

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

STATE OF THE BAND WILL BE ONLINE JANUARY 12

Mille Lacs Band statutes require that on the second Tuesday of each January the Band Assembly will call a special joint assembly for the purpose of a State of the Band address. This year, pursuant to an executive order signed by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, the State of the Band will be a virtual event.

Much of the ceremony will be the same, including drum songs, the National Anthem, and the invocation. In addition to the State of the Band Address, Band members will hear speeches from Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and Chief Justice Ramona Applegate.

New on the agenda this year will be brief statements from Executive Branch commissioners updating Band members on the activities in their departments.

A page on the website has been created for Band members to register, sign up for a gift, and find links to the broadcast. Go to <https://millelacsband.com/sotb>.

You can also sign up for your gift by filling out the form on page 8.

BAND CONTINUES ACTION TO STOP LINE 3

Officials detailed extensive legal challenges in a letter to Band members

The Mille Lacs Band has been opposed to the Line 3 pipeline since Enbridge applied for a permit in 2015, and in a letter to Band members last month, elected officials reviewed the Band's legal actions.

"The fact is, the Band government is as passionately opposed to the proposed Line 3 replacement route as our Band members are, and we are fighting back through the best means available to government — the courts," the letter stated.

In 2015, the Band retained one of the top environmental law firms in Minnesota to represent the Band on this matter. The Band has filed legal documents 73 times, most recently on December 7, 2020 — a 33-page brief in the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

The latest appeal challenges the adequacy of the environmental review upon which the Commission's order granting the route permit was based. Eventually there will be a response by the PUC and Enbridge, followed by a final round of briefings and oral arguments before the Court of Appeals. Ultimately, appeals will be heard by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

While there is some disagreement among northern Minnesota Ojibwe tribes, they agree on "the need to protect our cultural resources and way of life from the increased risk of an oil spill which could do irreparable harm to manoomin, medicinal plants, culturally significant areas, and other aquatic resources



across our territory."

The letter also made clear that the Band has no ties to the protest camp that has been established in Aitkin County, although tribal officials stated their support for Band members who exercise their First Amendment right to protest.

"IF YOU, AS A MILLE LACS BAND MEMBER, WANT TO FEEL LIKE YOU ARE PART OF THE FIGHT — YOU ARE. YOUR MILLE LACS BAND GOVERNMENT IS FIGHTING FOR ALL OF US, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

"The role of a tribal government is to fight these matters through the courts and administrative processes, on a government-to-government basis, which is ultimately where these matters are won and lost," the letter concludes. "If you, as a Mille Lacs Band member, want to feel like you are part of the fight — you are. Your Mille Lacs Band government is fighting for all of us, now and for future generations."

COVID PRECAUTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

Vaccine will not bring a quick end to the coronavirus pandemic

Band members are being asked to remain vigilant in their personal fight against COVID-19, even as the hope of a vaccine gives a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

The first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine began arriving on the reservation December 15. The Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services department, including Public Health and clinical staff, were able to administer 165 doses by Monday, December 21, when this issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* went to press.

Vaccines will go first to our Elders in assisted living units and then to Elders with the most compromised immune systems, followed by front-line health care staff. Watch Facebook and millelacsband.com for updates.

When more vaccinations become available, HHS will continue to administer the vaccinations to Band members, staff, and community members.

All 574 federally recognized American Indian tribal governments had the choice of getting vaccines from either the state they share geographic boundaries with or from the federal government through the Indian Health Services (IHS), which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is charged with providing health care programs and funding to tribal governments across the nation.

The Mille Lacs Band chose to get its COVID-19 vaccine from IHS. Every Indian tribal government that opted to receive their federal allocation of the vaccine through IHS received vaccines about the same time as the Mille Lacs Band did.

No silver bullet

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization, said last month, "A vaccine on its own will not end the pandemic."

With a limited supply of vaccine for now, Tedros said that health workers, older people, and other at-risk populations will be prioritized. This should relieve pressure on healthcare systems and reduce deaths, but Tedros warned that "the virus will still have a lot (of) room to move."

The recent leveling off of cases in Minnesota shows that precautions work. When cases began to spike, Governor Tim Walz adopted a "Dial Back" plan designed to reduce the spread of the disease in bars and restaurants. In the days following, the number of new cases began to decline.

Results in other countries also show that these precautions work to reduce the spread of the virus.

Consider these facts before going back to normal routines:

The worst surge may be yet to come. The holiday season will result in hundreds of thousands of infections and thousands of deaths. Millions of Americans have traveled by plane and spent time in large family gatherings. Many will die before they are able to be vaccinated.

COVID see page 5

HAALAND NOMINATED AFTER NATIVE WOMEN CALL FOR REPRESENTATION. SEE PAGE 2.

MESSAGE
FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Boozhoo! Usually the month of December is a slower month for tribal governments, but this December has been full of very big news. After ten months of battling the coronavirus, the Band received our first shipment of vaccine from the Indian Health Service (IHS). The first batch of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations were rolled out December 17. Our clinic staff have administered 165 doses, with the priority on health care workers and Elders. More vaccine is coming and will eventually be offered Band-wide.

There was initially a problem with the first batch of vaccine delivered to us by IHS. When the IHS official opened his vehicle, alarms were going off in the shipment. One alarm was due to the vaccine falling below the recommended temperature for a period of 50 minutes while in transit to the Reservation, and two other alarms went off due to the vaccine being at higher temperatures in the "violation" category for a period of 10 minutes.

Our providers had to make an immediate decision about whether to administer the vaccine or request a second shipment. At the time we had to make the decision, federal authorities through Operation Warp Speed and the Centers for Disease Control had not concluded whether the vaccine was safe for us to administer, so we decided we could not take any chances. A new shipment came on December 17 and was administered.

There will be more shipments to come, but everyone must continue wearing masks, social-distancing, and hand-washing, because the vaccine is not going to bring an end of the pandemic right away. Officials are predicting that it might not be until next summer that most Americans will have a chance to receive the vaccine.

The other big news in December is that our good friend Congresswoman Deb Haaland of New Mexico, one of the first two Native women to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, has been nominated by President-elect Joe Biden to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). She will be the first American Indian to serve on any President's Cabinet if she is confirmed by the Senate.

"REPRESENTATIVE HAALAND KNOWS US AS NATIVE PEOPLE. SHE WAS RAISED IN THE WARRIOR TRADITION BY PARENTS WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES, SHE HAS LIVED ON A RESERVATION, AND SHE IS TRADITIONAL."

This is such an historic moment. Agencies that are critical to us are housed in Interior, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration, but the reach of the DOI over our lives extends far beyond just those agencies. Every day, decisions are made or actions undertaken by all DOI bureaus and offices that affect our children, Elders, communities, and lives. This includes the management and leasing of our lands, our economic development, tribal sovereignty, law enforcement and public safety, our Treaty rights, access to clean water, our food security, management of our trust funds, our plants, animals, fish and birds, and even our religious freedom.

Finally, an American Indian leader will be leading that Department and sitting at the same table as the President of the United States. Rep. Haaland knows us as Native people. She was raised in the warrior tradition by parents who served in the armed forces, she has lived on a reservation, and she is traditional. She was a single mother who fought her way out of poverty, eventually becoming an attorney to fight for the rights of Indian people. This is such an exciting moment in history for Indian country, and I hope to be able to call her "Madame Secretary" when I next see her.

There were many other developments this month and meetings attended, including Zoom meetings of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Band Assembly and Cabinet meetings, the Tribal Nations Leadership Council of the U.S. Department of Justice, and meetings organized by the office of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan. I also held a Zoom meeting with Minnesota State House Speaker Melissa Hortman about the Band's priorities, and had a very good conversation with Senator Amy Klobuchar as well.

These times have been very challenging for the Band, just as it has for all other tribes, the state, and the nation. I think it is safe to say that with the global pandemic, 2020 has been one of the hardest years we have collectively faced in many generations. I am so grateful to our Band members and workforce for coming together to get us through this period, and I look forward to 2021 being a year of hope, recovery, and progress. I wish all Band members a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to addressing you all at our first "Virtual" online State of the Band Address on January 12.

Miigwech!

HAALAND NOMINATED FOR INTERIOR SECRETARY AFTER LEADERS URGE BIDEN TO APPOINT NATIVES TO CABINET

On December 4, a group of Native women urged President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris to nominate Representative Deb Haaland for the post of Secretary of the Interior. On Thursday, December 17, it became official: Haaland is the first Native American nominated for a cabinet post and if confirmed will be the first Native American to oversee the department that has the most impact on the lives of Indigenous Americans.



Rep. Deb Haaland

In an open letter, Native American women leaders from tribal governments, Native women's organizations, and the United States Congress joined together to urge the incoming administration to honor its promise for diversity in the cabinet by appointing Congresswoman Haaland as Secretary of the Interior.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, who signed the letter,

said, "President-elect Biden promised that his administration would have gender parity and diversity unlike any previous administration, and he promised he would listen to Indian Country. We interpreted that commitment to mean that the Secretary of Interior, who has more jurisdiction over our daily lives than any other Secretary, will be a Native American. Congresswoman Haaland's accomplishments are already historic, and her qualifications are not in question, which is why Tribal leaders nationwide have been joined by stakeholders from all corners in voicing support for her. The opportunity for the Biden/Harris team to make this inspired choice is golden. It should not be overtaken by anonymous voices that insult both women and Indian Country."

The letter states, "As a man of extraordinary integrity, we know you will stay true to your word, which is why we write today to join the euphony of more than 110 tribal leaders, 50 Members of Congress, and scores of environmental and climate change leaders and organizations who have voiced their support of Rep. Deb Haaland to serve as your Secretary of Interior."

With Biden's promise of a diverse cabinet, the letter frames the appointment of a Native American to lead Interior as an

"WE HAVE WATCHED FOR 170 YEARS WHILE THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AS OUR 'TRUSTEE' FAILED TO PROTECT OUR LANDS."

expectation of Indian Country. As the legal trustee over tribal lands held in trust by the federal government, DOI impacts the daily lives of over a million Native Americans more directly than any other department.

"Every day, decisions are made or actions undertaken by all DOI bureaus and offices that affect our children, Elders, communities and lives."

The authors called it "stunning" that a Native American has never been appointed to lead the DOI. "An unfortunate reflection of the bias, white privilege, and structural racism that is so endemic in our systems of government in the United States, and which you have committed to dismantling wherever possible."

Haaland see page 11

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

REVISOR'S OFFICE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Revisor's Code will establish an independent Revisor's Office, provide confidential drafting services, and establish a Tribal Register.

By Adam Candler Legislative Counsel

On December 2, 2020, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Band Assembly approved Bill 19-02-08-21, establishing a Revisor of Statutes within Mille Lacs Band government. The Chief Executive signed the bill into law on December 3, 2020. The new law is now available within Mille Lacs Band Statutes as Title 25.

The stated purposes of the Revisor's Code are to (1) establish an independent Revisor's Office to ensure the annual compilation, updating, and publication of Band laws and official acts; (2) provide confidential drafting services of proposed legislation and policy revisions to District Representatives; and (3) establish a Tribal Register for the publication of Band statutes and policies, Executive Orders, Secretarial Orders, Commissioner's Orders, Legislative Orders, Chief Justice Orders, and other official notices.

One problem the Mille Lacs Band has faced in recent years is that amendments to the law and various orders carrying the weight of law have not always been accessible to the public. With a Revisor of Statutes in place, statutes will consistently be updated and official records having a legal impact on the lives of Band members will be posted online. This online "Tribal Register" will serve as a "one-stop shop" where Band members may access legal and historically significant documents. Never again will Band members question where to find the current version of a legally binding document.

When asked to comment for this article, Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd stated: "Continuity. That's what this is about. The Band Assembly has always tried to get this done and it's not new. And you can see that in previous documents. From my point of view, it just points to the internal staff and their work ethic for making this code happen."

The Revisor of Statutes will also provide confidential draft-

ing services to District Representatives for the advancement of legislative priorities. Mille Lacs Band District Representatives are not merely legislators; they also possess many approval authorities vestigial to the Reservation Business Committee system of government. This means that District Representatives have a lot on their plates and have not always had enough time or resources to convert their visions for the community into law. The Revisor of Statutes will therefore provide drafting services solely to District Representatives in an effort to help the Band better achieve its legislative goals.

"BY ENACTMENT OF SUCH A FAR-REACHING REVISOR'S CODE, THE MILLE LACS BAND HAS SHOWN YET AGAIN ITS WILLINGNESS TO EMBRACE, ENHANCE, AND EXPAND SELF-GOVERNANCE."

On a final note, Title 25 requires the Revisor of Statutes to issue hard-copy publications of Band law on a regular basis and even requires that the "Laws and Rules of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe" be submitted to various offices and institutions. Recipients include other federally recognized Indian tribes, the state of Minnesota, in-state law schools, and even the Library of Congress. Of course, hard-copy publications will also be made available to Band members.

By enactment of such a far-reaching Revisor's Code, the Mille Lacs Band has shown yet again its willingness to embrace, enhance, and expand self-governance.

LEGISLATIVE WELCOMES NEW STAFF ATTORNEY

Joseph Jensen joined the Legislative Branch as a staff attorney on November 16. Joseph comes to Mille Lacs from North Dakota, where he attended college and law school and interned with the North Dakota Legislative Council.

It was that role with the state legislature that piqued his interest in working for the Band. "When I saw the job opening with Mille Lacs Band's Legislative Branch, I could hardly believe it," said Joseph. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with the legislators during my time with the North Dakota Legislative Council, and I had been looking for the chance to do something similar. Frankly, this was a perfect fit, and I'm really enjoying it so far."

"SO FAR, I'VE LEARNED MORE ABOUT WHAT I DON'T KNOW THAN ANYTHING ELSE. EVERY DAY, THERE'S A NEW GAP IN MY KNOWLEDGE THAT I GET TO FILL."

Joseph's prior experience with Indian law is "academic, rather than practical" at this point, he said. However, he took courses in Federal Indian Policy and Indian law in college and law school, which is not the case with most attorneys.

As staff attorney, Joseph will assist in representing the Band Assembly "in the lawful exercise of its constitutional and statutory duties and obligations," according to the job description. That includes conducting research, drafting bills and legal opinions, reviewing contracts, and performing other duties as assigned by Band Assembly members or Legislative Counsel Adam Candler.

Joseph grew up in Jamestown, North Dakota, but both of his parents are originally from Minnesota, and his entire extended family still lives here. His parents are his main inspi-

ration in life. "My dad is a business owner, and he has built it into something truly spectacular over the past 30 years through hard work and perseverance. Both are values he instilled in me, over the years," said Joseph. "My mom was a full-time parent, which was no easy task with myself and my two siblings. Her patience and encouragement put me on the path that I'm on. Frankly, my debt to both of them is one that I'll never be able to repay."

Joseph's work ethic and desire to help others led him to law school, during which he worked as a law clerk. Before beginning his final year in law school, he took the opportunity to intern at the U.S. embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania, for the summer. "While I was there, I worked mainly on the Internal Politics portfolio and was the Embassy's point person on the Lithuanian parliamentary, presidential, and EU elections," said Joseph.

Joseph's typical day involves a lot of reading, writing, and researching, as well as participation in meetings. "I sit in on meetings of the Band Assembly, both the official session on Wednesdays and the informal working sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, and otherwise coordinate with the elected officials in the execution of their duties," Joseph said.

Working for an Indian tribe has already shown Joseph that he still has a lot to learn. "So far, I've learned more about what I don't know than anything else," said Joseph. "Every day, there's a new gap in my knowledge that I get to fill. Working with the tribe is different from any other position I've had, and it has been a valuable learning experience, to say the least."



Joseph Jensen

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Wednesday, December 2: Band Assembly voted to approve two bills:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-08-21: A Bill enacting the Revisor of Statutes Code as Title 25.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-09-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the Administration, Natural Resources, and Health & Human Services Department for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

Michaa Aubid, a member of the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy School Board, provided an educational update.

Band Assembly records from February 11 through August 26, 2020, were approved, along with several contracts.

Resolution 19-02-24-21: A Resolution Approving the Grant Application Submission to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Energy and Mineral Development Program for a Feasibility Study for Solar Energy was approved with waiver of formal reading.

Wednesday, December 9: A confirmation hearing was held for District III Associate Justice nominee Sylvia Wise. After introductions and questions, the nomination was confirmed.

Melissa "Baabiitaw" Boyd, Commissioner of Administration, provided an Aanjibimaadizing Update and Year-end Report. The report included program data, budget information, FY comparison data, community services, TANF data, WEX data, Youth Band Assembly, Training & Education plans, and a success story.

Band Assembly passed the following bills:

— Bill 19-02-11-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Revisions/Transfers for the Community Development, Department of Justice, Education, Administration, and Health & Human Services Departments for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-12-21: A Bill of Appropriation for the Housing Initiative program of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

Wednesday, December 16: The following Bills were approved:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-13-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Disbursement of Long-Term Savings Investment Income Funds for an Adult Band Member Economic Support Payment for the Month of January 2021 in the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-14-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for January 2021 Tribal Per Capita Distributions for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-15-21: A Bill Amending Ordinance 30-20, the Emergency Budget for the COVID-19 Response.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-02-16-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Revisions/Transfers for Health & Human Services, Education, Community Development, Administration, and Natural Resources for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2020 and September 30, 2021. Bill was approved with changes.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Congress votes to return land to Leech Lake

Lake: On Thursday, December 3, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed S. 199, the Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Act. The bill was sponsored by Senator Tina Smith. Rep. Betty McCollum introduced the identical House companion version of the bill, which will need to be signed by President Trump. The bill directs the Chippewa National Forest to transfer 11,760 acres of Forest Service lands to be held in trust for the Leech Lake Band. The lands were illegally transferred to the Chippewa National Forest in the 1940s and 50s without consent of the Band or individual allottees. Chairman Faron Jackson said, "Passage of this bill helps restore a sense of justice that generations of Leech Lakers have worked to achieve. Our entire community rejoices today." Source: leechlakeneews.com.

No jail time for man who toppled Columbus statue

statue: Michael Forcia, the Native American activist who organized the toppling of the State Capitol Christopher Columbus statue, will perform community service rather than serve jail time. Ramsey County Chief Judge Leonardo Castro signed off on an agreement between prosecutors and defense attorneys, which was reached as part of the restorative justice process. "The rule of law is an essential element to a peaceful society. I broke the law and was prepared to accept the consequences when I did that," Forcia wrote in the file submitted to the court. Source: kare11.com.

Sibley High to get new name: Henry Sibley High School will soon have a new name, after the West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area School Board voted to drop the name of Minnesota's first governor from the school, which serves more than 1,400 students from seven cities. The unanimous vote followed months of lobbying by community members and alumni, who cited Sibley's treatment of the state's Dakota people in advocating the name change. Source: twincities.com.

Tiny houses are part of COVID strategy: As the Bois Forte Band has battled back against COVID-19, a valuable asset unavailable to most communities has been the Bois Forte Housing Department, which has offered up vacant units for individuals to isolate and quarantine. Now the department is about to step up in a new way with the recent acquisition of three "tiny houses" that are currently being installed at Nett Lake, Vermilion, and Indian Point. "They are one-bedroom, 432-square-foot housing units," housing director Theresa Morrison said. "They're initially set up to be isolation or quarantine units. You don't want to get family members ill, so they'll isolate or quarantine in that unit. Hopefully, we won't have a lot of use for them." Source: timberjay.com.

Republican representatives call for overturning of election results

results: Minnesota's Republicans in Congress lined up firmly behind a Texas lawsuit that sought to subvert the results of the presidential election but which was tossed out by the U.S. Supreme Court by the end of the day. GOP U.S. Reps. Pete Stauber and Jim Hagedorn added their names to Rep. Tom Emmer's and a lengthy list of fellow House Republicans in backing the now-moot court challenge. It sought to invalidate President-elect Joe Biden's 62 Electoral College votes in four swing states. Source: startribune.com.

COVID-19

COMMISSIONER EXTENDS MASK ORDER

Order has the force of law on tribal lands

Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson signed Commissioner's Order 20-03 on November 30 extending the requirement for individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in Mille Lacs Band government facilities and Band-owned businesses until February 28, 2021.

The previous extension expired November 30, and the new order went into effect December 1.

The initial order, Commissioner's Order 20-01, went into effect on May 27 and expired August 31. Commissioner's Order 20-02 extended the order through November 30.

"We know masks can help reduce the risk of spreading the disease, not just for those wearing them, but for others in our communities as well," said Commissioner Anderson. "Although masks are one of the best tools we have, they are not 100 percent effective, so it remains essential that we stay at

home whenever possible, especially those of us with underlying health issues."

Commissioner Anderson also reminds Band members to wash their hands often and to practice social distancing when they need to leave the home.

The order applies to anyone over two years old who can medically tolerate a face covering, and it also requires that government personnel wear gloves when entering Band member residences to provide public services.

Government personnel and employees of Band-owned businesses are required to wear masks or cloth face coverings whenever they are in face-to-face contact with the public.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, wearing cloth face coverings in public settings can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

DISTRICT III

COLSRUD REELECTED TO HOSPITAL BOARD

Hospital Districts ensure access to quality rural health care

By Skylar Premo Sr. Mille Lacs Band Member

Catherine Colsrud, a District III Band member, won re-election to her local hospital board on November 3, 2020, with 74.7 percent of the votes. This is her second term on the North Pine Area Hospital District Board of Directors (NPAHD). She represents the Sandstone Township area on the Board.

The rural Hospital Districts were created by the Minnesota Legislature to ensure access to rural health care. Hospital Districts have taxing authority to acquire, improve, and run hospital and nursing home facilities. Those revenues provide funding to build and operate rural health care facilities such as clinics. The NPAHD also works to provide quality services that patients need.

Catherine, as part of the North Pine Area Hospital Board of Directors, is very active in supporting the health and well-being of the area residents. She states, "I'm interested in working with others in our communities who are committed to making the region a better place for all of us. One way to do that is by increasing local access to quality health care. I have an interest in expanding quality health care, increasing access to that health care, and attracting knowledgeable providers who incorporate a holistic approach to wellness that blends traditional healing with selective use of Western medicine techniques."

Of particular interest to Colsrud is the expansion of mental health services that are culturally responsive to area residents,

especially in this time of the pandemic. Having a trauma-informed care facility and trauma-informed providers is critical for our community healing efforts, she said.

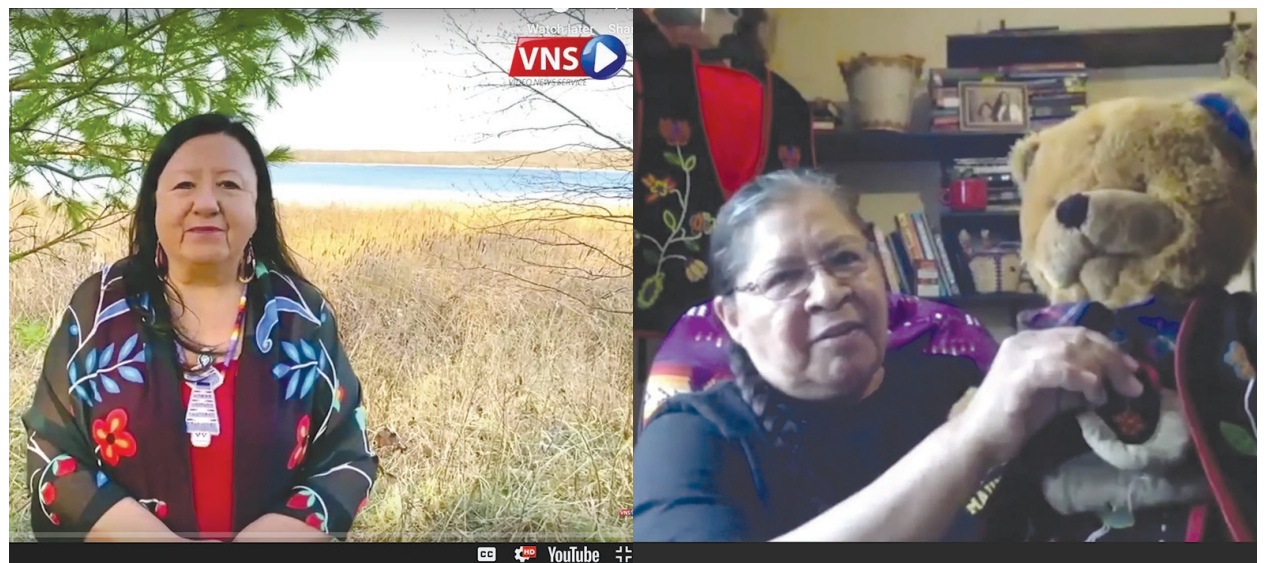
The following is a partial list of responsibilities the NPAHD undertakes: support new medical services; long-term financial resource management; health education services in the communities; small grants to local programs/providers with a focus on health care and/or wellness; and increasing access to healthcare for all residents.

The North Pine Area Hospital District built the Pine Healthcare Campus, which opened in May 2017. The Hospital District contracts and leases space for hospital services with Essentia Health, and the clinic and pharmacy services are provided by Gateway Family Health Clinic and Thrifty White Pharmacy. Other health care partners are Golden Horizons, providing assisted living and specialty care, and Sandstone Healthcare Center, providing skilled nursing and rehabilitation services. The Hospital District is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 19 appointed/elected individuals for four year terms.

All Board meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of every month. The meetings will be held in person and via Zoom. The in-person option is at the Askov Community Center, or you can participate by Zoom video conference at the following link or telephone number.

Zoom.com meeting ID: 897 318 8160.

One tap mobile: +1-301-715-8592.



BAND FEATURED ON PAKISTANI TELEVISION

Through a project undertaken by the Government Affairs Department in conjunction with the United States State Department, the story of the Mille Lacs Band is being featured on Pakistani television. The video is introduced by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin (left) and features a story in Ojibwemowin by Baabiitaw Boyd, a primer on history and law by Tadd Johnson, and information about cultural arts by Joyce Shingobe (right). To watch the video on a Pakistan TV website, see <https://vns-live.com/2020/11/28/native-american-tribe-history-of-mille-lacs-band-of-ojibwe/>.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Spiritual leader, AIM founder passes away at 89: Eddie Benton-Banai, a Lac Courte Oreilles tribal elder and well-known spiritual leader throughout Indian Country, passed away on Nov. 30 at a care center in Hayward, Wisconsin. Following eight years teaching at Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig/Shingwauk University near Sault Ste Marie, he returned home to LCO in 2017 with health issues. Bawdwaywidun Banaisee, Grand Chief of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, (Ojibway Anishinabe, Fish Clan,) of Lac Courte Oreilles, was born March 4, 1931, in a traditional wigwam in what was once an Ojibway village along the shores of Round Lake just outside of Hayward. *Source: lcoTribe.com.*

Natives helped flip Arizona. Is Georgia next? Very few of Georgia's more than 100,000 voting-age Native Americans cast ballots in November. Even a small increase could make a difference in the Senate runoffs. As part of the Trail of Tears, the United States military drove thousands of Cherokee and Muscogee to what is now Oklahoma. Today, the federal government doesn't recognize any tribes in the state, but nearly 150,000 Native Americans still live in Georgia. Of the estimated 100,000 who are of voting age, only about 15,000 are registered to vote. If a few thousand more Native Americans were inspired and able to vote, they could play a meaningful role in two runoff elections on Jan. 5, which will decide which party controls the Senate. *Source: nytimes.com.*

Indigenous voters reject 'something else' label: Indigenous people watching CNN on election night were angered as results came in and the network displayed a graphic breaking down presidential exit polling by race. Listed were white, Latino, Black, Asian and "Something Else," although Native voters were key to President-Elect Joe Biden winning counties in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Choctaw Chief Gary Batton wrote a letter to CNN saying the lack of acknowledgment of Indigenous people continued the marginalization of communities like his. CNN President Jeff Zucker responded to Batton saying that the network was wrong, and they have corrected the problem for future coverage. *Source: kosu.org.*

Team will change mascot, but not yet: Expressing that "it's time," the Cleveland baseball team owner Paul Dolan said that after months of internal discussions and meetings with groups, including Native Americans who have sought to have the team stop using a moniker many deem racist, the American League franchise is dropping the name it has been known by since 1915. Dolan said: "The name is no longer acceptable in our world," but added that the team will continue to use the name until a new name is chosen. That "multi-stage" process is in its early stages and the team will play — and be branded — under the current name at least through next season. *Source: indiancountrytoday.com.*

Feds detail work to address crisis of missing Native people: The Justice Department has hired 11 specialized coordinators to help develop national standards to address the crisis of missing and slain Native American women as concerns mount over the level of violence they face. The common standards include improving the way law enforcement officials and prosecutors "respond to the high volume of such cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases involving female victims," according to the report. *Source: apnews.com.*



The GRA board has been meeting via Zoom conference. Top: Board Member Michael Davis, Executive Director Becky Houle, Executive Administrative Assistant Jennifer Tretter. Middle: Vice Chairperson Michelle Pomerleau, Deputy Solicitor Michael Hogan, Assistant Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik. Bottom row: Board members Susan Klapel, Megan Ballinger, and Maurice Benjamin.

MEET YOUR GRA BOARD MEMBERS

We are honored to introduce you to the Board Members of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Gaming Regulatory Authority. Our most recent GRA Board meeting, held on December 17, 2020, marked the first meeting we were at full staff on the Board since the end of July. We're excited to get to work with our new Board Members. We encourage you to congratulate them when you next see them and please look to them if you have any questions regarding Mille Lacs Band gaming regulation!

Michelle Pomerleau, Vice-Chairperson, nominated by District III Representative Wally St. John, has been on the GRA Board since August 2014! Michelle has worked for the Mille Lacs Band Government since 2008 and prior to that at Grand Casino Hinckley. She is currently Legislative Aide for our District III Representative, Wally St. John. Michelle lives in Finlayson with her husband and two dogs, a boxer and a German shepherd. She has two daughters, one son-in-law, two granddaughters, and a grandson.

Michael (Mick) Davis, nominated by District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, joined the Board in May 2017. Mick has worked for the Band since 2005. He was with Housing from 2005 to 2016 and, since 2017, works as an Elder Abuse Advocate for Health and Human Services. He and his daughter, Jewel, live in District II in a house they had built in 2006. Mick said, "I really enjoy working with GRA staff, all departments, legal, [and] with the other Board members. Awesome staff."

Megan Ballinger, nominated by former District I Representative Sandi Blake, joined the Board in September 2018. Megan worked at Regency Salon prior to moving back to District I. She has worked in a number of different areas within the tribe: Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Housing, OSG, Legislative, the Women's Shelter, and is currently in Education at the Abinojiiyag School. Daughter of Floyd Ballinger, Jr. and Gwen Ballinger, she is one of ten (10!) children and resides in District I.

Maurice Benjamin, nominated by Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, was added to the group just last month in December 2020. Maurice has worked for the Mille Lacs Band since 1997! He has worked as a Chemical Dependency Counselor and in District II Project Management, and for the past 16 years has been with Public Works. Son to Katherine Benjamin and Jerry Benjamin, Sr., he lives in East Lake with wife Brenda W. Benjamin. Maurice has two beautiful daughters, Nicole and Melissa, two handsome grandsons, and two German shepherd boys.

Susan Klapel, our newest Board Member by one meeting, nominated by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, also joined in December 2020. Susan has worked for the Band since 1998 as the Police Department Admin, Conservation Officer, Police Officer, GRA Investigator, Commissioner of DNR, Deputy Assistant to the Chief Executive, and Special Consultant to the Commissioner of HHS. She is currently at Mora High School, Hinckley High School, and East Central High School as a substitute teacher. Said Susan, "This job has been very fun for me as the kids I remember when I was out in the field as an officer are in high school. Some of them I remember when they were born. I love it!" Susan lives in Mora and continues to have close ties to District III. Her family (Dunkley) is from the Aazhoomog community.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 a.m.

COVID from page 1

Some may refuse the vaccine. Misinformation about the dangers of vaccines is rampant on social media. As a result, the coronavirus will continue to find hosts, and outbreaks will continue for months or even years.

Some may become complacent. The existence of a vaccine will cause many to go back to their pre-pandemic routines, giving the virus more opportunities to spread.

The fact is that the pandemic would have been far less destructive if people had followed a few simple precautions: wearing masks, social distancing, staying home, washing hands, and limiting contacts with those from other households.

And the fact remains that the pandemic will end sooner — with less sickness and death — if people continue to follow those same guidelines.

The math is simple. More exposure means more cases. More cases mean more death and a longer pandemic.

Less exposure means fewer cases and fewer outbreaks. Fewer outbreaks and infections mean contact tracing and quarantining can have a greater effect until eventually the occasional small outbreak is kept under control, and eventually life can return to normal.

The key word is "eventually." We're not there yet. Please remain vigilant for our Elders and our communities.

LETITIA MITCHELL

HARD WORK — AND LOTS OF LAUGHS

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Letitia (Tisha) Mitchell retired last month at the age of 81 years young, after 46 years at Nay Ah Shing Schools and another 15 at other jobs in the Twin Cities and District I. With that kind of resume, it's no surprise that Letitia has never shied away from a challenge.

As a child, she tagged along behind her dad when he hunted, trapped, and ice fished in the dead of winter.

As a teenager, she left her comfort zone of the reservation to finish high school at St. Benedict's.

As a young woman, she led a work crew of 15 rambunctious boys as they cleaned up Elders' yards.

As an adult, she became a teacher of the Ojibwe language at Nay Ah Shing — and when a more qualified speaker came along, she took on a new challenge as the school's librarian.

She faced it all with a sense of humor that still comes through in her hearty laugh and charming stories of a life lived to the fullest.

School days

Letitia, the eldest daughter of John and Nancy (Benjamin) Garbow, grew up on the west side of the highway near where the casino and Grand Market are today. (The Garbows still have allotted land there, Letitia said.) She lived with her brothers Reginald and Myron and her sisters Alicia (now Skinaway), Natalie (now Weyaus), Myrna (Sam), and Dorinda.

They lived in a house with no plumbing. "We had to carry water about a mile. It wasn't too bad during the winter, but in the summer we had to use pails. There was a pump up where my grandfather lived."

Her grandfather, John Benjamin, lived up the road and had a huge garden with every vegetable under the sun.

Her neighbors included the Pendegayoshes (Nancy's sister's family), the Clarks, and the Bedauskys.

During World War II, her dad worked as a welder in the shipyards at Duluth, and Letitia started school as the only Indian child in her class. "I spoke mostly Ojibwe, so when I started school there, when the teacher would say a word we had to learn, we would repeat it. And when I had to repeat it, I would say it in Ojibwe, too. She finally got mad at me and said, 'We're only learning English here.' I can remember it like it just happened yesterday."

Letitia — who punctuates each story with infectious laughter — was not one to give up so easily. During recess, her classmates would ask her how to say different words in Ojibwe, and she would tell them. "But we were really secretive, so the teacher wouldn't hear!"

When her dad was injured, losing the vision in one eye, the family came home on a train to Brainerd. Letitia attended school on the reservation and in Onamia — until the nuns at Little Flower Mission offered her the chance to attend St. Ben's. Letitia was up to the challenge, even though it made her one of only two Native Americans at the private Catholic school. "I wanted to go, because I always liked to challenge myself," she said.

Gap year

"When I graduated from St. Ben's, I came home and said, 'I'm not gonna do anything for a whole year. All I'm gonna do is go fishing and hunting.'" In the winter, she and her dad would get up at 5 a.m. to go ice fishing off Shawboshkung Point. Their "alarm clock" that told them it was time to quit was the school bus that went by around 7:30. "Then we'd pull up our lines and say, 'It's time to go home!'" They'd cover their holes with snow, so the next day it would be easy to chisel through. "I think I ate



Letitia Mitchell was honored for 46 years of service to Nay Ah Shing Schools on Thursday, December 3. Among the well-wishers were Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and (top right) Nay Ah Shing Principal Lehtitia Weiss and Assistant Principal Byron Ninham. Letitia was famous for her baking power biscuits (made from scratch with no recipe), and her banana bread, which she regularly brought to share with co-workers.

fish for breakfast just about every other day during the winter."

One morning, however, Letitia got skunked. "My dad, he caught two or three of them, so I thought, 'Oh boy, we're gonna have fish anyway.' So we got home and he was just busy filleting and cleaning those fish. I said, 'Are you gonna give me some fish?' and he said, 'No, if you want fish you gotta catch your own!' so I said, 'Okay,' and I went without fish that day. It just so happened we went fishing again and I said, 'I'm gonna make sure I catch some, and I hope he doesn't,' and then sure enough, he didn't catch any! I said, 'What's wrong? Can't catch anything?' and he said, 'I'm gonna try over there,' and I thought, 'Yeah, pound on that ice some more, and chase all the fish away!' And then finally when the school bus went by, I said, 'Okay, it's time to quit,' and he was still over there trying, and he still couldn't catch any."

As Letitia filleted her fish, her mom asked if her dad caught any, and Letitia said, "No, he got skunked today. Too bad, he's not getting no fish." Her mom just hummed, and Letitia fried up her fish on the wood stove. "After I got done, I said, 'Oh, I'm so full, I don't think I'll be able to eat that one. You can have some.' But my ma wasn't so much of a fish eater, so she said, 'John, do you want some fish?' and he said, 'Yeah, okay.'"

Letitia also remembers mink hunting in the winter with her father. "That was where they got most of their money during the winter," she said. "They trapped for mink and muskrats." One day John showed her the tiny nose of a mink popping out of the water to breathe. "Do you see that? Now he'll go back down again. So this time when he comes up, I'm gonna shoot at him. And don't move!" And then pretty soon that little tip of that nose came up."

He shot it perfectly through the nose so it didn't ruin the pelt, then waded in and reached into the icy water to retrieve it. "Even though he had just one eye, oh, that guy was a crack shot!" said Letitia.

After her "gap year," there were no jobs at the reservation, so Letitia decided to go to the Twin Cities to work, where she had spent a summer in a sewing factory. She took a job at the Salvation Army, and had her own apartment. "But then I got bored!" she laughed. "I got tired of city life. I said, 'I think I'm gonna quit working here and move home.' And I've been around the rez since!"

Working girl

Her first job was with a program called Community Youth Services, where she supervised a work crew of 15 boys cleaning up Elders' yards. "They couldn't use lawn mowers or anything that was sharp. But they had to work! We'd go to the Elders' homes and pick up garbage."

One day they decided to build a ball field on her grandfather's hayfield, so that evening everyone came with their lawn mowers, mowed the field, and played ball.

Next, Letitia worked for Adult Basic Education for seven years, helping fellow Band members get their GEDs. When the Band took over the program from the state, Letitia became a cook for Head Start and Nay Ah Shing, which was newly



opened in the old center where the casino parking lot is today. On weekends, she'd tend bar and cook at Drift Inn.

In 1967, Letitia married the late Ralph Mitchell, and had two children: a son, Thomas, who lives in District I, and a daughter who passed away tragically at age 12.

One day, when Letitia was recovering from hip replacement surgery, Millie Benjamin called and asked her to attend an Ojibwe language workshop with the University. Millie wanted someone to take the training with her, and once again — even though she was still laid up — Letitia was up to the challenge. "They started that training, and that language professor, she was supposed to be our trainer, but I think she learned more from us than we learned from her. I said, 'When is she gonna start to train us?'" (With another big laugh!)

One of Letitia's successes as an Ojibwe teacher came when a high school English teacher told her the kids didn't read well when they got to the upper school. Letitia started teaching the kids to read Ojibwe words and found that their skills transferred to English. She would single them out for positive attention whenever one of her students learned a new word — and their faces would light up. The English teacher said, "Letitia! What are you doing with those kids? Their reading is really coming up!"

When Millie's brother, Norman Clark, was interested in a teaching job, Letitia moved over to the library. "He was a real fluent Ojibwe speaker, so they asked if it would be all right if they let him take over. I told him, 'Oh yeah, sure, I'll work at a library, because I'm really not that fluent at Ojibwe. He'd be a better teacher.'"

Around that time, Letitia used to play bingo down by St. Cloud, and she became an expert at the crane games. She would win all kinds of toys for a quarter each and bring them to Head Start and Nay Ah Shing for the kids as rewards for reading books — or just for coming to school. Soon she found a whole collection of stuffed animals at a garage sale for a quarter each, and she brought those in as well, always making sure she had enough for everyone.

Letitia became famous with generations of Nay Ah Shing students for those gifts and incentives. "I had to hit a lot of garage sales, but I always made sure I never paid any more than a quarter!" she laughed.

With no need for recognition, Letitia went above and beyond, giving extra help to students with learning difficulties, coming up with bookmaking or portfolio projects for young readers, helping college kids who stopped in at the library, or finding materials for parents. "I did all kinds of things. I was spread all over!" she laughed. "If it was something I didn't know how to do, I would challenge myself and do it."

Letitia's namesake, Nay Ah Shing Principal Lehtitia Weiss, told a story at Letitia's graduation party on December 3 that demonstrates her impact. "Sometimes I'll see a student with a book in the hall outside Letitia's room and I'll say, 'Do you want to read with me?' and they'll say, 'No, I'm waiting for Tisha.'"

Letitia will be missed, and her impact on students and colleagues won't be forgotten.

Enjoy your retirement, Letitia! You've earned it!

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO ROLE

Carmen Kalk has extensive knowledge of tribal government — as well as Band members

Carmen Kalk, who has been serving as Executive Director of Human Services since February 24, is a familiar face in tribal government — and in all three Mille Lacs Band districts.

For 16 years, Carmen was the District IIa (Chiminising) Program Administrator, which gave her a deep familiarity with tribal programs and services, as well as with the District II community.

The daughter of District III Band member Eileen Johnson, Carmen also knows the Hinckley and Aazhoomog communities.

And as a former employee of Circle of Health, Education, and Housing, Carmen is also well connected to District I, and well acquainted with both the elected and appointed officials of the government. In addition to those roles, Carmen spent seven years at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

That knowledge of business and government — and more importantly, Band members — makes Carmen the right person to oversee a department as crucial as Human Services.

In her role as Executive Director, Carmen oversees the entire Human Services Division within HHS, including Family Services, Elder/Energy Services, Emergency Services, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the Food Shelf, the Family Violence Prevention Program, and the Elder Disability Program.

"EACH DAY IS A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE, BUT I'VE LEARNED THAT MANY DEPARTMENTS WORK HAND IN HAND WITH US TO SUCCESSFULLY SERVE OUR MEMBERS."

So far, there's no such thing as a typical day given the variety of needs that may arise in such a wide-ranging department. And there are currently additional challenges. "It's difficult to know what a typical day would be, since COVID restrictions started about two weeks after I became the Interim Executive Director of Human Services," Carmen said. "Each day is a different challenge, but I've learned that many departments work hand-in-hand with us to successfully serve our members."

Carmen was attracted to the role because she knew it would be a challenge. "I was looking forward to applying the knowledge I gained in the previous positions I have held with the Band," she said.

Knowledge is only part of the equation, though, especially



When she's not working, Carmen Kalk can often be found beading or exercising her treaty rights.

in HHS — where "service" is right in the name.

"In my previous positions with the Band, I helped many community members, and although they know I am no longer in those positions, they still call me looking for direction or answers to questions about other programs," said Carmen. "If I don't have the answer to their inquiry, I will use my resources to find out and will get back to them."

Carmen spent her childhood in Wisconsin, where her father, Robert Johnson Sr., was a logger. "He and my mom taught me that hard work has its rewards," said Carmen, who grew up with three siblings: Robert Jr., Ronald, and Cheryl (now Miller). "We would work as a family in the woods, which instilled in me that it takes more than one person to get things accomplished."

She still loves the outdoors and has the perfect hunting and fishing partner in her husband, Curt Kalk. "Curt and I enjoy spending time together practicing our treaty rights," Carmen said. "My favorite is spearing, and during the quiet winter months and any extra time, I love to bead." She also likes to travel, although COVID-19 has put a temporary halt to that.

Carmen also enjoys family time with her two adult sons — Ian and Jackson Pratt — and her grandson Isaac.

Those who know Carmen are confident that she will bring a strong work ethic and concern for Band members to her Executive Director role. "I've learned that there is more than one side to any story," Carmen said.

The keys to her success are simple: "Listening, communicating, following through, and what my mom always told me: treating others as you want to be treated."

AROUND THE RESERVATION

ELDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS JANUARY 13 AND 14

The next Mille Lacs Band Elder food distribution will take place in District I, II, and III on Wednesday, January 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. and on Thursday, January 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Urban Office at 1404 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. Elders who need delivery service in DI, DII, DIIa, or DIII can contact Renee Bayerle at 320-362-4988 by 5 p.m. Monday, January 11. District I and IIa Band members can pick up food at the south side of the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center. District II distribution will be at Minisinaakwaang Community Center, and District III distribution at Grand Northern Inn in Hinckley. Items will include coffee, fresh fruit, potatoes, cheese, bread, frozen veggies, and a pork prime.

BUILDER WINS AWARD FOR NEW HHS BUILDING

The Minnesota/North Dakota Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) honored recently completed member projects for the 2020 Excellence In Construction Awards. Hy-Tec Construction, Brainerd, MN received a top award from the Minnesota/North Dakota Associated Builders and Contractors for its Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District I Health Clinic in the Healthcare: Over 5 Million category.

ABC's awards program is designed to publicly recognize the quality and innovation of merit shop construction and to honor all the members of the construction team, including the contractor, the owner, and the design team responsible for the project. The winning projects were selected from entries submitted across the state and were judged on complexity, attractiveness, unusual challenges, completion time, workmanship, innovation, safety, and budget.

Hy-Tec Construction was the general contractor on the team that built this multi-faceted health care system. The project entailed proper scheduling of materials and sequencing of subcontracting work. In the end, this project was both functional and aesthetically appealing. Hy-Tec Construction completed the project ahead of schedule and under budget.

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAM OFFERS HELP

The Band's Family Violence Prevention Program offers a Victims of Crime Program that provides advocacy for victims of arson, bullying, burglary, fraud, identity theft, cyber crime, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, assault, robbery, kidnapping, missing persons, hate crimes, homicide, gang violence, mass violence, teen dating violence, and more.

Services include:

- Advocacy for all crime victims
- Referrals
- Direct client assistance
- Reparations application assistance
- Safety planning
- Explanation and guidance of the criminal court process
- Assistance in understanding your rights as a crime victim

Contacts: VOC Advocate Cell: 320-362-0734; VOC Advocate Cell: 320-362-1416; VOC Program Coordinator Cell: 320-364-3568; Office: 320-532-7865; FVPP Administrator Cell: 320-630-2499; Office: 320-532-7793; Women's Shelter: 320-495-3514; 24-hour Crisis Line: 1-866-867-4006. Everyone is currently working remotely, so please use the cell phone contact numbers at this time.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



COVID-19 TESTING IN DISTRICT I

The Health and Human Services Department provided drive-through COVID-19 testing to Band members, employees, and community members at the new HHS building in District I on December 8.



GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG YOUTH PROGRAM

YOUTH ASSEMBLY GIVES STUDENTS A STRONG VOICE

By Cheyanne Peet Mille Lacs Band Member and District II Program Coordinator

Students needed to help steer the program — and our communities

The Ge-niigaanizijig Youth Assembly was created so the program's services can be more youth-centered. We value their voices and want their input to guide decisions — not only about the program, but the changes they want to see in their communities. The youth have visions for themselves and their communities, and we can use this as a platform to meet their preferences, needs, and values. Youth will gain leadership skills that they can use throughout their lives.

It is my personal goal to make this a life-long leadership experience for youth as a whole so that we are able to better serve all youth in our communities.

By increasing the level of youth engagement, we can optimize our services to enhance the development of our youth. Through this assembly, we can continually and actively make this program youth-centered. The services that are offered will be respectful and responsive to the youth preferences, needs, and values. Their input will help us meet the needs of all youth.

As a community, we need to believe in the capacity of our youth and create opportunities for them to lead, where they will feel valued. Not only will their voices be heard and used to guide decisions, but we want it to challenge them and prepare them for the next stage of their lives. We will provide support, structure, and resources to help manifest their visions. Overall, the main goals of this assembly are to be youth-led, have consistent structured meetings, build community, and offer a safe space for youth to be themselves while we plan, implement, and reflect on meaningful projects.

The Ge-niigaanizijig Youth Assembly is for youth in all districts. Currently, we have 10 youth that sit on this assembly.

- Aleah Hill lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- Jazmyne Skinaway lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- Mercedes Misquadace lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- Chinoodin Weyaus lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.

naakwaang Leadership Academy.

- Joaquin Fineday-Skinaway lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- Ronnie Weyaus lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.
- Jordan Sayers lives in District IIa and attends Isle Public School.
- Jayden Sayers lives in District IIa and attends Isle Public School.
- Shaylynn DeCoteau lives in District II and attends McGregor Elementary.
- Evelyn Weyaus lives in District II and attends Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.

The youth in our assembly have powerful and passionate voices. They joined because they wanted to be a good role model, use their voices in a positive way, create change in their communities, or just try something new. They value things like family, love, spirituality, bravery, curiosity, acceptance, and accomplishment. We look forward to seeing what they will do with this platform and the path that they will create for themselves and the youth that follow.

If there are any youth who are interested in joining the Ge-niigaanizijig Youth Assembly, we still have positions vacant. Youth need to be enrolled in the program, but staff will gladly work with the families to complete the application process. It is open for youth ages 9-20 until all positions are filled. If anyone is interested, they should contact Cheyanne Peet, DII Coordinator and Youth Assembly Coordinator. Cell: 320-362-1608. Email: Cheyanne.Peet2@millelacsband.com.

Top: Chinoodin, Ronnie, and Evelyn Weyaus (with Claudia, left), Shaylynn DeCoteau. Second row: Jazmyne Skinaway and Mercedes Misquadace. Third row: Aleah Hill and Joaquin Fineday-Skinaway. Bottom row: Jordan Sayers and Jayden Sayers.



STATE OF THE BAND PREP IS UNDERWAY

Commissioners, elected officials, musicians, and other State of the Band participants started recording their contributions to the 2021 State of the Band event, which will be held online on January 12.

ORDER YOUR STATE OF THE BAND GIFT

There are two ways to get your State of the Band gift:

1. Go to millelacsband.com/services/sotb-2021 and fill out the form with your shirt size and mailing address, OR
2. Fill out this form and send it by mail to: Office of the Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359

Name: _____

Tribal ID: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Shirt size: Men's small _____ Men's medium _____ Men's Large _____ Men's XL _____ Men's XXL _____

Men's XXXL _____ Men's XXXXL _____ Women's small _____ Women's medium _____ Women's large _____

Women's XL _____ Women's 1XL _____ **Shirt color:** Light gray _____ Light blue _____

BAND MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE 2021 STATE OF THE BAND AT

<https://millelacsband.com/SOTB>



The new crosswalk went into operation on December 8. For a demonstration video, go to youtube.com/millelacsband.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

HAWK CROSSWALK INSTALLED IN DISTRICT I

A new HAWK crosswalk at Highway 169 and Ataage Drive in District I will provide a safer way for pedestrians to cross from the schools, government buildings, and homes on the east side of the highway to Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Market, and neighborhoods on the west side.

HAWK is short for High-intensity Activated Cross Walk. The crosswalk is activated by pedestrians when they want to cross. A flashing yellow light indicates to motorists that someone is waiting to cross, and a double red light tells them they need to stop.

The unique double red signal display above a single yellow light gets the motorist's attention by the unusual shape of the display cluster.

The pedestrian will see a raised hand indicating "Don't Walk" when the crosswalk is not in use, and also when the yellow light is flashing. After the lights turn red and motorists are stopped, pedestrians will see an icon of a walking person and a countdown of seconds remaining to cross.

A \$361,989 MnDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant was awarded for the project. The grant requires a 20 percent local match, but MnDOT agreed to pay the local match, so the project did not require any Band dollars.

| PEDESTRIANS | | DRIVERS | |
|-------------|---|----------|--|
| SEE THIS | DO THIS | SEE THIS | DO THIS |
| | PUSH THE BUTTON | | DRIVE ALWAYS LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO PLAN TO CROSS. |
| | STOP & WAIT FOR THE WALK SIGNAL. | | SLOW DOWN A PERSON HAS ACTIVATED THE PUSH BUTTON. |
| | START CROSSING ALWAYS WATCH FOR CARS. | | PREPARE TO STOP |
| | FINISH CROSSING | | STOP FOR PEDESTRIAN. (As with any signal RED means STOP) |
| | | | STOP FIRST PROCEED WITH CAUTION IF NO PEOPLE ARE PRESENT. |



NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS RESPOND TO VANDALISM

Nay Ah Shing Schools shared photos and a Facebook message regarding vandalism that occurred in early December: "Over the weekend Nay Ah Shing Schools were vandalized with multiple rooms destroyed and learning equipment damaged beyond repair. Actions like these have ripple effects across many parties. These acts not only caused physical damage to the buildings themselves but could also affect the school community (students/staff). We hope that by sharing these images of the destruction caused we can move forward in supporting our community with respect and caring. Appreciation goes out to The Nay Ah Shing School Facilities department, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Community Development staff for their immediate response with securing the buildings, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department for your steadfast response."

AANJIBIMAADIZING PROGRAM

CHAPS GRANT HELPS WITH COVID-RELATED EXPENSES

Staff in the Aanjibimaadizing program were able to help Mille Lacs Band families with over \$800,000 in support thanks to a state grant program for housing assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kristian Theisz, Aanjibimaadizing Community Services Director, said, "We recognized that the community was going to have multiple and various needs due to COVID-19, so the Aanjibimaadizing staff all pulled together to work alongside the state to help with those needs, from electric and heat bills to past-due rent and mortgages. Needs are different in each family, and help comes in different ways, but we wanted to let everybody know that we appreciate being able to help the community."

During the process, staff heard stories that show the extent of need some families have faced — like the fear that lack of propane would mean they would need to turn on the stove and have the kids sleep in the kitchen to stay warm. "Thankfully, with the help we were able to provide, they didn't have to do that," said Kristian.

The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program provided payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners. Eligible expenses included rent, mortgage, utilities, and other housing-related payments.

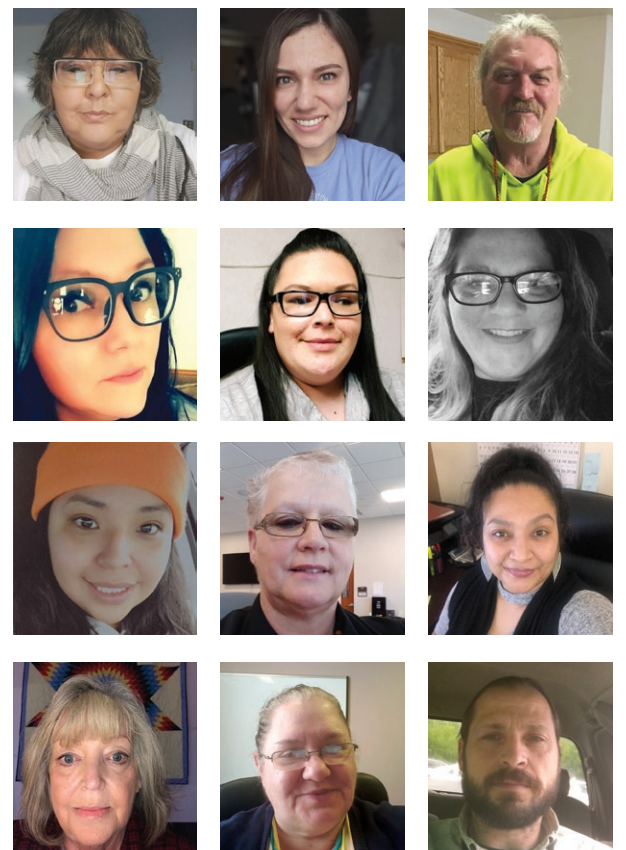
Aanjibimaadizing helped Band members with the required application.

Staff involved in day-to-day implementation (pictured below) included Tammy Moreland, Rachel Boyd, Bill Smith, Marlene Poukka (not pictured), Dondi Jonelle, Mary Boyd, Kaari Weyaus, Winona Crazy Thunder, Renee Allen, Winona Spaulding, Dawn Paro, Karen Pagnac, and Kristian Theisz.

Kristian and Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom provided oversight. "These staff served more than 650 people in three months," Tammy said. "They did an amazing job."

Kristian said Aanjibimaadizing will continue to aggressively seek additional funding to continue to help Band members with their needs. Watch the Inaajimowin, millelacsband.com, and Facebook for updates.

MIIGWECH TO AANJIBIMAADIZING STAFF!



LORETTA HANSEN

SHARING THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

Loretta Hansen, the new Higher Education Coordinator in District III, understands the struggles and the rewards of pursuing an education.



Her first taste of both came as a high school foreign exchange student who left the small town of Danbury, Wisconsin, for the Central American country of Nicaragua.

"My first flight was in a plane not much bigger than a crop duster that landed what seemed like five times between Eau Claire and Chicago O'Hare," said Loretta. "I couldn't imagine flying all the way to Central America this way but got on a real plane in Chicago and flew to Jacksonville, Florida, and then to Miami, which was really interesting."

Loretta found out her flight to Nicaragua didn't leave until the next morning, which meant she spent her first night away from home wondering what she'd gotten herself into. "Tears were tempting, but I told myself this is what I wanted, and it was all good from there" said Loretta. "It was the experience of a lifetime and really opened my eyes to the fact that the world did not revolve around me, but there was so much to learn and absorb."

It was for that reason that the position of Higher Ed Coordinator appealed to Loretta: "I get to help people understand that education comes in many different forms, and I also get to convey the excitement of learning something new and different — how it can be scary but so rewarding. I see myself as facilitating students through the scary parts of the process to the fun and exciting ones. For example, a FAFSA can be daunting, but once completed it can open many different doors and paths, so just helping someone get past that will help them see all the opportunities."

Loretta's next lesson came as an 18-year-old, when she traveled to Tahiti, spending her college savings on a week-long vacation. "That was 1978, and I did not get my degree from college until 2005," Loretta said. "Although it was wonderful and quite an experience, in hindsight I would have gone to school and saved Tahiti for some other juncture in life, but live and learn. I still smile when I think about it, though — being 18 and in paradise!"

Loretta is an Elder now, and the wisdom of age and hindsight will help her understand not only young students who want immediate gratification, but also non-traditional students who need to juggle college with the responsibilities of work and family.

Loretta has six grown children — five boys and a girl — and eight grandchildren — six girls and two boys. She lives with her significant other of over 30 years in Mora, but she has also lived in Aazhoomog and Hinckley.

She came back home after spending eight years in Oklahoma — a period of her life that has provided yet another les-

"I BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE SPECIFIC GIFTS TO BRING TO OUR COMMUNITIES, AND I BELIEVE MINE IS USING MY LIFE EXPERIENCES TO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FIND THEIR GIFTS."

son. "We were here on a visit when the May 1999 tornado destroyed our neighborhood in Moore, Oklahoma," she said. "Since there really wasn't anything to go back to, we just stayed. We tried to get housing and jobs in Hennepin County but it was near impossible with six kids. I was told having a dog would be easier."

Loretta contacted the Mille Lacs Band, hoping for help with housing. "They reached out to me and my family with open arms," she recalled. "They helped me with housing, getting my children on Circle of Health, and really made me feel welcome. They pulled me out of the funk of losing everything and starting over. It was then that I decided that I always wanted to work for the Band in one capacity or another to pay them back in a small way for what they had done for me. We are blessed with so many opportunities and now in this position I hope I can help others like I was helped and just let everyone feel the



sense of community I was given in my biggest time of need."

Loretta earned her AA degree from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and also has an AAS in Human Services pending her internship, which she completed in the Substance Use Disorder Department and is awaiting final approval.

As a life-long learner, Loretta hopes to learn conversational Ojibwe. She plans to enroll in Fond du Lac's Ojibwe language program and wants to help bring language tables back to District III. "I am super excited about the Rosetta Stone program for Ojibwe and plan on using that as well," she said.

Loretta's office is at the Corporate Building in Hinckley — office #107. She doesn't have a phone yet but can be reached by e-mail at loretta.hansen@millelacsband.com. "If I can help with anything higher education related, shoot me an e-mail and I will contact you as soon as possible to see how I can assist."

"I believe we all have specific gifts to bring to our communities, and I believe mine is using my life experiences to inspire and encourage others to find their gifts," said Loretta. "You can achieve so much once you determine what your gift is and obtain the help to get you on the right path. I want to be the mentor, the cheerleader, to help students when they get discouraged."

Loretta's parents are her main inspiration because they worked hard to see that their children got what they needed (not necessarily what they wanted) and were always supportive of their choices.

"My dad had a lot of mottos about life, but the one that always sticks with me whenever I take on new challenges is that you never really value anything unless you work for it," said Loretta. "Not only has that guided me in my life, but I would like to pass that on to others. There is nothing like the sense of accomplishment when you have worked hard and achieved your goal."

MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

SIX BAND MEMBERS GRADUATE FROM ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

Through a new pilot partnership between Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) and the Initiative Foundation, six Mille Lacs Band members were able to participate and graduate from the Enterprise Academy this fall in Brainerd. The Initiative Foundation's Enterprise Academy is based on the Entrepreneur Development Model, a program of the St. Paul-based Neighborhood Development Center. Participants in the Enterprise Academy learn from business experts and create their own individual business plan.

Classes were held via Zoom once per week for 12 weeks and featured training specifically tailored to the entrepreneur, with one-on-one assistance offered to help create a realistic business plan. There have been seven Enterprise Academy cohorts completed so far in the region. The fall 2020 Brainerd cohort was the 7th cohort. MLCV is currently recruiting participants for the spring 2021 Mille Lacs Tribal Economy cohort slated to begin in late February. (See page 14.)

The Mille Lacs Band members — Carolyn Beaulieu, Gina Benson, Billie Boyd, Bradley E. Harrington, Ginger Weyaus, Suzanne Wise — were among 16 applicants who applied to the competitive program. In order to secure their seats, applicants

had to complete a panel interview and demonstrate their commitment to creating a business. Since many applicants applied, only the most prepared, engaged, and committed people were selected.

Through the rigorous program, the entrepreneurs were challenged to think about all the different factors and market forces that would affect their business. They put together research about how their products and services were going to compete in the marketplace; everything was considered, from price to distribution and marketing. The result was an impressive diversity of business plans including a community-oriented billiards hall, a mobile med spa (that specializes in Botox and fillers), a concrete crafting business (that specializes in Native-inspired headstones), media services (that link traditional Ojibwe ways with contemporary technology), a sober housing facility, and a nonprofit agency for supervised parental visits (that specializes in providing assistance to tribal communities).

While the Enterprise Academy brings a lot of resources to the participants in a condensed timeframe, it is only the first step among many in the journey to owning a business. The next steps for the entrepreneurs can vary and include addition-

al business planning, coordinating financing, searching for a location, completing the legal incorporation documents necessary, etc.

"Although it may seem counterintuitive because of the recent pandemic-induced economic disruptions, it is actually a great time to start a business," said Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO for MLCV. "There have been many successful businesses that started as a result of a recession or economic downturn. Netflix, Airbnb, Microsoft, Sports Illustrated, MTV, Warby Parker, Revlon, and Disney, to just name a few. I am confident that our Band members, powered by Ojibwe values and resilience, can tackle anything they set their minds to."

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR BAND MEMBERS, POWERED BY OJIBWE VALUES AND RESILIENCE, CAN TACKLE ANYTHING THEY SET THEIR MINDS TO."

— MLCV CEO JOE NAYQUONABE JR.

DISTRICT I NEWS

REPRESENTATIVE GIVES MONTHLY UPDATE

District I Representative Virgil Wind shared a video update on December 16 via YouTube. You can find the update at youtube.com/millelacsband.

Virgil started his update by acknowledging the difficulties families are facing this holiday season, many who have experienced loss this year and are now coping with a holiday season unlike any other.

"Hopefully we can find some joy and smiles on our kids faces and really just try to be here for each other as a community," said Virgil. "I want you to know I'm here for you, too."

He mentioned that the gift card distribution set for December 17 had been rescheduled for December 22, in conjunction with the holiday meal distribution. Cards were also given out on December 18.

Virgil also spoke about his commitment to spending one day a month in the urban area. Due to COVID-19, he chose to meet through teleconference with urban Band members in December, but he plans to meet in person with Band members each month in 2021.

Virgil also announced that he would be helping out with



District I Band members received \$25 Walmart giftcards and holiday meals at the old community center on December 18 and 22. Urban Band members received their holiday gifts at the Urban Office on Monday, December 21.

gift card and holiday meal distribution on Monday, December 21, at the Urban Office. He said COVID-19 protocols would be in place, including masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing. "Keep in mind that we want to keep everybody safe and secure during this holiday season," he concluded.

Watch youtube.com/millelacsband for regular updates from Representative Wind.



HOLIDAY CRAFTS AT DISTRICT I ALU

The ladies at the DI ALU have been busy making tree ornaments and holiday cards. Alvera Smith has been making birdfeeders, Marilyn Gurneau has become an entrepreneur selling her gnome ornaments, Penny Peltier is sewing a variety of holiday-themed items, and Bonnie Neeland has been making moccasins and ornaments. Miigwech to Carol for the photos!



OUR PETS SAY MIIGWECH!

M&M Partners in Rescue brought two pallets of dog and cat food and supplies to the Band's food distribution center on Thursday, December 17. M&M's mission is to build trusting partnerships within communities to bridge resources to animals and people, through donor generosity and our animal welfare network.

Haaland from page 2

"We have spent over 10,000 years on these lands. Through the eyes of our grandmothers, great grandmothers, and their grandmothers before them, we have watched for 170 years while the Secretary of Interior as our 'trustee' failed to protect our lands."

While the group detailed Haaland's qualifications for the DOI position, they also noted that Rep. Haaland "has actually walked the path of those she will have jurisdiction over."

A second letter, sent by representatives of Tribal Women for Indigenous Nations (TWIN) and Women Empowering Women for Indigenous Nations (WEWIN), requested the Biden Administration "ensure gender parity in the selection of Native political appointees — at all appointee levels," and to "ensure political appointments below the Senate confirmed levels have an equitable representation for Native appointees."

The groups expressed excitement at supporting the Biden-Harris administration's vision for interacting with Indian nations in a true nation-to-nation relationship.

"As your transition teams fan out across the federal agencies, departments, and offices, we would like to encourage you...to consider personnel and policies that will fairly incorporate Native people and tribal considerations," their letter said.

To read the letters in their entirety, see <https://millelacsband.com/news/native-women-call-for-indigenous-representation-in-biden-administration>.

DISTRICT I NEWS BRIEFS

DI staff are available to answer your questions:

Darla Roache is the Administrative Assistant to Representative Virgil Wind and can help answer questions or meet other needs of District I Band members. You can reach Darla at darla.roache2@millelacsband.com.



Urban hours for District I representative: Rep. Virgil Wind will be setting aside the last Monday of each month to meet with Urban area Band members through phone or Zoom, and once the pandemic is past, he plans on keeping regular office hours in the Urban Office. If you would like to schedule a call with Virgil, contact Darla.

Gift cards and meals distributed: District I Band members received \$25 Walmart gift cards on December 18 and holiday meals on December 22.

MLCV SEEKS SURVEY RESPONSES ON TRIBAL BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) is working with a range of partners on a project to study the feasibility of a Tribal Economy Business Incubator (TEBI). This incubator aims to spur entrepreneurial activity within the Mille Lacs tribal economy, an area covering parts of Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Aitkin, and Pine Counties where the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has a presence. The tribal economy includes both tribal-owned (including nation-owned and citizen-owned) and non-tribal-owned business.

As part of this process, MLCV has teamed with Northspan, who is working with community coordinators to conduct a series of focus groups in tribal economy communities. These focus groups seek to understand the current state of the Mille Lacs tribal economy, take stock of the resources available to local entrepreneurs, and develop a mission and vision for the incubator. A community survey is also being conducted to provide valuable background information for the focus groups. The study hopes to gain respondents from all tribal and non-tribal peoples that live within the Tribal Economy geographic area. The Community Survey will close on Monday, December 28, at 5 p.m.

MLCV is requesting your participation in the Community Survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLCVTEBICommunitySurvey>. Participants who complete the survey and share their contact information will also have a chance to win a \$100 MLCV gift card (that can be used for gas, gift shops, groceries, etc.).

SECRETARIAL ORDER ALLOWS ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd signed Secretarial Order 54-21 on December 17 allowing electronic signatures from state and federal agencies, vendors, contractors, and other Band departments. The order also authorizes the use of pre-printed signatures on checks in accordance with internal controls and accepted practices of the Office of Management and Budget.

DEREK SMITH

PASSION AND DEDICATION LEAD TO SUCCESS ON THE GRIDIRON

By Aiyanna Mitchell Mille Lacs Band Member

Isle's lone Native American on the varsity football team has been one of the most committed players of the last six years. Derek Smith has played for the Isle Huskies football team since he was in 7th grade, and he is now a team captain playing his senior year in the midst of COVID-19.

Derek has played many different positions since 7th grade, from wide receiver in 7th through 9th grade to quarterback in 10th and 11th grade. This year he has played multiple positions ranging from quarterback to cornerback to wide receiver.

Even though they didn't have a full season due to COVID-19, the Isle football team has been extremely lucky to play all their scheduled games.

Derek's favorite part of competing is showing others that he's better than they think. His goals are not only to have fun, but also to prove his dedication to the game — and to win.

Derek said his teammate Teagen Haggberg gave him a love for football and is the person he's looked up to during his high school career. He loved being a part of the team because he felt welcomed by everyone and also because he could be a role model and someone others feel like they can talk to.

"Football has taught me many lessons about the sport and life outside of sports," said Derek. "I have learned many lessons from my coaches about how I can take moments from the sport and implement them into my everyday life."

Derek's career highlights include his senior year game against Carlton-Wrenshall. Derek had a couple of long catches and a touchdown to top off the night.

His favorite moment from football came during his junior year when the Huskies played Mountain Iron-Buhl because they had an artificial turf field, and everyone was thrilled because it was so cool.

Derek lettered in football in his 9th, 10th, 11th, and senior years. He has been a role model not only in sports but education also. He has always been a student-athlete and has been on the honor roll.

Derek has no intention of playing sports in college even with his amazing athletic career. He plans to focus on school work so he can get into medical school in the future.

Anyone who knows Derek will tell you he was always dedicated and had a passion for sports, as well as education. Here's some advice from Derek for the younger generation athletes:

"IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, YOU NEED TO PUT EVERYTHING INTO IT. YOU CANNOT BE LACKADAISICAL ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO. THAT ALSO APPLIES TO LIFE; YOU CANNOT BE LAZY ABOUT ANYTHING IN LIFE. YOU NEED TO BE DRIVEN ABOUT THINGS YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT."



Derek Smith is a senior at Isle High School.

"If you want something, you need to put everything into it. You cannot be lackadaisical about what you want to do. That also applies to life; you cannot be very lazy about anything in life. You need to be driven about things you are passionate about."

Derek also plays basketball, so if the 2020-21 season goes forward, stay tuned for more good news from this young role model.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TELEMETRY STUDY GATHERS GROUNDBREAKING DATA ON WALLEYES

In 2020, staff from Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources and GLIFWC began the process of collecting and analyzing data as a part of the Band's ongoing acoustic telemetry study of fish movements, habitat, and temperature preferences in Mille Lacs Lake.

For two weeks in late June, staff worked to retrieve 61 receivers which had been submerged in the lake since spring of 2019 logging fish detection data. After collection, the fish detection data was downloaded, and the receivers were redeployed in the same locations to continue collecting data.

The fish detection data from 2019–2020 includes depth, temperature, and location information from tagged northern pike, walleye, tullibee, and yellow perch. In addition, data from over 90 light and temperature loggers was also collected to determine how water temperature varies by depth for each season. In addition, 11 receivers were also deployed in rivers and streams connected to Mille Lacs Lake. Those receivers detected fish movement as far away as Milaca (30 miles south, Rum River).

The telemetry study will help tribal biologists understand whether factors like increased water temperature and clarity are reducing the amount of available habitat for walleye, leading to potentially greater predation of juvenile walleye by adult walleye. The other fish species will inform tribal biologists on how forage fish impact juvenile walleye cannibalism and movement.

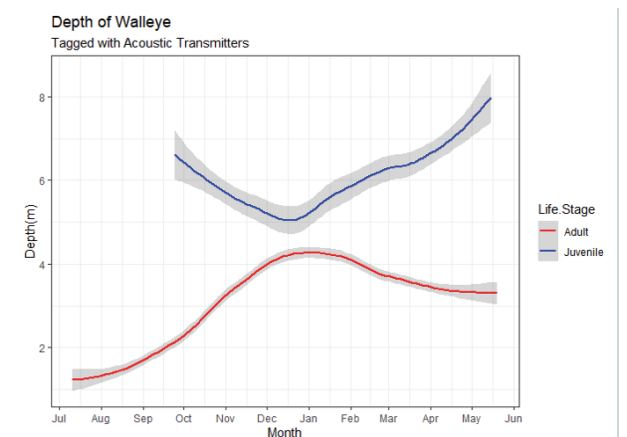
"Analyzing the data is the exciting part of this study," said Carl Klimah, fisheries manager for the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources. "All of the hard work is now paying off and we are starting to build an important understanding of fish movement in the lake that could help us understand what factors are impacting walleye abundance and health."



Data is being collected from transmitters attached to adult and juvenile fish and detected by receivers placed in a grid at the bottom of Mille Lacs Lake. So far, data show that adult and juvenile walleyes are found at different depths during most of the year, with more overlap in the winter months. Next year, tribal biologists led by Carl Klimah hope to tag smallmouth bass and/or muskies to learn more about the biology of the lake.

Mille Lacs Band and GLIFWC staff are in the process of analyzing the 2018–2019 fish detection data. Preliminary results were drafted into a presentation which was presented by Klimah at the 2020 American Fisheries Society Virtual Conference.

Initial data indicates that adult and juvenile walleye are typically not at the same depth in the lake, with juveniles preferring much deeper water. This would suggest that, while there are periods of overlap that provide limited windows for cannibalism, these windows may be short and occur during specific times of the year. For instance, tribal biologists found that during the daytime in January there was geographic, temperature, and depth overlap between adults and juveniles. It is important to note that this is based off one year of data, and it



is unknown if there is year-to-year variability to fish movement and behavior.

While the 2018–2019 fish detection data focuses only on adult and juvenile walleye, the newly downloaded results from June 2020 also include northern pike, tullibee and yellow perch. Klimah said the team hopes to have all data from 2018–2020 analyzed and compiled into shareable reports and presentations by spring 2021. However, advanced analysis of the data will most likely be ongoing and continue past 2021.

"Next year, we hope to tag smallmouth bass and/or muskellunge as a part of our fish tracking study to continue to deepen our understanding of the complex biology of Mille Lacs Lake," Klimah said.

AANJIKIING/CHANGING WORLDS: AN ANISHINAABE TRADITIONAL FUNERAL

By Lee Staples Gaa-anishinaabemod Obizaan and Chato Gonzalez Gaa-anishinaabebii'ang Ombishkebines

This article was originally published in the January 2001 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Mii iw gii-ni-giizhibii'amaang i'iw mazina'igan Aanjikiing/ Changing Worlds: An Anishinaabe Traditional Funeral ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Mii dash imaa i'iw mazina'iganing ani-dazhindamaan ezhi-gaagiigidod awiya maajaa'iwed.

We have finished writing the book *Aanjikiing/ Changing Worlds: An Anishinaabe Traditional Funeral*. In this book I am covering how to talk when you send the spirit down that path during a traditional funeral.

Ishke dash mii i'iw gaa-onji-inendamaan da-okawisijigaa-deg ezhi-gaagiigidooyaan iko ani-maajaa'iweyaan, ishke ninaniizaanendaan nawaj igo da-ni-bangiigawigiwaad gini-igaaniinaang ge-ni-gikendangig i'iw ezhi-webinigid awiya maajaa'iwed.

The reason that I have decided to write the way I talk when I do a funeral, is I have fears that there will be fewer people in our

future that will know how to talk at an Anishinaabe traditional funeral.

Ishke noongom ingiw mayaajaa'iwejig gaawiin nim-bi-noondanziin da-gikinoo'amawaawaad awiya ezhi-gaagi-igidowaad wiinawaa maajaa'iweyaad. Indayaawaag niin eni-gikinoo'amawagig, mii dash i'iw ge-wiinawaa ge-ni-aabajitoowaapan i'iw mazina'igan da-ni-nandawaabandamowaad i'iw ani-ginjiba'igowaad i'iw gaagiigidowin. Mii i'iw mayaamaw-zanagak ani-gaagiigidod awiya.

I have not heard of any other Anishinaabe who are doing funerals to be passing those teachings onto others. I have others who I have been teaching how to talk at these funerals. This book will be available to them to reference if they should forget how the talk goes. Funerals are the hardest talk to do when it comes to ceremonies.

Azhigwa ani-maajii-agindaman o'ow mazina'igan mii i'iw nitam ge-ni-agindaman i'iw Gaa-onjikaamagak ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Gidayaangwaamiminim da-agindameg i'iw gaa-izhibii'ig-



ayaan. Mii imaa weweni ani-waawiindamaageyaan gaa-onji-inendamaan da-okawisidooyaan omaa ezhi-gaagiigidod awiya maajaa'iwed.

When you begin reading this book, the first part that you will read about is the introduction. I encourage all of you to read what I have written in this part. It is here I do my best to explain why I have made the decision to share this information.

Ishke ishkwyaang nigii-pi-waabandaan gii-ozhibii'ang i'iw gaagiigidowin a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke a'aw akiwenziyiban gaa-nitawigi'id ogii-ayaan iniw mazina'igan gaa-miinigod inow Anishinaaben gii-ni-okawibii'igaadeg i'iw gaagiigidowin. Ishke dash omaa gaye Gaa-onjikaamagak, mii gaye omaa ani-waawiinagwaa ingiw mindimooyenyibaneg naa akiwenziyibaneg gaa-gikinoo'amawijig ezhisig i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-maajaa'iwed awiya.

I have seen this talk written down by Anishinaabe in the past. The old man that raised me had written material that was given to him by other Anishinaabe where the funeral talk was written down. In this introduction I also mention the names of those old ladies and old men of the past who had taught me how to do the talk at a funeral.

Mii gaye imaa gii-ozhibii'amaan ezhi-gaagiigidong i'iw wiisiniwin atamawaad a'aw Anishinaabe megwaa maa babaa-maawadisaadaminid o'ow aki inow odinawemaaganan azhigwa waa-ni-aanjikiinid, Babaa-maawadisaadang i'iw Aki ezhi-wiinjigaadeg. Mii imaa zagaswe'idid a'aw Anishinaabe nis-ing endaso-onaagoshig dabwaa-abitawind ani-wiidoopamaad inow odinawemaaganan gaa-inendaagozinid da-ni-aanjikiinid.

I have also written down the talk that goes with the feast where the spirit of the deceased is fed as he goes about and revisits the Earth before he changes worlds. It is called "Pre-funeral Feasts." This is where the Anishinaabe feasts the three evenings before the wake eating with their relative that is about to change worlds.

Ani-giizhiikamaan ani-dazhindamaan i'iw, mii imaa ani-wiindamaageyaan ezhi-gaagiigidong owapii ani-abitawind a'aw azhigwa waa-ni-aanjikiid, Abitawind ezhiwiinjigaadeg. Mii imaa eni-wiindamaageng gaa-onjikaamagak isa gii-shawendaagozid gii-miinigoowizid ge-ni-izhaad a'aw Anishinaabe ani-gaagwiinawaabaminaagozid omaa akiing.

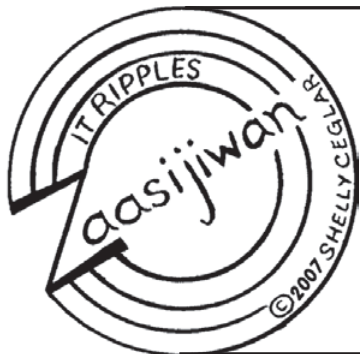
As I finish talking about those pre-funeral feasts, I then cover the talk that goes with the wake. This chapter is named "Wake." It is here the history of this ceremony is covered, where the Anishinaabe was looked with compassion and given a place to go when they were no longer seen on this Earth.

Mii dash imaa ani-ishkwaa-wiidoopamind apii abitawind a'aw waa-ni-aanjikiid, mii dash imaa ani-wiindamawindwaa ingiw besho enawendaasojig ge-naadamaagowaad wanitaasowaad. Mii imaa da-mikameg i'iw gaagiigidowin imaa Besho Enawendaasojig ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

After finishing the meal with the spirit of the individual at the wake, the close relatives are given information that will help them with their grief. You will find this information in *Close Relatives Talk*.

Azhigwa ani-maadagindaasoyan, mii imaa da-ni-agindaman i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg azhigwa ani-maadadood i'iw miikanens i'iw ge-ni-bima'adood i'iw apii ani-maajaa'ind awiya. Mii gaye imaa da-ni-agindaman ge-ni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa ani-ozhiitaa'aad waa-aanjikiinijig. Mii iw Azhigwa Maajaa'ind ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

Aanjikiing see page 14



Biboon—It is Winter

Daga aajimishin! Noogishkaan! Noogishkadaa.
Gidaa-pizindaamin gaagiigidowaad ingiw aadizookewiniinawag. Aatebidoon mazinaatesijigan!
Nanaa'inan i'iw giigidowin! Nimaawanji'aanaang ongow abinooyiyag. Aadizooken, dibaajimon!
Daga na giwii-aajimag i'iw amik, ojig, wazhashk, mooz, waabooz, zii'amoo dash maang?
Bimaaji'i Anishinaabeg, bimaaji'i aki. Wiidosemishin. Chi-miigwech miinawaa.

(Please tell a story to me. Stop! Let's all stop.
We should listen when they speak, those sacred storytellers. Turn off the television!
Put away the telephone! We should meet/gather them, these children. Tell traditional stories, tell stories!
Please will you tell about them that beaver, fisher, muskrat, moose, rabbit, woodduck and loon?
Save the Anishinaabe people, save the world. Walk with me. Great-thank you again.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waabooz—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Aaniin—as in seen
Noongom—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Gaye—as in about
Amik—as in tin
Qjiig—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Expressions

Today we won't worry about grammar, just expressions you can use in speech you create.

Bekaa!—Slow down, wait!
Haaw miinwaaa!—Try again!
Mii dash...—And then...
Bizaan!—Be quiet!
Ambe wewiib!—Come, hurry!
Amanj iidog.—I don't know.
Aaniin ezhihigeyan?—What you doing?
Daga bizindawishin.—Please listen to me.
Gisinaa agwajjiing.—It's cold outside.
Inashke! zoogipon.—Look! it is snowing.
Mii sa go geget!—That's for DARN sure!

Niizh—2

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

A. Waabooz idash goon, wabishkiziwag biboong.

B. Inashke! Waabishkawedoon Nimishoomis.

C. Naawakweg ishpeemiing gii-waabishkaanakwad.

D. Makadewindibe, nookomis. Gaye makedewaa, owiikawwaan.

E. Odaabaan idash makwa makadewiziwag.

F. Miskwanakwad imaa ningaabii'anong. Miskozi i'iw bineshii.

G. Inaande dash inaadewan. Inaanzo dash inaanzowag.

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

Niswi—3

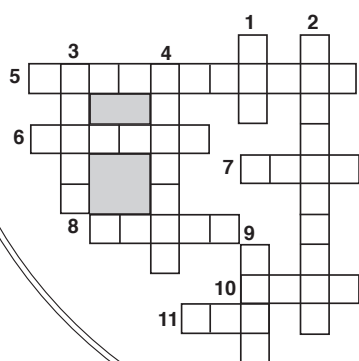
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. earth
2. Turn it off!
3. fisher
4. Look! Behold!
9. beaver

Across:

5. Stop!
6. Be quiet.
7. Come!
8. Slow down, wait!
10. moose
11. short for big, great



Niiwin—4

Ojibwe Expressions

Gashkadino-Giizis—Freezing up moon (Nov.)
Manidoo-Giizisoon—Little spirit moon (Dec.)
Gichi-Manidoo-Giizis—Great Spirit Moon (Jan.)
Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajjiing?
—What's happening outside?
Mino-nibaa-anami'e giizhigad.
—Happy sleeping-praying-day, Christmas greetings.
Gaa-miskojaaned adikoons.
—Red-nosed reindeer
Biindigen!—Come in!
Weweni go!—Be careful!

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. _____ Gagwejim nimaamaa. Gikendaaso.
2. _____ Daga namadabin. Makade -mashkiki-waaboo na?
3. Abinooyiyag _____! Noongom, giwii-nibaam. Daga gawishomog.
4. _____ waaban giwii-odaminom agwajjiing.
5. Gigizhiikaa. Gigizhibide. Gizhibiz. _____.

Biindigen!

Bizaan!

Bekaa!

Amanj iidog

Mii dash

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Rabbit and snow, they are white in the winter. B. Look! He has white whiskers, my Grandfather. C. At noon in the sky there were white clouds. D. She has black hair, my Grandmother. Also it is black, her hat. E. The car/sleigh and bear they are black. F. There are red clouds there to the west. She is red that bird. G. It is colored so and they are colored so (non-living things). S/he is colored so and they are colored so (living things).
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Aki 2. Aatebidoon 3. Ojig 4. Inashke 9. Amik Across: 5. Noogishkaan 6. Bizaan 7. Ambe 8. Bekaa 10. Mooz 11. Chi
Niiwin—4 1. I don't know (Amanj iidog) Ask my mom. She's smart. 2. Come in! (Biindigen!) Please sit. Black-medicine-liquid/coffee? 3. Children be quiet! (Bizaan!) Now, you all will sleep. Please lie down. 4. And then (Mii dash) tomorrow you all will play outside. 5. You go fast. You run fast. You drive fast. Slow down! (Bekaa!)

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

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Enterprise Academy PROGRAM

BUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES FROM WITHIN.



 **Are you an entrepreneur who wants to start or grow a business?**

MILLE LACS AREA ENTERPRISE ACADEMY CLASSES: FEBRUARY 2021

Apply to participate in the Enterprise Academy, where you'll learn from business experts and create your own individual business plan. Classes are held once per week for 12 weeks and feature training specifically tailored to you, with one-on-one assistance available to help create a realistic business plan. Priority will be given to applicants who are interested in creating or expanding visible businesses within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is offering a \$2,500 stipend to any Mille Lacs Band Member who is accepted into this spring 2021 Mille Lacs Tribal Economy cohort.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Abdi Daisane, Program Officer
(320) 207-4888 | adaisane@ifound.org

Jessy Beto, Program Assistant
(320) 224-1713 | jbeto@ifound.org

Dustin Goslin, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Vice President for Business & Economic Development
(320) 532-8855 | dgoslin@mlcv.com



This Enterprise Academy cohort is supported through a partnership with **Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures**. The Enterprise Academy is based on the Entrepreneur Development Model, a program of the Neighborhood Development Center's Build From Within Alliance. Visit ndc-mn.org for more information. The Enterprise Academy is supported by a grant from Wells Fargo and its Diverse Community Capital program and a grant from the Small Business Administration's Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs grant, or PRIME. Additional support comes from the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Learn more at ifound.org/economy/enterprise-academy

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SEE PAGE 10 FOR A STORY ON SIX MILLE LACS BAND ENTERPRISE ACADEMY GRADUATES!



FOOD DISTRIBUTION MEETS NEEDS OF BAND MEMBERS

Food distribution took place again this week in all districts and the urban area. The Urban Office teamed up with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and employees from the other districts to hand out over 10 pallets of food on December 3. Urban Office Administrative Assistant Billie Berry said, "We do not limit our distribution to just Band Elders, as we get all of the overflow from all the other districts. Usually just our few urban employees hand out everything ourselves, so we are very grateful today to have so many helping hands from MLCV and the other districts."

Aanjikiing from page 13

As you begin your reading, you will read about the journey that the spirit of the individual takes as he goes down that path as he is sent off. It is here also that you will read about the preparations to be made to help the spirit on his journey. The section is called "Funeral." *"Mii dash gaye omaa ani-ozhibii'igaa-deg ge- ni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa gaa- kiizhiitaad gii-pagadenimaad omaa akiing inow odinawemaaganan. Azhigwa gaa-niiwo-giizhigak mii imaa ani-dazhinjigaadeg i'iw onaa-goshig wiisiniwin achigaadeg. Mii dash imaa ani-gikinoo'amaa-geng ezhising i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-apagizonjigaadeg i'iw wiisiniwin iwidi ayaawaad gidinawemaaganinaaanig. Mii dash i'iwapii da-ni-dagoshimoonod gaa-maajaa'ind. Mii dash o'owapii ani-wiidoopamaad dash inow odinawemaaganan gaa-odisaa-jin iwidi. Mii i'iw Gaa- tagoshimoonod ezhwiinjigaadeg.*

In the next chapter the instructions are given to Anishinaabe on what to do once they put their relative in the ground. After four days there is a talk that goes with the food that is offered up that evening. The talk is covered that goes with sending the food over there where our relatives are. It is at that time that the spirit has arrived over there where our people are. It is then that he shares in a meal with all of his relatives who are over there. This chapter is called "Post-funeral Feast."

Mii dash i'iw ayaapii a'aw Anishinaabe gaa-ni- izhichiged ani-mikwenimaad inow odinawemaaganan iwidi eyaanijin. Ishke ingiw gaa-nitawigi'ijig gaawiin i'iw memwech azhigwa bezhig i'iw gikinoonowin gaa- pimisemagak wiisiniwin ogii-atoosiinaawaa. Mii-go apane ayaapii gii-atamawaawaad i'iw wiisiniwin. Mii dash imaa gaye ani-wiindamaageng i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg. Mii iw Mikwenimind Awiya ezhwiinjigaadeg.

What the Anishinaabe did was every so often they would remember their relatives over there and put food. The old people that raised me did not necessarily wait a year to pass to put food for their relatives that had passed on. They would put their food periodically remembering their relatives. It is here that the talk is covered that goes with this ceremony. This chapter is called "One-year Memorial Feast."

Mii gaye imaa ishkwe-ayi'ii imaa mazina'iganing ozhibii'igaa-deg gakina iniw ikidowinan omaa ani- aabajichigaadeg ani-wiindamaageng weweni awegonen endazhinjigaadeg. Ikidowinan izhiwiinjigaade.

At the end of the book there is a glossary with all the words utilized in this book. Each word used in the book is given a definition. This is called "Ojibwe-English Glossary."

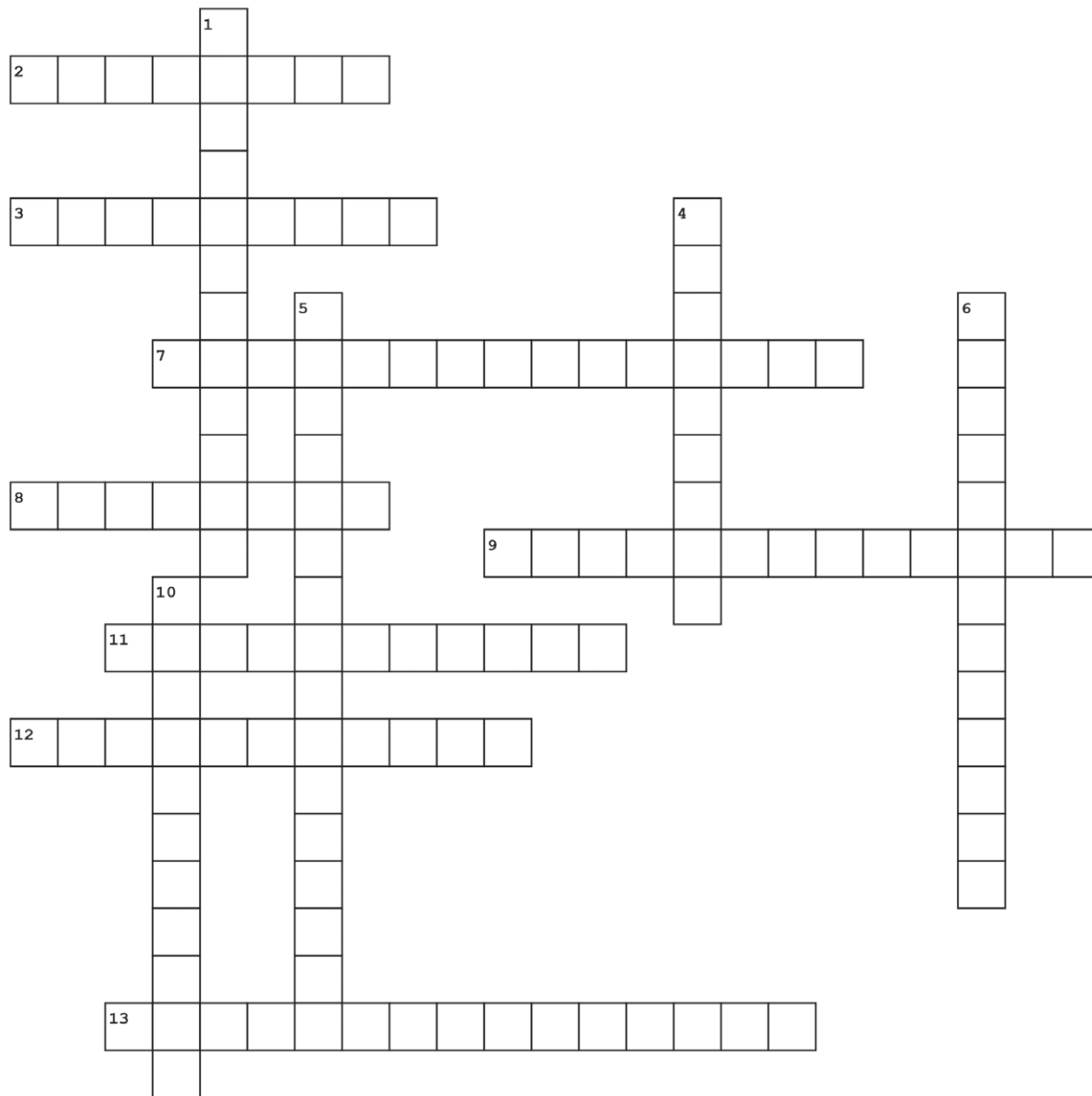
Mii dash omaa gidani-ayaangwaaminim da-ni- aabajitooyeg o'ow mazina'igan da-ni-gikendameg weweni i'iw gaagiigidowin ani-aabajichigaadeg ani-maajaa'ind a'aw gidan-ishinaabeminaan. Gegoo debinaak ani-izhichigekegon azhigwa ani- maajaa'iweyeg. Gidaa-wii-wawiiingezim. Ishke dash mii imaa ani-gagaanzominagog a'aw asemaa da-bi-miizhiyeg dabwaa-aabajitooyeg o'ow gaagiigidowin. Mii iko ingiw gidan-ishinaabeminaanig ishkweyaang gaa-izhichigewaad, weweni ogii-o- asemaakawaawaan inow owii' anishinaabemiwaan da-gikinoo'amaagowaad ani-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe ani-asemaaked.

I am strongly encouraging you guys to use this book to learn the talk that goes with sending the spirit of our people off. Do not do things half-heartedly as you do these funerals. You should try to do the best you can. It is here I am also encouraging you to bring me tobacco before you go on to use this information. This is what our Anishinaabe of the past did, they would respectfully bring tobacco to their fellow Anishinaabe to teach them what is done in any ceremony that Anishinaabe were given.

Ishke gaye omaa niwii-wiindamaage, gaawiin nizhoonii-yaakaadanzimin o'ow gaa-izhi- miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Gaawiin omaa meshkwadonigan inga-gashki'aasiwaa-naan aano- go ginwenzh gii-tazhitaayaang gii-ozhibii'amaang o'ow mazina'igan. Mii eta-go misawendamaang a'aw Anishinaabe da-ayaangwaamizid da-ni-gikendang o'ow maajaa'iwewin da-ni-giige'ind idash a'aw Anishinaabe giniigaaniiminaang.

It is also here that I want to inform people that we are not making money off this Anishinaabe ceremony. We will not be given any royalties even though the long hours put into writing this book. It is our only wish that the Anishinaabe work hard at learning how to do these funerals and to benefit our Anishinaabe of the future.

AZHAWAAKWASING MANIDOO-GIIZIS 2021



CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS

- 2. I am eating.
- 3. I am hungry.
- 7. You are brushing teeth.
- 8. You are eating.
- 9. S/he is taking a shower/bath.
- 11. S/he is getting dressed.
- 12. You are putting on shoes.
- 13. S/he is washing face.

DOWN

- 1. I am putting on shoes.
- 4. S/he is putting on shoes.
- 5. S/he is washing hands.
- 6. You are getting dressed.
- 10. I am strong.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

MARCHERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE

By Rhonda Mitchell Mille Lacs Band Member

Last month's *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* included a story about a Domestic Violence Awareness Caravan organized by Band member Dan Wind. Caravan attendees were asked about their participation in the caravan and why it was important to them.

Ogimaa Giniw: My goal in being here is to change the narrative in the community to end domestic violence and create a healthier community for generations to come.

The children are most affected by domestic violence. Growing up, it becomes their norm, and history repeats itself generation after generation. We need to break that cycle. Our children and grandchildren deserve healthy homes to grow up in.

Future generations will benefit from this type of awareness — not just our kids, but seven generations. We need to continue to educate our community by bringing this issue to the forefront. Education is a must, including the seven teachings.

I've supported domestic violence awareness in our community for the last three years now, but more so in the last year. We started a men's group, and through that we promote healthy relationships by supporting our significant others and emphasizing how to treat women like they are sacred, which we know they are.

Domestic violence has no gender or race. We create a safe place for men to come and get support from other men, and we let them know that it is okay to come forth and talk as men, to give support instead of shame and let them know it's okay to be vulnerable in front of other men as a way to heal. It's important for men to have that space.

I think shining a light on any issue will bring awareness to

it. To deal with a problem, you first must recognize there is one.

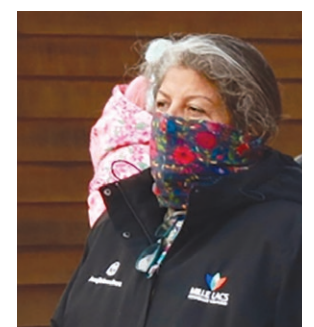
In our community, people are waking up and starting to realize the cause and effect of domestic violence, and we realize we have to do something today to educate ourselves and our community to better understand and become conscious of domestic violence. I think the community as a whole is waking up to that and wanting to make a difference.

Mikayla Schaaf: As a survivor of domestic violence, I feel it is important to bring awareness because a lot of the time it is not talked about. Domestic violence is happening in our communities. Sometimes people think domestic violence is normal or okay, so if they see people coming together to oppose it, then they learn it isn't right. If you are experiencing domestic violence, you may think you're the only one, but actually you're not, and if other people are aware, you might be able to talk with others. We need to come together and heal as a community to work past the trauma.

Elaine Rea: I'm here because I was a victim of domestic violence, and I want to support women who are in a domestic violence situation and to give them the strength to be able to leave the situation.

Lyndsay Mitchell: I joined the caravan to support our brothers and sisters to bring awareness to the community that domestic violence is real, and the impact it has on our families is traumatic for all involved. It is a cycle that can be broken through the coming together.

Virgil Wind: I want to support my niijii and anything positive in my community.



Top: Caravan organizer Dan Wind and Ogimaa Giniw (Bob Eagle). Middle: Mikayla Schaaf and Elaine Rea. Bottom: Lyndsay Mitchell and Virgil Wind (with other marchers).

AROUND THE RESERVATION

CASINOS SEEK BAND MEMBER RETENTION SPECIALIST

Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley are seeking a Band member to serve as Band Member Retention Specialist. The Retention Specialist will work directly with Band members to ensure a positive experience. For more information on this and other jobs, go to <https://grandcasinomn.com/careers>.

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY RESPONSES NEEDED

The East Central Regional Transportation Coordinating Council in tandem with Tri-CAP and Mille Lacs Health System are looking for your ideas about transportation — specifically, extending public transit within northern Mille Lacs County. We are exploring the possibility of bringing convenient, handicap-accessible, affordable transportation options to the Vineland area. There is no guarantee that public transit services will be developed, but we want to understand the need for transit in an effort to explore existing and future opportunities. Your answers will help guide our work. To fill out this short survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VinelandMLCo>. It would be of great help to us — Your Transit Team!

GLIFWC SEEKS IT SUPPORT, PAYROLL MANAGER

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission has an opening for an IT Support Specialist and a Payroll Manager in the Administration Department. The deadlines for application are January 11 for the first position and January 15 for the second.

For more information, visit <http://glifwc.org/Jobs>.

To apply, submit a completed GLIFWC application for employment (available at www.glifwc.org), letter of interest, resume, and three professional references to: Jacob Aufderheide, GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861; OR email to: jaufderheide@glifwc.org with subject: IT Support Specialist Application.

NORTHLAND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW INDIGENOUS GRANTMAKING PROGRAM

The Northland Foundation announced that LeAnn Littlewolf has been hired as a Senior Program Officer, starting on Monday, December 14. She will work primarily to help coordinate a grassroots program called Maada'ookiing — “distribution” in Ojibwe — focused on engagement and grant support for Indigenous people and communities in northeastern Minnesota.

The program is being designed by a board of nine members representing the five sovereign Tribal nations in northeastern Minnesota (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe) along with representatives from other communities across the region.

Shane Drift, Bois Forte; Jaylen Strong, Bois Forte; Alexandra Houchin, Fond du Lac; April McCormick, Grand Portage; Robbie Howe, Leech Lake; Baabittaw Boyd, Mille Lacs; Mary Harrelson, Grand Portage; Melissa Walls, Bois Forte and Couchiching First Nation; Leanne Johnson, Couchiching First Nation

Maada'ookiing will make available grants to individuals who are working to strengthen Indigenous communities in the region.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BAND EMPLOYEES STEP UP DURING PANDEMIC

Housing and Public Works crews stayed busy helping Band members

When many tribal employees were on furlough during the spring and summer, others remained on the job as essential workers, including many in the Housing and Public Works departments.

“I continue to appreciate the hard work that both the Housing and Public Works departments have done during the COVID-19 State of Emergency,” said Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe, who is overseeing the Community Development Department in the absence of a Commissioner. Housing and Public Works are under Community Development.

“These have been challenging times, with a lot of new requirements, new procedures, and new information, and our employees have really stepped up to meet Band members’ needs,” Peter added.

The entire Public Works staff stayed on duty during the pandemic. Staff had to keep up with all of the regular duties required in the three Public Works divisions: Water/Wastewater, Roads, and Solid Waste), and the staff also stepped up to help with food distribution for Elders.

The annual Spring Clean-Up was postponed from April to June, and according to Public Works Director Brian Scheinost, it was the right decision. “What a difference it made doing this when people were home,” said Brian. “This year’s annual spring clean-up was 33 percent busier than last year’s.”

Between all three districts, the cleanup event filled 120 dumpsters with debris and took Public Works staff six weeks to complete. “It was a very busy summer,” said Brian.

During the pandemic, the Housing staff, who were considered critical employees during the pandemic, stepped up to help with food distribution and delivery of Mille Lacs Band correspondence twice per week.

The Department also continued to perform essential duties for Band members in rental units as well as private homes. Those services were on top of their regular duties: 2,915 work orders issued in 2020, compared with 2,126 work orders processed in 2019.

The Department completed 38 move-ins for the year ending

October 2020. Additional units were made available for the Anjibimaadizing program courtesy of the Renovation Carpenter crew in addition to 18 remodels of units. Housing Maintenance reconditioned and turned over an additional five homes to the rental program.

“Due to the necessity of services provided through the Housing Department, these critical staff members were not offered furlough,” said Housing Director Dan Boyd. “They remained on call 24/7 to serve our Band members.”

“I CONTINUE TO APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK THAT BOTH THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS HAVE DONE DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY.”

– ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PETER NAYQUONABE

The Department is responsible for the maintenance and general repair of 562 rental housing units as well as the general health and safety of the residents within these rental units.

The Housing Department includes Housing Maintenance, Resident Services, Home Renovation Carpenters, Housing Administration, and Weatherization positions in order to serve the Band members who are in rental units.

“We would like to recognize the hard work that the Housing staff performs, not only during the crisis of the pandemic, but every day,” Dan added. “These staff members are mandated to work in harsh conditions, including extreme heat and cold, for long periods of time. They respond to calls in the middle of the night when a tenant is without heat or their septic systems are down. They are truly the backbone of providing safe homes to our Band members.”

The Housing Department is truly appreciated for their hard work and dedication, not only during the COVID-19 pandemic, but every day.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE

Band members are encouraged to apply for federal HIP program

The Band’s Housing Program is encouraging Band members to apply for a federal program that provides assistance for repairs and renovations of existing homes as well as construction of new and replacement homes. For information, see below, call Housing at 320-532-7448, or go to <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/dhs/housing-improvement-program>.

What is the Housing Improvement Program (HIP)?

HIP provides grants for:

- Repair of existing homes;
- Renovation of existing homes to standard housing condition;
- Construction of replacement homes; and
- New housing.

What are the benefits of HIP to MLBO?

- Allows leveraging of housing funds to increase the number of families served and projects funded.
- Promotes tribal sovereignty and self-determination by providing tribes with more flexibility in determining how to address waiting lists for housing assistance.

Who is eligible for HIP grant assistance?

- Recipients are individuals and families with extremely low incomes.

What are the requirements to qualify for the grant?

- Fill out the application
- Submit your 1040 tax return from the prior tax year

How is the HIP application ranked?

Ranking factors consist of the total numeric value (points) based off the application. Factors include:

- Annual household income
- Military service
- Homelessness/overcrowding
- Dilapidated housing
- Age
- Disability
- Dependent Children

Where is the HIP application available to fill out?

- Mille Lacs Band Housing Department has applications (BIA Form 6407). Stop in or call 320-532-7448 to have one faxed or emailed to you.
- You can also search online for BIA Form 6407 or go to <https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/raca/pdf/idc1-032205.pdf>.

What contingencies are part of HIP?

- Five-year retention agreement
- Proof of land ownership (or land lease) and/or current dilapidated structure must be provided prior to grant award
- Square footage minimum requirements
- Filed, signed 1040 tax returns must be submitted for the prior year(s) to prove low income for all members of the household
- Proof of tribal membership must be submitted

HISTORY

THE GREAT MIGRATION STORY

In the oral traditions telling of the beginnings of the clans, as well as other accounts, the Elders retold a special story. It told of a great migration of the Anishinaabe from the east to their present location near the Great Lakes. They may have come from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

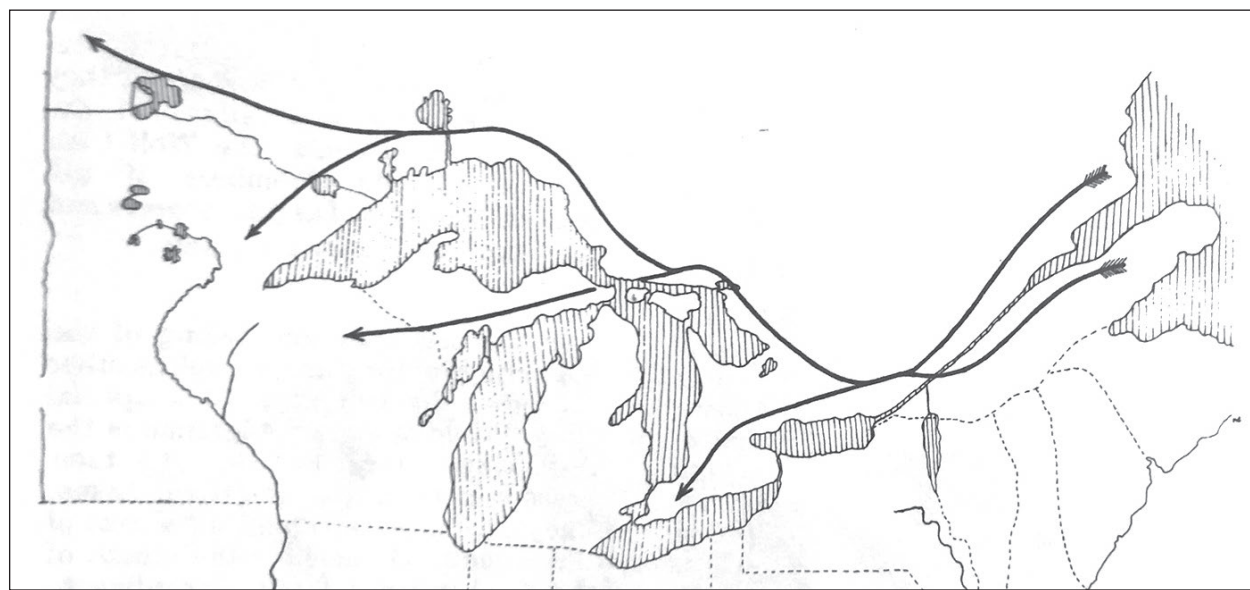
According to William Warren (the Chippewa historian who wrote *History of the Ojibway Nation* in 1852), the Anishinaabe ascended the St. Lawrence River. Before reaching Lake Superior, they tell of making four different villages. The first of these they call Mon-e-yaung, where Montreal now stands. The second location's name is unknown. The third is Waw-a-yat-tun-yang (Detroit, Michigan). The fourth, Pin-ud-a-wun-gosh-ing, is on the north shore of Lake Huron. At the outlet of Lake Superior at Bow-e-ting (Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan), they made an extended stay.

At this point, the tribe separated into two divisions. The

northern division followed the mouth of the Pigeon River. They are known by the name of Sug-waun-dug-ah-wine-wug (the men of the thick fir woods) and the Mush-ke-goes (swamp people).

The main body or southern division pressed their way up along the south shore of Lake Superior to the island of LaPointe. They called it Mo-ning-wun-au (Golden Breasted Woodpecker). It is now called Madeline Island at the west end of Lake Superior. Here, according to the oral traditions Warren collected, the Anishinabe were hemmed in by the O-dug-aum-eeg (Fox Indians) and the A-bow-wan (Dakota or Sioux Indians). To live on the island, the people raised large crops of corn and potatoes.

*This is an excerpt from *Against the Tide of American History: The Story of the Mille Lacs Anishinabe*, published by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in 1985. For part two of the migration story, see next month's issue.*



BAND MEMBER VOICES

AN ANISHINAABE 20/20 ON 2020

By **Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member**

It is commonly said that hindsight is 20/20, referring to the ability to assess a situation and figure all the other things that one could have done or should have done. This is an important concept to Anishinaabe. We relied on stories to not only set a perspective for how to view the world but also demonstrate the hindsight. The A-adizookaanag are a method of instruction where deep lessons are learned over a variety of topics.



What is there to say about the year 2020? What have we learned about ourselves in relation to our fellow Anishinaabe? The Chimookomaan? As we move forward to tell our stories over the rest of our lives, what can we look back on and learn from? The demonstrations of community building were a common event. Looking out and helping each other whether with physical goods or words of support/encouragement. Also, the tales of stress management, where a lack of expression led to discomfort/pain for our relatives. We must learn from both of these aspects in order for the younger generation that has seen us deal with this pandemic to be better prepared for when it happens again.

Pandemics are nothing new to Tribal Nations. The U.S. Government has used pandemics as a form of genocidal warfare. We hear of measles and pox blankets that were given to our communities already in critical situations. It is no wonder

our grandparents were so worried about disease and viruses. To our DNA, sickness is equivalent to rockets, missiles, and bombs.

From our historical teachings from great Anishinaabe such as Brenda Child, we have learned about the jingle dress origins. She has taught us how times of great sickness from a century ago manifested a cultural tool of healing — not of just the physical but also of the emotional, mental, and spiritual components of the Anishinaabe. It is a form of a cultural response to devastating trauma that when healing was sought, the Manidoog answered.

What is our cultural response to coronavirus? The returning to all that was given to the Anishinaabe for living a good life. Our teachings, our customs, and — the bond that holds it all together — our language. More people have been seeking traditional medicines and teachings in regards to how we need to keep each other safe. As we seek our healing, we must keep in mind that it is more than physical. If our bodies are sick, so are our minds, our emotions, and our spirits. Realizing that the medicines are Beings that have agreed to give spiritual energy to better the human capacity of our being, there is nothing that those Manidoog can't do. We must accept with clear intention to be Anishinaabe.

This goes further than COVID-19. Anishinaabe have been in a cultural pandemic for centuries. The spiritual embodiment of our collective energy has been on life support. In order to return to any sense of normalcy, we need to get back to the intended norms that the Manidoog provide for our holistic being. Learn our language, learn our teachings, and take part in our ceremonies. Miigwech.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson was honored in December for her longtime commitment to tribal economic development. The Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce presented Marge with its Bear Award, recognizing her achievements in using gaming revenues to diversify the Band's economy, provide jobs, and expand services to Band members and the community. The Mille Lacs Band has started Boys & Girls Club chapters in each reservation district. "The community has been asking for new ways to help our youth set and achieve goals. People want to see a reduction in crime and dropout rates, and more accountability in how we work with our kids," said Dennis Olson, Commissioner of Education for the Mille Lacs Band. "The Boys & Girls Club is one of the most proven programs known for making progress in these areas."

15 years ago — 2006

Eric North was named Principal for the Nay Ah Shing Schools. Eric served as the Band's Director of Higher Education since 2004 after nearly 10 years at the Nay Ah Shing Schools. Solicitor General John Swimmer was part of a committee that authored a book on federal Indian law. Jennifer Beck-Brown, Deputy Solicitor General for the Band, was recently elected to serve as Vice President for the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association (MAIBA). Carla Big Bear, Assistant Clerk of Court for the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court, was presented with a national award for her outstanding work in tribal support services. Nine Mille Lacs Band members graduated from the College of St. Scholastica: Raina Killspotted, Tabatha Boyd, Mary Dalquist, Eloise Colton, Amanda Bruneau, Mary Sue Bohanon, Rosa Colton, and Erin Bruneau. (See below.) Not pictured: Sandi Blake.



20 years ago — 2001

Housing developments were planned for Bugg Hill in District I, the Apple Orchard in District II, and Wilderness Estates in District III. The Band was featured on ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings as an example of a tribe using gaming to fight poverty and unemployment. Alvina Aubele was sworn in as District III Appellate Judge. A memorial was dedicated at Sandy Lake to remember the 1850 Sandy Lake tragedy. Elder Assisted Living Units were moving ahead in all three districts. Chief Justice Dorothy Sam gave her State of the Judicial Branch speech in Ojibwe. She said she was saddened to learn that of all the tribal court cases in 1998, 63 percent involved drugs or alcohol.

*The information above is from the January 2001, 2006, and 2011 issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* and the Winter 2006 issue of *Woodland Voice*. Many back issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* are available at millelacsband.com/news. Click on "Inaajimowin Archive."*

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JANUARY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Raymond Anderson
Garland Dean Barnes
Michelle Lynne Barnes
Debra Lou Bellamy
Mary Anne Bellonger
Art Benjamin
Karen Marie Boyd
Edith Ruth Bush
Patricia Jean Clark
Alida Belle Colton
Ronald James Crown
Leroy Henry Day
Lorna Jean Day
Bonnie Jean Dorr
Gary Lee Dorr
John Charles Dowell
Dora Ann Duran
Brian Allen Eagle
Denise Le Rae Fahrlander
Michael Gerard Gagne
Ella Reine Garbow
Joseph Gordon Hendren

Rose Marie Holmquist
Katherine Ann Jackson
Charles Ted Johnson
Patty Jo Johnson
Robert Wayne Johnson
James Ernest Kalk
Darrin Gene Kegg
Marty Kegg
Richard Duane Kegg
David Henry Kost
Lucille Kuntz
Carmen Marie Lone
Leslie Madelyn Lopez
William Joseph Losh
Priscilla Joann Lowman
Gloria Jean Lowrie
Curtis Lee Martin
Thomas Tecumseh McKenney
Temperance Yvonne McLain
Michael Samuel Merrill
Jodell Marie Meyer
Cora Lucille Nelson
Diane Lynn Nickaboine
Rosalie Ann Noonday
Steven Lee Pewaush

Karen Lynne Pike
Shelley Ann Pindogayosh
Michelle Louise Pomerleau
Patricia Marie Potter
Dora Ann Sam
Elaine Bernadette Sam
Henry Sam
Janice Marie Sam
Robbin Lee Sam
Tracy Lynn Sam
Brenda Jean Sayers
Ruth Ann Shaugobay
Bonnie Shingobe
Joycelyn Marie Shingobe
Jewell Fay Skinaway
Steven Ralph St. John
Joseph Alex Staples
Kathleen Marie Vanheel
Lori Ann Vinz
Kenneth LaVerne Wade
Brian Kelly Wind
Fred Arnold Wind
James Edwin Wind
Nancy Lee Wood

SHOUT OUT

Band member Adrienne Benjamin was featured on Minnesota Public Radio last week in its special series honoring Native Americans during Native American Heritage Month. She was recognized for her jingle dress artistry and her activism on behalf of artists and Native Americans. For Adrienne's story, go to <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2020/11/24/changemakers-adrienne-benjamin-a-master-jingle-dress-maker-artist-and-activist>.

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 **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the February issue is January 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

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

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

On November 12, the Mille Lacs Band implemented enhanced safety procedures, which means government services will still be available although some Band employees will be working from home or on furlough. While these measures are in place, please refer to the following list to find answers to your questions or to reach the individuals or departments you need.

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

Commissioner of Administration Baabiiyaw Boyd: 218-670-0745

Asst. Commissioner of Administration/Community Development Peter Nayquonabe: 320-630-3118

Commissioner of DNR Katie Draper: 320-515-0846

Commissioner of Education Joyce Shingobe: 651-354-4900

Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Commissioner of HHS Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969

Chief Executive Office

Maria Costello: 763-260-0164

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

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus, Case Manager: 218-316-2437

District II — Winona Crazy Thunder, Case Manager: 320-364-3049

District III — Renee Allen, Case Manager: 320-591-0559

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

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

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: 320-630-2432 or 320-362-4672

Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Email address updates to: kathy.heyer@millelacsband.com or call Danni Jo Harkness 320-532-7592

NOTE: The Office of Management and Budget will continue to provide essential services with further increased efforts toward a virtual and paperless environment.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members. This will be used for weekly news summaries and important updates that need to be shared immediately. Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

CROSSWORD WORDLIST

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Niwiisin | Giziibiigiingwe |
| Nimbakade | Nimbabiichii |
| Gigiziiyaabide' | Babiichii |
| Giwiisin | Giziibiigininjii |
| Giziibiigazhe | Gibiizikonaye |
| Biizikonaye | Nimashkawiz. |
| Gibabiichii | |

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>DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS</p> <p>Do you need help navigating distance learning for yourself or your family? Onamia and Nay Ah Shing Schools are hosting an event to answer your questions on Monday, January 4, at the old District I Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The goal is to help families and care takeers with questions they may have regarding connecting their students with distance learning. Masks MUST be worn. Social distancing WILL be in effect.</p> <p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800.</p> | | | | | <p>1</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA See below.</p> <p><i>Check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</i></p> | <p>2</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. See below.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. See below.</p> |
| <p>3</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Distance Learning Help 10 a.m.–2 p.m. District I Community Center. See above.</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.</i></p> | <p>8</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>The deadline for the February issue is January 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p> | <p>9</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Play Indigenous educational games at www.7generationgames.com</i></p> |
| <p>10</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Elder Food Distribution 1–3 p.m. Districts I, II, III. See page 7.</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Elder Food Distribution 1–3 p.m. Urban Office. See page 7.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Learn about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's history with the Student Government Handbook: https://millelacsband.com/news/mct-student-handbook</i></p> | <p>16</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Civil Rights Day Government offices closed.</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Zaagibagaang: Anishinaabe Values in Action shares all kinds of useful information about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: https://zaagibagaang.com</i></p> | <p>22</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Watch "The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe" at https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g</i></p> | <p>23</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> |
| <p>24/31</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> | <p>30</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> |



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



STORYTELLING SEASON

Letitia Mitchell, who retired last month at age 81, looks back at her career and reservation life.

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 320-237-6851. The February issue deadline is January 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

Community Support Services: For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, sexual assault, or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.

Domestic violence: (c) 320-630-2499.

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

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: Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444; 800-709-6445, ext. 7588; Family Violence Prevention: District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-4613; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 866-867-4006.

STATE OF THE BAND
WILL BE HELD ONLINE
THIS YEAR
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REVISOR'S OFFICE
BILL SIGNED INTO
LAW
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YOUTH ASSEMBLY
GIVES STUDENTS A
VOICE
page 8

BAND MEMBERS
GRADUATE FROM
ENTERPRISE ACADEMY
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