



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



By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

The Chief Executive's Office held a conference on Thursday, April 20, 2023, to address several high priority issues of the Mille Lacs Band. Band members were encouraged to engage in conversations with Commissioners and staff and had opportunities to ask candid questions related to the topics at hand. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was the keynote speaker. Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, District I Representative Virgil Wind and District II Representative Wendy Merrill were also in attendance. Chief Executive Benjamin gave a brief history of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, tribal sovereignty, and the right of each tribe for self-governance. The Mille Lacs Band is governed by a three-branch government system that provides checks and balances within the equally powerful branches.

The day was broken down by four different sessions giving Band members the opportunity to attend all four sessions. The sessions included:

- Strategic Planning led by Sam Moose, Commissioner of Administration.
- Enrollment discussion led by Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of the DNR.
- Foster Care/Family Services led by Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services and her staff including Rachel Shaugobay, Abby Waaraniemi, and Connie Matrious.
- Net Revenue Allocation led by Syngen Kanassatega with assistance of Mel Towle, Commissioner of the Office of Management and Business (OMB).

Each session included informative interaction between the staff and Band members. The discussions were lively and engaged with Band members offering extensive feedback and questions to the Commissioners, who listened intently.

Chief Executive Benjamin gave a keynote presentation with the focus on discussing the division of powers form of government. She presented a brief overview of the history of how the division of powers structure of government came to be for the Mille Lacs Band. She began with a brief introduction of treaties: timber companies taking land, homes were burned to the ground, and Anishinaabe were told to leave the homelands. "A lot of times you hear that the Mille Lacs Band is considered the 'non-removable.' That is because the people back in those days would not move. They would not be removed from this area no matter what," she said.

She explained the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe created in 1936 is not actually a tribe, it is an organization created by the federal government. Federal representatives came in and instructed all Tribal Nations of Minnesota to come together under one umbrella, and called them the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The six Bands are: Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Bois Fort, Leech Lake, Grand Portage, and White Earth. Based on the Constitution, the MCT comes together for three key issues: land holdings, enrollments, and elections.

Each tribal nation under the umbrella of the MCT is a federally recognized Indian nation each with their own inherent right to self-government to protect the health, safety, and welfare of tribal citizens of their individual tribe.

The MCT Constitution, Article IV, allows for each Band to make laws and be governed by those laws, i.e. self-government retaining tribal sovereignty. "Once recognized as a political body by the United States, a tribe retains its sovereignty until Congress acts to divest that sovereignty." (1-4 Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law 4.01.)

CHECKS AND BALANCES see page 2



Aazhowaanakwadookwe, Bella Nayquonabe, is one of the actors in the Rosetta Stone videos. She is one of the many Mille Lacs Band members who have been part of the Rosetta Stone project since the beginning.

PHASE II OF THE ROSETTA STONE OJIBWE LANGUAGE LEARNING SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Partnership with the Mille Lacs Band and Rosetta Stone continues

STAFF REPORT

Across the country, Native American tribes face potentially losing the languages that bond them together. In fact, nearly 70 percent of Indigenous languages in the United States are at risk of disappearing, according to the Administration for Native Americans.

However, an ongoing partnership between the Mille Lacs Band and language learning company Rosetta Stone is a powerful example of how Indigenous languages will be preserved for future generations.

Last year, the Mille Lacs Band and Rosetta Stone teamed up to record and preserve the Ojibwe language and Mille Lacs dialect by creating a comprehensive set of Rosetta Stone lessons. Since then, more than 39,000 hours have been spent learning by tribal and non-tribal members alike — including by many people in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Additionally, 44 jobs were created as a result of this project, including roles for editors, prop experts, and others.

On April 26, the next phase of lessons were released, which draw from tribal members' knowledge, authentic cultural resources, and winter themes to teach Ojibwe.

"When you watch young children learning to speak, you see how language is traditionally passed down from parent to child. You can watch children learning through repetition and through exposure and connection of the words they hear and speak to real-world, everyday experiences," said Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. "In this same way, the authentic subject matter of the Ojibwe lessons through Rosetta Stone makes it easier to learn the language, and we are excited to launch the next phase of Ojibwe language training."

TWO BAND MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR ART — SEE PAGE 10

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, boozhoo, Band members! Through both the joyous and the difficult things brought on by this spring, I have been so pleased to see our tribal community come together no matter the cause. Community is always important, but it holds a special emphasis in light of what our nation and so many others have been through the past couple of years. I encourage you to continue asking yourself how you can be the best relative and community member to all those around you in this time of transition and change. One easy way that we can keep our community healthy is by continuing to participate in all facets of cultural, political, and ceremonial life!

Mid-April, the Mille Lacs Band hosted its first educational conference hosted by the commissioners, myself, and some other driven individuals who work for our tribal government. The intention of this conference was to gather our community and citizens to learn about issues that are impacting our nation now, or issues that will be impacting our nation in the future. I want to say chi-miigwech to all who presented, and all who came out ask questions and be engaged in our decision-making process. Commissioner Applegate prepared a presentation on the upcoming enrollment referendum, which is an upcoming opportunity for us to be able to decide if we would like to change our enrollment criteria from that of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). Commissioner Moose led a conversation about our Strategic Plan as a Band and where our mission lies as a government serving its people. Lastly, Syngen Kanasatega and Commissioner Towle explained our net allocation revenue, which is always liable to change depending on the needs of our citizens and the enactment of our sovereignty.

Many Band members showed up despite the weather, and many questions were asked of our commissioners and lead-

ers. We did not have answers for all of the questions, but to me that is a great sign — that means that our Band members are thinking critically and interacting with the government in a collaborative and reciprocal fashion that will lead to us finding answers together. We hope to continue this conference in the coming years and continue to fully involve Mille Lacs Band citizens in the decision-making process of our government.

In March, I flew to Washington, D.C. to attend the meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST). As a member tribe of MAST, the Mille Lacs Band helps to “advance, protect, preserve, and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign nations of the Midwest throughout the 21st century.” Each year that I can attend MAST as Treasurer of the organization, I am working diligently to make connections for the Band and ensure that our interests are heard and considered within MAST and the Capitol. As an organization, we brought dozens of concerns to Capitol Hill; not to lobby, not to request, but to persuade and compel. One of our top concerns was ensuring the policies and procedures of ICWA, which is the subject of a major Supreme Court challenge, are cemented in place despite the outcome of Supreme Court conclusion this coming summer. We also brought up the need for economic development funds for midwestern tribes and urged officials to show support for the 2023 Farm Bill, barring manoomin from becoming a specialty crop, which would be detrimental to our ancestor and our tribal nation. I am so honored to be able to represent our interests in spaces such as these, and we must continue to venture out of our community and occupy spaces that can either uphold or threaten our nation and sovereignty.

I was also able to represent and support our tribal enter-

prises at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) RES 2023 Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada, speaking on Tribal Leaders Panels and a Tribal Health Services Panel. At the Mille Lacs Band, we are fortunate with the MLCV and tribal enterprises that are thriving and opening doors for us. Not only do these enterprises provide for our culture and nation, but they also help to ensure our sovereignty and continued self-determination. It would be a mistake for us to think that we have knowledge enough to continue on our own; for the health of the Band and of Indian Country as a whole, we must continue to learn from other nations and share our journey here with others who are getting started. As Robin Wall Kimmerer says in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “all flourishing is mutual.”

These past few months I have continued working with tribal leaders in Grand Portage and state leaders on securing tribally-exclusive sports betting. This addition would be a great asset and opportunity to our tribal economy, one that we have proved we can supervise as we have been providing gambling related entertainment without incident or scandal for close to 30 years. Please stay tuned to Inaajimowin and other government news for updates on this issue.

I want to add a special shout out to the very talented women artists featured in this issue. I am very proud of them for their accomplishments and for using their skills and talents to represent the Ojibwe culture through their art.

Miigwech for the honor of serving and representing you, and continue being a good relative and community member in this time of cultural gathering and reacquaintance after the long winter.

CHECKS AND BALANCES from page 1

A Federally recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaskan Native tribal entity recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the U.S., with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Federally recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government, meaning tribal sovereignty.

According to the handout given to the audience, “The Mille Lacs Band did not give up or lose its inherent sovereignty or self-governance when it joined the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Any powers not expressly restricted by the Constitution or taken away by Congress are retained (reserved) by the tribe.”

Chief Executive Benjamin said that many of the tribes within the MCT are governed by a council made up of a small group of people elected by their band. “They make all of the decisions. They hire, they fire, they determine what grants to apply, whatever it is; they make that decision — the Mille Lacs Band doesn’t. We have what is called a division of powers. We have three branches. They are equal in their power, but their responsibilities are different. . . . We are all equal in our areas, but our responsibilities are different,” Chief Executive Benjamin said.

There are only specific duties based on the law that the Chief Executive can implement. The Legislative Branch makes the laws, and they must have concurrence with the Chief Executive for that legislation to go into law. Once it is law, the Executive Branch is responsible to implement that law. The Executive branch runs the programs and provides the services to the Band

members in accordance with the law. If there is a conflict between the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch, the conflict can be resolved through court action in the Judicial Branch.

“As long as I can remember, we have never taken an issue to the court to decide. We work it out,” Chief Executive Benjamin said.

She went on to explain that the Chief Executive does not make all of the decisions on running the services provided to Band members. “The decision-making powers are divided up. That is why we have a Cabinet of members of Natural Resources, of Health and Human Services, of Education, Administration, Corporate Commission all of those powers have been divided up and the Commissioners have that authority. Even though a lot of folks come to the Chief Executive or the other elected officials to get their issues resolved, it always has to go back and follow the system,” said Chief Executive Benjamin.

At the invitation of the Chief Executive, Secretary Treasurer Sheldon Boyd stepped up to explain the Legislative Branch is made up of himself and the three Representatives. “Strangely enough, in this whole set up, I don’t have a vote,” he said with a laugh. He continued saying the Representatives represent their individual communities. But as the Band Assembly, they come together and they are stronger. “That is what the Band Assembly is. They are very powerful. The only check against that power is the leader you elect is the check against that power,” he said.

Boyd compared the Mille Lacs Band division of powers form of government to that of the United States Government where-



Brad Harrington (right), was the first Band member to register for the Chief Executive Conference on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Kim Sam (left) was close behind.

by Congress and the House of Representatives make the laws and their powers are divided. “Our system is such a mirror of that. There is always back and forth.”

The basic concept of the separation of powers is a good thing, Boyd concluded. “When you see those bills, vetoes, and things going back and forth, that is just that power being held in check because they never wanted to give it to just one person. . . .And that’s ok,” Boyd said.

The Chief Executive is hopeful to continue the discussions and hold more frequent conferences for the Band members. A second conference is tentatively being planned for District III in June. Watch for more details.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

Title 8 extended family visitation rights



STAFF REPORT

On April 12, 2023, the Band Assembly sent notice of a public comment period. The Band Assembly is seeking public comment on proposed legislation, available on the Band's Tribal Register, enacting a new section in Part A (Guardianship of Children) of Subchapter 5 (Guardianships) of Chapter 13 (Child Protection) of Title 8 (Children and Families) and enacting a new section in Subchapter 6 (Procedures for the Adoption of Children) of Chapter 13 (Child Protection) of Title 8 (Children and Families) of Mille Lacs Band Statutes. The proposed legislation would govern visitation rights for the extended family of Band member children.

The public comment period has been set at 30 calendar days as of April 12, 2023. Therefore, please submit any written comments to legislation@millelacsband.com no later than 5

p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2023. Please use "Extended Family Visitation Rights" as the subject title. Band members and employees may also submit written comments in person to the District I Legislative office.

The Band Assembly requests that any Band employee submitting public comments state whether said comments are provided in his or her personal capacity or on behalf of a specific branch, department, office, board, or entity.

You can find supporting documents at millelacsband.com/government/tribal-register.

The notice was signed by all members of the Band Assembly, Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly, Virgil Wind, District I Representative, Wendy Merrill, District II Representative, and Harry Davis, District III Representative.

WHAT IS A VETO?

Lawmaking power is divided between two branches to protect Band members' civil rights

By SYNGEN KANASSATEGA, LEGAL AND POLICY COUNCIL

After we adopted our division of powers form of government, we gave the lawmaking process to two branches of government: The legislative and executive branches. Lawmaking is the most extraordinary power a sovereign nation can exercise, because it affects people's everyday lives, even in ways that we don't notice. That's why the lawmaking power is divided between two branches.

A veto is a fundamental mechanism of the lawmaking process and a form of checks and balances. Once the Band Assembly passes a bill, the Chief Executive must either sign the bill into law or veto it. Specifically, a veto is the Chief Executive's power to prohibit a bill from becoming a law. There are a few specific reasons from our history of adopting division of powers that explain why our form of government gave the Chief Executive this power.

The first reason is because of Title 1 of our Band statutes. Title 1 lists several fundamental rights that Band members are entitled to, and specifically prohibits the Band Assembly from passing laws that infringe on some of those fundamental rights. These fundamental rights are called civil rights. The veto power makes sure a Band Assembly does not infringe on Band members rights. The veto power also makes sure that bills comply with division of powers and do not unbalance the division of the Band's governmental powers. This is not to say that the current Band Assembly or past Band Assemblies have tried to do any of these things. However, the veto power makes sure it never happens.

Second, the veto power protects against the passage of unpopular laws, laws that are drafted quickly, or ill-considered laws.

Third, as the leader elected by all Band members — including all Urban and At Large Band members — the Chief Executive represents a Band-wide perspective to the legislative process. Whereas the District Representatives represent the constituents of their districts, the veto power allows the Chief Executive to consider all Band members.

The veto power under Band law makes sure that a majority of the Band Assembly — which means two out of the three District Representatives — and the Chief Executive agree on the law. If the Chief Executive vetoes a bill, Band law requires the Band Assembly and the Chief Executive to work together to try to come to an agreement. If they can't agree, Band law requires them to leave the bill alone for six months before coming back to it.

This aspect of our veto mechanism comes directly from our culture. For example, a man and a woman who got into a fight were not supposed to fall asleep angry at other. They were supposed to work it out or they will wake up angry the next day. The six-month period mentioned above is supposed to let the Band Assembly and Chief Executive "cool off" and come back to the bill with a fresh perspective.

Lastly, sometimes, the Chief Executive vetoes a bill because it contains a spelling or grammatical error that the Band Assembly may have missed. This doesn't happen often at all, but it has happened before.



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETING APRIL 5, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem continued the compromise hearing for Vetoed Act 14-23 at 10:11 a.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill, District III Representative Harry Davis, Chief Executive Office Legal Policy Council Syngen Kanassatega, Senior Deputy Solicitor General Mike Hogan, and GRA Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik. Following the comments was further discussion on proposed language and legal requirements of the hearing process. Following the discussion was further comments from Chief Executive Benjamin, Legal Policy Council Kanassatega, District I Representative Wind Senior Deputy Solicitor General Mike Hogan, GRA Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik, Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle, and GRA Chair Susan Klapel.

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem convened the compromise hearing for Vetoed Act 15-23 at 11:26 a.m. The hearing commenced with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and an opening statement from the sponsor of the bill District I Representative Virgil Wind. The opening statements were followed by comments from District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative Harry Davis. Revisor of Statutes Hanna Valento shared the draft proposed changes. Further comment from Chief Executive Office Legal Policy Council Syngen Kanassatega.

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETING APRIL 12, 2023

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-23-23 (A Bill amending Section 910 of Chapter 3 of Title 15 to expand the service area of Band Member Legal Services for child custody proceedings and child protection matters. It will also enact a new section to allow Band Member Legal Services to reserve the right to assign a different attorney if an attorney declines or terminates representation).

The District Representatives approved a contract with Wilder Foundation to provide consulting services to the Chief Executive Office for the Band's population projections for Enrollments for the next 100 years. Contract end date is December 31, 2023.

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETING APRIL 19, 2023

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Paul Sam, nominee for the Corporate Board of Directors. Band Assembly received a presentation from John Moors, President; Kate Grismala, MS Director of Health Services; and Alicia Finley, Human Resources Services Director regarding Blue Stone Strategy Partners Final Report.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-26-23 (A Bill Authorizing budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives tabled Special Revenue Resolution 20-03-02-23 (A Special Revenue Resolution to Adopt a New Burial Assistance Program).

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Amicus Brief Requests: City of Isle, nay. After a closed session for discussion, the Isle City Council opted not to file an Amicus Brief in conjunction with Mille Lacs County in the ongoing lawsuit between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the county. The vote to not participate and “remain neutral and [unbiased] to either governing body” was unanimous by the council. Mayor Ernie Frie was not present for the meeting. In a later email, Clerk/Treasurer Jamie Hubbell said that the “biggest factors” in the decision were “the city’s current working relationship with both the Band and the county, and then the costs to have the Indian Affairs attorney submit on behalf of the city.” The request originated from the county’s attorney, Randy Thompson, according to Hubbell. Source: *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

TJ Oshie pens letter in support of upholding Warroad High School’s Native American logo and nickname:

Minnesota lawmakers are considering a bill that would prevent state schools from using Native American names, symbols, or imagery as their mascots or team nicknames. One of the schools that would be impacted by that bill passing is Warroad High School. Washington Capitals forward TJ Oshie is an alumnus of the school and penned a letter on behalf of the school district advocating that Warroad be able to keep both its name and logo despite the proposed legislation. “My name is TJ Oshie. I currently play for the Washington Capitals and have just finished my 15th year in the NHL. As an American Indian I have proudly represented the United States on multiple occasions including the 2014 Sochi Olympics...the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux making it to the Frozen Four in all 3 years... and the Warroad Warriors for 3 years. Making it to the State Tournament all 3 years winning 2 State Titles. I wore my Warrior jersey with exact same amount of pride that I wore my United States Olympic jersey. The fact that people are trying to take away the Warrior logo, in my opinion, is a travesty. I grew up having my grandfather and great uncle telling me stories what it meant to play for the Warriors. My dream as a kid too was to play for the Warroad Warriors. Not to play in the NHL. To take away the Warrior name and logo is to further remove the Native American Culture from our country. If there are areas in this country where the indigenous people of that area would like the name and logos removed I would support that. Warroad is not one of those places. Let us keep our name and logo. Let the Tribal Nation on whose ceded territory a school district resides decide when the logo should be changed. Let us continue celebrating the American Indian culture in Warroad. Source: *Russianmachineneverbreaks.com*.

Criminal trespass counts dismissed against activist Winona LaDuke: Activist Winona LaDuke has had two counts of criminal trespass dismissed by a judge for “lack of probable cause.” LaDuke was arrested while protesting the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline project in December 2020 in Aitkin County, Minnesota. Her attorney says the judge’s decision to dismiss the charges illustrates that LaDuke’s rights to exercise her religious and First Amendment freedoms were not in any way criminal trespass. LaDuke recently stepped down as co-executive director of Honor the Earth, the non-profit environmental justice group she co-founded 30 years ago. Source: *KFGO Fargo*.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

URBAN BAND MEMBERS LEARN MORE ABOUT ENROLLMENTS, BLOOD QUANTUM DURING CHIEF EXECUTIVE VISIT

By TOYA STEWART DOWNEY, BAND MEMBER

Ruth Shaugobay has heard a lot about blood quantum and Band enrollment over time, so she was pleased that Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melaine Benjamin attended the most recent Urban Area meeting to talk more about that and other topics.

It was, according to Ruth and others who were in attendance, important to hear directly from the Chief Executive about the blood quantum discussions that have captured the attention of Indian Country in recent years.

“She’s very informational, and hearing her talk more about it and answer our questions was very helpful for us,” Ruth said.

Her sister, Janice Shaugobay, agreed and added that while her children are enrolled, learning about conversations that are happening regarding potential changes is crucial for all Band members.

The meeting, which was held at the All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, attracted about 50 people — a mix of staff from various departments and Band members who had come specifically to learn more and get answers to their questions.

The Chief Executive reviewed the presentation that has been shared for the past several months that included information about the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

She reminded the audience that the TEC has authority over three areas: elections, enrollment, and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe land.

The issues of blood quantum are not new — in fact, many people, including members of the Mille Lacs Band, have been concerned about the one-fourth requirement for decades. Many cite concern that their children and grandchildren can’t be citizens of the Tribe. This means in no uncertain terms that the number of Band members could diminish if the requirements don’t change, Chief Executive Benjamin told the group.

What’s even more sobering is that according to research done by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works toward building positive outcomes in communities, without making any changes to the blood quantum requirement, the number of Band members would diminish greatly.

For example, Chief Executive Benjamin said, “If there isn’t



Chief Executive Melaine Benjamin discussing enrollemnts and blood quantum at an Urban area meeting.

a change in blood quantum, then by 2098, we would have just about 1,800 Band members.”

“The trend is enrollment is going up, but it will plateau and start coming down,” Chief Executive Benjamin told attendees. “That’s what we’re concerned about.”

The Chief Executive told the group that there were other likely scenarios that Wilder outlined in the report that showed the numbers wouldn’t decline as radically if other decisions were made that included:

- Keeping one-fourth and allowing other U.S. Anishinaabe and First Nations blood to count.
- Keeping one-fourth and allowing other federally-recognized tribe (non-Anishinaabe blood) and First Nations to count towards the one-fourth.

Changing the blood quantum to one-eighth

Changing it to lineal descendency — meaning no more blood quantum requirements

The information shared was important and timely, said Urban Band member Alissa Bush.

“I’m raising two children who are not eligible to be enrolled due to the fact that their father is from Red Lake, so they don’t count that (towards blood quantum),” she said. “I am here because I wanted to learn more about the changes that could be happening about enrollment.”

Alissa said she is in support of a change happening, but wasn’t quite sure which change she favored the most.

Barb Benjamin-Roberton agreed that it was important for the Chief Executive to spend time in the Urban Area to spend time with them, share information, and to be able to respond to questions.

Barb, who is a Band Elder, recalls that conversations about blood quantum have been happening since she was a girl. She also knows that even though the records have been maintained, there are errors in them dating back for decades, as evidenced in her own family.

The Band is investing in a new platform that will help with some of the recordkeeping, Chief Executive Benjamin told the group, but she encouraged them to do their own research, too.

“There is a lot happening and I want to encourage Band members to stay involved and stay engaged,” she said. “There will be more meetings coming and more information that will be shared, and it’s important that all of us know what is going on.”

WHAT IS THE GRA?

Protecting the revenue stream is the number-one priority

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, STAFF WRITER

Minnesota is home to 40 tribal casino gaming operations with an economic impact of \$3.72 billion supporting over 29,000 jobs providing \$516.4 million in tax revenue and tribal revenue share payments annually for all levels of government, according to the American Gaming Association. Revenues from Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Hinckley have helped the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe build and improve schools, health care facilities, community centers, a water treatment facility, roads, ceremonial buildings, and more. Millions of dollars have also been donated to food shelves, schools, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and other organizations that serve the entire community. Protecting the integrity of gaming for the Mille Lacs Band is a huge responsibility. That responsibility lies in the hands of the Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA).

"Casino revenue is our largest revenue stream, and we are here to protect it," said Teresa Kozumplik, Executive Director of the Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance (OGRC). "We are here to make sure that this business is done right so it is available to our kids and our kids' kids."

Responsible gaming is a priority for Grand Casino. It is important to explain that the Indian casinos are regulated by the tribal governments of the land where the casino is built, federal statutes, the Interior Department, the National Indian Gaming Commission, and the tribal-state gaming compacts. Casinos are regulated and monitored at an extremely high level and must meet federal regulations and requirements of Indian Gaming Regulation Act (IGRA), National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (Fin-Cen), and State Compacts. It is the responsibility of the GRA to ensure all regulations and requirements are met to protect the revenue stream, protect the casino guests to ensure their entertainment and safety, and protect the associates of Grand Casinos.

Overall, there are currently 57 employees in the GRA, not including the five board members. Board members are Susan Klapel, chair, Crystal Wickert, vice chair, Mick Davis, treasurer, Jim Kalk, board member, and one vacant position.

One of the responsibilities of the GRA is to review job descriptions and applicants, and approve them for the gaming enterprise. This includes performing background checks for all potential associates. There are various levels of state and federal requirements that must be met in order for individuals to gain licensure to work within the casino, and licensure can vary depending on the position one is applying for. "Licensing is as open as it can be," Kozumplik said. "We look at everybody; everybody gets a chance. If someone can't be licensed, we will work with them on other employment opportunities at another license level. There are more opportunities than people are aware of at Grand Casinos or the Non-Gaming Operations."

The GRA does prioritize and encourage Band member em-

ployment at Grand Casino locations. Employees within GRA are licensed to the highest standard and held to a high standard ethically. "We routinely attend ethics classes to make sure we are walking the walk and not just talking the talk. We want people to know that this matters," Kozumplik said. "We are proud to be working alongside two of the most dynamic gaming enterprises around, so we need to be at the top of our game to keep up and not hinder forward progress."

Under the umbrella of the GRA are the departments of Surveillance, Licensing, Compliance, Internal Audit, and Administration.

Surveillance is a federal government requirement. "They are the eye in the sky," Kozumplik said. The employees within that department are making sure games are being played right, making sure guests and associates are safe, looking for theft, and will work with security if they see something that is not right.

Licensing currently has five employees who perform backgrounding of casino associates, vendors, and vendor employees. "What that does is it helps us to know who is behind the house," Kozumplik said. "They should all be people we know and trust."

Compliance currently has four employees at each site who make sure the games are in order, test slot machines, test the card shufflers, monitor and test the software, and make sure all of the gaming is working as it should and also working closely with gaming departments. Guests can trust our games are held to the highest standards and are all closely monitored.

Internal audit also has four employees. They are required to perform federally required audits and observations to watch associates performing their jobs when they are doing said audits.

Administration currently has four employees who do all the communicating, budgets, attendance at Band Assembly, and dealing with the state and federal agencies.

The GRA puts a priority on Band member concerns, whether it is a waiver, licensing, exclusions, or reviews. They will have a GRA person at community meetings, available for questions and to let Band members know, "Hey, we are out here. We care," Kozumplik said.

The GRA is proud of the accomplishments they have made over last year with Band Assembly. "We jointly worked on an update to gaming ordinance. It is near completion and a lot of effort went into it. That is a big achievement! We are really proud of that," Kozumplik said.

The GRA is hopeful Band members will look for career opportunities at the GRA where there are many opportunities for advancement with career progression built into the department.

"We encourage Band members to call us with any questions about career opportunities or with any questions. It is better to ask than not ask," Kozumplik said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

USDA announces new funding for underserved producers: Up to \$125 million available through two grant programs to expand meat processing. The funds will be allocated through two new grant programs known as the Indigenous Animal Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program and the Local Meat Capacity Grant Program. "This is the latest step in USDA's transformational work to fill gaps and help small and underserved producers market their products, support thriving local and regional food systems by investing in processing capacity that's closer to farms and alleviate major bottlenecks in food and agricultural supply chains," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says. "Importantly, we're also taking steps to increase the overall availability of protein from indigenous animals like bison, reindeer and salmon, which have been the backbone of tribal food systems for generations." The Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program includes up to \$50 million to improve food and agriculture supply chain resiliency in tribal nations. It will fund projects that expand harvesting, processing, manufacturing, storage, transporting and distribution of indigenous meats like bison, reindeer, salmon and others. Eligible applicants include tribes recognized by the Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 as well as multi-tribal government agencies and other affiliated entities. Applications will be accepted through July 19. Source: *FarmProcess.com*.

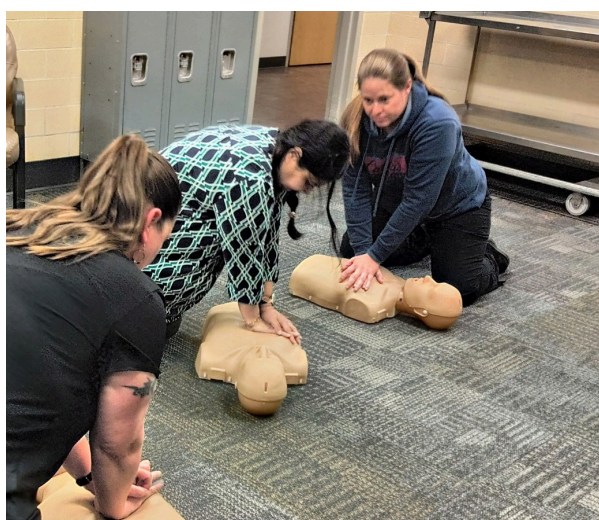
States seek to protect tribes' rights in child custody cases: Worried about a pending U.S. Supreme Court case, some states aim to pass new laws ensuring American Indian children can stay in their tribal communities even if they're placed in the child welfare system. Later this year, the court will rule on a long-standing federal law designed to ensure that Native American children removed from their homes by state agencies are not displaced from tribal communities. Tribes, advocates and many state child welfare agencies fear that a court decision striking down the Indian Child Welfare Act, known as ICWA, could threaten decades of work to ensure that Native kids are not removed from their communities and culture. Lawmakers in at least half a dozen states have proposed or passed bills this year to put similar language into state law, in case the federal law is invalidated. Eleven states now have such laws on the books. Source: *Stateline.org*.

NAFOA opens annual economic development conference in nation's capital: More than 800 tribal leaders and finance professionals in Indian Country are in the nation's capital this week for NAFOA's 41st annual conference. NAFOA, founded as the Native American Finance Officers Association in 1982, kicks off the conference on Monday morning. Over two days, attendees will hear from a wide range of experts on topics of interest in Indian Country, including economic development, broadband, cannabis and data sovereignty. NAFOA currently counts more than 150 tribal governments as members. Since joining the organization nearly two years ago, Frias has been working to reach even more in Indian Country. NAFOA boasts an all women board of leadership. Cristina Danforth of the Oneida Nation serves as president with VaRene Martin, from the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and Celina Phair of the Lummi Nation as 1st and 2nd vice presidents, respectively. Also serving on the board is Hattie Mitchell from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, who holds the position of treasurer. Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is NAFOA's secretary. Source: *Indianz.com*.



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.





POWWOW

CHIMINISING POWWOW

PHOTOS By MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE MARY SAM

New royalty was crowned at the Chiminising Ziigwan youth powwow held on Sunday, April 23, 2023, sponsored by Bebi-skaneyaashiikwe, Wendy Merrill, District II Representative.

Pictured below are teen princess 7th-grader Alizaya Smith and the teen brave is 8th-graders Jose Gonzalez. Congratulations to the new youth royalty.

The host drum was Red Willow. The Head man was Luther

Sam with Head Woman Wendy Merrill. Both Merrill and Sam had the honor of dancing with the newly crowned youth royalty Smith and Gonzales pictured below.

The Master of Ceremonies (emcee) for the youth powwow was Migizi Sullivan.

Chi Miigwech to all who attended and to all of the volunteers.



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

ANISHINAABE ENTERTAINMENT

By JIM CLARK, MILLE LACS BAND ELDER

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

In the past when only Anishinaabe people were here in America, the Anishinaabe were always busy finding ways to survive, as there were no other ways they could get material for homes or food without making it themselves.

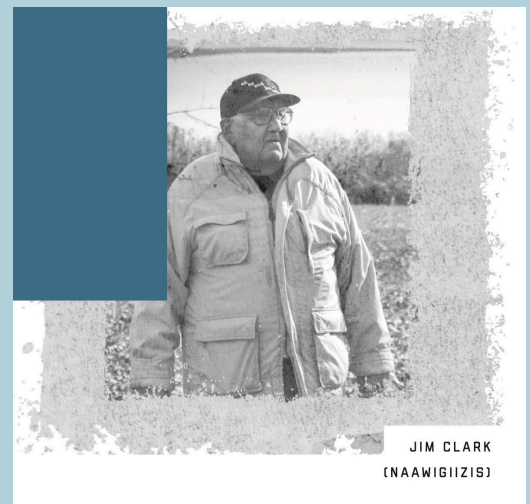
So keeping warm and getting food took up all their time. There was very little time for having any kind of entertainment. But they did have fun. The men were always hunting, and the women were busy making the homes comfortable, cooking, and preserving food for future use. The women were busier than the men. They even had to make the clothing for everyone in the family, after preparing the material that was made from the hides and skins of animals. We still wear skins from animals today, only we don't give it a thought when we go out and buy our leathers, made by men mostly.

Speaking of entertainment, there were games that were played by the Anishinaabe people. But any kind of game played usually needed some kind of material, so the people had to make their own game boards and game pieces. Today most of those games the Anishinaabe played are forgotten, as the chimokoman (white man) brought their own games. The Anishinaabe thought those looked like more fun and were already made.

One of the games still played by the Anishinaabe is the moccasin game. The moccasin game, which is played wherever there is a group of men gathered, needs four pads about the size of a kitchen pot holder, maybe larger, and four marbles, with one distinctly marked. This is the one teams are hunting for, as the opposing team hides it, trying to win points from the other team. Natives played many different kinds of games, but only a few now

remain, as fewer people remember the rules. Lacrosse, foot races, and the dish game are still being played. A dish game set consists of a wooden bowl and eight figures carved out of animal bone. The figures include four buttons about a quarter-inch in diameter, a knife about a half-inch long, a woman a half-inch tall, a fish a half-inch long, and a man. These figures are from a bone and are white, so one side is colored red or pink and matched colors determine the amount won.

I also learned that there are games for women only, and some are for men only. Boys are given a carved snake, which is called a snow snake. These are carved in such a way that when thrown in the snow, they should stay on top of the snow. The object of the game is to throw your snow snake the farthest. Girls also have a game called kickstick, played anytime and much like hockey. There are two-, three-, or four-inch sticks tied together by a four-inch piece of string, and there is a goal. There were also games that were owned and played by women only. From what I heard, the game pieces were made from the ribs of deer, and they were seldom seen by men. They are well-hidden and guarded by the owner and played with no males around.



JIM CLARK
(NAAWIGIIZIS)

GRAND CASINO GENERAL MANAGER RECEIVES PIONEER AWARD

Grand Casino Mille Lacs General Manager Tracy Sam has been with Grand Casino Mille Lacs since before they opened the doors in April 1991. She started as an executive assistant to the General Manager and has sat in the General Manager role since 2015. She knows the gaming world top to bottom. On March 29, 2023, Sam received the first Pioneer Award during the Indian Gaming Association annual trade show and convention.

Sam was nominated by Brad Kalk, General Manager. As part of the nomination application, Kalk said Sam understands

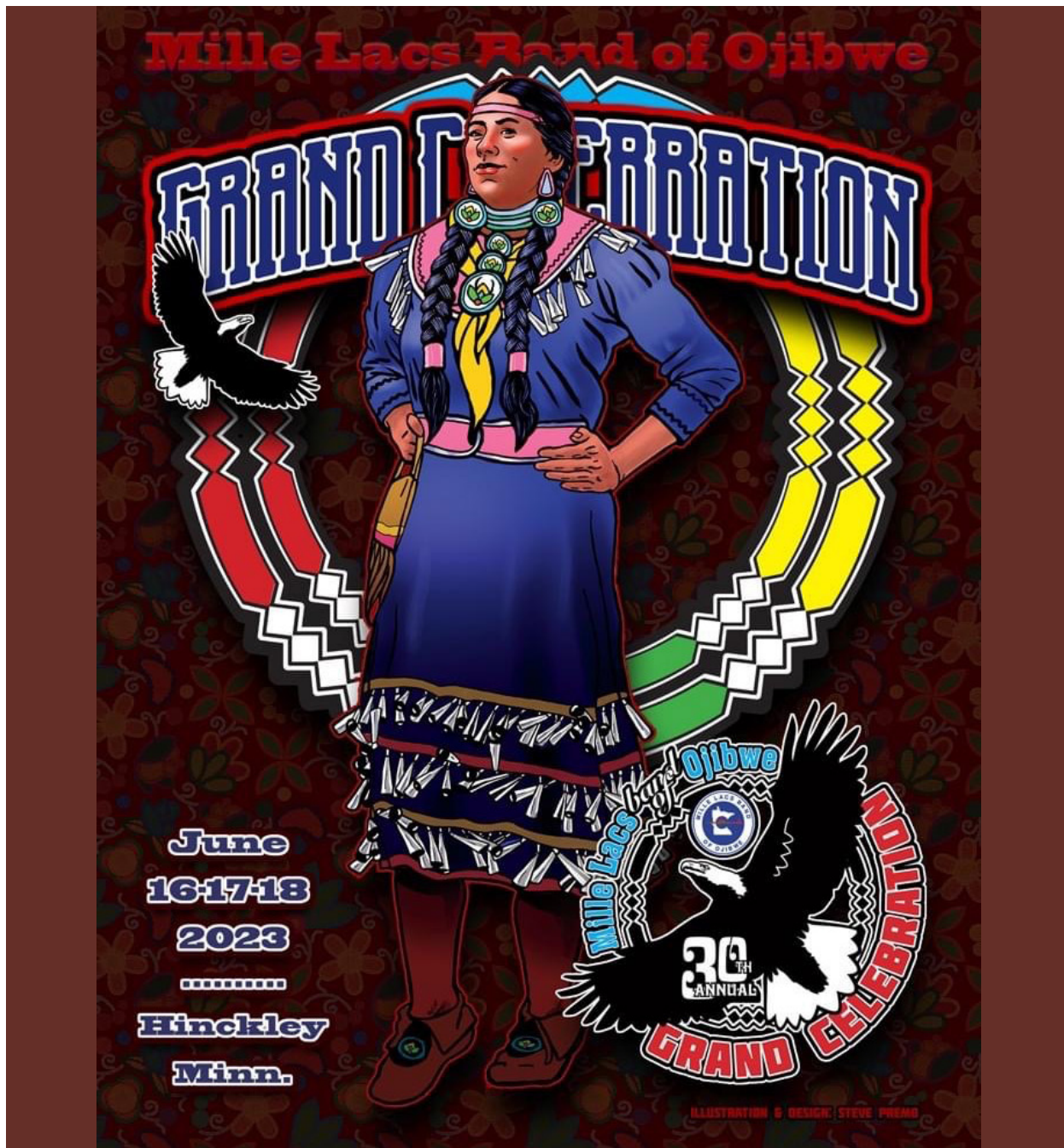
the community, and always has the Tribe and their members at the forefront when making decisions at the casino. "She values her family and the associates who work for Grand Casino. She has a true understanding of work/life balance, and her work ethic is undeniable.

"As our Tribe reemerged from the pandemic, we have strongly leaned into our seven traditional values to guide us to a successful future. Tracy has never lost this focus," said Kalk.



CONGRATULATIONS!

A big congratulations to our General Manager at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Tracy Sam (center) for receiving the first Pioneer Award from the Indian Gaming Association this year! Tracy's dedication to Grand Casino is one to admire and we appreciate all the great work she's done and will continue to do. Congrats Tracy! Tracy is flanked by Ronda Weizenegger, CEO of Grand Casinos, and Brad Kalk, General Manager Grand Casino Hinckley.



BRIEFS

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

DISTRICT PET CLINICS

District II Minisinaakwaang

Sunday, May 14

Wellness and surgeries begin at 9 a.m.

District Ila Chiminising

Saturday, May 27

Wellness exams 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 28

Wellness and surgeries begin at 9 a.m.

Urban Area

Friday, October 20

Location TBD

District I

TBD October or early November.

Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant.

Maada'oonidiwag Project will use a \$150,000 Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant to educate on the history, culture, and resiliency of our communities through artistry. The goal is to bring the community together and provide future generations the opportunity to develop their artistic talents.

Leadership Boost Grants were launched to encourage Minnesotans living in rural and Tribal communities to be visionary and creative as they move their communities forward after two years of snowballing challenges.

Maada'oonidiwag Project goal is to:

- Create a platform which inspires and showcases exceptional creativity and the many talents of our community members.
- Provide professional cultural instruction to strengthen our cultural practices.
- Educate on the history, culture, and resiliency of our communities through artistry.
- End the project with a Celebration Round Dance showcasing our Artists work.

Summer Powwow Schedule

Hinckley: June 16, 17, 18

East Lake: July 21, 22, 23

Mille Lacs: August 18, 19, 20

Send your news tips to News@millelacsband.com.

NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS ISKIGAMIZIGAN (SUGARBUSH) CAMP KIDS CONNECTION

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Spring has historically played an important role in the lives of Mille Lacs Band communities. The opening of sugarbush camp in the early spring marks the beginning of a new season when larger family groups and community members gather together into larger groups for social events and a favorite, yet essential, harvest season of *ziinzibaak-wadwaaboo* — maple sap at the sugarbush camps.

Nay Ah Shing students have an opportunity each year to participate in sugarbush camp as part of their daily curriculum. This year was no exception other than the excessive amounts of snow-cover. Sugarbush camp is all weather-related — conditions need to be just right in order for the sap to start running. This typically happens in late-March, *onaabani-giizis* (hardcrust on the snow moon) or early-April, *iskigamiige-giizis* (maple sugar moon).

Nay Ah Shing students were lead by Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer, NAS Ojibwe Language Program Director, and George Morrow, NAS Four-Seasons worker.

Morrow takes special care and a lot of extra hours to ensure the camp is set up for the student's safety and a productive harvest of sap. Throughout the student's time at sugarbush, he is constantly teaching and guiding the students with cultural values as well as techniques in sap collection while also integrating a positive fun experience.

"I think it's important for students to spend time out in the sugarbush because of the hands-on and interactive learning that occurs. Not only that but we are able to reinforce the Ojibwe language they are learning in the classroom," Nickaboine-Meyer said. "It is also our inherent right to hunt, fish, and gather."

Collecting the sap is not always an easy task, especially through deep snow. The students worked together to carry the heavy buckets full of sap and pour them into the large containers to be boiled down into syrup. It takes about 35 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup.

"It was amazing to see the students' faces light up and and see them work together as a team to tap the trees and collect the sap during their time at the camp," Nickaboine-Meyer said.

For two weeks, students were bussed over to the camp with each grade-level from 1st to 12th grade having their own specific day and time to spend at camp. Not only did they collect and boil sap, but they also had time for snowshoeing fun and exploring the woods.

"To me, it's very important to give the kids that connection to the outdoors and being out in the woods is a great way to do that," Marrow said. "It's so important for the parents to see what we are doing because so many remember being outside in the woods doing stuff like sugarbush as kids. It's such a big part of their identity and who they are."

Marrow said they will be sharing their bounty with the parents and community members at a pancake breakfast, and hopefully enough syrup will be produced to allow each child to take some home as well.

"We hope to expand student's experiences and invite parents and community members to participate next year," Nickaboine-Meyer said. "We have some exciting ideas!"



PUBLIC SCHOOL INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

Parents/guardians play an important role

By **MAAJIITAAZIIBIKWE, MARY SAM**

Each year, area public schools reach out to parents, guardians, and students attending their school to provide input into the education of their children. Some local districts hold a public hearing to provide input into how Indian Education funding is utilized and hold a Resolution of Concurrence or Nonconcurrency Annual Compliance vote prior to March 1 of each year. The roles of parents, guardians, and students are essential to creating long-term change for our students.

American Indian Advisory Committees, under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.78, subdivision 1, state that school districts where there are 10 or more American Indian students enrolled must establish an American Indian Parent Advisory Council. These committees and parent/guardian participation is a critical component to our students' success. Parent committees must be made up of parents or guardians primarily, and other members of the committee can be staff, community members, and grandparents. Voting at the Annual Compliance Hearing is determined within the local Parent Committee by-laws. Some local Parent Committees allow only Parent Committee members to vote, some require attendance at a Parent Advisory meeting prior to voting at the Annual Compliance Hearing, and others leave it open to anyone who attends. Parent Committees play a vital role, working with Indian Education staff and district leadership to ensure that our students are receiving culturally relevant and equitable opportunities within the school. One tool used by a local school Indian Education Program is the Minnesota Department of Education District

and School Self-Assessment Rubric.

The Minnesota Department of Education created a district and school Self-Assessment Rubric which is a voluntary assessment tool for Indian Education Parent Committees and schools to use to evaluate services provided to American Indian Students, families, and communities. Both federal and state agencies understand the "unique education and culturally related academic needs of American Indian Students" (Policy 124D.72, in Minnesota Statutes, Office of the Revisor of Statutes). Students, families, and schools evaluate whether the Indian Education Program and School District is not implementing an Indian Education plan, all the way to agreeing the district is fully implementing plans. The rubric creates a long-term action plan for both the Parent Committees, Indian Education Program, and district leadership. Items scored by all parties in the evaluation include:

- Accurate identification of American Indian students.
- Established an American Indian Education Program.
- Title VI American Indian student eligibility documentation.
- Application for Federal Title VI funds.
- Requirements for Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Program.
- Federal Impact Aid application and consultation requirements.
- Completion and submission of Minnesota American Indian Education Program Annual Plan.
- American Indian administrator and staff representation.
- American Indian teacher recruitment.



- Community coordinators or American Indian home/school liaisons.
- Licenses for American Indian language and culture education teachers.
- Collaboration with tribes and American Indian community agencies to identify policies/practices impacting American Indian Students performance/attendance.
- Staff awareness of policies or practices that impact American Indian student performance and attendance.
- Formal support for tribal policies or cultural practices.
- Staff awareness of tribal services available to American Indian students.
- American Indian training for staff.
- Joint meetings for students transitioning between schools.
- American Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee.
- Community involvement in culturally relevant programs.
- Tribal leaders, elders, community representatives, and parents are on campus.
- Training/learning opportunities for family members of American Indian students.
- District and school staff attendance at local community events and engagement with tribal community organizations.
- Current, grade appropriate American Indian materials and content.
- Review process for cultural relevance, accuracy, and absence of bias in all American Indian curriculum.
- American Indian curriculum alignment and implementation fidelity.
- American Indian content integrated into curriculum and instruction across all grades and subjects.
- American Indian language/culture classes.
- Monitoring American Indian student satisfaction rates.
- Special education eligibility and placement of American Indian students.
- American Indian student dropout rates.
- American Indian student discipline (suspension and expulsion) rates.
- American Indian student attendance rates.
- American Indian student graduation rates.

**Mille lacs Band of Ojibwe Scholarship Program
Graduation Celebration**

**GRADUATION
PARTY**

**June 15, 2023
6:30p – 9pm
Grand Casino
Hinckley
Convention Center**

All Graduates 2020 - 2023
Register with the QR code in the picture by **May 29, 2023**. Please join us in recognizing and honoring you, our Scholarship & Academic Achievement recipients.

Area public school American Indian Education Programs continue to encourage parents/guardians to be involved in their children's education. For a variety of reasons, parent/guardian involvement remains low across the region. Many local Indian Education programs continue to find avenues to create lasting change in the schools, and the work continues to be challenging at times. On a positive note, most of the schools are at least beginning to implement programming, and some have made significant progress within the public school setting. Areas of concern seem to be the need for more Native staff, curriculum changes, providing culture and language opportunities, professional development, and expanding inclusion efforts.

Areas to celebrate include most local schools having an Indian Education model; they are providing some culturally relevant activities; offering some history and language opportunities; have some Native American staff; are increasing Native American graduation rates; are seeing a reduction in suspensions; more Native American students are involved in athletics, speech, music, band, theater; and more are attending college.

Onamia School District Superintendent JJ Vold said, "All grade levels have increased scores in standardized testing. We have had 70 American Indian student graduates since 2019, and we are exceeding the state average in Native American graduation rates."

ARTISTS CORNER

TWO MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER IKWEWAG AWARDED GRANTS

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Artist's Futures Cohort grants

When passion turns into a career, often times the bank account is the one thing that struggles the most. For many artists, that is exactly the case. Often times, not much is deposited into the checking account when they are constantly making deposits into their creativity.

But two Mille Lacs Band members, Memegwesikwe, Alicia De La Cruz of Minneapolis and Amikogaabawiikwe, Adrienne Benjamin of Isle, are a bit less worried over their finances, at least for a little while, after each received grants for their artistry that will help them continue their work as artists.

Ten artists from the seven-county metropolitan area and the 11 tribal nations of Minnesota were selected for the new Artists' Futures Cohort! Artists' Futures is a professional development, skill building and networking cohort for artists working in any artistic discipline at any stage in their career. Selected artists receive a financial award of \$35,000 along with additional resources to support their ability to take creative risks and build technical skills that could contribute to a sustainable and successful career in the arts. This grant was made possible by the Seeding Cultural Treasures program funded through a partnership between the McKnight Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

"To have two Mille Lacs Band ikwewag receive this same grant is amazing," Alicia said. "I am just as proud of this as any other grant or fellowship that I have received."

As many artists do, Alicia said she applies for grant opportunities all of the time. "I dip my toe in a bunch of different things. I apply for whatever speaks to me and that I qualify for."

She is currently a recipient of a Bell Museum Fellowship where she is working on a flora piece. Her art is on view at the Mall of America, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport, in several galleries around the metro area, and whatever art shows she can get into. She is currently hopefully and patiently waiting on hearing from the Minnesota Historical Society on another grant opportunity.

Alicia has been beading for many years and often incorporates her beadwork into multi-medium techniques such as combining a painting with beadwork.



Alicia De La Cruz, Band member wearing a beaded medallion and ribbon skirt of her own creations.

Alicia said her dream is to have her art displayed at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum.

What sets this grant apart from others, however, is this grant with the financial award is not based on the artists providing any type of project in return for the award. It is more like, "An investment in the artist's life," said Adrienne. "That is extra exciting and cool for me. I feel like artists work from process to process or outcome to outcome for most financial grants. But this one is designed to simply support artists in whatever way they need."

Adrienne's art is exquisite jingle dresses, ribbon skirts and shirts, beadwork and hats. Her work has been highlighted in galleries and museums. "But when I see my dresses being worn at the dances and powwows, that is what means the



Adrienne Benjamin, Band member wearing one of her exquisite jingle dresses.

most to me," Adrienne said.

For Alicia, receiving this grant is a huge relief that will provide a bit of financial stability that will allow her to focus her time and energy on her art.

Adrienne said she is grateful for the award and still in a bit of awe. She is undecided on what to do with it, but she said she knows she will pay some of it forward to help other artists in some way shape or form.

You can follow both of the artists on Instagram and Facebook to get another glimpse into the lives of the artists.

ICE RESCUE TRAINING — MINUTES MATTER

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, STAFF WRITER

At the time of this printing, there is still ice on most area lakes. but late ice and early ice are prime times for accidents to happen as people tend to think the ice is safe. Ice is never 100 percent safe as there is always a risk when venturing out onto the ice. But Mille Lacs Band Emergency Management, Tribal Conservation Officers, Garrison Fire and Rescue, and Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office Rescue, teamed up with the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission to train in the techniques of ice rescue.

Wearing ice rescue suits for floatation and warmth, participants practiced various rescue skills taught by the GLIFWC conservation officers lead by Warden Gale Smith.

Minutes matter when rescuing a victim who has fallen into icy waters. Planning a rescue operation must be done immediately and a scene evaluation must be done. Knowing the proper equipment to select for the various ice conditions and knowing rigging techniques can save lives. Rescuers also learned how to not become a victim themselves.

The Mille Lacs Band is committed to ensure all emergency responders have access to quality training.



SPRING MILLE LACS FISHERIES UPDATE

DOES ICE OUT AFFECT THE FISH POPULATION?

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

With record snowfall amounts across Minnesota this winter, it seemed like the snow would linger until June — at least — and the question of “when will the ice go out on Mille Lacs Lake?” has spurred many arguments and perhaps more than a fair share of side bets over the decades. With so many variables at play, one guess is about as good as another. A rapid snow melt across the state in mid-April leaving lakes void of a heavy snowpack created hope of hitting that average date of April 26. However, a return to cooler weather and more snowfall slowed down the melting of ice again, and as of the print date for this issue going into May, there is plenty of ice remaining. But in Minnesota, and a lot can change in just a matter of days.

According to records kept by the local paper, the Mille Lacs Messenger, the average ice out date for Mille Lacs Lake has been April 24, and the Minnesota DNR reports the average to be April 26. Ice outs had historically occurred with minimal variability throughout the 1980s and 90s. Beginning in 2000, with an ice out occurring on April 2, ice out dates have become much less consistent.

Since about 2008, the ice out dates have fluctuated greatly, with 2012 taking the record for earliest ice out on March 26, immediately followed by the latest on record, May 16, 2013, followed by another later than average date of May 5 for 2014. That all means the average ice out for Mille Lacs is April 26.

Local chatter from armchair biologists point to the years of 2013 and 2014 as good year classes for walleye, meaning many young of the year survived. Those were years with late ice out dates. Also, 2013 was one of the most successful hatches of walleye ever, according to Perry Bunting, who is an actual biologist with Mille Lacs Band DNR. However, he added Mille Lacs Lake was not the only lake that saw a great year class in 2013. Walleye lakes that support a sustainable fishery have, and need, a good year class every 4 to 5 years, but Mille Lacs was more in the territory of every 7 to 10 years.

Carl Klimah, Fisheries Biologist with the Mille Lacs Band DNR (also has an actual degree in biology) said there are a few theories behind a good year class associated with late ice-outs. But the theories are not supported enough by conclusive data to form a true scientific conclusion one way or the other.

Both Bunting and Klimah agreed on those theories — keep in mind, these are theories not supported by data. One theory is, the later the ice out occurs, the less chance of having a cold front come in and shut down the food chain, which is needed to feed the young fry. When it does finally start to thaw, it



Adobe stock walleye photo.

can happen fast; since it's already getting warmer with a late spring, the ground can't take in all of the run-off, and much makes it to the lake instead, carrying a lot of the nutrients with it as well, which will feed the algae and bugs [zooplankton] in the food chain. “With the late spring in 2013, the theory I heard was that when the fry hatched, the food chain was in full gear and there was plenty for them to eat,” Bunting said. “Walleye fry only have an egg sac that will feed them for two days or so and then they need food. If there's no bugs, they will starve.”

Klimah added it could be that a late ice out prevents zooplankton from getting eaten by zebra mussels and other species, leaving more of the zooplankton for the new baby walleyes to eat. The more of a food supply they have, the more successful a survival rate will be.

Walleyes depend on a couple of factors on when to spawn: photoperiod (length of daylight) and water temperatures. Walleyes spawn when temperatures are around 42 to 44 degrees, but with ice still on the lake, the temperature is kept low, and thus little to no spawning occurs. “If it's a late ice out, the length of day factor is already right, and a great number of fish are just waiting to spawn, and when the water temps are right, the spawn will happen in days versus a couple of weeks as in

a typical spring,” Bunting said.

The Minnesota DNR website also stated that weather will affect the success of spawning and can vary greatly year to year. “Rapidly warming water can cause eggs to hatch prematurely. Prolonged cool weather can delay and impair hatching. A cold snap after the hatch can suppress the production of microcrustaceans that walleye fry eat.”

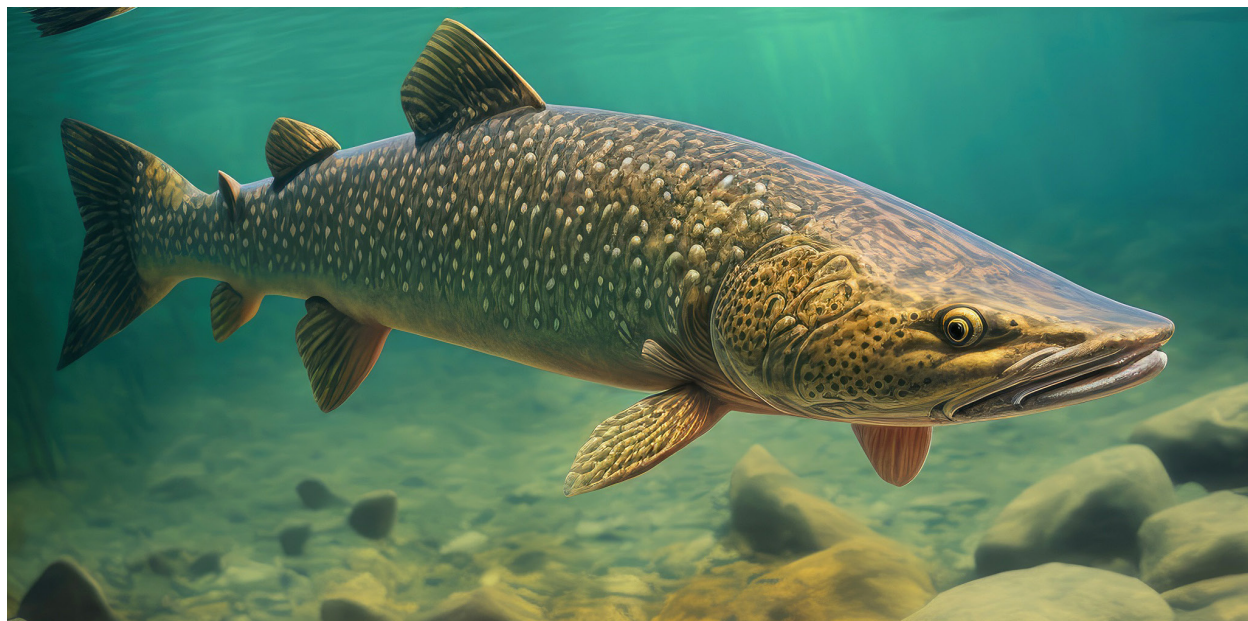
Of course, added to the local chatter from the armchair biologists was that in 2013 with the late ice out, the tribes were unable to harvest many fish thus, more fish survived to spawn which resulted in the huge 2013-year class. “That was hard to believe, because at the time, the estimated spawning biomass was at its lowest point ever, I believe,” Bunting said. “That would mean the lowest number of mamas and papas pulled off the largest spawn ever. Like I mentioned earlier, many other lakes also had phenomenal 2013-year classes, so the lack of netting doesn't support their theory. I think the late ice out causing the right conditions to feed the little tykes was what happened and just what the lake needed.”

Klimah points to the data and said the current data simply does not point to a direct correlation to late ice out and the survival rate of the walleye. “We just cannot conclude with a definitive scientific answer that late ice out helps the survival of the walleye.”

The good news for Band members is Mille Lacs is reporting an increase in walleye (ogaa) by 15 percent. “Juveniles are more abundant, adults are fatter, and there are more perch for food,” Klimah said.

Ogaa quota increased to a total of 175,000 pounds for state and tribes allowable harvest levels. The tribes have an allowable harvest level of 74,700 pounds of ogaa which is divided by the six tribes in the 1837 Treaty, leaving the Mille Lacs Band to harvest 21,519 pounds.

Gill netting and spearing season does not last long at Mille Lacs Lake. Once the first gill net hits the water, it's usually on between 8 to 10 days or less before the quota is used up. “On top of that, there are more netters, which seemed to have resulted from people taking it up during Covid-19 lockdowns,” Klimah said. “So, please harvest more northern pike, as our quota for pike is at 50,000 pounds.”



Adobe stock northern pike photo.



Ziigwan—It is Spring

Oshki-gikinoonowin. Niizhosagoons ashi zhaangaso. Aaniin waa-izhichigeyan? Endaso-giizhik abinoojiyensag, wii-ondaadiziwig. Abinoojiyag, odaminowag. Ininiwig idash ikwewag, wii-anokiiwig. Mindimoyeyag idash akwenziiyag, wii-kinoo'amaadizowag. Akina-awiiya gitiziiwig. Anishinaabeg wii-ojaanimiziiwig agwajiiing. Maajigaa. Nagishkodaadiwig. Ikidon! Boozhoo, name nindizhinikaaz. Aaniin ezhinikaazoyan? Mii'iw.

(A young new year. Two-thousand and nine. What will you be doing? Everyday babies, they will be born. Children, they will play. Men and women, they will work. Elder women and elder men, they will teach. Everyone they are older. Anishinaabe people will be busy outside. Maple sap start to run. They will meet each other. Speak! Hello, "such an such" is my name. What is your name? That's all.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

- Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
- Onzaam—as in father
- Miigwech—as in jay
- Wayijba—as in seen
- Manqomin—as in moon

- Short Vowels: A, I, O
- Dash—as in about
- [widi—as in tin
- Zoogipon—as in only

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

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

Pluralize

To speak about more than one, suffix n, an, wan, oon, iin for inanimate nouns. Suffix g, ag, oog, wag, yag for animate nouns.

- Achaab, Achaabiin—Bowstring (s)
 - Wiisiniwin, Wiisiniwinan—Food (s)
 - Bikwak, Bikwakoon—Arrow (s)
 - Gitigaan, Gitigaanan—Garden (s)
 - Mitigwaab, Mitigwaabiig—Bow (s)
 - Mooz, Moozoog—Moose (s)
 - Aandeg, Aandegwag—Crow (s)
 - Odaabaan, Odaabaanag—Car (s)
- All animate pluralization end in G

Niizh—2

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

- A. Aaniin enaandeg? Makadewaa i'iw apabiwin.
- B. Aaniin enaanzod? Miskozi a'aw misko-bineshii.
- C. Aaniin enaanzowaad? Waabishkoziwig ingiw weweg.
- D. Ozaawaawan iniw gibiiga'iganan idash anaakanan?
- E. Ozhaawaashkwaawan iniw makakoon adoopowining.
- F. Niwaabamaag niizho waaboozoog. Ozaawiziwigag.
- G. Iwidi ziibiing. niimiwig. Howah!

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

Niswi—3

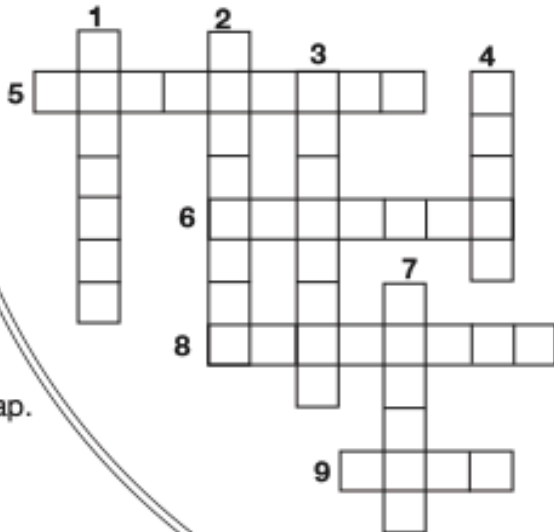
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- Day
- It starts to run sap.
- Pipe
- Snow geese
- He or she flies.

Across:

- Arrows
- Look! Behold!
- Chair
- Rock



Niiwin—4

Animate and Inanimate

Living—Breathing—Sacred—Traditional—
Use only animate verbs for living nouns
Dewe'igan, Dewe'iganag—Drum (s)
Minjikaawan, Minjikaawanag—Glove (s)
Asin, Asiniig—Rock (s)
Opwaagan, Opwaaganag—Pipe (s)
Non-living—only inanimate verbs
to speak of these
Waabigwan, Waabigwaniin—Flower (s)
Atisigan, Atisiganan—Dye (s)
Nemaab, Nemaabiin—Marble (s)

- an
- ag
- wag
- iin
- iig

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- Daga ginaadinan iniw waabigwan ____ imaa.
- Niwii-naadawaag ingiw asin ____ iwidi agwajiiing.
- Niimiwining ningii-waabaamaag niyo dewe'igan ____.
- Adoopowining ogii-miijinan gitigaaniwiisiniwin ____.
- Inashke! Aandeg ____ bimisewag giwedonong.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. What color is it? It is black that chair. B. What color is s/he? S/he is red that cardinal. C. What color are they? They are white those snow geese. D. They are yellow, those curtains and rugs. E. They are blue those baskets on the table. F. I see two rabbits. They are brown. G. Over there by the river they dance. Wow, alright!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Giizhik 2. Maajigaa 3. Opwaagan 4. Weweg 7. Bimise

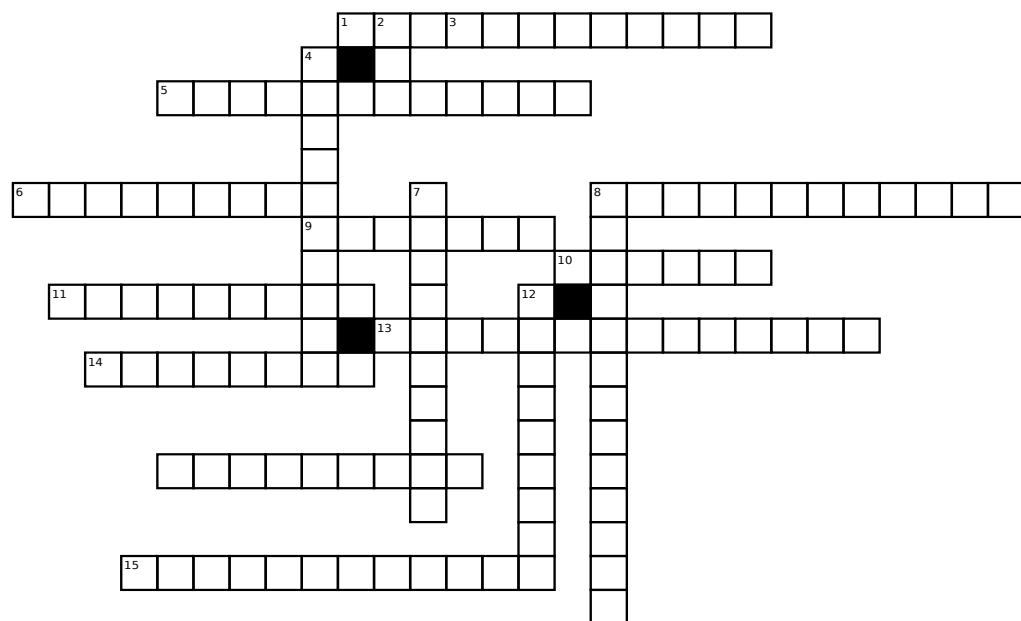
Across: 5. Bikwakoon 6. Inashke 8. Apabiwin 9. Asin

Niiwin—4 1. Please go get those flowers there. 2. I will get those rocks there outside. 3. At the dance I saw them two drums. We danced. 4. At the table she ate garden foods. 5. Look! Behold! Crows they are flying to the north.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@glifwc.org.

AAZHAWAAKWASING ZAAGIBAGAA-GIIZIS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

2. Gizaasakokwe ____?(Are you frying something?)
4. S/he is heard eating.
7. S/he is frying something.
8. S/he sneak eats.
12. Boil it.

Across:

1. I am cooking.
3. S/he is cooking.
5. Mac ____.(I am boiling Mac.)
6. S/he eats it all.
8. Pepper.
9. S/he eats a light meal, snack.
10. Food
11. S/he eats enough.
13. Fry it!
14. ____ jiibaakweyan(What are you cooking)
15. Salt.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

While we are eating is also a good time to practice the language. Use these words through any meal time whether it's breakfast, lunch, or dinner. They use similar language for any meal. Give these words a try but avoid talking with you mouth full. Also check Gidinwewininaan.com for more language learning resources.

Mijjim = Food
(Mee jim)

Jiibaakwe = S/he is cooking.
(Jee bah kway)

Gabaatoon = Boil it.
(Gub bah toon)

Ninjiibaakwe = I am cooking.
(Nin jee bah kway)

Awegonen jiibaakweyan? = What are you cooking?
(Uh way go nayn jee bah kway yun)

Mac ningabaatoon = I am boiling mac.
(Mac nin gub bah toon)

Zaasakokwe = S/he is frying something.
(Zah suk ko kway)

Zaasakowaadan = Fry it!
(Zah suk ko kwah dun)

Gizaasakokwe ina? = Are you frying something?
(Giz zah suk ko kway in nuh)

Zhiiwitaagan = Salt.
(Zhee wit tah gun)

Gaa-wiisagang = Pepper.
(Gah wee sug gung)

Debisinii = S/he eats enough.
(Day bis sin nee)

Gidaanawe = S/he eats it all.
(Gih dah nuh way)

Nawajii = S/he eats a light meal, snack.
(Nuh wuj jee)

Madwenjige = S/he is heard eating.
(Mud wayn jig gay)

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

Gidinwewininaan- Our way of Sound (Gee moo dun jig gay) You can hear many words and sentences pronounced by native speakers at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

BIMAADIZIWIN

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, we must rely on intentions to help guide us through our activities. Our intentions are what we project into the future. Seven generations ahead is what some Anishinaabe say. Frequently we mention how we are connected to our ancestors from the past. We must be connected the same way to our ancestors in the future. The ones who will call us ancestors will talk about how they feel connected to us should we use our intentions to intentionally connect to them.

As we look and examine our traumas, intergenerational, pan-generational, and historical-trauma is how we are learning to describe these connections. Blood memory talks about how that trauma is in our blood. Our genetics are connected to these traumas and they fully inform our ways of life today. Our ancestors must've prayed for resilience. Throughout our Anishinaabe existence we have been needing to work through tough situations, and not only survive but thrive. Our resilience is in our blood; it is just recognized through trauma.

Our ancestors kept a spiritual way of life for the intention for us to have what we have today. They set dishes, they offered asemaa, they projected forward a strength they knew we needed today. When times got tough, they asked the manidoog for help. When they were successful, they offered thanks and gifts to the manidoog. When they were lost, they asked for guidance. We should follow their example and offer all we have up to the spirits in order for our future relatives to have access to what we have and more.

What we have today is because of our ancestors knowing we needed it today. When we think about our relatives, look at your youngest one. Imagine what kind of life they will live. Think about what they may need. What can we do today to ensure they



have what they need? Let's use what our ancestors left for us and give it to our future relatives.

Pass forward is healing. Intergenerational healing, or healing that spans generations is the way to combat trauma that spans generations. Intergenerational resilience gives us the tenacity to overcome today in order to ensure our future relatives can live a better life. Think of the energy it took to take our ceremonies into secrecy. Performing those ceremonies is an act of resilience. They prayed for our wellbeing. Just like their ancestors did for them. When we use our Anishinaabe lzhitwaawin, we pass bimaadiziwin forward.

If we are to let go of our teachings, we let go of our connections to the past and future. It's through these spiritual activities that allow us to have access to the spiritual energy necessary to have these connections. What we feel today is the connection sent from our ancestors. We need to use our way of life to send forward that energy creating a weave of energy from one generation to the next. With these connections we can gather the teachings of the past and deliver them to the future in the form of bimaadiziwin. Miigwech

LADIES' SOCIAL (NIGHTTIME CEREMONIAL DANCE) KWE-NIIMI WAAD

GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (told by) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.,
WAABISHKIBINES

GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (transcribed by)
JAMES CLARK, OZAAWAANAKWAD

This month I would like to talk about a part of the dance that I haven't covered as much as I'd like. We call it the "social" or the "night dance," which is the portion of the ceremonial dance that happens after the afternoon session. After we've completed the daytime dance, we will usually break for supper. The ladies will prepare food for the people attending the dance. After this is when we will start our social dancing. It should be noted that even if you did not come to the daytime, you are more than welcome to attend the nighttime. Dishes could be brought out during this time; however, most of the ceremonial things have been completed.

After people have been fed and the tables cleared, the singers will start with a few open songs. When the ladies are ready, they will let either the drummers or the drum keeper know that they are ready to begin. Once this is done, they will sing a various number of songs dedicated for the Ogichidaakweg. When I was growing up, it was only the Ogichidaakweg that would dance to them, and they were the one who invited people up to dance with them. They would offer the partner a quilt to dance with them, and in return, they would give them a blanket in exchange for the following dance. This is a basic understanding of how the nighttime dance works. When dancing, they can choose whoever is in the audience.

Nowadays, it has become that all the ladies in attendance dance during these songs, yet sometimes the drummers will leave a song or two solely for the Ogichidaakweg. Also, it has been commonplace for the exchange to happen from other people that aren't ladies on the drum, but ladies in attendance. Please be prepared if you plan on attending to bring enough gifts for any number of songs you might be asked to dance. The gifts have become slightly different over the years, where I have received many things from a flower, blanket, and money. All are correct to bring when you attend the social. Something important to keep track of when there are a lot of people at the dance is that you should keep track of who gave you what and make sure that you give them something in return. It can turn into an awkward situation when the person remembers and you may not.

A drum keeper has asked some years ago during this time of the dance that people not smoke in the dance hall. The main reason for this is because of the people in attendance who may be negatively affected health-wise by the smoke itself. Because of this, sometimes we will take a break during the

night so that the dancers and singers who need a break can step outside for a bit. People may wonder what type of songs we dance to. They aren't all round dance songs; sometimes they would sing more of an intertribal song that everyone can dance to. Some places that you attend will have a late lunch for those in attendance. The ladies will prepare some small snacks and beverages to help people keep busting a move.

There are a few important things to note, which is that these nighttime dances can last a very long time. I remember one a long time ago that went all the way to sun up; that was the longest I have ever attended since. The ladies will keep an eye on everyone to determine how tired people are so that they know when to begin ending the dance. With some ceremonial drums, you know when they end because they will sing a traveling song.

Last thing to note is that this is largely a Minnesota-based ceremonial dance that our relatives in Wisconsin tend not to have. To me, these are the fun times, and you see happiness in people when they dance and socialize.

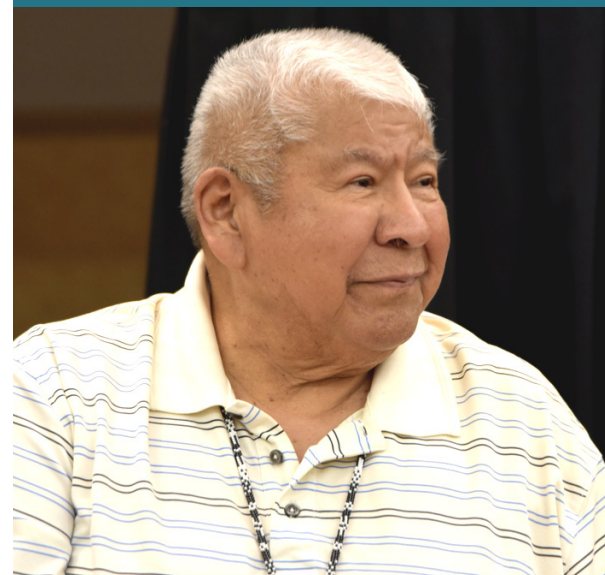
For those of you that have never been to one of these, I invite you to come and attend one. Everybody is welcome, no matter if you are native or not, to join us for a night of fun, laughs, and good old Mille Lacs Band round dance songs.

Miigwech, hope to see you there.

Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. This article is full of my words, observations, and experiences that I have encountered throughout my life, and it is time to have these subjects written down. Understand not everything needs to be written, but various teachings cannot be lost.

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

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



KIDS COLORING CORNER GAAZHAGENS (CAT)

By JANET SWIERCZEK, BAND MEMBER



DID YOU KNOW?

INAAJIMOWIN AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can find all of your favorite Inaajimowin articles online at Inaajimowin.com including archived issues and cool photo galleries. Check it out!

BAND MEMBER SUCCESS

MEET THE ARTIST BEHIND THE KIDS COLORING CORNER

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, STAFF WRITER

Band member Janet Swierczek has been drawing since she was nine years old. As far back as she can remember, she has always had a pencil, crayon, marker, or pen in her hand and paper at the ready. "I need to draw. I am always drawing. I feel more comfortable when I am drawing," she said.

Swierczek is an Urban Band member "baby" Elder she said with a grin. One day while drawing, a character just appeared from Swierczek's vivid imagination. This character is a fashionable and adventurous young lady named Janet, of course. "She has brown skin like us," Swierczek said. "And she has my green eyes," she added with a chuckle and a grin. Janet first appeared in several self-published coloring and activity books in around 2011. What started out to be just doodling and drawing has now turned into her career and life-long passion. And Janet has become the main character in over 53 coloring and activity books.

Swierczek said she has never gone to art school to learn to draw, her talent comes naturally she said, "from the Lord. It's just who I am."

To figure out how Janet would look holding a pencil, crossing her arms, or walking, sitting, or moving in any way shape or form, Swierczek says she performs the actions herself in front of a mirror to figure out how to draw that particular action, such as crossing her arms in the photo on this page. "I just stare at the mirror — sometimes for a long time — but then I can just draw it," she said.

Janet, the character, has evolved a bit since the first coloring book was published. Janet is a recent high school graduate who gets a job as a waitress, but leads a secret life as a young private investigator who "takes down the bad guys," Swierczek said. This is the basis for a new comic book under the title of "Living a Secret Life" and hopefully someday a video game.

"I am still trying to figure out a lot of things in the story. I am not really a writer, that's why I am putting her adventures in a comic book," Swierczek said.

While Janet may be a make-believe character in coloring books and comic books, Swierczek takes her very seriously and has gone to great lengths to protect her brand by obtaining copyrights on all of the books. "In 2012 I went to the courthouse downtown to ask how to get a copyright. They sent me to the museum. A guy there was very helpful. He pointed me to the



The real Janet Swierczek is the Band member artist who contributes the kid's coloring corner images for the Inaajimowin. She is in the process of creating a comic book with the adventures of Janet, the main character in the comic book, who is a young private investigator.

section of books and helped me figure out how to apply for the copyrights. He even helped me do it right there at the library," Swierczek said.

It is not a process that happens overnight and Swierczek said she was getting impatient and would call Washington DC quite often to ask about the copyright. "And then one day the guy on the phone said to me, 'Are you sitting down?' You know when someone says that it is usually not good news. But this time, it was. He said all of the books I had submitted have been approved for copyrights and I would be receiving notice in the mail. I was just so excited I am glad I was sitting down!" she exclaimed. To this day, Swierczek has each copyright letter laminated, framed, and hanging on her wall at her apartment.

Swierczek said she is not getting rich selling her books, but she is making a small profit. Her coloring books are available through Amazon and her website that can be found at www.janetscoloringbooks.com and follow her on Instagram @coloringbookgirljanet and Twitter at @Booksbyjanet.

Swierczek has incorporated Anishinaabe values in the coloring books and includes Ojibwe language in easy to read and color images found in the Inaajimowin on the Kids coloring corner section. See page 14 in this issue.

GRA UPDATE

RECOGNIZE FRAUD, REJECT IT, AND REPORT IT!

Did you know the Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) maintains a hotline for reporting fraudulent, improper, or suspicious activity at any Grand Casino property? Information can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by texting or calling the GRA Fraud Hotline: 320-384-4519.

If you witness, suspect, or know of fraudulent, improper, or suspicious activity at any Grand Casino location, please contact the Fraud Hotline immediately. When you contact the hotline via text or call, be sure to provide as much detail as possible. We may need to contact you for additional information, so we ask that you please include contact information, though this is not required. All reports will be kept confidential. Tribal gaming enterprises are the main source of funds for economic development and self-sufficiency for the Mille Lacs Community. Do your part to keep them free from fraud.

You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

GRA Board meetings are open to the public. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 4 and Thursday, May 18. Visit our website millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation.

ASK AUNTIE

Boozhoo Auntie,

My fear for my community pushed me to write to you. I am

a freshman in high school and I felt like I lived a normal life until we had this assignment at school and the teacher was showing these examples of what other students presented as their home/community life. I was immediately embarrassed and scared to share mine, but I stood up and shared anyway. But then I got called into the student advisor's office. I don't think my presentation was bad, but what my presentation was about shocked them.

I shared very private personal things about my life. I shared about the violence that happens in my community, how my friends and I have to always be aware of our surroundings, how to be safe, protect ourselves, how my friends talk about suicide, how my friend was abused by her boyfriend, how you can get drugs easily, so many lives lost from overdoses, gun violence, fighting and killing our own people, how babies are born addicted, girls like me go missing, and how I feel so afraid for my people and my community.

My parents and my school have been meeting about what to do to help me, but Auntie, my question for you is. How do we help our community? How do we get people to really care about our people and our community? Adults don't know, but us young people — we see and hear everything, we are not sheltered from anything. When are the adults, the kids, and the Elders all going to truly care and do something for our community?

Thank you,

Biidaanimizi

Aaniin Nishimis,

After reading your question, I cried, I prayed, I cried some more, and then I sat in silence. I'm very proud of how brave you are to ask your question. Your question is something that many people may be thinking about in our community. I want to commend you on your presentation and if it was shocking, I'm glad you shared what our reality is. Sharing openly and honestly is the only way that we are going to make changes, and sometimes fear pushing you is a good thing.

I want you to know that I may not have all the answers, but together we can find some solutions. Violence does happen in our community. As a young girl and a young woman, we do have to be aware of our surroundings at all times and always watch our own back to keep ourselves protected and safe from possible predators (MMIW). Suicide is prevalent in our community. We have domestic violence in our community. Drugs and dealers are in our community. We have lost so many loved ones to overdoses. We have gun violence in our community and we have people fighting and killing our own people. We have babies born with effects of drugs. We have girls, women, boys, and men go missing in our community. You feel scared for our community and I do, too. I agree and I think it's a good thing that your parents and the school are talking and concerned for you as

ASK AUNTIE see page 17

AROUND THE RESERVATION

THE NEXT GENERATION

Meisha Oswaldson and family came in with baby ZayLani to receive a Celebration of Life baby basket from the DI Reps. Office last month. ZayLani Rae Oswaldson was born on January 24, 2023, weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz., and measuring 21 inches long. She was welcomed home by her big brother ZaKodah Oswaldson, grandma Lana Oswaldson, and uncles Dylan Oswaldson and RaySean Bugg (not pictured).



Gia Sam and her father, Ezra Sam, brought in baby August to receive a Celebration of Life baby basket from the District I Representative's Office. August Lee Smith was born on January 16, 2023, to Gia Sam and Ryan Smith Jr. He weighed 4 lbs., 6.9 oz., and was 17 inches long. August is Gia's first baby. Pictured is Gia Sam, Representative Virgil Wind, baby August, and grandfather, Ezra Sam.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

MUKAH-DAY BINEZ, QUINTIN MOOSE

Mukah-day Binez Quentin Nowell Moose, age 55, passed away on March 27, 2023.

Quentin was born in Mora, Minnesota, on November 14, 1967, to Gilbert "Sonny" Moose and Sharon Hart-Sam. He was currently residing in St. Cloud where he also passed at day of death Monday, March 27, 2023. He was 55 years of age. Quentin also resided in Hertel, Wisc. where he met his first wife Tammy, and they had four beautiful children Sheila, Nicholas, Tyrone, and Tori Moose. Quentin also resided in Mille Lacs where he met his second wife Carrie Shaugobay and they had three beautiful children Zachary, Kiara, and Mariah Shaugobay. Quentin attended school in Siren, Wisc. with some college experience. Quentin worked as a Security Guard at Mille Lacs Grand Casino and as a general laborer.

Quentin loved being outside with family, loved being in nature, woodcarving and carving of pipes, biking, and thrifting. Everything he did was with a big smile on his face.

Quentin is survived by his sisters Corrina, Luvette, Maureen, and Jackie Moose; brothers Darren and Darryl Moose.

Quentin is preceded in death by daughter Sheila Rose Moose; brother Merrick Moose; father Gilbert "Sonny" Moose; mother Sharon Hart-Sam; step mother Patsy Moose; Grandma Mary and Grandpa Jack Moose.

Visitation was held at 6 p.m. at Aazhoomog Community Center on Thursday, March 30, 2023 with the funeral service beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 31, 2023, at Aazhoomog Community Center also.

Arrangements were by Tatting-Methven Funeral and Cremation Services of Hinckley.



BIIDWEWEKWE, BONITA NAYQUONABE

Biidwewekwe, Bonita Nayquonabe, age 67, of Onamia, Minn. passed away on April 18, 2023. Visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 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, April 24, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Indian Point Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Biidwewekwe, Bonita "Bwaan" L. Nayquonabe was born on April 25, 1955, to Harriet and John Nayquonabe. She liked to be home taking care of her babies (cats) there. She loved doing crossword puzzles, being on her phone, and visiting family and friends who stopped by. Bwaan enjoyed fishing, going to the casino, and movies. She looked forward to venturing out to go to garage sales, shopping, and traveling to ceremonial dances. Bonita had a passion for being different and trying new things. As an avid Green Bay Packers fan, her favorite saying was, "Go Pack, Go!"

Bonita is survived by her adopted daughters, Andrea Nayquonabe and Lacey Garbow; granddaughters, Tia White and Raining Nayquonabe, Bella Nayquonabe; great-grandson, Lincoln Shingobe; brothers, Joseph Nayquonabe and Russell Nayquonabe; sisters, Beverly Nayquonabe, Thelma Nayquonabe, Delia Nayquonabe, Caroline Nayquonabe; and many We'ehs, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harriet, and John Nayquonabe; brothers, Victor, Calvin, and Elmer; sisters, Marlene, Ethel, Trixie, and Doris.



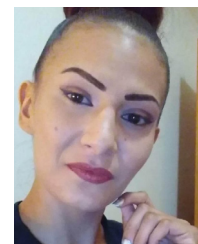
SIMONE BOYD EVANS

Simone Boyd Evans, age 26, of Onamia, Minn. passed away on April 21, 2023. Visitation was at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26, 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 Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment will be in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Simone was born on February 11, 1997, in Onamia, Minnesota. She liked to spend her time with her nieces and nephews and going to the casino. Simone was a talented artist and won the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe license plate design contest.

She is survived by her mother, Rachel Boyd, and dad, Joseph Edgington Jr.; father, Chad Evans; sisters, Shelia Edgington and Marissa Robertson; brothers, Donovan Edgington, Joseph Edgington III, Simon Smith, Greg Robertson, Raymond Robertson, Chase Robertson; aunts, Mary Boyd, Danielle Boyd; uncles, George Edgington, Jack Smith; special friend, Trevon Morrison, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Alvera Smith; Papas, Dan Boyd and Benji Kegg; uncles, James Smith and Bruce Boyd; brother, Simon Boyd; aunt, Sheila Boyd.



HEALTHY PETS

IT IS FLEA AND TICK SEASON

The more you know, the more you can help your pets

Flea and tick prevention is a crucial aspect of your dog or cat's health. Not only are fleas and ticks an annoyance, these parasites pose potential health risks to both you and your animal. The life cycle of these pests involves the sucking of blood, which serves as a great route to transmit disease. Undetected, these diseases can have devastating outcomes, making prevention so important. A major theme we learn in veterinary school is that it is easier to stop diseases from ever developing by giving preventatives than it is to treat an animal for diseases that have already begun. Thankfully, nowadays, there are plenty of safe and effective flea and tick preventative options available to pet owners that help in controlling the spread of disease.

This is an important topic to be talking about right now, because fleas and ticks thrive in warm and humid summer weather. Most commonly, dogs and cats will develop an infection either from the environment or from other animals who are currently carrying the parasites. Adult fleas are roughly the size of a sesame seed, and move quickly, which can make it difficult to notice unless you are paying close attention while grooming the animal. Oftentimes, flea infections are not noticed until a large number have made a home on your animal, which can lead to uncomfortable scratching, redness, and potential skin infections. Female fleas will begin to lay eggs within a day of finding their new host, and produce eggs daily. These eggs then fall from your pet, either into your home or the environment, where they develop to their next stage. Once the larvae have hatched, they have the potential to find a new host, and the cycle of infection continues. This is a big reason why prevention is so important! By protecting your dog or cat, you have the potential to stop the spreading of this parasite.

Ticks are found in wooded areas, and Minnesota is known to have plenty of them during our summer months. Ticks can be difficult to notice because they like to hide in areas such as the ears, folds of legs, and between paw pads; however, they can be found anywhere on the body! Tick infections can cause skin irritation, but the main concern is their ability to transmit significant infectious disease. One disease that is commonly known is Lyme disease, a health risk to both the animal and humans. Because Lyme disease is difficult to treat if caught in a later stage, we recommend using preventatives during spring,

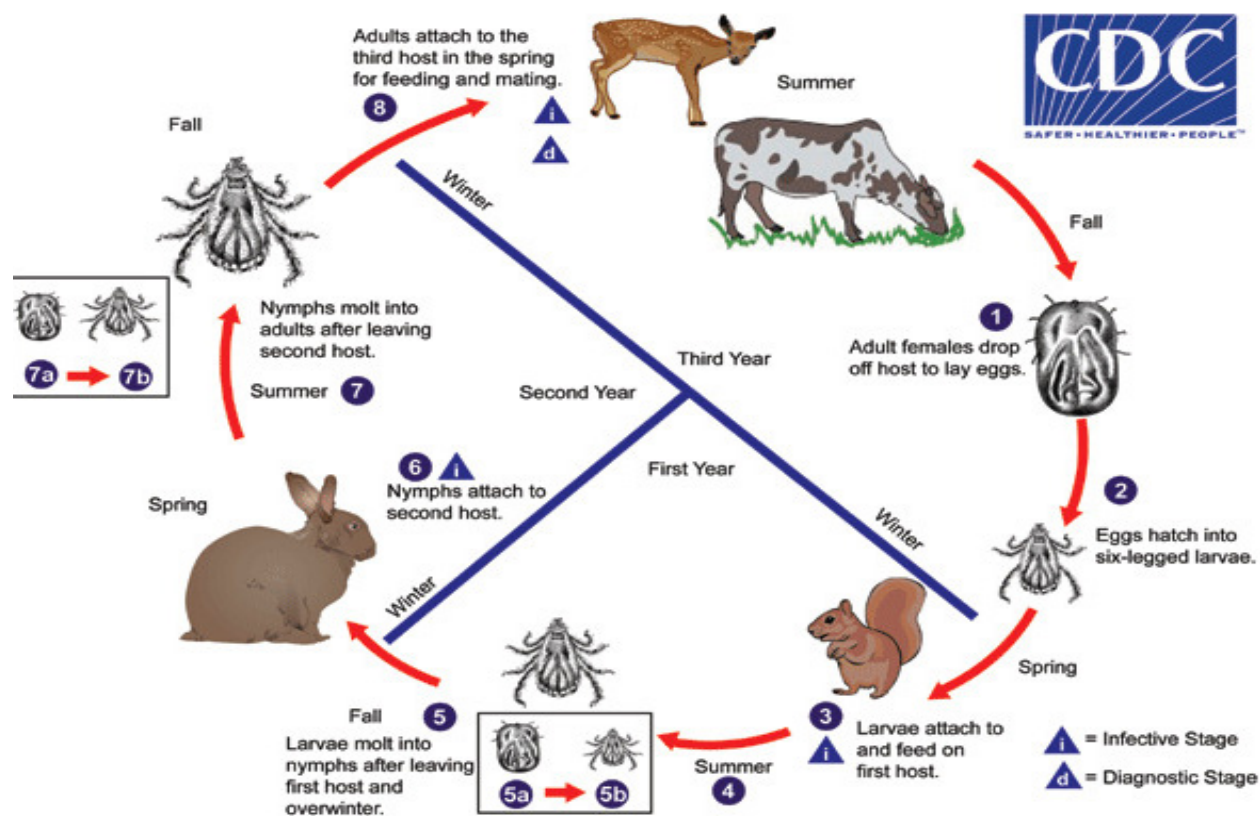


summer, and fall months when ticks are active. Even with a good preventative, we should be checking our pets and ourselves for ticks after spending time outside in wooded areas.

Helpful Ideas:

- Talk with your veterinarian before starting any products. The lifecycle of different parasites and the number of animals you own can impact what preventative is best for you.
- Keep a strict prevention schedule. Different products will need to be given at different times; some last three months while others only last a month. Consult with your veterinarian to choose a preventative that works best for you and set reminders to ensure your pet gets them on time.
- Examine your dog or cat for fleas and ticks anytime you groom them. If there ever are parasites present, the earlier you find them, the better.
- Set up an appointment with your veterinarian any time your pet is excessively scratching, chewing, or licking at their coat. This may be a sign that your pet has a skin issue.

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



ASK AUNTIE from page 15

they should be, but I agree more with your questions. This isn't anything bad about you. Maybe the school is concerned about your safety with knowing about things a young freshman in a perfect world should not have to know about. I can't speak for the school administration or your parents, but sometimes we adults don't always know what to do or what the right thing to do is.

I want to encourage you to reach out to a trusted adult, the Tribal Police Department, or Mille Lacs Band Behavioral Health to discuss your fears openly and honestly. I also want to tell you that it is okay to have these fears and concerns and there are people in our community who can help.

How do we help our community? This is a tough question. We can't control other people, and change is sometimes very hard to make; we can only control what we do. We could start small by putting asemaa out every day and asking the Creator to help us and use us to help our community or ask a spiritual advisor for advice. Maybe they can direct us on our path to help.

Or we can do something big and start a community group meeting where everyone can come and share ideas and solutions, then create a community action plan and collect data and use a community engagement model. The plan could assess each issue or concern and come up with action plans to not only come up with solutions but actual comprehensive guides to help people.

Most importantly, we all need to come together for the community. That means everyone: Youth, adults, Elders, behavior health, SUDS program, program directors, commissioners, tribal police, and elected officials. All it takes is one person to start to make a difference, whether it's creating a community Facebook group, neighborhood watch group, community clean-up group, or start a self-defense class. There are many events and things you could start, and I feel you are an amazing young leader our community needs.

How do we get people to really care about our people and our community? We have to show them that we care, and we have to start someplace — even if it's an uncomfortable place. We have to start sharing openly and honestly. We have to find common ground. I think people do care. There are people who care and they can be a resource to help with ideas and plans.

We as adults want to protect our loved ones from things. Sometimes we try to shelter youth because we love and care for you. We know youth are wise, but sometimes we as adults don't know how to talk about some of the things you brought up, so we don't talk about it at all. I'm glad you shared that you see and hear everything. That is a good way to open our eyes.

I don't know when this is going to happen, but I pray it happens in our lifetime. Our people used to live in harmony in one village and we would all take care of each other. An individual couldn't survive without the tribe. Maybe in some way we need to come back to that. There was so much love, respect, and trust during that time. We didn't have jails because people wouldn't do any harm to one another. We were all equal, and if someone didn't have what they needed, someone else would help provide what they needed.

I don't have all the answers, my niece, but I think this is a great start on the healing community path.

Zoongide'e means brave; that is what I name you, my niece.

Auntie

If you're interested in submitting a question for Auntie, please send your inquiry to News@millelacsband.com. Your questions can remain anonymous and your email will remain confidential.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

MAY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Gina Louise Anderson
Richard Dean Anderson
Kathryn Ann Armstrong
Alvina Mae Aubele
Elisse Joanne Aune
Thelma Emma Baker
Gerald Duane Beaulieu
Kim Alan Bengtson
Robert Patrick Benjamin
Wallace James Benjamin
Maurice James Boyd
Denise Lorette Chamblin
Debra Ann Contreras
Anthony Joseph Davis
James Daniel Davis
Ronald Dean Davis
Dale Wesley Day
Edna Mae Day
Stephanie Elaine Day
Winona Evens
Michael Joseph Fairbanks
Beverly Gay Fairchild
Lorraine Farah
Sharlene Anita Fisher

Dale Allan Garbow
Geraldine Ann Germann
Harry Lee Granger
Cynthia Ann Guernsey
Gary Lynn Haglund
Tamia Rose Hamilton
Robert Lewis Heinze
Allen Wayne Hemming
Terrance John Hendren
John Paul Hill
Molly Sam Judkins
Michael Wayne Kalk
Pamela Louise Keys
Susan Marie Lane
Cynthia Lee Lester
Harold Duane Matrious
Jeffrey Wayne Matrious
Mitchell Lee Matrious
Valerie Jean Matrious
Dominic Walter Mayotte
Janelle Arlene Meehl
James Roger Mitchell
Michele Elena Mueller
Arlyn Nickaboine
Lorraine Marie Nickaboine
Brian George Pike

Patricia Regguinti
Laural James Sam
Victoria Lea Smith
Eugene Raymond Staples
Beverly K. Sutton
John Sutton
Victoria Joy Verkennes
Carl Leslie Weous
Lorna Jayne Weous
Herbert Weyaus
Nancy Lee Wheeler
Sarita Inez White
Theresa Marie Williams
Larry James Wind
Ginette Marie Zustiak

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to: **Mark Gerald William Doust** on May 12 love you son! Love dad! • **Shel** May 9 love brother Jake, Melissa and Baby! • Happy birthday little brother **Jarvis** May 5, love big brother Jake, Melissa and Baby!

• **Auntie Val** on May 27 love Jake, Melissa and Baby! • Happy birthday sister **Pia** on May 3, love big brother Jake, Melissa and Baby! • Happy birthday **Jarvis** on May 5, love the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Shelby** May 9, love the Harrington Family • Happy birthday **Sissy** May 12, love your brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Taylor** May 19, love Dad, Adam, Papa Brad, Granny, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Brynley** May 26 love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, Binesiikwe, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor and Adam • Happy birthday

Gramma May 27, love Ogimaa Binesiikwe • Happy birthday **Baby Girl** May 31 love mom • Happy birthday **Pie** May 31 love Myla, Mom, Dan, Kev, Gram Kim, Papa Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Trinity, Galli, Bam, and Binesiikwe.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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
Deputy Assistant: Percy Benjamin 320-630-2496

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



NOTEBOARD NOTES

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

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

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



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</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>MMIW/R Event HHS, time TBD</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and Sheldon Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Joe and Sheldon Mille Lacs</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrell and Skip Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Darrell and Skip Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Chiminising Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Minisinaakwaang Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>District III Community Mtg. Grand Casino Hinckley 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Tim and Tom East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Tim and Tom East Lake</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pine County High School graduation celebration 6 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lee and Mike Lake Lena</p> <p>Memorial Holiday All Government Offices are closed.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Lee and Mike Lake Lena</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day All Government Offices are closed. Memorial Day Powwow Mille Lacs Indian Museum Noon</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	 <p>HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR VETERANS. "Native Americans' service to the U.S. is a most enduring and complicated sacrifice of self, framed in a promise to uphold a government that has historically targeted, swindled and decimated their communities several times over. And still, Indigenous people have served valiantly in every major conflict, every capacity, every generation since a formalized military was raised in 1775 for what became the Revolutionary War." (Smithsonian Magazine)</p>		



OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

ZAAGIBAGAA • MAY | VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 5

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



NAYAASHINGISKIGAMIZIGAN

SUGARBUSH CAMP KIDS CONNECTION. See page 8

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

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

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793.

District II: 320-630-7666.

District III: 320-630-2691.

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006.

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793.

Elder Services: 320-532-7854.

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672.

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027.

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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

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CORNER ARTIST

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WHAT IS THE GRA?

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MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
43408 Oodena Drive
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millelacsband.com

