



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



### Grants Department is a major source of revenue for the Band — and the region

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Twenty-for-twenty. That's a pretty good percentage in sports — and in grant writing. And that was the final score last year for the Mille Lacs Band's Grants Department when it came to securing COVID-19-related funds.

The team that's responsible for that perfect record has been together for about two years, under the "coaching" of Band member Brittany Wind, who has been with the department for more than six years.

**"IT'S SUPER IMPORTANT TO HAVE BAND MEMBERS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS PART OF THE TEAM. WE HEAR WHAT OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ARE TALKING ABOUT AND WHAT THE NEEDS ARE."**

— GRANTS DIRECTOR BRITTANY WIND

Two and a half years ago, she recruited Band member Naomi Weyaus, a recent master's degree recipient in English from St. Cloud State. Naomi brought her colleague Nate Stoll from SCSU to Brittany's attention. A few months later, Brittany lured Band member Colin Cash over from Aanjibimaadizing, where he had been working as a case manager, and the "dream team" was in place.

"It's super important to have Band members who live within the community as part of the team," said Brittany. "We hear what our relatives and friends are talking about and what the

needs are."

Colin agrees. As a lifelong member of the District I community, an active member in the Sober Squad, and a former employee of the DNR and Aanjibimaadizing, he understands the average Band member as well as tribal government — and how the latter can help the former. "I think I bring a community perspective from what I'm seeing on the ground every day," he said. "It's amazing to see how these programs are helping the people we love, our relatives."

Naomi, who also grew up in District I and lives there now, put it simply: "Everything we do is for the betterment of the community."

#### Big impact

Twenty-for-twenty is just one relevant statistic that shows the impact of grants. Here are a few more:

- **109:** The number of active grants providing funds to our communities. In 2014, there were 55 grants. This increase is partly due to COVID-19-related grants but mostly to the hard work of the dream team.
- **55 million:** The approximate amount of money the Band's current grants are bringing to the community. Those millions don't just help Band members directly, they also increase employment in the region, pay building contractors for new projects and renovations, and spread throughout the region's economy in the form of rent, groceries, gas, and utilities paid by Band members, employees, and contractors.
- **Number 1:** The Mille Lacs Band is the only tribe with a dedicated in-house Grants Department. Other tribes either have to rely on staff in other programs to apply for grants, or they have to contract with grant writers.

Grants see page 15

## FEDERAL COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON STATUS OF 1855 RESERVATION

*Band, County make cases for partial summary judgment*

Judge Susan Richard Nelson of the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, heard oral arguments March 16 on the Mille Lacs Band's motion for partial summary judgment in its lawsuit against Mille Lacs County.

The Band filed a motion on February 1 asking the Court to rule that the Mille Lacs Reservation created in the Treaty of 1855 remains intact. Mille Lacs County also requested a partial summary judgment ruling that the Reservation no longer exists.

The lawsuit alleges that the County, County Sheriff, and County Attorney restricted Band police officers from exercising police powers within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, in a manner that was inconsistent with federal law defining the Band's law enforcement authority. The Band is seeking a declaration clarifying its inherent law enforcement authority and preventing the County from taking any actions that interfere with that authority.

The Court had earlier agreed to defer motions on the scope of the Mille Lacs Band's law enforcement authority until the Court resolves the "issues relating to the status of the 1855 Mille Lacs Indian Reservation."

In its arguments, the County repeated its longstanding claims that the 1855 Reservation was disestablished by subsequent treaties and the Nelson Act of 1889.

The Band's attorney, Marc Slonim, argued that disestablishment of the Reservation requires clear Congressional intent, which was not expressed in those treaties, the Nelson Act, or any subsequent legislation.

The U.S. federal government recognizes the continued existence of the reservation and clarified that position in Solicitor's Opinion M-37032, a 2015 legal opinion from the Secretary of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor.

The federal position was reaffirmed in an amicus brief filed by the United States on March 1. (See page 2 for more on the amicus brief.)

The State of Minnesota declared its position that the reservation remains intact in an opinion from the office of Attorney General Keith Ellison in February of 2020.

The State also filed an amicus brief in support of the Band's motion for partial summary judgment on February 8 of this year.

**See pages 4 and 5 for more on the federal lawsuit and the boundary issue.**

ASPIRING ARTIST HIRED TO WORK ON ROSETTA STONE PROJECT — SEE PAGE 8

MESSAGE  
FROM THE

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! The sure sign of spring is when the sap begins to run. The first pails hanging from the maple trees are always a good sight to see. It brings back fond memories to many of our Elders, and it is an opportunity for our youth to learn our traditional practices.

On March 15, Congresswoman Deb Haaland made history by being the first American Indian to ever lead the Department of Interior, and the first American Indian to ever serve on the Cabinet of any President in history. As Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "We've now made history twice in the last few minutes." I am very excited about the next time I see her, when I can call one of our strongest leaders in Indian Country "Madame Secretary." This has also been an historic year with so many highly qualified American Indian people being appointed to positions in government that serve all Americans, rather than just the usual positions that only administer tribal programs.

My calendar in March was extremely busy with representing the Band at federal consultations with tribal governments. On January 26, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationships, which requires each federal agency and department to submit a "detailed plan of actions the agency will take" to implement meaningful consultation with tribal governments. The Executive Order gave all 67 federal agencies 90 days to submit their plan, which means that these agencies only have approximately 30 days left to engage in official consultation with tribal governments about how they are going to carry out the government-to-government relationship with tribes. Attending these consultation sessions has been a monster of a task, but each meeting is critical. To make things even more challenging, many of these consultations are scheduled at the same time or overlap. To address this challenge, I have been ensuring that we submit written comments to agencies as well.

An additional critical topic of federal consultation has involved the new American Recovery Program Act (ARP), which is the biggest infusion of federal money into Indian Country in the history of the United States. The Congress appropriated \$20 billion dollars to be used by tribal governments for recovery from COVID-19. \$1 billion is set aside to be divided among all tribal governments and Alaska Native Villages using a formula yet to be developed, and \$20 billion is set-aside funding for tribes through scores of different federal programs. We are in high-gear and working hard to influence the development of a formula that most benefits the Mille Lacs Band, and our Grants Department is working hard to make sure the Band is prepared to apply for these many grants that will soon be available. As a Band, we are very fortunate to have an outstanding Grants Department; most tribes don't have full-time grant-writers and may be unable to take advantage of many of these grant opportunities.

In addition to daily consultation sessions with the federal government, I have participated in meetings of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, the Native American Finance Officers Association, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Minnesota Board on Aging, and we have devoted a lot of energy to attempting to get the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to include impaired wild rice waters on their list of impaired waterways that need protection. In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature prohibited MPCA from including impaired wild rice waters on the list of impaired waters, which the state reports to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. This is wrong, and we are fighting hard with the other tribes in Minnesota to correct this injustice.

Finally, on March 15, 2021, our attorneys in the federal lawsuit against Mille Lacs County presented their oral arguments in federal court as to why our reservation boundary established by the Treaty of 1855 was never disestablished and still exists. Both the United States of America and the State of Minnesota have filed amicus briefs, or "friend of the court" briefs, siding with the Mille Lacs Band. When we have access to the transcript of this hearing, we will share it with the Band community.

**"FOR MILLE LACS, THOSE TREATIES SAY THAT DUE TO THE MILLE LACS BAND'S GOOD CONDUCT DURING THE 1862 CONFLICT, WE WOULD NEVER BE FORCED TO MOVE FROM OUR RESERVATION. THIS IS HOW WE BECAME NAMED THE 'NON-REMOVABLES' AMONG THE CHIPPEWA IN MINNESOTA."**

On that point, March 19, 2021 was Treaty Rights Day. This day has become one of celebration, including giveaways, raffles, and fun activities. But I think it is important to also think about WHY we celebrate our Treaty Rights. This day focuses a lot on the 1837 Treaty, and our hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. Our lawsuit against Minnesota to affirm these rights went all the way to the Supreme Court, and we won. In that case, the Supreme Court sided with the Band and affirmed that our rights to hunt, fish, and gather as our ancestors were promised by the Treaty of 1837 still exist today.

But there are other treaties as well — like the Treaty of

1855, which established the Mille Lacs Reservation. That Treaty, which was signed on February 22, 1855, established the original 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation as a permanent homeland for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, which is now the subject of our federal lawsuit with Mille Lacs County.

There are also the Treaties of 1863 and 1864. During the Dakota War of 1862, the Ojibwe Bands did not all agree on whether to enter the war and assist the Dakota. The Mille Lacs Band leaders discouraged other Chippewa from entering into the war because they knew they would be out-gunned. Instead, Mille Lacs Band members gave white settlers advance warning and actively protected them. The Treaties of 1863 and 1864 were intended by the U.S. to force several Bands of Chippewa to move to White Earth — to be "removed." For Mille Lacs, however, those treaties say that due to the Mille Lacs Band's good conduct during the 1862 Conflict, we would never be forced to move from our reservation. This is how we became named the "Non-Removables" among the Chippewa in Minnesota.

It is important for our kids to learn what each of our Treaties means, and to understand why each is important. The 1837 Treaty was about our right to protect our way of life, to feed our families, and to practice our culture and traditions in the territories we ceded to the United States. The Treaties of 1855, 1863, and 1864 were about securing our homelands forever.

Exercising our treaty-reserved rights today within our homelands and in the ceded territories should be something all our kids understand and experience, at least once. Our traditional way of life, our practices, and our culture are what help our kids grow up well-rounded.

If you can, please find opportunities this spring to help our youth get out into nature and experience our traditions and culture. The first taste of fresh maple sugar and syrup is sure to delight our kids of all ages, and is even better when they are able to participate in the harvest! Miigwech.



## EMPOWERMENT, HEALING, FRY BREAD!

The Men's Empowerment Group and the Women's Healing Group joined forces for a fundraiser at Grand Market on March 4 including brats, fry bread, and desserts. The Women's Healing Group meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Both groups meet at the old District I Community Center across from Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

# MILLE LACS BAND'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

By Adam L. Candler Legislative Counsel

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## WELCOME, SILAS!

Proud parents Jon Houle and Brooke Sher, with baby Silas, were gifted a baby basket from District I Representative Virgil Wind. Silas Charles Houle was born February 10, 2021. The basket included some necessities and other items for their newborn baby. District I Band members who have a newborn (0-2 months) and would like a baby basket are welcome to contact the District I office at 320-532-7423 to inquire about details.

# COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL APRIL 7

To Mille Lacs Band Members and Employees:

The Band Assembly is set to begin live-streaming its regular meetings to the public this June. As that date approaches, the Band Assembly is considering the adoption of new procedural rules ("Rules of the Band Assembly") that would govern both the structure and flow of the meetings. Because the Band Assembly currently uses Robert's Rules of Order in accordance with Title 3 (Legislative Branch), this title must be amended before the Rules of the Band Assembly can be formally adopted.

In addition to replacing Robert's Rules of Order with the Rules of the Band Assembly, the Band Assembly is considering other minor amendments to Title 3. Please accept this letter as notice that the Band Assembly is seeking public comments on the proposed amendments, which are available on the Mille Lacs Band website at [millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch](http://millelacsband.com/government/legislative-branch). A copy of the proposed Rules of the Band Assembly are also available at this location.

The public comment period for these proposed changes has been set at 15 business days. Therefore, please submit any

written comments to [legislation@millelacsband.com](mailto:legislation@millelacsband.com) no later than 5 p.m. on April 2, 2021. Please use "Title 3" as the subject title. Band members and employees may also submit written comments in person to the District I legislative office.

In addition to establishing a public comment period, the Band Assembly has also scheduled a formal public hearing on the proposed amendments to Title 3 in accordance with Title 3 Section 16(a) of Band Statutes. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom on April 7, 2021, at 11 a.m. To participate, please contact Legislative Affairs Director Brianna Boyd via phone at 320-630-8702 or via email at [brianna.boyd@millelacsband.com](mailto:brianna.boyd@millelacsband.com).

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Band Assembly does not consider it appropriate to conduct formal public hearings in all districts. However, Band members from all districts are encouraged to participate in the Zoom hearing. Miigwech.

— Sheldon Boyd, Virgil Wind, Marvin Bruneau, Wally St. John

*The official version of this notice, signed by the four Band Assembly members, is available at [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com).*

## LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

*This is a summary of some highlights from the Legislative Branch for the month. For complete Band Assembly updates, see [millelacsband.com/news](http://millelacsband.com/news).*

**Monday, March 1** — Legislative hosted a meeting with the Secretary Treasurer, Legislative Staff, Granicus Staff, Red Circle Agency Staff, and MLB IT Staff to discuss the plan for live streaming.

**Wednesday, March 3** — Band Assembly approved Band Assembly Records for February 10, 24, and 25. Four foster care licenses and two hardship requests were approved.

**Thursday, March 4** — Legislative held a work session on Title 3 and Rules of the Band Assembly.

**Wednesday, March 10** — Joseph Nayquonabe Sr., Mille Lacs Band Elder, and Vince Merrill, Mille Lacs Band member, presented on drum and language history, the need for more people to learn and be involved, and problems in our community relating to drum and language.

Band Assembly approved the following:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-03-28-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Revision/Transfers for Health & Human Services, Community Development, and Legislative for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

— Resolution 19-03-50-21: A Resolution to Approve Waivers of Sovereign Immunity for the Limited Purpose of the Band to Obtain Settlement Funds as an Indian Tribe Beneficiary from the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust.

**Wednesday, March 17** — Joseph S. Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs gave a presentation on Hotel Renovation/Slot Co. Presentation was completed with a power point presentation with discussion, questions, and comments offered during each slide.

Two bills were approved:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-03-29-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Disbursement of Unspent Net Revenue Funds for an Adult Band Member Economic Support Payment for the Months of April and May 2021 in the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-03-30-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for April and May 2021 Tribal Per Capita Distributions for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021.

## ORDER ESTABLISHES NUMBERING SYSTEM

Mille Lacs Band Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd signed Secretarial Order 92-21 on March 12, 2021, establishing a numbering system for future Orders and recognizing as expired all previous Orders that did not specify expiration dates.

The Order states that several different numbering systems have been used for Secretarial Orders since 1982, that several Orders cannot be found, and that most do not contain expiration dates as required by Title 3 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes.

All future Orders will be numbered sequentially beginning with the current Order (92), followed by a hyphen and the last two digits of the fiscal year (currently 21).

Secretarial Order 92-21 will expire on March 12, 2121.

## STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

**Judge approves review of mine's effect on tribe:** A federal judge approved the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to study potential effects of PolyMet's copper-nickel mine on the downstream Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, beginning a 90-day review. In an order filed in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis on March 9, Judge Patrick Schiltz granted a motion the EPA voluntarily filed requesting the review. PolyMet's proposed copper-nickel mine near Babbitt and Hoyt Lakes would sit within the St. Louis River Watershed, which empties into Lake Superior. The St. Louis River flows through the Fond du Lac Reservation. The band fears potential pollution from PolyMet would damage its wild rice and other resources. *Source: duluthnewstribune.com.*

**High potential for artifacts at Totem Town:** There's a "high potential" of uncovering archaeological evidence of centuries-old American Indian life at the now-shuttered Boys Totem Town campus on St. Paul's East Side, a new report concludes. Potential is high on the 72-acre tract of land due to the "extensive use of the entire Mississippi River channel by the Dakota." The report indicates that a higher-elevation spot on the property near a long-rumored burial mound has high potential of containing archaeological artifacts. Ramsey County Home for Boys became known as Totem Town in the 1950s after staff and teens carved decorative poles that were displayed at the entrance. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Pipeline workers charged in sex trafficking sting:** Two pipeline workers were among those arrested in a human trafficking sting in Itasca County last month, stoking activists' fears the Enbridge Line 3 project could increase such crimes in Minnesota. Matthew T. Hall of Texas faces a felony charge of solicitation of a person believed to be a minor. Michael K. West of Missouri faces a misdemeanor charge of solicitation to engage in prostitution and a gross misdemeanor charge of carrying a pistol without a permit. Both were fired by Precision Pipeline, of Eau Claire, Wis., one of the main contractors on the 334-mile Line 3 pipeline. *Source: startribune.com.*

**Roseville considers changing name of Pocahontas Park:** The Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors Group (MUID), a collaborative of over 25 organizations, wrote a letter to the Mayor and City Council of Roseville in support of the city's plan to change the name of Pocahontas Park. Pocahontas has no ties to Minnesota or the current Indigenous populations in Minnesota, and the commonly told narrative of her life primarily focuses on her assimilation to European culture, not her tribe's account, which includes her exploitation and victimization. *Source: thecircleanews.org.*

**Leech Lake Air Force sergeant dies while serving in Italy:** Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Morris died in Cordenons, Italy, on Jan. 12 while stationed at Aviano Air Base. He was 36. Morris specialized in maintaining helicopters and had been deployed multiple times to Afghanistan and Iraq. Morris had COVID-19 when he died, but Air Force representatives said no cause of death has yet been determined because autopsy results remain incomplete. Morris was proud of his Native American heritage and kept a bear claw with him that represented his clan. *Source: startribune.com.*

## AANJIBIMAADIZING

# RENTAL ASSISTANCE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Last year, Aanjibimaadizing successfully administered the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) grants, helping to access funds for hundreds of clients who were behind on mortgage and utility payments due to the pandemic. Staff in the Aanjibimaadizing program were able to help Mille Lacs Band families with over \$800,000 in support.

Now, a similar program, COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA), will help renters who have fallen behind due to issues related to COVID-19 — and the Aanjibimaadizing staff are once again ready and willing to help Band members apply.

"We understand that many of our Band members have experienced challenges due to COVID-19 — whether they were sick themselves, or furloughed, or someone in their household had unexpected needs," said Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom. "We encourage you to apply online or give us a call even if you are unsure if you are eligible, and we'll help you through the process."

The program is open to Minnesota residents who owe or are behind in rent or rental utility payments incurred after March 13, 2020, if the outstanding expenses are due to unemployment, illness, or another issue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can apply online at <https://mlbo-laserfiche.millelacsband.com/Forms/CERA>. Applications are also available at any Aanjibimaadizing office or from a case manager or facilitator.

### Eligibility

An "eligible household" is defined as a tribal member, descendant, or any federally recognized tribal renter household in which at least one or more individuals meet the following criteria:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the federal median income. Household income is determined as either the household's total income for calendar year 2020 or the household's two months of proof of income at the time of application. For household incomes determined using the latter method, income eligibility must be redetermined every three (3) months.

Applicants must provide the following:

- Personal identification number from a state-issued ID, driver's license, passport, ITIN, Tribal ID, or other form of ID.
- Current rental lease — includes address of rental unit, or have a completed landlord verification form.
- Name, address, SSN number, tax ID number, or DUNS for landlord or rental agency.
- Total amount of each type of assistance (rent, rental arrears, utilities, home energy costs, utility arrears) needed.
- Number of months of rental payments and number of months of utility cost with documentation of amounts owed.
- Gross household income of all adults and number of individuals in the household for the past two months, or a tax return for 2020.
- Gender, race, and ethnicity for the primary applicant requesting assistance.

Funds will be paid directly to the vendor or company.

Applications will be accepted until December 13, 2021, at 5 p.m. The maximum eligibility period is 12 months.

**"WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPLY ONLINE OR GIVE US A CALL EVEN IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, AND WE'LL HELP YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS."**

— AANIBIMAADIZING DIRECTOR TAMMY WICKSTROM

If you have questions, contact Tammy Moreland at 320-292-1942 or [tammy.moreland@millelacsband.com](mailto:tammy.moreland@millelacsband.com).

Due to the number of calls this program could receive, you may need to leave a message. Calls will be returned within 48 hours.

Mortgage payments and homeowner utility payments are NOT eligible. As the name suggests, the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program is only open to renters and landlords. We understand that many homeowners are also struggling with housing costs. We anticipate that federal financial assistance may be announced for homeowners in spring 2021.

**TO APPLY: [HTTPS://MLBO-LASERFIGHE.MILLELACSBAND.COM/FORMS/CERA](https://mlbo-laserfiche.millelacsband.com/forms/cera)**

## U.S. SIDES WITH BAND IN LAWSUIT

### *Court accepts amicus brief supporting reservation boundaries*

The United States filed an amicus ("friend of the court") brief on March 1 supporting the Mille Lacs Band's motion for partial summary judgment in its lawsuit against Mille Lacs County. The State of Minnesota filed an amicus brief in the case on February 8.

The U.S. motion requesting permission to file its brief, which was unopposed by the Band and the County, reads in part: "The United States respectfully requests leave to file the attached proposed amicus brief in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment that the Boundaries of the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation, as Established in 1855, Remain Intact."

The federal amicus brief affirms the arguments that the Band has made for decades and that the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor made in Solicitor's Opinion M-37032 in 2015. Those arguments were also affirmed in the State's amicus brief.

The federal brief responds directly to Mille Lacs County's main arguments: that the Treaties of 1863 and 1864 and the Nelson Act diminished and disestablished the Mille Lacs Res-

ervation as created by the Treaty of 1855.

It explains that the 1863 and 1864 Treaties, which compelled several other Indian bands to relocate, declared the Mille Lacs Band's right to remain on the reservation due to its conduct during the Dakota War of 1862, when Mille Lacs Band leaders chose not to join the conflict.

The brief stresses that clear Congressional intent is required to diminish or disestablish a reservation — a legal principle the Supreme Court reaffirmed in its decision last year in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, ruling that the Muskogee (Creek) Reservation in eastern Oklahoma remains as Indian Country because it was never disestablished by Congress.

The County also claims that the Nelson Act of 1889 disestablished the Mille Lacs Reservation, but the federal brief stresses that the Act allowed Mille Lacs Band members to take allotments on the reservation, showing that it was not a clear attempt by Congress to disestablish the reservation.

Oral arguments on the motion for summary judgment were heard on March 16. See page 1 for more on the oral arguments.

## MILLE LACS COUNTY

# ELLISON HEARS BOUNDARY COMMENTS

On Thursday, March 11, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his staff hosted a virtual town hall meeting at the request of the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners to address the issue of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe 1855 Reservation signs posted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Ellison stated that he is not responsible for what other Minnesota state departments do in the scope of their duties. He is responsible for legal issues.

Ellison and his staff fielded questions on other topics such as taxes, property values, jurisdiction, and environmental regulations and how they might be affected by the lawsuit filed by the Band against Mille Lacs County.

County Commissioner and Vice Chair Ginny Reynolds introduced the forum by saying it was called to address questions by county residents who were concerned about the appearance of signs marking the boundaries of the Reservation.

Twenty-one years ago, Mille Lacs County Attorney Janelle Kendall wrote that “widespread misinformation about the ability of the Mille Lacs Band to tax, prosecute, and zone non-Indians” was creating unrest and giving rise to public safety issues in the County.

Commissioner Reynolds and her colleagues have had every opportunity to ease constituents’ concerns in the same way the Band has done over the decades, but the Board has instead repeatedly denied the existence of the Reservation and failed to address constituents’ unfounded fears.

For decades, the Band has addressed concerns regarding



Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

the reservation with the following statements:

The Band cannot tax non-Indian land or non-Indians within the Reservation.

The Band has no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians in tribal court.

The Band cannot zone or regulate the use of non-Indian lands within the Reservation.

Non-Indians own a large proportion of the land inside the borders of the Reservation, and the status of the Reservation does not affect their titles.

Some of the comments reflected a clear desire to reach out to the Band as allies, but many others expressed ignorance or unfounded fears.

Commissioner Dave Oslin, who represents the north end of the county and has denied the existence of the Reservation throughout his term, did not appear at the Town Hall meeting.

# SMITH SAYS COVID-19 BILL INCLUDES LARGEST-EVER PAYMENT TO TRIBES

U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) said the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package passed by the Senate March 6 includes more than \$31 billion she pushed to help Tribal governments and urban Indigenous communities in Minnesota and across the country address the health and economic fallout from the pandemic. She said the funding represents the largest single infusion of resources for Tribal Nations in U.S. history.

Sen. Smith, a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, said that during the pandemic, Indigenous Americans who contract COVID-19 have been hospitalized at nearly four times the rate of non-Hispanic white Americans, and they die at nearly twice the rate. The loss of Native Elders also threatens the survival of Native languages, traditions, and cultures, she said.

“The ongoing pandemic has hit Tribal communities in Minnesota and across the country especially hard, impacting not only their health care systems, their schools, and their economic well-being, but also the survival of Native culture and traditions,” said Sen. Smith. “The COVID relief package passed by the Senate is a much-needed response to the devastating impact of the virus, and it will help Indigenous communities recover and become more resilient.”

Sen. Smith said the \$31 billion targeted to pandemic relief

for Tribal communities includes:

- \$20 billion for Tribal governments to combat COVID-19 and continue providing essential government services;
- \$6 billion for the Indian Health Service;
- \$900 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs programs;
- More than \$1.1 billion for Native education programs, including the Bureau of Indian Education schools, Tribal education agencies, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native Hawaiian education programs, and Alaska Native education programs;
- \$1.248 billion for HUD Tribal & Native Hawaiian housing programs; and
- \$20 million to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Native languages.

Sen. Smith said hard-hit Native families and communities will also benefit from the relief package, including \$1,400 per-person stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits, housing and nutrition assistance, tax relief, and expanded access to mental health services.

After Senate passage, the rescue plan was sent to the House for approval, before it went to President Biden, who signed it into law March 11.

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

As part of the Band’s Community Risk Reduction or CRR efforts, First Aid and CPR classes are held on the last Wednesday of the month in the Family Services training room at the Health and Human Services building in District I. Wewinabi Early Ed Staff also received a full day of training last month. For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



## NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Politicians may pay for poor treatment of

**Haaland:** Some Native American tribal leaders, and lobbyists who represent them, say they may withhold campaign contributions to senators who worked against the nomination of Rep. Deb Haaland, whose confirmation as Interior secretary made her the first Native American Cabinet official. Haaland, a Democrat who won a second term representing New Mexico’s 1st District in November, had bipartisan support in the Senate. But several Republicans led opposition to her confirmation. *Source: rollcall.com.*

### Superior considers changing name of road:

Descendants of the original people who occupied Wisconsin Point in Superior are asking the city to better represent the point’s history by changing the name of Moccasin Mike road, which leads to the point. According to Bob Miller, a 7th generation descendant of Fond du Lac Chief Osaugie, Moccasin Mike was not an Indigenous man, but rather the nickname given to a local politician. “One of the things that they had back then to try and build up support from the Native community was they would take nicknames, and Moccasin Mike was his nickname,” said Miller. *Source: kbjr6.com.*

### Endangered ash, endangered artwork:

April Stone, the last black ash basket weaver of Wisconsin’s Bad River Band, is using her artwork to draw attention to the danger posed by emerald ash borer. Stone has created a coffin woven from ash to represent the potential destruction of the tree in Wisconsin, while simultaneously demonstrating the tree’s cultural significance to her tribe. The finished coffin is now on display at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. The invasive emerald ash borer is expected to expand its range to northern Wisconsin, where it may have a dramatic impact on black ash, which are a key species in northern bogs. “We are the cause of this happening, we are the cause of the imbalance, and we need to change our ways,” says Stone. *Source: milwaukeeemag.com.*

### New books highlight lives of three important

**Native Americans:** Three biographies for children in grades three to five highlight the lives of important American Indians from the Upper Midwest: Charles Albert Bender, the first Minnesotan inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Ella Cara Deloria, Dakota language preservationist and nationally known anthropologist; and Peggy Flanagan, current Minnesota Lieutenant Governor. The stories show children the importance of figuring out what they are good at, and how to push aside obstacles in reaching a goal. For that reason, they belong in every book collection for children in the state. The stories are inspirational, and bring the reader details of history they never knew. *Source: thecirlenews.org.*

### Wisconsin student creates video game to

**teach Ojibwe culture:** Eleanore Falck used an internship with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to increase awareness for Ojibwe culture by creating an online video game called “Growing Up Ojibwe,” which brings the player through a tour of an Indian reservation. At the same time, the player learns about treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and can harvest maple sap and wild rice, and go spear fishing. “It’s really just an introduction into these topics and I just really feel like there’s a lot of content that people in general just have no clue about,” said Falck, who is a game design major in college. *Source: wjfw.com.*

ASINIIKWE

# HEALING THROUGH CULTURE

By Makadegwanebiikwe Mille Lacs Band Descendant, District I Community Member

As Asiniikwe put the final touches on a pair of earrings that she had created, a sense of accomplishment and healing came over her.

She smiled as she admired the beauty of her new creation. "These are created for someone special. I just don't know who yet," she giggled. Like many pairs of earrings before this, each bead sewn into the fabric added a little more healing for her as she continues on her path of sobriety and overcomes grief from the loss of her firstborn daughter.

"While making earrings, I meditate," said Asiniikwe, also known as Carrie Ann Sam. "It is very healing for me. I was stuck in grief for a long time. Beading has helped me so much."

Born to Debra Blake and Jerrold Harrington, Asiniikwe grew up in District I. She attended Onamia Schools for elementary and Nay Ah Shing for high school. She has four kids: Renee, who would have been 41, Valareya, Zachary, and Kira. She also has a 7-month-old granddaughter, Kehlani Biskaakaniikwe.

Although Asiniikwe grew up in District I, she has been in Chiminising (District IIa) for 20 years. "I chose to live in Isle because it's quiet and safe," she said. "All my kids went to school in Isle. I wanted to raise my children in Chiminising because it is a family-oriented town and I feel comfortable here."

Three years ago, she married Jason Sam from Chiminising. Both are in recovery, and they continue their journey of sobriety together after meeting at Mash-ka-wisen powwow in Fond Du Lac, Minnesota. Jason's cousin, Michele Berger, introduced them, and they have been happily married ever since.

Asiniikwe learned how to bead from her son, who taught her to make medallions several years ago. She got back into beading last year when she went into quarantine due to COVID-19. Her last day of work was March 28, 2020, when the casino closed. While in quarantine, she knew she needed to do something to keep busy, so she decided to take up beading again. She visited her sister-in-law, Priscilla Greenleaf, who helped her get back into beading. Priscilla is also from Chiminising but resides in the urban area.

Another person that has helped her along the way with sewing is Gilda Burr from District I. Gilda taught a skirt-making class that Asiniikwe attended, and after they completed the class, Gilda continued to come over to her house to continue the teachings. Since then, Asiniikwe has made several skirts in a rainbow of colors.

Since she has started beading again, Asiniikwe has made several pairs of earrings. She started her own online business called Asiniikwe's Creations. On the site, you will find several one-of-a-kind sets of earrings and handmade skirts. "That's what I did nonstop every day. I would just sit here and bead during quarantine. I look at my earrings from when I started then versus now, and I have come a long way!"

Asiniikwe has been sober for nine years. "I quit for my children, so they would have a better life," she said. "My culture, higher power, and smudging help me in my recovery, and I also use my hand drum and sing sometimes."



Asiniikwe has found healing through cultural arts like beading, and she wants to share her gift with others.

**"THERE ARE SO MANY YOUNG WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE LOST. I WANT TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY BACK. I WANT TO START A BEADING GROUP AND HELP THEM HEAL."**

She lost her first daughter to addiction on August 17, 2018, and has struggled daily to heal and overcome grief. Prayer and beading have helped. "I wouldn't wish that on anyone. Honestly, I almost didn't make it through by myself. If my husband Jason wasn't here to support me, I probably would have relapsed or done something I may have regretted."

Asiniikwe is looking to the future for young women in her community who may have been lost in life due to addiction or grief. "There are so many young women in our community who are lost," she said. "I want to help them find their way back. I want to start a beading group and help them heal."

Asiniikwe started a healing circle after her daughter Renee passed. "I had to do something," she said. "I started my own healing group here in Isle for a while and now I want to continue on with it."

Asiniikwe has been working on starting a women's healing group in District I at the old community center. The group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.



**WOMEN'S HEALING GROUP MEETS TUESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M. AT OLD DISTRICT I COMMUNITY CENTER**



Matt and Emily Roeder, Wayne and Ruth Kewitsch, and Monte Fronk were reunited in February after Emily and Monte helped save Wayne's life. The group was featured in a story on KSTP.



## PUBLIC HEALTH SHARES NUTRITION ADVICE

March was National Nutrition Month, and the Band's Public Health Department shared nutrition advice in their March newsletter. (Public Health newsletters can be found at <https://millelacsband.com/services/public-health-services/>.)

The theme for National Nutrition Month in 2021 was "Personalize Your Plate." There is no one-size-fits-all approach to nutrition and health. We are all unique with different bodies, goals, and backgrounds. Our food choices are also influenced by where we live, our budget, and food preferences.

You can personalize your plate by including foods that you prefer from each food group. Fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Including a variety of foods can help you get all of the nutrients that are needed for good health. Healthy eating can be as unique as you! These tips can help you get started:

### 1. Fill half your plate with fruits and veggies.

Get creative with produce by trying an assortment of colors and textures. Fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables can all be healthy choices. Aim for five servings of fruits and vegetables per day.

### 2. Experiment with different grains.

Try substituting whole grains for refined grains in recipes. Look for the whole grain symbol on product packages. Examples of whole grains include wild rice, whole grain bread, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, barley, quinoa, and oats. Aim to keep whole grains to a quarter of your plate.

### 3. Choose lean protein foods.

Vary your protein choices to include beans, peas and lentils, and eggs. If you eat meat, choose seafood and lean cuts of meat and poultry. Choose proteins that are baked, grilled, or broiled instead of fried.

### 4. Complete your meal with dairy.

Include skim, low-fat, or fat-free options like milk, yogurt, buttermilk, and cheese. If you are lactose intolerant, include calcium-fortified soy milk or lactose-free milk.

Send your news tips to [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).



## PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

SNAP — safe Native American passenger training — is held on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom. First Aid CPR is held the last Wednesday of the month. Contact Kristina Abear at 320-532-7814 or [kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov](mailto:kristina.abear@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov) to sign up. CPR/First Aid is held in person with a maximum of five student per class. (This might change if COVID-19 restrictions are altered.) Family Services staff and foster parents have priority, after which it is open to other departments and community members. There is a \$10 fee for certification cards if participants would like them. Cards are free for Family Services staff and foster parents.

# RURAL EMERGENCY SKILLS SAVE LIVES

## Band employee jumps in a swamp to assist with cardiac arrest

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

If someone in a rural community suffers a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), rapid access to life-saving treatment can mean the difference between life and death.

In August of 2020, Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police and Emergency Management, along with a Mille Lacs County deputy and a passerby, responded to a cardiac arrest suffered by a driver on Highway 169. Thanks to their efforts, retired Richfield Fire Chief Wayne Kewitsch is alive today.

Stories such as this one do not always end on a positive note, but the Mille Lacs Tribal Police and Emergency Management have the critical training needed to help their communities evaluate readiness in cardiac events. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is the only tribe in Minnesota to be recognized as a Heart Safe Community by the American Heart Association, a status they were awarded in 2018.

On August 21, 2020, their training was put to the test. Tribal Police received an emergency call for a possible medical emergency. When officers arrived, they found a vehicle had left the roadway and was resting in two feet of cattails and water in the Wigwam Bay area of Mille Lacs Lake. The driver was in medical distress.

### Seconds matter

Wayne's wife, Ruth, was a passenger in the vehicle. She had witnessed her husband having a similar cardiac arrest at their home in July, so she knew right at that moment he was in the same situation again. "I grabbed the wheel and steered right," said Ruth. "I said a little prayer, and we landed in the cattails... I was like, 'I need to get off the road because I don't want to hurt anyone else.'"

Prior to the arrival of the emergency response teams, a passerby had witnessed the car leave the roadway and stopped to help.

Emily and Matt Roeder were on their way north to visit Emily's cousins. Emily is a registered nurse at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids. As she saw the SUV leave the roadway, she said to her husband, "You need to pull over," and before Matt had even stopped the car, Emily was jumping out and running through the swamp. She yelled back at her husband, "Call 9-1-1!" She saw Wayne slumped over in the driver's seat and knew he needed chest compressions and he needed them immediately.

Monte Fronk, MLB Emergency Response Coordinator, arrived on the scene moments later. Monte recognized SCA and immediately sprang into action.

Every second is critical in a SCA. The most important factor was keeping Wayne's brain oxygenated by providing good chest compressions at a rate of 100 to 120 per minute. Monte

assumed the chest compressions and activated the AED immediately. "It's all about the compressions to keep the patient's brain fed oxygen-rich blood," Monte said. "Then the AED is a tool to help get the abnormal heart rhythm shocked back to as normal as it can."

Emily assisted Monte with the bag valve mask (to push air into Wayne's lungs). Soon Mille Lacs County Deputy Jason Gallion arrived along with an EMT team from Mille Lacs Health Systems, all of whom have extensive training in life-saving measures. They all rotated through, providing chest compressions, applying the AED, and the bag valve mask (BVM). Wayne's heart was shocked a total of seven times that day.

"It really was a team effort," Monte said. "We had Tribal on the scene, we had sheriff's deputies on the scene, and we had Emily."

Ruth soon told Monte that the driver, her husband, was Wayne from the Richfield Fire Department. Monte had known Wayne for about 15 years. Monte explained that working in a rural community as an emergency responder, you often know the patients. It is a relatively small, tight-knit community. He added that whenever the 9-1-1 calls come in, he hopes it does not involve someone he knows. "It can be our friends, neighbors, and even family members," Monte said. "Regardless of who it is, we focus on providing good quality care."

Within minutes, the first responders were carrying Wayne through the swamp to a waiting ambulance and transported him to Mille Lacs Health System, where he was airlifted to University of Minnesota Hospital for care.

The following day, Monte received a phone call from Wayne. He made it. He was alive.

Wayne, Ruth, Emily, Matt, and Monte had a reunion at the Richfield Fire Hall recently, an event featured on KSTP television news in February.

"When we have patients who are guests in our area or visitors, we don't get, a lot of times, an idea of the outcome, especially if it's a positive outcome," Monte said during the interview. "For myself, to get that call on Saturday from Wayne thanking us that he was still with us is one of the rarities because time and distance for us in rural Minnesota and Tribal nations is the challenge we face."

"For me to see and be able to thank them personally is incredible," Wayne said.

Monte teaches CPR/AED classes for Band members and employees. Classes are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month at HHS Family Services training room, and Aanjibi-maading offers First Aid and CPR/AED training to the community as well. If you would like schedule a class, contact Monte at [monte.fronk@millelacsband.com](mailto:monte.fronk@millelacsband.com) or call/text on his cell at 320-362-0435.

CHASE SAM

# IPAD ARTIST MAKES HER MARK

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

"I've been drawing pretty much my whole life, but I began to get more attentive about it in middle school," said Chase Sam, a tenth grader at Nay Ah Shing High School. "I taught myself to draw, and I've worked on it for years and years. My teachers would catch me drawing in their classes."

Chase's work has paid off. She has been asked by Rosetta Stone to submit illustrations for Ojibwe language learning materials the company is developing on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

"It all started around this time last year," said Chase. "I was invited to attend an Elders conference about publishing the Aanjibimaadizing books, and I got to observe the artists who illustrated the books — Jonathan Thunder, Steve Premo, and Wesley Ballinger."

The Aanjibimaadizing books are three monolingual Ojibwe collections of stories told by Mille Lacs Band Elders and transcribed by language students from around the region.

Chase's great grandmother, the late Panji Gahbow, was one of the Elders who told stories for the Aanjibimaadizing project, and Chase was able to listen in and draw some pictures to illustrate her stories. They weren't used in the books, but word got around that there was a talented young artist in the making.

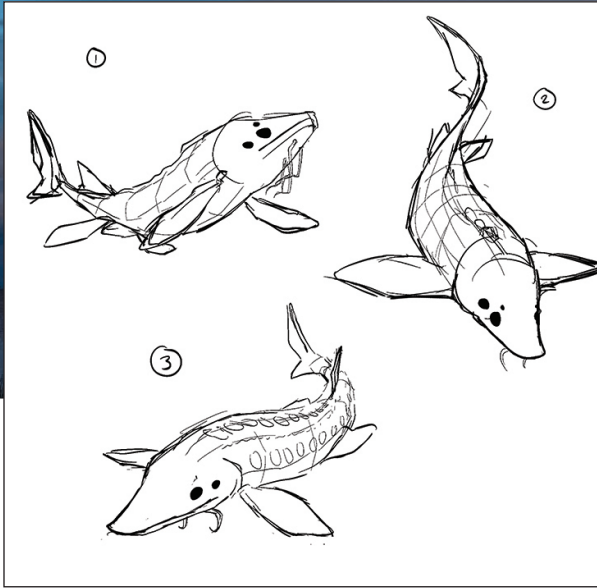
"Eventually word must have spread to Rosetta Stone," said Chase. "They emailed me last year to do an interview and take up some independent contractor work for them."

Chase draws on her iPad primarily. "Most of what I do is digital, but I do want to learn to work with art materials," she said. "I want to draw for myself and my friends and family, but at the same time, I hope I can inspire other people to pursue what they love doing."

Nay Ah Shing English teacher Blenda Hagberg has taught Chase and her sisters Ronni and Mia, who are now in college. "She's a great student from a wonderful family. Talented, intelligent, fun, thoughtful, respectful — great to have in class."

Chase says her sisters are her role models, and she is planning to follow their footsteps to college.

"College has been on my mind for some time," said Chase. "I have taken time out of my summers to attend college camp at Purdue." Nay Ah Shing has participated in the GERI (Gifted Education Resource and Research Institute) for years, with



One of Chase's first tasks for Rosetta Stone is to create images of name (the Ojibwe word for sturgeon, pronounced nuh-may). On her own time, she enjoys creating versions of native plants and landscapes.



Chase and her sisters making multiple trips to the program.

Chase was captain of one of Nay Ah Shing's two Ojibwe language quiz bowl teams before the pandemic brought an end to the season last year.

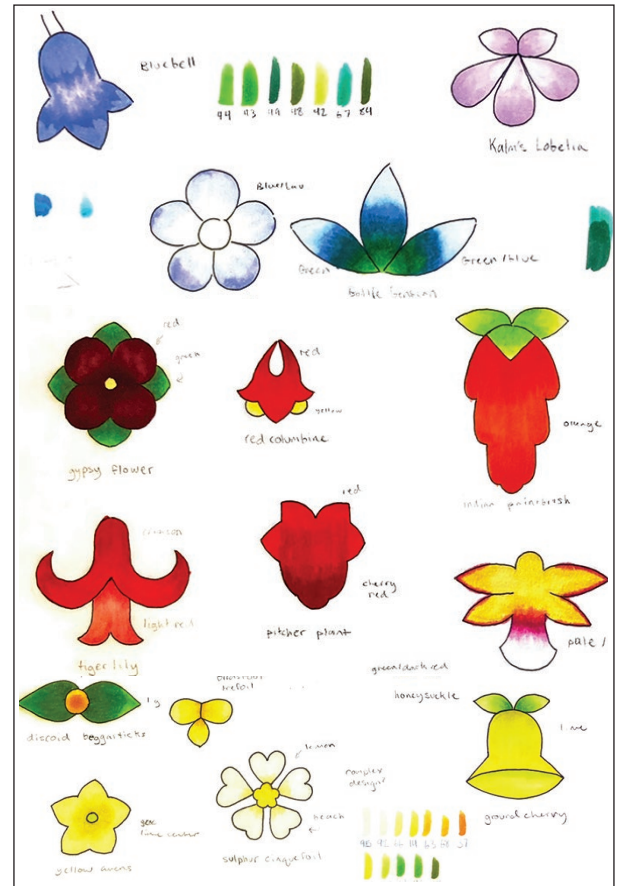
"I've been thinking about doing college classes on the language because I want to learn more and help revitalize it," Chase said.

This year, she's studying the language through Zoom classes with Nay Ah Shing teacher Waabishkigaabaw (John Benjamin). "He's doing a great job," she said.

Don't worry about Chase getting too serious too soon, though. She also has typical teen interests, primarily playing her favorite video games and collecting related merchandise.

The Rosetta Stone project is a golden opportunity for Chase to bring all her interests together, as some of her illustrations will be used for characters in language learning videos.

And while there's no plan — yet — for figurines or other "merch," Chase's characters may one day be part of the collection of another young artist with big dreams and loads of talent.



**"I WANT TO DRAW FOR MYSELF AND MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I HOPE I CAN INSPIRE OTHER PEOPLE TO PURSUE WHAT THEY LOVE DOING."**



## DISTRICT II VACCINE CLINIC

The Beetso family, including Tanisha, Darlene, and Sam, received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination at the DII Community Center on February 24. They all agreed getting a vaccination was the right thing to do for themselves, their family, and the community. Sam had suffered a stroke some time earlier and has been especially careful to not expose himself to the virus. He said he had not gone out at all much in the last year — other than to necessary doctor appointments and such — and was looking forward to being able to go to Walmart again soon. Prior to receiving the vaccination, due to Sam's heart condition, the on-site Ne-la-Shing Clinic provider, Alex Wray, came out to discuss the vaccine with Sam. Sam said he was very grateful to be able to talk with a doctor.





Tim Taggart and Stanley Nayquonabe work together on the Ge-Niigaanizijig Fitness Club, which is open to program participants in all districts.

## GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG FITNESS CLUB MAKING FITNESS FUN FOR EVERYONE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Tim Taggart knows a thing or two about fitness. As a three-sport athlete in high school, a college football player at St. Cloud State, and a professional boxer, he's spent most of his life not just getting and staying in shape, but doing so at the highest level. "My whole life has been fitness," said Tim.

As the fitness teacher for the Ge-Niigaanizijig youth program, Tim also knows that not everyone will be as motivated to excel as he has been. For those whose aspirations are not quite as high, fitness needs to be fun if it is to become a lifelong habit, and not just a flash in the pan.

Tim works with Stanley Nayquonabe, the District III Ge-Niigaanizijig Coordinator, to bring healthy fun to students in the program.

Stanley has been working with Mille Lacs Band youth for seven years, starting at Wewinabi Early Education, moving on to Chiminising Niigaan, where he worked with elementary students, and now in Hinckley, where he works primarily with teenagers.

The Fitness Club grew from a conversation Stanley had with Meshakwad Community Center Site Manager Ryan O'Brien, who said the center was being used for play but not for more structured fitness activities. They decided a Ge-Niigaanizijig club could help students take physical fitness to the next level.

"Tim was the ideal candidate," said Stanley. "It's been phenomenal. He keeps them engaged by making it fun. Each meeting we see a few more kids, and they work a little harder."

The club has now expanded beyond District III to Districts I, II, and IIIa. "We're really excited that the other districts are getting going," Stanley added. "The sky's the limit on what we can do."

For now, classes are offered over Zoom, but Tim and Stanley look forward to providing in-person fitness opportunities soon — hopefully by this summer.

Tim makes sure to start kids out with less strenuous classes to protect them from injury and keep them interested, gradually progressing to more difficult classes. The District III club started earlier, so they've advanced to more challenging activities.

So far, they have learned some basic boxing training that exercises the whole body, and they've been introduced to yoga, pilates, and dance.

Tim sneaks in some cultural training, too. He taught the kids a dance in a recent class and then surprised them with the knowledge that it was a jingle dance step. He's also taught grass dance and crow hop.

Tim is a member of the Oglala Sioux Nation from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, but he has lived in District III most of his life, and it was there his lifelong love of sports was fostered.

Tim was a member of the boxing club started by Harry Davis and other District III Band members back in the 1990s.

"I started with the Lake Lena Boxing Club at age 10," said Tim. "It was a great experience." He traveled to Kansas, Texas, and Colorado with the club, and at age 17 turned professional, working out of Bobby Anderson's gym and traveling as far as

Miami, where he trained with a former world champion.

Now he's taking online classes to become certified in Elder fitness and yoga, in addition to working as a Meshakwad Boxing Club coach, for which he's already certified.

Stanley and Tim also expect numbers to increase when they can once again meet with students in person. The number of active students in the youth programs is down from pre-pandemic levels, but they expect it to rebound. Some of the decline was due to the need to re-enroll in the Ge-Niigaanizijig program.

"The biggest challenge is getting them to log on," said Stanley. "Once they start, they realize it's fun."

Tim agreed. "Right now kids are tired of being online, after all their Zoom classes and Netflix over the last year, so when we can get back outside, their interest will be piqued."

Stanley has tried to encourage teens in the program as they've dealt with the challenges of the pandemic. "I try to praise them as much as I can and remind them you're going through something nobody's ever been through before. This is going to be in the history books."

Stanley and Tim are hoping to add a personal training component to the program but also group activities like golf leagues and softball to keep the youth interested.

They want students to direct the program as a whole and the fitness club in particular by setting their own goals and pursuing their own interests.

"We have big plans to help our kids become physically fit," Tim concluded. "Because when you're physically fit, you're also doing so much for your mind, body, and soul."

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

From the April 2003 Inaajimowin:

The Lake Lena Boxing Club hosted a boxing show on Saturday, March 8, at Grand Casino Hinckley. It was a fun and exciting event that had 17 bouts. Seven of the fights featured members of the Lake Lena Boxing Club, including Harold Knowlen, Jr., Jesse St. John, Forest St. John, Sammy St. John, Kyle Hatfield, Tim Taggart, Jr. (below left), and Weylin Davis (below right).



## AROUND THE RESERVATION

### ELDER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The next Elder food distribution is set for April 14 and 15. On Wednesday, April 14, from 1 to 3 p.m., distribution will take place for District I and IIa members at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, south side of Convention Center, for District II members at Minisinaakwaang Community Center, and for District III members at Grand Northern Inn Hinckley-parking lot. On Thursday, April 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. urban area Band members can pick up their food at the Urban Office, 1404 E Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. Items will include: polish sausage, frozen cut corn, cheesy hash brown bake, minestrone soup mix, fresh pears, wild rice bread, pancake mix, velveeta, crystal lite drink mix. Distribution is on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

### SPRING CLEANUP BEGINS APRIL 17

With the warmer weather coming up, the snow will begin to melt in your yards and you may suddenly find items you completely forgot about that have been buried beneath the snow since last fall. It happens to us all! It is time to think spring and start thinking about the Mille Lacs Band Annual Spring Clean-up! So mark your calendars and think spring!

Mark your calendar with the following dates: District I — Saturday, April 17, through Monday, April 26; District II and IIa — Saturday, May 1, through Friday, May 7; District III: Lake Lena and Hinckley — Saturday, April 24, to Friday, April 30. More information coming soon. Think spring!

### STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL IS APRIL 15

Each year, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (in partnership with the National Weather Service and other state and local government agencies) sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week. Each day of the week focuses on a different topic. The highlights are two statewide tornado drills on Thursday.

During the afternoon and evening drills, local sirens and all NOAA Weather Radios in Minnesota and Wisconsin will sound with a simulated tornado warning. These drills give everyone the opportunity to review their emergency plans and procedures and practice emergency drills at work or at home.

Remember — counties and cities in Minnesota own, operate, and maintain all local warning sirens, and set their own policies on how and when they are activated. Please check with your local public safety officials for details on when warning sirens are sounded in your community. Note: There is no such thing as an all-clear siren.

Most local and statewide radio, TV, and cable stations will be participating. The tornado drill warning should last about one minute. When the test is completed, stations should return to normal programming.

The first drill occurs on Thursday, April 15, at 1:45 p.m., when jurisdictions across Minnesota sound their outdoor warning sirens. Schools, businesses, and other facilities are encouraged to conduct a tornado drill at this time to practice their emergency tornado sheltering plans.

A second drill occurs on Thursday, April 15, at 6:45 p.m., when jurisdictions across Minnesota sound their outdoor warning sirens. This second drill allows second-shift workers, individuals, and families the opportunity to practice their own emergency plans at home.

## CASINO CELEBRATES MILESTONE

# 30 YEARS OF STORIES!



By Alyssa Enno Corporate Director of Brand Strategy  
Mille Lacs Band Member

April 5, 1991, is a historic day for the Mille Lacs Band community and surrounding communities in the Mille Lacs area. On this day, 30 years ago, Grand Casino Mille Lacs opened its doors to the public. The story has been shared that our parking lot was a complete mud pit, but that didn't stop people from coming. Guests couldn't have been more excited to experience Grand Casino Mille Lacs that they were standing in a line 10- to 20-people deep just to get to play on a slot machine.

Since that day, Grand Casino Mille Lacs has been building a legacy. The property has grown from a modest bingo hall to an amenity-rich property, with over 66,000 gaming square feet of the latest and greatest games, a 494-room hotel, multiple restaurants, meeting and convention space, and an entertainment facility.

Throughout the years, Grand Casino Mille Lacs has kept Guest experience top-of-mind, ensuring to provide the best Guest Service to keep them coming back. Recently, in 2018, the property completed a two-year property improvement plan that optimized the facility's offerings to better suit the Associate and Guest experience.

The Mille Lacs Band had a vision for Grand Casino Mille Lacs, and the reality exceeded expectations. No one knew what the not-so-distant future would hold. The Band hoped that Grand Casino Mille Lacs' modest facility would create a few hundred jobs and give the reservation a small economic lift; however, it did much more.

In the last 30 years, Grand Casino Mille Lacs has been a top employer in the central Minnesota region, an industry leader among fellow tribally owned casinos, all while contributing significantly to the Mille Lacs Band and surrounding Mille Lacs area. The casino has helped attract new residents to the area, which has dramatically increased tourism over the years, re-

sulting in new businesses across the region.

With the immediate success of Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the Mille Lacs Band worked to open doors to the sister property, Grand Casino Hinckley, in 1992.

Casino revenues are a steady stream of income for the Mille Lacs Band, providing direct benefits to Mille Lacs Band tribal members, our different district communities, and a variety of programs and services. The Mille Lacs Band has utilized casino revenues to help build and improve schools, health care facilities, community centers, a water treatment facility, ceremonial buildings, roads, and more. It has brought economic vitality to the region, which has helped tens of thousands of people.

There is a lot to be proud of. Looking back at past milestones and the opening of Grand Casino Mille Lacs, we see the visions our tribal leaders have set for the Band and our businesses, and we see demonstrated progress every step of the way. As we progress and continue to maintain a strong presence in the tribal gaming and hospitality industries, our tribe will continue to be an economic force in the region. The fact that there is more to come is the best part of our story.

**"AS WE PROGRESS AND CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE TRIBAL GAMING AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRIES, OUR TRIBE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ECONOMIC FORCE IN THE REGION. THE FACT THAT THERE IS MORE TO COME IS THE BEST PART OF THE STORY."**



Grand Casino Mille Lacs was built on the site of the old bingo hall.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*From the April 2011 issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin on the 20th anniversary of the opening of Grand Casino Mille Lacs.*

The year was 1988. The Mille Lacs Reservation was a place of overwhelming poverty. After generations of going without what most Americans would consider the basics, hope was a hard thing to hold onto.

"We were barely making payroll, and we didn't have a school. We taught students wherever there was room," said Chief Executive Marge Anderson, who was Secretary-Treasurer at the time.

On October 17, 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. That was the big opportunity we had been waiting for.

The late Art Gahbow, who was Mille Lacs Band Chairman at the time, led the tribal government in negotiating gaming compacts with the State of Minnesota. Governor Rudy Perpich signed the Band's gaming compacts in 1989.

Now it was time to make gaming a reality on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

"When the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act was passed, we couldn't find a bank that would help us build a casino," Marge recalled. "Local banks nixed the idea. But then this firm (later known as Grand Casinos, Inc.) offered to help."

Built around the Band's bingo hall, Grand Casino Mille Lacs opened on April 4, 1991. Grand Casino was a hit from day one, with hundreds of people lining up to play the 200 machines that had been installed.

"We had a handful of employees, and we were in a tin building," Marge said. "We had customers coming in and getting mad because they couldn't find a machine. We decided to expand right then."

Molly Judkins was a phone operator at Grand Casino Mille Lacs when it opened.

"When the casino first started, there were no other businesses around. I would have never imagined it as big as it is now," said Molly, adding that five of her six children have worked at Grand Casinos over the past two decades.

"We had a blackjack tent outside," Molly said, "and when it rained it was cold and wet, but people still came and played. Also, we didn't have a paved parking lot, so people would get stuck."

Marge and Molly have bittersweet memories of the casino's early days. One of the earliest joys was seeing the trucks come to collect the casino's first earnings.

Casino history see page 11



Kristin Volk Funk, left, led a hypnosis workshop for Band members, including Billie Jo Boyd and Semira Kimpson, at Grand Casino Hinckley on March 16.



## HYPNOSIS EVENT IS WELL RECEIVED

By Makadegwanebiikwe

Mille Lacs Descendant, District I Community Member

Imagine yourself quietly lying on your back, relaxing on your yoga mat, eyes closed, hands to your side. You take deep breaths, inhaling then exhaling. You hear a faint voice counting slowly. Three, two, one... And you are completely relaxed.

This is what participants experienced at the Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center on March 16 — Hypnosis: A Tool for Healthy Living and Weight Loss. This event was sponsored in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health and Mille Lacs Band Public Health.

Colleen McKinney, Coordinator of the SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) and Tribal Tobacco grants, has been instrumental in providing access to Mille Lacs Band community members through health and wellness events. Colleen teamed up with Kristin Volk Funk, M. ED, CCH, a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist and author of “As Thin as you Think.”

According to Funk, hypnosis is a natural state of mind which we routinely enter and exit several times each day. Hypnotic suggestion or guided meditation through a trained practitioner can help you with many life goals that may seem elusive. “In my 35 years teaching, I have never met a more kind and welcoming group than the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe,” said Kristin. “They have been a true joy to work with.”

Many people have seen hypnosis shows on TV or at the fair, where people are doing off-the-wall movements or mimicking an animal. Hypnotherapy is nothing like that. A clinical hypno-

therapist is trained to promote a deep state of relaxation, slowing brainwaves to create a state of hypnosis. Birdie Dunkley from District III said, “This is a lot better than what I expected. I felt relaxed and comfortable while under hypnosis.”

Dan Wind from District I also attended the event and found the guided meditation to be very interesting. “What caught my attention the most was when she talked about being in a trance-like state before sleep or while driving. That is the best time to listen to suggestive CDs or to tell yourself things that you want accomplished.”

At the conclusion of the event, all participants received a guided self-hypnosis CD that they can access and listen to on their own. Virtually anyone who wants to be hypnotized can do so with willingness, the ability to use their imagination, and the motivation for change.

Semira Kimpson from District I said the event was very effective. “During COVID, I lost a lot of motivation to keep on working out and eating healthy, so when I saw this opportunity I couldn’t wait to get started,” said Semira. “After I finished, I felt like it worked. I’ve changed up my diet, I have been more motivated to exercise, and I feel like it helped me change my mindset. I would definitely go again!”

District III Representative Wally St. John also attended and found it very helpful. “I meditate a lot anyways, but I’m utilizing everything mentioned,” said Wally.

Watch for more hypnosis events in the future.



Dan Wind, Birdie Dunkley, and District III Representative Wally St. John found hypnosis helpful, interesting, and relaxing.

### Casino history from page 10

But sadly, the joy was overshadowed by the death of Art Gahbow. He passed away unexpectedly on April 11, 1991, shortly after the casino opened.

“He had been our leader for almost 20 years, and he had led the way in getting everything built,” Marge said. “But Art got to see us take our first steps along a better path. I’m proud that Art got to see this dream come true.”

The casino shut its doors for 24 hours as the community mourned Art’s death. Until the pandemic of 2020, it was the only time in the casino’s history that it has been closed.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs provided the Band with desperately needed revenue, said Marge, remembering how excited she felt when the first check arrived.

“I took that check and held onto it, because we had to figure

out what we should do with it. We didn’t have enough money to do everything we wanted to do,” Marge said.

Within months of opening Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the Band became the first tribe in the nation to issue community improvement bonds backed by casino revenues. These bonds funded reservation construction projects. The first facilities to be completed were a new water treatment plant and the Hinckley powwow grounds in 1992, as well as the Ne-la-Shing Clinic, Nay Ah Shing School, District I water tower, and District I ceremonial building in 1993.

As casino revenues continued to grow — both from Grand Casino Mille Lacs and from Grand Casino Hinckley, which opened in 1992 — the Band was able to repay the loan and continue to pursue opportunities that would continue to impact the community in a positive way.

## HAALAND CONFIRMED AS FIRST NATIVE CABINET SECRETARY

Deb Haaland took the oath of office on March 18 to become the 54th Secretary of the Department of the Interior — and the first Native American cabinet secretary.

Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo, was sworn in dressed in a rainbow ribbon skirt decorated with a corn stalk, butterflies, and stars. The skirt was made by Agnes Woodward, who is Plains Cree from Kawacatoose First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada.

It was not the first time Haaland had made history. In 2018, she was elected as one of the two first female Native Americans in Congress.

As a single mother, she graduated from college, earned a law degree, and worked in tribal government. She served as chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party from 2015 to 2017 and as the U.S. representative for New Mexico’s 1st congressional district from 2019 to 2021.

Haaland issued the following statement:

“At my confirmation hearing, I said that we all have a stake in the future of our country. No matter your political party or zip code, your ancestral heritage or income level, we all must take the formidable challenges that lie ahead seriously, and we will take them head-on, together.

“I am proud and humbled to lead the dedicated team at Interior as we seek to leave a livable planet for future generations. Together, we will work to advance President Biden’s vision to honor our nation-to-nation relationship with Tribes, address the climate and nature crises, advance environmental justice, and build a clean energy future that creates good-paying jobs and powers our nation.

“The change we need will take hard work and perseverance, but I know that together there is nothing we cannot accomplish.”

All of this growth has allowed the Band to continue to chip away at the decades of poverty that Band members have endured.

“We made a decision early on that we would use gaming revenues to provide jobs, invest in economic development and community infrastructure, provide programs and services to Band members, and reach other long-overdue goals,” Marge said.

“Because of casino revenues, our people have better lives and more opportunities. I never want to see our situation revert to how it used to be. In the first 20 years, we’ve helped people find jobs, access health care, drink cleaner water, and live in quality homes. We want to be in a position to continue the work that we’ve started over the next 20 years.”

Let's keep our harvesting traditions alive: Be a Mentor.



The Department of Natural Resources hosted a series of activities during the week of March 15-19, culminating with the celebration of Treaty Rights Day on March 19, which included an invocation by David Amik Sam (above right), a brief overview of the 1837 Treaty, an honorable recognition of our warriors who fought so hard for us today, harvest stories told by participants, and a raffle drawing with DNR Commissioner Katie Draper (above). The raffles for the week included a youth raffle, a photo contest raffle (see below for some of the entries), and a general raffle that was open to those who had participated in the DNR's harvester meetings on manoomin, iskgamizigan, and netting/spearing earlier in the week.

# TREATY RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION MOVES ONLINE

Each year on the Friday closest to March 24, the Mille Lacs Band's Department of Natural Resources hosts a Treaty Rights Day celebration. In normal years, Band members gather at Grand Casino Mille Lacs (or occasionally the District I Community Center) to celebrate the day in 1999 when the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed Mille Lacs Band members' right to hunt, fish, and gather under the terms set forth in the Treaty of 1837.

Last year, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration had to be canceled, but this, year the DNR brought the celebration to Band members' homes via Zoom — technology with which many have become familiar during the dark days of the last year.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper was not about to let the pandemic cancel a special day for a second year, so she and her team prepared a series of fun and educational events for the week — culminating with everyone's favorite: a raffle, with a variety of great prizes.

"March 24th is a significant day for us as Anishinaabe as we demonstrate our resilience by exercising our treaty rights through hunting, fishing, and gathering," Katie said. "Let's keep our harvesting traditions alive by being mentors to others."

## The 1837 Treaty Case

The Band's 1837 Treaty Case revolved around a single sentence in the Treaty of 1837: "The privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering the wild rice upon the lands, the rivers and the lands included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians during the pleasure of the President of the United States." (1837 Treaty, Article 5.) — but it took nearly a decade from the time the case was filed until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in the Band's favor.

The treaty rights of the Mille Lacs Band had lain dormant for most of the 20th century, but political and legal activism by tribes in the Pacific Northwest and in Minnesota inspired Chief Executive Arthur Gahbow to take action on the Band's rights.

In 1980, the Band passed a Conservation Code, which pertained to the regulation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other matters within the 1855 Treaty reservation boundaries. The code was met with immediate opposition, which continued

**"MARCH 24TH IS A SIGNIFICANT DAY FOR US AS WE DEMONSTRATE OUR RESILIENCE BY EXERCISING OUR TREATY RIGHTS THROUGH HUNTING, FISHING, AND GATHERING. LET'S KEEP OUR HARVESTING TRADITIONS ALIVE BY BEING MENTORS TO OTHERS."**

— DNR COMMISSIONER KATIE DRAPER

throughout the next two decades.

In 1982, Chairman Gahbow directed his Commissioner of Natural Resources, Don Wedll, to review the Band's treaties and determine the Band's rights. In that same year, Gahbow instructed Wedll to find the best law firm in the country to handle the Band's treaty rights. They chose a firm that had won a number of major treaty rights cases in the Pacific Northwest: Ziontz, Pirtle, Morriset, Ernstoff and Chestnut of Seattle, Washington (later Ziontz, Chestnut, Varnell, Berley & Slonim.) The Ziontz firm assigned Marc Slonim to review the legal and historical information regarding the treaties the Mille Lacs Band had signed.

Meanwhile, in the 1970s and '80s, several Chippewa Bands in Wisconsin litigated their rights under the Treaty of 1837 in a series of cases commonly known as the "Voigt" litigation.

The Band raised enough money by 1990 to file the lawsuit, and in August, the complaint was filed by the Band's Solicitor General Anita Fineday and Seattle attorney Marc Slonim. Within a few days of the filing of the lawsuit, the Minnesota State Attorney General's Office and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources called the Band to discuss settlements. Negotiations began, and for the Band, attorney Marc Slonim, DNR Commissioner Don Wedll, and Band member Leonard Sam took the lead.

In April of 1991, Chairman Arthur Gahbow passed away. Appointed (and later elected) to replace him was a soft-spoken grandmother and Secretary-Treasurer of the Band, Marge Anderson. Over the next decade, Chief Executive Anderson would lead the Band through the treaty rights case, into a new economic prosperity, become a national leader on the Tribal Self-Governance Act, and be named one of the 100 "Most Influential Minnesotans of the 20th Century."

A negotiated settlement passed the State Senate on April 28, 1993, by a vote of 40 to 25, but it was defeated on the House side, sending the case to federal court.

Phase I of the trial began on June 13, 1994, and ended on July 6, 1994. In August, Judge Murphy ruled that the Band retained its right to hunt, fish, and gather under the Treaty of 1837.

In 1997, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court rulings on all counts. The United States Supreme Court granted certiorari to the State of Minnesota, which appealed the Eighth Circuit decision of the three main issues decided in the first half of the case.

On March 24, 1999, in a five-to-four decision, Justice O'Connor, joined by Justices Stevens, Souter, Breyer, and Ginsburg, delivered the Court's opinion in favor of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa.

Chief Executive Marge Anderson instructed receptionist Bonnie Sam to make the announcement on the loudspeaker in the Mille Lacs Government Center. "Hey, you guys, we won! We won our case!" No one needed an explanation. A resounding cheer erupted in the building for several minutes, men and women wept, people hugged — and Marge Anderson walked silently to her office with a slight grin to prepare for a press conference. For a quiet woman, Chief Executive Marge Anderson loudly and boldly declared to all of Minnesota on March 24, 1999: "Today the United States has kept a promise, a promise that agreements are to be honored, not broken."

*Tadd Johnson and Bruce White contributed to this report.*



ISKIGAMIZIGE

# TRADITION IN THE MAKING

By Rhonda Mitchell Mille Lacs Band Member

Brad Harrington is a Mille Lacs Band member who has turned back to his traditional ways, including iskgamizige — tapping maple trees to make syrup and sugar cakes.

Brad started tapping trees as a child, but he stopped about eight or nine years of age. As he became a teenager and grew into adulthood, he made some wrong choices, but the second time he was in prison, he decided to change his life. He wanted to do things the Anishinaabe way.

“Sapping was one of the ways that I remembered from when I was a boy, so I started sapping when I got out in 2013,” said Brad. “My teacher and mentor was my Papa Ernie, who showed me how to boil. I don’t remember much, but when I got out of prison, Doug Sam, Russ Boyd, and the Blake family taught me a lot about sapping.”

“We watch for birds like crows and swans as a sign that spring is beginning,” Brad said. When the snow starts to start pulling away from the bottom of the maples, it’s time to start tapping.

“We give it a few days, depending on how good it is running.” Last year, his kettle broke, and he couldn’t find a new one, so he got an evaporator that works well. “Last week, we had 50 gallons, and it took us 12 hours to get it down to candy and sugar.”

Brad stops when the frogs start to croak. He will then be-



Friends, family, and the family dogs took part in Brad Harrington’s annual sugarbush activities in March of this year.

gin to get all his bags off the maple trees before it starts to mold. “After a long hard winter, Manidoo must have thought we needed a little sugar to give us a boost to carry us into the spearing season,” Brad said. “Also, the trees themselves are spirits and are giving us spiritual foods. We take it in and not only do we get the physical nutrients, but we get the spiritual nutrients as well.”

After learning from his mentors, Brad brought their teachings home to his boys, who have been sapping for eight years now. “They notice things a lot better than I do,” said Brad. “Like this one time we were boiling candy, they said, ‘It’s time now,’ and I said, ‘Let it boil some more,’ and I ended up burning that batch because I didn’t listen. When you burn it, you ruin the whole batch, so a whole day of boiling was gone because I didn’t listen to my partners.”



# BINGO WITH THE BAND.

Every first Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.

Join us at Grand Casino Hinckley for a special bingo session exclusively for Mille Lacs Band Members.



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Among last year's Pathways to Prosperity success stories were Rochelle Olivarez, Taria White, and Alyssa Buckanaga, who completed the Certified Nursing Assistant class in District II.

## PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY PINE TECH PARTNERSHIP RETURNS WITH NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Aanjobimaadizing is excited to offer Career and Professional Development Courses in partnership with Pine Technical & Community College and the State of Minnesota Pathways to Prosperity Grant.

The following courses are being offered:

### ServSafe Certification

April 1 at Meshakwad Community Center and April 7 at District I Aanjobimaadizing Office, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ServSafe is a national certification program through the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation. ServSafe Food Manager for Minnesota requires an 8-hour class and successful passage of an exam.

The student will complete the course and take the exam at the end of the course with a ServSafe certified instructor and certified proctor. Upon completion, participants receive a ServSafe certificate of passage and are "ServSafe certified" for five years.

The class covers the latest COVID-19 food safety updates, types of food-borne illnesses, how food becomes contaminated, time and temperature controls, personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitizing, receiving and storing, preparing and cooking, cooling and reheating, holding and serving, food allergen management, HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), and food safety regulations, based on FDA Food Code and local requirements.

### Parenting Piece by Piece

April 6–May 25 at District I Aanjobimaadizing Office, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Parenting Piece-by-Piece is a parenting skills class consisting of eight 90-minute education sessions. The overall goal is to reduce or eliminate instances of child maltreatment and promote positive parenting practices.

The course covers personal and parenting strengths, celebrating life with children, observing and understanding children and their development, managing stress, listening and attending to children's feelings and ideas, modeling appropriate desired behavior for children, positive behavior-management techniques, problem-solving skills, establishing and maintaining reasonable limits, community resources, and building relationships with family, neighborhood, and community groups.

### Office Basics Series

The three courses in this series can be taken by themselves or as part of the Office Basics Series.

(1.) Computer Basics, April 5–8 at East Lake Community Center and May 24–27 at the District I Aanjobimaadizing Office. Computer Basics is a 16-hour course that covers beginning-level Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint. Classes will run in four half-day sessions.

(2.) Business Computer Applications, April 14–20 at East Lake Community Center and June 2–8 at the District I Aanjobimaadizing Office. Stay up to date in the computer industry. Learn computer terminology, hardware, and software as it relates to the business environment. Participants will use applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation graphics, as well as business-oriented internet use and the principles of professional behavior in computing. This course can be taken for no credit or for three college credits.

(3.) QuickBooks, April 12–13 at East Lake Community Center and June 1 and 4 at the District I Aanjobimaadizing Office. QuickBooks is a personal or small business accounting software program used to manage income and expenses and keep track of the financial health of a business. You can use it to invoice customers, pay bills, generate reports, and prepare for taxes.

### Certified Nursing Assistant

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 3 through May 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (not held on Wednesdays) at District II (East Lake) ALU, 20849 370th Lane, McGregor, MN 55760. PTCC's 80-hour Nursing Assistant Certificate Course will prepare students with the knowledge and clinical skills to work in a variety of settings, including nursing homes, hospitals, adult day care centers, and assisted living facilities.

This training provides the information and skills needed to become a Nursing Assistant on the Minnesota State Registry. Nursing Assistant Certification is an excellent way to have a stand-alone career or launch into a nursing career.

Apply with Aanjobimaadizing. Complete Training Orientation and COVID-19 Training. Participants need to complete background check with fingerprinting and tuberculosis screening: Mantoux / TB Skin Test (TST) or TB Blood Test.

### Commercial Driver's License

Monday to Thursday, starting Tuesday, June 1, through June 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Meshakwad Community Center, 38043 Hinckley Rd, Hinckley, MN 55037, and Local 49 Training Center. Commercial driving is an in-demand career!

Driving a commercial motor vehicle is a big responsibility. It requires special skills and knowledge, and CDL holders are held to a higher standard when operating any type of motor vehicle on public roads. This course provides the knowledge and skills to drive commercial vehicles. The course is designed to prepare an individual to enter into the job market as a professional truck driver, an industry in need of qualified workers.

CDL training will consist of classroom instruction plus 40–50 hours of Behind the Wheel (BTW) instruction for Class A and 20–30 hours BTW for Class B students. Upon completion of the classroom and drive time, students will take the Minnesota Department of Safety CDL examination.

In collaboration with the Local 49 group, participants will also get to learn about Heavy Highway Construction, giving them an opportunity to enter the job market with enhanced training and experience.

Apply with Aanjobimaadizing. Complete Training Orientation and COVID-19 Training.

Students will not be allowed to participate if they do not meet program requirements: Must have a valid MN Driver's License; must take and pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) medical exam prior to enrolling in the class; driving record within the past five years containing no DWI, bodily harm, reckless driving, or vehicular manslaughter citations; may be required to submit to drug screen.

### Automotive Technician

Tuesday through Friday, July 6 to July 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Meshakwad Community Center and Pine Tech Auto Lab, 900 4th St SE, Pine City, MN 55063.

Be prepared with the technical knowledge and skills to repair, service, and maintain all types of automobiles! This program includes instruction in brake systems, electrical systems, engine performance, engine repair, suspension and steering, automatic and manual transmissions and drive trains, alternative fuels, and heating and air conditioning systems.

All students will receive a set of tools upon completion of this class. The class will allow for entry-level employment at a mechanic garage or car dealership.

Students may look forward to training in the following areas: inspection, diagnosis, and installation; troubleshooting; engine performance; shop safety; high-tech diagnostic equipment; electrical components/fundamentals; engine installation; maintenance; customer service skills; computer database technical reference system.

Apply with Aanjobimaadizing. Complete Training Orientation and COVID-19 Training. Valid driver's license is recommended.

All class dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to COVID-19. Class sizes are limited. Sign up today!

Participants must apply with Aanjobimaadizing and register at least two weeks in advance.

To register for classes or for more information, contact Karen at 320-362-4139 (call or text) or karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com (email).

See the flyers or view the course catalog at [https://issuu.com/aanjobimaadizing/docs/ptcc\\_flyers\\_2021](https://issuu.com/aanjobimaadizing/docs/ptcc_flyers_2021).

## ABOUT AANJOBIMAADIZING

Aanjobimaadizing helps to empower participants with an acquired purpose or occupation that will contribute to the well-being of their community and family. Through this, we are able to offer services to a large percentage of our community and work closely with other organizations to help all ages embrace their culture, enhance their education, expand their career options, and overcome barriers to sustainability.

Eligible participants must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe or a first-generation descendant of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

They must also reside within one of our federally approved service areas: Aitkin, Anoka, Benton, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, and Ramsey County.

There may be additional eligibility standards for various services.

**Grants** from page 1

"The Mille Lacs Band is way ahead by having us on staff and on site helping programs find grants to meet the needs of the community," said Brittany.

Two recent examples of the Grants Department's work: CHAP and CERA. CHAP — the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program — came out last year and helped 900 people with \$2 million in assistance with mortgages and other housing-related expenses.

"Nate thought we should go for \$300,000, but I said, 'No, we're going for \$2 million,'" said Brittany. "And we spent all that money helping people."

CERA — COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance — is a similar grant that will help renters who were impacted by COVID-19. (See page 4 for more on CERA.)

Not all grants are as dramatic as those. "I wrote a grant for a new milk fridge at Nay Ah Shing," said Nate.

"No matter the size or who it's helping, all our grants are equally important," said Brittany.

The list of grants is long and varied, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics, Hepatitis C testing, tribal court renovation, sidewalks and traffic lights, family violence prevention, air and water quality, nutrition, fingerprint machines, child home visiting, food distribution, crime victim services, and substance use supports.

One thing Band members may not realize is that each of those grants is limited by tribal, state, or federal policies and procedures. "That was the biggest learning curve for me," said Colin. "People wonder why a program can't do certain things. Well, it's because it's funded by a grant with specific requirements."

Another misunderstanding is the Grants Department's role. "We're here to write grants for the Mille Lacs Band, not for individual Band members," said Brittany. While they encourage Band members to apply for individual grants, that's not part of their job description.

**Team spirit**

When COVID-19 hit last year, the Grants Department was prepared for it, and that helped them achieve that 20-for-20 record.

Naomi recalled that Brittany was way ahead when it came to the pandemic. "Brittany is the most prepared ever," she said. "At the end of January, she was already talking about working from home. We all thought she'd gone crazy."

Nate added that Brittany made sure they all had access to email on their phones and work saved on USB drives so they were ready to work from home.

As grant opportunities came in, they worked long hours on behalf of Band members. The application windows were no

# A TALE OF FOUR GRANTS — AND GRANT WRITERS

**Naomi: Child Advocacy Center.**

Naomi specializes in Health and Human Services grants — an area of high demand. One grant she is especially proud of will fund a Child Advocacy Center, which will be based in a renovated building on Wahkon's Main Street. "This one is near and dear to me, having been a foster parent for about five years," said Naomi. The Child Advocacy Center (part of a larger Bureau of Justice Assistance grant) will be a place for parents with children in foster care to meet for visitation, for meetings with Family Services, to prepare meals together, and to play with their kids. "It's a space for parents to show they can take care of their kids." The new space will help speed up the process of reuniting families, and in some cases will help families avoid becoming part of the foster care system.



**Nate: Pathways to Prosperity.**

Nate specializes in education, but like his colleagues, he helps where needed. Nate was involved in the CHAP and CERA grants as Pathways to Prosperity, a partnership with Pine Technical and Community College, brought several courses to Districts I, II, and III last year and will be expanded in 2021 with offerings in Auto Mechanics, Parenting, Certified Nursing Assistant, ServSafe, Office Basics, and Commercial Driver's License. (See page 14 for more on the classes.) "A lot of what we do is behind the scenes, so it was nice last year to assign faces to the success stories. When we see the graduates with



their certificates, it's like, 'Oh wow, we really are helping people.'"

**Colin: Indigenous Medicine.**

Colin focuses on community development and natural resources, with expertise that comes from living in District I and working for the DNR. One grant that he's been involved with has been the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), which has made possible presentations and classes on edible and medicinal plants taught by Linda Black Elk. Phase four will include traditional medicine camps with hands-on learning for youth, including an art show for the community. "I feel like our department is like Seal Team Six," said Colin. "We see all these discrepancies and we say, 'Let's address that!'"



**Brittany: Statute Revision.**

Brittany works in all areas with a focus on Health and Human Services, since that is where there is the greatest need and opportunity. But one grant she's especially proud of came from the Office of Justice Programs to fund statute revision. Band members have heard a lot about statute revision in recent months, including the creation of a Revisor of Statutes Office. But many are unaware that those efforts were funded in part by a grant. "That's the most important grant I've been a part of," said Brittany. "By rewriting the laws of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, we can make impacts in programming that wouldn't have been possible under existing laws."



more than five days, so they worked until the work was done.

"I would send a text to Brittany at 2 a.m. — and get one back!" laughed Naomi.

Coach Brittany's can-do attitude creates a sense of team spirit that is evident in the smiles and laughter — and in their track record.

"We're like a family," said Brittany. "We have each other's backs."

**"BRITTANY IS THE MOST PREPARED EVER. AT THE END OF JANUARY, SHE WAS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT WORKING FROM HOME. WE ALL THOUGHT SHE'D GONE CRAZY."**

— NAOMI WEYAUS



**GET MILLE LACS BAND NEWS ON YOUTUBE!**

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic last year required equally rapid delivery of information to Band members, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin has delivered regular broadcasts via YouTube, while other leaders and tribal government departments have also used video to share important updates. The Band's YouTube page is now chockful of videos about tribal history, Ojibwe language, government programs, State of the Band speeches, and even a grocery store tour with helpful nutritional information. Band members can subscribe to the channel by going to [youtube.com/millelacsband](https://youtube.com/millelacsband) and clicking "Subscribe." (Miigwech to Public Relations Director Vivian LaMoore, who helped bring the Band into the video age and has been behind the scenes of many Mille Lacs Band videos for the last year!)



## Waaboozwaaboo Rabbit Soup

<p><b>Dagonigan (Ingredients):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-10 red potatoes, washed, skin on or off</li> <li>• 1 bag baby carrots, chopped</li> <li>• 1 bunch of celery, washed and chopped</li> <li>• 2 medium onions, chopped</li> <li>• 3 rabbits, prepared, skinned and cleaned</li> <li>• 1 Tbsp parsley</li> <li>• Salt/pepper to taste</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stovetop Directions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soak potatoes overnight in a large pot with enough water to cover them.</li> <li>2. Bring the water to a boil. Add rabbit to the pot and cook for one hour.</li> <li>3. Add the remaining ingredients and cook for an additional two hours.</li> <li>4. Season to taste.</li> </ol>
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# GIMAJI-DOODAAG AWIYA A'AW ANISHINAABE ANISHINAABE HAS PUT BAD MEDICINE ON YOU

This article was originally published in the April 2016 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.

Gaawiin awiya omaa ningagwe-zegi'aasiin omaa noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Mii i'iw maji-mashkiki waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke dash noongom wenji- misawendamaan wii-tazhindamaan i'iw eni-maji-doodawaad awiya inow owiiji- bimaadiziiman miinawaa eni-dazhindang a'aw Anishinaabe maazhi-doodaagod awiya, geget niwenda-wanishkwe'igon noongom ingiw bebaa-ayaajig omaa ishkonganing nenaanda-wi'wekaazojig, mii-go gaabige enaawaad iniw ba-naazikka-gowaajin baa-nandawaabandamowaad isa da-naadamaagowaad mino-ayaasigwaa, "Gimaji- doodaag awiya a'aw Anishinaabe."

*I am not out to scare anyone with the topic that I have selected. I am going to talk about bad medicine. The reason I desire to talk about people putting bad medicine on others and about An-*

*shinaabe talking about how others put bad medicine on them, it bothers me that these so called medicine men that we have here on the reservation, they right off the bat tell people that come to them for doctoring, "Someone has put bad medicine on you."*

Mii dash omaa wii-ni-dazhindamaan wenji-wanishkwe'ig- oyaan isa i'iw akeyaa inind a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke a'aw ni-wawiinge-maamaayiban, mii i'iw gaa-nisigod gii-tebwetang gii-maji-doodaagod inow bezhig inow akiwenziyibanen. Aana-gii- waawaabamaad iniw mashkikiwiniwan, mii-go gaawiin gii-naadamaagoowiziin. Geget gii-mashkawendam gii-anaamimaad inow akiwenziyibanen gii-maji- doodaagod.

*I am going to tell you why I am bothered by our Anishinaabe people being told this. I believe that my mother believed so strongly that one of the old men had put bad medicine on her and it eventually killed her. She would go see the doctors and none of that was able to help her. She really thought strongly in her mind that it was this old man that brought on her health problems.*

Ishke dash a'aw bemaadizid mashkawaamadagadini eyaang



imaa onaanaagadawendamowining. Ishke ani-debwetang miinawaa ani-ayaangwaami-minjiminang isa inendang maazhi-doodaagod awiya, mii imaa wenjikaamadagadini i'iw wenji-mino-ayaasig, mii-go eshkam ani-ayaakozid. Gaawiin odani-ikowebinaanziin i'iw akeyaa inendang.

*You see people have really powerful minds. If someone believes strongly and hangs on tightly to the idea that someone has put bad medicine on them, it is from there that their health will become worse. They do not discard or part with the idea that someone put bad medicine on them.*

Ishke noongom niwaabamaa a'aw Anishinaabe ani-debwetang maji-doodaagod awiya, mii imaa eshkam ani-ayin-igaanaagozid eshkam ani-ayaakozid. Ishke dash mii a'aw niwawiinge-maamaayiban gaa-izhiwebizid eshkam gii-ni-ayaakozid biinish gii-nisigod i'iw, gii-mashkawi-debweyendang geget ani-maji-doodaagod inow akiwenziyibanen gaa-anaamimaajin.

*Today I see some of the Anishinaabe that believe strongly that someone has put bad medicine on them, they begin to look more and more pitiful as they get sicker. This is what happened to my mother; she progressed in her illness to the point that it killed her, because she believed so strongly that this old man was out to do her in.*

Mii i'iw niin wenji-babaamendaziwaan i'iw maji-mashkiki. Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa niwii-ni-izhi-naanaagadawendan-ziin da-anaamingeyaan gaabige gegoo eni-izhiwebiziyaan. Naniizaanad igo akeyaa a'aw Anishinaabe izhi-naanaagadawendam.

*That is why I am not bothered or think about bad medicine. I do not want to think that way to suddenly blame someone for what has happened to me health wise. It is dangerous for Anishinaabe people to think this way.*

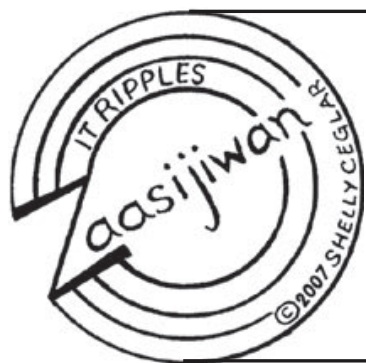
Ayaamadagad ina i'iw maji-mashkiki? Maagizhaa mew-inzha gii-ayaamadagidog gemaa. Ishke bezhig a'aw akiwenziyiban besho gaa-inawemag nigii-wiindamaag odaana- wii-gikinoo'amaagoon inow omaamaayibanen i'iw maji-mashkiki gaa-gikendaminid inow mindimooyeyibanen. "Mii gaawiin," gaa-izhi-inaad. Nigii-wiindamaag idash a'aw akiwenziyiban, "ani-aabajitood awiya i'iw maji-mashkiki ani-maazhi-doodawaad inow owiiji-anishinaaben obi-azheshkaagon awiya."

*Does bad medicine really exist? Probably long ago it existed. There was one old man that I was closely related to that told me that his mother wanted to teach him the bad medicine that she knew. "No," he said to her. That old man told me, "if someone were to use that bad medicine on someone, it would come back on them."*

Mii dash imaa aabiding gii-paa-minikweyaan, mii a'aw bezhig a'aw mindimooyeyiban ningii-nandomig da-bi-wiidabimang, mii dash imaa gii-wiindamawid, "Giwii-miinin i'iw mashkiki ge-aabajitooyan ani-maazhi-doodook a'aw giwii- anishinaabem. Ishke dash waa-onji-miinaan, ingii-pi-waabandaan ishkweyaang gaa-izhi-mino- doodawad miinawaa gaa-izhi-zaagi'ad a'aw nimaamaayiban." Gaawiin dash ingii-odaapinamawaasiin gayat ingiw gaa-nitawigi' ijig ningii-igoog, "Gego mamooken i'iw meji-ayi'iawang."

*Also at one time when I was out drinking there was this old lady that asked me to come sit with her. It was then that she told me, "I want to give you this medicine that you can use on Anishinaabe people that may have done you wrong. The reason I want to give you this medicine is because I saw in the past how good you were to my mother and showed her a lot of affection." I did not accept that offer from her, because those old people who raised me warned me not to take bad medicine.*

OJIBWEMOWIN see page 17



## Ziigwan—It is Spring

Zaasijiwan. Zaasijiwan nibi. Ziigwan maajijiwan i'iw ziibi. Gizhijiwan. Naanomaya gaa-ashi-niyo-biboogak gii-izhisin o'ow Ojibwemowin-mazina'igan. Naasaab nibi, Ojibwemowin zaasijiwan. Anishinaabeg giminowamin ezhkam. Anishinaabemodaa! Ojibwemodaa! Zaasijiwan mii nange. Daga gikinoo-amaageg! Chi-miigwech gakina awiyya.  
(It flows with a ripple. It ripples water. When it is spring it begins to flow that river. It flows fast. A little while ago, as it was fourteen winters/years, it was printed this way, this Ojibwe language page. Our nation, we speak well, more and more. Let's all speak Anishinaabe/Ojibwe language! Please teach it to someone! It ripples for sure. Great-thanks everyone.)

### Bezhig—1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.  
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
Aaniin—as in father  
Miigwech—as in jay  
Apii—as in seen  
Noondan—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O  
ldash—as in about  
Imaa—as in tin  
Niyyo—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.

**Transitive Inanimate Verbs**  
The VTI "to it" verbs—action speech for nonliving things.  
Bimiwidoon!—Carry it!  
Nimbimiwidoon.—I carry it.  
Gibimiwidoon.—You carry it.  
Nimbimiwidoomin.—S/he carries it.  
Obimiwidoonaawaa.—They carry it  
Gitigaadan.—Plant it!  
Ningitigaadaan (an).—I plant it.(them)  
Gigitigaadaan (an).—You plant it (them)  
Qigitigaadaan (an).—S/he plants it. (pl.)  
Nigitigaadaamiin.—We plant it/them.  
Gigitigaadaamin.—We all plant it.  
Qigitigaadaanaawaa (n).—They plant it.

### Niizh—2

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

A. Gidojibwem? Aaniin apii gidojibwemoyan?  
B. Gidaa-ojibwem amanj igo apii, dibi go noongom.  
C. Onaakonan! Gidibedaan Ojibwemowin. Dakonan!  
D. Gidaa-naagadawendan Ojibwemowin gabe-giizhig.  
E. Nimbizindawaa wejibwemod. Gaganoozh!  
F. Bezhigo-ikidowin. Nanda-gikendan!  
G. Wiisinin! Minikwen idash nibaan Ojibwemowin!

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

### Niswi—3

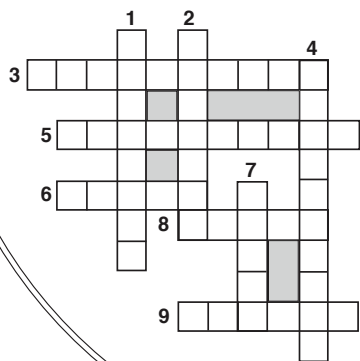
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- for sure
- Hold onto it!
- a little while ago
- river

Across:

- Plant it! (garden)
- I hear it!
- seeking something (preverb)
- #4 when counting something.
- somebody



### Niiwin—4

### VTI Conjugation Practice

Waabandan!—See it!  
Waazakonebidoon!—Turn it on!  
Aatebidoon!—Turn it out!  
Noondan!—Hear it! Gikendan! Know it!  
Ninoondaan.—I hear it.  
Giwaazakonebidoon.—You turn it on.  
Qwaabandaan.—S/he sees it.  
Qigikendaanaawaa.—They know it.  
Nindaatebidoomin.—We turn it out.  
Naagaj—later.  
Goojitoon! Try it!  
Translation below.

- \_\_\_\_\_bimiwidoon daga i'iw mashkimod.
- \_\_\_\_\_noodoo\_\_\_\_\_mazinaatesijigan iwidi.
- \_\_\_\_\_gitigaad\_\_\_\_\_gichi-gitigaan.
- \_\_\_\_\_waaband\_\_\_\_\_apabiwin nibewigamigong.
- \_\_\_\_\_aatebidoon ina 'i'iw waazakonejigan? Mii'iw.

### Translations:

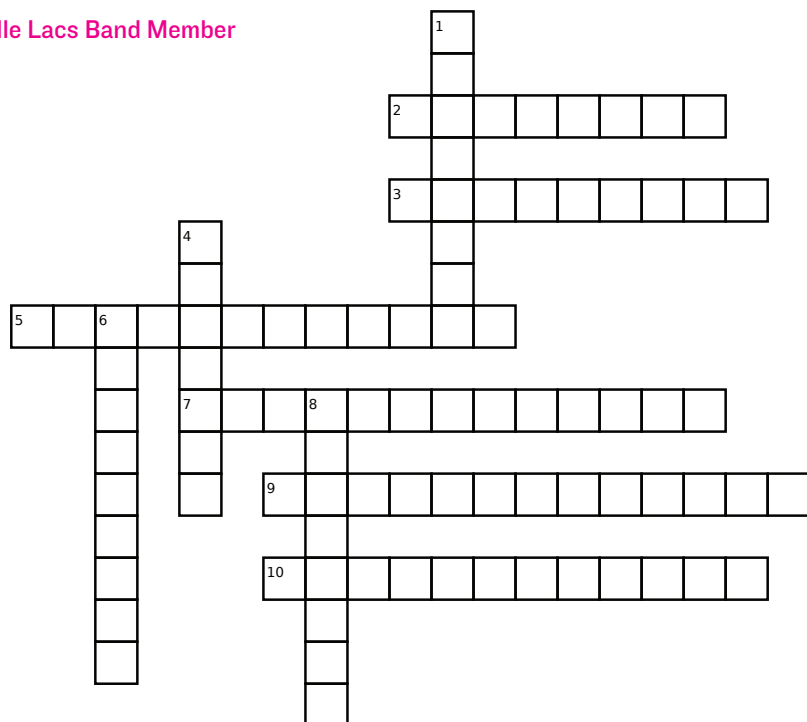
**Niizh—2** A. Do you speak Ojibwe language? When do you speak Ojibwe? B. You should speak Ojibwe anytime, anywhere now. C. Decide upon it! You own it Ojibwe. Hold on to it! D. You should think of Ojibwe language all day. E. Listen to the Ojibwe speaker. Talk to someone! F. One-word. Seek to learn it! G. Eat! Drink and sleep Ojibwe language!  
**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Mii nange. 2. Dakonan! 4. Naanomaya. 7. Ziibi.  
Across: 3. Gitigaandan! 5. Ninoondaan. 6. Nanda- 8. Niyyo- 9. Awiiya  
**Niiwin—4** 1. You carry it please that bag. 2. We hear it the television over there. 3. They plant a big garden. 4. He sees the chair in the bedroom. 5. Did you turn out that light? That's all.  
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@qlifwc.org.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Spring 2007. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.



# AAZHAWAAKWASING ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



## Down:

1. You take it off!
4. The weather is cold.
6. Wake up!
8. You wear it!

## Across

2. The weather is hot.
3. You help him/her!
5. Are you awake?
7. I am cleaning.
9. I am helping him/her.
10. I am wearing it.

## OJIBWEMOWIN from page 16

Mii gaye iko ingiw Anishinaabeg gii-tazhindamowaad, basikamawind awiya, mii imaa wenjikaamagadinig maazhi-doodawind gaye. Biinish gaye ingii-wiindamaagoo da-naniizaanen-imag aanind a'aw Anishinaabe maji-mashkiki oadaa-atoon imaa menikweyan baa-dazhibiiyan. Ishke gaye ingiw Anishinaabeg gaa-ikidowaad, mii ingiw mayaazhi-doodawinjig, mii imaa wenjida izhinaagwadinig biimidoonowaad.

*Our old Anishinaabe used to talk about walking into bad medicine and that is where something bad was done to the person. I was also warned in my drinking day that there were Anishinaabe that can put bad medicine in my drink. Our old people also said that those who were victimized by bad medicine had crooked mouths.*

Mii gaye gaa-izhi-wiindamaagooyaan a'aw bezhig a'aw nitaawisiban imaa agwajing naaniibawid niibaadibik gaa-izhi-waabandang imaa ishpinging ishkode ani-babiskaa-koseneyaamagadinig ani-bimi-ayaamagadinig. Na'idaa dash baashkizigan ogii-takonaan, mii imaa gii-paashkizang i'iw ishkode bemi-ayaamagadinig azhigwa gaa-miikwa'ang gaa-izhi-noondawaad imaa gii-noodaagozinid awiya, "YIYY!" gaa-inwewetoonid gaa-noondawaajin mindimooyeng gii-ini-taagoziwan. Wengish wiin inow oogokomisan baamibizonid gaa-paashkizwaagwenan. Mii dash imaa azhigwa ani-gigizhe-bawagak, mii imaa gii-noondang gii-chi-aakozinid oogokomisan. Mii gaye gaa-aabajii'aawaajin gookooko'oon naa gwiingwa'on gii-paa-maji-doodawaawaad awiya.

*I was also told that one of my cousins was standing outside at night when he saw a fireball flickering by. He happened to have a gun on him at the time and he shot that fireball. As soon as he hit that fireball with his shot he heard an old lady scream out, "YIYY." Here it must have been his grandmother that he shot who was flying by. It was then the next morning that he heard that his grandmother was really sick. They also used owl and whip-poor-wills when they went using about bad medicine on people.*

Misawaa-go i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-noondamaan ani-dazhin-jigaadeg i'iw maji- mashkiki, gaawiin nimbabaamendanziin i'iw da-ni-anaamingeyaan da-doodawid awiya mino-ayaasiwaan. Mii iko omaa ikidoyaan, "Aaniin danaa ge-izhiikawid awiya ne-

bowa wiin a'aw Anishinaabe odayaan wendam'igod. Gaawiin niin indaa-naanaagadawenimigosiin."

*No matter what I have seen or what I have been told about bad medicine, I do not think about it and sit there and blame someone for doing harm to me when I am sick. It is here that I say to myself, "Why would anyone want to bother with me, our Anishinaabe people have plenty on their mind, why would they be thinking about me?"*

Nebowa wenaajiwang gigii-miinigoowizimin anishinaabewiyang ge-apenimoyang. Mii iw ge-wenda-apiitendamang, gego wiin i'iw gidaa-babaamendanziimin i'iw mayaanaadak me-ji-ayi'iiwang. Ishke aanind a'aw Anishinaabe owenipanendaan wii- anaaminged ani-maazhised miinawaa mino-ayaasig. Mii iw ge-ni-ganawaabandang a'aw Anishinaabe, maagizhaa gaye enanjiged, mii imaa wenjikaamagadinig.

## SPRING CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES

Mic & Syngen, Mille Lacs, April 2 & 3, 2021

Andy, Mille Lacs, April 9 & 10, 2021

Lynda, Mille Lacs, April 16 & 17, 2021

Joe & George, Mille Lacs, April 23 & 24, 2021

Elmer & Sheldon, Mille Lacs, April 30 & May 1, 2021

Skip & Darrell, Lake Lena, May 7 & 8, 2021

Lee & Mike, Lake Lena, May 21 & 22, 2021

Tim & Tom, East Lake, May 21 & 22, 2021

Bob & Zhooshk, Mille Lacs, May 28 & 29, 2021

Dale & Vincent, East Lake, TBA

Niib & Iyawbance, East Lake, TBA

### AROUND THE REGION:

Giniwgiizhig, Cass Lake, April 30 & May 1, 2021

Jim & Louis, LCO, TBA

## GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Working on sound pronunciation will assist you with the receiving of the Ojibwe language. Start with what you already know. Wiisinin — "Wees sin nin" — the double vowel "ii" goes "ee," the single "i" goes "ih." Let's try a tough one! "Giga-waabamin." Say it out loud: "Gig guh wah bum min." No problem! All vowels keep their sounds constant. Using the language as much as you can every day will strengthen the connection, realign speech patterns, and develop new facial muscle memory.

Everyday words to practice with:

1. Goshkazin! — "Go shko zin!" (Wake up!)
2. Gigoshkoz ina? — "Gih go shkoz in nuh?" (Are you awake?)
3. Nimbiinichige. — "Nim bee nitch chig gay." (I am cleaning.)
4. Wiidookaw! — "Wee doo kaw." (You help him/her.)
5. Niwiidookawaa. — "Nih wee doo kaw waah." (I am helping him/her.)
6. Biizikan! — "Beez zih kun!" (You wear it!)
7. Nimbiizikaan. — "Nim beez zih kaan." (I am wearing it.)
8. Giizikan! — "Gee zih kun!" (You take it off!)
9. Gizhaate. — "Gih zhah tay." (The weather is hot.)
10. Gisinaa. — "Gih sih naah." (The weather is cold.)

Number 1-3 (VAI): You have noticed the exclamation at the end of words. This shows the words being used as a command. We all know the great word "Wiisinin," a command for "You eat." Every once in a while, our Shinaabe ears hear "Wiisigin," the command for more than one person to eat: "You all eat." Those endings can be added to other words which describe action known as VAI. Bimosen! = You walk!, Bimoseg! = You walk!

Number 4-5 (VTA): These types of verbs, VTA, describe the action between two beings. These lessons will focus on Niin, Giin, and Wiin, or Me, You, and Him/Her (3rd person). You see that the word changes when "Ni" or "Gi" were added. This expresses the relation. Gi\_verb\_aa is for you\_verb\_third person. Ni\_verb\_aa is I\_verb\_third person. A VTA with no Gi, Ni, or aa on it would show it in its command form for you\_verb\_third person as shown in #5.

Number 6-8 (VTI): Similar to VTA, these describe the action between an animate being and inanimate objects. Wear it! is the command used in #9. Then in #10 you notice that the ending adds an "a." This shows the relation between the being and the inanimate object. Ni\_verb\_aan is I\_verb\_it.

Number 9-10 (VII): General descriptions of inanimate objects use VII verbs. The weather is hot or cold. Zanaagad = it is tough. As you build your vocabulary, the words will start to show in other areas. Gizhaate = hot weather, Gizhizo = He/she has a fever (is hot).

"Ina" is the way of asking "yes or no" and always is in the second spot of the sentence. Gigoshkoz ina? Miigwech.

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

## GRAND CASINO EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# BAND MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY LOVE ABOUT WORK

**Name:** Jurney Elizabeth Matrious. Name given to me is Shkway-Gahbow-Ikwe which means "Last Standing Woman"

**Clan:** Sturgeon

**Length of service with Grand Casino:** Seven almost eight years in total I've been in the casino. I started when I was 16 to now.

**Position:** Slot Service Supervisor

**Education:** High School Diploma

**Family:** My mom's family is from Minnesota, and my dad's family is from Michigan. My grandfather was Larry Matrious and my grandmother was Lucille Meshigaud. My mother is Bonnie Matrious, and my father was Ronald Frye. I have three sisters and four brothers. Many cousins, aunts, uncles! I have a very big family, but I love all of them with all my heart.

**Hobbies:** My hobbies are reading a lot of books, hanging out with my nieces and nephews when I can, watching A LOT of Netflix and occasionally some video games with my fiancé when I'm home.

**First Job:** My first job was the Summer Youth Program MLB had come up with when I was 14 I believe. I worked there for two summers in a row. Once I turned 16, I got my first REAL job here at Grand Casino Hinckley as a housekeeper where I stayed for about four years.

**Previous Job:** Certified Nursing Assistant

**Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?** My dream job would be to either be the VP of Slots or Tables Games. Otherwise I can see myself as the General Manager or Assistant General Manager!

**What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday?** Date night with my fiancé being my "Monday" is Friday haha.

**What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino?** I am most proud of how far we've come not just as a community but overall. Especially during this pandemic! The necessary steps our leaders need to take to keep not only the guests but the employees safe as well.



**Name:** Charles Joseph Sam

**Length of service with Grand Casino:** 3 weeks

**Position:** Director of Hospitality

**Education:** Associate of Arts from Inver Hills Community College

**Family:** Wife, Lynn; Father, Mike Sam; Mother, Becky Ponto.

**Hobbies:** Camping, fishing, hiking.

**First Job:** Dishwashing at Freddie's in Mora.

**Previous Job:** Delivery Driver at Pizza Luce in St Paul.

**Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?** Working at a resort way up north.

**What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday?** Take my dog out on an adventure.

**What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino?** Being a part of a place that creates opportunities of Band members and the surrounding area.



**Name:** Arielle Lynn Shaw (Beaulieu) Naawaakamigookwe

**Clan:** Eagle/Migizi

**Length of service with Grand Casino/MLBO:** 12 years

**Position:** Director of Finance, Grand Casino Mille Lacs

**Education:** AAS in Accounting, BA in Management, MA in Leadership

**Family:** Grandparents Doug Sam & Christine Sam (Skinaway) and Georgiana Day, Parents Maxine Sam and Jeffrey Beaulieu, Siblings, Jessica Mitchell, Ashley Boyd, Anthony Beaulieu, and Craig Beaulieu. Spouse Nicholas Shaw, Children Jenai, Jayla, Abigail and Reese.

**Hobbies:** Spend time with family, watching movies, and reading any type of books — educational or non fiction.

**First Job:** Teacher's Assistant at Mille Lacs Early Education

**Previous Job:** Finance Staff Accountant

**Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?** Running my own business so I could set my own work hours.

**What is the one thing you would rather do instead of going to work on Monday?** I would like to go down to the Cities to shop or go find some good food.

**What are you most proud of as a Band member working for Grand Casino?** Seeing other Band members in powerful positions paving the way for our future generation of Band members.



**GUEST SAFETY MEANS HOUSE RULES... AND A LOT OF SANITIZING.**

Check out all we're doing at [grandcasinomn.com](http://grandcasinomn.com).

Let your story begin. GRAND CASINO MILLE LACS HINCKLEY

## LOOKING FOR WORK?

If you're interested in a job at Grand Casinos, visit [mlcvjobs.com/careers/](http://mlcvjobs.com/careers/). For tribal government jobs, see [millelacsband.com/jobs](http://millelacsband.com/jobs).



## DISTRICT III VACCINE CLINIC

Health and Human Services held vaccine clinics in District III on February 24 and March 24. After patients registered with Public Health Director Lisa Olivarez, their vitals were checked by Kim Schiller and Carol DeMars. Dianne Barrick of Hinckley received her shot from Tiffany Bellanger, who was one of four giving vaccines. "Was that it?" Diane asked, after barely noticing the shot. Also on site to assist with the clinic and ensure patients' safety were diabetes coordinator Jackie Braun, Pharmacy Manager Jesse Godding, Dr Brian Riddle, Public Health Home Care Coordinator Nicole Narveson, and Colleen McKinney with vegetable seeds and other swag.

## BAND MEMBER VOICES

# ZHAKAMOONIND AWIYA (SPOONFEEDING)

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



As Anishinaabe, there is a cycle of energy that has been flowing since the creator acknowledged we needed additional help. A flow of spiritual energy was created with Manidoog agreeing to extend their energy toward us. This is what I have come to understand as bi-maadiziwin: the cycle of life that is guided by spiritual energy. That's the hair raising on your arm when you open your heart to the drum. It's

the good feeling when you hear Anishinaabe laugh. The sadness when your relative travels on to the land of everlasting happiness. It's all energy, spiritual energy.

As the story goes, Wenabozho's nephew traveled on. When I first heard the old men talk about this, they said that the old men that told this story mentioned someone may have killed him. This is wrapped up on our Aadizookaanag and I encourage you all to learn stories. Wenabozho's grief shook his spirit and was so strong that anything he touched got damaged.

The same is with us as Anishinaabe. When we experience grief, it overwhelms our physical consciousness. Some say we have been in a state of grief for centuries. I believe it. Our spirits are shook. Some things that we touch/interact with get damaged due to our grief, especially if we hold in the grief and/or express it unhealthily. The old men said if we hold it in, we become like a keg with no air hole. We would eventually explode, and it would be the people closest to us that are hurt.

The damage we do to our spiritual food plays out in the same way. It is said that we can hurt the next crop as it is growing in the wild. An old man told me that is why the rice left Lake Ogechie. In such trying times, there are those that weren't taught cultural protocols. They riced the lake and it eventually stopped producing. Can it be the same with the walleye? We would like to point out the physical attributes but we also must consider the spiritual as well. We are spiritual beings having a physical experience.

Zhakamoonind Awiya (when someone is spoonfed) is the protocol that has been taught here in Mille Lacs. I remember when I was young, someone would come to my grandma's house and spoon feed us all. A non-relative would harvest, cook, and feed the community if they hadn't lost a close relative. Deer, rice, fish, and maple sugar is what I remember, but there are more. A spoon feeding with a tobacco offering reintroduces a grieving spirit to that spiritual food reconnecting to the energy available to Anishinaabe. This makes it OK to go back out and continue harvesting. The definition of close relative is up to you and the spirits to decide. Our relations are not bound by the physical only but in conjunction with the spiritual. If there was someone not physically related to you but close nonetheless, that's a spiritual connection.

If there is something we can all do for one another, it would be to get spoon fed while grieving. It honors our ancestors, our currently living Anishinaabe, and the relatives of the future. It would help your spirit and the community's spirit as we endure our grief and grow. Miigwech.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

# ATTORNEY IS FIRST REVISOR OF STATUTES

Hanna Valento, who has been a Staff Attorney with the Legislative Branch since August of 2019, has been named the Mille Lacs Band's first-ever Revisor of Statutes.

The new Revisor's Office, which was a high priority for Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd when he ran in 2018, was made possible by the passage of Title 25 on December 2, 2020.

"I'm very excited about the position," said Hanna. "I have already reviewed two titles and have a lot of work ahead of me."

Part of Hanna's job will be to create Certificates of Correctness for each title to ensure that what is reflected to Band members and employees is accurate law. "The hardest part is finding the documents that are cited," said Hanna. "Older documents weren't historically saved on a computer, so we have to go through them all, scan them in, and save them. I recently looked through a title and the cited ordinances, and I came

across additional language that shouldn't have been added. This is problematic, but we are currently in the process of fixing it by adding the additional language to the statute through a signed ordinance."

Hanna has also been collecting resolutions, ordinances, Legislative Orders, Executive Orders, Opinions of the Solicitor, Commissioner's Orders, Chief Justice Orders, and more to add to the Tribal Register, a new webpage that will be added to the Band's website. "This will be huge for Band members and employees, as this will create a 'one stop shop' for some of the most important documents produced in the Band's government," Hanna said.

Hanna will also work directly with the District Representatives to draft legislation, which will help Band Assembly members to pass legislation at a consistent pace.

# RECOGNIZE FRAUD, REJECT IT, REPORT IT

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

If you witness, suspect, or know of fraudulent, improper, or suspicious activity at any Grand Casino location, please contact the Fraud Hotline immediately. When you contact the hotline via text or call, be sure to provide as much detail as possible. We may need to contact you for additional information, so we ask that you please include contact information, though this is not required. All reports will be kept confidential.

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.

### GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

GRA Board meetings are open to the public. This month's meetings are at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, and Thursday, April 22, via Zoom. Visit our website at [millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority](http://millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority).

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

## CLEAN INDOOR AIR TIPS

Maintaining clean air in your house is crucial to your family's health. Here are some easy ways you can keep the air in your house clean.

**Furnaces:** Furnace filters remove everything from large pieces of dust to microscopic mold spores and pollen from the air. Furnace filters should be changed every 20 to 60 days, depending on the amount of dust in the air. The furnace intake and exhaust should also be checked every three months to ensure that the ports are free of debris that may be obstructing them.

**Dryer exhaust:** Dryer exhausts, which are located outside of homes, need to be cleaned on a monthly basis, and dryer exhaust ducts should be cleaned every 6 to 12 months. Lint buildup will not only prevent your clothes from drying properly, but it may make the exhaust too hot and catch the trapped lint on fire.

**Bathroom exhaust:** In addition to removing moisture from the air, bathroom exhaust fans collect the dust that is in the air. This decreases the amount of moisture the fans remove from the bathroom air. Clean bathroom exhaust covers at least once every three months, and have the exhaust duct cleaned every 1-3 years.

**Range hood exhaust:** Range hood exhausts, which remove excess steam and combustion gasses from your kitchen, have a metallic grease screen that needs to be cleaned on a monthly basis. Due to some kitchen configurations, range hoods may recirculate the air into the house through a charcoal filter. This filter should be changed every 3-6 months.

**ERV/HRV:** Some homes are equipped with heat exchangers, either energy recovery ventilation (ERV) or heat recovery ventilation (HRV). Typically, these units have a sponge pre-filter and a filter core that need to be cleaned periodically. The sponge pre-filter should be removed, washed, and placed back in the heat exchanger monthly. Filter cores vary by design, so check with the manufacturer's instructions. ERV and HRV intake and exhaust ports also should be cleaned of debris every three months.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Mille Lacs Band members can be paid for photographs or news stories published in *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. Email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851.

## CORRECTIONS

In the March issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, Dean Reynolds' mother was incorrectly identified. Dean's mother is Rose Wind. We apologize for the error.

In the same issue, we referred to the late Jim Clark by his Ojibwe name Naawigiizis. We should have used Naawigiizisiban.

As explained by James Clark, Jim's great-grandson, who is working on language revitalization for the Band, "This is to show that he is not here on this Earth anymore and is also used as a sign of respect in the language."

# MEKWENIMINJIG

## THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

### Edward Hanson

Edward Hanson, 29-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on March 8, 2021. Visitation began at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Edward Goodwin Hanson was born on February 3, 1992, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Earl Hanson Sr. and Bonnie Boyd. He liked to spend his time watching TV, coloring, fishing, and swimming. He is survived by his parents, Earl Hanson Sr. and Bonnie Boyd; son, Alex; brothers, Earl Jr. and Ernest; sister, Elizabeth; aunt, Shelly; grandparents, Clarence and Irene; and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

### Janet Benjamin

Baabiiyobiikwe, Janet Benjamin, 55-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on February 26, 2021. A visitation was held at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebinas officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Janet Benjamin was born on April 19, 1965, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Evelyn (Weyaus) and Arthur Benjamin. She enjoyed spending her time listening to music, coloring, and watching Lifetime movies on TV. Janet liked to post and connect with others on her Facebook page, being with all the grandkids, and going on rides to visit family and friends. She will be dearly missed by all.

Janet is survived by her daughters, Melissa (Rodney Jr.) Boyd, Krisanne Benjamin, and Rose Killspenty; sons, Philip Benjamin Sr., Travis Weyaus, Anthony Weyaus, and Derrick Weyaus Sr.; sister, Sheila Benjamin; brothers, Raymond Benjamin and Bernard Weyous; 25 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Evelyn (Weyaus) and Arthur Benjamin; grandparents, Joseph and Mary (Littlewolf) Benjamin; son, Daniel Weyaus Sr.; sisters, Betty, Sheryl, and Debra.

### Robina Eagle

Opichi Migizi, Robina Lou Eagle, 60 year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on February 15, 2021, in Onamia. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Funeral Ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Waagosh officiating. Interment was in the



Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Opichi Migizi, Robina Lou Eagle was born on March 23, 1960, in Onamia, to Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin Allen Eagle Sr. Robina loved spending time with her daughter, grandkids, and great-grandkids. She liked visiting her friends from the Green Acres Trailer Park. Robina enjoyed playing her casino games on her phone but really loved playing at the real casino, and she liked doing her crossword puzzles. Robina loved her job working for the Nay Ah Shing Upper School. Her favorite was listening to her Pandora music, which she called her "Pandy."

Opichi Migizi, Robina Lou Eagle is survived by her daughter, Shannon Eagle; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Marquita, Yolanda (Mileena, X'zavier, Gabriel) Aaron, Tyler, Joshua, Krista (Lorenzo'Lee, Ray'Lee), Karli, and Janessa; sisters, Janice Dorr, Pamela Eagle, Rosella Eagle, Angeline Eagle, and Sheila Benjamin; brothers, Brian Eagle and Roy Eagle.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin Allen Eagle Sr.; brothers, Melvin Duane Eagle Jr. and James Dorr; sisters, Rosemary Dorr, Elizabeth Dorr, Melvina Eagle, Annabelle Eagle, and Victoria Eagle; nephews, Thomas Eagle and Daniel Weyaus.

### Lynelle Brooks

Nazhike-awaasanookewe, Lynelle Marie (Northbird) Brooks, 35-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on February 8, 2021, in Onamia. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Visitation began at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Nazhike-awaasanookewe, Lynelle was born on April 29, 1985, in Duluth, to Darryl Northbird and Tammi Gahbow. She enjoyed being with her family, especially her boys. Taking care of her friends and discovering new places to eat was how she liked to spend her time. Lynelle was Mide, danced jingle dress, and attended powwows across the country. She will be missed by all.

Nazhike-awaasanookewe is survived by her sons, Aidden and Freeman; brothers, Spud and Lance; sisters, Skye, Arianna, Brittany, Allaurah, Devon, Julia, and Demery; auntie, Corrina; and many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Tami; and her grandmother, Lorena "Panji" Gahbow.

### Joycelyn Shingobe

Biidwewekwe, Joycelyn Marie Shingobe, 69-year-old resident of Garrison, passed away on January 25, 2021, at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 29, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Obizaan officiating. Visitation began at 6 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment was in Woodland Burial Grounds.



Biidwewekwe, Joycelyn Marie Shingobe, was born on January 4, 1952, in Cloquet, to Joseph and Susan (Mitchell) Shingobe. She received her associate degree at Brainerd Com-

munity College and a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from Metropolitan State University. She later received her Master's in Tribal Administration & Governance (MTAG) from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Biidwewikwe was a skilled orator and preservationist of Ojibwe history and culture, with an emphasis on Mille Lacs Band history, past, present, and future. A skilled craftswoman, she remembers her time spent with her grandmother, Jenny Mitchell, and Cecilia Dorr as the inspiration and beginnings for her continued artistry and further contributions to her fellow Anishinaabeg. Biidwewekwe began her career in education working for Head Start, and throughout her professional career, she remained a champion for education for young and old. Eventually, she was appointed the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Commissioner of Education, where she oversaw the Band's educational programs and services. A true leader in her community, Joycelyn always advocated for education, from Early Head Start to Higher Education, and donated to various charities. She was Mide and a Drumkeeper. She made moccasins for all kinds of ceremonies, and even shared her talent with those willing to learn.

Joycelyn enjoyed beading and quilting, and she proudly assisted her son Jourdain with traditional harvesting such as ricing and maple sapping. She liked to spend her time reading, attending various ceremonies, being with family, and keeping up with the WWE on TV. Joycelyn loved to celebrate birthdays and holidays with family by going all-out with food and creating a memorable feast for everyone. She loved the birds and made sure she always had birdseed to fill up her bird feeders around her house, and caring for her cats.

Biidwewekwe is survived by her mother, Susan M. Shingobe; sons, John Benjamin and Jourdain Wedell; daughters, LeAnn (Mark Solis) Benjamin and Lorelei (Ernest) Boyd; grandchildren, Heather, Amber, and Joseph; great-granddaughter, Nyah; brother, Kelvin Shingobe Sr.; sister, Charlene Shingobe; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Shingobe; brother, Kenneth Mitchell Sr.; grandparents, Sam and Jenny Mitchell; and special nieces, Kelly Mitchell and Justine Shingobe.

### Carleen Benjamin

Carleen Benjamin "Gi-witaasekwe" died on Friday, January 22, 2021, at her home. She was 64 years old.

Carleen, a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, was born in Siren, Wisconsin, to James and Nina (Sutton) Benjamin. Throughout her life, she lived in Sandstone and Lake Lena and worked in maintenance tech and was a prep cook. She enjoyed gambling, spending time with her grandchildren and family, going to thrift stores, and putting puzzles together. She was a wonderful lady who was respected in the community. She would help anyone and had a smile we will all remember.

She is preceded in death by her parents, James and Nina; her brothers, Richard and Ken; and her sisters, Hildred, Dora, Emma, and Beatrice.

Carleen is survived by her children, Dawn Roseland, Virgil Benjamin, Shawn Benjamin, and Candice Benjamin; her sisters, Judy, Laurie, Eileen and Roberta; her brothers, Clifford and Randy; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and her grandson that she cared for as if he were her own son, Baby Brett.

Services were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, at Aazhoomog Community Center with Skip Churchill officiating. Visitation was on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. also at the center. Casketbearers were Dalton Roseland, Colton Benjamin, Joe Thompson, Scott Matrious, Larry Staples, and Shannon Thomas. Burial was at Stevens Lake Cemetery.



## Ralph Pawaush

Ralph Pawaush, "Zaagajiw," age 86, a resident of Webster, passed away on January 12, 2021.

Ralph was born in Cloquet on November 8, 1934, to Jack and Eliza Pawaush.

Ralph married the love of his life, Dolores Bearheart, on July 20, 1954.

Ralph spent his life teaching Ojibwe at the LCO College, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and the St. Croix Tribal Center. He also served as a ceremonial Drumkeeper. In his free time, he enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing, feeding the birds and squirrels, and harvesting medicine.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Eliza; daughters, Diana Pawaush and Mona Martin; infant grandson, Jason; grandsons, Anthony Jr. and Nathan; brothers, Donald Pawaush Sr., Melvin Pawaush, Emery Pawaush, Charlie Pawaush; sisters, Laura Ann Bullchild and Virginia Bullchild; and uncle, Clifford.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores; children, Tony (Crystle Bosin) Pawaush, Lorne (Laurel Sutton) Pawaush, Jackie (David) Shabaish, and Curtis Pawaush; grandchildren, Davien, Diana, Samuel, Autumn, Tina, Melvin, Jessica, Nicole, Katelyn, Tyler, Cody, Lisa, Brian, and Derek Lee; along with many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



## Loretta Smith

Bagamaanakwadookwe, Loretta Smith, 73-year-old resident of Onamia, passed away on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at the St. Cloud Hospital. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment was in the Indian Point Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Bagamaanakwadookwe, Loretta Smith was born on July 15, 1947, in Cloquet, to Joe and Harriet (Gahbow) Nayquonabe. She enjoyed shopping, especially at thrift stores, and watching the grandkids. Loretta liked to spend her time cooking, collect-



ing various cookbooks, watching the Minnesota Vikings, and her soaps on TV. She will be dearly missed by all.

Bagamaanakwadookwe is survived by her husband, David Smith Jr.; sons, David Smith III and Elliot Smith; daughters, Elizabeth Smith and Lydia Smith; brothers, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Elmer Nayquonabe, and Russell Nayquonabe; sisters, Bonita Nayquonabe, Beverly Nayquonabe, Delia Nayquonabe; grandchildren, Amber, Samuel, Daniel, Hunter, Charles, Elvis, Sunshine, Keith, Sebastian, Dylan Jr., Malerie, Leroy, Ethan, Tyres, Jasmine, Brody, Alex; great-grandchildren, Lincoln, Emma, Henry, Christopher, Addyson, Ceaira, Deandre, Caden, Jaden, Lilyann, Elijah, Carter, Andreyah, Andre.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Harriet (Gahbow) Nayquonabe; daughters, Lisa and Tina; son, Christopher; brother, Victor; granddaughter, Chelsie.

## Mathew Cash

Netamiigaabaw, Mathew Thomas Cash, 31-year-old resident of Brainerd, passed away on January 7, 2021. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Skip Churchill officiating. Visitation began at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Interment was in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Netamiigaabaw, Mathew Thomas Cash was born on December 18, 1989, in Brainerd, to Elaine Sam and Kyle Cash. He enjoyed being with his children and family. Mathew liked to spend his time outdoors, listening to music, and posting on social media. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Netamiigaabaw, Mathew Thomas Cash is survived by his mother, Elaine Sam; father, Kyle Cash; sons, Emilio Cash, Dominic Cash, and Nation Cash; daughters, Jurnee Chapel and Evianna Cash; brother, Nicholas Cash Sr.; sisters, Shannon Eagle, Samantha Cash, and Kayla Cash; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Melissa Cash, and grandparents, Lorena Gahbow and Archie Cash Sr.

*Please submit memorials and photos for Mekweniminjig to news@millelacsband.com. Because this is a new feature in the Inaajimowin, we are accepting tributes for Band members who have passed away beginning January 1, 2021.*



## BACK IN TIME

### 10 years ago — 2011

Grand Casino Mille Lacs celebrated its 20th anniversary. Eric Omdahl, a ninth-grader at Onamia High School, was recently named a national honor student from the U.S. Achievement Academy. Band member Carla Big Bear, Chief Executive Marge Anderson, Local Community Coordinator Elizabeth Scott, and Deputy Assistant Nancy Wood visited with Senator Al Franken during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference (see photo below). More than 600 Band members and community members attended the Treaty Rights Celebration on March 24 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The event celebrated the Treaty of 1837 and the Supreme Court victory that reaffirmed the Band's treaty rights.

### 15 years ago — 2006

The Band's Emergency Services Department received an award for its programs and community partnerships at the 41st Annual Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference. Tenants of the Month were Mike Eagle, Kim Peet, Danielle Boyd, and Dawn Bengston. The Mille Lacs Band Royalty sent a huge thank you to Dan Oehrlin for donating almost all the food for their Indian taco sale, for his famous fry bread, and for all his help the day of the sale. Andy Garbow shared his recipe for rabbit stew. The Bois Forte Band was planning to propose a resolution to change the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's enrollment criteria to recognize ancestry from additional Chippewa bands in the region.

### 20 years ago — 2001

Mille Lacs Band District Representatives and Commissioners have held meetings in each of the reservation's districts and in the urban area to get Band members' input on the budget for years 2002-03. Band member Diane Gibbs was recognized for her commitment to Indian women by the National Institute for Women of Color. She received the "Award of Merit" for her lifelong work to improve the lives of women of color. Band member Donald Graves is the new Director of Surveillance at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Band member Ryan Pendegayosh is the newest member of the security department at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, having recently earned the position of Director of Security. The Tribal Police Department will host the Art Gahbow Day picnic on April 23 beginning at 11:30 at the District I powwow grounds. All Band members are invited for the meal and special activities. Grand Casino charter associates Dave Boyd, Joe Mojica, and Joel Shaugobay shared their thoughts on 10 years of service.

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



## TEN, TWENTY, THIRTY — AND COUNTING!

From the May 2001 Inaajimowin — In honor of the 10th anniversary of Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the Corporate Commission presented a preliminary sketch of a painting by Steve Premo to Commissioner of Administration Sheldon Boyd, who accepted the gift on behalf of Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. From left to right: Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Mitch Corbine, Artist Steve Premo, Grand Casino Mille Lacs Assistant General Manager Brad Kalk, Mille Lacs Band Spiritual Advisor Lee Staples, Commissioner of Administration Sheldon Boyd, Grand Casino Mille Lacs General Manager Rob Johnson, and Vice President of Marketing Roland Hill. Rob, Mitch, and Sheldon all spoke about the changes that have occurred during the past 10 years. Following the kick-off event were two sold-out performances by country legend Kenny Rogers and a fireworks display that proved to be stunning despite the cloudy day.

# TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

## APRIL ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Roland Lee Anderson  
Susan Mary Antonelli  
Dorothy Ann Aubid  
Alicia Faye Barnes  
Terry Louis Beaulieu  
Myron Jay Benjamin  
Donald James Boyd  
Donivon Leroy Boyd  
Wayne Theodore Boyd  
Debra Lynn Ceballos  
Sharon Lee Chavarria  
Raymond Charles Daly  
Connie Lynn DeMarsh  
Wesley Dorr  
Kathleen Marie Earth  
Rhonda Kay Engberg  
Dana Rachelle Fahrlander  
Nancy Mae Foster  
Denise Renee Foxx  
Duane Wallace Haaf  
Gwendolyn Marie Hanold  
Douglas Happy  
Bryan Lloyd Holm  
Darryl Vernon Jackson

James Brian Jones  
Leroy Duane Kegg  
Raymond Kegg  
Victoria Jean Kroschel  
Glenda Marie Landon-Rosado  
Laura Ann MacClean  
Louis Kevin Merrill  
Gregory Allen Mishler  
Karen Nina Moe  
Bonita Louise Nayquonabe  
Russell Daniel Nayquonabe  
Donald John Nelson  
Gloria Jean Nickaboine  
Sherry Marie Nielsen  
Dianne Renee Olsen  
Penelope Ann Olseth  
Jamie Ernest Pardun  
Ricky Harold Pardun  
Gregory Allen Pawlitschek  
Elaine Mary Rea  
Solita Efigenia Reum  
Richard James Reynolds  
Laurie Jean Rogerson  
Lorraine Diane Sam  
Denise Fay Sargent  
Ruth Anne Schaaf

George Augustus Sharlow  
Perry Don Skinaway  
Debra Ann Smith  
Rodney Wayne Smith  
Ruth Helen Stafford  
Marvin Lee Staples  
Walter Charles Sutton  
Carmen Marie Tyler  
Gail Marie Tyson  
Brandon Lynn Vainio  
Robert Duane Wakanabo  
Deanna Louise Weous  
Eloise Alice Yanez

## HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happiest birthday to our husband/dad/step-dad **Kevin** on April 8! Love Marie, Rylee, Blake, Caleb, Gabby, and Stina • Happy Birthday **Henry** April 14 love mom, dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Wes, Trinity, Waase, Brynley, Binesiikwe, Bianca, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, Myla, Auntie Randi,

Auntie Rachel, Rory, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taylor, and Adam • Happy Heavenly Birthday To Our Beautiful Mother **Kateri Boswell** on April 15, 56 years old. Every day goes by where I think of you all the time wished you was here with us still Love you mom Snooks, Jaagaab, Ricki, Antwaun, cheyaunna, lil Ricki, Baby Ant, Laila, Crudd, Frances • Happy birthday To **Laila Mitchell** April 20 from Snooks Jaagaab Ricki and the rest of the family • Happy

birthday **Kelia** on April 20 from Grandma, Mom, Railie, Candace, Cyrell, Camden, Carmelo, and Uncle Richard • Happy birthday to our son/brother/bf **Blake** April 24th love dad, Marie, Rylee, Caleb, Gabby, Stina, Maylee and baby Hudson! • Happy birthday to our son/brother/bf **Rylee** on April 25 love dad, Marie, Blake, Caleb, Gabby, Stina, Lucy and Zoey • Happy Birthday **Aiva** April 26, love Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Pie, and Myla

## 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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the May issue is April 15. Photos may be included if space allows. If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government Affairs office at 320-237-6851 or email [news@millelacsband.com](mailto:news@millelacsband.com).

# 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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.

Don't worry — we will not share your email or overwhelm you with emails. 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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) so we can add you to the list!

## CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services.



## 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><b>SPRING CLEANUP</b></p> <p>Mark your calendar with the following dates: District I — Saturday, April 17, through Monday, April 26; District II and IIa — Saturday, May 1, through Friday, May 7; District III: Lake Lena and Hinckley — Saturday, April 24, to Friday, April 30.</p> <p><b>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</b></p> <p>Most 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. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 and Fridays at 6:30. ID 214 608 6245, and the password is Redroad.</p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Mic and Syngen's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> <i>See below.</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Mic and Syngen's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at <a href="http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu">ojibwe.lib.umn.edu</a>.</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Andy's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Andy's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Elder food distribution</b> Districts I, II, and III. 1–3 p.m. <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Elder food distribution</b> Urban Office. 1–3 p.m. <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Statewide Tornado Drill</b> 1:45 and 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Lynda's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>District I Spring Cleanup Begins</b> <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Lynda's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>District I Spring Cleanup April 17–26</b> <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Joe and George's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>District III Spring Cleanup Begins</b> <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Joe and George's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>District III Spring Cleanup April 17–26</b> <i>See page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Talking Circle</b> 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>AA</b> 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Art Gahbow Day</b> Government offices closed.</p> <p><b>Migizi Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above.</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Wellbriety Celebrating Families</b> 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting</b> 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Elmer and Sheldon's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>Zooming into Recovery NA</b> 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Elmer and Sheldon's ceremonial dance</b> Mille Lacs</p> <p><b>District II and IIa Spring Cleanup Begins</b> <i>See page 9.</i></p>



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# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

ISKIGAMIZIGE-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 4

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



## HEALING CIRCLE

Asiiniikwe and other reservation women offer help to those in need. See pages 2 and 6.

### 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](http://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](mailto:news@millelacsband.com) or call 320-237-6851. The May issue deadline is April 15.

### NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

**Community Support Services:** 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.

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