

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



ADDRESSING THE BARRIERS OF HOUSING AND CHILD CARE

RED WILLOW ESTATES AND KID ZONE CHILD CARE CENTER OPEN

MLCV commemorated two projects with Grand Opening ceremonies on August 22. The first ceremony was the Onamia Childcare Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Pictured left: MLCV Associates: Beth Gruber, Michael Beattie, Joe Nayquonabe, Initiative Foundation President Don Hickman, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek, Mille Lacs Health System CEO Bill Nelson, MLCV Associate Dustin Goslin, and Marge Agnew Mayor of Onamia. Red Willow Estates ceremony was held following the opening of the child care facility.

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is proud to celebrate two projects that each reflect a shining ex-ample of what can happen when partners join together in communities such as Onamia. MLCV first approached the projects from research developed by the Center for World Policy and Development that indicated there are three things that are barriers for people getting back into the workforce: Affordable housing, transportation, and child care. MLCV saw an opportunity to fulfill two of those needs and reached out to community partners and gained success. MLCV is proud to announce the opening of two transformative projects in Onamia: Red Willow Estates, an affordable housing project, and the Onamia Child Care Center, operated by Kidz Zone.

This project would not have been possible without the col-

laboration of the partners, including Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, MLCV (as developer, vision creator, and executor), Mille Lacs Health System, The Initiative Foundation, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic De-velopment (DEED), the City of Onamia, and others.

“The children are the future — the future for all of us,” Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Execu-tive Melanie Benjamin said during her remarks in front of the Kidz Zone Child Care Center. “We want to make sure they have a safe, happy place, a place where they are learning the value systems of who we are as people. It is very exciting and I am so happy that we are moving ahead in a positive way.”

Accessible and quality child care services are vital for working parents to achieve a work-life balance. By developing

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Tribal Police Officer Josh Hemsworth on duty patrolling District II stood at the approximate line between the trust lands and fee lands in the neighborhood known as the Orchard in East Lake.

TRIBAL POLICE NOW IN DISTRICT II

Patrolling tribal lands, making a difference

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

As of August 1, 2023, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department (TPD) set up an office and began patrolling and providing consistent service over Band lands in District II, including Sandy Lake/Chi-manoominikaang, Minnewawa/Minisinaakwaang, and East Lake areas. Their presence there is important for public safety. Officers are making an effort to build community trust and confidence while building communi-ty relationships.

“Since taking office last July, this has been a major topic of discussion and concern within the community of District II,” said District II Representative Wendy Merrill. “We know how important it is for Tribal Police to provide a positive presence in District II.”

TPD has set up an office in the old Assisted Living Unit in DII to be able to provide timely service and safety for Band members living in the District II area and increased service and safety for all citizens in the area. The state law was amended as of August 1, 2023, to allow Tribal Police Officers the author-ity to enforce state law over all citizens, tribal and non-tribal, on all lands held in trust in counties where the tribal lands are located, (with the exception of Mille Lacs County wherein TPD can enforce state law on all lands within the boundary of the 1855 Reservation). Tribal Police have the authority to enforce state law over tribal members on both trust and fee land. Since all Tribal Police are POST-certified officers, they have a sworn duty to enforce the law over all persons, tribal and non-tribal, if the officer is witness to a crime wherever the crime is oc-curring.

In District II, there is a variety of classifications of tribal

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MANOOMIN HARVEST UPDATE 2023

By Mashkode-bizikigahbaw, Benji Sam

On August 11, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources held its annual ricing harvest meeting at the Mille Lacs Pow Wow Grounds. The meeting was opened by Elder Joseph Nayquonabe Sr. with an invocation in Anishinaabemowin. Then the Mille Lacs Band DNR Commissioner Kelly Applegate welcomed Elders, local representatives, many staff members, and nearly 30 participants of the meeting. This was followed with a summary of current guidelines, regulations, conditions of local rice beds, and access points for multiple sites to be used in this year’s harvest.

Todd Moilanen, the Cultural Resources Director for the Tribe, reviewed common questions and answers about the upcoming season. In general, Moilanen and the rest of the DNR staff agree that this year’s rice crop is looking very strong across both local and regional rice beds, but harvesters may have some trouble accessing some waters again this year due

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WATER OVER NICKEL — ‘NO AMOUNT OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE’ — SEE PAGE 12

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! There is a lot to report on this month, so I will dive right into sharing some of the meetings I held in August. The month began with a visit from Senator Tina Smith's staff on August 2, which was a great opportunity for Senator Smith's team to learn more about our Band government. On August 8, we hosted the annual Partners in Action conference for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Intercontinental Hotel in St. Paul, where I provided the welcome address. This is a great conference that offers essential information to tribal staff. Later that day, other MCT leaders and I met with Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland about clean water concerns.

The delegates from the Mille Lacs Band, who have been working on MCT Constitutional issues, met with the elected officials at Eddy's on August 14. The delegates talked about some of the challenges and opportunities before us and the need for ongoing meetings. The following day, Commissioner Applegate and I provided interviews to PBS News Hour about the proposed nickel mine in District II and our efforts to protect our people and resources from sulfide pollution. We have been extremely busy with this topic, so please visit the website waterovernickel.com to read more about our campaign to protect our environment.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Onamia Child Care Center and Red Willow estates on August 22. On August 24, I attended a Minnesota Housing Finance Agency meeting. The end of this month has also included government-to-government consultations with federal and state offices. And, of course, we had a wonderful powwow this month, just in time for our kids to begin preparing to return to school.

For many years, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) has been discussing making possible changes to how we currently decide if someone is eligible to be enrolled with one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Right now, a person is eligible for enrollment with Mille Lacs if at least one of their parents are enrolled and if the person has at least 25% (or one-quarter or higher) MCT blood quantum. At the TEC meetings over the past 15 years, some MCT Members have wanted to change this requirement to include Anishinaabe blood from other tribes like Red Lake, Turtle Mountain, or the Wisconsin and Michigan Bands; some would like to decrease the one-quarter requirement to just one-eighth, and some would



Senator Tina Smith's Legislative Assistant Anna McCloskey (Right) met with Chief Executive Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band Research and Policy Analyst Jenesis Fonder (Left), and Administration Commission Sam Moose on August 2, 2023. This was an opportunity for the Chief Executive and Commissioner Moose to thank Sen. Smith's office for their work on tribal interests such as the "Fee to Trust" process and the senator's continued efforts to curtail opiate abuse. Photo by Michael LeGarde.

like to get rid of the blood quantum system altogether. If any changes are going to be made for the MCT, MCT membership will need to vote to approve those changes.

If you have been paying attention, you will have read about this topic in many previous editions of the Band news, heard about this in my video updates or heard about at the many community meetings, elder meetings and zoom meetings for Band members that I've held over the past few years on this topic. At these meetings, I shared information with Band members about a 2013 MCT population study that was done by the Wilder Research Foundation, which predicted how each of the six MCT Bands' enrolled population might increase or decrease over the next 100 years if various changes were made to the current 25% MCT blood quantum system.

At these meetings, Band members asked if we could update the predictions for the Mille Lacs Band so that Band members would have current information about how possible changes could impact our enrolled population. That project began this summer. We are a point where we need information from Band members — we need Band members to fill out a survey about their blood quantum, as well as the blood quantum of their children. These surveys will be mailed in early October. After you return your surveys, the Wilder Foundation researchers will be able to predict whether the Mille Lacs Band will see increases or decreases in our enrollment, depending on whether certain changes are made. At the end of this study, the results will be mailed to every voting-aged Band member.

Watch for the surveys in your mailbox on or around October 1. Between September and November, you will see a lot of information come out with more details to help answer questions. Keep an eye on our Band Facebook page, the Chief Executive's Facebook page, the Band website, U.S. mail, and your personal email. If you are not currently receiving official Mille Lacs Band email, please send an email to kris.jensen@millelacsband.com and you will be added to the email list. Also, if you are unsure about whether our Enrollments Office has your correct mailing address for U.S. mail, please call (320) 532-7730 or email samantha.cash@millelacsband.com.

I have previously written about what it means when the Chief Executive decides to veto a bill passed by the Band Assembly, but I want to discuss this again since there were several bills that I had to veto in August. When I veto a bill, it is almost always because of a minor issue that must be changed to perfect the bill. The only way to make changes to a bill after it has been passed by the Band Assembly is to veto the bill so that we can hold a Compromise hearing, discuss and hopefully agree on changes. Here is an explanation of each of the bills that were vetoed this month, along with their current status at the time of printing this newspaper:

1. The Cannabis Appropriation Act: After making minor changes to the Cannabis bill following my veto of the original version, this bill has now been signed into law. From the beginning, I have said that if the people want the Band to get into the Cannabis business, I would support this effort. The people have spoken. Band members overwhelmingly supported entering the Cannabis market. After the Cannabis bill arrived on my desk, I had my legal staff review the bill. I also consulted with outside experts to make sure the bill I was asked to sign would not create legal trouble for the Band. I concluded that one simple sentence needed to be added to this bill to protect the Band. Still, after a bill has been passed by the Band Assembly, the only way to add or delete anything is for the Chief Executive to veto the bill. After I returned the bill to the

Band Assembly with a veto stamp, we met in a Compromise Hearing to discuss the reason for the veto. At the Compromise Hearing on the cannabis bill, the Band Assembly agreed to add the single sentence I requested, and I could then sign the bill into law. The result of this process is that the Act that is now signed into law is improved because it provides stronger protection for the Band.

2. Minor Trust Funds: Right now, if a parent or caregiver requests to withdraw funds from a child's minor trust fund account, they make that request to their district representative, and then the Band Assembly votes on whether to support or decline the request. The Chief Executive has no vote or role in this process, which is fine because I believe that elected officials should not have a role in this process. Back in 2012, the Band Assembly passed a Joint Resolution claiming to authorize the Band Assembly to approve or disapprove early withdrawals from minor trust accounts. Ever since then, different District Representatives have responded differently to these requests. Band members are not being treated equally under this system. Some representatives tended to support every request that came to them, and others tended to deny every request before them. There were and still are no uniform criteria for whether a request should be approved or disapproved.

This system which the Band has been operating under since 2012 is flawed and not authorized in Band statutes. The Band Assembly recently passed a bill that would take this process and put it into our Band laws. I support creating a law that regulates how this process works, but I vetoed the Minor Trust Funds bill that was passed by the Band Assembly because there are important legal issues that still need to be resolved regarding how we can make these changes. It did not fix the problem. This bill makes the flaws permanent in Band law. If we continue with a system that allows politicians to decide whether an adult's request to withdraw money early from a child's Trust Fund Account should be approved, we risk the appearance of compromising the legal duty of the trustee to only consider the needs of the child versus the adults. And we continue with a system that does not guarantee equal treatment of all Band members.

At the time of writing this column, we still need to finish the compromise hearing process. Until we work this process out however, the current system is still in place. Currently there are several applications pending that the Band Assembly has not acted on, but which they could act on. No changes have been made since 2012. This means that for those Band members who currently have early withdrawal requests before the Band Assembly, my decision to veto the bill has no impact on whether the Band Assembly chooses to approve or deny your requests.

3. Personnel Policies and Procedures: I vetoed the Personnel Policies bill that came to my desk because I believe that it is high time the Band offers paid maternity leave (parental leave) to parents after the birth of a child. I also asked that a Remote Work policy be added and a Social Media use policy. This bill is going through the compromise hearing right now.

Band members who want to learn more about these issues can review my veto letters by visiting <https://millelacsband.com/government/official-documents-and-communications>. I want to close by reminding Band members that if you ever have any questions about anything I've written about in this column or any other topic you may be wondering about, please get in touch with my office at (320) 532-7486. I or one of my staff will provide you with the information you are seeking.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LIAISONS VISIT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



Photo by Michael LeGarde

Mille Lacs Band Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and District I Representative Wind met with Senator Tina Smith's Legislative Assistant Anna McCloskey and Native Affairs Outreach Director Kirsten Buscher in the Band Assembly chambers on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, where the two liaisons learned about the Band's legislative process and what issues are being addressed by the Band Assembly for the current legislative session.

TRIBAL POLICE DISTRICT II from page 1

land, including trust land, fee land, and fee corporate (businesses owned by Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures). TPD has a GIS mapping system to help differentiate between all of the variations. Tribal lands in District II are checker-boarded and spread out across a rather vast distance throughout Aitkin County. Calls for service can take up to 30 to 40 minutes to wait for a county deputy to reach some of the outlying areas. But TPD now has officers on duty in the area and can respond to calls rapidly.

But Tribal Police Officers do more than enforce laws and serve warrants for searches and other purposes. They also respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, for tribal members and non-tribal members.

"It is a blessing to have them here," said McGregor Mayor Dake Olson. "They are very helpful, especially on EMS calls. Having them here is a huge benefit to the community."

Olson said he can think of several times off the top of his head when TPD officers have assisted with EMS calls and saved lives by administering NARCAN or other life-saving treatments in emergencies. A current licensing requirement for all POST-certified Minnesota police officers who get their original police officer license is that of the Emergency Medical Responder or EMR.

Knowing how to perform CPR and the use of the AED on heart attack patients, or in cases of accidents, is a critical benefit to the community. Police officers often save lives by treating patients that have life-threatening injuries prior to the ambulance arriving on scene. Whether it is in a home or an accident on the road, TPD is highly trained.

On a recent ride-along, TPD Officer Josh Hemsworth said he is getting to know the community on a better level and learning to navigate the fee lands and trust lands. "It takes some getting used to. But the more we are out here, the more we learn. I enjoy being out in the community and getting to know the community members."

Officer Hemsworth said he is a firm believer in community policing and building positive relationships of trust with community members. "Especially the kids," he added. "The more the kids see us in a positive light, the more trust they will have with us.



Then they can learn that if they need help, we can help them."

Officer Hemsworth makes the rounds through every neighborhood on a daily basis through trust lands, fee lands, and Band-owned businesses. Completing the loop ensuring he drives through every neighborhood from East Lake to Sandy Lake and everything in between takes him approximately two hours. He said learning shortcuts traversing back roads paved with gravel has shaved some time off the route, and added a layer of dust to his squad vehicle. His loop is done at least twice daily.

Calls for service for TPD are currently handled by TPD Dispatchers when callers call directly to the department at 320-532-3430. In case of emergency, please call 911.

"I personally want to recognize the entire Tribal Police Department, specifically Chief West and Deputy Assistant Naumann, for their time, dedication, and their community involvement," Representative Merrill said. "They are building relationships within the Mille Lacs Band communities, which I believe is key for creating a safer environment within our districts that we represent."

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

August 6, 2023: Act 52-23 was signed into law reflecting a compromise between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly vetoed Act 48-23. Act 52-23 is an Act that provides supplemental appropriation funds for the Cannabis Business Project for the purpose of design, construction, equipment, and start-up costs related to the Cannabis Business Project.

August 14, 2023: Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 50-23. The hearing commenced at 9:24 a.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements from the District Representatives. The compromise hearing was closed at 9:48 a.m.

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 51-23. The hearing commenced at 9:48 a.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements from the District Representatives. The compromise hearing was closed at 9:58 a.m.

In the "Messages from the Representatives" portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened stating, "Sometimes amendments to statutes aren't going to be perfect" in the the HR policy amendment. Rep. Wind said policies such as maternity leave, a social media policy, and a remote work policy can be amended at any point, but there are "some very important additions to this bill that need to be applied as soon as possible." In addition he said, "Hopefully we can reach a compromise.

In regards to Minors' Trust, Rep. Wind said Band Assembly has been trying to fix the bill and codify it correctly within statute. He said earlier there has been some disagreements among the Band Assembly members and attorneys at times when applying interpretations of law and they want to be consistent and "follow that law as much as we can and always make sure we're not playing around in those areas."

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened her remarks saying how important it is that this hardship process in this bill gets approved. "We do have quite a few individual band members that are waiting."

Rep. Merrill closed her comments saying there are processes in place and she's "glad we're having this year long conversation; we've been working on this for over a year."

August 23, 2023: Compromise hearings were scheduled for Act 50-23 (enacting a new chapter in Title 17, titled Minors' Trust) and Act 51-23 (amending Title 6 to update the HR Personnel Policy), but were not able to be held due to the Chief Executive not being in attendance.

Workshop

August 24, 2023: Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures budget and draft bill to enact a cannabis code.

Band Assembly Meetings

During regular session, Band Assembly typically conducts formal business every Wednesday at 10 a.m. You may view Band Assembly in-person or via live-streaming. Recordings of meetings can be viewed after the recordings are uploaded to the Band member website.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

EPA Joins Minnesota Leaders to Highlight Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: August 23, 2023, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency joined Minnesota leaders at the Metropolitan Council's Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in Shakopee, Minnesota, to highlight how organizations in the state are using more than \$4 million in federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to develop plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. The CPRG planning grants will support the creation of comprehensive, innovative strategies for reducing pollution, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities. Grant recipients include Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Metropolitan Council, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association. "Environmental conservation is a fundamental part of Minnesota's heritage and we need to come together to combat climate pollution," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar. "These grants will help organizations across the state continue to preserve Minnesota's natural beauty and protect our communities for generations to come." Sen. Tina Smith, Rep. Betty McCollum, and Rep. Ilhan Omar also spoke to the undeniable challenges posed by climate change and how important these grants are. MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler said, "These partnerships, with support from the EPA, present an exciting opportunity for Minnesota to accomplish our climate goals and achieve the vision of Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. Speaking as Air Quality Specialist for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Charlie Lippert added, "Mille Lacs is excited to begin our climate pollutant reduction planning activities with our two-pronged approach: as a lead agency on our Tribal lands, and as a partner agency to state and regional agencies for all other Band-owned properties." Source: [EPA.gov](https://www.epa.gov).

Survival of wild rice threatened by climate change, increased rainfall in northern Minnesota: Todd Moilanen is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the band's cultural resources director, delights in seeing resurgence of life on Ogechie Lake. For more than 70 years there was virtually no rice, and very little waterfowl and wildlife on Ogechie Lake. But the Mille Lacs Band worked with an engineering firm and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to modify the dam, and in 2015, they implemented a project to restore the lower level historically experienced on the lake, part of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation and Minnesota's Kathio State Park.

Eight years later, the effect is dramatic. The shallow lake brims with wild rice. Tribal, state, and federal governments are working to adapt to the changing environment to ensure manoomin lives on in Minnesota, which is home to more acres of natural wild rice than any other state in the country. "We see the extremes more often now," said Kelly Applegate, director of natural resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Applegate has seen shifts from climate change. The moose have moved further north. The white birch trees are receding. And beds of manoomin that served his people for generations are more regularly being wiped out by high waters. Source: *Sahan Journal*.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EARTHWORKS POWER JOBS

Getting paid to play in the dirt

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Chad Dunkley has a powerfully dirty job, and he loves it. To put it another way, he gets paid to play in the dirt and operate some very very big power machines. Dunkley works for the Earthworks Department for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in District III, Hinckley, where the department has recently added another much-needed giant piece of equipment to the fleet of machines to make their jobs safer, faster, and more precise. This new machine will ultimately add to the overall betterment of the entire Mille Lacs Band community.

A new 2023 Caterpillar (CAT) 920 Wheel Loader will now be able to be utilized in District III, and if needed, used in other districts on bigger jobs as well. "I chose this one because I can drive it down the road if I need to, or load it on a trailer if needed without pulling special permits," Dunkley said. The CAT 920 will top out at 25 MPH, just enough to travel short distances. This is a working power horse with maximum gross power of 121 HP and an operating weight of 21,742 pounds. And that bucket has the capacity to load and move up to 2.5 yards of dirt, sand, salt, snow, debris — you name it, it can (probably) move it.

"This machine will make loading snow plows with sand/salt in the winter about three times faster. What used to take us at least 12 trips with the skid loader, we can do in four trips with this," Dunkley said.

As a kid, Dunkley said he remembers playing at the park on a stationary hand-operated excavator digging in the sand. It felt like second nature to him. Probably why now as an adult, his favorite machine to operate is the excavator. "Yeah, I guess I am pretty good at it," he said humbly.

Also, as a kid, he spent a lot of time customizing bikes, building things with Legos, and playing a few video games, all of which have turned out to be learning tools for him. He learned early on that maintaining the ever-important chain on a bike is crucial in the overall operation of the bike. And playing with Legos and even video games aids in critical thinking skills. Applying those childhood activities to adult life taught him maintenance, learning how to build things that work, and hand-eye coordination critical for operating heavy equipment.

Dunkley has some mad skills operating heavy equipment and has entered state-wide contests. In 2022, he came in first place in the Skid Steer Rodeo at the Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo. "Our crews have always scored well in the competitions," Dunkley said.

The District III Earthworks Department is a team of highly trained and skilled individuals including Dunkley, Guy Davis, and Waylon Moose. The three all have up-to-date training in maintenance and operating heavy equipment and work together to provide a variety of services for Band members.

These services include, but are not limited to, winter work such as plowing snow, widening approaches, winging back



snow banks, and maintaining roads all year long. In addition, they provide grave digging, black dirt work, demolitions, emergency sewer repairs, final grade and seed for new construction housing homes, along with all other duties in all districts. "We get called out in all major storms in the summer and winter. There have been FEMA type events so we clear trees from roads and from Housing houses with our equipment. A new addition is we have been assisting the Public Works with the mowing of DIII this year on top of the existing duties We are busy all year long," Dunkley added.

As the saying goes, if you use it, it will break. All Earthworks staff are well-trained in maintenance and repairs of all equipment. Another reason they choose CAT equipment is due to parts availability. "There is always a dealer close," Dunkley said. Because the Earthworks crews do most of their own maintenance and repairs, parts availability is important to get back on the road as quickly as possible when repairs are necessary.

If you have ever thought of making a living playing in the dirt and snow, pursuing a career in heavy equipment operations is a trained skill that is in high demand. Overall employment of construction equipment operators, heavy equipment, and earthmoving equipment is projected to grow five percent from between now and 2031, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Right now, Earthworks crews are preparing for the winter ahead and making sure all equipment is ready. Although Minnesota has seen record-high temperatures this summer, winter will be here before we know it. "We moved a lot of snow last year," Dunkley said, humbly shaking his head. "It was crazy."

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to low water conditions. Low water generally means more difficulty in pushing canoes through thick rice beds and may make for some tricky navigation with full canoes of rice.

Moilanen and Commissioner Applegate remind all harvesters that harvesting of green wild rice is against state law and is also unethical as it may damage rice beds in the process. Mature rice will have mature grains that are semi-hard and translucent, falling off the stalk with ease, and will have very little, if any, milky secretion. Ricing hours are between 10 a.m. and sunset each day, seven days per week on all tribal waters for tribal harvesters. State lakes opened on August 15 to state and tribal harvesters, and harvesting times differ between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. compared to tribal water restrictions.

The DNR also reminds harvesters that all wild rice must be harvested in a boat, skiff, or canoe propelled by hand no more than 36 inches in width and no longer than 18 feet long. Knockers must also be handheld, no longer than 30 inches in

length, and must weigh less than one pound each to harvest wild rice legally. Push bills may not exceed 10 inches in total length and will open to no wider than 12 inches across to keep safe harvest practice for rice beds.

As a general reminder, as of 2016 in the state of Minnesota, and tribal members of one of the federally recognized tribes located in Minnesota may harvest wild rice off Reservation with only their Tribal ID. However, to monitor local harvest on lakes on Reservation, harvesters are required to attain a harvest permit for tribal waters in the area.

Call your local district contact for information regarding current ricing conditions, harvest permits, or any questions about harvesting this year. For all licensing needs, please contact your respective district licensing agent: District I: Leroy Day, 320-532-7896; District II: Steven Aubid, 218-786-5316/320-362-4123; District 3: Vanessa Gibbs, 320-384-6240 ext. 3230.

GRA UPDATE

EXCLUSIONS & UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION AT GAMING ENTERPRISES



If you are currently excluded from the Gaming Enterprises and would like an opportunity to be a part of future construction projects at the operations, we may be able to help you.

Excluded persons who wish to be reviewed by the GRA Board to work construction at the Gaming Enterprises, please fill out the "Request for Temporary Suspension of Exclusion 2023" form found under the GRA section of the Mille Lacs Band website. For more information on this process and more, please review the "Construction Waiver FAQ 2023" document.

Once your legible request form is received by the GRA, a brief review will be conducted, and you will get a notice via mail of the date and time of the meeting where the request will be heard. You can attend this meeting if you wish, or wait to get the final determination from the Board by mail. Reason(s) for exclusion and personal history go into decisions to grant or deny Temporary Suspension of Exclusions to be able to work construction at the Gaming Enterprises. This Temporary Suspension of Exclusion, if granted, is intended to allow Band members to work construction only and is not a complete Lift of Exclusion.

All construction employees are subject to minimal backgrounding, and Mille Lacs Band members are eligible to apply for waiver of these requirements. We would like to help you if

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

you think your background might be an issue. Please reach out to us for support.

If you have any questions about this process or would like some help, you can contact Joleen Vreeman, Vendor Licensing Specialist, at jvreeman@mlbgra.com or 320-384-4774, or Nate George, Licensing Director, at ngeorge@mlbgra.com or 320-532-8129.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Ada Deer, Native American Voice Inside Government and Out, Dies at 88:

Ada Deer, a member of the Menominee tribe in Wisconsin who was a leading figure in the movement for greater Native American sovereignty since the 1960s, a role she played both as a critic of the federal government and as a top official within it, died on Tuesday in Fitchburg, Wis., a suburb of Madison. She was 88. Ms. Deer racked up a long list of firsts over the course of her life. She was the first member of her tribe to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the first to receive a graduate degree; she was also the first woman to lead the Menominee and the first woman to lead the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. She spent years meeting with representatives and senators, writing briefs and organizing protests. Her work paid off: In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon signed the Menominee Restoration Act, and in 1975, the tribe regained its sovereignty. Ms. Deer became its first chairwoman. She ran twice for Wisconsin secretary of state and once for Congress, in 1992, losing a high-profile race against a Republican incumbent, Scott Klug, that nevertheless brought her yet another distinction: as the first Native American woman to win a Democratic primary for federal office. Her campaign got her the attention of the incoming Clinton administration, which, despite her outspoken criticism of Washington, named her assistant secretary of the interior for Indian affairs in 1993, putting her in charge of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Inevitably, Ms. Deer found herself facing an insurmountable challenge: The administration expected her to be a team player, while Native Americans expected her to be their advocate. She served as chairwoman of the Menominee tribe until 1976, after which she became a lecturer in American Indian studies at the University of Wisconsin. She ran the program from 2000 until her retirement in 2007. On Aug. 7, a week before her death, Gov. Tony Evers declared the date Ada Deer Day in Wisconsin. Source: *New York Times*.

Native American gravesites discovered under church parking lot in northern Wisconsin:

Investigations are underway for Native American gravesites under a church parking lot on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation in northern Wisconsin. Human remains were discovered in one testing site at the parking lot for the Community Presbyterian Church at 643 Old Abe Road in Lac du Flambeau on Aug. 17 and more testing is being conducted by tribal researchers to find more graves. Testing started shortly after a tribal member noticed a deformity in the form of a depression on a section of the parking lot's surface. Source: *Green Bay Press Gazette*.

Congressman Stauber meets with Pine County officials:

On Tuesday, August 22, Congressman Pete Stauber stopped in Pine County to meet with representatives of Minnesotans for the American Community Survey (MACS) along with Pine County Commissioners Terry Lovgren and Steve Hallan, Stearns County Commissioner Tarryl Clark and Regional Economic Development Coordinator Jordan Zeller. Joan Naymark, MACS Executive Director and Jane Leonard, MACS Board Chair, requested Congressman Stauber sponsor a state-wide briefing to spotlight the linkage between strong rural Minnesota and accurate census data. Stauber agreed to sponsor a state-wide briefing which will likely be held in October or November. Source: *Pine County Times*.



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.



VULNERABLE ADULTS: INTERVENTION, SUPPORTS, & SERVICES

By Maajiitaaziibiikwe, Mary Sam

According to Health and Human Services Commissioner Nicole Anderson, adults who meet the criteria of vulnerable adults has risen to an epidemic level in our community. Anderson stated "this is tragic, preventable, and not who we are as Anishinaabe people."

Health and Human Services Department staff shared the urgency to talk about this crisis, as they too are impacted by the enormous neglect and abuse that has occurred in our vulnerable adult community. Staff have experienced secondary trauma which occurs to those who witness violence and neglect or are exposed to disturbing descriptions of trauma by a survivor. Secondary trauma is also a real factor in hiring and maintaining staff. Staff cited daily to weekly reports of adults declared as vulnerable being taken advantage of by family members. Anderson said, "This is difficult work and it takes a toll on one's emotional health. In a small community, it is hard to find Band members who want to work under these conditions, sometimes knowing or being related to the families who are in crisis." Health and Human Services departments aim to navigate back to cultural ways and values of caring for those most vulnerable and not accepting this harmful behavior as acceptable.

What is a vulnerable adult? Victim Services Director Kristen Allord defined it as "anyone with reduced mental or physical capacity to make decisions or have the ability to take care of one's self."

Elderly Disability Services Supervisor Peter Charpentier included "anyone with impaired cognitive functioning, traumatic brain injury, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, etc. Some adults appear to be normally functioning, appearing to not be vulnerable. This can add to their vulnerability, as others take advantage of them."

Any adult in a facility setting is considered vulnerable,

whether that be treatment or a medical facility, jail, prison, where staff are attending to the adult's needs while they live in the facility. The issue and concerns present themselves due to the power dynamic between the patient/inmate and the person in authority.

The cycle of neglect and abuse of those vulnerable in our community is real. Painful examples, which need to be named, include:

- Individuals in wheelchairs being neglected to the point of physical illness and disease.
- Adults with seizure disorders. Family exploitation increases seizures sometimes showing up as violence where the victim is viewed as the problem.
- Vulnerable, low-functioning adults moving in and out of family homes only at per-cap distribution then being asked to leave once the adult's money was used and exploited by family members.

To be declared as a vulnerable adult, one needs two separate statements from physicians (medical doctor) stating the adult is unable to make their own decisions on behalf of their safety and welfare, which combines both mental and physical health.

Tears dropped as employees carefully provided stories of those taken advantage of and those hurt at the hands of family members. The teams continue looking for answers to try and help individuals speak up, to feel safe, loved, and supported, not having to be or live alone, when they do speak up. Breaking the silence continues to be that first courageous step.

Across Minnesota, systemic changes are also needed. Local supportive housing, rather than living outside the area in group homes, could make a difference for some. Group homes can reinforce negative stigmas and living far away from family and culture can be lonely. Establishing independent living, with built-in supports and structure can create safety for those most vulnerable.

One anonymous family member shared, "We know how to take care of those most vulnerable, our Elders, but we don't at times and it's a painful tragedy. When abuse and neglect of our loved ones continue to happen, it allows abuse to thrive in the silence, and nothing, nothing will change."

Establishing a climate where it is safe to speak up, where people will listen, support and services will be in place takes courage, policy, laws. Staff's hands are tied when the vulnerable adult recants their story, and the adult refuses to make changes, or laws do not address the needs of vulnerable adults.

As noted last month, a family member can then request to serve as a Tribal Court appointed Legal Guardian or Conservator.

WHO TO CONTACT

Who to contact if you are concerned about a vulnerable adult being taken advantage of, neglected, or abused, and start the process to be or get declared as a vulnerable adult:

- MLB Victim Services, Kristen Allord: 320-532-7793
- MLB Adult Guardianship Social Worker Supervisor, Pete Charpentier: 320-292-2283
- MLB Waivered Services Benefits Coordinator, Shelly Day: 320-362-1914
- Tribal Police Department to request a Welfare Check on the Elder: 320-532-3430
- Band Member Legal Aid: 320-532-7798
- MN Adult Abuse Reporting: 1-844-880-1574 (confidential reporting).
- StrongHearts Native Hotline: 844-762-8483

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

THE MEANING OF POWWOWS

By Amik, Larry Smallwood, Mille Lacs Band Elder

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

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.



THE HEART IS CONNECTED TO EVERYTHING

New cardiologist joins Ne-la-Shing Clinic By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Cardiologist Dr. Eric Fenstad is excited to join the team at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Ne-la-Shing Clinic and provide care to the patients in the community. Dr. Fenstad has started seeing patients in Ne-la-Shing clinics once a month. As the need increases, he will be able to make more frequent appointments.

Dr. Fenstad has experience in treating patients with mild to severe pulmonary arterial hypertension, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary hypertension due to left-sided heart disease or lung disease, pericardial diseases, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, ischemic heart disease, heart failure, and valvular heart disease, and he has advanced training in cardiac imaging with CT, MRI, Echocardiography, and Nuclear. He was the primary investigator on several pulmonary hypertension clinical trials and continues to be involved in pulmonary hypertension research.

Pulmonary hypertension is a “somewhat rare disease we learn very little about in medical school,” he said. It causes elevated blood pressure in the lung blood vessels. This can affect the right side of the heart, with symptoms that are very non-specific such as shortness of breath, chest pain, lightheadedness, passing out, swelling in stomach area or legs. Due to the unspecific symptoms, patients with pulmonary hypertension can often go undiagnosed. Dr. Fenstad has “prioritized patients with these symptoms to get them diagnosed earlier to help improve their quality of life and improve their longevity.”

He grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, and attended St. John’s University studying psychology and athletic training. He attended St. Cloud State to obtain a Master’s Degree in Psychology. After he finished schooling there, he took a job at Hennepin County Medical Center, where he was introduced to cardiology patients and participated in research trials helping as a coordinator. Then he decided he wanted to go to medical school. At that time, he also met his future wife.

While waiting to get into medical school, he found a research job in Oregon working under an allergist asthma doctor who “mentored me and taught me about medicine, about communicating with patients, about examining patients, and taught me a lot about the diseases that can affect people’s lungs, allergies and allergic responses,” he said.

He earned his medical degree at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health. He went on to a residency in Mayo Clinic Rochester in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease, finishing in 2015.

Family is very important to him. “I was blessed with being able to grow up in a close family where my grandparents lived near me. It was really important to be able to spend time with my grandparents. Some of my fondest memories are of just sitting on the porch and shooting the breeze with them and learning about their experiences.”

He is a husband and a father of four teenaged children. They moved to the Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA) where they can be close to both sets of grandparents in hopes his children have the opportunity to create the same type of life-long memories with their grandparents.

Dr. Fenstad previously held a position for seven years at Minneapolis Heart Institute in the BLA. He joined Essentia Health in 2022 and has enjoyed working with patients in the outreach communities to bring essential cardiology services to communities who may not be able to support a full-time cardiologist. Cross Lake, Pine River, Pierz, Grand Rapids, Duluth, and now at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. “I am really excited to be able to provide care to all of these small communities so people don’t have to drive to bigger cities for care.”

He said about Ne-la-Shing Clinic, “Wow! What a wonderful, beautiful facility,” he said. “What I hope is to bring my cardiology services to the Mille Lacs Band community to ease the burden of having to travel to other specialties, and to improve outcomes in the Indigenous populations, because we know that earlier disease treatments and prevention lead to better outcomes long-term.”

Dr. Fenstad believes in treating the whole body, mind, and spirit. “Our heart is connected to everything,” he said. “We



Dr. Eric Fenstad.

need to take care of everything with a holistic approach.”

What is most important to him is getting to know and understand his patients, “because each patient is different. We can’t use the same recipe for every single person.”

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Fenstad, please call the clinic at 320-532-4163.



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 Tuesdays 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.

PET CLINIC SCHEDULE

URBAN

Friday, October 27, at the All Nations Church

DISTRICT I

Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CHALLENGE
Step through September!

Get 10,000 steps every day in September and be entered into a drawing!!

Reach out to Sarah Larson for more information and to sign up:
sarah.larson@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov
320-630-3115

Health and Human Services
MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
Population Health

Tribal Grants Program

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: HHS POPULATION HEALTH DEPARTMENT

EDUCATION

GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW DIII EARLY HEAD START



The excitement is building as several Band members celebrate the ground breaking for the construction of the new Early Head Start facility in District III. Front: Memengwaa Aubid, Zoey and Allyza Knowlen and Mayson and Ambrose Kingbird. Back: Assistant Commissioner of Administration Maria Costello, Commissioner of Education Niiyo Gonzales, Commissioner of Administration Sam Moose, District I Representative Virgil Wind, District III Representative Harry Davis, Grants Director Brittany Wind, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Photo by Michael LeGarde

By Michael LeGrade, Sr. Communications Specialist

Chief Executive Benjamin, Band Commissioners, District Representatives, and community members attended the ground breaking for the new District III Head Start building August 3, 2023. The new facility is approximately one quarter mile south of the Meshakwad Community Center.

In attendance were Chief Executive Benjamin, District III Representative Harry Davis, District I Representative Virgil Wind, Commissioner of Education Niiyo Gonzales, Commissioner of Administration Sam Moose, and Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate, Assistant Commissioner of

Administration Maria Costello, architects, construction company representatives, several Mille Lacs Band early childhood staff, and other community members and their children.

Blessings were given by Skip Churchill and Bradley Harrington and a small meal of wild rice, venison, and blueberries was shared with those in attendance.

It was a warm afternoon to do the groundbreaking, but that didn't stop several youngsters who helped with shoveling the dirt. One toddler was spotted wearing a hard hat, and who knows? He may be a future student in the new Head Start building.

In addition to the classrooms, there will be staff offices, a

kitchen facility, and indoor and outdoor play spaces. The anticipated completion date is for summer 2024. The architectural firm for the project is Architectural Resources, Inc., of Duluth and Hibbing, Minnesota.

Mille Lacs Early Education currently provides educational services for Early Head Start for ages 0-3 and Head Start for ages 3-5. If you would like more information on the new District III Head Start Project, please contact Nancy Saboo, Mille Lacs Early Education Director, at 320-532-7590 or Nancy.Saboo@millelacsband.com.



NAS BAND SUMMER TOUR ON THE ROAD

The Nay Ah Shing Band had an opportunity to perform live for a special performance at Le Musique in St. Michael on July 10, 2023, for a sold-out, standing-room-only matinee show. Featured are Mariah Gomez on lead vocal, Amelya Pacheco-Leecy on bass guitar, and Mercedes Anderson on drums, with NAS teacher Joe Covert on lead guitar, also serving as chaperone.



Photo by Michael LeGarde

A future enrollee of the District III Early Head Start.

LET'S TALK ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

It is more common than you think

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

September marks the beginning of a new school year for most of our area young people. With that often comes excitement, wonder, and new challenges. Going back to school is a chance for some students to regain friendships with kids they haven't seen all summer, as well as make new friends. For teens, along with the basic challenges of education like reading, writing, arithmetic, art, history, music, and all of the usual stuff, often comes the challenges of dating.

Let's face it: Dating can be so much fun! But it can also be weird, awkward, and uncomfortable at times. There can also be a dark side to dating that is not talked about openly and honestly enough. Teen dating violence happens in every community. It is classified as an "adverse childhood experience" that affects millions of young people in the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It does not see gender, nor does it see color, race, size, or age.

What does teen dating violence look like? Teen dating violence can include the following types of behavior:

- Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act and/or sexual touching when the partner does not consent or is unable to consent or refuse. It also includes non-physical sexual behaviors like posting or sharing sexual pictures of a partner without their consent or sexting someone without their consent.
- Psychological aggression is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm a partner mentally or emotionally and exert control over a partner.
- Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a current or former partner that causes fear or safety concern for an individual victim or someone close to the victim.

Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship. However, these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. Many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends. Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse. Added to the complexity is the fact that 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know it's an issue.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IS AN ISSUE

Data from CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicates that:

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 14 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 8 female and 1 in 26 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for future relationship problems, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For example, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

Supporting healthy, nonviolent relationships could reduce teen dating violence and prevent its harmful, long-lasting

effects on individuals, their families, and their communities. During the pre-teen and teen years, it is critical for youth to begin learning skills to create and maintain healthy relationships, including managing feelings and communicating in a healthy way. Research also highlights the need for prevention efforts that address the unique needs of teens who are at greater risk of experiencing teen dating violence.

Mille Lacs Band Victim Services has two curriculums to introduce to teens this year. "One of our main goals is to educate teens and stop dating violence before it ever starts," said Kristen Allord, Victim Services Director.

One of the curriculums is called Safe Dates: A Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Curriculum. This evidence-based program helps teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative, or abusive relationships.

The other is called In Their Shoes: Teens and Dating Violence. "We are very excited to bring this to the community. This is an engaging way to talk about dating violence and healthy relationships with young people," Allord said. She explained it is an interactive exercise where participants become one of 16 characters based on the experiences of real teens. Some of these experiences involve situations including sexting, pregnancy, homophobia, and stalking. Participants make choices about their relationships and move through the scenario by reading about interactions with their dating partner, family, friends, counselors, police, and others. There is a debriefing exercise that follows this interactive experience if there are additional questions or to help dispel any myths about intimate partner violence.

"We would like to empower the teens in the community to create healthy relationships. Nobody deserves to be abused," Allord said. "Relationships should be based on respect and kindness, not on power and control. Our office receives several calls a year from teens involved in dating abuse. Many youth suffer in silence because they are too afraid to speak out. Many are unaware there are laws in place to protect them from unhealthy relationships. This fall, we hope to introduce a youth line that will provide support, resources, and referrals to those in crisis."

WHAT TO DO IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS A VICTIM OF DATING ABUSE

The effects of teen dating violence can be detrimental to a person's physical and emotional well-being and ultimately lead to antisocial behaviors and symptoms of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, according to the CDC. If you or someone you know is suffering from dating abuse, here are some tips:

Tell someone — Don't be afraid to talk to a friend, adult, family member, or someone you trust. There are people and organizations who can help you get out of a violent dating situation before it escalates.

Document the abuse — Record what's taking place. Keep a journal of the violence you're experiencing, including dates and times of each incident. Seek medical care for any injuries. Print out emails, text messages, or any other form of electronic communication that contains evidence of dating violence.

Leave the relationship — Relationships can turn violent quickly. If this happens, get out of the immediate situation. Consult friends or trusted adults for help before the abuse intensifies.

Dating abuse is difficult for everyone involved, including people who attempt to offer support. Those who haven't dealt with dating abuse before sometimes wonder why survivors don't just leave their partner, not realizing that ending an abusive relationship is far more complicated than other break-ups (which can be challenging in their own right).

There may be any number of reasons why people stay in abusive relationships. Beyond just understanding and recognizing the warning signs of abuse, one of the simplest ways to support survivors is to understand the complexities of why they may not be able to leave, including: conflicting emotions,



KNOW THE FACTS

- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.
- In a study of eighth and ninth graders, 25% indicated that they had been victims of dating violence, including eight percent who disclosed being sexually abused. (American Journal of Preventive Medicine)
- Among female students between the ages of 15-20 who reported at least one violent act during a dating relationship, 24% reported experiencing extremely violent incidents such as rape or the use of weapons against them (Journal of child & adolescent pediatric nursing)
- In a survey of 232 high school girls, 17.8% indicated that they had been forced to engage in sexual activity against their will by a dating partner. (Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal)
- 55% of female students and 75% of male students involved in acquaintance rape admit to having been drinking or using drugs when the incident occurred. (TeachingDegree)
- Over the course of an average 5-year college career, between 20 and 25% of women students are raped. Fewer than 5 in 100 rapes are reported. (US department of Justice)

pressure, distrust of authority, or dependency.

One of the best resources for learning about healthy relationships and teen dating violence is www.loveisrespect.org.

If you are a victim of dating violence and are feeling lost and scared, contact your local Safe Place program or talk to someone who can protect you. Teachers, counselors, and other adults are there to help. Seeing a counselor or other professional does not mean there is something wrong with you. Never blame yourself, and never be afraid to get help when you need it.

You can also call, text, or chat online with advocates 24/7 at Love Is Respect who can help:

Call: 1.866.331.9474

Text: Loveis to 22522

Chat online: Visit the website loveisrespect.org and click "Chat Online Now."

For more information on the Mille Lacs Band programs, please contact Kristen Allord, Victim Services Director, at 320-532-7793 or kristen.allord@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

SHORT- & LONG TERM NEGATIVE EFFECTS

The CDC reports that unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have short- and long-term negative effects, including severe consequences, on a developing teen. Youth who are victims of teen dating violence are more likely to:

- Experience depression and anxiety symptoms.
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol.
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting.
- Think about suicide: 50% of young people who experience rape or physical or sexual abuse will attempt to commit suicide.



PHOTOS By Band member Rhonda Mitchell and Vivian LaMoore
See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries



Photo by Vivian LaMoore



Photo by Vivian LaMoore



Photo by Rhonda Mitchell



Photo by Rhonda Mitchell



Photo by Rhonda Mitchell



Photo by Rhonda Mitchell



Photo by Rhonda Mitchell

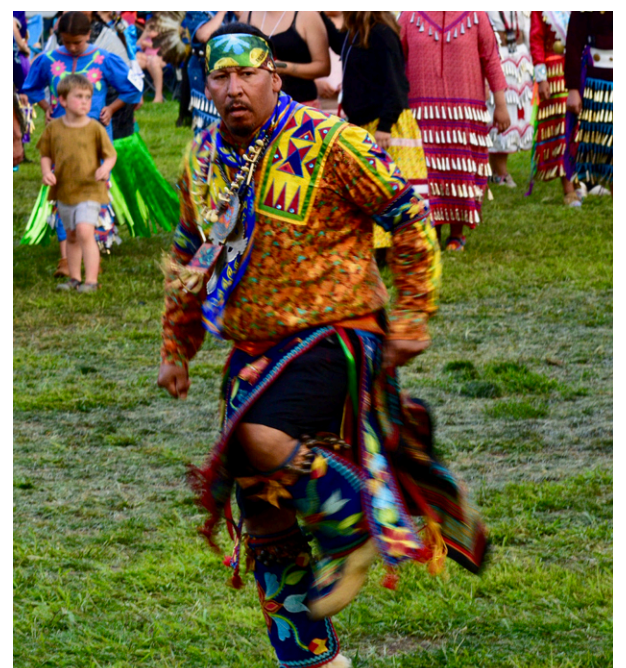


Photo by Rhonda Mitchell



Photo by Vivian LaMoore

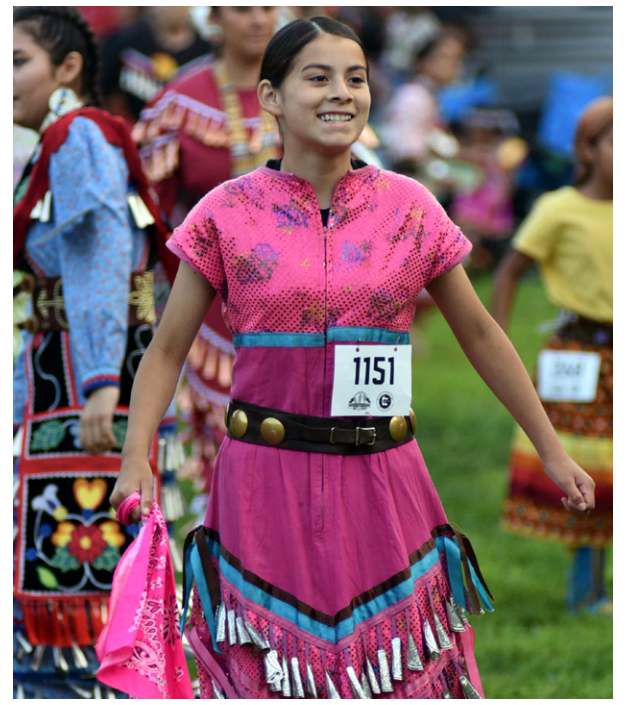


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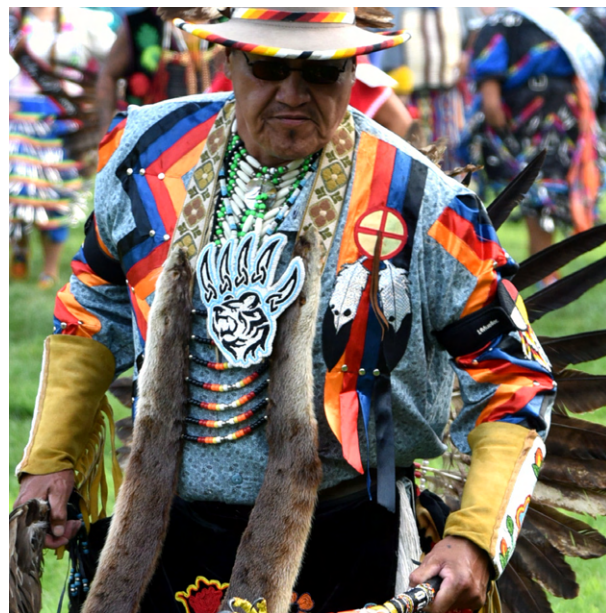


Photo by Vivian LaMoore



Photo by Vivian LaMoore



Photo by Vivian LaMoore



Photo by Vivian LaMoore

'NO AMOUNT OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO US'

Water Over Nickel initiative aimed at protecting water, land, and people from the negative effects of nickel mining

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

In the global fight against climate change, the Biden administration is pushing the U.S. auto industry to accelerate a transition to electric vehicles (EVs). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2023 proposed rules that could result in as much as two-thirds of the new vehicle market shifting to EVs by 2032. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is a firm proponent in protecting the environment and reducing the impacts of climate change. But they will stand firm in their commitment to protect the natural environment, manoomin (wild rice), medicinal plants, and cultural resources that are already struggling to survive and adapt to the rapidly changing climate.

"The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe believes that advancements in green technology are critical to protecting our planet from the effects of climate change," said Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate. "At the same time, we must ensure that these advancements do not endanger our natural environment or Indigenous communities."

As the automobile industry scrambles to produce more EVs, the most expensive component to powering them is the nickel-based battery. Talon Metals Corp. is proposing an underground nickel mine located in Tamarack in Aitkin County. The proposed mine is located just 1.3 miles from the homes of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community members at Round Lake, and near cultural sites, including Rice Lake and Sandy Lake. The surrounding watershed flows into the Mississippi River and St. Croix watersheds, putting critical downstream drinking water sources and natural habitats at risk.

Talon submitted the project's Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) to the Minnesota DNR on June 21. The Band has completed a thorough review of the EAW and shared the initial feedback, questions, and concerns. "We are learning more information about the project and the more we learn, the more concerned we become," said Commissioner Applegate. The Band has participated in some early conversations in which Talon has shared general information and claims that they can mine safely.

But to date, Talon has yet to provide data or specific project plans that show this type of mining can be done "without great risk to Minnesota's natural resources and watersheds, and our way of life," Applegate said.

Talon's original plans included a processing plant on site at the Tamarack location. In October 2022, Talon announced plans

to move the nickel processing from the Tamarack area to North Dakota. According to the Associated Press, Todd Malan, a Talon executive, said relocating the battery-minerals processing plant to North Dakota means the company would need permits only for the underground mine and rail-loading surface operations in Minnesota. "It is our belief that the Band's efforts have contributed to the change in location of the processing plant. This move acknowledges the risks that this proposed mine poses to the community and land," Applegate said.

"Our concerns don't end on our Reservation. Our concerns are to Aki — the Earth," Applegate said.

There is still a risk that tailings and dust from the mine will damage the water at or near the mining site, in addition to the bodies of water and environments on the route from the mine to the processing facility. Mining is an incredibly invasive process that uses large amounts of water in both mining and processing. Dust from tailings could fall off the trucks or train cars while being transported, which may occur over saturated wetlands. Talon has not provided the public with details on how this will be done safely.

The pristine wetlands, that some people refer to as swamp land, are re-chargers for the water. "We don't call anything a swamp. The pristine wetlands are a sacred area that cleans the water so that we can drink it," Applegate said. "This is what the Creator gave us all." The proposed mine is in close proximity to the sacred wetlands.

The wetlands produce clean water for the deer and other animals, to grow manoomin, and to grow birch and maple trees. The McGregor marsh hosts several species of birds that do not occur anywhere else; there is an area near Palisade that attracts birders by the thousands just to see a glimpse of the different species, such as owl, chickadees, sharp-tailed grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, and other rare features of the area. These important wetlands are in close proximity to the proposed mine.

The Band has been heavily involved in the assessment process of the EAW review being done by the state DNR. "The Band is very forthcoming in demanding the state procedures involve the Band early on, that we are not notified after the fact, but that we want to be at the table when they are making the decisions and reviewing the information as they are getting it," Applegate said.

Talon's website claims they have had meaningful consulta-



tions with the Mille Lacs Band. However, Applegate said there has only been information shared from Talon to the Band trying to explain how the mine would operate "safely." Applegate is not convinced, and would like to see the data that supports their claims. "We are not for sale," he said.

The data according to the federal EPA states that nickel mining is the most toxic mining in the industry. The track record globally for mining sites is that they always lead to pollution of water and land. Yet Talon continues to claim, without showing proof of data, that their process is different and can be done safely with little risk of pollution.

How much pollution is safe for the environment?

"No amount of pollution is acceptable to us!" Applegate said.

That area is so unique and intrinsically woven together with the base of the land and the water. The water is essential to the area. The ecosystem of the area is so delicate that even the slightest change in hydrology could upset the balance and destroy cultural assets such as manoomin, plants and medicines, and birds. "If that is destroyed or augmented, it could all be gone. It would be devastating," Applegate said.

What can you do?

Check out the Water Over Nickel website at waterovernickel.com and follow them on social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. "Share. Share. Share," said Applegate. "Help us spread the word to educate people about protecting our water resources."

ADDRESSING BARRIERS from page 1

the Onamia Child Care Center, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures aims to support the local workforce by providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for early childhood development.

"We understand the value of having a safe and enriching environment for children within our local communities," said Beth Gruber, Director of Planning and Community Engagement at MLCV. She further noted, "The Onamia Child Care Center underscores our commitment to offering top-notch resources for the youngest members of our community."

Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan was happy to be a part of the celebration in Onamia. She said the projects are an "incredible asset" to the region. "Child care is so incredibly important, and Bradley [Harrington], as you got us started in a good way, you named just how we all come together around our little ones. It is who we have always been, it is who we continue to be. We know just how important the first 1,000 days of the life of a child is," Lt. Governor Flanagan said. "To be in this place and in this space knowing that our young ones will be cared for, that their caregivers can feel like they have a safe and nurturing place to bring them every day is incredibly powerful."

She further stated, "Whenever the Governor and I travel around the state, there are two things we hear most about: Lack of child care and the lack of housing. We have made big investments in this last legislative session and we will con-

tinue to make big investments because we know people need child care and they need housing to be able to thrive."

The Onamia Child Care Center was made possible through partnerships with Kidz Zone Daycare Center, grants from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and the Initiative Foundation. Additionally, Mille Lacs Health System played a crucial role by supporting food service.

Red Willow Estates

Red Willow Estates is a 30-unit townhome community offering 22 two-bedroom, one- and one-half-bath units, and 8 three-bedroom, one- and one-half-bath units. All homes have a one- or two-car attached garage along with energy-efficient features and appliances.

As a tribally owned organization, MLCV has continuously advocated for investment in the communities it serves. Affordable housing has been a key priority in the area, as over 60% of the workforce commutes up to 50 miles daily – resulting in approximately 72% of the jobs in the area being filled by outside residents.

By offering affordable housing options, Red Willow Estates aims to fulfill the need for a stable and secure housing supply. This project not only addresses the immediate demand for housing but also supports the overall growth and prosperity of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy.

"We acknowledge the impact of the lack of affordable

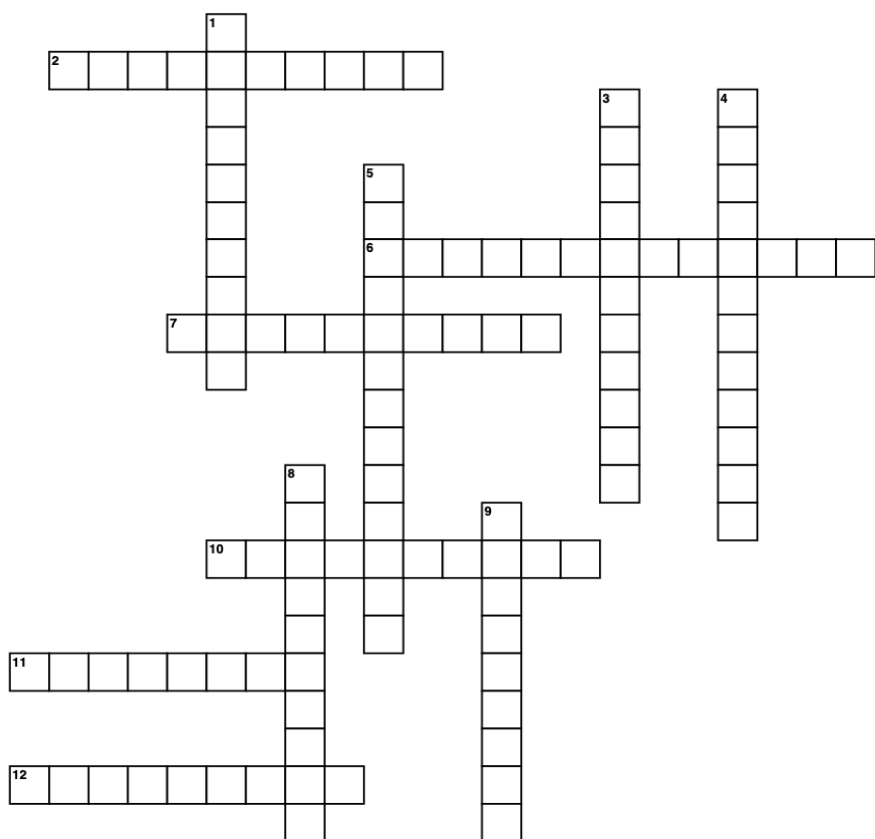


housing on both our Associates and the local community," stated Dustin Goslin, VP of Business & Economic Development of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. "With the establishment of Red Willow Estates, we commit to sustainable and inclusive communities within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. This creates a positive impact on the well-being of every person and community we do business in."

Red Willow Estates is the second affordable housing project developed by MLCV. In 2018, the company completed a 28-unit townhome community called Lady Luck Estates in Hinckley. Like Lady Luck Estates, Red Willow Estates will be managed by Circle Sage Property Management. Red Willow Estates is currently fully leased and has a waiting list of more than 130 families, indicating a strong need for affordable housing in the Onamia area.

AAZHAWAAKWASING WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Across

- [2] He/She looks for something.
- [6] He/She sews well.
- [7] He/She runs here.
- [10] He/She drives fast.
- [11] He/She sees well.
- [12] He/She walks well.

Down

- [1] He/She starts working.
- [3] He/She starts sewing.
- [4] He/She looks for work.
- [5] He/She lives well.
- [8] He/She walks fast.
- [9] He/She drives here.

THAT WHAT WE HAVE VS. WHAT WE ARE SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

As Anishinaabe, how we think about the future has great impacts on our ancestors. It is ricing time. What do we think about wild rice? What's our relationship to it? How do we work into our lives? If it's just to cook, we are missing out on key benefits, not just for us but for our future as well. We pass along these customs and if we share only one part of the gift, we lose out on so much.

Ricing has strong healing properties. It is the grain that was gifted through prophecy to ensure we continue on. Spending time watching the rice grow, building a relationship that allows us to know when the rice is ready, all the way to processing the rice increases our awareness and connection to such a powerful, spiritual gift from the manidoog. Not all of us have to be ricers, but all of us need to understand the life cycle. The cycle of energy that provides for us a place to call home, a sense of security, and wholesome nutrition.

It is like that for all of our gifts. There is plenty we don't know about the drum, feathers, smudging, fasting, and so on. To capitalize on our spiritual network, we need to relearn our connections to our traditions for us and for our future relatives. They need these benefits. They need these pathways. It has also been envisioned that should we lose our customs and our language, we will lose our connection to the spirit world, our ancestors, and our gifts. We will become descendants of a great people. A people that had such strong connections that they could speak to spirits. They could harness the gifts to heal the sick. It is what some of our people are still able to do, but it's a mystery to us. And because of that, we don't seek it. We just need to merely understand and support those who know it. You know something that will help our people. Every Anishinaabe has been gifted something to help our people. We need to know about it and with that comes understanding and furthermore, our collective connection will be restored and rebuilt.

We have many gifts that our ancestors saved for us in harsh-



er conditions. Our main barriers today is that of the American society in which we are immersed. There is no way around it. This modern world will be there and continue to be there and continue to change. What we need is a sort of spiritual refocus. We can survive in this modern society as Anishinaabe. We are very versatile and adaptable to our surroundings and we were given many teachings to ensure that we can survive. Let's not be the generation the future looks back on and wishes did more. Let's be that generation that looks back to bring forth more for the future generations to remain Anishinaabe. As we look back at our ancestors grateful they did what they did for us, our future relatives will look back on us and be grateful we did what we did to ensure their safety, security, and access to the manidoog. Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Ojibwe Language is a polysynthetic language. Blg words, I know! Basically it means that Ojibwe language words are actually full sentences. The word bimibatoo means he/she is running about. Every part of an Ojibwe word means something. Bimi= going about and batoo = running. You'll hear bimi- in bimose=he/she walks. And -batoo in Azhebatoo=He/she runs backwards. Let's try a few more.

Bijibatoo = He/She runs here.

(Bee Jih Buh Too)

Bijibizo = He/sShe drives here.

(Bee Jih Bih Zoh)

Gizhiibizo = He/She drives fast.

(Gih Zhee Biz Zoh)

Gizhiiyose = He/She walks fast.

(Gizh Zhee Yoh Say)

Nitaawose = He/She walks well.

(Nit Tah Woh Say)

Nitaawigwaaso = He/She sews well.

(Nit Tah Wih Gwah So)

Maajigwaaso = He/She starts sewing.

(Mah Jig Gwah So)

Maadanokii = He/She starts working.

(Mah Dun No Kee)

Nandawanokii = He/She looks for work.

(Nun Duh Wuh No Kee)

Nandawaabi = He/She looks for something.

(Nun Duh Wah Bih)

Minwaabi = He/She sees well.

(Min Wah Bih)

Minobimaadizi = He/She lives well.

(Min No Bih Mah Dih Zih)

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



NIMIKENIMAA NIWIIW (IBAN) I REMEMBER MY WIFE (WHO'S PASSED), Part 1 of 2

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

Gaa-tibaajimotawaajin (transcribed by)
James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

After being discharged from the Army, I started having time to think about the war that I was a part of. At the time I was there fighting, it didn't affect me to see all the blood and gore — it was survival overseas. You see innocent people getting hurt and killed. That part didn't bother me at all at the time because in my mind I was thinking, "It's just war." It didn't seem real.

One of the hardest things that a service member is asked to do is to take a life. There were days that I spent during basic where I was at the range aiming down sights to practice taking the life of a human. You do the job they tasked you to do. I think that is what the veterans suffer from. That has to be one of the hardest things you can do during your life, but for us, it was them or us.

When the war was over and the veterans came home, all the realities start to set in, and that is why you see such a change in the veterans as they come home and come back into civilian life. For me, that is why I believe I became such an alcoholic, along with that the PTSD had set in. The nightmares came and the only thing that could help was the alcohol. It was a pain relief anytime I was having flashbacks and strong memories during the day.

During this time, I met a non-native lady, who at the time was a nurse here at Onamia hospital. We originally met at a bowling alley in Isle. We bumped into each other and started to talk. And eventually we became friends. I found out rather fast that she was very religious — and Catholic at that. Yet she was so genuine, caring, and kind that I gravitated towards

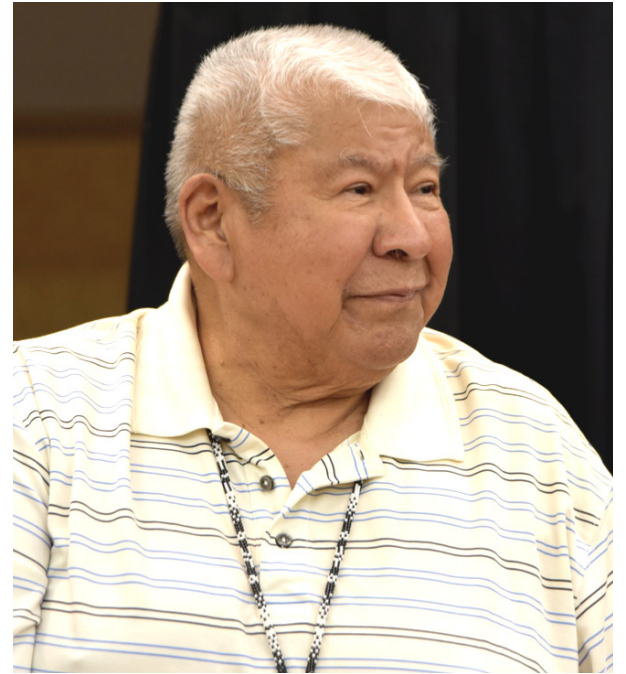
her for reasons unknown to me. The more she and I talked, the more I was falling head over heels for her. I never officially asked her to be my girlfriend, but she and I would hang out more and more, despite me drinking.

As our relationship went on, we had talked about getting married and what that would look like as a change to our life. One day I asked her, "Will you marry me?" She answered, "Yes!" A bit later I made sure to have the conversation that I was still drinking heavily and was an alcoholic. That didn't deter her from wanting to spend her life with me. Her family on the other hand may not have been as swayed.

Like Rita, her family was very religious and she wanted to be married in a Catholic church despite me not converting to Catholicism. Some members of the family had their speculations about how she was going to be married to a native guy from the Rez. Those family were not very welcoming to me. I noticed that the ones who were welcoming me with open arms, were going against the status quo and were open to change.

I think my mother-in-law had her thoughts and doubts. I remember the conversation, "Well what if we don't agree with this?" she said. And I said, "It doesn't matter if you agree with this or not, we are going to get married. You might as well accept this as it will happen."

We got married in a Catholic church in Graceville, Minnesota on April 4, 1973, in a big ceremony. We had to have had close to 100 people. We had family and friends from the Rez make the two-hour drive. I remember for our vows we just repeated after the priest. Then one kiss later we were married. That was a day to remember.



After that we had the normal reception, dance party, and oh my gosh the drinking. Everyone that night was happy — both native and Catholic. No fights broke out and no racial slurs. That day we became Joe and Rita Nayquonabe.

After the wedding we moved to Moorhead and she started to work as a nurse in a nursing home and I was working at the V.A in Fargo in the kitchen. We were there for a while and I was still drinking. Especially during the bowling league was a time where I could be a social drinker.

I remember one day at work they came up to me and told me, "There's an opening at the V.A in St. Cloud if you're interested." I took the offer without a second thought so I could be closer to home. After we moved and I switched V.A's, she started working at another nursing home.

Every now and then since I was a lot closer to home I'd come home and, one day when we were back, they were holding a dance. My mom had said, "Why don't you go to the dance?" As we headed over, they were feeding and then they had the Saturday night ceremonial dance. On the way back to St. Cloud that Sunday she had so many questions about the dance and drum and back then I could only answer so much and to which she asked, "Do you belong on any?" And I said, "yeah two."

There was another weekend that we came home and it was the drum that my uncle took care of. I was a drum warmer so I was helping out. During that day I did what I needed to do: brought food, danced, and payed for my song. We danced the night away and it was a good time. On Sunday I brought Rita to and from church and as I picked her back up on the way back to St. Cloud she was saying, "I think you should go back to those," but never a mentioned of my drinking.

**** EDITOR'S NOTE: Stay tuned for part two in the next issue of the Inaajimowin.**

NEXT GENERATION



The District I Office of Representative Virgil Wind was excited to meet with Jon and Brooke Houle and their baby girl. Jon and Brooke are the proud parents of Kalliope Mae Houle. She was born on June 30, 2023, weighing 9 lbs., 2 oz., and was 22 inches long. Baby Kalliope is welcomed home by big brother Silas.



Representative Virgil Wind recently met with Andrew and Rochelle Olivarez and sons. The proud parents welcomed Henry Little Fire Olivarez on March 29, 2023. He weighed 7 lbs., 9.5 oz., and was 20 inches long. Henry was greeted at home by his big sister Jordyn and big brother Abel. We're happy to have little Henry join the District I Community.



Representative Virgil Wind met with Bryan Sam and Elli Hanson and their newborn baby girl and gifted them with a Celebration of Life baby basket. Oaklynn Elsie Sam was born on July 19, 2023. She weighed 9 lbs. and measured 21½ inches long. We're happy to welcome Oaklynn to the District I Community.

Please contact Darla in the District I Office at 320-362-0793 if you have any questions about our Celebration of Life baby baskets for newborn babies. Miigwech!

NOTES FROM JOE:

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

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

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

DNR NEWS BRIEFS

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS HEAD WEST



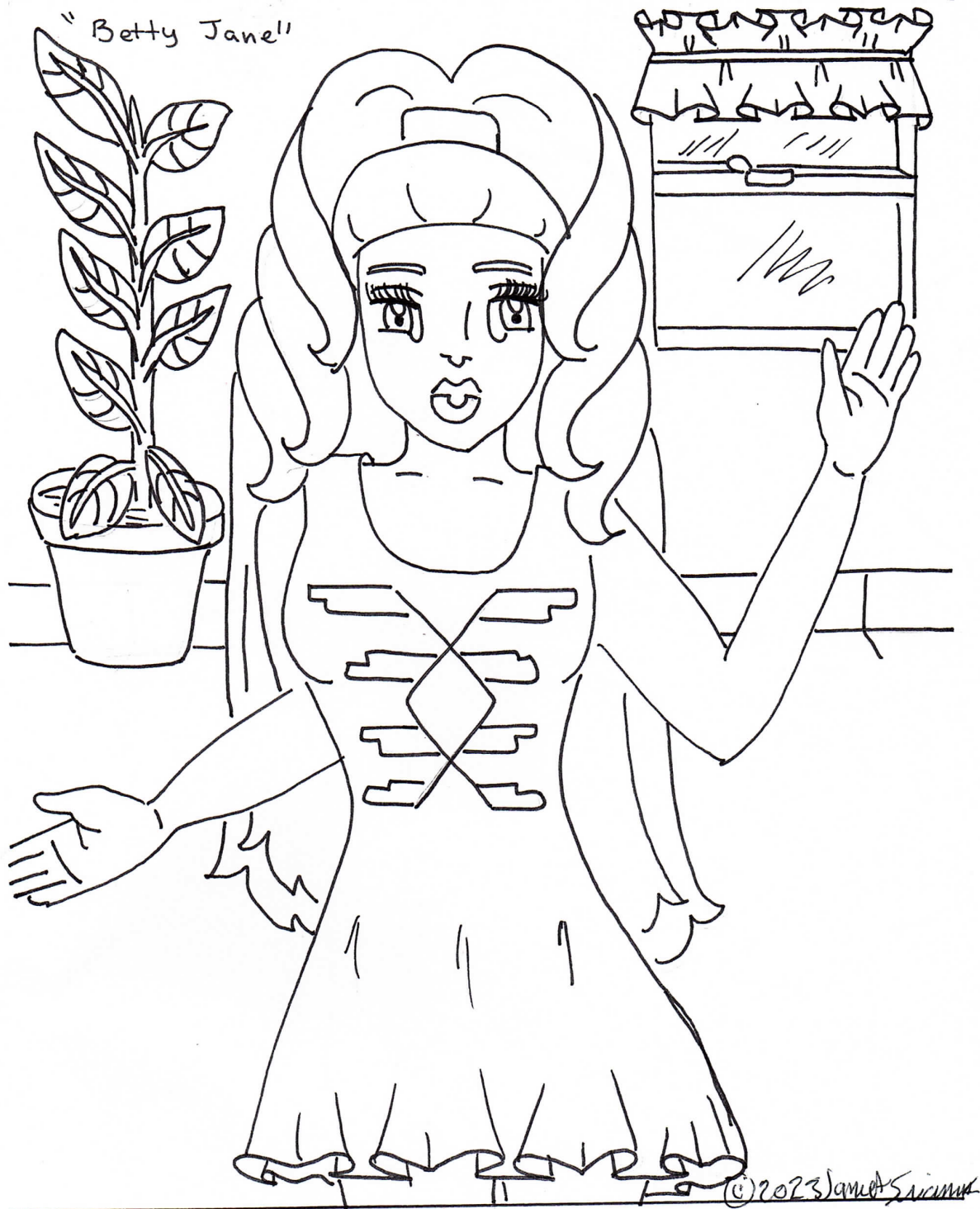
A few of the crew from the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Wildland firefighters set out to help fight wildfires in Northern, California. Mille Lacs firefighters are pictured right include Marvin Staples, Jr., Eli Staples, and Nate Tulenchik-Pendegayosh. Other tribal nations represented are from Menominee, Leech Lake, White Earth, and Boise Fort. Wildland Fire crews in cooperation with the BIA assist with wildfires in other areas when needed. The crews work two-week stretches with time on each end of the two weeks for travel and a three day mandatory time off following their assignment.



KIDS COLORING CORNER

MAJIGOODE = DRESS

By Janet Swierczek, Mille Lacs Band Member



AROUND THE RESERVATION



Hi Auntie,

This has been something that has been bothering me for a long time. I am a young man in college and I am undecided about what I want to get a degree in. I have been thinking of going into a career of addiction counseling. What has been bothering me is the stigma and judgement people get when they are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. This is my opinion, maybe we would have more people in long-term recovery if they were supported and treated like someone who is cared about and we all as a community want to see this person succeed. I have seen so many people losing their lives so young, what are we missing auntie? I want to be a part of the solution and lift other people up and support them, how do I do that?

Thank you, Wiidookaw.

Aaniin Nindoozhim,

I think you found your calling nephew! First, I want you to let go of what is bothering you, you stated for a long time this has been bothering you. I want you to go put some asemaa out in the woods by a tree, burn it in a fire, or put it in the lake. It's ok for things to bother us, but we also have to let things go. We can't hold on to things that affect our spirit for too long.

I am very proud of you for asking these important questions. Stigma and judgement is a huge problem in addiction. I read an article and saw comprehensive survey results from people that were early in recovery. The data concluded that the more support a person had the stronger their recovery foundation was. Peer recovery is a great support to long-term recovery and we do have those programs and services in our Substance Use Disorder Services with Health and Human Services. I value your opinion and I also agree with it. Maybe we would have more people in long-term recovery if they were supported and treated like someone who is cared about. We all as a community want to see everyone in recovery succeed. I think sometimes in early recovery the people are still working on gaining trust back and they may have a lot of shame. You're right; it could be detrimental to their progress with the stigma and judgement. Nephew, I too have lost loved ones so young, we all have been impacted as a whole community.

You asked what we are missing. I think we're missing the community as a whole — a safe place to recover. It is my concern that we are missing our culture in the recovery experience. To change addiction, we have to change everything, so everything you do every day has to be about recovery. We as a community can start looking at the way we treat people in recovery, if we're not helping we can change that and get involved. I visited another tribe and they do welcome home ceremonies for people that come back to the rez from prison and treatment programs. Maybe that is something we can start doing here, so our people coming home feel welcomed back.

Nephew, whatever you get a degree in you are going to make big changes and be a wonderful leader for us. You are a helper Wiidookaw. If you haven't reached out to our Higher Education department to see if there are any resources to help you decide your degree here is their information:

Michele Berger, Scholarship and Career Counselor

Email: MLB.Scholarships@millelacsband.com

800-709-6445, ext. 4775

I also mentioned the Mille Lacs Band Substance Use Disorder as a resource for any one who needs any help.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call, email, or stop by one of the clinics in District I, II, or III.

To schedule Rule 25 (Comprehensive Assessments), please call our Scheduler/Billing Clerk:

Teresa Sam at 320-532-7773

Questions may also be answered at: sudinfo@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

Auntie

MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

NAABAW, JOAN LITTLEWOLF

Naabaw, Joan Littlewolf, age 84, passed away on July 26, 2023. Visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. The interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.



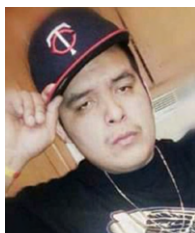
Naabaw, Joan was born on October 19, 1938, to Joseph Benjamin and Mary Littlewolf. After 26 years of working for the Onamia School District as a paraprofessional, where she assisted with special needs children, Joan retired. During the summer, Joan worked at Father Hennepin State Park. She enjoyed going to the casino, taking day trips in the car, and playing puzzles. Joan was an excellent cook and baker and loved being with her family. She liked to spend her time playing games on her tablet and reading. Joan will be dearly missed by her family.

Joan is survived by her children Cindy Nickaboine, Jennifer (Andy Mitchell) Nickaboine, Judy (Toby Weous) Nickaboine, Joseph Nickaboine, Gerald (Beverly Kegg) Nickaboine, Sara (Scott) Faust, Alyssa Littlewolf, Brenda Littlewolf, and Mary (Martin) Jennings; and many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph Benjamin and Mary Littlewolf; husband, Alfred Nickaboine; son, Franklin Nickaboine; and several grandchildren and relatives.

CHI-AANAKWAD, DANIEL MITCHELL

Chi-aanakwad, Daniel Mitchell, age 33, passed away on July 29, 2023. A visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in Faith Lutheran Cemetery.



Chi-aanakwad, Daniel "D-Boi," was born on August 14, 1989, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Daniel was loved by everyone who knew him. He loved his daughter more than anything. He was always laughing, making jokes, and brightening everyone's day. He was a positive person in everyone's life. Daniel liked to spend his time listening to music, being outdoors, playing his video game, and being with his family and friends who loved him dearly.

Daniel is survived by his daughter, Aleena Mitchell; father, Herbert Sam Jr.; sister, Juanita Mitchell; brothers, Jarvis Robbins, Leo Cook, Lance Robbins; and many loving cousins, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jane Mitchell; grandfathers, Herbert Sam Sr. and Sam Mitchell Sr.; uncles, John Mitchell and Sam Mitchell Jr.; aunts, Grace Howard, Beverly Allen; cousins, Alex Bellanger, Charlotte Voas; best friend, Cheyenne Coon; and many loving relatives.

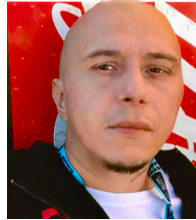
SHARON LEE CHAVARRIA

Funeral Announcement:

Funeral services were held for Sharon Lee Chavarria on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Bitawaanakwad Court Onamia, Minnesota. No formal obituary was located as of print date.

OZHAAWASHKOBINES, VINCENT BEAULIEU

Ozhaawashkobines, Vincent Beaulieu, age 37, passed away on July 27, 2023. Visitation was held at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Baabiitaw officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.



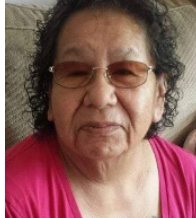
Ozhaawashkobines, Vincent Beaulieu was born on October 11, 1985, in Onamia, Minnesota. Vincent loved spending time with his children and family. He enjoyed attending powwows, various outdoor activities, cookouts, movies, going out to eat, playing video games with his brothers and nephews, and weightlifting. He also looked forward to going to work.

Vincent is survived by his mother, Ardana Beaulieu; father, Robert Sam; significant other, Maranda Boyd; children, Ryder Beaulieu, Brooklyn Beaulieu, Owen Beaulieu; sisters, Chantelle Beaulieu, Brittany Beaulieu; brothers, Joseph Bastedo Jr., Blade Bastedo, Leland Sam; uncles, Jerry Beaulieu, Jeff Beaulieu; aunts, Cheryl Garbo, Cindy Beaulieu, Dawn Day, Stephaine Day, Candida Mitchell, Kimberly Sam, Louise Davis; nephews, Philip Benjamin Jr., Joseph Bastedo III; very special niece, Aurora Beaulieu; and grandfather, John Stately.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Audrey Stately, Roberta Davis; niece, Unique Beaulieu; aunt, Leslie Davis; cousin, Shane Boyd; and Wenh'enh, Kateri Boswell.

NAAWAAKAMEGOOKWE, VICTORIA "VICKEY" J. (HOULE) VERKENNES

Naawaakamegookwe, Victoria "Vickey" J. (Houle) Verkennes passed away on August 16, 2023, in Brainerd, Minnesota. Visitation was held at 8 p.m. on Monday, August 21, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Naawaakamegookwe, Victoria "Vickey" J. (Houle) Verkennes was born on May 7, 1947, in Onamia, Minnesota. Vickey attended the University of Minnesota Duluth where she earned degrees in social work and American Indian Studies. Vickey loved nursing and was also an LPN. Most of all she loved being a big sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her children, Kristine Hines, Troy Verkennes, Theresa Verkennes, Trudy (Kevin) Ladouceur, Adam Lane, Daniel (Heather) Williams, June (Kevin) O'Brien, and Desiree Verkennes; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

KIIWEDIN BINESII, BILL SCHAAF

A funeral ceremony for Kiiwedini Binesii, Bill Schaaf, age 82, was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Visitation was held at dusk on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Kiiwedini Binesii, Bill, was raised in the woods on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, where his father, a member of the Minnesota Logging Hall of Fame, taught him the importance of independence. His mother was a Mille Lacs Band member and direct descendant of Chief Buffalo of the Lake Superior Red Cliff nation. She introduced him to family members who taught him to trap, hunt, fish, and rice in traditional ways. After high school, Bill went to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. It was there he learned to play basketball in the intramural program. After Haskell, he participated in a relocation and job training program. Bill learned air conditioning and sheet metal trades and worked for GM for five years. He headed back to college at Berkeley, where he majored in political science and American Indian studies. He also participated in the occupation of Alcatraz Island. During this time, he was also pursuing his love of basketball by playing in tournaments around the bay area and beyond in such places as northern California, Reno, and up to Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Montana. Basketball, family, travel, and art filled up his life. He was a man of purpose, vision, and passion. He cared about keeping our culture alive for future generations. He was a true activist. He taught about traditional tobacco use, he would sell and harvest wild rice often (the rice dealer). He also would harvest walleye, traditional medicine, and craft birch bark. He was a true entrepreneur and had too many businesses to count.

Bill is survived by his wife, Barbara Schaaf; children, Kateri Bohanan, Mikayla Schaaf, Wahelah Schaaf, Timothy Schaaf, William Schaaf Jr., Michelle Brown, Victoria Moon, and Laura Sherman; grandchildren, Kodah, Keenly, Kaelyn, Michael, Shaniah, Antonio, Tim, Sheena, Natasha, Marteen, Blaine, Delano, BillieDee, Shawnoah, Layla, Gena, Ethan, Verel, Elisha, Verissa; great-grandchildren, Ayaana, Dominic, Charlie, Graciana, Ahryanna, Deangelo, Athyna, Azellia, Serenity, Adriano; brother, Frank Schaaf; sisters, Suzanna Schaaf, and Marilyn Whitney; special friends, Julian Reuter, Jake Reuter, April McGill, and Jessie Seim; and many loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Susan, father, Ambrose; sisters, Clara Kruse, Maryann Shedd, Dolly Granger, Nancy Arnoux, and Karen Applebee; brothers, Alexander and Ronald Schaaf; and great-nephews, Gage Kruse, and Kayden Eagle.

MISKWAANAKWADOOKWE, CHANDA JEAN EAGLE

Chanda Jean Eagle, age 45, of Duluth, Minnesota, passed away on July 19, 2023. Visitation was held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Baabiitaw officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.



MEKWENIMINJIG IS A FREE SERVICE FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS AND OTHER TRIBAL MEMBERS.



MEKWEINIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

GEORGE A. SHARLOW II

George A. Sharlow, II passed away Wednesday, August 16, 2023. He was an Elder tribal member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

George loved all things nature, thoroughly enjoyed family cookouts, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was a true craftsman and could do anything with wood, electronics, mechanical and technical things. He also liked eating at Cracker Barrel and loved riding his Indian motorcycle and shooting billiards.

George is survived by his children, George III (Lasontia), and Sarah Canterbury (Shawn); grandchildren, Tyler Canterbury, Daylan Sharlow, and Je'Den Sharlow; siblings, Michael S. Merrill (Kim), Carmen Lone (Gerald), and Orretta F. Sharlow; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Orleeta Sharlow; and siblings, Ada M. Merrill, and Rueben D. Merrill.

The family received friends at the Wyers-Bollinger Funeral Chapel, 2900 N. Ridge Rd. E., Sheffield Twp. Wednesday, August 23, 2023, from 11 a.m. until the funeral service at 1 p.m. Interment with Military Honors followed at Resthaven Memory Garden.

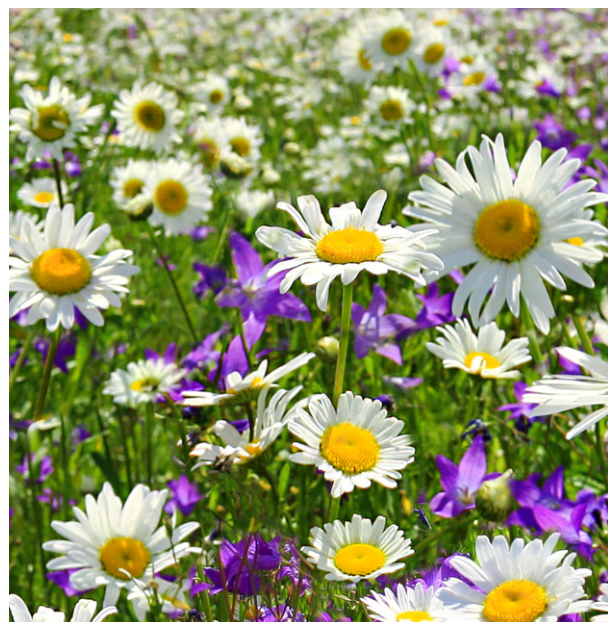


GIIWITAAGIIZHIK, RONALD SMITH

Giiwitaagiizhik, Ronald Smith, passed away on August 24, 2023. Visitation was held at 8 p.m. on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 28, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Giiwitaagiizhik, Ronald is survived by his wife, Gladys; sons, Ron Jr., Kevin, Roland, Collin; daughters, Desiree, Camille, Candace; brothers, David Jr., Terrance, Rodney, Darryl, Andrew; sisters, Linda, Gloria, Victoria, Debra, Tammy; grandchildren, Lydell, McKayla, Tayaunna, Terrell, Tierra, LaDarius, Clayton Jr., Aubrey, Roxann, Danica, Roland Jr., Kayloni, Alyssa, Kyle, Austin, Caleb, Blake, Riley, Gabriella, Cerrel; great-grandchildren, Camilla, Clayton III, Nevaeh, Olivia, Andrew, Kaelin, Aria, and Hudson; and many loving aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Annie; son, Vince; brothers, Bradley, Marvin, and Robert; and his sister, Beverly.



BRANDON COREY JOHNSON

May 18, 1983 – August 14, 2023

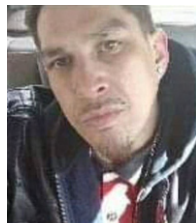
On August 14, 2023, Brandon Corey Johnson, age 40, began his untimely journey to the spirit world. Brandon was born on May 18, 1983, to Cynthia (Cindy) Johnson and Bryan Misquadace, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Brandon was a proud citizen of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, with ties to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on his maternal side, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe on his paternal side. Brandon was living in Kego Lake, on the Leech Lake Reservation at the time of his passing. Brandon was known to laugh, and loved to fish and visit the casino. He also enjoyed spending time with his relatives, listening to music, and watching the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins. During his lifetime, Brandon had a long career in the construction field, and worked with his maternal grandfather, David Johnson, from time to time. He held various positions, including labor and most recently roofer.

Brandon leaves behind his children and their mothers: Owen (20), Quincy (17), with their mother, Crystal Swenson; Anthony (16), Shawn (15), Janessa (10), Julianna (6), Dalton (4), Dawson (2), with their mother, Jessica Moore.

Other relatives Brandon is survived by are his mother, Cynthia Johnson; sisters: Angela Johnson, Sara Misquadace, Kayla Johnson, Elizabeth Big Bear, Chelsea Farah, and Shania (Josh) Ruark; brothers: Darin Misquadace and Devin Misquadace. Maternal grandfather, David Johnson and paternal grandfather Stanley Chief. Maternal aunt Pamela Johnson and maternal uncle David Johnson, Jr.; paternal aunts Wanda Misquadace and Anita Misquadace, and paternal uncles Brian Pippett and Keith Dahlberg.

Brandon is being welcomed in the spirit world by his beloved maternal grandmother, Patricia Johnson, paternal grandmother Agnes Chief, his father, Bryan Misquadace, and paternal uncles Brad Misquadace and Walt Misquadace.

The traditional Ojibwe ceremony was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Onigum Community Center, 8825 Onigum Road NW, Onigum, Minn. 56647, and the funeral was on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 9 a.m. with Allen Hardy officiating. Burial was in Onigum following the funeral.



AYAABEKWE, CHARLOTTE "KAY" DESJARLAIT

Charlotte "Kay" Greene Desjarlait, Ayaabekwe "Big Buck Woman," Makwa "Bear Clan", age 72, traveled to the Spirit World on Sunday, August 20, 2023, in Red Lake, Minnesota. Charlotte was born on February 3, 1951, in Red Lake Minnesota to Leo Desjarlait Sr and Ramona (Cook) Desjarlait. Charlotte worked at a nursing home as a CNA providing care to the elderly. She loved going to the casino and baking cookies, especially Christmas cookies, which she enjoyed sharing with her family and friends. She was funny and always quick to laugh.

Charlotte will be lovingly remembered by her sons Glen-nie Greene and Alan Matrious; step-daughter Rachel Greene; grandchildren Misty, Draya, Kelly, Damien and Brayden; 3 great-grandchildren Kell'Aye, Rhianna and Scotty; sisters Gloria Cobenais, Adrienne Champagne, Sharon Cook and Amy Desjarlait; brothers Fred Desjarlait Sr., Donnie Desjarlait, Sr., Arlen Desjarlait Sr, David Desjarlait, Leo "Bubba" Desjarlait Jr., Jack Desjarlait and Rocky Cook.

She was preceded in death by her mom "Tiny" and dad "Leo;" her husband, Glen Greene, Sr.; daughter Kelly Roy; grandson Brian Roy; and siblings Kathy Desjarlait, Shirley Burgoon, Reggie Lawrence, Brian Desjarlait, Randy Desjarlait and Stuart Desjarlait.

Wake was at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at the new Red Lake Center and continue until the service on Thursday, August 24, 2023, with Spiritual Advisor Fred Desjarlait, Jr. Active pallbearers were Fred Desjarlait, Sr., Jack Desjarlait, Donald "Donnie" Desjarlait, Sr., Frank Schaaf, Arlen Desjarlait, Sr. David Desjarlait, Leo "Bubba" Desjarlait Jr. and Robert "Rocky" Cook; alternates: Harry Desjarlait, Tom Desjarlait, Bill Roy and Arlen Desjarlait Jr. Honorary pallbearers were Mona Cook, Lisa Defoe, Candy Beaulieu, Karen White, Hailey Cobenais, Kathy Cobenais, Shelly Cobenais, Jill Cobenais, Sandy Cobenais, Bonnie Dorr, and Mary Ellen Cook. Burial was at St Mary's Cemetery in Red Lake, Minnesota. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack (whisperingpinesnorth.com).



RIBBON SKIRT GIVE-AWAY HELD AT POWWOW

A ribbon skirts donated by over 40 Band members were given away to lucky winners during the 57th Iskigamizigan Powwow. District I Representative Virgil Wind shared a miigwech to all who donated the beautiful creations and a shout out to the Powwow committee for a successful powwow.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

SEPTEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Randy Duane Weyaus
John Jay O'Brien
Darla Jane Roache
Lonnie Joseph Bellcourt
Cordell Arlen Benjamin
Cynthia Mae Benjamin
Dennis Wayne Benjamin
Joyce Marie Benjamin
Julie Louise Benjamin
Paul Wayne Benjamin
Daniel Boyd
Joanne Frances Boyd
Robert Louis Boyd
Rose Marie Bugg
James Douglas Colsrud
Jeffrey Anthony Cruz
Raymond Allen Eubanks
Lloyd Dale Evans
Shirley Ann Evans
Rina Margaret Fonder
Roger Duane Garbow
Bernice Bea Gardner
Lisa Celeste Griffin
John Alan Grothe
Loretta Lea Hansen

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

Larry John Sutton
Judie Erma Thomas
Marty Russell Thomas
Russell Harvey Thomas
Arne Vainio
Lori Lynn Weous
Leonard Wayne Weyaus
Donald Ray Williams

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to **Cheyaunna Rie Boswell** on September 1 from your one and only favorite Uncle Keith Boswell, Auntie Wanda Boswell, Christopher Boswell, Carter, Riley, Christa, Baby Antwaun Jr., Antwaun Sr., Laila, Ricki, Kirstie, Mitzi, Raymond, And The whole entire Family from MPLS White Earth • Happy 38th birthday to **Snooki Boswell** on September 10. Have a wonderful birthday. We wish you the best and many

more to come, Love from Big Sister, Ricki Sr., Ricki Jr., Laila, Cheyaunna, Babay, Antwaun Jr., Antwaun Sr. • Happy birthday **Lily** on September 4 Love, The Harrington family • Happy birthday **Husband** on September 14 love, Your Wife • Happy birthday **Ogimaa Binesiikwe Myla** on September 16 Love, Mom, Dad, brother, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle, Lily, Kate, GG, Papa, Rosie, Mila, Mike, Kiyawna, Dena, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Braelyn, Uncle Brad, Daph, Eric, Waase, Payton, Tiny, Brynley, Gally, Bam, Binesiikwe, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taters, Guy, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jake, and Jarvis • Happy birthday **Brother** on September 17 Love your Sissys and Brothers • Happy birthday **Tracy** on September 29 Love, all your family.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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.

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

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

Office of Management and Budget

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

Enrollments: 320-532-7730

ELDERS NEEDED!

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



NOTHING BUT NET

Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan shooting a golden basket ball at the commemorative opening of Red Willow Estates. Photo by Vivian LaMoore.

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>1 Government Offices closed at noon Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>2 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH Please know that asking for help is a sign of strength — not weakness. If you're in a crisis, please dial 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. If you're looking for professional help or looking for specific support, we encourage you to call the Ne-la-Shing Clinic at 320-532-4163. You can also text HOME to 741-741 to instantly connect with a trained crisis counselor, 24/7, for free.</p>						
<p>3 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>4 Labor Day Government Offices Closed Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>5 First Tuesday SNAP Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>6 Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>9 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>10 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recover</p>	<p>11 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>12 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>13 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>14 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>16 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>17 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recover</p>	<p>18 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>19 District II Minisinaakwaang Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>20 District IIa Chiminising Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>21 District II Minisinaakwaang Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley.</p>	<p>22 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>23 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>24 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recover</p>	<p>25 Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>26 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>27 Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p>	<p>28 District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Aquatic & Fitness Community Center Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29 Ceremonial Dance Vince & Dale East Lake Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>30 Ceremonial Dance Vince & Dale East Lake Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>





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



UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

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

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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

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43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
millelacsband.com

