



THE STORY AS IT'S TOLD. INAAJIMOWIN

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



TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT CHIEF EXECUTIVE BENJAMIN ON LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

Building on the 2021 Summit and the progress made to strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationships and invest record levels of resources in tribal communities, the Biden Administration hosted its first in-person White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C. Over the course of two days, the Summit hosted a robust and meaningful engagement with tribal leaders on the most critical issues facing Indian Country. Throughout the Summit, several 45-minute roundtable discussions were held using a question-and-answer format that most often included two tribal leaders and two federal officials. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's nationally recognized work in language revitalization was front-and-center during the two-day summit.

One of the Biden Administration's 2023 priorities is to finalize a 10-Year National Plan on Native Language Revitalization, in part due to an overwhelming body of national research proving that tribal communities with successful language and culture revitalization programs also experience a reduction in issues like unemployment, addiction, and violence. The draft plan was shared at the Summit. Due to the Band's groundbreaking work in the field of language revitalization, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was invited to serve with three other speakers on the Language Revitalization Panel, which included President Hoskin of the Cherokee Nation, Interior

Secretary Deb Haaland, and U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona.

Chief Executive Benjamin was asked to speak about the importance and urgency of language preservation, revitalization of the Ojibwe language, and the efforts the Mille Lacs Band has initiated to date. She stressed the Ojibwe teachings, values, and ceremonies must be done in the Ojibwe language to be able to understand and fully comprehend the meanings of each. Chief Executive Benjamin highlighted some of the efforts the Band has accomplished, including: First-language speakers, master apprentice speakers, and apprentices providing cultural teachings and language lessons; language tables, immersion language classes, and language lessons beginning in Head Start and

Early Education; the first series of monolingual Ojibwe books; and the Rosetta Stone project.

Secretaries Haaland and Cardona announced that the Biden Administration will consult with Tribal Nations on the draft and finalize the plan in 2023. This plan will be built upon four pillars: (1) Awareness — creating national awareness on the importance of Native languages, the current crises of Native language loss, and the urgency for immediate action; (2) Recognition/Affirmation — establishing a formal policy recognizing the role that the United States government played in

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39TH ANNUAL STATE OF THE BAND CELEBRATION INVITATION FOR BAND MEMBERS

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Mille Lacs Band statutes require that on the second Tuesday of each January, the Band Assembly will call a special joint assembly for the purpose of a State of the Band address.

The 39th Annual State of The Band will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. in person at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Convention Center.

Following the Ceremonial Drum, Grand Entry posting of the flags by Am Vets Post 53, the invocation by Lee Staples, Obi-zaan, and the singing of the National Anthem by Breya Sawyer, the Honorable Sheldon Boyd, Enimwewidang, Speaker of Assembly will convene the third Session 20th Assembly.

Guests will hear speeches by Speaker Boyd and the Honorable Sylvia Wise, District III Appellate Justice. The Honorable Melanie Benjamin, Mandaamin, Chief Executive will deliver the annual State of the Band Address.

Little Otter will close out the event with an honor song and as always, lunch will be served.

Band members will also have the opportunity to view pre-recorded video statements from each of the Executive Branch commissioners.

For Band members who cannot attend in person, you will be able to view the live-stream on line at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84721918352>.



TRIBAL POLICE LEAD INVESTIGATION RESULTING IN MAJOR DRUG BUST — SEE PAGE 5

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo Band members. I hope you all enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season with family and friends. As this year winds down, I am excited about reporting to you at the State of the Band Address on January 10 about the achievements we reached during 2022 as well as the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead of us in 2023.

I briefly want to share some of the biggest news we received in December, which is that the Secretary of Interior has finally given formal approval for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to hold a Secretarial Election regarding possible changes to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution. The election that was held in 2022 was a "non-binding" referendum to give the Tribal Executive Committee a sense of whether the membership is interested in holding an election on possible constitutional changes to enrollments where the results would be binding. A majority of MCT members who voted supported a future election regarding enrollment changes. But moving forward with a

binding election to make any changes to the MCT Constitution requires the approval of the Secretary of Interior.

This MCT first made this request for the Secretary of Interior to approve a Secretarial Election in 2017. After six years of waiting, the Department of Interior has finally given the green light to the MCT's request. What this decision by the Secretary of Interior means is that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe may now hold an election in the future about changes to the Constitution where the results will be binding.

You will hear more about this issue at the State of the Band Address, and as 2023 progresses I'm sure the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe will be disseminating information and educational materials to all MCT Members.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars for January 10 at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center, and I hope to see you and your family there!

Miigwech.



TAKING THE STAGE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Chief Executive Benjamin greeted President Biden during the Tribal Nations White House Summit in December 2022.

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erasing Native languages and affirming the need for federal resources and support for Native language revitalization; (3) Integration — integrating Native language revitalization in mainstream society, including in federal policies, and outlining the need to create Native language revitalization ecosystems; and (4) Support — identifying funding, including federal and philanthropic sources for Native language revitalization. Over 300 tribal leaders from across the United States attended the Summit, and Chief Executive Benjamin was one of a few who were invited to a meet-and-greet with President Biden.

The Summit also featured new Administration announcements and efforts to implement key policy initiatives that Chief Executive Benjamin and other tribal leaders have been requesting for many years. Among those were a new best-prac-

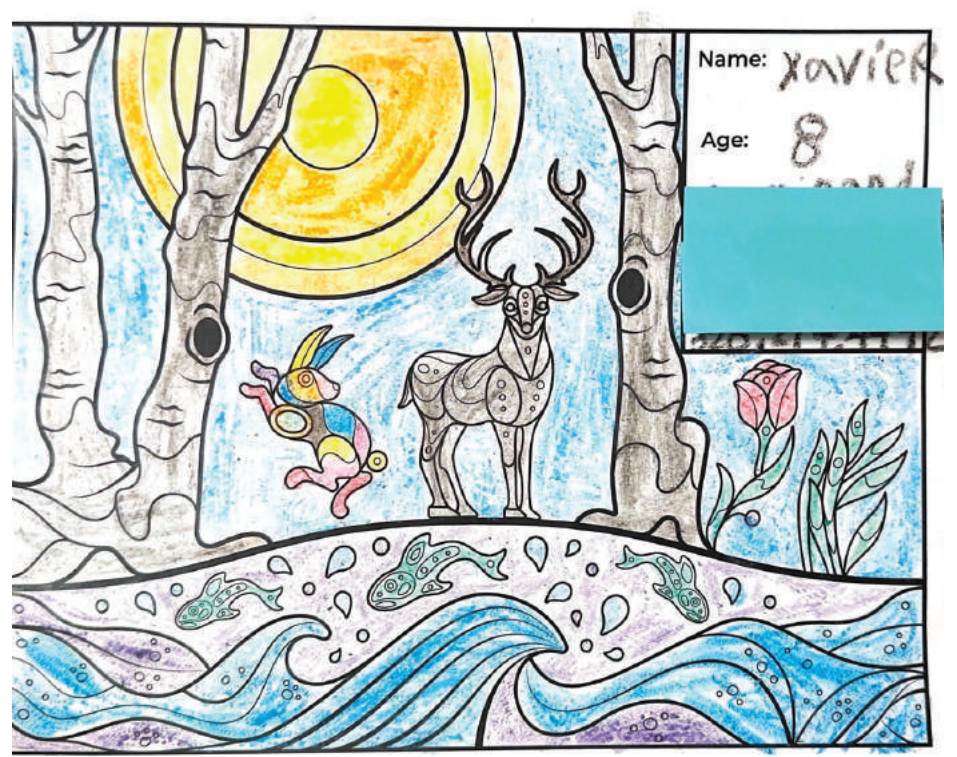
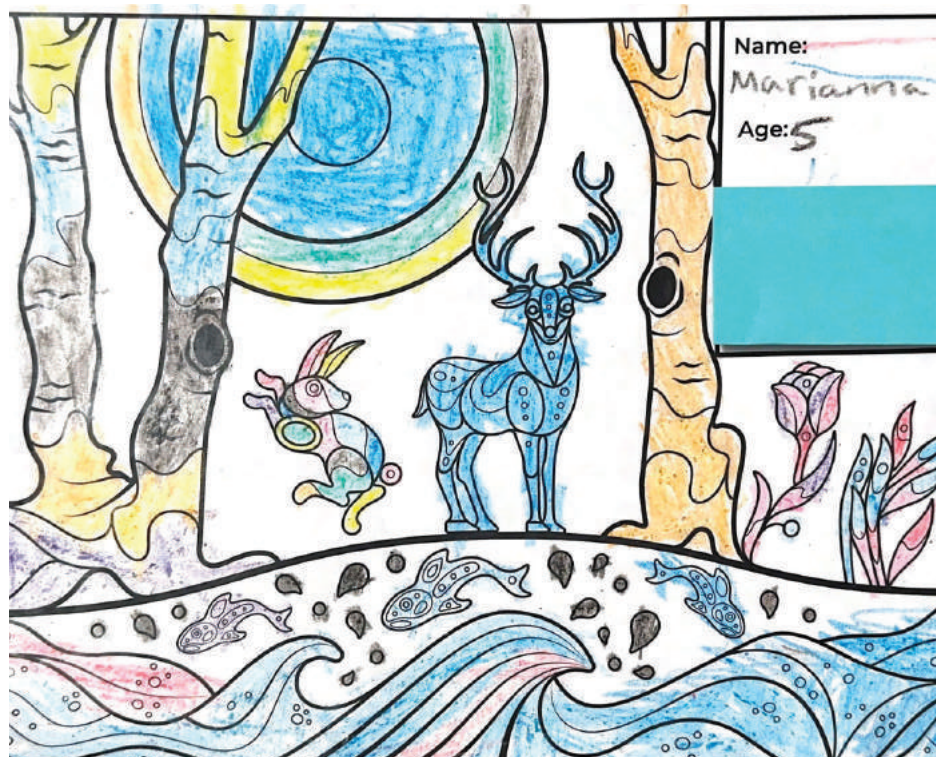
tices report requiring all departments to integrate tribal treaty and reserved rights into agency decision-making processes, a new access to capital initiative with the goal of increasing awareness, access, and utilization of financing opportunities for Tribal Nations, implementation of uniform standards all federal departments must follow when consulting with Tribal Nations, and agreements requiring more federal agency support for tribal co-management and co-stewardship of federal lands and waters.

Chief Executive Benjamin called President Biden's Summit "one of the most productive and far-reaching" that she has ever attended since President Clinton held the first ever Summit for Tribal Nations in 1994. "The changes and new initiatives that President Biden committed to during this Summit were game-changers for improving how the federal government consults with Indian tribes, because it expands the de-

gree to which we actually influence federal decision-making." Over two days, the Summit provided an opportunity for the Biden-Harris Administration and tribal leaders from federally recognized tribes to meaningfully engage about ways the federal government can invest in and strengthen Native communities, as well as ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come.

The Biden-Harris Administration stated they are deeply committed to honoring its trust and treaty responsibilities to federally recognized tribes, and this Summit provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to engage directly with officials in the highest levels of the Administration.

Day one of the Summit can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLHY8SayTP8>.



FALL FEAST TRADITION FOR THE YOUTH

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures held the annual Fall Feast Youth Coloring Contest on November 17, 2022. The blank image was designed by MLCV Brand Team designer Travis Bean and was inspired by the Four Seasons room at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. It symbolizes preparation for winter, food harvest, and birch bark for building. The contest was divided into two age categories: ages 1 through 5 and ages 6 through 10. Each winner has been awarded a \$500 Grand Makwa Cinema gift card. The winners are: Marianna, age 5, and Xavier, age 8.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

MILLE LACS BAND'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

This article first appeared in the April 2021 issue of the Inaajimowin. We are re-printing it here for your information.

By ADAM L. CANDLER, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Title 3 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes vests all legislative political authority within the Band Assembly. The Band typically exercises these legislative powers by approving bills and resolutions, but also has the authority to adopt Legislative Orders and annul Commissioner's Orders and Solicitor's Opinions. Moreover, the Band Assembly is empowered by Title 6 of Band Statutes to amend the tribal government's Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual and by Title 12 to ratify Housing Policies.

The Band Assembly passes two types of bills: appropriation bills and authorization bills. An appropriation bill is a proposed law that authorizes the expenditure of tribal government funds and is most often recommended to the Band Assembly by the Band's Commissioner of Finance, Administrative Policy Board, or both. An authorization bill is a proposed law that authorizes the activities of various departments and programs that are part of the tribal government.

If either type of bill is approved by the Band Assembly, it must be transmitted to the Chief Executive within 72 hours. Subsequently, the Chief Executive has five calendar days from the date of receipt to either sign the bill into law or impose a veto. In the event that the Chief Executive does not sign the bill at all, the bill automatically becomes law at the end of the five-day approval window.

If the Chief Executive vetoes an authorization bill, the Chief Executive and Band Assembly must conduct a compromise hearing within five calendar days of the return of the bill to the Band Assembly. If the compromise hearing is not conducted within those five calendar days, all action on the bill is halted by statute for a period of 180 days. If the hearing is conduct-

ed on time, a 15-day negotiation period is allowed to reach an agreement. If an agreement is not reached within those 15 days, all action on the bill is similarly halted for a period of 180 days.

A veto of an appropriation bill by the Chief Executive follows a different process. Namely, the compromise hearing must be conducted within three days, not five. Band Assembly negotiations with the Chief Executive begin on the fourth day, and the Band Assembly cannot legally adjourn until a compromise has been reached.

Authorization bills are presented to the Band Assembly by one of the Band's three District Representatives. The Band Assembly now employs a Revisor of Statutes under Title 25 to assist the District Representatives with the drafting of authorization bills. Although the Office of the Solicitor General may assist in drafting such legislative items as bills and resolutions in accordance with Title 4, this can only be done if requested by the Speaker of the Assembly.

District Representatives also reserve the option to post any proposed authorization bill for public comment in accordance with Legislative Order 28-20. This procedure has been used in the recent past and will likely be used again soon. The revision of certain Mille Lacs Band statutes also requires a formal public hearing in order for them to be effective. Band members seeking to shape the legislative process are encouraged to (a) provide comments when legislation is posted for public comment, (b) attend formal public hearings when they are scheduled, and (c) contact their District Representatives with ideas and suggestions for proposed legislation.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Notice of request for public comment

To Mille Lacs Band Members and Employees:

Please accept this letter as notice that the Band Assembly is seeking public comments on proposed legislation, available on the Band's Tribal Register, amending Title 15, Chapter 1 – Gaming Regulatory Act. The proposed legislation would make comprehensive amendments to the Band's gaming code.

The public comment period has been set at 35 calendar days. Therefore, please submit any written comments to legislation@millelacsband.com no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Please use "Gaming Code" 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 department, office, board, entity, or branch.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

Virgil Wind, District I Representative

Wendy Merrill, District II Representative

Harry Davis, District III Representative

Band Assembly meeting December 14, 2022

The District Representatives received a presentation from Mille Lacs Band Members Wanetta Thompson and Laikora Thompson regarding Maada'oonidiwag - Blandin Foundation Grant. The presentation was held with an opening, overview, and questions from the Representatives. Part of the presentation was discussed in Executive Session.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-96-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Mille Lac Corporate Ventures for Wewinabi Inc. for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs on December 2, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-46-22 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until February 28, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-47-22 (A Resolution Authorizing the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to Expend Funds from FY2023 Capital Budget for Grand Casino Hinckley Projects).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-48-22 (A Resolution Authorizing the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to Expend Funds from FY2023 Capital Budget for Grand Casino Mille Lacs Projects).

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 10 a.m. available in person or via live streaming through the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe members page.

Miigwech and happy new year!

CELEBRATING OF STORIES



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has had a newspaper to report news and stories about the Band for several decades. The publication has been known as Mille Lacs Progress and The Mille Lacs Band News, among other names. But in 1999, that began to change. For many months, the communications teams were hard at work to develop innovative ways to improve the publication to include more news and information on the progress of the Band. A survey was sent out to Band members requesting their input. Much thought was put into all areas of the newspaper, including what fonts to use, the style, format, design, and layout of something bigger, bolder, and brighter. Even more important than those key areas was what the publication should be named. After months of dedication and commitment, Volume 1, Number 1 of the new Mille Lacs Band publication, *The Ojibwe Inaajimowin* was published.

On the front page of Volume 1, Number 1 of *the Ojibwe Inaajimowin* was an article written by the then current editor Barb Benjamin-Robertson. She wrote: "When naming the new Band publication, we sought the counsel of Nay Ah Shing Ojibwe Language Teacher Millie Benjamin and Band Elder Jim Clark who suggested Inaajimowin, which means, 'the story as it's told.' Every month *the Ojibwe Inaajimowin* will live up to its name by bringing you accurate news and information about the events, programs, people, and services that affect you as a member of the Mille Lacs Band."

She went on to explain in greater detail the larger newspaper format with reader-friendly design would better showcase improved articles about "education, the community, and the Band's growth. And the familiar leaf beadwork of deceased Band member Batiste Sam still graces the front page."

This year marks the beginning of 25 volumes marking 25 years of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. The *Inaajimowin* has undergone a few more changes in the years that followed. But one thing that hasn't changed in the last 25 volumes is the commitment to bringing the readers news, information, and stories about the growth and progress of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

So, this year as we celebrate 25 years with Volume 25 of the *Inaajimowin*, there will be a few surprises in store for you. We can't give away all of the them (or it wouldn't be a surprise, right?). We will be celebrating for all 12 issues and in each issue, we will share with you pieces of history with articles from past issues of the *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* as well as the current information that will continue to mark the progress of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and will continue to tell "the story as it's told" and live up the name *The Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

As always, if you have story ideas you would like us to write about, please share them with the staff and send your ideas to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-320-8195. And did you know Band members can be paid to write stories and articles for the *Inaajimowin*? If you are interested in learning more, please reach out directly by emailing vivian.lamoore@millelacsband.com. Miigwech.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Mille Lacs County holds truth in taxation hearing:

The Mille Lacs County Board has set the preliminary tax levy at 11.5 percent increase and will set the final 2023 tax levy on December 28. The board can lower the tax levy by December 28, but the levy cannot be set any higher than that preliminary figure. The county board held its annual truth-in-taxation hearing at its Thursday, Dec. 8 meeting- a meeting at which the public got to hear and comment- on the specifics of the levy that will help fund the county's 2023 budget. Hayes also provided an update on fees for the ongoing lawsuit between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs County. He showed that the county has been under-budgeting. In 2021 the county budgeted for \$1 million; the actual expense came in to be over \$1.9 million. That gap has mostly closed in 2022, with the budgeted expense being about \$974,000 and the actual expense coming in at \$1 million as of November 2022. The expensive "discovery phase" of the lawsuit has drawn to a conclusion. Out of home placement costs also greatly impact Mille Lacs County, Hayes said. Among other counties, Mille Lacs County is lobbying the legislature to help cover those increasing costs. Hayes, during the presentation, stated that tribal members are about 7% of the population whereas they reportedly account for about 60% of out of home placement costs. Source: *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

Red Lake Nation population projections take center stage at listening sessions:

The sessions included six scenarios detailing potential tribal membership growth or decline over the next 100 years if blood quantum requirements were to change. Three years after the Red Lake Tribal Council voted to change the recorded blood quantum of tribal members on the 1958 base roll to a 4/4 blood degree, or full blood, the nation is discussing possible action to further strengthen its membership for years to come. During some enrollment projection listening sessions throughout Red Lake Nation and in Minneapolis Dec. 11-15, members had a chance to hear from Nicole Martin Rogers, a White Earth descendant and research scientist with Wilder Research in St. Paul. Red Lake Nation contracted with Wilder Research to produce population projections under the current tribal membership criteria, which requires that somebody has 1/4 Red Lake Nation blood quantum in order to become an enrolled member. A primary concern raised throughout the sessions is the rapid decline of the tribe's population, particularly with younger members having lower levels of blood quantum that eventually restrict them from tribal enrollment. Source: *Bemidji Pioneer*

Water Protector Defense Attorneys Warn of "Breakdown in Separation of Powers:"

Prosecutions of Water Protectors in Aitkin County are seven times more likely to remain unresolved than other cases. From late 2019 through 2021, at least 115 Water Protectors were arrested in Aitkin County, Minnesota (population 15,800) for their resistance to Enbridge Inc.'s Line 3 tar sands pipeline. Today, 50 defendants continue to face charges, according to Marla Marcum of the Climate Disobedience Center. Open cases include seven social media-based prosecutions including of Winona LaDuke, co-founder of the Native advocacy organization Honor the Earth. Source: *Truthout*

AANJIBIMAADIZING

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES

Helping to enrich history and traditional oral spiritual teachings

Preserving, protecting, and sharing the rich history, culture, traditions, and language of the Mille Lacs Band is one of the goals of the Cultural Team of Aanjibimaadizing. Through various projects and partnerships with other Mille Lacs Band departments and outside entities such as Rosetta Stone, the Minnesota Historical Society, and others, the team is incorporating the vast knowledge and experience of Band Elders to guide them in their efforts. Recently, team members and a couple of Elders visited the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul for a sharing of knowledge. The goal was an outreach discussing the possibilities of furthering partnerships, digitization of photos, and sharing information to help facilitate projects which will be mutually beneficial to both the Band and Historical Society.

"It was like an old-fashioned house call," said team member James Clark. Clark, along with Elders Shirley Boyd and Bette Sam, and Aanji team members Chato Gonzalez and Karen Pagnac, met with Rita Walaszek Arndt (the Program and Outreach Manager) and the rest of her team in the Native American Initiative Department of the Minnesota Historical Society to help correlate some of the museum's archived collections and photographs.

Part of the day was spent going through old photographs held by the museum. There were photos of the Mille Lacs Reservation including of the old school house where Boyd and Sam attended school before the government center was built. Many of the photos, including the somewhat famous sugar-bushing photos, and photos of Maude and Martin Kegg, were taken by photographer Monroe Killy.

Going through the photos and collections was a highlight of the day for Elders Boyd and Sam. They were also able to view a bandolier bag made by Mary Pike, language books, and items of Jim Clark (great-grandfather of James Clark).

"Getting our department and the Elders involved and better acquainted with museum and Historical Society staff is all about relationship building, and trust building," Clark said. "That trust has to come from all people involved. This trip was very useful in that regard. Not to mention it was fun to view the collections and see the smiles on Bette and Shirley's faces as they looked through the photos."

As they looked through the collections, Clark was also gathering ideas for another tier of the Cultural Team projects of adding to the ongoing collection of oral history. Clark is working on collecting oral history of the Band through recordings of Elders as they remember the stories and history as it was told to them, or as they lived it themselves. Some of these recordings can be found on the Aanji.org website under the Culture tab.

"We hope to do more with historical society in the future. They are already working on getting us some materials to put on the website for Band members to enjoy," Clark added. "We are creating new resources and collecting resources that are very specific to the Mille Lacs Band."

"This is an ongoing thing with the historical society," said



Mille Lacs Band Elders Bette Sam and Shirley Boyd assisting Aanjibimaadizing by helping to identify photographs located at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

Karen Pagnac, Aanjibimaadizing Training Manager. "We want to be able to add these experiences with the Elders to incorporate with other resources to add to the cultural website. Any opportunity you have to spend time with the Elders is a blessing. The stories they tell, the things they share about their experiences from their perspective, it is not only fun and educational, but it fills your heart."

Other tiers the Cultural Team is working on are setting up language tables and spiritual teachings.

The language tables will be a chance for Band members to gather, share food, and go over units of Rosetta Stone as a good way to practice speaking Ojibwe.

They are also coordinating ways of passing on traditions and spiritual teachings. The Anishinaabe have spiritual beliefs that have been passed down by oral tradition. Spiritual beliefs and ceremonies are very important to the people and help guide them through life. Aanjibimaadizing is training a cohort of apprentices to carry on the oral traditions and spiritual guidance. Within the Aanji program are the masters such as Lee Obizaan Staples and Chato Gonzalez. The apprentices are currently Dan Wind, Daphne Shabaish, Lyndsay Mitchell, and Jada Grapp. The apprentices are guided by the masters in areas of funerals, sweat lodges, midewiwin, dances, ceremonial dances, language, naming ceremonies, and others essential to the Ojibwe culture. "They are all on-call helpers or oshkaabewisag," Clark said.

"The cultural team has been working really hard. We are really starting to see a movement in the community with more people being active in cultural activities," Pagnac said. "With more knowledge, everyone is more connected. And that is good for the whole community."



Mille Lacs Band Elders Bette Sam and Shirley Boyd looking over photos at the Minnesota Historical Society, Elder Bette Sam said, "I'm surprised they knew who I was. I am famous." Elder Shirley Boyd said, "What I liked was finding them pictures of my family."

"STREETZ" AND DRUGS OFF THE STREETS OF MILLE LACS RESERVATION

Tribal PD spearheaded the investigation resulting in major drug bust

By VIVIAN LaMOORE, INAAJIMOWIN EDITOR

Spurred by an anonymous tip to Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police from a concerned community member, tribal investigators began a months-long investigation into the sale of illicit drugs on the Reservation. After the initial tip, another community member experienced an overdose as a result of allegedly consuming counterfeit fentanyl pills in Isle, Minnesota. Fortunately, the overdose victim survived. From there, tribal investigators followed the trail across several counties, partnering with other law enforcement agencies, and on December 20, 2022, an arrest was made, taking down "Streetz," who authorities are calling a major player in drug trafficking to the Reservation and beyond.

From September through October 2022, through investigative techniques tribal investigators discovered that the main supplier to the area was 34-year-old Thomas Ardell Gentry Jr., otherwise known as "Streetz," from St. Cloud.

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police partnered with law enforcement officers from the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force, Brainerd Police, Lakes Area Drug Investigation Division (LADID), and other agencies in the investigation of a "large-scale distribution of counterfeit M Box 30 pills" — which commonly are laced with fentanyl — on the Mille Lacs Reservation and elsewhere in the state. The investigation resulted in the arrest of Gentry. The investigation also resulted in taking deadly drugs off the streets of the Mille Lacs Reservation and surrounding areas and other markets of St. Cloud, Onamia, and the Twin Cities Metro areas. Following the execution of multiple search warrants, law enforcement confiscated over 17,000 fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills, \$45,000 cash, nearly 1 1/3 pounds of marijuana and three-fourths of an ounce of cocaine.

Gentry (a.k.a. Streetz) was charged Thursday, December 22, 2022, in Anoka County District Court with five felony drug counts and misdemeanor of providing false information to police in connection with the confiscated items.

"These types of investigations are very time consuming, and a lot of hours — day and night — go into them. I couldn't be more proud of our Investigators for the work they have done to bring this man to justice and the efforts to keep our community safe," Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Chief James West said.

According to the criminal complaint:

On and after August 6, 2022, a Special Agent BCA in partnership with detectives, investigators, and law enforcement officers from the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force, the Mille Lacs Tribal Police, and other law enforcement investigated the large-scale distribution of counterfeit "M Box 30 pills" at the Mille Lacs Reservation and elsewhere in Minnesota.

Investigators confirmed text messages relating to the sale of counterfeit pills from an individual identified as Gentry and subsequently confirmed that Gentry's cell phone registered to Gentry. On October 3, 2022, investigators saw a black BMW SUV with dark tinted windows associated with the defendant meet with the occupant of another vehicle on the side of a roadway in the City of St. Cloud, County of Stearns. The other vehicle was kept under surveillance by law enforcement and was stopped in Onamia. A large quantity of counterfeit "M Box 30 pills" were seized from the occupant, who confirmed that the pills contained fentanyl, a narcotic and a Schedule II con-



This photo indicates the differences between authentic oxycodone M30 tablets and fake pills containing fentanyl. As you can see it is difficult to tell the difference. Photo credit DEA Drug Fact Sheet.

trolled substance. The occupant's cell phone contained messages from Gentry's cell phone confirming that the occupant bought the pills from Gentry.

The first of two separate searches was done in Maple Grove, where 12,800 of the counterfeit pills were seized along with \$38,500 in cash. Forensic testing of one of the blue pills confirmed that each pill was 0.104 grams of fentanyl.

The second search was conducted in Coon Rapids at the alleged residence of Gentry. Law enforcement confiscated about 4,300 similar pills, 589 grams (or nearly 1 1/3 pounds) of marijuana, 21 grams (or three-fourths of an ounce) of cocaine, and \$6,592 in cash. Forensic testing of one of the identical blue pills seized from the home was confirmed to be 0.105 grams of fentanyl.

Counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl are to blame for a vast majority of the growing number of overdose deaths nationwide. It is highly likely the person(s) taking the counterfeit pills do not even know they contain the deadly drug. According to DEA.gov, two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal depending on a person's body size, tolerance, and past usage. DEA analysis has found counterfeit pills ranging from .02 to 5.1 milligrams (more than twice the lethal dose) of fentanyl per tablet.

- 42 percent of pills tested for fentanyl contained at least 2 mg of fentanyl, considered a potentially lethal dose.
- Drug trafficking organizations typically distribute fentanyl by the kilogram. One kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000 people.

Authorities have stated Gentry allegedly holds "a high position in the drug distribution hierarchy."

Gentry was also a youth basketball coach in the St. Cloud area at the time of his arrest.

At the time of this printing, Gentry remained in custody in the Anoka County Jail with bail set at \$750,000.

West credits the excellent work of TPD with not only their investigative skills, but a large part is that the officers and investigators know, understand, and genuinely care about the community. "Having a good rapport with the community is key in any investigation," West said.

Community members are encouraged to report any and all tips to the Tribal Police. You may remain anonymous.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Law protects export of sacred Native

American items from US: Federal penalties have increased under a newly signed law intended to protect the cultural patrimony of Native American tribes, immediately making some crimes a felony and doubling the prison time for anyone convicted of multiple offenses. President Joe Biden signed the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act on Dec. 21, a bill that had been introduced since 2016. Along with stiffer penalties, it prohibits the export of sacred Native American items from the U.S. and creates a certification process to distinguish art from sacred items. Source: Associated Press

Committee advances Native American

education bills: Wisconsin's State-Tribal Relations special committee unanimously voted to advance a bill that would update a 1989 law that requires primary and secondary public schools to teach students about the history, culture and treaty rights of Wisconsin's Native Americans Tuesday. The committee will recommend the bill, along with four others that were unanimously advanced, for consideration in the new legislative session that begins in January. "Education is important and to have these kids grow up and have a good education like everybody else in the state ... anything that helps them with keeping their tribal heritage in their education should be important to everybody," committee chairman Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) said. Source: *Wisconsin Examiner*.

Rep. Kilmer, Sen. Warren unveil Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act

U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MS) unveiled the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act, historic legislation to address chronic underfunding and barriers to sovereignty faced by Indian Country as a result of the federal government's failures to meet its trust and treaty responsibilities. The legislation would hold the federal government accountable for honoring the country's legal promises to Native peoples. In December 2018, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) released a report, Broken Promises: Continuing Federal Funding Shortfall for Native Americans, which the lawmakers viewed as a call to action for the entire U.S. Congress. The Broken Promises report, which was undertaken at Representative Kilmer's request in 2015, evaluated whether the federal government has met its trust and treaty obligations to Native peoples, particularly pertaining to federal spending in the areas of housing, education, health care, economic development, and public safety. This legislation implements the recommendations of that report. Source: *Indian Gaming*.

First Native American joins state appeals

court: Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' chief tribal judge has been appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals, making her the first Indigenous person to serve the courts, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Tuesday.

Upon confirmation from the state Senate, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, a citizen of the LTBB, will be the first Native citizen ever to be appointed to Michigan's second-highest court. Source *Traverse City Record Eagle*.



As of press time, Thomas Ardell Gentry Jr., a/k/a Streetz remains in custody at the Anoka County jail held on \$750,000 bail.

BE SMART WITH NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



By JACKIE GLUCK (BRAUN), MS, RDN POPULATION HEALTH MANAGER

Most of us start the new year with the best intentions to become a healthier person. Unfortunately, studies show that less than half of Americans who set a New Year's resolution



achieve it by the end of the year. Why do most resolutions fail? Some of the main reasons for not accomplishing goals include setting unrealistic expectations, lack of support or accountability, and losing motivation.

The key to success is to set SMART goals to help focus your efforts and increase the chances of achieving your goals.

Specific:

The first step is to be as clear and concise as possible when setting goals. "Be more active" is a good start, but it is too general to know if it is accomplished. "Walk every day on my lunch break" is a specific goal.

Measurable:

If you measure your progress, you can hold yourself accountable and know if you are succeeding. Set a quantifiable number that will indicate if you have met your goal. Changing the goal above to "Walk every day for 15 minutes on my lunch break" makes this a measurable goal.

Attainable/Achievable:

Be realistic. Aim for something challenging, but not impossible. Long-term behavior change is more likely to occur if you start small. Make sure you have the tools, information, and resources you need to achieve your goal. Is there a safe space to walk during your lunch break or will you need a gym mem-

bership? Limit the number of resolutions you set for this year. Too many goals can make it overwhelming and you may not reach any.

Relevant:

What is important to you? Is this resolution a priority to you? Is this important to your overall life goals? Ask yourself these questions, and answer honestly.

Timely:

Indicate a target finish date. You don't have to wait until the end of the year to check in on the progress of your goals. You could work on something for a week, a month, six months, or the whole year.

Examples of SMART goals:

- Consume at least two vegetables daily, five days a week.
- Exercise for 30 minutes three times each week.
- Drink 64 oz. of water daily.
- Eat out no more than two times per week.
- Limit soda or juice to no more than 12 oz. per day.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

THE CENTER OF THE MOON

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.

The name that was given to me in the English language is Jim Clark. But my Ojibwe name — my name in my language — is Nawigiizis.

People ask me, "What does that mean?" And I tell them, it means the center of the moon. Giizis is the Ojibwe word for sun or moon.

So then people say, "How do you know it's the center of the moon instead of the center of the sun?" And I have to tell them how I know.

When that name was given to me, I was just a little baby. The man who gave me that name told my mother to make a painted brooch. It was very small — most brooches like this are approximately 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter (and many are made of beads). The man said this particular brooch should have a white background. Standing in front of that background should be a figure of a man with a hat on. The man should be standing there with his left arm down and the other arm outstretched. In this outstretched arm he's got a pipe — a long pipe that touches the ground.

It's all white — a black figure on a white background. That's the man in the moon. So I have to tell them that, that's how I know Nawigiizis means the center of the moon, although it's true that the word also means the center of the sun.

There are other people who have the same name. I have a nephew whose name is Nawigiizis. And there's a fellow who grew up here near Onamia whose name was Nawigiizis.

I grew up in Aazhoomog over near Hinckley.

There are women who have that name, too. Nawigiizis is a man, and Nawigiizissokweh is a woman.

As I said, a man gave me that name. That's because in our tradition, only certain people can give names. There are people who are gifted by the Creator to be able to give names.

The Creator or some being teaches them and gives them permission to use this kind of a name or that kind of a name.

When an Indian person is gifted in some way — such as being able to give names — they don't advertise that fact. But other people will come to them and ask, "Will you give my baby a name?"

Today there are some Anishinaabe who do not use the Indian names they were given and instead use only their English names. Eventually, some may even forget their Ojibwe names.

I hope they do not, because these names were given to them for their protection from whatever evil they may encounter throughout their lives. So if you have an Anishinaabe name, use it so you will be remembered and known by friends.

I don't have that brooch anymore. I lost it one day over at a carnival. I was getting some money out of my wallet for my daughter, and I must have dropped the brooch. But I still remember and use my name Nawigiizis.

BIG BEAR BASKETBALL YOUTH CAMP COACH

Emerging young leaders give youth something to look forward to

By MASHKODE-BIZHIKGAHBAW BENJI SAM

The game of basketball may be an old sport, but around Indian Country, there is a growing love and appreciation for the game. The hardwood has been a place for many to call home, including recent graduate and standout in the Mille Lacs area, Eldayshun Big Bear, who has found his calling within the game of basketball not only as a player, but now as a coach.

The Isle Huskie alum, who achieved the career assist record in his time on the hardwood, grew into an appreciation of the sport, the process, and the camaraderie in his last few years of high school basketball. Big Bear believes the game of basketball can change people's lives and brings more people together. "I met two of my best friends, Mykal Garbow and Cedric LaFave, who I now consider my brothers, because of it [basketball]," said Big Bear.

As a part of growing the game locally, Big Bear, with the help of Garbow and LaFave, has started with a vision of giving children some role models to be able to learn from and observe on and off the court. "Growing up, we didn't have many role models to learn from and I realized that I wanted to be able step into that role for kids through the game of basketball," he said. "That's why I started wanting to put on some basketball showcase camps for kids to be able to learn from a few players who have been changed by the game."

In late November and December, Big Bear and company put on two basketball showcase camps for Mille Lacs Band members at the new District I Community Center. Big Bear's vision was to perform skill assessments through drills, game play, and performance review. "We gave each of the kids an evaluation card with three of their strengths, weaknesses, and

three players they can look up in their own time to refine their skills," said Big Bear.

At each of these camps, kids were engaged, eyes focused on the game, the approach, the knowledge being shared. On-lookers took note in how involved the kids were and how eager they were to learn. When coaches were talking, no basketballs were bouncing, no side chatter was heard, and all eyes were in attention. The kids were all in.

That is exactly what Big Bear hoped for — to give tribal youth something to look forward to, be someone they can look up to, and using the game of basketball to get there has always been his goal. "Memories like these are everything to a tribal youth, getting any opportunity to show your skills, learn something new, and be able to hang around someone you can relate/look up to. I take a lot of pride in relating to these kids," Big Bear says.

"I also want to give credit to District I Representative Virgil Wind for helping to make this happen," Big Bear said. "He helped organize and get this together and believes in the process."

When asked about why a camp like this matters, District I Representative Virgil Wind says, "I would say that the devotion and willingness to give back like this is what is really needed to help entice our youth to participate. The ability for our young leaders to connect with the youth is also an integral part of these being a success," he said.

Keep an eye ahead for more youth camps in the future as basketball continues to grow within our community.



District I Community Center youth basketball camp provides coaching for youth and mentorship both on and off the court.



When coaches were talking, no basketballs were bouncing, no side chatter was heard, and all eyes were in attention. The kids were all in at basketball camp.

TERC RESPONDS TO SNOWMAGEDDON 2022

Back-to-back snow events brought heavy wet snow frigid temperatures, dangerous windchills, and power outages

By VIVIAN LAMOORE, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

This is Minnesota. We know Minnesota winters have the capacity to bring snow, wind, cold, sub-zero temperatures and temps above freezing, rain, thunder, lightning, sunshine, and clouds — sometimes all within a 24-hour period. Being prepared for just about anything and everything is a good rule of thumb — especially in the winter. With that in mind, coupled with the importance of keeping Band members informed and safe, the Tribal Emergency Response Committee is constantly monitoring as much information from state and federal partners as possible, specifically regarding issues of public health and safety. That is why when the weather turns toward the ominous and the safety of the community has the potential to be threatening, the TERC will pull together for discussion and action if necessary. That is exactly what happened in mid-December 2022.

Meteorologists on news stations from the Twin Cities to Duluth had been broadcasting news for days about the possibility of an impending storm that had the potential to dump copious amounts of snow across much of the state. And when Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Mille Lacs Band, received information straight from the National Weather Service in Duluth that the storm was highly likely to occur and affect most areas of the Mille Lacs Band Reservation and beyond, the TERC gathered via Zoom to create a plan to ensure the safety of the communities to the best of their ability.

When it comes to weather, no one can predict with 100 percent certainty everything that can happen. But the forecast was calling for rain, snow, wind, cold, everything in between, and combinations of it all. The biggest threat began with snow — and lots of it. Up to 20 inches fell within a 24-hour period depending on where you live. In the Vineland area, for example, reports came in from snow accumulations of 8 to 14 inches. Due to temperatures mostly in the double digits above zero and at times above freezing, the storm came in with a rain/snow mix and heavy, wet snow.

The Band Road Crews were prepared to begin plowing at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14. But the National Weather Service was advising no travel in most of the Reservation areas. With the safety of all Band members and employees in mind, the TERC recommended to Band leadership that all government offices, including Health and Human Services, clinics and pharmacy, schools, and outer district offices be closed for the day. Band leadership agreed and the decision was made.

It was all-hands-on-deck for the TERC and all road crews, including any Band department with the availability of any kind of plow truck for that day. Reservation roads were cleared and Elders' driveways were plowed as quickly as possible. But the full impact of the storm was yet to be determined.

Due to the moisture content in the snow, many areas experienced power outages — some for several hours, and some for more than a day. The TERC anticipated some power outages, and with the help of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, district offices, and Emergency Services staff from HHS, arrangements were made for emergency shelter for Band members should they find themselves without power for extended periods of time.

It was inevitable. Strong winds with gusts in excess of 50 mph in some areas blew through the region, causing downed trees and power lines. East Central Energy reported widespread power outages, impacting over 6,000 customers across the region, with the largest numbers located in Douglas, Pine, Kanabec, and portions of Mille Lacs counties. ECE sent word due to ongoing weather conditions that it could be a multi-day effort to restore power to all affected. Similar messages came in from Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative and other energy coops throughout the region.

Many Band members found themselves without power and many sought refuge at available resources. More snow was still expected.

Again the TERC recommended the closure on Thursday, December 15, of all government offices, including Health and Human



Services, clinics and pharmacy, schools, and outer district offices for the day. Band leadership agreed and the decision was made.

As conditions improved somewhat, the TERC recommended a two-hour late start for Friday, December 16, and again, Band leadership agreed and the decision was made. But some areas were still without power and emergency shelter arrangements were available to Band members.

Round two of winter storm advisories, watches, and warnings hit days later on Wednesday, December 20. With powerlines and trees already covered in heavy, wet snow, more power outages were expected. Again, the TERC, HHS Emergency Services, and MLCV arranged for sheltering services and all road crews were at the ready. DNR Wildland Crews stepped in with chainsaws to help clear debris and downed trees where possible.

Weather conditions deteriorated, with dangerously cold windchills in the 25 to 30 below zero range. The decision was made again that all Mille Lacs Band government offices, including Health and Human Services, outer offices, and schools would be closed for Thursday, December 22, 2022.

Although 2022 went out with a bang, it is highly likely that winter weather conditions will last for a few months into 2023. Rest assured that the TERC will keep you informed and do the best they can to help prepare the community for the worst that winter can give. Be safe, everyone.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RIISING STAR THROUGH THEATER, SPEECH, & SO MUCH MORE

Bright future ahead for 10th-grader Rihanna Smith

By AIYANNA MITCHELL, BAND MEMBER DESCENDANT

Rihanna Smith is a talented young woman who is currently attending Isle High School. For her, school is more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. She is involved in many extracurricular activities including speech, one-act school play, track, prom committee, yearbook, and student council. She was also involved with Cross Country team and the Rosetta Stone project. Smith is definitely a multitasker and exemplifies amazing time management by juggling these extracurricular activities while excelling in academics. She is nearly continuously on the A and B honor roll. Smith is currently 16 years old and has a bright future ahead.

Smith may only be in tenth grade, but she is a leader in the school plays. She has been the lead role for the plays, "What Happened After Once Upon a Time," and "Elf Jr. The Musical." She has been in eight plays throughout her life.

During Smith's first year competing in Speech, she was able to make it to conferences in the poetry division. She also managed to grip onto a varsity letter in One Act, Speech, and Cross Country. While she enjoys all of her activities, Smith said her favorite is speech because she loves to interact with others and loves to watch others perform. She loves public speaking. "It's a lifelong talent I can always have," she said.

"My motivation is just finding what I am super passionate about and love to do," she added. "I also want to build my college credits."

Smith's biggest influence and role model is her aunt District II Representative Wendy Merrill. "Wendy has done so much and overcome a lot and is currently doing a lot of important things to help the community," Smith said. "It's really cool to see that."

Kelly Labrossa, the Isle school play director, said, "As the director of school plays and musicals for the Isle School District, I have had the privilege of working with Rihanna since her first show in 2017. Right from the beginning, I was impressed by her eagerness to learn and willingness to take direction. Throughout the years since (eight school shows and two competitive one-act plays) I have watched her grow and blossom as both an actress and a person. Combining her natural talent with the skills she has learned, she has a knack for developing and connecting with the characters she portrays, taking them into herself and making them her own. I am always confident that she can handle any part (or combination of parts) that I give her, and I am confident that she will thrive and excel in her future!"

I myself have had the opportunity to be a teammate of Ri-



Rihanna Smith sewing one of 12 skirts she designed for the youth fashion show.



THE BEST WAY TO SPEND HOLIDAY CHEER IS WITH A MUSICAL ABOUT AN ELF

Rihanna Smith takes center stage playing the role of Jovie in the holiday play, "Elf the Musical."

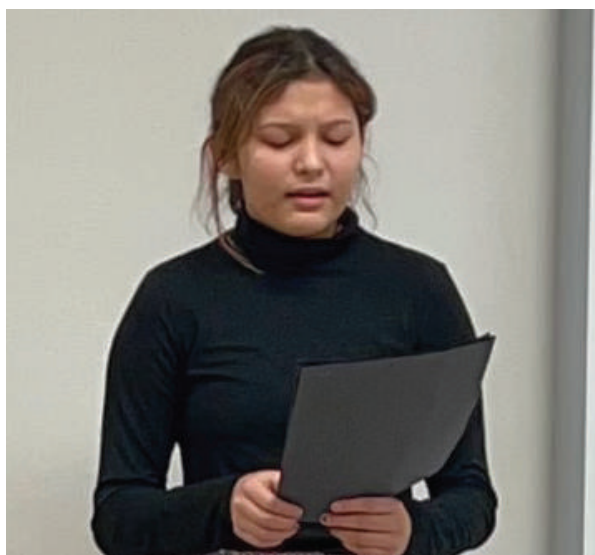
hanna when I was in high school and I would like to say she was very determined and was a hard worker. I competed with her in varsity track and basketball and I never understood how a girl could be so busy and talented while also taking top spots in academics, sports, and arts. To manage all of those together at such a young age impressed me. I saw her excel in speech and basketball during the same season and it was just amazing that she was able to do both. I knew then she was going to be a leader and have a bright future.

While Smith is only a 10th-grader, her inspiration is "Trying my hardest to get myself out there the most I can to get more experience," she said. Smith is already building her college resume and is hoping she can study law in the future. Looking ahead, she is hopeful she will be able to attend her dream school — Brown University.

Rihanna Smith no doubt is a rising star and future leader who is able to do whatever she puts her mind to.



Rihanna Smith thoroughly enjoys giving speeches and has fun.



Rihanna Smith puts a lot of emotion into every speech she delivers.



Rihanna Smith is all smiles after a speech competition. She already looks the part of a successful attorney.

EDUCATION MEET AND GREET



EDUCATORS FROM ACROSS THE MILLE LACS AREA

Nearly 150 area District I educators were honored by District I Representative Virgil Wind.

Educators gather for our community and our children

By MARY SAM

On November 30, 2022, nearly 150 educators and school board members from Onamia, Nay Ah Shing Schools, the Mille Lacs Area Early Childhood Programs, Mid-State District and Central Lakes College filled the new District I Community Center to meet Mille Lacs Band families and fellow educators, and come together for our community, and our children.

In a passionate welcome, event host District I Representative Virgil Wind told area educators that he was honored to have them visit the Mille Lacs Band community so they would feel welcome and learn a bit more about Ojibwe gatherings in order to further the success of our children. Representative Wind provided a reflection into his own past, noting “over the course of our lives, we all face obstacles.” He shared his philosophy, including his vision “to be stronger together” and the need to lift each other up. He thanked educators for attending as “your faces here tonight reflect that you care about our kids, our youth, and our community.” Throughout the event, the theme of the evening circled around caring for one another, and finding new ways to stretch and step out of our comfort zones.

Wind said he wants to “give back,” to say “Miigwech for

those who embrace kids.” He described himself as a “little rat” in the 1980s, as his family went through a difficult time having lost the grandparents who were raising him. “They left me grieving and lost, and I acted out a lot. I didn’t know how to feel grief and deal with such painful loss.” He described educators stepping up to help him, gesturing to those in the room who helped him along the way. Wind took this opportunity to thank an Onamia retired teacher, Tim DeYoung, for saving his life. “He fought for me, believed in me, and got me back on track.” Educators at times step into a much-needed role. Wind gifted his former teacher with a star quilt blanket. “I wouldn’t be here today, doing what I am doing, if Tim wouldn’t have invested in me.”

Joe Nayquonabe Sr.’s invocation reminded everyone to learn to thank one another; our teachers, our educators, “because they do a lot for us and our kids. They help our children pursue a good life and happiness.” Joe closed by reminding all in attendance “we need to help our community live together, to come together and to do good.” The energy in the room reinforced the passion to work harder — together.

Incoming Onamia School Board members weighed in on the evening. Richard Bloomer shared, “When you dare to cross invisible lines and get to know each other, break down barriers and reduce fear, isolation, and loneliness, we can help kids succeed.”

Mike Balder shared he was honored to be in attendance, “To meet others, learn about each other, and to create inclusion. We can’t go anywhere without relationships.”

Nay Ah Shing School Board member Sami Thomas was happy with the turnout for the evening, noting, “Our kids are moldable and it all starts with good relationships. This begins with us.”

Mille Lacs Band Commissioner of Education Niiyo Gonzalez thanked attendees for staying in the education field during the pandemic and also thanked those who are new to the profession just starting out. “I appreciate all that you do for our students.”

Les Gahbow, Bobby Eagle Sr., Bobby Eagle Jr., and Gabriel Gahbow sang an honor song for all educators. Les said he was pretty excited to see this gathering. “There is no better way to honor and show gratitude for their hard work and dedication in teaching our children to learn. We appreciate your relentless work to help sharpen and get these young minds ready for what is in store for them as adults. Without your hard work, our children would be in a world of chaos, so we sing for you tonight.”

Onamia parent Bobby Eagle Sr. thanked all educators for their amazing dedication to building amazing young bright-minded youth for our future.



Representative Wind honors Onamia retired teacher Tim DeYoung, who had a huge impact on his life

SPORTS BRIEFS

RAIDERS YOUTH BASKETBALL SEASON CLOSES

Photos by Aiyanna Mitchell, Band member descendant

From top to bottom:

Celia Merrill, #3

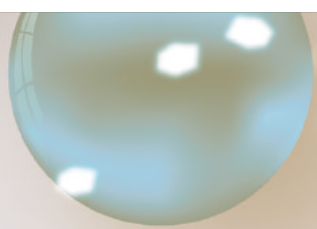
Neveah Merrill #42

Eric Harrington #25

Boys Raiders C-Squad (All 9th graders).

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.





MILLE LACS BAND CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

URBAN PHOTOS BY BRADLEY ROACHE JR.

URBAN



DISTRICT I



MILLE LACS BAND CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

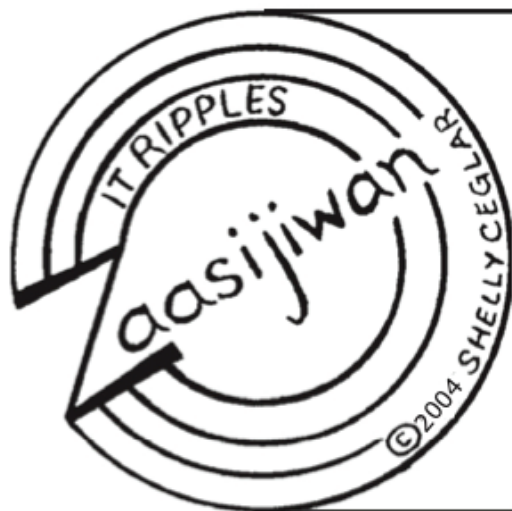
DISTRICT II PHOTOS SUBMITTED

DISTRICT I PHOTOS BY AIYANNA MITCHELL



DISTRICT I





Biboon naawaakwaa.

Biboong, gidondamanokiimin. Gigotaamigozimin.
 Gigizheb, gigwaaba'waawangwaanaan goon. Apane gibagidinise.
 Onaagoshing, gidadibaajimomin. Gigotaamigozimin. Ginaadamaagemin.
 Gibaamenimaanaanig abinoojiyag. Gijiibaakwemin. Gibiinichigemin.
 Gimazingwaasomin. Gigizhaadigemin Aking.

It is winter in the middle of the woods.

(While it is winter, we all keep busy with work. We are all good workers.
 In the morning, we shovel snow. All the time we put more wood on the fire. When
 it is evening, we tell stories. We are good providers. We help others.
 We care for the children. We cook. We clean.
 We do beadwork. We watch over things on the land/Earth.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

There are 4 distinct verb classifications, each with certain rules for sound changes for meaning. This column is written in the standardized double vowel writing system of Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waabang—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Anokjii—as in seen

Zoogipong—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Gaye—as in about

Nimj—as in tin

Omaa—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.

VAI-First Person Plural—We & We all (includes you)

In the VAI (verb, animate, intransitive) verb class, conjugate for **we** (exclusive/me and others) & **we all** (inclusive/me, others & you).

Anokii.—He or she works.
 Nindanokiimin.—We exclusive work.
 Gidanokiimin.—We inclusive work.
 Baapi.—He or she laughs.
 Nimbaapimin.—We exc laugh.
 Gibaapimin.—We all laugh.
 Minwendam.—He/She is glad.
 Niminwendaamin.—We are glad.
 Giminwendaamin.—We all are glad.

Niizh—2

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

A. Gashkii-dibikak, goshkokaayaang, nindaazhikwemin.
 B. Apane, waabamang a'aw migizi, giminwendaamin.
 C. Waabang, onishkaayang gigiziiyaabide'omin.
 D. Zoogipong agwajjiing aangidinong ninzhoomingwenimin gemaa nimawimin.
 E. Mikwamiiwadamong, ninzegendaamin gaye.
 F. Maazhi-giizhigak, anokiiwigamigong, gigashkendaamin.
 G. Giiwendinong omaa, gidawazomin.
 Mii'iw, miigwech.

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

Niswi—3

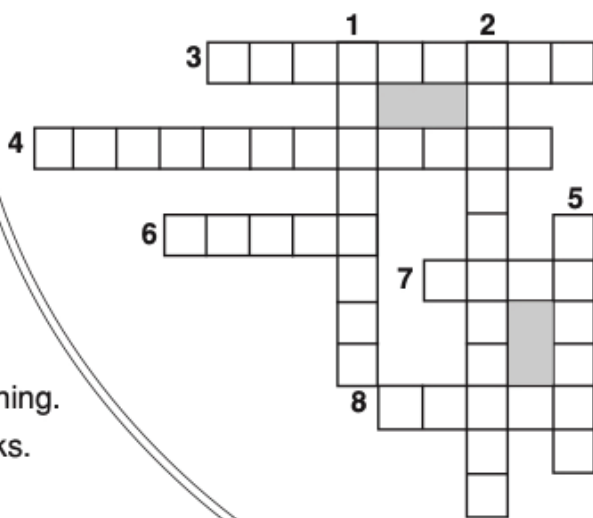
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- North
- When it is evening.
- He or she works.

Across:

- When it snows
- Children
- Always
- Snow
- He or she dances.



Niiwin—4

VAI—We and We all A & B form

A-form—(full sentence by itself)

Nagamo.—S/he sings.

Ninagamomin.—We (exc) sing.

Ginagamomin.—We (incl) sing.

B-form—(If, When, or While..., ...)

Nagamoyaang, niniimimin.

—When we (exc) sing, we dance.

Nagamoyang, gimiiminin.

—When we (inc) sing, we all dance.

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

- Maamawi niimi____, minwendaagwad.
- Zaaga'iganing biboong ____akwa'waa____.
- Zhooshkwaada'e____, gisinaa.
- Giiwe-biboong zhaawanong ____biboonishi____.
- Noongom ____minwenda____, Ojibwemoyang.

nind...min

nim...min

gi...amin

yaang

yang

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When it is dark as night, when we are startled, we scream. B. Always, when we all see him/her, that eagle, we all are happy. C. At dawn, when we get up, we brush our teeth. D. When it is snowing outside, sometimes we smile or we cry. E. When it is icy roads, we are nervous also. F. If it is a bad day at the workplace, we are sad. G. To the north here, we stay warm by the fire. That's it, thank-you.

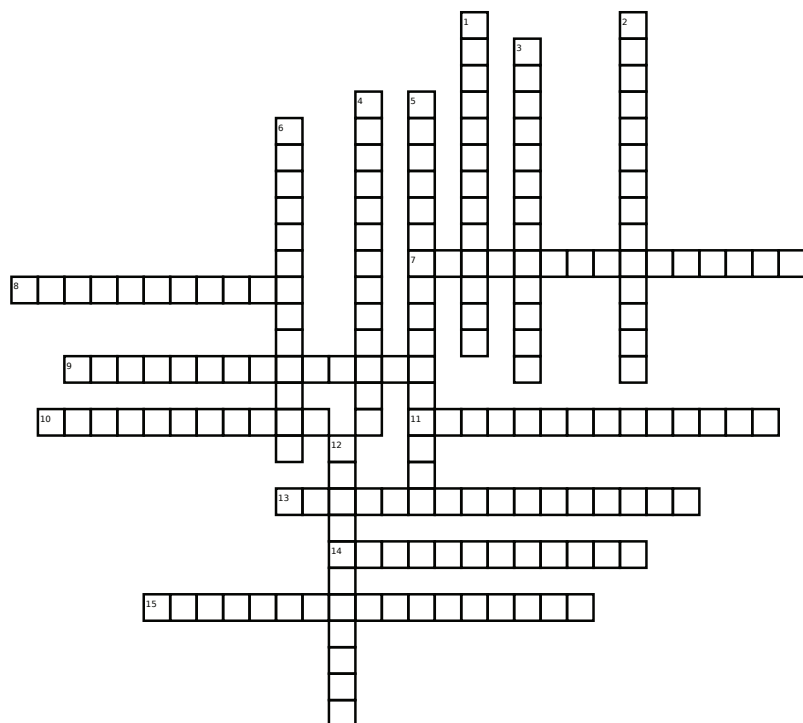
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Giiwedii 2. Onaagoshing 5. Anokii Across: 3. Zoogipong 4. Abinoojiyag 6. Apane 7. Goon 8. Niimi

Niiwin—4 1. Together when we all (inc yang) dance, it is fun. 2. At the lake in winter we (exc nind...min) fish through the ice with a spear. 3. When we (exc yaang) go skating, it is cold weather. 4. When it is late winter to the south, we (exc nim...min) spend the winter. 5. Now we all (inc gi...amin) are happy when we all speak Ojibwe.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

AAZHAWAAKWASING MANIDOO-GIIZIS

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER



Down:

1. I am sad.
2. I am bored.
3. I am holding something in my memory.
4. I am clear-minded.
5. I am giving too much consideration.
6. I am hopeful.
12. I am happy.

Across:

7. I am satisfied.
8. I feel bad.
9. I am depressed.
10. I am recalling something to memory.
11. I am surprised.
13. I am amazed.
14. I feel happy.
15. I am thankful.

NEW MOON, NEW ME!

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

As Anishinaabe, keeping in touch with our spiritual world will bring us assistance that was specifically meant for us. In other cultures there is a form of repentance. A cleansing of the spirit from guilt and shame. Also, there are times of new beginnings and change. "New Year New Me" is a common phrase in our current society around a date on the calendar that signifies a new year. A time to leave what was and manifest a dream to encounter what has yet to come. Declarations of resolutions to be healthier, involved and/or better with finances drive these manifestations. We gotta do our part though. It's like that across the board. We can dream it, we can state it, but it is when we apply our dreams to our life through actions is when the manifestation occurs.

But what about all this help you talk about?

For Anishinaabe, we have spirits who have agreed to help us out. There are Manidoog that come to us in dreams and visions. There are Manidoog that we don't even know are there. Missing and forgotten from our everyday faith. One that I have come across is Dibiki-giizis, the moon. The moon is a Manidoo, "not a ball of Green Bay cheese" as our ever so handsome elder would say. The Sun, Giizis, is a Manidoo, not a ball of gas. Although that's what its physical manifestation may take form as, regardless, to the Anishinaabe, the Sun is a Manidoo. We hear of Manidoog and oftentimes we don't know how to interact, think, or view them. Lost teachings and missing viewpoints from this life we were given but, there are still Manidoog who have agreed to help us. We need to learn how to accept that help.

In English, accepting something has a certain direction from the action. For Anishinaabe, accepting is more along the line of bringing in with your spirit on behalf of the spirits. We bring inward which allows for that we accepted to travel outward. The Manidoog are inward, outward, and everywhere. A different per-

spective of accepting. Rather than a bringing in for personal gain, it's a bringing in for personal gain for the benefit of the community.

Much like the sun that gifts us life everyday. The sun is a Manidoo that takes a certain physical form in order to exist in this physical world. A physical manifestation of spiritual energy. Giizis agreed to cross the sky giving light to the Anishinaabe to take care of themselves. The sun also agreed to give life while crossing the sky. We all learn in school that there would not be any life here without the sun. The Anishinaabe understood it. There is also a story that the sun stops at the highest point of the sky to admire the Anishinaabe and receive the gratitude we send in that direction.

Now about this moon you were talking about. Yes, Dibiki-giizis is yet another Manidoo that has agreed to help the Anishinaabe People. The help is very similar to this "New Year, New Me" business that we hear about during this time of year. The moon agreed to correct any mistakes we have made along the way. To put into place all that is needed for us to have life. And, the moon is strongest during the full moon. Chimookomaan must have sensed this time due to them relating this time to a time of madness. Maybe the correcting of mistakes feels like madness. Either way, the moon is there for us more regularly than a change of calendar year. We can redefine ourselves often with the assistance of the moon through gratitude and ceremony.

Maybe we can change the phrase to "New Moon, New Me!" Miigwech.



GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By NAZHIKE, MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER

Identify how you feel regularly. It keeps you in touch with yourself and those feelings will serve as a guide. Being true about our feelings leads us to being true to ourselves and others.

Niminwendam = I am happy.

(Nih min wayn dum)

Nimaanendam = I feel bad.

(Nih mah nayn dum)

Ningashkendam = I am sad.

(Nin gush kayn dum)

Ningoshkwendam = I am surprised.

(Nin go shkwayn dum)

Ninjiikendam = I feel happy.

(Nin jee kayn dum)

Nimaamakaadendam = I am amazed.

(Nih mah muh kah dayn dum)

Niniisaanendam = I feel depressed.

(Nih nee sah nayn dum)

Nindoonzaamendam = I am giving too much consideration.

(Nin doon zah mayn dum)

Ninzhigadendam = I am bored.

(Nin zih gud dayn dum)

Nindoombendam = I am hopeful.

(Nin doom bayn dum)

Niminjimendam = I am holding something in my memory.

(Nih min jih mayn dum)

Nimikwendam = I am recalling something to memory. (Nih mik wayn dum)

Nimiigwechwendam = I am thankful.

(Nih mee gweh chew wayn dum)

Nindebisewendam = Does it smell nice Y/N?

(Nin day bis say wayn dum)

Nimbagakendam = Do I smell nice Y/N?

(Nim bug guk kayn dum)

Miigwech.

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

NIMII MIIGWECH ITAAGOZ (I THANK THEM)

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

November was a month of giving thanks; during our Fall Feast held at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs, I gave an invocation. During this invocation, I included a thank you to the casino employees. I and others give these invocations at community events and at our dances that take place twice a year. During all these invocations, we talk about the things we are thankful for. In the spring, we are thankful for surviving the winter and for those that keep our roads safe. In the fall time, we are thankful to have had a good harvest these past seasons and to be able to feed our families in the months to come. Each invocation is unique and special as we give thanks for various reasons.

I gave thanks for the employees this year because without the casinos and the employees, our community would be drastically different. I see and hear many times that the casino employees are underappreciated, complained about, and talked bad about. Sometimes solely based on an employee not being Native, which is not fair as these employees help support our community as much as a Native employee. Many of these employees have stayed through rough and unpredictable circumstances, including COVID-19. With that, we need to appreciate the jobs the employees do each and every day, as their jobs allow for the casinos to generate revenue that support the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe government and community. This support includes our per cap checks each month, including the very generous bonus in December that we all received. Per cap is not the only source that revenue goes to; it also supports sending our children to secondary education, Elder trips, inter-

est-free home loans, and so many more services. We would be living on a much different reservation if suddenly they closed, much like life was prior to them being here, life that most members don't remember, or have never experienced.

No matter where you work at MLCV (Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures), Miigwech. No matter if you are a past employee or current employee, you have helped out the community in ways that are both seen and unseen. A big shout-out to all of you because your work helps us out so much spiritually and financially.

To those who work across the road in our government, another Miigwech is coming to you all. In addition, I have a few more thanks to give this holiday season. Thank you to police officers for the services they provide in keeping our community safe even in the difficult times created by Mille Lacs County. To our educators for giving our children an opportunity to learn and grow. To our health care workers for keeping our community well, especially during COVID-19. To our behavioral health workers for helping our people live a sober and drug-free life. To our social workers for being boots-on-the-ground helping our families. To the staff at Aanjibimaadizing who feed, clothe, house, and much more to our Band members who are seeking sustainable employment. Lastly, to our legal team who continue to fight for our rights as Anishinaabe people. Without you all, we wouldn't have won the 1999 Supreme Court case and those fights since.

Any of those not mentioned I apologize. Everyone who works to make this community safer, stronger, and long-lasting is deeply in my gratitude. And to those reading this month, I wish you a wonderful and safe holiday season. Miigwech, We-weni (thank you, take care).

NOTES FROM JOE:

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

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

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



COMMUNITY ACTION

BRINGING CHEER TO ALL WITH THE COMMUNITY TOY BOX TOYS FOR TOTS

Community member volunteers from all across the Mille Lacs Lake area spent much of November and December collecting toys and cash donations to purchase toys for the annual Community Toy Box/Toys for Tots Mille Lacs area kids. Cash donations came in from many area businesses and several Mille Lacs Band departments and Districts. The full list of businesses and departments will be listed on the website.

This year, the volunteers including many Ge-niigaanizijig youth and the Mille Lacs Area Social Concerns group were able to help serve 336 kids with fruit baskets for the families and toys for the kids.

Miigwech to everyone who donated toys and or cash and a chi miigwech to all of the volunteers including Tribal Police Chief James West and Deputy Chief Derrick Naumann, Onamia Fire Department, Onamia Vets Club and special shout out to Santa for making a special stop.



MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES' LATEST VENTURE — SLOTCO

The mission of SLOTCO is to elevate tribal gaming by empowering tribes through data to maximize slot floor performance. There are several highly successful tribal casinos throughout the United States, and there is also a very large number of smaller tribal casinos that haven't been able to update their gaming floors due to remote locations and smaller market populations.

New technology — including new slot machines — drives revenue and loyalty, which in turn allows the tribal government to offer health care, education, employment opportunities, and more to their local communities. If a tribe needs more assistance in updating their property — or infrastructure within their community — SLOTCO can provide immediate capital and resources to assist with the process.

Combined, the SLOTCO team has over 150 years' experience in casino and tribal operations. This includes compliance and regulations, slot data analysis, marketing, and gaming operations. Becky Houle, VP of Compliance, and Aarik Robertson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, are two members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe that have joined the team. As a group, SLOTCO has a comprehensive 30,000-foot strategic look at what each property excels at and where there are opportunities to make small changes for big impact.

In 2022, it has become evident that SLOTCO has arrived in the market as a trusted tribal partner. With three signed clients

SLOTCO

and qualified leads that are in various stages of the agreement process, the idea of SLOTCO has become an official business operation. SLOTCO attended the Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention (IGA) and Global Gaming Expo (G2E) and continued to build its reputation. Tribal officials are talking to other tribes about SLOTCO. Casino executives are paying attention to their bottom line and are interested about cost containment and maximizing revenue strategies.

To date, most slot machine manufacturers have signed an agreement with SLOTCO, which further validates the business model to be a resource for tribal casino properties to refresh their slot floors. Slot machines are just a part of the SLOTCO business model, and its partners are critical to its success.

Looking ahead, SLOTCO will unveil its patent in the spring, attend and co-host events that are specific to the Native American community, and continue to form partnerships with tribes across the country.

GRA UPDATE

WHAT IS GAMING? WHAT ISN'T, AND WHAT ARE FUNDRAISING OPTIONS?

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

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

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

There are plenty of games and other fundraising options you or your group can utilize that are not Gaming including, but not limited to:

- Door prizes, entering somebody into a contest to win something just for showing up.
- Silent or live auctions.
- Some games that are based on skill where the contestants win prizes (shooting, racing, basketball). Note: only the contestants themselves can win valuable prizes. If you're betting and winning on the sidelines, it's gambling.
- Sales: Indian tacos, tee shirts, baked goods, etc.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

- Asking for donations.
- Free bingo.
- Free lotteries.
- Raffles or bingo that take place off Reservation lands; for example at a local American Legion or school.
- GoFundMe or GiftSendGo.
- Sponsored walks/runs.

Also remember that in certain limited instances, charitable organizations can do some types of "Gaming" (gambling) legally on the Reservation, but they need to be official Indian Charitable Organizations registered through the GRA.

For more information on Charitable Gaming, please contact the GRA at 320-384-4807.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.



Aaniin Auntie,

It's a new year Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis. I am writing because every year I tell myself, "New Year New Me," and I don't stick with it. I start out great. I go to the gym and I cook healthy meals for my family. I have all this motivation and then I make a mistake and all of a sudden I eat an entire box of cookies. I stop going to the gym and I stop making healthy foods. I put so much pressure on myself and I am so hard on myself once I go back to an unhealthy lifestyle. I have tried so many things to help: all the gimmicks, exercise equipment, and all the trends in health. I paid a lot of money that I certainly could've used for my family. I am a mom so I normally put all my time and effort into my kids and husband. I rarely like to buy anything for myself and I feel shame when I spend money on myself. I feel as though I wasted money on trying to be healthier. Do you have any tips on how I can create a new me and not just be a new me for the new year but for the rest of my life?

Signed,

Determined to be Healthy

Dear Determined to be Healthy,

Aaniin Nishimis, Miigwech for reaching out to me. I get so many questions about health during the start of a new year, especially Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis. I would like to start my response to you by telling you I love you, I care about you, and you matter. I don't do any new year resolutions myself personally because I am always working on myself and trying to do better. I also want to tell you that you are not alone and there are many like you who want to be healthier and begin the year with a "New Year New Me."

The statements you made in your letter about all these things you do or have done to become a new me sound like healthy choices and basic things you need to do to get healthier. I also feel like you answered your own letter with you telling me that you put so much pressure on yourself. A tip from me would be to not put so much pressure on yourself. I also think you have done many fantastic things to work toward becoming a new you.

The main thing I would like to express to you is the Creator made us all exactly how we are and our spiritual side is as important — maybe more important — to others as the physical side. You are perfect as you are. However, if you do want to be a new you, be a better person for yourself and to you. Be kind to yourself and love yourself as much as you love your family. You are more than enough.

You didn't mention your size or if you have extra love on your body, but I just want to say that no matter what size a woman is, she is beautiful — period! I also want to say that it is more important to focus on your overall health which includes mind, body, spirit, and heart. Auntie is no size zero but the uncles love it! (wink wink) Most importantly, I want you to do what you need to just be happy with yourself.

There are also many places to join for health and wellness. Meshakwad and the District I Community Aquatic & Fitness Center are two excellent choices. There are many helpful resources in our community such as diabetes care which includes prevention. You can contact the Health & Human Services Diabetes program. You can find a workout buddy and make exercising fun — even if it's challenging. You can have a family challenge and see who can get the most steps for a month and have a prize. You could set a healthy goal and set money aside for something you want to purchase once you reach your goal.

You could start really small with just making one small change a month, start drinking water or start taking a walk. Try a new exercise class like yoga or Zumba. All these things can help with the mind, body, and heart.

Lastly and importantly you can do things for your spirit. You can offer asemaa and smudge. You can get good sleep. You can make a gratitude list. You can listen to music you love. You can sit by the lake or sit outdoors and listen. Give back to the community. Attending ceremonial drums and any cultural events in our community can feed your spirit. Fasting can help with all areas and if you don't know or have never fasted, you can reach out to a Traditional Helper or Spiritual Advisor. Find things that bring you joy and be kind to others, and most importantly to yourself.

Most importantly is what you want to do and how good you feel doing these things. My number one tip for you is to do what your heart, your mind, your body, and your spirit want.

New Year, same me.

Auntie.

MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Kwekii Gaabowiikwe, Leslie (Parks) Lopez

Kwekii Gaabowiikwe, Leslie Made-line (Parks) Lopez, 58, died Thursday, November 24, 2022, in Minneapolis. She was born January 29, 1964, in Aitkin to Stanley and Bernice (Moose) Parks. Following high school, Leslie studied and worked in health care. She was a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

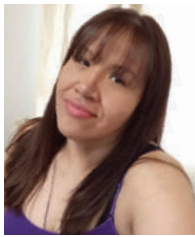


She is survived by her children: Terri (Richie) O'Neil, Timothy (Jennifer Frank-) Lopez, Scott (Alicia) Lopez, and Grace Doffing; many grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law: Cheryl (Doug) Hietanen; Aunt Lorraine Farah; and many other special relatives and friends who mourn her passing.

Tribal rites were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the East Lake Ceremonial Building, East Lake-McGregor. Vincent Merrill led the services. Visitation was at dusk on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the Ceremonial Building. Burial was in the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with McGregor Funeral Home in McGregor. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.

Aazhoowanang, Michelle Mitchell

Aazhoowanang, Michelle Mitchell, age 44, of Garrison, Minn., passed away on December 7, 2022. Visitation was at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation.



A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022, 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.

Aazhoowanang, Michelle was born on November 12, 1978, in Onamia, Minn. She liked to spend her time coloring, going to the casino, and doing beadwork. She loved shopping and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children, Samantha Mitchell, Jada Harrington, Keaona Mitchell, Cameron Harrington; stepfather, Steven Hanks; grandchildren, Isaiah Boyd, Elijah Boyd; brothers, Nicholas Mitchell, Kevin Stobb; sisters, Ann Mitchell, Lisa Mitchell, and Amy Mitchell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Amos Mitchell and Darlene Sam; and her brother, Vincent Stobb.

Zhaangweshi, Christopher Michael Sam

With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Christopher Michael Sam of Isle, Minnesota, who passed away on December 15, 2022, at the age of 29. Family and friends can send flowers and condolences in memory of the loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Christopher Michael Sam to pay them a last tribute.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Joseph Sam, Virginia Sam, Patricia Hikes, Joyce Romero, Carol Ramos, and Jason Romero.

He is survived by his mother Virginia Sam; his children, Aieyden Pedersen and Kasen Sam (Kelly); his siblings, Kim Sam, Kaci Sam, and Anthony Passarelli; and his aunts, Audra Bonelle, Terri Hikes, and Candi Hikes. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation was held on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Chiminsing Community Center (2605 Chiminsing Rd, Isle, Minn. 56342). A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 10 a.m. at the same location.

Ozhaawaashkobinesikwe Donna Lou Gilmore

Wake was held on December 26, 2022, at dusk with the funeral service held on December 27, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the District III Community Center. Obituary not available at press time.

Wewinaabi Ikwe, Kelsey Benjamin

Wewinaabi Ikwe, Kelsey Benjamin, age 25, passed away on Friday, December 2, 2022. Visitation was held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 5, 2022, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation, with Gisibaganeb officiating. Interment was in Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Wewinaabi Ikwe, Kelsey was born on November 24, 1997, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Rodney Smith and Terry Benjamin. She liked to spend her time traveling with family, especially to California, going to garage sales, and being with her friends. Kelsey loved being an aunt and will always be remembered for her kindness and acceptance of others.

Kelsey is survived by her father, Rodney Smith; sisters, Rachel, Kirby, Valerie, Samantha, and Sara; brother, Colin; aunt, Cheryl; uncle, Greg; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Millie; mother, Terry; aunt, suggie; uncle, John; and numerous cousins.

Zhaawan, Virginia Joyce Mann

Zhaawan, Virginia Joyce Mann (Zhaawan), age 70, a resident of Webster passed away on December 22, 2022. She was born on July 9, 1952 in Pine County, Minnesota to Eugene and Cecelia Dunkley.



Virginia attended vocational college after graduating from high school in Hinckley. For many years, she worked as an administrative assistant at Honeywell, Medtronic, Anoka-Hennepin School District, Grand Casino and Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government. She also worked for Anderson Drug in Cambridge, Aazhoomog Early Education as a teacher, and the Assisted Living Unit in Hinckley as a cook. She loved working with children and the elderly. She could be as delicate as a gentle wind and had the determination to accomplish anything she set her mind to. She loved to sew intricate blankets for her loved ones and clothing for her children throughout their lives, especially during their rodeo days. Hunting and fishing were a way of life for Virginia. She could skin a rabbit faster than most and was in her glory sitting on a riverbank fishing for catfish. Virginia was a patient and kind woman who loved her family to the moon and back.

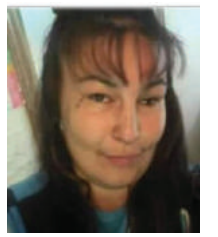
She was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband, Gregory who passed away earlier this year; her son, Charles Eugene; granddaughter, Josephine Elaine; brothers, Curtis, Eugene and Joseph; sisters, Peggy, Barbara, Jody and Dixie.

She will be missed by her children, Katie (Gilly) Draper; Scott Tossey; Elizabeth Tossey; grandchildren, Avriana, and Eleanor; brother, Peter (Dawn) Dunkley, Edward (Beth) Dunkley; sister, Mary Ann Ailport; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Friends were invited to call after 4 p.m. on Monday, December 26, 2022, at the Lake Lena Community Center in Sandstone. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at 10 a.m. at Lake Lena Community Center followed by interment at Stevens Lake Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Bobby Anderson, Brian Dunkley, Hoby Dunkley, Tony Dunkley, Dennis Gilbert and Rod Matrious. Honorary pallbearers are granddaughters, Avriana and Eleanor. Arrangements were entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home, Webster. Online condolences can be made at www.swedberg-taylor.com.

Lesley Ann Smith-Gomez

Lesley Ann Smith-Gomez, age 44, of the Bear Clan, and Onamia, Minn. began her spiritual journey on Thursday, December 8, 2022, in Onamia. She was born in Minneapolis, Minn. on August 23, 1978, the daughter of Dale Smith and Judy Beaulieu.



Lesley enjoyed hanging with family and spending her free time at the casino. She liked traveling, walking, and coloring medallion pieces. She will be loved and missed by all her family and friends.

Family that Lesley joins again are her dad, Dale "Dex" Smith; sisters, Crystal Dorr and Daley Smith; grandparents, Hazel Dorr and Henry Johnson, and Abraham and Maggie Smith; numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, and nephews.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memory are her daughters, Gloria Kingbird, Araceli Ramos-Smith, Maria Ramos-Smith, Elva (Jalen) Kingbird, Esperansa Kingbird; sons, Francisco Smith, DaMario Smith-Gomaz; brothers, Clint (Winona) Smith, David White, Dale White, Bryan (Tamera) Beaulieu and Brandon (Steph) Beaulieu; grandchildren, Elijah Paulson, Theo Paulson, and Mateo Randa. One special cousin, Lawrence "Hank" Kingbird, other relatives, and many friends.

A wake for Lesley began at 5 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2022, and continued until the 11 a.m. traditional service on Saturday, December 17, 2022, all held at the Redby Community Center in Redby. Arnold Kingbird was her spiritual advisor. Pallbearers for Lesley were Shane Kingbird, Shawn Kingbird, Brian Beaulieu, Brandon Beaulieu, Ian Bearheart, and Kyle Geionety. Honorary pallbearers were Francisco Smith, DaMario Smith-Gomaz, Ringo Smith, Lawrence "Hank" Kingbird, Shakoka Smith, and Wanda Northrup. Interment was held in the Smith family burial grounds in Redby, Minn.

Lesley's care was entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be given at <http://www.northernpeace.com>.

Noodin-biimosaa Winston Matinas

Winston Lawrence Windwalker Matinas, "Noodin Bimosaa," died on Friday, December 16, 2022. He was 27 years old.



He is preceded in death by his grandparents; Lawrence Moose, Caroline Brekke, Fred and Agnes Matinas, father, Thomas Matinas Sr., Nephew Dennis Solis, siblings; Grant and Sheldon Garbow, Shirley, Sandra, Tommy, Bruce, Agnes and Caroline Matinas, aunt and uncle, Lawrence Moose Jr. and Linda (Moon) Moose, nieces and nephews; Tinisha Wesley, Keesha Sutherland, and baby boy Matinas.

He is survived by his mom and dad; Brian and Connie (Moose) Matrious, wife, Erica Garbow, children; David, Harvey, Winston Jr., Maria Matinas and unborn son Kayce Leonard Matinas, mother in law, Bev Kegg, siblings; Cindy, Dean, Tammy, Bert, Becky, Marissa, Stephanie, Gwanny, Gahboo, Shawnee-Quay, Forrest, Misty, Thomas, Angie, Salina, Keith, Anna, Henry, Ahnung, Neemin, and Keywatasee, bazhi, nieces and nephews; Jodie Matinas, Mia Solis, Scotty Moose, Ezra Rae Constance Moose, Warren Wesley Matinas, aunts and uncles; Mike Lemesa, John Helms, Jim Beard, Lauren Matrious and Bonnie Matrious, and many, many cousins, friends, bro's and sistas. You know who you are, and if Wince called you his bro or sista you were truly loved, respected, and loyal.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at the Aazhoomog Community Center with Baabitaw officiating. The wake was held at dusk on Monday, December 19, 2022 also at the center. Burial was at Steven's Lake Cemetery.

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

10 NEW ENTREPRENEURS GRADUATE ENTERPRISE ACADEMY WITH BUSINESSES FOR THE MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY



ENTERPRISE ACADEMY RECENT GRADUATES

Participants in the fall 2022 Mille Lacs Enterprise Academy cohort include (back row, left to right): Christopher Gahbow; Jeff Wig, trainer; Treston Panachyse; Angie Litchy; Rachel Nelson; Beverly Knowlen; Danielle Kadlec; and Pam Thomsen, trainer. Front row: LeeAnn Woiteshek; and Raina Killspotted. Not pictured: Carmen Weous and Donita Odden.

The Initiative Foundation and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures are celebrating the graduation of 10 new entrepreneurs dedicated to building the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy through their homegrown business ideas.

The Mille Lacs Tribal Economy entrepreneurs recently completed the Foundation's Enterprise Academy — a business-building program that features a 12-week training program matched with free ongoing technical assistance and access to flexible loans and other capital. Participants build skills and receive support in the areas that challenge new entrepreneurs in starting and running a business.

The entrepreneurs join four other cohorts of Mille Lacs Enterprise Academy graduates, now representing more than 40 current and aspiring business owners working in and near the tribal economy, designated by three districts that comprise the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"The partnership with the Initiative Foundation brings together my love of community prosperity and entrepreneurship. We can't wait to dig in and help these entrepreneurs bring their businesses to the next level," said Beth Gruber, director of planning and community engagement at Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. "We are building a pipeline of future business owners that are changing the landscape of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy — you have to be excited about that."

"These amazing entrepreneurs' business ideas are rooted in serving their communities and creating opportunities in the tribal economy," said Brian Voerding, vice president for inclusive entrepreneurship at the Initiative Foundation. "Building equitable economies and communities is core to our work, so we're pleased to partner with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures on this project."

The fall 2022 Mille Lacs Tribal Economy graduates are:

Christopher Gahbow: Christopher has always dreamed of opening his own gun shop. He has aspirations of manufacturing his own guns and ammunition. Christopher currently works in information technology at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. He has three daughters and enjoys spending time with them and cook-

ing. Fun fact: Christopher once won a frybread-eating contest.

Danielle Kadlec: Danielle sees the need for additional child care in the Mille Lacs area and is invested in bringing change to the region. Working with her mother, and drawing on her past experience as director of a casino-based child care site, Danielle's goal is to start a child care center within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy area. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and sewing and spending time with her husband and three children.

Raina Killspotted: Raina would like to start a business making Ojibwe blankets, moccasins, and skirts to be used for ceremonies and funerals. She currently does office work for the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy. Raina spent her childhood learning how to sew, harvest wild rice, filet walleye, and make frybread. She enjoys spending time with her three children and three grandchildren.

Beverly Knowlen: Beverly lives in Hinckley and would like to start a food truck or restaurant to feed her family and the greater community, including at powwows. Her dream is to succeed with her food truck at the Minnesota State Fair. Beverly currently works as a youth mentor. Fun fact: Beverly is a pool player and currently holds the title of State of Minnesota Master Shooter.

Angie Litchy: Angie started The Crafted Orchard & More with her husband, Trever, in the summer of 2022. The couple is building the Brainerd business from the ground up. Their dream is to sell apples, pumpkins, and flowers and to offer low-cost hayrides and mazes to local people and tourists. Angie and Trever also hope to host vendor fairs and do-it-yourself craft events. Their overarching goal is to give back to the community.

Rachel Nelson: Rachel would like to start a halfway house for Native American women living within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy area. She currently works as a peer support specialist at a men's halfway house. Rachel has a passion for helping people meet their goals and stay sober. In her free time, she enjoys beading, making jewelry, running, and practicing yoga.

Donita Odden: Donita has a history presenting job-skills

training and other similar work for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Aanjibimaadizing program. Training comes naturally to her, and she has made the decision to turn that gift into a full-fledged business. Donita owns Elevation Training Resources and recently took on her first contract.

Treston Panachyse: Treston has years of equine therapy experience and would like to start a ranch to offer therapy and to raise bison as a food source for the community. He also wants to offer classes to teach youth about the importance of bison to the Native American culture. Treston has worked in several career fields and also played semi-pro football. In his free time, he enjoys watching football and playing catch with his dog.

Carmen Weous: Carmen held various positions with the Mille Lacs Band for three decades and is now retired. She wants to open a business to make and sell Native American crafts and offer craft classes. In her free time, she enjoys reading, music, and playing with her grandchildren.

LeeAnn Woiteshek: LeeAnn would like to start Molten Metals, a mobile welding company that caters to farmers, truck drivers, and cities. She would like to serve the Mille Lacs, Fort Ripley, and Brainerd areas. Eventually, LeeAnn would like to expand the business so that she can hire employees, especially women from the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. LeeAnn is married and has three children. She has worked various construction-industry jobs throughout her career.

The Enterprise Academy in the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy area is supported by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development; the Neighborhood Development Center; U.S. Bank; U.S. Small Business Administration; Falcon National Bank; and the Wells Fargo Foundation. Technical support is provided by the North Central Small Business Development Center. To learn more, visit ifound.org/economy/enterprise-academy.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JANUARY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Shelley Marie Boyd
Jacob William Doust
Emma Jane Gagnon
Angela May Staples
Mark Raymond Anderson
Garland Dean Barnes
Michelle Lynne Barnes
Debra Lou Bellamy
Mary Anne Bellonger
Karen Marie Boyd
Alida Belle Colton
Ronald James Crown
Leroy Henry Day
Lorna Jean Day
Bonnie Jean Dorr
Gary Lee Dorr
John Charles Dowell
Dora Ann Duran
Joseph Ellsworth Edgington
Denise Le Rae Fahrlander
Michael Gerard Gagne
Ella Reine Garbow

Joseph Gordon Hendren
Rose Marie Holmquist
Katherine Ann Jackson
Charles Ted Johnson
Patty Jo Johnson
Robert Wayne Johnson
James Ernest Kalk
Darrin Gene Kegg
Marty Kegg
Richard Duane Kegg
David Henry Kost
Lucille Kuntz
Carmen Marie Lone
William Joseph Losh
Priscilla Joann Lowman
Gloria Jean Lowrie
Temperance Yvonne McLain
Michael Samuel Merrill
Jodell Marie Meyer
Cora Lucille Nelson
Diane Lynn Nickaboine
Rosalie Ann Noonday
Steven Lee Pewaush
Karen Lynne Pike
Shelley Ann Pindegayosh

Michelle Louise Pomerleau
Patricia Marie Potter
Dora Ann Sam
Elaine Bernadette Sam
Henry Sam
Robbin Lee Sam
Robert James Sam
Tracy Lynn Sam
Brenda Jean Sayers
Ruth Ann Shaugobay
Jewell Fay Skinaway
Steven Ralph St. John
Joseph Alex Staples
Kathleen Marie Vanheel
Lori Ann Vinz
Kenneth LaVerne Wade
Brian Kelly Wind
James Edwin Wind
Nancy Lee Wood

ELDERS NEEDED!

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

Send your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

SEND 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!

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

Deputy Assistant: Baabiitaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Commissioners:

Administration: Assistant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164

Community Development: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164

Education: Niiyogaabawiiikwe, Brooke Mosay Gonzalez: 320-362-4245

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

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

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

Public Works

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

Other frequently requested phone numbers

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

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

Band Assembly Inquiries

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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus: 218-316-2437, Rosa Sam: 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson: 320 290 8729; Camille Smith: 320-982-0836

District II/IIa — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049; Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307

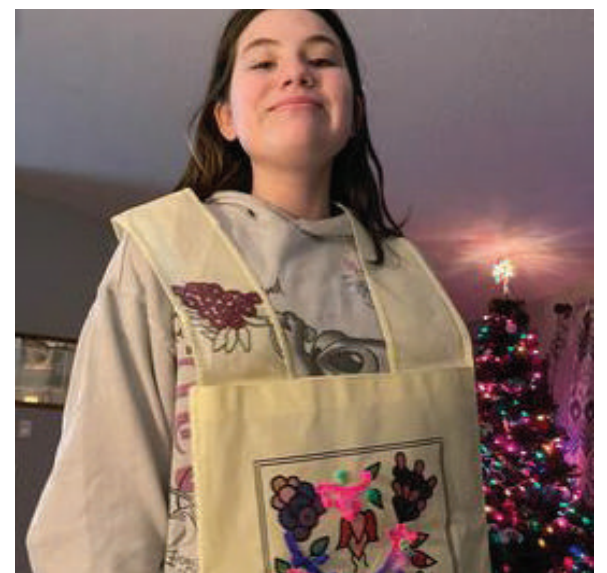
District III — Renee Allen: 320-591-0559; Kathy Nelson: 320-630-2671

Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

Office of Management and Budget

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

Enrollments: 320-532-7730



MIIGWECH FOR INDIAN EDUCATION TEAMS AT BRAINERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rose Mulholland, 12, Chickasaw, attends Forestview Middle School in Brainerd where her class is studying Minnesota History. Each student was given a bandolier bag to decorate and keep. "My daughter is so proud, my eyes have tears," said her mother, Lindsay. "Thank you, thank you. Miigwech. I know I don't have to explain why this is so meaningful to me. But as a Native woman, who has clawed my way out of poverty and into college, I needed this. Miigwech."

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe helps to support Indian Education efforts in all area public schools.

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>1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to 2023</p>	<p>2</p> <p>New Year's Break Government offices closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference</p>	<p>4</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>5</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>9</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>10</p> <p>State of the Band Grand Casino Mille Lacs 10 a.m.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11</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>Storytelling Family Fun Night Chiminising 6 p.m.</p>	<p>12</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>13</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>16</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>17</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>District IIa Community Meeting Chiminising 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>District II Community Meeting Minisinaakwaang 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>District III Community Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>23</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>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7.</p>	<p>26</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>27</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>30</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>31</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<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>Mark your calendar for Storytelling Family Fun Night at Minisinaakwaang 6 p.m February 1, 2023.</p> <p>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</p> <p>Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin</i>. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400 for those 18 years of age and older. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.</p>			





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millelacsband.com

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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 February issue deadline is January 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.

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N 2023

MANIDOO-GIIZIS — JANUARY 2023
VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 1

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MILLE LACS



Pictured are a few members of the Mille Lacs Band WEWIN Chapter who braved cold and snow to deliver holiday goodies and toys to families at Mino-Bimaadiziwin on December 22. See a variety of holiday celebrations through photos on pages 10 and 11.

TERC RESPONSE TO
SNOWMAGEDDON
page 7

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
RIHANNA SMITH
page 8

MILCV INTRODUCES
SLOTCO
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UPDATED FREQUENT
PHONE NUMBERS
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