.

LAW ENFORCEMENT from page 1
non-Indians and Band members."

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department currently has a better working relationship with the County Sheriff's Office than they did five years ago, according to TPD Chief of Police James West. "The boots-on-the-ground day-to-day activities will not change. It is more of a reassurance that the law enforcement authority cannot be taken away. We will consistently have the ability to enforce state laws and federal laws within the boundaries of the Treaty of 1855 Reservation for Band members and state jurisdiction for non-Band members. We do have a good rapport with the current sheriff's administration, and it continues to strengthen."

Chief West testified before both the house and senate public safety committees. The Minnesota Chief of Police Association sent a letter of support of the bill and the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association did not testify in opposition as they have in the past.

The Band will still have the same requirements, such as tort liability, limited waiver of sovereign immunity, employ POST licensed peace officers, and more, and will abide by the requirements of the new law. The Office of the Solicitor General is currently drafting a resolution to go before Band Assembly to reflect the requirements.

This amendment recognizes and respects the sovereignty of the Mille Lacs Band and their inherent authority to provide public safety within the Reservation. "It also takes away one of the tools the county used to interfere with the Tribal Police De-

partment's inherent and federally delegated law enforcement authority. That is one of the pieces that led to the dispute and ultimately the lawsuit. This removes the ability for future Mille Lacs County Officials to do that again," Dogeagle said.

The law will go into effect on August 1, 2023.

MORE

This bill is amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 626.90, subdivision 2; 626.91, subdivisions 2, 4; 626.92, subdivisions 2, 3; 626.93, subdivisions 3, 4; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 626.93, subdivision 7.

In 2019, an exception to the law was added in Statute 626.93 for the Prairie Island Community.

Subd. 7.Exception; Prairie Island Indian Community. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in subdivision 3 or 4, the Prairie Island Indian Community of the Mde-wakanton Dakota tribe has concurrent jurisdictional authority under this section with the local county sheriff within the geographical boundaries of the community's reservation to enforce state criminal law if the requirements of subdivision 2 are met, regardless of whether a cooperative agreement pursuant to subdivision 4 is entered into.



Governor Tim Walz ceremonially signed the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act into law on Friday, April 28, 2023, surrounded by Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Sen. Mary Kunesch, tribal leaders from across Minnesota including Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, legislators, and urban community leaders. The bill was officially signed into law on March 16, 2023.

MIFPA CEREMONIALLY SIGNED INTO LAW

By THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

On Friday, April 28, Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan ceremonially signed and celebrated Chapter 16, Senate File 667, which strengthens the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) and prevents unnecessary separations between Native American children and families. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan celebrated the bill signing alongside legislators, tribal leaders, council members, and urban Native community leaders. The celebration included a drum circle by the Ain Dah Yung Center Youth Drum Group. Photos from the event are courtesy of the Governor's Office.

"The amended and updated Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act adds even more protections for Native families across the state," said Governor Walz. "Thank you to the MIFPA workgroup, to those who testified, the countless advocates, legislators, and everyone who worked to ensure our state can continue to protect Native families here in Minnesota — regardless of what happens at the federal level."

Chapter 16, Senate File 667 strengthens child welfare protections for Native American families and children. The bill affirms the authority of all federally recognized Indian tribes



Governor Tim Walz displays the ceremonial certificate of law for Chapter 16, Senate File 667 which strengthens child welfare protections for Native American families and children.

to handle cases of Indian child custody and child placement proceedings and requires social workers to make active efforts to preserve family unity. Governor Walz officially signed the bill into law on March 16.



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.



THE MILLE LACS BAND TERO OFFICE HAS MOVED

The Mille Lacs Band TERO Office has moved to the new Aanjibimaadizing building located at 43500 Migizi Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

Even though the office has moved, the contact information remains the same.

Please contact TERO at

320-532-4778 Office

320-630-2617 Cell

tero.director@icloud.com

Lori.Trail@millelacsband.com

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Indian Country Loses a 'Small Giant': Former NCAI President Joe Garcia Walks On at 70:

Tribal leaders from across Indian Country are mourning the passing of former National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Joe Garcia, who served three terms as governor of the Ohkay Owingeh, a federally recognized pueblo in New Mexico. A traditional funeral has already been held. Garcia was 70.

Garcia served for two terms as president of NCAI, the largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. He was elected president of NCAI in 2005 and reelected in 2007. At the time of his death, Garcia served as the Southwest region vice president of NCAI. Source: *Native News*.

Native American remains discovered at Dartmouth College spark calls for accountability:

As a citizen of the Quapaw Nation, Ahnili Johnson-Jennings has always seen Dartmouth College as the university for Native American students. Her father graduated from the school, founded in 1769 to educate Native Americans, and she had come to rely on its network of students, professors and administrators. But news in March that the Ivy League school in New Hampshire found partial skeletal remains of 15 Native Americans in one of its collections has Johnson-Jennings and others reassessing that relationship. "It's hard to reconcile. It's hard to see the college in this old way where they were taking Native remains and using them for their own benefit," said Johnson-Jennings, a senior and co-president of Native Americans at Dartmouth. The remains were used to teach a class as recently as last year, just before an audit concluded they had been wrongly catalogued as not Native. Source: *Associated Press*.

Chief Standing Bear, Native American civil rights icon, is honored on a postal stamp:

Chief Standing Bear, whose landmark lawsuit in 1879 established that a Native American is a person under the law, is on a new postage stamp. The U.S. Postal Service released a Forever stamp on Friday honoring the Ponca tribe chief, a civil rights icon known for his "I Am a Man" speech. The stamp's release comes 146 years after the U.S. Army forcibly removed Chief Standing Bear and some 700 other members of the tribe from their homeland in northeast Nebraska. Standing Bear's son was among those who died of hunger and disease after the tribe's 600-mile journey on foot to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Source: *Oregon Public Broadcasting*.

Arlando Teller sworn in as first Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation:

Assistant Secretary Teller is a member of the Navajo Nation. Arlando Teller was officially sworn in as the first Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs for the U.S. Department of Transportation May 8. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the swearing-in ceremony for Assistant Secretary Teller, who took the position in April. Source: *Navajo-Hopi Observer*.

SENATOR SMITH REINTRODUCES BILL TO ADDRESS AMERICA'S MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS:

The Data to Save Moms Act seeks to understand the root causes of this emergency by improving data collection on maternal mortality and morbidity; Representative Sharice Davids introduced the House companion bill. Source: *Tina Smith press alert*.

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND MILLE LACS BAND MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mental Health team is growing to meet the needs of the community

The Health and Human Services Mental Health Department is growing to meet the needs of the community and the changing face of HHS. Using a whole-health patient-centered care focus, providers are able to work with patients to treat the mind and the body.

The patient-centered care affirms the importance of the relationship between the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual. Providers can work as a team with individual patients to coordinate both physical and emotional health needs.

MEET THE TEAM

L. Read Sulik, MD

Dr. Sulik is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Adult Psychiatrist and Pediatrician, who is committed to improving the lives of children, adolescents, and adults through compassionate and collaborative psychiatric care. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Portages Health, a mental health care company based in Minneapolis. His team at Portages Health has created Portages, a whole-person mental health and wellbeing digital program to provide better access to better care. He has worked with many Indigenous communities and has years of experience serving Tribal Nations across Minnesota and the Dakotas, and he is the recipient of a Bush Foundation Fellowship Award to integrate primary care, mental health care, and traditional healing practices in Indigenous communities. He has won numerous national awards for his work, and he is a popular speaker on mental health and wellbeing nationally and internationally. Dr. Sulik and members of his Portages Health team are serving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to enhance mental health and wellbeing for our entire community.



Michael Meyer, MSW, LICSW

Michael is a therapist at the Ne-la-Shing clinic. He and his family live in Superior, Wisc., and spend a lot of time near or around Lake Superior. Michael has been working with kids and families in the Duluth area for the past 20 years and looks forward to continuing that work in Onamia. His therapy services are provided both remotely and in person.



Claire Kaehr, LMFT

Claire received her Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Argosy University and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Claire's ultimate goal within her therapeutic relationships is to walk alongside clients as they work to understand their story and continue their journey towards health and healing. Claire is



also a Board Approved Supervisor for the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy in Minnesota.

Claire has a wide variety of experience but has extended areas of experience and training in couples work, and trauma-informed therapy from somatic and neurobiological lenses. Claire also recognizes and values the role of spirituality and cultural narratives in therapy and healing. Claire has extensive trauma training, including Sensorimotor Psychotherapy approaches for trauma and affect dysregulation, EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), and AIR (Adaptive Internal Relational) Network model therapy. Claire has also completed Level 2 training in Gottman Method Couples Therapy.

When she isn't engaging in therapeutic work, Claire loves spending time with her husband and children. You can also find her immersed in another love of hers, the great outdoors. Warmer seasons include adventures in the family camper and colder seasons may include ice skating and skiing. All seasons include remaining active and chasing around her three boys and puppy.

Madi Lausten, LGSW

Madi is a Mental Health Therapist for Portages Mental Health. She is a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW) and has a Master's degree in social work from Capella University. She was raised in the small rural town of Sebeka, Minn., and still considers that community to be her home. In her free time she enjoys working out, exploring new food and music, visiting with friends and family, and spending time outdoors.



Madi absolutely loves being a therapist, and has experience providing therapy for individuals, families, couples, and groups from a variety of cultural, socioeconomic, and familial backgrounds. Before becoming a Mental Health Therapist she worked as a social worker in various roles where she discovered a love for connecting with people, engaging in deep conversations, and helping clients solve problems. She said she has been fortunate enough to find a career that incorporates these elements of connection into her daily work with clients. As a therapist she uses a strengths-based and trauma-informed approach to providing therapy. In doing so, she aims to assist clients in exploring and processing barriers that may be holding them back from how they'd like to show up in the world. Common issues addressed in a therapy session with her might include grief and loss, trauma, anxiety, depression, identity issues, self-esteem, as well as improving relationships with partners, family members, and friends.

Benjamin Olson

Benjamin Olson is a Mental Health and Wellbeing Coach for Portages Health, Bemidji State University, and Dakota County Technical College.

Benjamin loves working with and helping individuals in the mental health care field finding it incredibly rewarding. He is also a professional wildlife photographer, and his goal is to continue to work on conservation initiatives with his partners using his photography.



His hobbies include camping, backpacking, canoeing, photography, and creating other forms of art.

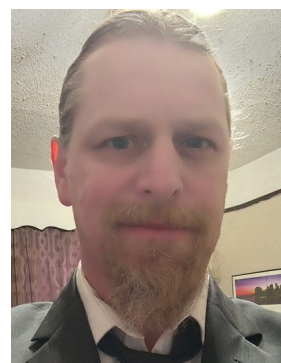
Aaron S. Bucci, MSW, LICSW, Clinical Supervisor/ Associate Director Mental Health Department

Father, friend, mentor — Aaron holds a Master's degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Minnesota and a degree in Social Work from the University Wisconsin. Aaron brings a unique experience in that he was a carpenter prior to becoming a social worker.

Aaron has worked as an Adult Rehabilitation Mental Health Specialist (ARMHS), a Children's Therapeutic Selective Service worker (CTSS), children's mental health case manager, and a mobile crisis responder prior to becoming a licensed therapist. He uses strengths-based and trauma-informed treatment modalities with a wide range of formal training in various modalities of therapy.

Aaron's hobbies include his love of the outdoors and he is a true enthusiast of music, art, and motorcycles.

"The nails I used to pound are now life ideas."



Anna Bankey, MS, LGSW Mental Health Therapist - Fourwinds

Anna holds a Master's degree in Clinical Social Work from Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis BSW, College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth.

Anna incorporates treatment methods of Individual Therapy utilizing Solution-Focused Therapy (SF), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma Center/Trauma-Sensitive Yoga Body Movement (TCTSY), Mindfulness, and Experiential and Somatic Therapy Techniques.

Anna works with individuals from all walks of life — especially those struggling with issues related to anxiety, depression, self-worth, adjustment, self-sabotage, trauma, stress and PTSD.

Her hobbies include spending time with family and partner, enjoying nature, relaxing, and spending at least three hours per month in the Sensory Deprivation float tanks at Sanctuary Float Spa in Minnetonka and Awaken for Wellness in St. Paul for 100% self-care.



Catherine Colsrud, MSW, LGSW

Catherine Colsrud has her Master's degree in Social Work from Augsburg University and is a Licensed Graduate Social Worker.

She brings experience of working with individuals and



MENTAL HEALTH see page 7

MENTAL HEALTH from page 6

groups. Grounded in her community and continually seeking opportunities to further her understanding of cultural teachings, she believes that connections to our Indigenous cultures are vital to understanding and honoring our place in the circle of life. Identifying and creating opportunities to connect with our culture in meaningful ways is an area of interest, and together with others, she works to identify ways to honor those connections.

Catherine has experience working with a variety of areas including anxiety, depression, grief, and loss, as well as trauma. Recognizing that trauma, both on the individual and collective level, is a reality that many of us are living with today, she uses her gentle sense of humor, a deep kindness, and a trauma-informed approach to assist others in their recovery and the reaching of their self-identified growth goals. She practices two main therapies: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to support staying focused on the present moment and accepting thoughts and feelings without judgment. It aims to help you move forward through difficult emotions and begin healing. She also practices Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) helping to develop life skills in problem-solving through understanding the relationship between our beliefs, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. She also incorporates Mind-Body Medicine and Mindfulness awareness to gain understanding of the interconnection of mind and body, and the influence of thoughts, emotions, and behaviors on overall health.

Catherine has experience working with those who live with addiction, those impacted by addiction, and those working on their sobriety. She has also worked in the adult rehabilitative mental health services (ARMHS) field. She is a certified trainer in Positive Indian Parenting; Freedom from Smoking; Mothers of Tradition; Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships; Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families; and Credit as an Asset. Meeting individuals where they are on their journey, Catherine brings a mature approach, assisting others with finding meaning of life during times of change and transition.

Catherine is a proud Mille Lacs Band member from the Aazhoomog community; did foster care for over 20 years; enjoys gardening, sewing, and spending time with family and friends.

Crystal Weckert, LMFT, LICSW

Crystal is dually licensed as an independent clinical social worker and a licensed marriage and family therapist. She has been working in the mental health field since 2008. She has worked in the Health and Human Services field throughout her professional and educational journey; originally working as a Health and Human Services outreach worker, she transported clients to their mental health and substance use appointments. She is now committed to assisting clients in reaching their optimal mental health as a Mental Health Therapist. Crystal uses two primary theories of mental health treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Narrative Therapy. CBT is an evidence-based approach that has been proven to help many different mental health symptoms and diagnoses, including depression, trauma, anxiety, and addiction. It focuses on identifying unhelpful thinking patterns that keep people experiencing emotional distress and acting out unhelpful behaviors. Narrative therapy focuses on separating people from their problems. It allows people to externalize their problems in order to see the problem more clearly, understand their past in a meaningful way, and move forward with a new relationship to their life situations.

Crystal graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the College of St. Scholastica. She worked as a child protection social worker for three years with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Crystal graduated with her first Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Argosy University



in 2008. She worked as a marriage and family therapist for seven years before accepting a director's position in 2013. In 2013, Crystal received her second Master's Degree in Tribal Administration and Governance from the University of Minnesota. She had overseen the substance use department and mental health services for Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for over six years. She has been back to providing direct mental health services to clients for almost two years and loves being with the clients again. Crystal is a certified specialist in anger management and has a permanency in adoption competency certification.

Crystal is a Mille Lacs Band member. She has worked in Health and Human Services field since 2002. Her and her husband have been licensed foster parents for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for over 10 years. Crystal served on Gov. Dayton's task force for mental health in 2016. She served on the Minnesota American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council for over eight years.

Crystal has been working with mental health and substance use departments within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe throughout her professional career. She is deeply committed to working with and helping Native American communities.

Jean Wenz, Mental Health Case Manager

Jean holds a degree in Criminal Justice and has completed Rule 79 education through DHS, as well as multiple training courses in suicide prevention, ethics, motivational interviewing, and Family Peer Specialist to highlight.

Jean has worked in juvenile treatment centers, adult re-entry and on a youth act team where she worked with youth involved with the criminal justice system as a case manager. Jean brings experience in targeted case management and has worked with families in the home and community on life skills development.

Jean is currently enrolled in an addictions certificate program graduating in December 2024. She enjoys helping others find needed resources.

Her hobbies include camping, fishing, going on road trips and exploring new places, being with her kids and grandkids, and also simply doing nothing but enjoying quiet.



Richard Colsen B.A., LADC, Director of Behavioral Health

Richard has 25 years experience in the human services field with 23 of those years working in tribal communities and programs. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC). He specializes in staff development and partnerships that grow programs that can make positive change. He has helped to develop tribal policies/resolution that allowed for licensing of programs on/off reservation; tribal licensing of clinical staff, and working with college and university to develop native counselors and therapists.



If you are in an emergency situation, please call 911 immediately. Help is available 24/7.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, please call 988 immediately. Help is available 24/7.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for someone on the mental health team, please call 320-532-4163 option #2 or the Mental Health call line at 320-674-4385.

HHS BRIEFS

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

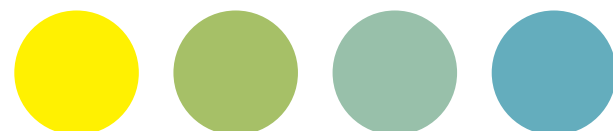
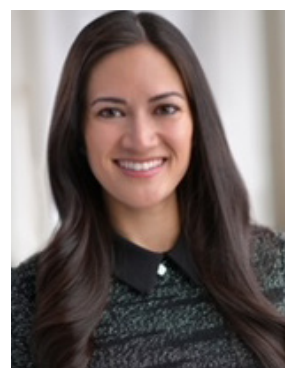
Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

Amanda Johnson Fleming — APRN, CPNP-PC, PMHS Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Mental Health Specialist

Amanda Johnson Fleming is a board-certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with five plus years of independent practice in the child and adolescent field of psychiatry in the outpatient setting. This is coupled with previous years of RN experience working alongside pediatricians who specialized in behavioral health treatment in primary care as well as Lead RN experience in both the child/adolescent and adult outpatient settings of psychiatry. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and Public Health Nurse registration from St. Catherine University in 2013. This was followed by completion of her Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from St. Catherine University in December of 2016. She became board-certified and licensed shortly after in January of 2017. She completed further training as a Pediatric Mental Health Specialist in December of 2017.

Amanda provides diagnostic assessments and can provide medication management services and ongoing care for patients whose ages range from 4 to 17 years old. She has clinical interest in multiple areas including but not limited to ADHD, anxiety, depression, gender identity concerns, trauma, and OCD.

Amanda is committed to providing care in a holistic way to individuals with their families and focuses on emotional wellness. Treatment plans are individually developed based upon evidence-based research and collaboration with the patient's entire health care team if possible. She believes that communication between treating individuals is very important. She is passionate about access to mental health care and equality of services. She believes in developing healthy working relationships and getting to know her patients as individuals to develop the most effective treatment plan.



EDUCATION

CELEBRATING EDUCATION — CLASS OF 2023

Raiders American Indian Education Banquet

By BENJI SAM

On May 10, 2023, the Onamia and Isle Indian Education Departments gathered at Grand Casino Mille Lacs to celebrate 14 graduates for the Class of 2023. Each of Onamia and Isle's graduates enjoyed a fantastic meal together presented by the Grand Casino staff with their closest friends and family gathered around the room.

The night began with an introductory and welcoming by District I Representative Virgil Wind, followed by an Invocation by Elder Joseph Nayquonabe Sr. to ring in the celebration with appreciation. Superintendent of Onamia School District, JJ Vold, stood and spoke of each of the ten graduates from Onamia followed by K-12 Principle of Isle, Jen Ernest, who spoke about each of the four Isle graduates. Some students have plans to attend college while some were recognized for their incredible artistic abilities and work ethic; someone is entering the military service field; and some are simply incredible people. It is so amazing to hear and see the dreams, accomplishments, and aspirations of the next generation of young Anishinaabe, who need to know it's okay to pursue their dreams.

Following recognition of each student and their accomplishments, both Chris Nayquonabe, who serves as the Onamia American Indian Education Director, and Katie Raverty, who serves as the Isle American Indian Liaison, were recognized for their due diligence in helping to promote welcoming and accepting learning environments for their students within the walls of each respective school. In the last 10 years, there have been consistently more and more graduating American Indian students than ever before. A great deal of that success has to do with the level of involvement of these staff members, as well as parent committee commitment, teacher buy-in, and support systems for these students at home.

As Anishinaabe, it is important for youth to see people who look like them, and came from where they are, succeed and to learn from them along the way. Adrienne Benjamin, a graduate of Isle High School, was asked to talk for the kids and delivered



The Mille Lacs Raiders American Indian Banquet celebrated the graduation of Onamia and Isle high school students on May 10, 2023, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Onamia graduates are: Leonice Ballinger, Anthony Beaulieu Jr., Angel Bellcourt, Jamison Hanson, Elijah Jackson, Alexander Sam-Ladd, Ardel Sam-Ladd, Vanessa Smith, and Daniel Weyaus. Isle graduates are: Owen Sargent, Shantelle Smith, Nevaeh Merrill, and Celleia Merrill.

a compassionate message — do all the things you can, take chances on being who you want to be, and that you are the sum of the five people you hang around with the most. "Keep your circle full of doers and those who cheer you on, hang with your Elders, speak up for yourself, have a voice, and know how lucky you are to have a community like Mille Lacs to support you," said Benjamin.

The author, Benji Sam, was also asked to speak to the students from the perspective of a previous Onamia graduate who went on to find success. His message was also about keeping your Elders close, asking questions, learning, and to be present when and while possible — that time doesn't last

forever. "People may never remember what you said, but they will always remember the way you make them feel," Sam said. "Don't ever be afraid to fail — it is because I have failed that I know what it takes to succeed."

In closing, each graduate was presented with a gift bag to honor their accomplishment and to send them off into the next phase of their lives with honor. Surrounded by their closest family members, friends, and many community members who helped support them along the way, the Class of 2023 can send off to the next chapter with confidence. Best of luck to all graduates as they round out their high school career, and always remember to be proud of who you are.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to all graduates and best wishes for your future successes.

Pictured here and on the following page are photos submitted either by the family or the schools with permission from the family. If you or your graduate are not pictured and would like to be, please submit your photo, school attended, and degree earned to news@millelacsband.com. We will include that in a following issue.

District III Representative Harry Davis along with Pine County American Indian Education departments from each school sponsored a banquet for all Native American graduates. There names are listed below however, no individual photos are available unless they submitted photos themselves.

Pine City: Dylan Benjamin, Daisey Huff, Sophia Lahti, and Dannie Maish.

East Central: Seth Benjamin, Xavier Bongaarts, Amberlynn

Camerson, Kayden Haugen, and David Hughes.

Willow River: Winter Bowstring.

Hinckley/Finlayson: Ameer Abuhamed, Randy Barrett, Valerie Belgarde, Angus Benjamin, Nevaeh Benjamin-Staples, Trinity Blakey, Travis Hansen, Walker Jackson, Bennett Kegg, Elijah Matrious, Ailah Reynolds, Marcel Richey, Alecia Rose-land, Daniel St. John, James Stensrud-Eubankls, Damion Taylor, Jakob Wilson, and Isabella Ziegler.



William Boyd, Nay Ah Shing HS.



Sage Boyd Noonday, Ma'iingaans, Brainerd HS.



Breyia Sawyer, Brainerd HS.



Mercedes Doffing, Milaca HS..



Caleb Stobb, Zimmerman HS.

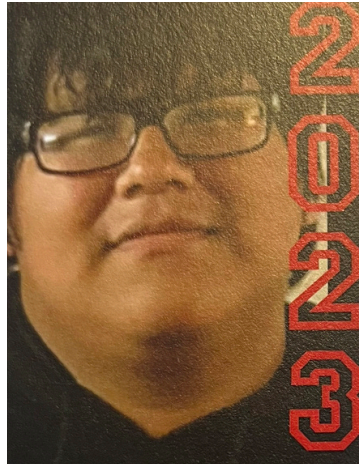
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



Alyssa Costello,



Kiara Sam, Red Wing HS.



Victor Moctezuma, Milaca HS.



Darci Big Bear, UofM Masters of Tribal Administration & Governance.



Hank Bonga III, Northern Michigan University, Associates of Science.



Taylor Wommavovah, UofM, Carlson School of Management, BS in Business Accounting



Alexander Sam-Ladd, Onamia HS.



Ardel Sam-Ladd, Onamia HS.



Anthony Beaulieu Jr., Onamia HS.



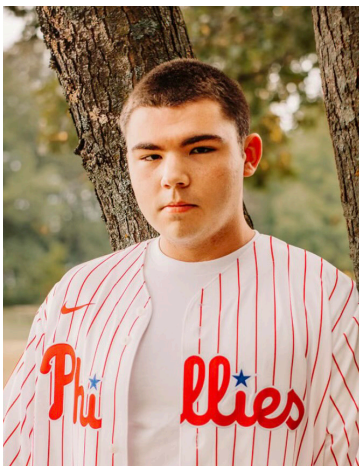
Celia Merrill, Isle HS.



Daniel Weyaus, Onamia HS>



Elijah Jackson, Onamia HS.



Jamison Hanson, Onamia HS.



Vanessa Smith, Onamia HS.



Nevaeh Merrill, Isle HS.



Owen Sargent, Isle HS.



Shantelle Smith, Isle HS.



Troy Jackson, Onamia HS.



Marcel Richey
Ay bi nizhoo we wii daang
Hinckley/Finlayson HS



Olivia Grey

WHEN MINUTES MATTER

WILDFIRES FROM PAGE 1



and throwing cigarette butts out of car windows. “Anything can cause an accidental get-away,” he said.

Each year, a staggering percentage of wildfires in the United States — about 85% — are caused by human activity. Last year, this percentage was even higher. In 2022, 61,429 of the 68,988 reported wildfires (89%) were human-caused, according to the National Interagency Fire Center’s (NIFC) statistics.

“Fire needs three elements: heat, oxygen, and fuel,” said Eli Staples, Wildland Firefighter. Fuel includes such items as leaves, grass, downfall, twigs, paper, and more. The DNR Wildlands Program crew is available to visit Band member homes to perform a Firewise Homeowner Assessment to determine if there are areas near the home that identify as potentially hazardous. “There are a lot of small things that homeowners can do to help reduce the risk of fires starting near their homes and help prevent wildfires,” Staples said.

Some examples are: pay attention to high fire danger days, use good common sense, clear out gutters, check roof shingles and woodpiles, clear out leaves and debris from around campfire pits, keep the fire in the pit, do not leave a fire unattended, and put out all campfires, to name a few.

The DNR Wildlands Program utilizes prescribed burns to help manage the land to promote ecological diversity and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Prescribed burns are done in the spring depending on the weather. “We have a very small window to be able to do a prescribed burn,” Horbacz said. “Winds need to be calm and steady at 3-8 mph, the humidity needs to be under 35%, and it needs to be coordinated with the BIA.”

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Wildland Fire Management supports the Mille Lacs Band Wildland Department as well as other tribal wildland departments around the country. The BIA promotes self-determination and self-governance with federally recognized tribes through Public Law 93-638, which allows those tribes to operate federal programs, such as wildland fire management programs, as their own to meet tribal and BIA missions.

Along with other services, the BIA support provides ecosystem improvements, wildland firefighter and safety training, firefighter equipment, fuels management and prescribed fire, fire prevention, and ecosystem support such as post-wildfire recovery.

On May 3, 2023, all of the elements for a prescribed burn aligned and the BIA along with Wildland firefighters from Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, and Fond du Lac performed prescribed burns



A prescribed burn was held on May 3, 2023, in cooperation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Wildfire Management and wildland firefighters from Mille Lacs, Fon du Lac, and Leech Lake.

on the Mille Lacs Reservation. The prescribed burns served as training tools for new wildland firefighters as well as to protect and support a healthy natural ecosystem, and protect cultural resources.

The Mille Lacs Wildland fire program also assists the BIA in fighting wildfires across the country at any time throughout the year as needed. One or two team members can be deployed at a time to ensure there are enough firefighters remaining on the Reservation. They all take turns. “It is pretty intense,” Staples said. “It is usually 14 working days straight and we work 12-16 hours per day with two travel days on each end. I love it.”

Staples said it is a calling to be a firefighter. The training is intense. “You quickly learn the seriousness of any fire, no matter what size — doesn’t matter if it is big or small. All it takes is one fire and they get hooked.”

Some recent fires Staples has assisted with include but are not limited to the Greenwood fire in Boundary Waters, Trail Creek fire in Montana, and assisted with fire standby in New Mexico.

When the Band Wildland firefighters are not fighting fires, they are kept busy by maintaining trails and woodlands to reduce the risk of fire by creating potential fire breaks and helping home owners reduce the risk of wildfires near their homes. They also provide support to the woodlands by planting trees, building tree shelters to protect sapplings from deer and other wildlife, cutting downed trees for firewood (funerals), assist other local firefighters, and assist other departments and programs when needed including plowing snow in the winter months.

Wildfires are becoming larger and more frequent in the United States and Canada, in part due to the influence of climate change. Not only are we seeing hazier skies in Minnesota, we’re experiencing more unhealthy air from wildfire smoke. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, breathing wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but some people are at greater risk than others of experiencing health-related problems like heart and lung disease. All Minnesotans need to take steps to decrease the risks from breathing wildfire smoke and protect health.

Smoke began to filter into Minnesota on about Mother’s Day of this year as wildfires burned in Canada. The smoke was so dense, it triggered several days of Air Quality Alerts issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. On May 18, 2023, Minnesota had the worst air quality anywhere in the country, according to NOAA.

Together, forests, shrubland, and grassland cover more than half of the land area in the United States, according to Environmental Protection Agency. These ecosystems are important resources, both environmentally and economically. Although wildfires occur naturally and play a long-term role in the health of these ecosystems, changing wildfire patterns threaten to upset the status quo. Multiple studies have found that climate change has already led to an increase in wildfire season length, wildfire frequency, and burned area. The wildfire season has lengthened in many areas due to factors including warmer springs, longer summer dry seasons, and drier soils and vegetation. Similarly, climate change threatens to increase the frequency, extent, and severity of fires through increased temperatures and drought.

The DNR respectfully requests that all Band members report any suspected unauthorized fires by calling 911 or the Tribal Police Department at 320-532-3430. If in doubt, report a fire. An early report helps keep fires small.

Mille Lacs Band Wildland Firefighters are:

Marvin Staples, Eli Staples, Azhibik Aubid, Harvey Goodsky, Jamaal Baird, Nathan Tulenich, Duane Laquire, Clayton Benjamin Jr., and Jake Horbacz.



The heat from a grassfire is intense. Woodland firefighters wear protective clothing and take precautions.



Wildland fires can easily spread quickly and can be extremely dangerous.

SLAYING DRAGONS IN REALITY AND FICTION

BAND MEMBER ENTREPRENEUR OPENS HER OWN STORE FILLED WITH COMIC BOOKS AND MAGICAL GAMES

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

A fictional, magical, fantastical world where your imagination can run free and embark on epic journeys that include underdogs, heroes, villains, and of course a few dragons, fairies, and Pokémon awaits you in Mora. A new store and game room opened at the end of March by Band member Krista Fox and her husband Robert.

If you like comic books, tabletop games such as Dungeons & Dragons, and collectible trading card games like Pokémon and Magic the Gathering, stop in and play a game or two with your friends or make some new friends. The magic is all inside at "Fallout Comics and Games."

"I wanted to open this place because I wanted someplace for the kids to go," Krista said. "Since I've lived here, I noticed there was nowhere for kids to hang out."

Since the store opened in March, the community has been very receptive, and they have had "positive feedback," according to both Krista and Robert. "Especially kids. They love it here. They are glad there is a store like this in town, they tell us. It just makes my day," Krista added.

There are games people can rent to play in the store with tables set out that make for easy, friendly tabletop games, and "they can play as long as they want. We have free game days, and we plan to have matches with the card games," Krista said. "And we wanted it to be affordable. That was a big part of it."

The games, comic books, collectible card games, collectible figurines, dice, and other game-related novelties are all available for sale as well.

Oftentimes, whole families come in and play, kids come in after school, and young adults and teenagers often meet to engage and set up their own games, Robert said. "It is just a safe place for kids and families to get together."

"I decided to open this store because I like playing Dungeons & Dragons, and Robert has collected comic books most of his life," Krista said.

Krista also fell in love with the game, *Coyote & Crow*, which is about Native folklore if colonization had never happened in the United States. Krista said, "In this game, you can build your own worlds. But it is not just for Native Americans. Anyone can play it, just like D&D. It is just a beautiful book."

The book contains the rules of the game and gives players the lists of characters including tricksters, warriors, etc. "I wanted to include this game because I wanted my Tribe's people to know that there is a place for them here if you are into this kind of stuff. We don't tolerate bullying, harassment, or racism. Only fun. If I can find enough people interested in this game," she said with a smile. "I would be the Game Master."

Slaying dragons

The Foxs are no strangers to challenges and have had their own epic journey of slaying dragons and overcoming obstacles. Robert is an Army combat veteran, having served two years of active duty in Bosnia and one year in the National Guard. Although he was born in Georgia, he was also a volunteer firefighter in the state of Louisiana.

Krista was raised in Fridley, and had gone to Louisiana at the age of 20 to start a new life. She wasn't looking for romance, she had just meant to move. But that is where the couple met.

Their relationship wasn't a typical fantasy, as Robert also served a bit of jail time while in Louisiana shortly after they met. He had been arrested on an outstanding warrant in Georgia for an unpaid ticket. "I don't fault the police officers who do their job and have a duty to do," Robert said. He was released about three weeks later.

That stint in jail did not stop them from forming a relation-



Entrepreneur Band member Krista Fox is the owner of a new retail store in Mora called Fallout Comics and Books. She and her husband Robert opened the new store at the end of March 2023. Krista is holding a copy of one of her favorite table games called Coyote and Crow.



A portion of the children's section in Fallout Comics and Games, in Mora.



Krista and Robert Fox with one of their favorite games.



A portion of the comic book section in Fallout Comics and Games, in Mora.

ship that brought them to Minnesota. They currently live in Hinckley, but would like to make the move to Mora. They now have been married 19 years, and have three children, Trenton, 19, Kyrie, 16, and Zending, 9. When asked how the children view the store, Krista replied, "The 9-year-old really likes it. The teenagers are not as enthusiastic, but they are supportive and help out."

Krista has also battled her own dragons. She is humbled to say she is a recovering alcoholic. "I got my degree while fighting alcoholism. I want people to know they should not give up their dreams. I have been sober for two years. It is possible. When I see my people struggling, and they are so talented and smart, I want them to know they can do it. Don't give up. I don't know if they hear that enough."

Krista earned an Associate's degree in Business Management from Rasmussen College.

"Just the look on my daughter's face... She is the reason why I quit — my kids are the reason I quit. And he quit to be that support for me. He knew if he was going to drink, then I would too."

Imagination in play

If the characters of Pikachu, Snorlax, Charizard, Ash Ketchum, or Diantha are familiar to you, you may be interested in a game or two, or want to trade some Pokémon cards. If

you are more interested in creating a new mythical world, then you may want to read up about the dwarf cleric. And if this all sounds confusing, yet intriguing, Robert and Krista are more than eager and willing to help you learn.

"I am inviting all Band members and everyone to come in and play," Krista said.

There is also a children's section in the store where kids can color and play with toys and games as well.

Krista and Robert have overcome challenges and slayed their dragons and are now living their reality while surrounded by fiction. They offer words of encouragement for everyone: "If you have something you are really passionate about it, don't give up. You can do it."

Where to go:

Fallout Comics and Games
206 South Union Street
Mora, MN 55051
320-515-0663

Hours:

Open noon to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and noon to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

ANISHINAABEKAZOWAAD OR PRETENDIANS

GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (told by) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.,
WAABISHKIBINES
GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (transcribed by)
JAMES CLARK, OZAAWAANAKWAD

This month, I would like to start with a story. I remember when I was younger. There was an elderly man who had lost a son in the community. I noticed after that he would call me son time after time. Finally, I asked my mom, "why is he calling me that?" She replied, "He's taken you as his son, for the one he lost."

Then it all made sense, he adopted me in the way that isn't by blood or paper, only our way. Around here we call it "being adopted in the Indian way." When someone will take you under their wing and treat you as blood. This is nothing short of a great honor. This is non-official through ceremony or law, but an emotional spot was needed to be filled by a member of the community and thus it was. For example, this old man lost his son and he also knew my dad was gone and that I in turn could use a father. Non-Native people have also been given this honor from time to time in our community for their actions or kindness. Yet I believe it is time to talk about those non-Native people who claim this great honor and are knowingly harming our community.

What does this mean for non-Native people after being adopted? Let me tell you what I think and have experienced. For me as an Anishinaabe, it was not a big deal and there was no set agreement on what I did or did not do. For example, I choose not to sit with his family during the funeral. However, I ask that non-Native people be respectful; because you were adopted, does not mean you are one of them. Be true to yourself, since being adopted does not mean that you will be a member of such practices within parts of our culture such as the ceremonial dances, Midewin, sweat lodge, etc.

My late wife Rita would participate in the ceremonial dances in particular, but she understood that she would never be sat upon the drum. I've seen people come to the point where

they see themselves as Native, because of their experiences in the community. But in turn I see that as they don't respect that boundary, and that they have a difficult time discerning blood from family.

The grey area comes with members from other tribes. In the past, we have put members of different tribes or bands on the drum that are not directly from the local community. Going further with that point, on the drum there have been countless times where within the Ojibwe community, members have been put on who are not from that community in which that dance is held.

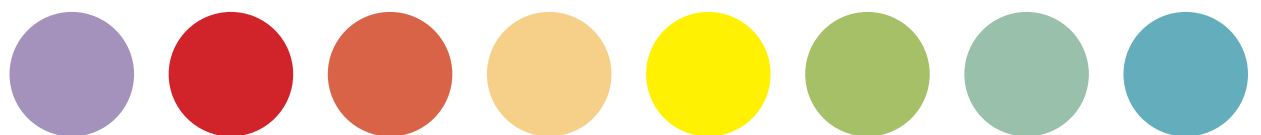
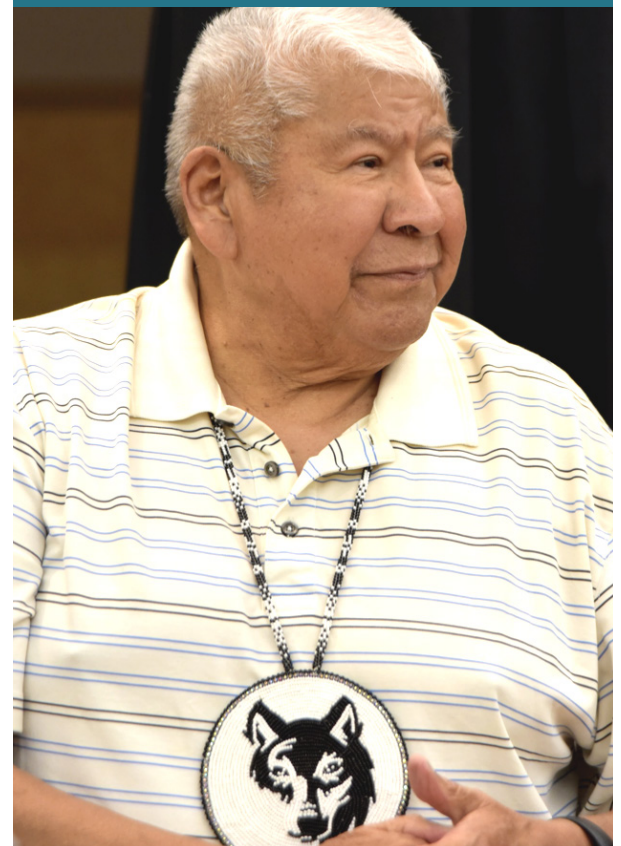
Even through legal adoption, a non-Native person who grows up with the culture, language, and within the community does not mean they are Native. They have respect and deep understanding for who we are, but truly will never be Indian and that is not a bad thing; it is respectful.

When this respectful boundary is not met is when I see issues near exploitation or cultural appropriation. This Native person took you under their wing and showed you what it was like to walk and talk like us, and I've seen it abused. I've seen where the loving memory of an Anishinaabe person who adopted non-Native people is scared by the actions of adoptees to the community. I think if you ask other Anishinaabeg what you think of these kinds of people, they will all tell you that they are not comfortable with the actions of these individuals, yet they won't say anything because of our respectful nature. In closing, this is just how I feel and have observed, not only within our community, but other communities I have traveled to. This subject was a difficult one to speak on due to the natural manners of Anishinaabe people; this was written to be full of nothing but respect and a learning experience for those who do not know better. Our culture, our clothing, and who we are as a people is not to be romanticized but to be cherished and protected for future generations. Miigwech, mii go iw.

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.



GRA UPDATE

WHAT IS GAMING? WHAT ISN'T GAMING? WHAT FUNDRAISING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

The Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) always gets questions about what types of promotions, raffles, contests, and games are officially considered "gaming," or gambling, under the law. Only the casinos and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures can conduct gaming on the Reservation and only the GRA can oversee that gaming. But that doesn't mean groups and people can't still run other types of games and promotions.

First, let's get our definitions straight. To be considered gaming, (gambling), you need three things: 1) Something of value must be wagered (a bet), 2) That something must be wagered on the outcome of a contest of chance or a future contingent event, not under his or her control or influence (a chance), and 3) In exchange for something of value (a prize).

Gaming requires a bet, on a chance of something happening, for a prize. That's it. Remove any one of the three requirements and you are not gaming and it's perfectly legal. For example, if you have a bingo game but nobody is wagering something of value, that is, if everybody gets to play for free, it's not gaming. Or imagine everybody gets entered into a lottery and they don't even have to buy anything or put any money up — more like a door prize. That's also not gaming.

There are plenty of games and other fundraising options

you or your group can utilize that are not gaming, including, but not limited to:

- Door prizes, entering somebody into a contest to win something just for showing up.
- Silent or live auctions.
- Some games that are based on skill where the contestants win prizes (shooting, racing, basketball). One important thing to note: Only the contestants can win valuable prizes. If you're betting on the sidelines, it's gambling.
- Sales: Indian tacos, tee shirts, baked goods, etc.
- Asking for donations.
- Free bingo.
- Free lotteries.
- Raffles or bingo that take place off Reservation lands, for example at a local American Legion or school.
- GoFundMe or GiftSendGo.
- Sponsored walks/runs.

Also remember that in certain limited instances, registered charitable organizations can do some types of gaming legally on the Reservation, but they need to be registered through the GRA.

For more information on Charitable Gaming, please contact

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



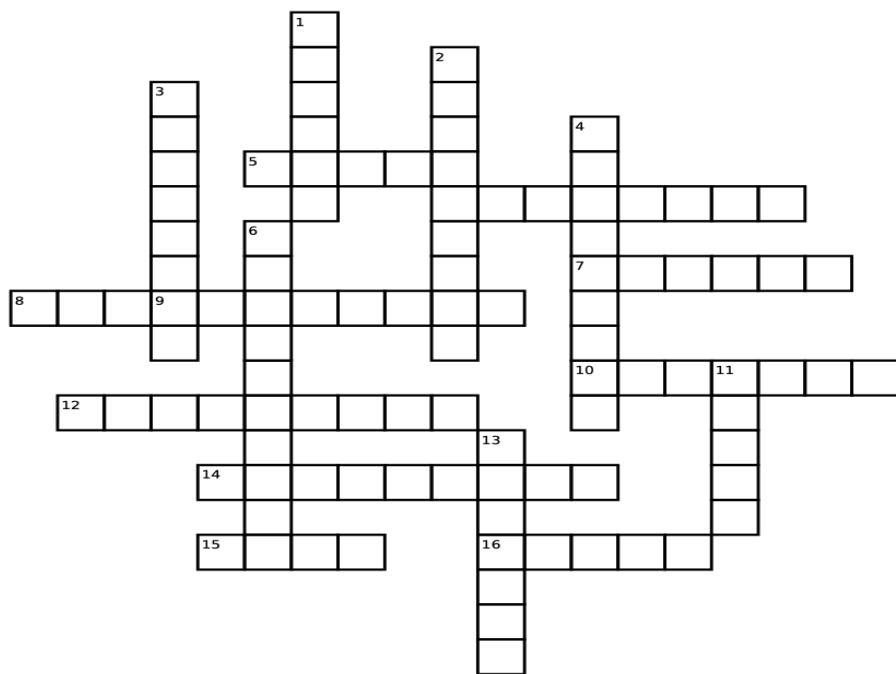
Dedicated to providing protection, value, and regulatory excellence in gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

the GRA at 320-384-4807.

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

AAZHAWAAKWASING IKIDOWINAN ODE'IMINI-GIIZIS 2023

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

- 1. Wind
- 2. Lake
- 3. Sunny
- 4. There are many stars
- 6. The tree is tall
- 11. Star
- 13. Sky

Across:

- 5. Tree
- 7. Sun
- 8. Storm Cloud
- 9. Cloud
- 10. Warm weather
- 12. Clear sky
- 14. In the woods
- 15. Water
- 16. River

STEP BY STEP

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, we are becoming more and more aware of the oppression of our people. We are coming into a light that was kept dark purposefully so we can eventually forget who we are. Our stories held onto the knowledge that something happened and it greatly changed our lives. There are those who documented a variety of different stories and today, they are coming together to tell the whole story. Our people knew and passed down stories from one generation to the next and still tell them to this day. Our oral stories are often discredited and held to a lower example of the truth. But, we are becoming more aware of the oppression and resilience of our people today.

Stories of our resilience are also told. Like those that we hear of our uncles and papas out setting nets hiding from the state wardens as they dismissed our rights. Stories of our grandparents being sent into the woods to hide from the agents coming to fulfill a quota for residential schools. I was told once of a stand-off between Anishinaabe and a state game warden. It comes from one of our Elders in Mille Lacs while she was a young girl playing outside amongst sheets on a clothesline. She saw a rifle barrel being aimed toward the lake at a warden in a boat and her uncle in the water up to his chest pulling the boat with the warden's rifle pointed at him. As they got closer to shore many more rifles pointed at the game warden who eventually put his gun down and was made to paddle away. Some may hear of these stories or similar while others don't and that is adding to the erasure of our history where knowledge of our resilience is held.

We are natural storytellers. We are natural listeners of stories. We are compelled by this access to information in a way that is natural. Our language is set up to tell complex tales with plenty of subtle contexts to bury within for the magic to happen. Plenty of lessons to learn depending on all Shinaabe's perspectives. We need to hear and tell stories. Try it out with your



friends and family. Who can tell the greatest story whether true or fiction? Who can spin the yarn, as they say, to make a point or express a specific fact?

Our spirits view the world a certain way and seek an experience in order to share with the rest of the spirits. As Waagosh says, "we are spiritual beings having a physical experience." The stories they share of our actions here in the physical world help broaden our collective conscience, should we have access to it and, most importantly, use it.

A return, revitalization or rejuvenation of all customs, traditions and ceremonies starts with awareness. Where are we at? What did we lose? How did we lose it? In what way can we bring it back? Very important questions we need to ask ourselves as individuals and as a society.

We are great people and step by step, we can return to who we are meant to be. What is the next step? Learning.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Summer time is almost here which provides an opportunity for us to spend time with the trees, the sun, and water. All Manidoog! Our phrases during this time can be used to expand our view of the summertime and all the beings we interact with. Check Gidinwewininaan.com for more language learning resources.

Giizis = Sun

(Gee zis)

Aabawaa = Warm weather.

(Ah buh wah)

Waaseyaa = Sunny.

(Wah say yah)

Mitig = Tree.

(Mih tig)

Ginwaakozi = The tree is tall.

(Gin wah koh zih)

Nibi = Water.

(Nih bih)

Zaaga'igan = Lake.

(Zah guh' ih gun)

Ziibi = River.

(Zee bih)

Noopiming = In the woods

(New pim ming)

Aanakwad = Cloud

(Aah nuk kwud)

Zegaanakwad = Storm Cloud.

(Zay gah nuk kwud)

Noodin = Wind.

(New din)

Giizhig = Sky.

(Gee zhig)

Mizhakwad = Clear sky.

(Mih zhuk kwud)

Anang = Star.

(Uh nung)

Anangokaa = There are many stars.

(Uh nung go kah).

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

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AWARENESS SILENT NO MORE BAND MEMBERS SPEAK UP ABOUT MMIR

"Remember this: abuse thrives in silence"

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, and more specifically American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, have long endured domestic violence, homicide, sexual assault, and abuse at disproportionately higher rates than other groups. The Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Resources Department reaffirmed their commitment to honor the lives of missing and murdered relatives and continue to shine a light on egregious unconscionable treatment toward and against American Indian and Alaska Native peoples for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Awareness week the first week in May.

Empty red dresses hung on the fence along US Highway 169 indicative of the women and children who should be wearing them but are no longer with us. During an event held at the HHS campus on May 4, many participants wore a red handprint painted across their faces representing the voices of many who vow to be silent no more. That of which was the reoccurring theme ringing through the speeches given that day.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said it is the role of the Band elected officials to bring issues to the state and federal government. Awareness and education efforts with other Minnesota tribes and the rest of Indian Country have resulted in legislative changes in Minnesota. "Our voice does not lie in the statistics of the violence that has been perpetrated against us. It lies in the way we react and gather together as a unified people," she said.

Chief Executive Benjamin encouraged attendees to learn about the MMIR issues to help bring awareness to others and educate others on the impact of violence in the community. "Always make sure that our elected officials are aware of these issues and that we are public servants. We are not bosses. You are the ones who determine what our actions are."

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson discussed the startling statistics. In a 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice, more than 56 percent of Native women reported that they had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. The murder rate for Indigenous women is 10 times what it is for the general U.S. population. Murder is the third leading cause of death for Native American women and girls under the age of 20, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Anderson said there is not just one root cause of this epidemic, there are many. There are systemic barriers that "we all see and experience every day," Anderson said. "As the Chief Executive stated, it is the elected and the appointed official's roles to bring that forward from the community. That is very important, because that is how things change. That is how we get policy changed, laws changed, by speaking up about those topics."

Anderson reiterated that the only way to make change hap-



Star Love clings to her grandmother, Dana Skinaway, as her grandfather David Sam Jr. is telling of the pain felt by the family as a result of the death of Star's mother, Tanya Skinaway. Star was only a baby when her mother was murdered.

pen is to continue to talk about the issue, ask questions, speak up. "I encourage each and every one of you to use your voice Remember this: abuse thrives in silence."

Powerfully moving stories were told by Band members using their voices to share their personal experiences.

David Sam Jr. shared the heartbreaking story of the loss of his daughter, Tanya, who was murdered by her boyfriend on March 2, 2016. "She was going to leave him, but he decided to run her over." She left behind two children and the pain that lives in the hearts of her family. "They should have their mom. But they don't."

That day changed the trajectory of the lives of all who loved her. Her daughter, Star, was 2 months old when her mother passed, and Tanya's son, Anthony, was about to turn 5 years old. The children are now 7 and 12 years old respectfully. The family tells the children stories of their mother as a way for them to have a piece of her with them.

"I often wish and dream of being able to be with my daughter just for five minutes. I wonder how that conversation would go." David swallowed back tears as he spoke. "I would tell her how much I love her and how much she means to me. And tell her how much I miss her. I don't think that pain ever goes away."

Audience members wiped away tears and young Star held and hugged her grandmother, Dana Skinaway.

Representative Virgil Wind shared a story of his youth as told from his role as a community member, father, and grand-

father. Wind recollected a lesson he learned the hard way as a youth about how important it is to respect everyone, but women in particular. His endearing story of himself disrespecting his grandmother and the lesson that incident taught him resonated with many in the audience while his message was strong. "How can we expect men from outside our community to respect our sisters if we don't respect them first. It starts right here. It starts right now with us.... Speak the truth even if your voice shakes."

Angelic Aubid is a youth from District II who shared heartfelt statements regarding mental health and substance abuse linked to trauma and a "dark period" she went through. She said it is important to connect to the cultural teachings and resources to help get through the dark times. "Stay connected, have self-respect, and respect each other," she said.

Tawny Savage of the MMIR Office in Minnesota spoke about developing protocol for responding to questions from communities, coordinating with law enforcement, working as liaisons with families whose relatives have gone missing, and case reviews.

Mille Lacs Tribal Police Investigators Cook and Gadboy offered information on how to report missing relatives. They said it is important to report as soon as possible and "not wait" no matter what the reasons are behind waiting. It is no longer required to wait 24 hours to report a missing person. The sooner it is reported, the sooner the investigation begins



Silent No More is the theme for the 2023 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives event held annually at HHS.



The red handprint symbolizes all the missing and murdered relatives whose voices are not heard.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

RAISING OUR SONS AND BREAKING THE SILENCE

By MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM

Raising our sons in a world that condones the sexualization of women, punishes those who try to break the silence, and looks away at "boys will be boys" behavior is a challenge for local parents who are trying to raise sons in a good way — raising sons to value themselves and their own bodies, respect girls and women, find purpose, and not be drawn into negative peer behavior can be difficult. At alarmingly young ages, more boys are experiencing social conditioning by music, TV, social media, and peers, which can translate into pressure to drink, use drugs, be recruited by gangs, and even sexually harass or assault girls. Addressing sexual harassment, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and violence against girls, women and boys takes courage, time, and intention. It takes courage to break the silence. It takes courage to hold our loved ones accountable. It takes courage to change. And change takes time, as it is not easy work. It takes intention.

Local fathers within the Band raising younger sons agree that creating a foundation in culture, ceremony, learning language, and connection to healthy Elders as role models is invaluable. Having safe role models is vital. Reflecting on their own upbringing with the choices they made, consequences they faced, and living a new path has challenged these fathers to think about how they raise their sons to practice self-care, find purpose, respect girls and women, and to find their courage when they see or hear any level of violence against girls, women, or boys occurring. It is not an easy task, and for some, unlearning family- or community-accepted rules can be hard patterns to change. A few chose to speak up, finding their courage and their voice to try to change some of these patterns, even when their voices shake.

George Morrow III agrees that raising a son in the outdoors in our cultural way is important, noting that it saved him. George beamed with love and admiration for his mother and grandmother. Trying to break the cycles of those before him, he tries hard to provide good care of his mother so his son can see, learn, and experience this love and respect. "I try to show him, as he will do what I do. He is always watching, so I try to lead by example." George believes in showing kids, not talking down to them, and modeling self-respect. George shared his



George Morrow III.



Virgil Wind.



Bobby Eagle.



Carlos Merrill.

gratitude for this article. "We all come from our sacred women; we need to raise our sons with these values. Being intentional takes work." Making change is hard, and he can only be responsible for his own actions. He noted he is far from perfect and does not ever want to do anything that would make his mother or grandmother ashamed of him, or to get angry with his choices. He strives to be his best self raising a little boy to be a good man someday. "My son will become a good man. It's a scary world out here, and I need to help provide the tools for him to navigate all that he will face."

Virgil Wind shared that learning through his own failures has helped him be a better father, partner, role model, and advocate for ending sexual harassment and sexual assault. For many in our community, growing up without strong male parenting figures left some young men without guidance on respecting themselves, girls, and women. Showing up, as fathers, in all that they do is important. Setting the tone around sexual harassment is essential. Talking to our sons about what it means to value their sisters, mothers, aunties, and grandmothers is needed. He asked that we treat all women like you would like to see your daughter or mother treated. He shared being a man is a big responsibility and it is the job as fathers to model the actions that will make our world better; including safe for women. Referring to sexual assault data on a local level, he noted, "how can we expect people outside of our community to respect our sisters if we don't? It starts with us."

Bobby Eagle has worked extremely hard to make changes in his life to be a healthier man. When teaching his sons about respecting self and respecting girls and women, he will con-

tinue to "have conversations to ensure the right information gets to my boys and try to be open and honest with them". Bobby acknowledges how hard it is to do this not only within his family, but extended family and a men's group he is a part of. "I have had to take a hard stance on some topics, some of the joking, and remind us all that we need to take this serious and be conscious to the treatment of women and our behavior daily." Setting boundaries with other men can be tough. He said he sometimes feels like he walks the road alone. He is concerned that our boys are watching us all of the time, and there is a lot of behavior towards women that is not okay." It's time to stop ignoring this behavior and find the courage to address it." Bobby encourages dads to "step in now, take action." His final challenge, "Who do you want your boys to see when they see how you treat women? Do they see a respectful man, with integrity, respecting all women?"

Carlos Merrill sees positive changes taking place with our younger generation of boys in his community. They are displaying more positive behavior with themselves, girls, and women than the generations of the past. He models respect in the home, where his boys witness parents as equals and partners; even within our cultural roles, he is being watched by his children and in the community. "Modeling respect of women versus dominating behaviors is a much stronger teacher." Advice he has for parents raising healthier kids includes having clear expectations, holding them accountable, showing them how to care for one another, and practice kindness. "I see more boys starting to call each other out, making change in this generation."

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVES AWARENESS EVENT



Angelic Aubid shares statements regarding mental health and substance abuse linked to trauma.



Tawny Savage of the MMIR Office in Minnesota spoke about developing protocol and coordinating with local law enforcement.

THE NEXT GENERATION

District I Representative Virgil Wind met several families to welcome the next generation to the Mille Lacs community and gift them with a Celebration of Life baby basket. The baskets contain some necessity items for a newborn as well as some custom-made Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe items. "We're excited to welcome them all to the District I Community!"



Naomi and Raymond Kristiansen had their first baby girl, Charlie Lee Lonna Kristiansen, on February 17, 2023. She

weighed 7 lbs. and 9 oz. and was 20 inches long. She is welcomed home by three older brothers.



Dionne Cash and Wyatt Oswaldson welcomed their baby boy, Eren Jakob Oswaldson, on March 29, 2023. He weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz. and was 17 inches long. He

has an older sister at home.



Destanie Anderson and Ethan Smith had baby boy Karsen Merlin Smith on April 29th. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 inches long. Karsen was welcomed home by

his big brother Carter.



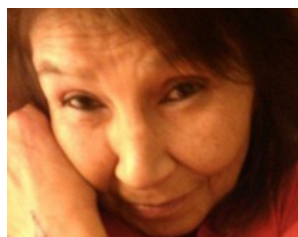
Mike Loso and Heather Benjamin and baby Mike Jr. came in to meet with Representative Wind and receive a Celebration of Life baby basket.

Michael Alan Loso Jr., was born on April 12, 2023, weighing 10 lbs. 2 oz. and was 22 ½ inches long. He joins three sisters Kylee Lynn, Nyah, and Ziigwan Jane.

WAABANOOKWE, JEWELL SKINAWAY

Jewell "Waabanookwe" Skinaway died on Monday, May 8, 2023. She was 61 years old.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Aazhoomog Community Center with Baabiitaw officiating. The wake began at dusk on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Burial was at Stevens Lake Cemetery.



GIWEGWANEB, DYLAN SAM SR.

A funeral ceremony for Giwegwaneb, Dylan Sam Sr., age 47, of Onamia, Minn., was held at 10 a.m. at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Giwegwaneb, Dylan was born on June 8, 1975, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Frank Shingobe Jr. and Lorraine Sam. He enjoyed being with his children, listening to music, and loved the outdoors. Dylan liked to spend his time with his brother, Gordon, watching sports on TV, especially the Minnesota Vikings. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Giwegwaneb is survived by his children, Dylan Sam Jr., Marlarie Sam, and Leroy Sam; his mother, Lorraine Sam; brothers, Gordon (Mary) Sam Sr., Royce (Desiree) Sam Sr., and Maysun (Amy) Shingobe; sisters, Crystal (Matthew) Sam, Teresa (Randall) Sam, Jamie Boyd-Shingobe; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Shingobe Jr.; brothers, Terrance Sam Sr. and Derek Shingobe Sr.; and his grandparents.



JAMES MITCHELL

James Mitchell, age 57, of Federal Dam, Minn., died on Monday, May 22, 2023. Visitation was held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Battle Point Center. Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 26, 2023, at the Battle Point Center, with Ombishkebines officiating. Burial was in the Battle Point Cemetery.

James Dion Mitchell was born on October 18, 1965, to James R. Mitchell and Stella Gale.

He worked construction for Winn-Dixie and for several golf courses in Florida. James even worked for Burt Reynolds doing landscaping and was an employee for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Culture Grounds. James liked to spend his time visiting at home with family and friends, playing guitar, cribbage, and horseshoes. He enjoyed fishing, setting nets, harvesting wild rice, and making birch bark mirrors. James loved traveling the country. He enjoyed his favorite drink.

James is survived by his mother, Stella Gale; father, James R. Mitchell; siblings, Rhonda, Vicki, Mike, and Brian Mitchell; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Julia Kegg; uncle, Earl Mitchell; grandfather, Bert Gale; grandmother, Lillian Gale; and many other relatives.

Published by Shelley Funeral Chapels, Little Falls Chapel on May 23, 2023.



MEKWENIMINJIG THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

OMAJAGABOW, DONIVON BOYD

Omajagabow, Donivon Boyd, age 74, passed away on May 18, 2023. Visitation was held at the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023. A Funeral Service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 22, 2023, at the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia. Interment will be in the Boyd Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Omajagabow, Donivon was born on April 16, 1949, to Charles and Sadie (Hawes) Boyd. He attended and graduated from Onamia High School. On September 5, 1968, Donivon enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam and was Honorably Discharged from active duty on June 15, 1970. He enjoyed traveling, especially to Veteran events and reunions around the world. Most memorable were trips to Australia and Washington D.C. He worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a nursing assistant and retired in 2003. Donivon was a lifetime member of VFW Post 955 and the Disabled American Veterans. He enjoyed traveling to the mountains and across Puget Sound while living in Washington State. He looked forward to going to the Minnesota State Fair every year. Donivon enjoyed cooking, baking, and visiting with his nieces, nephews, and family.

He is survived by his sister, Carol Mojica.

Donivon was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Sadie (Hawes) Boyd; brothers, Russell Boyd, Raining Boyd, Franklin Boyd, Charles Boyd, and Wesley Dorr; sisters, Harriet Dorr, Jessie Clark, Gladys Boyd, Marge Harwood, and Darlene Sam; and his nephew, Joe Mojica.



SHAWWANAGEESHGOOKQUAY, MARY ANN AILPORT

Shawwanageeshgookquay, Mary Ann Ailport died on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at her home. She was 78 years old.

She was born in Sandstone on June 29, 1944, and resided in Hinckley throughout her life, graduating from Hinckley High School. She retired from the Grand Casino where she was a shift manager. She enjoyed fishing, watching the Twins, hunting, playing cards and dice, and spending time with her nieces and nephews. She was always there for her family.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Cecelia; her father, Eugene; her siblings Jody Dunkley, Barb Nelson, Peggy Klapel, Virginia Mans, Dixie Anderson, Joe Dunkley, Curtis Dunkley, and Eugene Dunkley.

Survivors include her son, Harold "Hoby" Dunkley (Diane) of Hinckley; Stephanie Dunkley (Shane) of Hinckley; her brothers Peter Dunkley (Dawn) of Webster, Wisc., and Edward Dunkley (Beth) of Mora, Minn.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at Aazhoomog Community Center with Skip Churchill officiating. The wake began at dusk on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 also at the center. No photo available.

NECHIIYAWAASONG, JENNIFER JO BENJAMIN

Jennifer J. Benjamin "Nechiiyawaasong" age 62, passed away on Saturday, May 13, 2023. Jennifer was born on October 26, 1960 in Grantsburg to Bernard and Marian Benjamin. She enjoyed beading and gambling but most of all she loved spending time with the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Harlys.

She is survived by her daughters, Stephanie (Juan) Andrades, Joni (Warren Shore) Carson, Kimberly Benjamin, Gabrielle (Gewaden) Dunkley and Rikki Jo Benjamin; her grandchildren, Dreamah, Latrell, Sr, Jakala, Liam, Tyon, Ryana, Dominic, Landyn, Syls, Mud, Annalee and Grace; her great grandchildren, Latrell, Jr., Londynn and Braxton; her brother,

Cordell Benjamin and sister, Bernadette Benjamin; along with other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Lake Lena Community Center. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 17 at 10 a.m. Interment was at the Lake Lena Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Delbert Benjamin, Jr., Julian Audie, Lance Benjamin, Loren Benjamin, Matthew Hatfield and Warren Shore. Honorary pallbearers will be Cordell Benjamin, Sr., Anita Benjamin, Tracy Benjamin, Latrell Paffel and Dominic Poupart.

Arrangements were entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home, Webster. No photo available.

HEALTHY PETS

PROTECT YOUR PET BY VACCINATIONS

Vaccines prepare the body to fight infection quickly, reducing the impact of disease

The animal body is an amazing thing. It has a built-in defense system designed to fight many types of pathogens that try to make it sick. When a cat or dog is born, he/she does not yet have a fully mature immune system. Therefore, puppies and kittens receive antibodies in special milk (colostrum) that is produced by the mother for the first couple of days after birth. These antibodies are absorbed by the puppy's/kitten's digestive system and help them fight pathogens while their immune system continues to develop. However, after 14-20 weeks, the mother's antibodies are gone, and the puppy/kitten is now reliant on its own immune system to protect it from disease.

At this point in time, the body is capable, but not very experienced at fighting pathogens. Throughout its life, an animal will be exposed to many pathogens which will make the immune system stronger and more prepared to fight infection. Vaccination exposes animals to biological products that mimic pathogens to stimulate the immune system and allow it to get stronger without causing disease. This can help young animals strengthen their immune system quickly and safely.

What is vaccination?

A vaccine is a biological product that stimulates an animal's immune system to protect it from disease. Vaccines contain biological substances designed to resemble a pathogen. Vaccines do not cause disease, but they "trick" the body into thinking that it has been infected with a specific pathogen. The body's defenses react by mounting an immune response. The body produces specific protective antibodies to fight this pathogen and needs to remember how to fight it in the future if it encounters the pathogen again. The body stores this response in its memory with antibody-producing memory cells. If the animal is ever exposed to the real pathogen, these memory cells produce disease-fighting antibodies rapidly and in higher numbers. In other words, the body is prepared to fight the real disease quickly. For highly contagious and potentially deadly diseases, this preparation can save lives and reduce the severity of disease.

There are different types of vaccines. Some can contain pieces of a killed pathogen and some contain pieces of a weak-

ened live pathogen. Remember, vaccines do not cause disease. They simply teach the body how to respond to a specific pathogen and protect it from disease. Some animals may feel unwell after receiving a vaccine, but this is usually temporary.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines are usually designed to protect animals against diseases that:

1. Cause severe illness
2. Are deadly
3. Can spread quickly
4. Are contagious

These articles are brought to you by the Student Initiative for Reservation Services (SIRVS) at the University of Minnesota and Tufts Community Action Team (TCAT) at Tufts University.

IMPORTANT TERMS

Pathogen: any organism that can cause disease. Some examples are bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi.

Immune System: a complex collection of cells and proteins that work together to defend an animal from diseases caused by pathogens.

Antibody: a blood protein produced by the body in response to infection with a pathogen as a part of the immune system. Antibodies bind to a specific pathogen or toxin, making it unable to attach to other cells and cause damage. The binding of antibodies to a pathogen/toxin also marks it as an intruder so that it can be recognized and destroyed by other cells of the immune system.

Immunity: the ability of an animal to resist infection with a pathogen. This is often due to the presence of specific antibodies against that pathogen.

Vaccine: a biological product that is designed to mimic a pathogen and is used to stimulate the body to create antibodies against this pathogen without causing disease.

Vaccination: the process of giving a vaccine. Vaccines are often administered into the body by needle injection under the skin or into the muscle, but some vaccines can be given by mouth or sprayed up the nose.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

THE MEANING OF POWWOWS

By AMIK, LARRY SMALLWOOD, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

We have many powwows throughout the year here in Mille Lacs. We have different kinds of powwows also. The most important ones are the Big Drum ceremonial powwows that are used to pray for life and goodness for all Anishinaabe people. They are held in the fall and spring, 26 weekends in all.

This is where people bring their asaymah (tobacco) to offer prayers to the Creator for the goodness of their selves, their children, and grandchildren.

These Big Drum ceremonies are not closed ceremonies but are open for people who need prayers and to just have a good social time. The only thing they ask is for people to have respect for the people who are speaking or praying and not to talk or laugh during this time. Also the children are to remain quiet and sitting at all times.

Our annual powwow held in August is a different kind of powwow. This is also referred to as a "traditional powwow." This is a powwow where all people are invited to come sing, dance, and visit. The majority of the songs and dances are called inter-tribal and not restricted to a special dance category or age group. This is a good social inter-tribal dance celebration, with plenty of leisurely dancing for everyone to enjoy.

Our Hinckley Grand Celebration held yearly is a huge competition powwow that attracts dancers and singers from all over the U.S. and Canada. These dancers dance in certain categories such as jingle, fancy, traditional, grass, etc. Also they dance in different age groups such as juniors, teens, adults, and senior divisions. Male and female for all.

There are three major bodies that run competition powwows and traditional powwows. They are the powwow committee, the arena directors, and the masters of ceremonies. The powwow committee selects the type of powwow (traditional or contest) to be held and sets the agenda, the masters of ceremonies announce to the audience the agenda, and the arena directors make sure the right categories, age groups, and drums in line sing the appropriate songs. Competition powwows need singing judges for the singing groups and dance judges (male and female) to judge the dancers. These judges are picked from the head judge from different areas such as different reservations and different states to make sure everyone gets an equal chance at the prize money.

The Mille Lacs Band is fortunate to have all three types of powwows. We have something for everyone to enjoy at these powwows. See you on the powwow trail.

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

AROUND THE RESERVATION

IS IT OKAY TO CRY?

Hi Auntie,

This is a difficult question to ask Auntie. I am a strong warrior man and I provide for my family. I have many responsibilities and a lot of people counting on me. I work, attend college, volunteer in the community, and take care of my family. I feel fake sometimes for not showing my emotions, but I don't want to be looked at as weak or pitiful. As a man there's a stigma that a man can't cry, or show weakness, or feelings. I'm tired of it. I don't have anywhere to get rid of my feelings. Auntie, help me, what should I do as a man to take care of my mental health? That's one thing I struggle with. I am out of balance. How do I balance myself?

Thank you,

Biidaanimizi

Aaniin Nindoozhim,

Your question, although difficult, is one that is of most value and need for our Ogichidaa. From your question, I know you are a strong warrior and definitely a man of the seven values. You are doing all the right things for your family, but you need to take care of yourself too. You are equally as valuable as your partner, kids, family, and Elders. You need to put as much time into you as you do for your career, community, and family.

You are not alone in not showing emotion and not wanting to appear weak. You're right; for the longest time, men have been put in this box to not show feelings, to not cry. We as Indigenous people live with the legacies of colonialism, land loss, and historical trauma. Not to mention racism and discrimination we can face on a daily basis. It's no wonder you're tired; not only do you have your own trauma, you're carrying with you all of the historical trauma of our ancestors. You know what else you carry? You carry all the resilience of our ancestors too. That means you already have inside you the tools you need to care for you and your mental health.

What you could try is take your asemaa and go out and sit in the woods or sit by the water and pray. Pray to the Creator to show your emotions in a healthy way and for good balance in your life. I promise you that sharing your feelings and showing your emotions is not weak.

You can be the brave one that shows our men that it's okay to take care of your mental health and still be a strong warrior. We need to teach our boys and young men that it's okay to share about feelings and that it's okay to cry.

I love you nephew and I am proud of you.

You are now the emotional warrior.

Auntie

If you have a question for Auntie, please send the question in an email to News@millelacsband.com with "Ask Auntie" in the subject line. Your information will remain anonymous. Miigwech.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JUNE ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Donald Ray Anderson
 Randall Wayne Anderson
 Ronald Dale Anderson
 Kathleen Denise Aubid
 Ronald Roger Audie
 Von Shane Aune
 Lisa Ann Ballinger
 Shirley Ann Beach
 Desiree Denise Benjamin
 Sharon Lee Benjamin
 Rhonda Marie Bentley
 Bonnie Kay Boyd
 Judy Lynn Boyd
 Shirley Jane Boyd
 Curtis Bradley
 David Bradley
 Gilda Elsie Burr
 Clifford Kenneth Churchill
 Sherry Elaine Colson
 Mary Louise Colton
 Simon Eugene Day

Leana Kay DeJesus
 Ellagene Diane Dorr
 Peter Jerome Dunkley
 Pamela Jean Eagle
 Rosetta Marie Eagle
 Steven Richard Firtko
 Bruce Wayne Frye
 George Allen Garbow
 Kat Anne Garbow
 Melanie Raemel Garbow
 Marilyn Ann Gurneau
 Monica Louise Haglund
 Steven Jerome Hanks
 Bruce Duane Hansen
 David John Hardy
 Devona Lee Haskin
 Carmen Jean Hernandez
 Cheryl Renee Hietanen
 Shirley Ann Hillstrom
 Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
 Lisa Gaylene Jones
 Darryl Joseph Kalk
 Robert Dwaine Kegg
 Connie Lou Kevan

Rick Joseph Lakes
 Coleen Marie Lueck
 LeRoy Joseph Mager
 Robert Wayne Mayotte
 Kevin William Moose
 Barbara Jean Mulhall
 Alof Andrew Olson
 Gordon Gail Parr
 Patricia Pindegayosh
 Brian Keith Pippett
 Alan Duane Ray
 Paul Rogalski
 Donald Gregory Shabaiash
 Charlene Ann Shingobe
 Charles Duane Shingobe
 Warren Skinaway
 Tammy Jean Smith
 Edward James St. John
 Pearl Anne St. John
 Wallace Ervin St. John
 Dean Ray Staples
 Elvis John Sutton
 Judy Ann Swanson
 Ann Marie Thalín

Donald Eugene Weise
 Arlene Rene Weous
 De Etta Marie Weyaus
 Kenneth Gregory Weyaus
 Judy Jo Williams
 Robin Lee Williams

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday June 9 **Booty** love, your best cousin • June 16 **Galli**, love, Mom, Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Trin, Bam, Binesiikwe, Grannie, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, and Adam • June 20 **Aidan James** love, the Harrington Family • June 23 **Kevin**

love, Mom, Dan, Sister, Myla, Gram, Papa, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Uncle Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Trin, Galli, Bam, and Binesiikwe • June 30 **Ravin** love, The Harrington Family

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brandi Jo Smith on earning her AA degree from CLC. We are very proud of you, love mom, your big kids, Elias, TANK, Alizaya and Rico and your brother Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, Ahrianna and Ryker.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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: Niiyogaabawiikwe, 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.

Aanjobimaadizing 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



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources is proposing to conduct a cleanup of a brownfield site located on US Highway 169. This project will remove soil and groundwater contamination. This action is necessary to restore the land and water, as well to meet the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO). Written comments regarding the Analysis of Brownfields Cumulative should be sent to Alexandria Clark at alexandria.clark@millelacsband.com, or dropped off at the DNR Main Building (17238 Noopiming Drive, Onamia, MN 56359) by June 15, 2023. Oral and written comment may be offered at the following public meeting June 8, 2023, at 12 p.m. on Zoom. The Analysis of Brownfields Cumulative and Zoom link can be found on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe website, in the Anishinaabe section.

DRUG TIP HOTLINE

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>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>ELDERS NEEDED!</p> <p>The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Niib & Iyawbance East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Niib & Iyawbance East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>6</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</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>8</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Vince & Dale East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Vince & Dale East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>District III Valley Fair</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Government Offices closed at noon</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow 7 p.m. Grand Entry</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow 1 and 7 p.m. Grand Entry</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Hinckley Powwow 1 p.m. Grand Entry</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Juneteenth Holiday Government Offices Closed</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>District IIa Chiminising Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>District II Minisinaakwaang Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>District III Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Meshakwad Community Center</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!</p> <p>We are compiling a list of email addresses so we can send important information and breaking news updates to Band members. Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list.</p>



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



SILENT NO MORE

MMIR AWARENESS
See page 14

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The July issue deadline is June 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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CLASS OF 2023
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