

O J I B W E

I N A A J I M O W I N

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



MLCV BUILDING CANNABIS CULTIVATION FACILITY

Photos courtesy of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

By Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) has begun the construction on its first full-scale cannabis cultivation facility spanning 50,000 square feet. Situated directly behind Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Onamia, Minnesota, the entire cannabis operation — from seed to sale — will be managed by MLCV. The facility is set to be completed in the fall of 2024.

The introduction of this cultivation line of business underscores MLCV's dedication to expanding its economic portfolio and establishing additional revenue sources beyond gaming. Profits generated from this endeavor will be reinvested into the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to support essential government programs and services for its members. Furthermore, it presents a new avenue for job creation within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy.

Joe Nayquonabe, the Mille Lacs Band's Commissioner of Corporate Affairs and MLCV's CEO, said, "With more states and tribes getting into cannabis, it was crucial for us to es-

tablish our presence as well. We leaned on our tribal community to provide insight into this opportunity, paving a clear path into this venture."

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Cannabis Regulation, an independent entity being formed by the Mille Lacs Band, will enforce rigorous oversight over the cultivation, production, and distribution processes. This department will be responsible for granting cannabis licenses for cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and testing activities within the Mille Lacs



Joe Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs and MLCV CEO.

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NAY AH SHING 4TH GRADER COMPETES IN REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Nay Ah Shing 4th grader Corey Stone who competed in the Sorcowell Regional Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. We are all very proud of him going against the best spellers in 17 school districts.

Congratulations to all participating students in the Spelling Bee. Corey competed against students from Aitkin Public Schools, Bertha-Hewitt School, Crosslake Community School, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Menahga Public School, Pequot Lakes High School, Pierz School District, Pine River-Backus Schools, Royalton Public Schools, Sebeka Public School PreK-12, Staples-Motley School District, Swanville School District, and Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools.



Adobe photo stock.

YOUR LEGAL LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT IS A GIFT TO YOUR FAMILY

OSG to partner with law students to help Band members write wills

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Preparing for passing on is not something one tends to think about often under most circumstances. But knowing you have documented what is to become of your children and/or your property may allow for some peace of mind. Preparing a will is one way to ease your mind and help your surviving family cope with life after you are gone.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Office of the Solicitor General has partnered with the University of Denver College of Law in the Tribal Wills Project. The project aims to provide free preparation of wills, medical powers of attorney, and related documents to tribal members who would not otherwise have access to legal assistance. Wills are particularly important for tribal members, because without a will, if the tribal member happens to own trust land, virtually all of the tribal member's trust land goes only to the one oldest child — nothing to the surviving spouse or to the other children.

Almost no one thinks that is an appropriate distribution, yet that is what is required by a fairly recent law enacted by Congress — the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA). The Act permits a tribal member to make a more appropriate distribution — if the tribal member writes a valid will.

A will is not just for those who own property. Those with young children should consider having some documentation in place to specify who will become the guardian of the children if both parents succumb to an untimely death. A good place for documentation on guardianship is in a will.

When someone passes on, the last thing family and friends need is the stress of wondering what that person would have wanted as to how the property should be distributed, what memorial service would be most appropriate, and who should

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SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH — SEE PAGE 6

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin boozhoo, fellow Band members. Happy 25th Annual Treaty Rights Celebration month!

On Friday, March 22, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of our historic 1999 Supreme Court win. On March 24, 1999, the highest court in the land ruled 5-4, ultimately affirming our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights under the Treaty of 1837.

Article 5 of the 1837 Treaty states that, "The privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering the wild rice upon the lands, the rivers and the lands included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians during the pleasure of the President of the United States."

We will continue to practice and safeguard our treaty rights, so that the same guarantee of our inherent rights can be promised seven generations from now. Miigwech to all who came out, participated in the panel, and showed your support.

I spent the beginning of this month in Washington, D.C. at the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact Week. This week provides tribal leaders the valuable time and opportunity to advocate on Capitol Hill for the pressing issues confronting our people and nation. During this time, I had the honor of meeting with Senator Smith and her aides, during which our Commissioner of Administration Samuel Moose provided essential administrative updates on behalf of the Band. The Mille Lacs Band found an exceptional ally in Senator Smith, and our working relationship continues to get stronger.

During my time at MAST, I engaged with officials from the Department of Energy to underscore the significant risks posed to our people, lands, and resources by the looming prospect of the Tamarack Mine in Tamarack, Minnesota — merely 1.3 miles from our Band citizens in the Round Lake community. I shared our W.O.N. campaign and delivered updates on the ongoing collaboration between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Band. Our stance on nickel mining remains resolute, both at the state and federal levels.

I attended the 2024 Reservation Economic Summit (RES) in Las Vegas, Nevada. I had the opportunity to sit on two panels, one regarding the past and future of Tribal Tax-Exempt Bonding Authority, and another for trailblazing Tribal women. I also met with

an IRS Representative and had a unique opportunity to share our economic progress and the Mille Lacs Band perspective.

This month, I vetoed Band Assembly Bill 21-01-10-24, which was a bill of appropriations for government operations for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2024 and September 30, 2025. I would like to discuss

"IT IS IMPERATIVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL BAND OFFICIALS HAVE SOLEMNLY SWORN TO FULFILL OUR DUTIES AND UPHOLD BAND STATUTES. THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR GOVERNMENT WAS DESIGNED BY OUR ELDERS TO ESTABLISH CHECKS AND BALANCES ENSURING PROTECTION AGAINST ANY UNLAWFUL ENCROACHMENT FROM ONE BRANCH TO ANOTHER."

~CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN

my thought process behind this and the careful consideration that went into making this decision.

First and foremost, with utmost respect, it is imperative to acknowledge that all Band officials have solemnly sworn to fulfill our duties and uphold Band Statutes. The framework of our government was designed by our Elders to establish checks and balances ensuring protection against any unlawful encroachment from one branch to another. While likely

unintended, certain language within this bill could potentially encroach upon the responsibilities of the Executive Branch by the Legislative Branch, thereby diminishing the integrity of our institution and hindering the Executive Branch's capacity to promptly address pressing matters.

In light of this, I am working with the Band Assembly in compromise hearings so that we can come to an agreement and get this bill passed in a good way. Despite potential disagreements over bill language or apprehensions, it is important to assume good intentions and remember that at the end of the day, we are all working for the benefit of Band citizens.

During my recent trip to Washington, I had the privilege of visiting the Puyallup and Muckleshoot tribes to engage in discussions regarding their cannabis operations and advancements in sports betting. It was an enlightening experience that afforded us the chance to establish a relationship with these Tribes, gain insights into their testing, cultivation, and retail endeavors, and take away valuable perspectives on the potential of sports betting as a tribal asset.

On Friday, March 22, I was a featured guest on Almanac, a program aired on TPT, the Twin Cities PBS station. This platform provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the remarkable progress within the Mille Lacs Band community, including our strides in infrastructure development, economic growth, language revitalization, and our new involvement in the tribal cannabis industry. For those interested, the episode can be viewed online at <https://www.tpt.org/almanac/>.

As my time as Chief Executive comes to an end, I am committed to keeping my level of involvement in our community high, and ensuring that we have a seat at every table by maintaining connections and taking opportunities where they present themselves. These past few months have been exceptionally busy, and I am immensely grateful for the support and assistance of my fellow Band citizens. Miigwech!

DONATE RED DRESSES FOR THE MILLE LACS BAND RED DRESS PROJECT

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

MMIR EVENT

Mark your calendar and plan on attending the MMIR Event to be held at the Health and Human Services campus on May 2, 2024. This will be the third annual MMIR event hosted by HHS Victim Services Department. The event is planned with powerful presentations and information tables to help build awareness to the crisis.

Food will also be served.

Please join us on May 2. Watch for more details in the coming days. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Allord, Director of Victim Services at 320-532-7793.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ENACTING THE CANNABIS CODE

An indepth explanation of the legislative process

By **Hanna Valento, Revisor of Statutes**

On February 18, 2024, the Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive signed the Cannabis Code into law. The code was enacted as Chapter 5 in Title 15 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes, which can be found on the Tribal Register.

Legal counsel for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“MLCV”) produced the original draft of the Cannabis Code, and the draft was sent to the Band Assembly in early June of 2023. The Band Assembly immediately began hosting workshops to refine the legislation.

During this time, Band Assembly worked closely with the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, MLCV legal counsel, the Solicitor General, the Director of Housing, and external legal counsel (Ziontz Chestnut). One significant question confronted by the District Representatives was where to house the Department of Cannabis Regulation within Band government. Should the Department of Cannabis Regulation be placed under the Department of Natural Resources, Administration, or MLCV? Or should the Department of Cannabis Regulation become an independent agency?

The Band Assembly first released the draft legislation for public comment in late June and early July of 2023. This draft envisioned the Department of Cannabis Regulation being housed within MLCV. Each District Representative presented this version of the Cannabis Code at their monthly community meetings held during that time. The Band Assembly answered questions, took notes, and gathered more than 50 comments from members of the public.

The vast majority of public comments received were in support of the Cannabis Code. Still, one concern that rose to the surface was that of the Department of Cannabis Regulation being housed within MLCV. Certain commenters likened this configuration to that of “the fox watching the hen house.”

During subsequent workshops, the Band Assembly converted the Department of Cannabis Regulation into an independent agency of the Band, to be overseen by a five-member board of directors. The Band Assembly also equipped the Department with necessary staff to carry out duties to effectuate the purpose of the Code.

The Band has four other independent agencies: the Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Band Member Legal Services, and the Tribal Employment Rights Office. An independent agency is an agency that exists outside the Executive Branch’s reach of authority. Each of these independent agencies are governed by tribal laws codified within Title 15 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes.

Given the various revisions that were made to the Cannabis Code (including the addition of more processes and expansion of personal use), the Band Assembly released the draft bill for a second round of public comments. This public comment period occurred in late October 2023. After receiving two new comments, the Band Assembly hosted additional workshops to discuss the comments and finalize the bill.

The District Representatives placed the Cannabis Code on the Band Assembly agenda as Bill 03-24 on January 9, 2024, which was the first day of legislative session. Although the District Representatives unanimously approved the bill, it was later vetoed by the Chief Executive.

When an Act is vetoed, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive must hold a compromise hearing within five calendar days of the return of the veto. They also only have 20 calendar days to reach a compromise; otherwise, the bill stalls and may not be acted upon for 180 calendar days.

The first compromise hearing was held on January 22,

2024. The Band Assembly and the Chief Executive briefly discussed the bill, and the Chief Executive provided a hard-copy document describing eight major concerns she had about the Cannabis Code. These concerns were as follows:

- 1) The Department of Cannabis Regulation should be established within the Executive Branch, and should not exist as an independent agency;
- 2) The Cannabis Code must not encroach upon existing Executive Branch authorities;
- 3) The proposed board of directors should be appointed pursuant to the appointment process under Titles 3 and 4 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes;
- 4) Band members should benefit by receiving distributions on a per capita basis of net revenue from MLCV cannabis operations;
- 5) The Band Assembly must restore the Administration Policy Board’s authority to approve the Band’s Personnel Policies and Procedures (without requiring additional approval by the Band Assembly) as the process was before changes were made in 2009;
- 6) The Band Assembly must restore the Executive Branch’s authority to approve housing policies;

“WE ARE CONFIDENT THIS IS A GOOD PROSPECT FOR A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS FOR BOTH OUR TRIBE AND BAND MEMBERS. WE STILL NEED TO BE SMART AND CAREFUL HOW WE CONDUCT OURSELVES IN OUR LIVES TO KEEP THIS A POSITIVE PATH FOR ALL.”

— **HARRY DAVIS, DISTRICT III REPRESENTATIVE**

7) The Cannabis Code must expressly prohibit retail of cannabis inside the Band’s casinos; and

8) The Cannabis Code must expressly prohibit cannabis consumption lounges within the Band’s casinos.

The elected officials held a second compromise hearing in February of 2024 to discuss the Chief Executive’s list of concerns. Despite the meeting lasting approximately two hours, it ended without any compromise being reached.

The Band Assembly immediately followed up with a letter sent to the Chief Executive, articulating which of her concerns they would agree to compromise on. Out of the eight major concerns, the Band Assembly was willing to compromise on three of her concerns. The District Representatives were willing to (1) prohibit retail of cannabis inside the Band’s casinos, (2) prohibit cannabis consumption lounges within the Band’s casinos, and (3) modify language that may encroach on authority possessed by the Department of Natural Resources. Although the letter requested that the Chief Executive respond, the Band Assembly did not receive a formal response.

The third and final compromise hearing was held on February 9, 2024. The meeting began with a discussion of the letter that the Band Assembly sent to the Chief Executive. The District I Representative, Virgil Wind, asked the Chief Executive if she was willing to compromise after reviewing the letter. At this time, the Chief Executive agreed to the compromise as outlined in the Band Assembly’s letter. By the end of the meeting, all Elected Officials agreed that a compromise had been reached.

The Band Assembly followed the compromise up with a letter to the Chief Executive, summarizing its understanding of what had been agreed upon. This led to the Band Assembly approving the final bill on February 15, 2024, and the Chief Executive signing it into law on February 18, 2024, as Act 13-24.

Harry Davis, District III Representative, added, “We are confident this is a good prospect for a successful business for both our Tribe and Band members. We still need to be smart and careful how we conduct ourselves in our lives to keep this a positive path for all.”

AMENDING THE GAMING REGULATORY ACT

By: **Hanna Valento, Revisor of Statutes**

On February 22, 2024, the National Indian Gaming Commission (“NIGC”) approved Mille Lacs Band Act 80-23, which amends the Band’s Gaming Code. This law is codified within Mille Lacs Band Statutes as Title 15, Chapter 1 (Gaming Regulatory Act). The Gaming Code had not been updated since September 2003. And the main gaming sections of the Code had not been updated since May 1995.

In February 2021, the Gaming Regulatory Authority (“GRA”) Board of Directors began working on draft amendments to the Gaming Code. The Board worked on the amendments for nearly a year before sending the draft to each of the Band’s Elected Officials in January 2022. After the new District II and III Representatives took office in July 2022, the Band Assembly began reviewing the draft bill. In further developing the legislation, the Band Assembly worked closely with the Board’s Chairperson, the Executive Director of the Office of Gaming Regulation and Compliance (“OGR&C”), the Board’s assigned legal counsel from the Office of the Solicitor General, the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, and Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“MLCV”) legal counsel.

Once there was consensus on the draft bill, the Band Assembly released the draft legislation for public comments from the end of December 2023 to the end of January 2024. The Band Assembly reviewed the comments submitted and continued hosting workshops with key stakeholders to improve the legislation.

After nearly a year of hosting workshops, the Band Assembly placed the GRA bill on the Band Assembly agenda as Bill 32-23 on June 7, 2023. The District Representatives unanimously approved the bill, but it was later vetoed by the Chief Executive.

When an Act is vetoed, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive must hold a compromise hearing within five calendar days of the return of the veto. They also only have 20 calendar days to reach a compromise; otherwise, the bill stalls and may not be acted upon for 180 calendar days. The Chief Executive and the Band Assembly reached a compromise during the first compromise hearing, which was held on June 19, 2023.

On July 7, 2023, the Band Assembly approved Bill 42-23, which implemented the agreed-upon amendments between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly. The Chief Executive signed the Act, and Teresa Kozumplik, Executive Director of OGR&C, emailed Act 42-23 to NIGC for approval. It is important to note that, unlike other tribal laws, tribal gaming codes must either be approved by the NIGC Chairman — or deemed approved after 90 days of inaction — under the express terms of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.

In September 2023, NIGC recommended that the Band amend two definitions found in Act 42-23 — “Key Employee” and “Primary Management Official” — to coincide with newly adopted regulations. NIGC also recommended that the Band withdraw the Act from consideration by the NIGC Chairperson until the requested amendments were made. The Band’s Elected Officials agreed, and the Chief Executive’s Office withdrew the Act from NIGC’s consideration.

In addition to the proposed changes by NIGC, the Band Assembly also decided to update the definition for the term “Gaming Enterprise” and add

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Republicans retain Minnesota House seat in special election: Republican Bryan Lawrence replaces former Rep. Kurt Daudt, who resigned ahead of the session to take a new job. The Minnesota House is back to its full complement. Republican Bryan Lawrence won a special election in a north-central House district on Tuesday, March 19, defeating DFLer Brad Brown. He'll be the 134th House member and replace former Rep. Kurt Daudt, who resigned ahead of the session to take a new job. The party balance remains the same as it was before; Democrats have a 70-64 majority. In the House, he will represent district spanning sections of Anoka, Isanti, Mille Lacs and Sherburne counties. Source: *Brainerd Dispatch*.

Legislation would give state land around Upper Red Lake to Red Lake Nation: Newly introduced legislation in the Minnesota House and Senate proposes giving all state-owned land within 1 mile of Upper Red Lake to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. State Sen. Mary Kunesch, DFL-New Brighton, said she's keeping her fingers crossed that the so-called "lands back" bill she introduced gets a hearing in coming weeks in order to advance this year. She said lots of discussion needs to happen before it can become law. Seemingly, the land would include the southern unit of Big Bog State Recreation Area and the only two public facilities used to launch boats onto Upper Red Lake. Tribal leaders of Red Lake Nation have said they were promised all of Upper Red Lake and a 1-mile buffer all around it. Jordan said the state of Minnesota and the federal government altered the agreed-upon boundary and "didn't uphold their promises." Once the boundary line was drawn at a slight diagonal through Upper Red Lake, settlers moved in on the nonreservation shores to form the towns of Waskish, Kelliher, Shotley and surrounding townships. Kunesch wouldn't say whether the Department of Natural Resources supports the proposed legislation. But as Minnesota taxpayers who live and work around Upper Red Lake were mobilizing to kill the unexpected legislation, the DNR issued a statement saying it was not consulted or involved in the bills' development. Source: *Star Tribune*.

Lawmakers seek emergency declaration for Mille Lacs area: Four members of the House Republican Caucus with districts in the greater Mille Lacs Lake area sent a letter to Governor Walz Friday, March 15, formally requesting that he declare an emergency in the area. State Representatives Ron Kresha (R – Little Falls), Brian Johnson (R – Cambridge), Isaac Schultz (R – Elmdale Township), and Josh Heintzeman (R – Nisswa) penned the letter citing the light winter. Now with a catch-and-release only season for walleye on Mille Lacs Lake until mid-August, businesses will continue to struggle as vacationers choose other destinations to spend their time and money. Local business owners say two seasons in a row of low attendance is unsustainable for many of these small businesses that have been locally owned for decades. An emergency declaration would make the area eligible to access the emergency reserve fund that the Governor uses in the event of a natural disaster. \$5 million from this fund would provide relief to local businesses that are already struggling to stay afloat. Source: *Mille Lacs Messenger*.

CONSTITUTIONAL DELEGATES UPATE



MEET THE MILLE LACS BAND CONSTITUTIONAL DELEGATES COMMITTEE

Lilah White, Michele Palomaki, Birdie Roberts, Julie Corado, Danielle Smith, Mick Davis, Leroy Day and Paul Sam, Al Olson, and Paul Sam (not pictured).

Delegates to share their findings in a detailed analysis of the MCT

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

The Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band is one of six Minnesota Ojibwe sovereign tribal nations that shares a constitution under the organization known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. This organization was created by the United States Government under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1936. Its primary objective was to distribute the funds the Nelson Act of 1889 promised. The MCT's authority was relegated primarily to elections, enrollments, and land. Today, the MCT member bands conduct most day-to-day operations within their respective tribal governments with little input from the MCT or its 12-member Tribal Executive Committee, known as the TEC. This TEC committee is composed of the elected Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the six MCT bands.

The TEC began discussing the need for a Constitutional Convention in 2016, partly due to ongoing discussions about how the Constitution should be interpreted, who has the authority to do so, and whether existing interpretations are legally binding. In recent years, the TEC has also considered changes to enrollment rules and scheduled a Secretarial Election in 2015, but the election never occurred. The topic surfaced again in 2022 when TEC members were asked by some delegates to support a resolution to get rid of the 25 percent blood quantum requirement. The TEC voted to hold a referendum election to get an idea of what the MCT membership want to see happen. That referendum election has yet to be announced.

Band member delegates from each band have been meeting since 2018 to examine the MCT Constitution and discuss whether changes should be recommended to update it. The Mille Lacs Band delegates are Band members who applied to be delegates in 2018 and are members from District I, II, IIa, III, and the Urban area. The Mille Lacs Band Delegates Committee members are:

- District I: Danielle Smith and Michele Palomaki
- District II: Mick Davis (one vacancy)
- District IIa: Leroy Day and Paul Sam
- District III: Julie Corado and Birdie Roberts
- Urban: Al Olson and Lilah White

"The Mille Lacs Band Delegate members have been attending the Delegate Convention meetings with delegates from the other five tribes monthly, discussing random topics brought forth by all delegations," Birdie Roberts, District III Delegate, said. The Delegate Convention eventually established subcommittees and prioritized the topics the Delegation would address. The topics include:

- 1) Rules and Responsibilities of the Delegation;
- 2) Secretary of Interior;

- 3) Enrollments;
- 4) Alliance;
- 5) MCT Organization;
- 6) Separate Constitutions.

The Mille Lacs Band Delegates are tasked with making recommendations to the Band members regarding their recommendations for revising the MCT Constitution. "We felt that in order to make any revisions, we would first need to learn as much as we could about the MCT and its Constitution. So, we contacted a consultant familiar with the Mille Lacs Band and the MCT and requested training sessions to learn more about the MCT and its Constitution," Roberts said. "Our original position for the training is we can't address the Constitution before we understand how the MCT was created."

With the discussions about enrollments circulating through the MCT, including the Mille Lacs Band, the Delegates have found that "It is truly muddled and complex. It is overwhelming and complicated," Al Olson, Urban Area Delegate, said.

The training sessions and ongoing research have been lengthy. However, the Delegates have prepared their recommendations and are eager to share their findings with Band members. They have prepared a report titled "A Preliminary Analysis of the Organization known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe." The report briefly touches enrollments, sovereignty and self-determination, culture and citizens, and government.

The Delegates will soon attend community meetings in each district, including the Urban Area, to share the Preliminary Analysis report. They have also prepared a video on the Mille Lacs Band YouTube page that can help explain their research and findings. The video summarizes the 37-page report. You can find the video at link.

Please note: The report and video reflect the views of the Delegate Committee only and does not represent the views of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The video nor the report may not be cited as a statement of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's position or viewpoint on any matter discussed within the video or report.

In addition to the video and in-person meetings, you can also visit the Zaagibagaang website (zaagibagaang.com).

The Delegates believe this grassroots effort "will yield benefits in strengthening our sovereignty and self-determination for generations to come!" Roberts said.

The Mille Lacs Band Delegates are looking for a second District II Band member to fill a vacancy and help represent the District II community. For more information on how to join the Mille Lacs Band Delegates, please contact Michael Davis at 218-820-9140 or Michele Palomaki at 320-630-7415.

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Band's sovereign territory.

In addition, the Mille Lacs Band has implemented comprehensive cannabis ordinance and regulations, aligning governance standards closely with those outlined in Minnesota State cannabis laws.

Zach Atherton-Ely, MLCV's VP of Strategic Growth, reinforced, "These regulations include comparable age restrictions, purchase limitations, Associate licensure mandates, and guarantees of product safety and quality. We prioritize the safety and satisfaction of our customers and community by implementing rigorous standards, ensuring quality and trust in all our operations."

PREPARING YOUR WILL from page 1

take charge of making all the necessary arrangements. By taking the time to write a will, much of this stress can be reduced.

Wills do not need to be complex. A will simply spells out who should get what property, and who should be the Personal Representative — someone to take charge of making sure that the wishes of the testator (the person who writes the will) are carried out properly. It is also recommended to prepare a Health Care Power of Attorney at the time of preparing a will. The Health Care Power of Attorney is usually a trusted relative or friend who will have the authority to make necessary medical decisions when a person ends up in a hospital or other facility and is no longer able to make medical decisions for themselves. It is good for everyone to know, in advance, who would have the responsibility of making decisions in a situation like that.

Having everything written down, in proper fashion, may be a great help in preventing family fights. It also brings peace to the person who has written the will knowing that they have made the necessary decisions.

The problem is that there are very few lawyers on Indian reservations to help with wills, and even fewer lawyers who understand the complexities of AIPRA. So, DU law students are attempting to help fill that gap by donating their time, often during spring break and vacation time. The students will be coming to the Mille Lacs Reservation during the month of May to assist Band members in preparing their will. Keep in mind, you do not need to be an Elder to have a written will — anyone with property or children, or if you just want to prepare a Health Care Power of Attorney, is welcome and able to participate.

The process will take about two hours on two different days. On the first day, you will talk with a law student about what you would like to have included in your documents. You

For now, MLCV will stick to the growing and manufacturing side of the cannabis industry. They are actively exploring adding retail options in the future. Smoking cannabis will remain prohibited at its Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley operations, including its gaming floors, hotels, restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues.

Nayquonabe continued, "We're excited about this new venture and the opportunity to generate additional employment in the region. With our experience in other regulated sectors, we're confident that we can establish a benchmark for a safe, regulated, and thriving cannabis business on the Mille Lacs Band Reservation."

will have plenty of time to ask questions. To save time at the interview, write down the names of the friends and family you want to mention in the will. Include the birthdate, address, cellphone number, and enrollment or census number for each person, if you know it.

Other items to think about before your first meeting:

Special Gifts — What is important for specific family members to have?

Personal Representative — This is the person you would like to take charge when you pass on, to ensure that your wishes are carried out after you pass.

Joint Tenants or Tenants in Common — If you want to give a piece of land to be owned by several people at the same time, you will need to decide whether you want them to own the property as Joint Tenants or as Tenants in Common.

Joint Tenants means that the last person surviving will own all of the land. **Tenants in Common** means that as each person passes on, that person's share goes to the person's chosen heir/s or into their estate. The law student will explain more about this.

That night after the interview, the law student will write up all of the documents and have them checked by a licensed attorney.

On a second day, when the documents are ready, you will come back for the signing ceremony, which will take at least an hour, as the law student goes over everything to be sure that it is right.

More information on how to sign up to reserve an appointment will be coming next month from OSG.

GAMING REGULATORY ACT from page 3

a definition for the term "Gaming Operation." Subsequently, MLCV, the Executive Director of OGR&C, and GRA legal counsel reviewed the bill together to ensure that the terms "Gaming Enterprise" and "Gaming Operation" were used appropriately.

Once a consensus was reached in late November 2023, the Band Assembly sent a letter to the Chief Executive notifying her that the revised bill would be added to the Band Assembly agenda on December 6, 2023, as Bill 80-23. The Band Assembly proceeded to unanimously approve the bill, and the Chief Executive later signed Act 80-23. Teresa Kozumplik immediately emailed Act 80-23 to NIGC for its review.

NIGC responded on February 22, 2024, with a letter approving the Act, which was signed by departing Chairman E. Sequoyah Simermeyer. The Band's Gaming Code is therefore now effective and can be viewed on the Band's Tribal Register or on the NIGC website at <https://www.nigc.gov/general-counsel/gaming-ordinances>.

It is no small task to usher bills through the Band Assembly and to the Chief Executive for signature. The GRA Board's original request for a revised Gaming Code was sent to the Legislative Branch in February 2021, and it wasn't until three years later, in February 2024, that the Band Assembly received the NIGC Chairman's final stamp of approval.

It is most deserving to appreciate and congratulate all those involved in getting the Band's new Gaming Code across the finish line. The following is a list of the people who kept pushing to get those needed changes approved:

- Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive
- Sheldon Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly
- Virgil Wind, District I Representative
- Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
- Harry Davis, District III Representative
- Adam Candler, former Legislative Counsel
- Joe Jensen, former Staff Attorney and Legislative Counsel
- Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian and Clerk of the Band Assembly
- Syngen Kanassatega, former Legal & Policy Counsel for the Office of the Chief Executive
- Teresa Kozumplik, former Executive Director of OGR&C
- Susan Klapel, Chairperson for the GRA Board of Directors
- Crystal Weckert, GRA Board Member
- Michael Davis, GRA Board Member
- Jim Kalk, GRA Board Member
- Elvis Sutton, GRA Board Member
- Shannon Thomas, former GRA Board Member
- Megan Ballinger, former GRA Board Member
- Michelle Pomerleau, former GRA Board Member and current Executive Director of OGR&C
- Maurice Benjamin, former GRA Board Member
- Mike Hogan, former Senior Deputy Solicitor General (GRA legal counsel)
- Joe Nayquonabe Jr., Commissioner of Corporate Affairs
- Chad Ambroday, former Associate General Counsel and current MLCV General Counsel

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Advancing Improvements to Tribal Self-

Determination Through the 477 Program: The Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held an oversight hearing on tribal self-determination through the 477 program. Subcommittee Chair Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) issued the following statement in response: "It is important for our committee to focus on tribal autonomy and the ways Congress can support tribal self-determination. The 477 program is one of the key components of achieving that autonomy and it is important that we continue to have a thorough and thoughtful discussion on how to expand the aspects of the program that work and how to fix the aspects that don't." In 1992, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act enabled tribes to coordinate and integrate multiple federal programs focused on employment and related support services into one tribal program, with one budget and one annual report. Known collectively as the 477 programs, these tribal plans reduce administrative burdens and costs by letting tribes manage one program that provides multiple services to tribal members and by streamlining reporting requirements for tribes. Instead of submitting reports to multiple agencies, tribes are able to submit a single report each year. Source: *House Committee*.

Assistant Secretary Newland Touts President Biden's Commitment to Indian Country:

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Bay Mills Indian Community) spoke at the Reservation Economic Summit (RES 2024) to tribal leaders, tribal economic leaders, and corporate executives in Las Vegas. Newland's remarks were aimed to share with the audience the commitment President Joe Biden has demonstrated to tribal communities across Indian Country by providing unprecedented funding. In his remarks, Newland spoke in terms of dollar amounts — large amounts during the first three years Biden has been in office. Source: *Native News Online*.

Could sports betting become legal this legislative session?

There are only a few more months before the end of the Minnesota legislative session. Although one of the big-ticket items talked about is could sports betting become legal, throughout the state of Minnesota. More than 38 states have already legalized some form of sports betting in the past five years. Minnesota Sen. Jeremy Miller of District 26, said one divisive aspect of the sports betting bill is that it would prohibit in-game wagers. "Based on the latest estimates and the latest proposal that's moving through the legislature, once we remove that in-game betting portion, it would probably generate about \$60-\$80 million per year by far in the state of Minnesota, once it's fully implemented," Sen. Miller said. "Other states have now passed sports betting, plus Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. as more and more states continue to pass sports betting proposals, Minnesota sort of remains on an island. We're missing out on this \$100 billion industry." The sheer amount of potential revenue also plays a role outside of the Minnesota legislature. Sports betting involves several stakeholders, like for example the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association. Rep. Liish Kozlowski of District 8B, said to legalize sports betting, there's another important facet. Part of bill would need to have tribal exclusivity with gambling licensing. Source: *WDIO Radio*.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT — AWARENESS MONTH —

WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?

Victim Services aims to stop victim blaming

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Every two minutes, somewhere in America, a woman, man, or child is being raped or sexually assaulted. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, though women, children, and some demographic groups are more frequently victimized than others. The gravity of sexual violence goes far beyond the violence you hear about on the news and the cases that make it to the court room. It can be hard to comprehend just how many women, men, and children experience sexual violence in their lifetime. The statistics are alarming. What is even more alarming is those statistics are estimated to be low.

According to the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, most sexual assault statistics are based on what has been reported to law enforcement. Many statistics are thought to be low because only 30% of sexual assaults are ever reported. Moreover, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 60 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse in America today — that's approximately 20% of our population. As many as 90% of those survivors never report their abuse to law enforcement, and more than 30% will never report their abuse to anyone, according to the National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children.

Rape and sexual assault are very serious allegations that can result in serious charges for the offender. So why is it that victims more often do not report the crime? Victims cite a multitude of reasons. According to the Department of Justice, 20% worry about retaliation — not just from the perpetrator, but from society as well.

Survivors struggle with a variety of emotions that make it difficult to come forward; along with the fear of retaliation is the fear of not being believed or of being humiliated. Society often blames the victim themselves, which can then make the victim feel less than human and ashamed.

Native Americans are at the greatest risk of sexual violence, according to Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). On average, American Indians ages 12 and older experience 5,900 sexual assaults per year. American Indians are twice as likely to experience a rape/sexual assault compared to all races. And 41% of sexual assaults against American Indians are committed by a stranger; 34% by an acquaintance; and 25% by an intimate or family member. RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. One in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape. About 1 in 9 men were made to penetrate someone during their lifetime. Additionally, 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place.

Sexual violence starts early. More than 4 in 5 female rape survivors reported that they were first raped before age 25 and almost half were first raped as a minor (i.e., before age 18). Nearly 8 in 10 male rape survivors reported that they were made to penetrate someone before age 25 and about 4 in 10 were first made to penetrate as a minor.

The words victim and survivor are often used interchangeably, and with good reason. Often a person who has experienced sexual assault feels like a victim while at other times the person may feel more like a survivor. Those emotions may change on any given day or any given moment. Survivors strug-

gle with a wide range of lingering emotions and trauma that have a profound effect on society. According to the CDC, sexual violence is also linked to negative health behaviors. Sexual violence survivors are more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol, use drugs, and engage in risky sexual activity.

The trauma from sexual violence may impact a survivor's employment in terms of time off from work, diminished performance, job loss, or inability to work. These issues disrupt earning power and have a long-term effect on the economic well-being of survivors and their families. Coping and completing everyday tasks after victimization can be challenging. Survivors may have difficulty maintaining personal relationships, returning to work or school, and regaining a sense of normalcy.

Additionally, sexual violence is connected to other forms of violence. For example, girls who have been sexually abused are more likely to experience additional sexual violence and violence types and become victims of intimate partner violence in adulthood. Bullying perpetration in early middle school is linked to sexual harassment perpetration in high school.

Given these and other facts and statistics, we as a community should be doing everything possible to remove the societal barriers that keep the victim from coming forward. The poem by Dr. Mary Simmerling (printed on this page) reflects the emotions of a victim blamed for her rape because of what she was wearing. Mille Lacs Band Victim Services has been collecting stories of survivors and has created a display to help push awareness and take the blame off the victim. "Let's put the blame back where it belongs, on the offender," said Kristen Allord, Director of Mille Lacs Band Victim Services. The eye-opening exhibit will be on display at each of the Mille Lacs Band districts during the month of April.

If you are a victim and need immediate help, please call 911. If you would like assistance from a trained advocate, please call the Mille Lacs Band Victim Services Crisis Line at 866-867-4006 or reach out to an anonymous help line such as RAINN at 800-656-HOPE.

What I was wearing

by Mary Simmerling

What I was wearing was this:

from the top, a white t-shirt (cotton,) short-sleeved, and round at the neck. This was tucked into a jean skirt, (also cotton) ending just above the knees and belted at the top.

Underneath all this was a white cotton bra and white underpants (though probably not a set).

On my feet: white tennis shoes — the kind one plays tennis in.

And then finally, silver earrings, and lip gloss.

This is what I was wearing that day/that night/that fourth of July in 1987.

You may be wondering why this matters/or even how I remember every item in such detail?

You see, I have been asked this question many times.

It has been called to my mind many times.

This question/this answer/these details.

But my answer, much awaited/much anticipated seems flat somehow given the rest of the details of that night during which at some point I was raped.

And I wonder, what answer/what details would give comfort/could give comfort to you, my questioners seeking comfort where there is alas no comfort to be found.

If only it were so simple. If only we could end rape by simply changing clothes.

I remember also, what he was wearing that night, even though it's true that no one has ever asked.

WHAT WERE YOU WEARING? SURVIVOR'S STORIES

Join us in April for an eye-opening exhibition featuring clothing worn by sexual survivors, dispelling the myth that attire causes sexual violence.

This event will be discreet to avoid triggering anyone, with advocates offering resources if needed. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will travel to various districts on the following dates:

D2 EAST LAKE 4/11 10AM-7PM 4/12 10AM-3PM	D2A ISLE 4/18 10AM-7PM 4/19 10AM-3PM
D3 AZHAAMOG 4/15 10AM-7PM 4/16 10AM-3PM	D1 NEW CENTER 4/24 10AM-7PM 4/25 10AM-3PM

WHAT WERE YOU WEARING EXHIBIT

If you have any questions regarding the exhibit, please contact Victim Services at 320-532-7793.

NEED HELP?

If you are a victim and need immediate help, please call 911.

If you would like assistance from a trained advocate, please call the Mille Lacs Band Victim Services Crisis Line at 866-867-4006 or reach out to an anonymous help line such as RAINN at 800-656-HOPE

NEW MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH!

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

LEARNING TO SEW FROM MY MOTHER

By CAROLE HIGGINS (MATRIOUS)

Boozhoo! My name is Carole Higgins (Matrious). My Anishinaabe name is Ojiingo, and I currently live in Hinckley near Aazhoomog where my family is from. I was given my name many years ago by Mary Nickaboine. I am 76 years old, and I would like to share a memory of when I began to learn to sew when I was a child.

Sewing is something I have enjoyed throughout my life as an Anishinaabeg ikwe. When I was 10 years old, I remember watching my mother, Grace Matrious, sew blankets on her old treadle sewing machine. I sat on the floor next to her and watched her feet pedal the old machine. When she trimmed scraps and pieces from her blankets, they would fall to the floor around me. I wanted to learn to sew too! I asked her if I could have the scrap pieces to sew. She gave me a needle and thread and I began sewing the pieces together as straight as possible. After a little practice and many finger pokes, my hand stitching was getting better. She told me not to hurry when I used the needle. My mother noticed that I was getting better at sewing, and I remember how good I felt because she noticed I was getting better at sewing. I never gave up. In time, I began making clothes for my doll out of the scraps, blankets and skirts.

My mother would always cover her machine when she wasn't using it, and I was not supposed to touch her



machine. One day, she went to town, so I thought it was a good time to use her machine. I sewed a few pieces together and before you know it, the machine was all jammed up. Needless to say, when she found out I used her machine she was upset because it had to be taken apart so she could pull out the blob of thread that was bound up inside the machine. I was always happy with what she taught me.

NEW MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH STORIES

In 2002, the first "Moccasin Telegraph" column appeared in a local newspaper, the *Mille Lacs Messenger*. Since then, 29 people have authored 93 columns. The goal of this project is to record history, traditions, and stories about the Ojibwe culture and share them with Band members and local residents. They have been reprinted in the Inaajimowin to preserve the teachings and bring them to the next generation.

Authors have explained what sets Ojibwe people apart — but also how much there is in common with other cultures. They have brought powwows and sweat lodges to life on paper. They have shared difficult stories of living at Indian boarding schools and overcoming alcoholism. Some have told very personal stories, and others have shared pure history as told by generations of Ojibwe people. There will always be questions to answer and stories to tell. That's why the "Moccasin Telegraph" will continue.

The "Moccasin Telegraph" is an exercise in identity. The authors of these columns tell of ricing and hunting, tobacco and drums, powwows and funerals, dreams and visions. They recognize how their heritage has put them on a unique path.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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

They describe why the Mille Lacs Reservation is so important to Band members today, and how their language and culture have helped them endure tough times.

The "Moccasin Telegraph" is helping the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe tell its story to its neighbors and the next generation through the voices of individual Band members. The collective history of the Mille Lacs Band will be preserved through the memories and thoughtful observations of the authors. Most importantly, these stories show that the Mille Lacs Band is not just recording its history — its people are living it and sharing it with young people.

Identity is not taught; it is felt and lived. Identity cannot be untaught or unlearned. As long as the Mille Lacs people live the Ojibwe way of life, their values and identity will endure. This is something that all American Indians — all cultures, really — can learn from in a fast-paced, high-tech world.

If you have a story to share in the "Moccasin Telegraph," please reach out to Vivian LaMoore at 320-630-8195 or email vivian.lamoore@millelacsband.com.



BRIEFS

SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Mick and Syngen, Mille Lacs, April 5 and 6, 2024
Steve and Andy, Mille Lacs, April 12 and 13, 2024
Linda and Lean, Mille Lacs, April 19 and 20, 2024
Joe and George, Mille Lacs, April 26 and 27, 2024
Sheldon and Joe Jr., Mille Lacs, May 3 and 4, 2024
Darrell, Lake Lena, May 10 and 11, 2024
Tim and Tom, East Lake, May 17 and 18, 2024
Mike and Lee, Lake Lena, May 24 and 25, 2024
Niib and Iyaabance, East Lake, May 31 and June 1, 2024
Bob and John, Mille Lacs, June 7 and 8, 2024
Vince and Dale, East Lake, June 14 and 15, 2024

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Are you and your family prepared for severe weather? Each year, Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM), in collaboration with the National Weather Service, sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. The week is designed to refresh, remind, and educate everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit.

Statewide Tornado Drills

The most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the two annual statewide tornado drills. In Minnesota, the 2024 statewide tornado drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 11, at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. CDT.

Outdoor warning sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT DECISION AFFIRMING THE 1837 TREATY RIGHTS

Event hosted by the DNR in collaboration with GLIFWC

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

March 24, 1999 is a date etched in the minds of many and ranks high on the list of historic events in the history of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. After a 9-year legal battle winding through the court system from District courts all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, the case was finally over. The Court ruled that the Ojibwe retained certain hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on the ceded land. This date became an annual Band celebration. This year marked the 25th Anniversary of the historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirming hunting, fishing, and gathering rights of the Mille Lacs Band and other Chippewa tribes in the 1837 ceded territory. The annual event was held on March 22, 2024 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs hosted by the Mille Lacs Band DNR in collaboration with GLIFWC.

The 25th anniversary celebration included a presentation by historian and author Bruce White along with a panel discussion with speakers including Don Wedll, former Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band; Howard Bichler, former Tribal Attorney; George Newago, former Chairperson for Red Cliff Tribal Council; and Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Biologist. The panel was moderated by Tadd Johnson, former Solicitor General for the Band and current advisor to the Band.

Panelists eloquently spoke about their involvement throughout the case and the impact of the case on the Band members, the community and Indian Country as a whole. They also mentioned the impact their involvement has had on their lives personally. Their speeches were raw and often emotional with heartfelt expressions of gratitude.

The annual celebration aims to educate Band members and the greater community about the 1837 treaty rights. The event also featured informational booths, arts and crafts projects, door prizes, and games for kids and adults. Vendors set up informational booths for attendees to learn about a wide variety of topics, from animal pelts to rock formations.

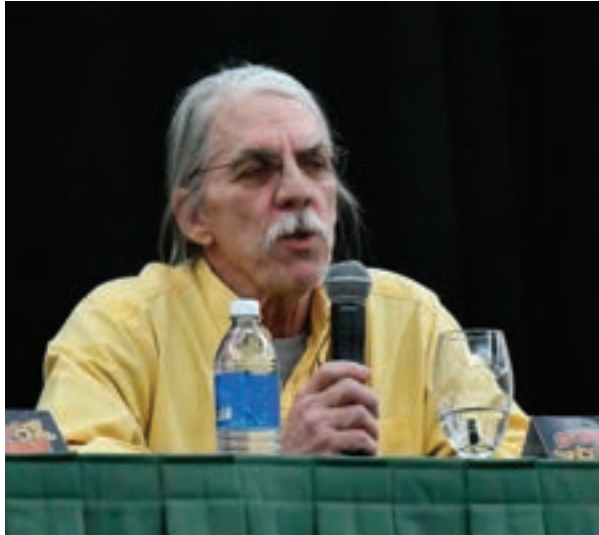
Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, 526 U.S. 172 (1999), was a United States Supreme Court decision concerning the usufructuary rights of the Ojibwe (Chippewa) tribe to certain lands it had ceded to the federal government in 1837. The Court ruled that the Ojibwe retained certain hunting, fishing, and gathering rights on the ceded land.

The judicial conclusion in the case came in a 5-4 decision, authored by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the Court ruled that the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians does have usufructuary rights that were guaranteed to them by the 1837 treaty. After an examination of the historical record, the Court held that the 1850 Executive Order was ineffective to terminate Mille Lacs Band's usufructuary rights, that the Mille Lacs Band did not relinquish its 1837 treaty rights in the 1855 treaty, and that the Mille Lacs Band's usufructuary rights were not extinguished when Minnesota was admitted to the Union.

You can listen to the recorded reading of the ruling by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor recorded live on March 24, 1999 by visiting the website of Oyez, LII Supreme Court Resources, Justia Supreme Court Center at <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1998/97-1337>. The reading is 4:48 in length.

TREATY RIGHTS 25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Special guest speakers at the Annual Treaty Rights 25th Anniversary celebration event were from the top left to right: Historian and author Bruce White, Former DNR Commissioner Don Wedll, GLIFWC Biologist Jonathan Gilbert, former tribal attorney Howard Bichler, former Chairperson Red Cliff George Newago, and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Bottom row left: DNR employees consulting. Right: Band members engaging in celebration. See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



HISTORY TAUGHT THROUGH MUSIC & ART

Michael Laughing Fox is a storytelling artist and flutist

By Vivian LaMoore

Winter is the time for storytelling for the Anishinaabe people, and Michael Laughing Fox Charette is a storyteller. He is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe who enhances his stories with the hauntingly beautiful flute and drum performances. He brought a variety of flutes along special guests, the Mashkiizibii Youth Drum from Bad River, and jingle dress dancer Ella Goodwin of the Red Cliff Band of Ojibwe for an educational program held at Wewinabe in March.

Laughing Fox's work as both a visual and performance artist is woven together with the traditional wisdom of the Anishinaabe people. He uses his gifts to share Native history, culture, and spirituality. His performance at Wewinabe captivated the audience and engaged young and old alike.

While there was very little snow on the ground that evening, there was enough snow to share a few stories of the history of the flute in a heartwarming tale of a young man trying

to learn how to communicate his feelings of unconditional love for a young girl.

His impressive storytelling and remarkable talent as a flute player and singer delivered a charming performance.

"I believe in sharing these stories and music to the youth as a way of educating them through entertainment," Laughing Fox said. "Engaging with them in the stories and including them in the performance helps draw a connection to our culture and our history even if they don't realize it at the time."

Laughing Fox encouraged the children and audience to participate in the performance of the evening, helping to make the sound of a rain storm. "It really did sound like rain!" said Tricia Thomas, Mille Lacs Early Education Head Start Services Coordinator.



TRIBAL PRIMARY ELECTION IS APRIL 2, 2024

TRIBAL PRIMARY ELECTION POLLING PLACES

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe primary election is April 2, 2024. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election results will be posted as soon as they are verified.

Polling places are as follows: (District I is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting.)

DISTRICT I

OLD COMMUNITY CENTER
43500 Virgo Road
Onamia, MN

DISTRICT II

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
46666 State Hwy. 65
McGregor, MN

ISLE COMMUNITY CENTER

2605 Chiminising Drive
Isle, MN

DISTRICT III:

LAKE LENA COMMUNITY CENTER
45749 Grace Lake Rd Sandstone, MN

URBAN:

ALL NATIONS CHURCH
1515 East 23rd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRPERSON

Four-Year Term

Samuel Archie Moose

Wallace Ervin St. John, Sr.

Virgil Otis Wind

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE

Four-Year Term

Valerie Charissa Harrington-Wind

Megan Ann Ballinger

Melissa Marie Boyd

Carolyn Marie Beaulieu

Curtis LeRoy Kalk

Billie Jo Boyd

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Judging Qualifications

Each Band governing body will be the sole judge of the constitutional qualifications of its voters and may, by official action, delegate this responsibility to its General Reservation Election Board.

Eligibility to Vote:

Generally

Eligible voters are enrolled members of the Tribe, 18 years of age or over. All eligible voters shall vote by secret ballot. To be eligible to cast a ballot a voter must meet all constitutional requirements. In addition, to be eligible to cast a vote for Committeeperson, a voter must have resided within that district for at least thirty (30 days immediately preceding the election, unless the voter casts an absentee ballot as permitted by this Ordinance.

WHAT'S NEW WITH WATER OVER NICKEL

April Update

By Misko'asin, Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources

Spring is a time of renewal and energy. And Band leaders are motivated to ramp up our response to the proposed Tamarack Mine, located within the ceded territory of the Treaty of 1855 and in close proximity to District II.

The proposed mine — and the impact it could have on our people — continues to be a priority for Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe leadership. Since launching Water Over Nickel one year ago, we have been busy sharing our story with state and federal officials and our communities.

We know that our Band members are deeply invested in this issue as well. To ensure Band members are informed and updated on our activities, we will be sharing regular updates about our efforts with Water Over Nickel, the Band's response to the proposed Tamarack Mine, and the mine permitting process.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Talon Metals' proposal for the Tamarack Mine is in review with the Minnesota DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been reviewing the Tamarack Mine proposal since Talon Metals submitted its environmental assessment worksheet in June 2023. This is a long-term process that involves multiple rounds of review and comments between the DNR and Talon before the DNR begins its public comment period. The Mille Lacs Band has had the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal as well.

The public comment period allows the broader Minnesota population to provide feedback related to the proposed mine. We anticipate that this public comment period will begin in late summer or early fall 2024.

We have several opportunities available for Band members to learn more about Water Over Nickel and our government's response to the proposed Tamarack Mine.

In addition to the updates shared here, I will hold monthly virtual Q&A sessions, open to all Band members, focused on the proposed Tamarack Mine and Water Over Nickel.

These virtual Q&A sessions will be available on the second Thursday every month from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., via the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81159749422?pwd=OG5JH-4j70ybbVOM8zXIGOGy4hgmjG3.1>

The next session is scheduled for April 11 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

We are listening to your feedback, perspectives, and concerns

December 2023 Tribal Engagement Session in District II

We are grateful that Band members attended our Tribal Engagement Session at the District II community center on December 18. The Tribal Engagement Session was an opportu-



Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge.

nity for Band members to share feedback, concerns, and ideas related to the proposed Tamarack Mine. Band leaders will include these perspectives in our conversations with state and federal officials moving forward.

Band member feedback shared at the event included skepticism of Talon Metals and their claims of environmentally responsible mining, concern over the impact the mine could have on the Band's land, water, cultural practices, and future generations, and a call to Band members to come together and protect the community.

Band members requested that we reference the 1855 Treaty and name impacted communities, including the Sandy Lake community, in our Water Over Nickel website and messaging. This language is now live on our Water Over Nickel website: www.waterovernickel.com.

We are making our voices heard in media interviews and interactions.

The proposed Tamarack Mine and the Mille Lacs Band's response continue to be covered by local and national media. Recent coverage includes:

- The Circle highlighted the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe response to the proposed Tamarack Mine: Political Matters — February 2024.
- The Mesabi Tribune shared an opinion piece written by former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson and former Minnesota

legislators raising concerns about the risks associated with the proposed Tamarack Mine: Clean water is a statewide concern.

We ask Band members to help spread the word about Water Over Nickel.

YouTube

Our Water Over Nickel overview video is live on our Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe YouTube channel. We will promote this video and additional footage collected at the Wild Rice Lake Refuge in the coming months to increase awareness of the risks associated with the proposed Tamarack Mine.

We encourage you to follow Water Over Nickel on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn and to share the video with your friends, family, and community.

Protecting our people, land, manoomin, and water from the impact of nickel mining is critical. We are grateful for our community's support and interest in this issue and will continue to provide opportunities for Band members to share feedback and participate in our efforts with Water Over Nickel.



December 2023 Water Over Nickel update iun District II.



HARVESTERS! SCAN THIS CODE FOR EASY DECLARATIONS!

The QR code brings you to the 2024 Spring Landing Declarations Form ([google.com](https://www.google.com)) Declaring a Landing. For the season, harvesters must complete the Landing Declaration Form by 11 a.m. daily to allow DNR staff adequate time to notify GLIFWC/State. If you do not have your netting declaration in by 11 a.m., a harvesting permit may not be allowed.

SMALL STEPS GO A LONG WAY TO EASE CLIMATE CRISIS

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

When people think about greenhouse gas emissions as causing climate change, the first thing that may pop into our heads is giant industrial factories spewing clouds of smoke and burning fuel into the air, or an over-crowded six-lane highway during bumper-to-bumper rush hour. "But it is more than that. It is everyday activities of you and I," said Peter Okoro, the newly hired Climate Specialist with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources.

Peter Okoro is originally from Nigeria. He did his undergrad studies in China in Environmental Science for four years and in 2022 received his Master's Degree from Madison, Wisc., in Environmental Conservation. He chose this path because "It is time to make a change in the environment," Okoro said. He began working with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources officially in December 2023 in his role as Climate Specialist.

"We are faced with a climate crisis," he said. "As a people, we need to adapt to this climate crisis, which we all know as climate change. My role with the Mille Lacs Band is to come up with plans and strategies within the DNR here on how we can mitigate and adapt to the climate change crisis. My main task is how I can ensure that the carbon footprint of the Mille Lacs Band is reduced."

Okoro explained that human activities — by all of us — have contributed greatly to climate change. How does climate affect us? One example is the wild rice which has fed the bodies and spirits of the Anishinaabe people from the beginning of time. It is critical to the culture and traditions of the Mille Lacs Band. The existence of wild rice is extremely sensitive to climate change and has been affected over time by it "As years go by, the temperature keeps rising due to toxic gases. This is concerning for the existence of wild rice," he explained.

His challenge is to find ways to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. "It is a collective effort with everyone," Okoro said. "That is what it is going to take to change. It is going to take all of us

collectively to make change. But changing the carbon footprint starts with individual behavior."

Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels — coal, oil, or gas — causes a large chunk of the greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, that blanket the Earth and trap the sun's heat, according to the United Nations Climate Action. And according to World Population Reviews, the United States is the second largest consumer of electricity in the world. China ranks number one. Coal and natural gas are energy sources that can be used directly, for example, to heat homes. But more often, energy sources are used to produce electricity, which has an almost boundless range of uses. These include heating and cooling homes, preparing food, and powering a vast array of modern devices that we use daily, from cell phones and computers, to satellites and medical equipment, and more.

"Electricity consumption is one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions," Okoro said. So to reduce that carbon footprint, Okoro said, "First of all, we should all find ways to conserve energy."

That may include simple small steps of turning off lights and appliances when not in use, turning down the heat a degree or two and opening windows in lieu of running the AC, unplugging charging cords when not in use, turning off computers and other electronics when not in use, etc.

Another thing we can all do to help reduce the carbon footprint Okoro said is to "form habits of recycling plastic, reducing plastic use, and reducing paper waste. Limiting the use of plastic bottles and bags can go a long way."

Okoro continued saying that a third idea to reduce individual carbon footprints is to "reduce our mileage. While transportation is a necessity, we can work on ways to reduce the miles we take on a daily basis."

Some ideas are to rideshare when possible for meetings, consolidate shopping trips, take better routes, use public transport when possible, and keep on track with vehicle maintenance.

Reducing the carbon footprint is up to each of us. "It is col-

lectively our everyday actions, it is you and I, it is what we do at home, at the office, and at school that contribute to climate change. The more we can do to increase awareness as individuals, the better we all do," Okoro said.

Nigeria is located on the western coast of Africa with its southernmost border touching the Atlantic Ocean.

While the landmass

is a bit larger than the state of Texas, at roughly 347,000 sq. miles, it holds a population of over 230 million people. It is very cultural and diverse, with over 250 tribes. Although English is the national language, over 500 regional languages are also spoken. The climate characteristics in Nigeria are classified as tropical, Okoro said. "It is characterized by just two seasons — the rainy season and the wet season."

However, he grew up in the south-Saharan Africa, where they were continuously affected by drought. "I was impacted directly by climate change. Going into the environmental field, I decided I have to make a change in whichever way I could. That is my biggest motivation for getting into environmental studies is to learn how I can make an impact. I took interest in climate change, mitigation, and adaptation and that is how I found myself here. I believe greenhouse gases are one of the major issues that contribute to climate change. And this is the reason why I am here today. To make those changes to save our planet. But it is a collective effort with everyone. That is what it is going to take to change. Changing the carbon footprint starts with individual behavior."



EARTH DAY 2024 THERE IS NO PLANET B

What kind of world do we want to live in?

By Mashkodebzhikigahbaw, Benji Same

Each year, the discussions around resources, management, collaboration, and sustainability are had at every major level of government across the world. What kind of world do we want to live in? What kind of world are we leaving our children?

Earth Day, a now internationally celebrated holiday across the world, was established to take a step back and have these difficult conversations and recognize that our footprint on Mother Earth may be larger than we care to admit. As an avid outdoorsman and lover of the land and water, it often pains me to travel to lakes, rivers, forests, and trails that are filled with garbage, waste, and ignorant practices around single-use items such as plastic bags, bottles, and so much more.

The impact our society is leaving on this Earth is one that may define our generation. We have a chance to become stewards of the land and water, but so many must rise to the occasion to clean the mess left behind by just a few. More outdoorsmen are becoming more aware of the rising issue in our freshwater left behind by the vast minority of all fishermen as well as the generally low likelihood that fellow outdoors folk are the culprits in contributing to the need for annual Adopt-A-Highway or -Shoreline. There is a large push in the outdoor world to pick up at least one piece of trash every time we enter the woods or venture out on our favorite lakes, and the sad reality is you don't need to go searching very far to find that piece of trash.

In an effort to continue building healthy habits and maintaining a healthy ecosystem here on Mille Lacs, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources and the office of each respective District Representative promote an annual Adopt-a-Shoreline project across all three districts of the Mille Lacs Band. According to the MLB DNR records from 2023, a total of 110 participants signed up to donate their efforts in just one singular day to commit to healing our waterways. Across all

districts, nearly 60 yards of trash was collected across just a few miles of shorelines in our great communities.

To put this into perspective, 60 yards of trash is estimated to weigh well over 12,000 pounds. And to put over 12,000 pounds into perspective, this is about the size of three 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 trucks' worth of garbage from our shorelines alone. You read that correctly. Our districts collected over three full-size trucks' worth of trash from the shorelines of lakes and waterways in each of our districts alone!

And while this is an amazing feat, that our people joined together to collect garbage and waste off the shorelines in our beautiful communities, this is but a drop in the ocean compared to the grand scheme of garbage and waste dumped into local lakes, Band owned properties around the state, and into the ditches we drive above every day. Earth Day is meant to celebrate remembering what it means to be a steward of the land, and while most don't pollute excessively, there are still those who do. "My wish to share on this upcoming Earth Day would be to hope that we can help each other keep our streets, water, and woods clean and free from dumping and misuse," said Susan Klapel, the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Executive Director. "Maybe if we can all work towards recycling more, cutting up our recycling materials, and taking care of our trash in the rightful way, we wouldn't have to have these Adopt-A-Shoreline days," Klapel said.

As part of celebrating Earth Day and spring cleanup, public works is once again offering spring clean up dates across all districts to help residents reduce their trash, waste, and throw-away items to help keep our world in a better place. District I dates are April 20 to April 28, District II from May 4 to May 10, and District III from April 13 to April 14.

Another theme the MLB DNR is going to carry into this year's Earth Day, is the promotion of reusable bags for gro-

ceries and shopping, to help promote less single-use plastic bags. The MLB Climate Specialist, Peter Okoro, advised that the use of reusable bags could help reduce our carbon footprint immensely. He indicated that billions of single-use plastic bags go to waste each year in the United States, and it takes millions and millions of barrels of oil just to create these single-use bags. By doing something as simple as using reusable bags we can help promote safer practice for the next generation. Look ahead for Mille Lacs Band printed reusable bags as part of the spring cleanup and Earth Day celebration to come.

While it might not seem like much, with one person using a few less plastic bags a year, the return on impacting our planet can be felt tenfold when we as a community can rise together and stand for Mother Earth, as she has stood for us time and time again. And while you're still at it, maybe plant a tree this spring during the annual tree giveaway presented by the MLB DNR. This year, members can choose from a variety of trees to plant, including highbush cranberry, American hazelnut, American plum, choke cherry, paper birch, red maple, red pine, or white spruce trees. No date has yet been set for the tree giveaway days. For more information on tree distribution, please watch the MLB DNR Facebook page or contact Jacob Horbacz, Forester, at 320-630-5752.

If you have any questions or concerns, or want to sign up for the Mille Lacs Band Harvesters Text Alert Thread, please contact Lead Licensing Agent for District I Leroy Day at 320-532-7896 or email at Leroy.day@millelacsband.com. If you have signed up previously you do not need to sign up again. For harvesting declaration the DNR also urges fishermen to use the declaration link on the MLB website, DNR Facebook page, or to utilize the new QR code on previous page to declare landings for harvesting in 2024.



NANDA-WAABANDANAN IKIDOWINAN ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS 2024

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member



CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

- Wiishkobimaagozi
- Wiishkobaagamin
- Wiishkobimaagwad
- Wiishkobipogwad
- Wiishkobaaboo
- Wiishkobipogozi
- Wiishkobizi
- Wiishkoban
- Gizhiigi
- Gizhiidaabii'iwe
- Gizhiyaanimad
- Gizhiyoode
- Gizhiibattoo
- Gizhiijiwan
- Gizhiyose

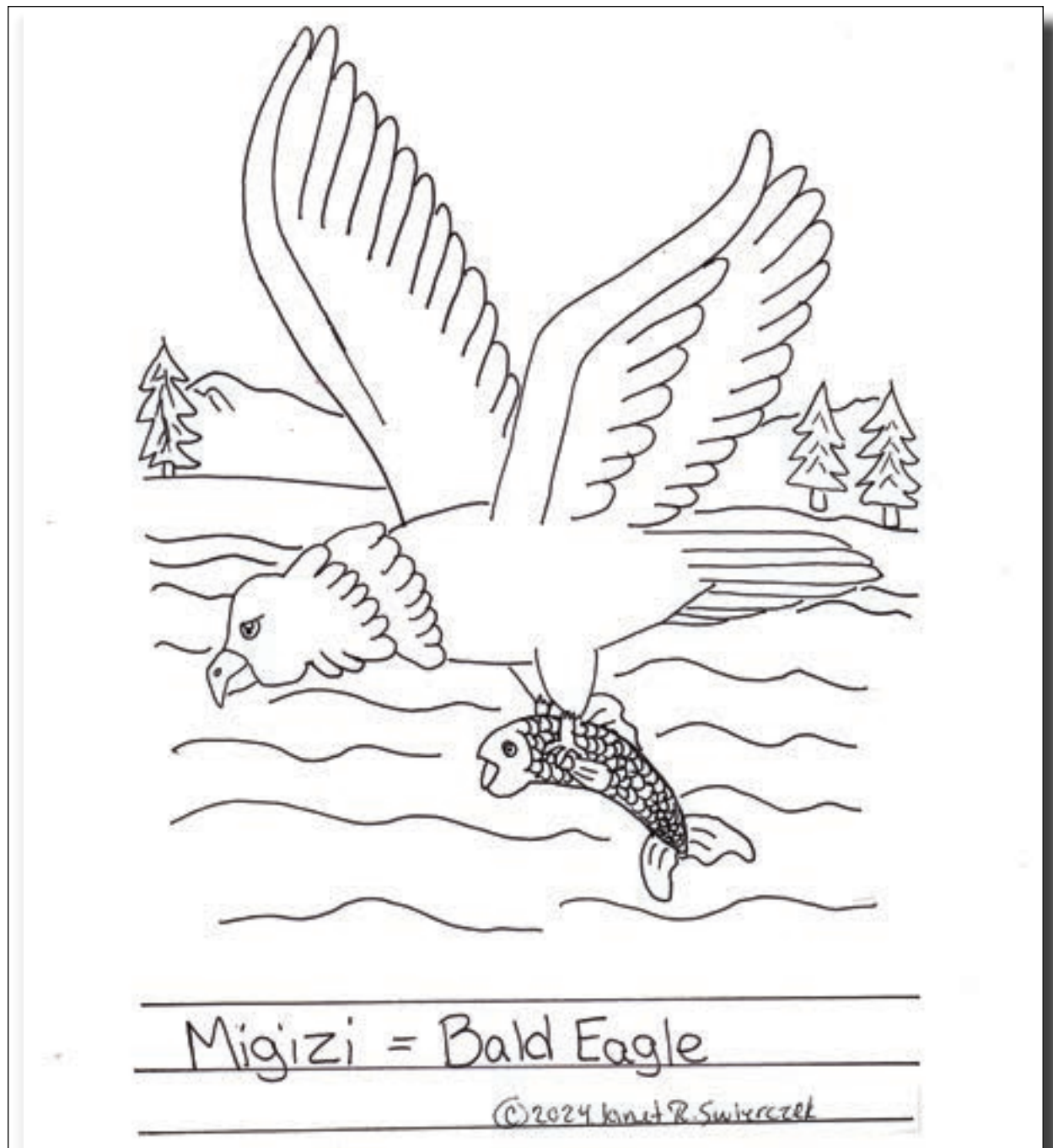
KIDS COLORING CORNER

MIGIZI = BALD EAGLE

Artwork by Janet Swierczek, Mille Lacs Band Member

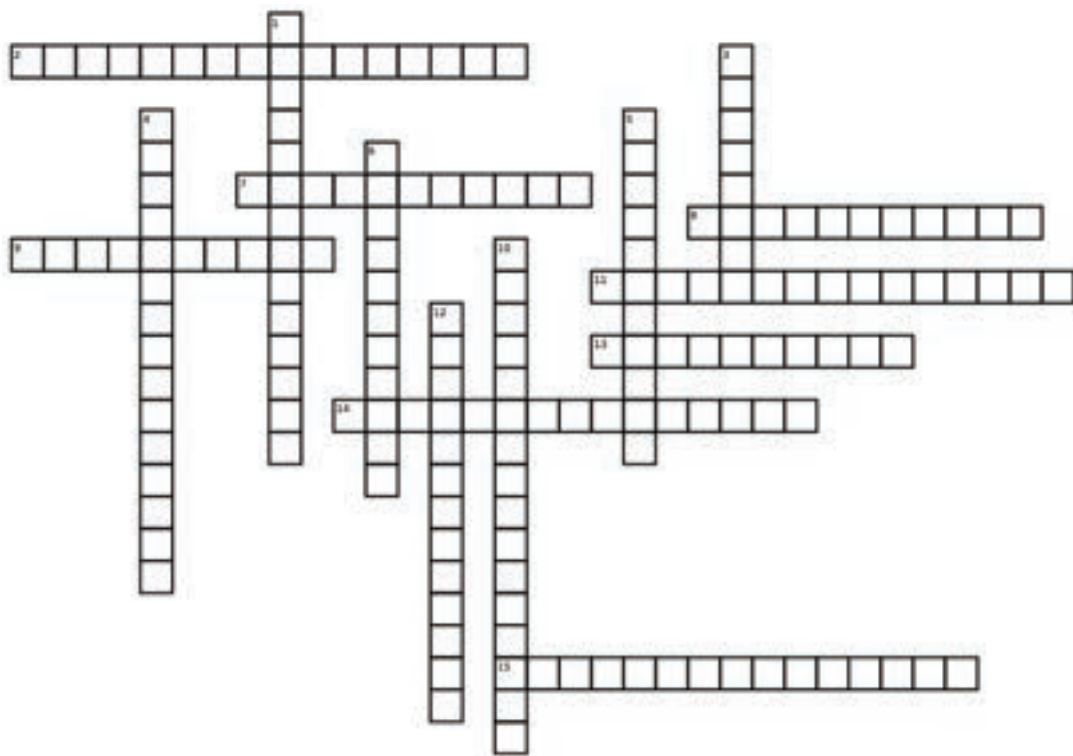
Janet Swierczek is an artist and Mille Lacs Band member Elder who lives in Minneapolis. She has developed over 50 coloring books. Find out more about her work by checking out the archives of the Inaajimowin at <https://www.inaajimowin.com/news-blog/meet-the-artist-behind-the-kids-coloring-corner>. You can also check out her website at www.janetscoloring-books.com and follow her on Instagram at @coloringbookgirl-janet and X at @Booksbyjanet.

"I'm always open for more requests," Janet said. "So feel free to email me at janetswierczek06@gmail.com."



AAZHAWAAKWASING ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member



Down:

1. The wind blows fast.
3. S/he grows fast.
4. It tastes sweet.
5. It flows fast.
6. S/he is sweet.
10. It smells sweet.
12. Maple Sap.

Across:

2. S/he smells sweet.
7. S/he crawls fast.
8. S/he runs fast.
9. It is sweet.
11. S/he drives fast.
13. S/he walks fast.
14. Sweet liquid.
15. S/he tastes sweet.

GIKINOO'AMAAGOOWIN — A LESSON

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member

As Anishinaabe, we ebb and flow through a series of lessons. Sometimes, the lessons last for a split second, and, perhaps, sometimes they would last for generations. Some would be for an individual and their place within the community. Perhaps some would be for the community but meant for each individual. Other times, the lesson can be just there for anyone to benefit both as an individual and a community. The lesson from the Manidoog can take any shape or form. Must be why the word Manidoog translates to "mystery."

There is always something to be learned. We are encouraged to learn something every day. Nobody knows it all. Even Wenabozho, being part spirit, still had lessons to learn. Most times for the benefit of the Anishinaabe. The Elders would say that they are always in a state of learning. The Manidoog know that this world is ever-changing and that the knowledge of the Anishinaabe would always need to adapt. And that there is always something to learn from the Manidoog. As Anishinaabe build and foster their connections, the opportunity for knowledge is infinite. Guidance and insights will be shared to those who honor the Manidoog, the customs set forth, and the way of life given to the Anishinaabe.

As some lessons echo across the generations, the connections made from them bind us together as Anishinaabe. We should regularly put these teachings into use as that was their original intent. The Manidoog knew that we would need something to keep us together, and we would need a way to see the world. What they have given us is of the greatest value, as they make us who we are meant to be as Anishinaabe. Any deviation from the customs, teachings, and gifts would cause us to live un-according to what was meant for us. They are there to keep us aligned with the original intent of the Anishinaabe.

For our lessons as individuals, they are so unique, but across the eons of Anishinaabe existence, they may reflect others' teachings. Maybe we are meant to carry that lesson through a certain generation just for one person to hear it in our lifetime.



Maybe it is a responsibility that, when taken care of, would cause a societal caretaking for all Anishinaabeg, whether they know it or not. Sometimes, it is just what we need to know, hear, understand at the particular point in time that would guide our trajectory throughout a lifespan in order for us to have the impacts that we are meant to have. Regardless of our understanding or not understanding.

These lessons contribute to a cycle of energy that carries from the beginning of time to far into the future. As we carry our inner spirits throughout this world, perhaps they are seeking to understand how an Anishinaabe would apply the knowledge. Maybe they are trying to guide us without the need for any divine interventions. Or, the divine intervention is held daily with us being given another day of life, and all we have to do is honor the Manidoog, remember our ancestors, and gain knowledge. Through this, our Anishinaabe will continue on.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Ojibwe language is known as polysynthetic, denoting or relating to a language characterized by complex words consisting of several morphemes in which a single word may function as a whole sentence. A morpheme is nothing new to us. We use them regularly in English. For example, the word "incoming" has three morphemes; in, come, and -ing. All give their meaning to the word. Give it a try!

Wiishkoban = It is sweet.
(wee shko bun)

Wiishkobizi = S/he is sweet.
(wee shko biz zih)

Wiishkobaaboo = Maple sap.
(wee shko bah boo)

Wiishkobaagamin = Sweet liquid.
(wee shko bah gum min)

Wiishkobimaagozi = S/he smells sweet.
(wee shko bim mah go zih)

Wiishkobimaagwad = It smells sweet.
(wee shko bim mah gwud)

Wiishkobipogwad = It tastes sweet.
(wee shko bip poh gwud)

Wiishkobipogozi = S/he tastes sweet.
(wee shko bip poh go zih)

Gizhiibatoo = S/he runs fast.
(gizh zhee buh too)

Gizhiidaabii'iwe = S/he drives fast.
(gizh zhee dah bee' ih way)

Gizhiijiwan = It flows fast.
(gizh zhee jih wun)

Gizhiiyose = S/he walks fast.
(gizh zhee yo say)

Gizhiiyode = S/he crawls fast.
(gizh zhee you day)

Gizhiyaanimad = The wind blows fast.
(gizh zhee yah nim mud)

Gizhiigi = S/he grows fast.
(gizh zhee gih).

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



WAABISHKIBINES ENENDAANG — JOE'S THOUGHTS NANDA-BIMAADIZING

Gaa-Tibaaajimod (Told by) Joe Nayquonabe Sr.,
Waabishkibines

Gaa-Tibaaajimotawaajin (Transcribed by)
James Clark, Ozaawaanakwad

The next subject is one that is very difficult to discuss; it's one of the more serious ceremonies that we do at the ceremonial dance. It is a very important piece that was given to us by the Creator to help those who are very ill. These illnesses that we speak of, more often than not, don't have good outcomes.

We, the drum keepers, are offered asemaa by the individual who is ill or their relatives, and once we're given that asemaa, we will do the ceremony no matter what. Those that have asked for this ceremony to be done will be asked to bring gifts for the veterans and also four dishes of food.

The food will consist of natural foods; we ask them to be in a dish or bowl so that the veterans can eat out of them without utensils like the animals that they'll represent in the ceremony to come. Things like wild berries, maple sugar, wild game meat, and other things that Anishinaabe were given. These dishes will then be placed on the north side close to the veterans.

There are four songs associated with this ceremony. The first is the Ayaabens (the young buck). They get into that position, then the head veteran will dance. One, the head Ogichidaa, dances around the sick individual. They'll make animal-like sounds and behaviors (huffing, charging), and before his last circle he'll come to the back of the person and blow on their back/neck. Once he's done with that, he'll move to the left side of the person, then the speaker will get up and tell everyone why that Ogichidaa could dance to that song and the animal that helped the person.

They'll get on all fours then and the head Ogichidaa will eat out of all four of those dishes as the animal would in the wild. Then the second song will be sung, the Waawaashkeshii (the deer). The second Ogichidaa will also dance around the person four times with blowing on their back.

Finally, the speaker will get up again and speak to the Ogichidaa and how the deer helps. The second Ogichidaa will follow the first and eat out of those bowls.

Then comes the Makwa (the bear) song, same as the first two, to dance around, blow, and the speaker eats the food.

Then the fourth song, I've heard it called the wild cow and/or the wild beast. The final veteran dances the same as the last three. I've participated in a number of these, normally I have been the fourth Ogichidaa as the wild beast, merely filling in. Then we're done.

I have been very fortunate lately. There's an individual who

comes here and shared those very spiritual songs with our community. Through sickness and health he's come in the past and helped us during all of these ceremonies that have taken place on the ceremonial drum that my nephew and I take care of.

These ceremonies are rare in nature, not done very often but they are available. In fact, I've seen less than five performed here in the last 20 years locally. I've seen this done in the other communities. It is not used much anymore but something that the ceremonial drum has to offer. Since I haven't seen much of it, it's something even I need to learn a little bit more about. Sometimes the results of this ceremony have been good and sometimes not good, and it's never a guarantee that the ceremony will fully fix the individual. We're not healers or medicine men — we've just been raised with this ceremony to help the gravely ill Anishinaabeg.

At desperate times our people look for answers, people look for miracles, and this is not one. We're meant to leave this earth when it's our time. Perhaps as a community, we need to find out more about this ceremony so that we can all have a better understanding. Do we need outside assistance? No. Never underestimate the knowledge our people have. We just have to have an open discussion as a community. The answer has always been here.

I hope to see you all at the dances and the language activities going on within the communities. We have a reoccurring meeting at the District I dancehall every Wednesday at noon to answer questions and discuss topics about the drums. Come see us if you have questions during the season.

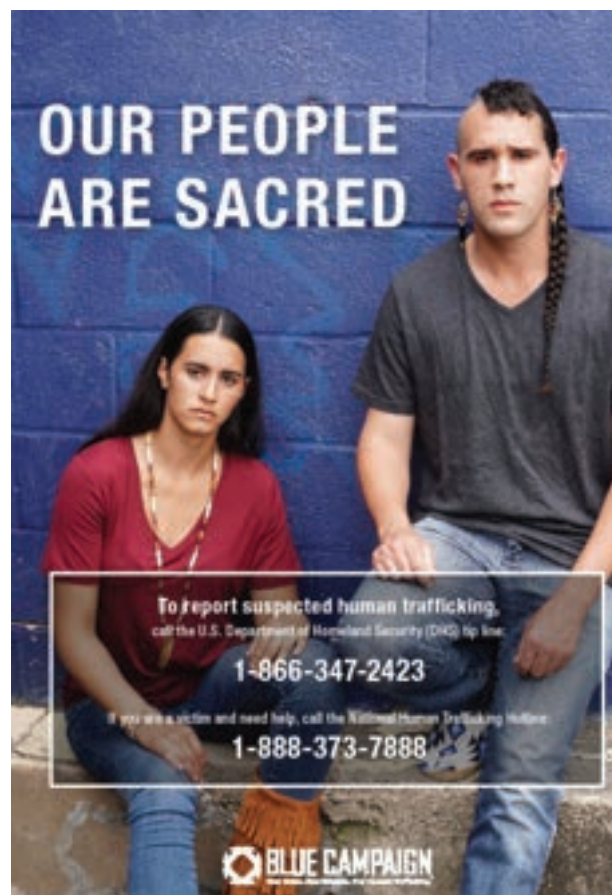
Miigwech sa naa.

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.



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE



**PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS...**



DISTRICT I
VINELAND - Saturday, April 20 through Sunday, April 28, 2024. *NOON CLOSING on LAST DAY.
Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All roll-off dumpsters will be located at the Mille Lacs Band Transfer Station located at 43188 Timbertrails Road. Please follow directions of staff that work this event as we try and make unloading safe and quick as possible.

DISTRICT II
EAST LAKE, MCGREGOR, MINNEWAWA, SANDY LAKE AND ISLE - Saturday, May 4 through Friday, May 10, 2024. *NOON CLOSING on LAST DAY.
Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the East Lake Maintenance facility for District II and Isle Community Center for District IIA.

DISTRICT III:
LAKE LENA: Saturday, April 13 to Friday, Friday, April 19, 2024. *NOON CLOSING on LAST DAY
Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Maintenance building in Lake Lena across from Community Center and at the Cull de sac at Wise Owl.

HINCKLEY: Saturday, April 13 to Friday, Friday, April 19, 2024. *NOON CLOSING on LAST DAY
Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Roll-offs will be placed at the following locations: Earthworks building located on Hwy 48, 2 miles east of Grand Casino Hinckley.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:
YARD WASTE SUCH AS LEAVES AND STICKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED THIS YEAR ALONG WITH LIQUID CHEMICALS, PAINTS, OILS, OIL FILTERS, FREEZERS/REFRIGERATORS FILLED WITH ROTTEN FOOD AND BOATS. MAKE SURE ALL LOOSE GARBAGE IS IN BAGS.

Elders:
Please call 320-532-7448 before the week of your scheduled District Clean-Up to be placed on the Pick-Up list. Please leave a message including your name, address, and phone number. Your items MUST be out by the second day of the week that your District is scheduled.

2605 Chiminising Drive, Isle, MN 56342

CHIMINISING ZIIGWAN YOUTH POWOW SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

**FIRST FIVE
DRUMS AND
REGISTERED
DANCERS WILL
RECEIVE
HONORARIUM**

**GRAND ENTRY
1:00PM
REGISTRATION OPENS
12:00 PM**

**HOST DRUMS
-LITTLE BEAR-
-LITTLE OTTER-**

**EMCEE
MIGZI
SULLIVAN**

**ARENA
DIRECTOR
GEORGE
"BUDMAN"
MORROW III**

**YOUTH HEAD
MALE DANCER
JOSEPH RAINEY JR.**

**YOUTH HEAD
FEMALE DANCER
TALIYA BENJAMIN**

**COLOR GUARD
MLB AM VETS**

SCAN QR CODE TO
APPLY FOR
CHIMINISING
ROYALTY

SCAN QR CODE TO
APPLY FOR
VENDOR SPOT

**WOMENS JINGLE,
MENS WOODLAND,
ALL AGES GRASS,
3 PERSON HAND DRUM,
RIBBON SHIRT,
RIBBON SKIRT
1ST-\$500
2ND-\$400
3RD-\$300**

SPECIALS

**JAYLENE WHITE
MEMORIAL
YOUTH SIDESTEP
SPECIAL
\$300, \$200, \$100**

**YOUTH TEAM DANCE,
YOUTH JINGLE,
YOUTH WOODLAND
1ST-\$300
2ND-\$200
3RD-\$100**

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MLB D2 REP. WENDY
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ISLE AIPAC**

**GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT
CHERYL MILLER: (320)630-6870
CHERYL.MILLER@MILLELACSBAND.COM**

GRA UPDATE COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of the tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. The Compliance Department was established as a department within the GRA to be the eyes and ears to these regulations on the gaming floor. We work closely with the slot department, independent testing labs, and the State of Minnesota to ensure gaming machines are tested to meet standards. We assist in gaming protection as we perform reviews of promotions, procedures, and day-to-day operations in all gaming areas. Additionally, Compliance ensures policies align with local, state, federal, and NICG policies. We are dedicated to upholding, protecting, and ensuring the integrity, fairness, and reputation of gaming for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

More information and contact numbers can be found at <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams.



ASK AUNTIE

Hi Auntie,

I have a senior in high school and an elder mother. Both stress and worry about life too much. My mom worries about everything; every little thing. She worries about her kids, grandkids, family member's addiction, death, money, bills, home repairs, house cleaning, and most of all who will take care of everything when she's gone.

My daughter worries about so many things too. She worries about studying, grades, graduating, her g.p.a., getting into the best colleges, her job, managing time for job, school, and social life, her career after college, house cleaning, and most of all friends and family in addiction.

How can I help them manage their stress in everyday life?

Non-stressed niece

Aaniin Nishimis,

This is an important and needed question. First, I want to thank you for asking this and sharing because many people have tension every day or have family members that have tense lives. I don't use that word; I use tension. I believe when you use the other word, it makes it more predominant in life. Also, there is good tension and bad tension. Auntie has a lot of tension from the Uncles. I handle it very well and will share how.

The best way to help any family member manage their tension is to let them vent. Sometimes we have so much going on in our head, it comes out as the things you named. I assure you, those are normal things to have tension about. You may have the same tension and worry it's just not as pronounced as your mom and daughter share about it. Sometimes we have major life events. For some, it made us realize we should be grateful for what we have, and for others, it caused more tension. How to help your family members with tension management:

1. Pray.
2. Smudge if able to.
3. Use calming scents like lavender in oils and candles.
4. Be loving and supportive.
5. Listen.
6. Show empathy and understanding.
7. Help where and when you can.
8. Use the word tension instead of the other word.
9. Laugh.
10. Take care of physical health and mental health.

Here is a link if you need more support for mental health visit millelacsband.com/government/resources1/mental-health-services

Have fun, my non-tensioned Niece,

Auntie

AROUND THE RESERVATION

POLAR PLUNGE EVENT AT EDDIES

The Polar Plunge, presented by Minnesota law enforcement, is an opportunity to support Special Olympics Minnesota by jumping into frigid waters. Plungers made a splash On March 9 at Eddy's Resort to support a great cause.

See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

GIDAGAEBINESH, DONALD R. EUBANKS

Donald R. Eubanks "Gidagaebinesh" died on Sunday, March 17, 2024, at United Hospital in St. Paul. He was 69 years old.



Donald Ross Eubanks was born November 26, 1954, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Isabelle Sam Eubanks and James Ross Eubanks. Donald's story is truly inspiring how he paved his way in this life and touched the lives of so many others along the way.

He graduated from Minneapolis Community College with a Liberal Arts Degree, Metropolitan State University with a Bachelor's of Social Work, and the University of Minnesota with a Master's of Social Work.

Donald worked most recently as an associate professor and Field Director for the Social Work program at Metropolitan State University. His education allowed him to fulfill a lifelong dream of serving the Band.

He was honored to serve under the late Chief Executive Marge Anderson as the Commissioner of Health and Human Services for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians from 1998 to 2000 and from 2009 to 2012. He will be remembered for the creation of the Circle of Health, a tribal member benefit program helping Band members with their medical insurance needs; and the development of the Elder Assisted Living facilities. He was proud to be a part of the Cabinet for the Mille Lacs

Band when they won their 1999 Supreme Court case to retain hunting and fishing rights.

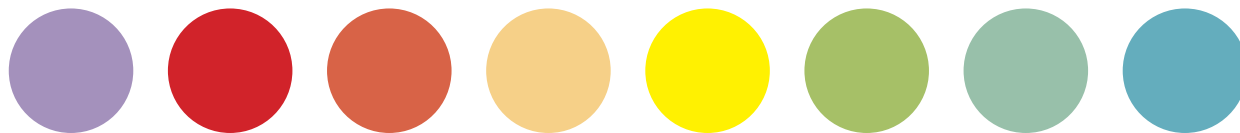
He worked for the Minnesota Department of Human Services in two roles; first as Director of the Chemical Health Division, and as the Director of Multicultural Affairs for Chemical and Mental Health Services Administration. Don retired in 2021 and continued to participate in the Counter Stories podcast, which will forever hold his vast knowledge and insights about the community and the world.

He loved golfing, fishing, and sharing his wisdom and humor through stories. Donald was a loving husband, father, brother, Elder, mentor, teacher, advocate, and powerful voice of change. In every role he took on, he gave it his all and changed it for the better.

He is survived by significant other, Mara Molenaar; children, Rafael Eubanks and Gabriella Eubanks; siblings, Charnell Mosley, Debra Barge, Connie Taylor Eubanks, Raymond Eubanks, and David Eubanks.

He was preceded in death by his father James Ross Eubanks, his mother Isabelle Sam Eubanks, uncles Herb Sam, and David Sam.

The funeral ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Chiminsing Community Center in Isle with Baabiitaw officiating. The wake will begin at dusk on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, also at the center. Burial will be at Faith Lutheran Cemetery in Isle.



REFLECTIONS: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By Maajiitaaziibiikwe, Mary Sam

Across the United States, Women's History Month was celebrated in March, along with International Women's Day on March 8, 2024. While both are needed and celebrated across the world, we are fortunate that our values teach us that our women, grandmothers, mothers, aunties, sisters, daughters; all Anishinaabekwe should be revered every day, not just one month a year or one day a year.

As first residents of this mother land, our women are life bearers, cultural teachers, artists, storytellers, homemakers, healers, protectors of water and land, writers, mentors, and so much more. Living and balancing many of these roles at one time is amazing. The strength and knowledge of our Anishinaabekwe ancestors are in each and every one of us. How do we honor that?

Reflecting back on all the women in our lives — our female ancestors — take a moment to think about the women who influenced us; our grandmothers, mothers, aunties, sisters, and others. What have we learned from them? Who are the women who influenced them? Who inspired them to keep moving forward? If they had a chance, what would some of our Elders say today to encourage us — the next generation of both as young, aging women, and as a Nation? Without their wisdom, stories, love, struggles, persistence, and perseverance, we would not be here.

I am grateful for so many women who loved, parented, mentored, and challenged me. My late mother, Betty Kegg, being one. She had a wonderful life and a very difficult life, and she did her best to weave both together. We had long conversations about her life, growing up, marriage, divorce, addiction, violence, being an artist, working as a Band historian, being a mom, and having kids in foster care due to a terribly flawed

system. She taught me about the two medicines in healing; laughter and tears. We talked about what she wanted to do more of — to do differently — if she could have. She gave advice and so much more. She encouraged and pushed us to take risks, to not stay silent even when the systems around her silenced many women, including herself. She talked about staying humble and living with grace, and having faith that everything will be okay. Many of these conversations started with risk, trust, and the willingness to really listen and to honor mom.

What if we each take a few minutes in the coming weeks to think about the following and perhaps ask our own mothers, grandmothers, aunties, or an Elder some questions we may have not asked before? How could their responses help us to see them more clearly and to honor them for their perseverance? Years back, I had the honor and privilege to interview many Anishinaabekwe about their histories, including experiences in boarding schools. It was humbling. It was difficult for each of us. Yet, the women, now in their late 70s and 80s, talked about how important it was for them to be heard, to be seen, and for their stories be honored. How could their life stories help us to do better and be better daughters, granddaughters, nieces, and sons?

How do we honor, how do we thank those that have created a path forward? What is one thing you can do this week, this year, to honor our Anishinaabekwe? We wouldn't be here today without the many courageous women who created the paths for us. Their perseverance is inspiring.

The spirit of the Native woman is here, she is here, everywhere. May we live on through their hopes and dreams, and they live on through our future generations of girls to women.

HISTORY

WEWINABI — ARTHUR GAHBOW

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

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

by Don Wedll, Guest Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

only met him in passing. He continued to be very busy trying to make things work better.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He, along with the Band Assembly, established a Band Court system, the establishment of the Band's flag and publishing of Band Law. This was done over the objections of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He, along with the Band Assembly, developed a series of Band



Art Gahbow's birthday is April 26, 1935. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is proud to celebrate his leadership each year with a holiday in his honor. This year, the holiday will fall on April 26, 2024.

laws to govern and regulate activities on the reservation and within the Band's jurisdiction.

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

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

APRIL ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Roland Lee Anderson
Susan Mary Antonelli
Alicia Faye Barnes
Terry Louis Beaulieu
Myron Jay Benjamin
Wayne Theodore Boyd
Debra Lynn Ceballos
Raymond Charles Daly
Connie Lynn DeMarsh
Wesley Dorr
Kathleen Marie Earth
Dana Rachelle Fahrlander
Nancy Mae Foster
Duane Wallace Haaf
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold
Douglas Happy
Bryan Lloyd Holm
Darryl Vernon Jackson
Tamara Jean Johnson
James Brian Jones
Leroy Duane Kegg
Raymond Kegg
Candice Mary Kelly
Victoria Jean Kroschel

Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado
Roberta Martin
Louis Kevin Merrill
Gregory Allen Mishler
Karen Nina Moe
Donald John Nelson
Gloria Jean Nickaboine
Julian Mark Nickaboine
Sherry Marie Nielsen
Dianne Renee Olsen
Penelope Ann Olseth
Jamie Ernest Pardun
Ricky Harold Pardun
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek
Elaine Mary Rea
Solita Efigenia Reum
Richard James Reynolds
Rogerson Laurie Jean
Jana Georgette Sam
Lorraine Diane Sam
Denise Fay Sargent
Ruth Anne Schaaf
Perry Don Skinaway
Debra Ann Smith
Rodney Wayne Smith
Ruth Helen Stafford

Marvin Lee Staples
Samuel James Staples
Walter Charles Sutton
Nathan Kelly Thiesse
Carolyn Diane Tuttle
Carmen Marie Tyler
Gail Marie Tyson
Brandon Lynn Vainio
Robert Duane Wakanabo
Deanna Louise Weous

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday from mom and Cai Ann to **Brandon Stuart and Bear (Barry)** on April 1 • Happy birthday **Bam** on April 14, Love mom, dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Binesiikwe, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi,

Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam • Happy birthday **Binesiikwe** on April 16, Love mom, dad, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam • Happy Birthday **Aiva** on April 26, Love Auntie Val, Dan, Myla, Pie, Kevin, and Lily. • Happy 17th birthday **Aiva Lea** on April 26. I love and miss you always, my big girl! Love, Dad, Sissy, Jalissa, and Melissa •

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to **TaiAnn Bearheart** for attaining her GED, from Grandma I am so proud of you!

GET PAID TO WRITE!

Band members can get paid for accepted article submissions! If you have a story or idea you would like to submit for publishing in the Inaajimowin, please contact send an email to news@millelacsband.com. The submission must be over 500 words.

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

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

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Chief Executive's Office

320-532-7484

Commissioners:

Administration: Sam Moose: 320-630-2607; Assistant

Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643, or

763-260-0164

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

Education: Niiyogaabawiikwe, Brooke Mosay Gonzalez:

320-362-4245

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

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

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

Public Works

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

On Call Social Worker: 320-630-2444

Other frequently requested phone numbers

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director: 320-532-7536

(work); 320-630-8702 (cell); 320-532-7506 (fax)

Band Assembly Inquiries

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly: 320-

532-7420; darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case

Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus: 218-316-2437,

Rosa Sam: 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson: 320 290 8729;

Camille Smith: 320-982-0836

District II/IIa — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049;

Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307

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

320-630-2671

Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

Office of Management and Budget

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

or Per Cap: 320-532-8928

Enrollments: 320-532-7730

ELDERS NEEDED!

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

Pet Clinic

Spay/Neuter Surgeries & Wellness exams w/ vaccines

Sunday 4/7/24

Surgery Check in 9am (dogs), 9:30am (cats)

Wellness: 9AM-2PM

Surgery spots are limited & must be reserved ahead of time. Call 320-384-6240 to reserve your spot!

Wellness exams are first come, first served. Microchips also available at no cost.

Lake Lena Community Center
45749 Grace Lake Rd.
Sandstone, MN 55072

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>SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!</p> <p>The Government Affairs Department, 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!</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Tribal Primary Elections Polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.</p> <p>First Tuesday SNAP see page 7</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Mick and Syngen</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Mick and Syngen</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>District III Aazhoomog Lake Lena Pet Clinic See page 18</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Steve and Andy</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Steve and Andy</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>DII Minisinaakwang Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>DIIa Chiminising Community Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Linda and Leann</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Linda and Leann</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. New DI Community Center</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick.</p> <p>Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7</p>	<p>25</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Art Gahbow Day All Band Government Offices Closed</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Joe and George</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ceremonial Dance Mille Lacs, Joe and George</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Chiminising Youth Powwow Grand Entry 1 p.m.</p> <p>Keepin' it Real Recovery 6 p.m. Red Brick Building</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>				



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



Participants of the Ningaabii'among Run/Walk who completed the final mile of the 250-mile walk/run commemorating the historic run to Washington D.C. 25 years ago. The 250-mile walk/run was divided up into segments between the Bad River Community to Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

ENACTING THE CANNABIS CODE page 3	CONSTITUTIONAL DELEGTE UPDATE page 4	NEW MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH page 7	POLAR PLUNGE MAKES A SPLASH page 16
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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 May issue deadline is April 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

Community Support Services: Family Violence Prevention.

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793
District II: 320-630-7666
District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

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

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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

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

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