



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



Members of the Band Assembly — Representatives Marvin Bruneau, Wally St. John, and Virgil Wind, and Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd — were joined by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin for the launch of live-streaming on June 2.

ASSEMBLY LAUNCHES LIVE-STREAMING

A new era in tribal government — and an expanded commitment to transparency — was ushered in on June 2 with the launch of live-streamed Band Assembly meetings. From now on, any Band member with an internet connection can watch meetings either in real time or after the fact through millelacs-band.com.

Mick Davis is one of many Band members who have tuned in to watch government in action. “I think it’s one of the best things we’ve done as a Band,” said Mick. “In the past, people couldn’t attend because of COVID-19, and before that because of transportation issues.”

Mick lives in District II and works for the Band as an advocate in the Elder abuse prevention program. He has attended Band Assembly meetings in the past when he was required to by his job or his role as delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but most of the time it was impossible for him to be there.

Mick enjoys the updates from elected officials that have become part of the live-streaming routine, as well as the financial information that has been shared. He also pointed out that Band Assembly has caught up on approval of minutes from past meetings.

“I think things are going in a better direction with live-streaming,” Mick said. “With the Tuesday meetings and Thursday work sessions, you see how busy they are, and when you vote for someone, you want to know that they’re doing the work. It’s good for everybody to see that transparency is coming about. It’s a long time coming, and I thank Sheldon and the rest of the Band Assembly for moving forward.”

Although he has heard about login difficulties some Band members have had, Mick is understanding. “It’s a process. It’s new, and there are some glitches, but overall it’s a great thing.”

District III Representative Wally St. John said, “I firmly believe that WE, as a band united, benefit from live-streamed Band Assembly meetings. Many times I have asked Band members to attend Band Assembly meetings to hear and witness what happens within.”

LIVE-STREAMING see page 4

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

For Sylvia Wise, the District III Associate Justice in the Mille Lacs Band’s Court of Appeals, serving her people is more than just a job. “It’s a good way for me to pay back because I got my education through the Band,” said Sylvia. “It’s a passion for me, to get to know the people and learn more about the culture.”

Sylvia was grounded in her culture from an early age. Her parents, Beatrice Taylor and Louis St. John, instilled Ojibwe values and traditions in their 11 children, which has helped Sylvia make decisions in her own life — and as a Justice.

“I think the responsibility that judgeship holds means you have to be secure within yourself,” said Sylvia. “You have to know yourself, your values, your strengths and weaknesses.”

Sylvia was surprised when Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin asked if she was interested in the position. “I thought we’d need training in the law, but when she said we didn’t, I said I’d be interested and give it a try,” said Sylvia. “When you start

something and complete it to the best of your ability, you build self-confidence. When I do my best and give it 100 percent, I like feeling that pride in myself.”

So far, Sylvia has heard two cases, and she was also called upon to swear in District I Associate Justice David Sam in May. Ramona Applegate was the District II justice who swore in Sylvia last December, but she has since retired.

“I think the people should have gratitude for the justice system,” said Sylvia. “This is a chance to bring up their issues and know that somebody’s on their side. The justices are making sure everything is fair, that nobody’s getting railroaded. Band members are very fortunate that we have this program.”

Sylvia has enjoyed learning more about the policies and procedures of the Band, and she looks forward to continuing to serve when all three justice positions are filled.

Her life experiences have given her wisdom and what she calls a “level head.”

JUSTICE see page 5

COURT OF APPEALS SIDES WITH ENBRIDGE ON LINE 3

The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled on June 14 in support of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission’s approval of the Line 3 pipeline.

Plaintiffs in the case include the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Red Lake Nation, and the White Earth Nation; Friends of the Headwaters, Honor the Earth, the Sierra Club and Youth Climate Intervenors; and the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

The decision came 10 days after more than 200 activists were arrested at protests near Itasca State Park.

On June 24, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reaffirmed its support of Enbridge’s Line 3 permits.

The \$400 billion pipeline is more than 60 percent complete, according to Enbridge.

See the August issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* for more on the Band’s legal challenges to the pipeline.

CHILD TAX CREDIT AVAILABLE TO WORKING FAMILIES, LOW-INCOME BAND MEMBERS. SEE PAGE 5.

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! Congratulations to all our Band graduates this spring. Whether a Band member graduated from Kindergarten or graduated with their Ph.D., we are very proud of all our Mille Lacs Band graduates. Learning and making academic progress in the midst of a pandemic has been very challenging for our student learners and for our teachers, so I want to acknowledge all the hard work and determination on the part of students, education staff, and parents/caregivers that went into supporting our students of all ages who graduated this spring. Miigwech to all.

Our Band Statutes, which are the laws we must follow,

DO YOU NEED HELP TO STAY INDEPENDENT?

The Mille Lacs Band's Health and Human Services Department's Community Support Services (CSS) program has been working to help you and your loved ones stay well and stay independent at home. CSS is building a new program to support our community members who are Elders or living with chronic illnesses or disabilities. We need to hear from the community so the Band can make sure you and your loved ones get what you need to live well and stay independent for as long as possible. Please watch for the survey coming soon to your mailbox. You can also use this link to complete the survey online by July 23, 2021: <https://forms.gle/5vgE8MeaZ9f2wt6r5>.

state that the four-year terms of several commissioner positions will end on June 30, 2021. Beginning July 1, new four-year terms will begin for the positions of Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Commissioner of Natural Resources, and Commissioner of Education. Every four years, the Chief Executive nominates qualified people to serve in these positions. If the Band Assembly votes to ratify (approve) a nominee for the position, that person begins serving as a commissioner on July 1 for a new four-year term.

These commissioner positions serve on our Administrative Policy Board (APB). Our Band Statutes require that APB meet on the second Thursday of each month or more frequently if needed as a decision-making body. Some of the decisions that APB makes include approving, negotiating, and administering contracts and grants, making personnel decisions, and approving policies. There must be a quorum of commissioners present in order for APB to do the Band's business.

As Chief Executive, I submitted five Band member nominees to the Band Assembly for their consideration to ratify. The Band Assembly voted to ratify three of these nominees and rejected two of the nominees. The three commissioners who were ratified and who will begin four-year terms beginning on July 1 are: Peter Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Administration; Maria Costello, Assistant Commissioner of Administration; Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services. Congratulations to those Band members who will begin new commissioner terms on July 1.

Our Band Statutes also require that in order for the APB to do the Band's business, there must be a quorum present. Three commissioners do not make a quorum. Fortunately, our Elders who wrote our Band Statutes prepared for a situation like this. First, our Band laws state that in the event of an absence or vacancy in any commissioner position, the Commissioner of Administration will step in to perform those other commissioner duties. This means that until new commissioners are confirmed, the Commissioner of Administration and Assistant

Commissioner of Administration will be also handling the duties of Education, Natural Resources, and Community Development.

Second, our Band laws also allow for the Band's business to temporarily be done by using Commissioner and Executive Orders as a substitute for the APB process when necessary. All of this means that the new commissioners will be faced with a tremendous workload, but I am confident they are up to the challenge until new commissioners can be nominated and confirmed. In the meantime, it is important for Band members to know that they should contact Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe or Assistant Commissioner of Administration Maria Costello if assistance is needed from a commissioner. Their email addresses are peter.nayquonabe@millelacsband.com and maria.costello@millelacsband.com. Band member Stephanie Dunkley has been hired as Deputy Assistant in the Office of the Chief Executive, effective July 1, so Band members can contact our office for assistance at 320-532-7486 or stephanie.dunkley@millelacsband.com.

June was very busy getting work done for the Band in other meetings, which included several tribal consultations with the federal government about COVID-19 relief funding, a meeting of the Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC), which is a group of 12 tribal leaders who advise the U.S. Attorney General about matters impacting Indian tribes, Cabinet meetings, a listening session with the University of Minnesota regarding how it can better partner with tribal governments, a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association, Band Assembly meetings, and the June 22 meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Band members can find a separate and important joint update about that meeting from Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd and I in this edition of the Band newspaper. (See below.)

I hope all Band families have an opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities and traditions as we move into the peak of summer. Miigwech!

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UPDATE

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd

On Tuesday, June 22, the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) met at Fortune Bay for a special meeting regarding the constitutional reform process that has been on-going. The Mille Lacs Band is one of six sovereign tribal nations that share a constitution under the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The MCT is an organization that was created in 1936.

Band member delegates from each Band have been meeting together for approximately three years to examine the MCT Constitution and discuss whether changes should be recommended to update the Constitution. Our Mille Lacs Band delegates are Band members who applied to be delegates in 2018 and include Band members from District I, II, Ila, III, and the urban area.

At the June 22 TEC meeting, the topic of MCT enrollment was discussed with the TEC by some of the delegates. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution currently requires that for a person to be eligible for enrollment, the combined blood quantum from both parents must meet a minimum of 25 percent MCT blood. Blood quantum is not a system invented by Indian people. It was forced upon tribes in the 1930s by federal

attorneys who wrote many tribal constitutions. At that time, the federal government viewed blood quantum as a strategy that would gradually decrease tribal enrollment numbers and eventually make tribal membership non-existent.

At the June 22 meeting, TEC members were asked by some delegates to support a resolution to immediately get rid of the 25 percent blood quantum, but other delegates felt they had not been consulted about this resolution and more research was needed, including our Mille Lacs Band member delegates. Instead of voting to support a specific immediate change to enrollment, the TEC voted to hold a referendum election to get an idea of what MCT membership wants to see happen. A referendum is when voters are asked to answer a single question about a certain topic. The question that the TEC agreed to ask voters is whether MCT members think each of the six Bands should be allowed to independently decide, as sovereign nations, what criteria should be used for enrollment in their particular Band.

This means that there will be an election at some point in the future where you as a Band member will be asked if you think that a secretarial election should be held to allow Mille Lacs Band members to choose our own enrollment criteria for our Band, instead of being required to follow the 25 percent MCT

blood quantum criteria that is currently in the MCT Constitution.

The referendum election will just be a first step to get an idea of what the majority opinion is of MCT membership. If the majority opinion is that MCT members should be able to vote on this topic, then a second election will be held that is called a "secretarial election." If the results of the secretarial election find that most MCT members believe that each Band should be able to establish their own enrollment criteria, each of the six Bands would then be able to decide for themselves what the enrollment criteria will be for their Band. Holding a referendum election and a secretarial election are the only ways to change the Constitution. Article 12 and Article 14 are the parts of the Constitution that dictate this process which we are following.

Again, our vote this week was just a first step in a lengthy process that will begin by asking MCT members what they think. An educational effort will begin in coming months to further explain what all of this means. At Mille Lacs we will also have community meetings to share information and answer questions about the process. Miigwech to our Mille Lacs Band member delegates for their hard work throughout this process and for looking out for our Band!

(To read the Constitution and MLB Statutes, please visit: <https://millelacsband.com/government/tribal-register>)



A "popup powwow" in District III drew over 300 people on June 16 for dancing and Famous Dave's. Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd (middle right) and District III Representative Wally St. John (top right) provided updates on Band Assembly activities.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETINGS RESUME

As pandemic recedes, Band members gather for updates — and food!

Monthly community meetings are once again being held in person around Mille Lacs Band communities. District I meetings were held at the old community center in May and June and will be held on the last Wednesday of each month going forward. On May 26, staff of the Substance Use Disorders Program shared, and several children went home happy winners of a bike raffle. See photos by Rhonda Mitchell below.

District III community members and friends were treated to a "popup powwow" on June 16 catered by Famous Dave's, with an update on live-streaming from Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd. Byron Ninham emceed the powwow, and four

drum groups kept the dancing lively. Forty dancers signed up, and over 300 people attended. See photos above. District III meetings are held the third Wednesday at Grand Casino Hinckley.

District II meetings will resume in July on the fourth Thursday of the month at East Lake Community Center.

With Chiminising Community Center still under construction, District IIa meetings are expected to resume in September on the third Thursday of each month. In all districts, meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. with a meal, followed by presentations. Watch Facebook for updates and changes.



Staff of the Substance Use Disorders Program (above right) presented at the District I community meeting May 26. A bike raffle was one of the highlights of the evening.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

BAND ASSEMBLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On Wednesday, June 2, Band Assembly approved four resolutions and two bills and held confirmation hearings for Peter Nayquonabe, who was nominated for Commissioner of Administration, Maria Costello, who was nominated for Assistant Commissioner of Administration, and Nicole Anderson, who was nominated for Commissioner of Health and Human Services. The hearings were completed with a summary and opening statement of the nominees followed by questions and comments. All three nominations were approved on June 9.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin congratulated the Secretary-Treasurer and Representatives for live-streaming for Band members, calling it a "huge benefit." She also introduced new Assistant Deputy Stephanie Dunkley.

District I Representative Virgil Wind also recognized the Secretary-Treasurer and staff for the success of live-streaming, which he called "awesome."

District II Representative Marvin Bruneau said community meetings will start in July for District II and September for District IIa due to construction. He also said a task force committee will consider a treatment center in the District II area.

District III Representative Wally St. John acknowledged the Pine Grove leadership and staff for graduation and hard work. He encouraged constituents to watch social media for regular updates. He emphasized that the Band Assembly and staff are working hard to address issues and update statutes.

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd gave an update on oversight of investments, saying a subcommittee had been put together to develop an Investment Board to execute the statutory duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to manage and superintend the finances of the Band. The Subcommittee includes Band Attorneys Candler and Kanassatega, Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle, Consultant Shannon O'Leary, Assistant Commissioner of Administration Pete Nayquonabe, Legislative Director Brianna Boyd, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

On Wednesday, June 9, Band Assembly approved two bills and four contracts. Confirmation hearings were held for Susan Klapel, who was nominated by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin for Commissioner of Natural Resources, and Baabiiyaw Boyd, who was nominated for Commissioner of Education.

On Wednesday, June 16, the nominations of Susan Klapel and Baabiiyaw Boyd failed. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin expressed her disappointment, saying both nominees were qualified and that there would be no quorum for the Administrative Policy Board (APB) to conduct business after June 30.

All three District Representatives stated that the decisions to vote against the nominees were difficult to make. District II Representative Marvin Bruneau said business would go on, and District I Representative Virgil Wind agreed, saying business can still be conducted through Commissioners' Orders.

For details or to view live-streams or recordings of Band Assembly meetings, go to millelacsband.com.

See more Legislative news on page 9.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Resilience highlighted during Red Lake State of the Band Address:

Red Lake Tribal Chairman Darrell Seki Sr., along with 14 department heads, addressed a small crowd gathered at the Red Lake powwow grounds Friday, May 28, for the annual State of the Band Address, which celebrated and acknowledged the realities of what the community has lived through in the 16 unprecedented months since last year's Address. The event was one of the first large in-person events held since the repeal of the medical martial law executive order in Red Lake Nation, which had been in place since the beginning of April 2020. *Source: inforum.com.*

Native nonprofit, Migizi Communications, rebuilds after fire:

Work will begin in September to renovate and expand a brick building on E. Lake Street as a new home for Migizi Communications, expected to open in 2022. A crowd of supporters, staffers, and students on May 28 walked from the site of the former building to the new site, blessing the space with burning sage and a prayer. "The perseverance and resilience of our Native community has been an inspiration to our entire city," Mayor Jacob Frey said. "What made Migizi was not a building, it was not brick and mortar, but it was the people." *Source: startribune.com.*

Leech Lake lifts mandatory portion of mask mandate:

At their regular meeting on June 3, the Leech Lake Tribal Council voted to end the mandatory portion of the tribal mask mandate. Effective immediately, the required use of masks at Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe businesses, offices, and other properties became optional with the exception of health care, congregate living, and educational facilities including early childhood and the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Government offices were planning to fully reopen on July 1. *Source: leechlakenews.com.*

Sioux Chef's new restaurant will blend past and future:

Owamni, a restaurant owned by Sean Sherman ("The Sioux Chef") and his partner Dana Thompson, will be the centerpiece of the new \$24 million Water Works park on the Minneapolis riverfront. In 2014, Sherman and Thompson founded the Sioux Chef, a catering and food education enterprise. Two years later, the couple submitted their restaurant proposal to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. "We're hoping to be a role model," said Sherman. "We're hoping that a lot of people will take some of the ideas of what we're doing, and that there can be Indigenous restaurants in every city." The restaurant is named for Owámniyomni (roughly, "the place of the falling, swirling waters"), the Dakota name for what is now St. Anthony Falls. *Source: startribune.com.*

Grad rates for Native students improve, but still lag:

Minnesota schools improved their graduation rates for all students in 2020, except Black students and English language learners. The rates went up most dramatically for Native American students, who saw a gain of almost 5 percentage points, and for students receiving special education services, who saw a bump of 2 percentage points. Still, Minnesota schools have not managed to shake their nearly worst-in-the-nation education inequalities. Only about 7 of 10 Black and Latino students graduated on time last year, and just 55.7 percent of Native American students. *Source: mprnews.org.*

JUDICIAL BRANCH

FAMILY HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

Noojimo'wigamig Inaawanidiwag incorporates Band culture

"Over the past 15 years of work in the Mille Lacs Band courts, I have witnessed addiction and mental health issues intensify in our community," said Gilda Burr, Mille Lacs Band Court Administrator. "Many of these issues triggered child protection matters, further adding to the splintering of families. The Family Healing to Wellness Court is a model that can address families' needs and bring healing to our community,"

On April 5, the Mille Lacs Band Judicial Branch hosted a three-branch meeting and presented to the Chief Executive and Band Assembly the concept of Noojimo'wigamig Inaawanidiwag (Healing Journey), the Mille Lacs Band Family Healing to Wellness Court program. The Wellness Court will be a 12-to-18-month four-phase program for parents and guardians of Band children who are the subject of a child protection matter in the Mille Lacs Band District Court and are having difficulty staying substance-free. Addiction will be viewed by the Wellness Court as a health condition, something to be treated — not punished. Services and consistent supportive supervision will be provided to the participants to help them achieve sobriety and quicker reunification with their children.

"The Mille Lacs Band has provided a rich array of supportive services for struggling families, but the departments have not had a structure to bring them together to work collectively," said Court Attorney Jill Tompkins, who has brought her experience with the successful Penobscot Nation Healing to Wellness Court to help develop the Band's program.

The lack of service coordination has contributed to Band children staying in foster care longer due to delays in family reunification. Under the new program, a multi-department team, including representatives from Family Services, Substance Use Disorder Services, Office of the Solicitor General, Band Member Legal Aid, Housing Department, Aanjibimaadizing, Ge-Niigaanizijig, and the Wellness Court Judge, will meet regularly to ensure that participants are receiving effective and timely assistance to meet their goals. A dedicated Wellness Court case manager will check in frequently with participants

to assist them in accessing substance abuse and mental health treatment, housing, education, employment, and other needed services.

Noojimo'wigamig Inaawanidiwag is different from a state drug court because it embraces and incorporates Band culture. The four phases are named after the Ojibwe sacred medicines of Tobacco (Phase 1 — New Beginnings), Cedar (Phase 2 — Personal Responsibility), Sage (Phase 3 — Cooperation and Accountability), and Sweetgrass (Phase 4 — Completion and Sharing). A Band Elder will be a member of the team providing cultural guidance to the program. In addition to healing the parent's addiction, the program will provide an opportunity for the parent to positively re-engage in the Band's community and cultural life. Participation in recovery groups, such as Sober Squad, will help the parent to develop a healthy circle of sober supports.

Initially, the enactment of a District Court Rule will establish the program, while Band legislation is being developed simultaneously. To be eligible for the Wellness Court, the parent or child's custodian must be the parent of a child who is a Band member or eligible for membership, has a pending Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) case, has a substance use disorder diagnosis, and is willing and able to comply with the program's conditions, which includes frequent, random drug testing.

"This has been a long time coming," said Gilda. "The Band needs this program with collaboration of all the agencies sitting in a circle helping families heal. I'm excited to help build the Wellness Court, but moreover to put it in action."

Although the Judicial Branch has been working on the Wellness Court initiative for several years, a recent five-year U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice System grant has made it possible for the program to launch. Information about the program and application forms will be posted on the Court's website located at millelacsband.com.

FOUNDATION TO BEGIN AWARDING GRANTS

Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation board includes Band member

A community fund to support the Mille Lacs watershed area has been given new life thanks to the efforts of a handful of volunteers who stepped up and took action. Formerly known as the Isle Area Community Foundation (IACF), the fund was started in 2006 with a single \$9,000 gift from VFW Post 2816 (now 2762). Not long after its creation, the advisory board disbanded, and the fund quietly grew to \$20,000, the threshold necessary to begin making grants.

During the summer of 2020, the Initiative Foundation's Community Philanthropy Team conducted a review of all its partner fund agreements. At the same time, an Isle-area-community member participated in an Initiative Foundation training program. This combination of events sparked a conversation that led to the assembly of a new advisory board.

Renamed the Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation (MLACF), the fund's Advisory Board Officers include Chair Kelly LaBrosse, Vice Chair Ann Brucciani Lyon, Secretary/Treasurer Barb Eller, and Advisory Board Members Patti Berger, Brad Harrington, and Evangeline Moen. Through fundraising and grant making, the MLACF supports the healthy growth of communities in the Mille Lacs watershed area while safeguarding and improving the area's natural resources.

To apply for a grant, visit <https://mlacf.org/grants/>. The MLACF will accept grant applications beginning June 1 through September 15, 2021, for projects that focus on one or more of the following: Environmental stewardship and community beautification; Sustainable farming and food programs; Economic vitality; Community pride.

LIVE-STREAMING from page 1

"Some cannot make it due to work hours or travel arrangements. Now you can either watch from home or business. Migwech to those who attend."

Legislative Counsel Adam Candler said, "Live-streaming makes Band government more transparent and accountable than it has ever been before. It is not easy to accept scrutiny from the public, but it is crucial that government officials do exactly that. Only then does government become truly responsive to the needs of its people."

Legislative Communications Director Val Harrington emphasized that elected officials and Legislative Branch staff put in countless hours preparing for the launch. New laws had to be passed, new policies put in place, and new technology developed to make the change possible. "We have a hard-working team that is dedicated to ensuring Band members are able

to view Band Assembly live and also have past Band Assembly archived videos available. I am excited that fellow Band members have the opportunity to watch and hear the reasons for decisions on action items. We are thankful for everyone viewing the meetings and for all the feedback to help us improve."

Trouble logging in?

First, make sure that the Tribal ID you are entering includes ONLY the numbers and does not include 410B.

If that doesn't work, call Enrollments and validate that your information matches what Enrollments has on file (name, tribal ID, date of birth, last four digits of social security number).

If both of the above steps have been tried, contact tara@redcircleagency.com to schedule a time to troubleshoot the issue. Please reach out to Tara only after validating with Enrollments.

BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO ALL

SIGN UP NOW FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT

The Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan provides the largest Child Tax Credit ever and historic relief to the most working families ever — and most families will automatically receive monthly payments without having to take any action.

For those with children, the American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child for children over the age of six and from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of six, and raised the age limit from 16 to 17. All working families will get the full credit if they make up to \$150,000 for a couple or \$112,500 for a family with a single parent (also called Head of Household).

The Child Tax Credit in the American Rescue Plan provides the largest child tax credit ever and historic relief to the most working families ever.

This plan provides Automatic monthly payments for nearly all working families

If you've filed tax returns for 2019 or 2020, or if you signed up to receive a stimulus check from the Internal Revenue Service, you will get this tax relief automatically. You do not need to sign up or take any action.

If you did not make enough to be required to file taxes in 2020 or 2019, you can still get benefits.

Low-income families with children are eligible for this crucial tax relief — including those who have not made enough money to be required to file taxes. Non-filers can sign up at www.whitehouse.gov/child-tax-credit/sign-up/.

If you aren't already signed up, you can still sign up to get

IF YOU DID NOT MAKE ENOUGH TO BE REQUIRED TO FILE TAXES IN 2020 OR 2019, YOU CAN STILL GET BENEFITS. NON-FILERS CAN SIGN UP AT WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/CHILD-TAX-CREDIT/SIGN-UP/.

the Child Tax Credit. You won't lose your benefits if you do. These payments do not count as income for any family. So, signing up won't affect your eligibility for other federal benefits like SNAP and WIC.

You are also eligible to apply for the Recovery Rebate Credit, also known as stimulus payments, as part of this process.

If you have at least one qualifying child and earned less than \$24,800 as a married couple, \$18,650 as a Head of Household, or \$12,400 as a single filer, you can use the IRS Non-filer Sign-up Tool to get the Child Tax Credit and receive missing stimulus payments.

To complete the process, you will need: Social Security Numbers for your children and Social Security Numbers (or ITIN) for you and your spouse; A reliable mailing address; E-mail address; Your bank account information (if you want to receive your payment by direct deposit).

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SCOTUS Affirms Authority of Tribal

Governments and Police Forces: In a broad ruling reaffirming the sovereignty of Native American tribes, the U.S. Supreme Court declared unanimously June 1 that tribal police officers have the power to detain and search non-Native Americans on tribal land if they're suspected of violating state or federal law. The case involved a 2016 incident on the Crow Reservation in Montana where the defendant, Joshua James Cooley, was arrested after a Crow Police Department officer searched his vehicle and found weapons and methamphetamine. Cooley submitted a motion arguing that the tribal police officer lacked the authority to detain and search him because he is not Native American. The District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court had ruled in favor of Cooley's argument, which the Supreme Court overturned. *Source: time.com.*

Remains of Native students found at Canadian boarding school:

The remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school — one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation. Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains were confirmed with the help of ground-penetrating radar. More bodies may be found because there are more areas to search on the school grounds, Casimir said. In an earlier release, she called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School." *Source: apnews.com.*

The 400 Years project looks at Native American identity through the Native lens:

The year 2020 marked the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival from England to Plymouth Rock, Mass. For generations that story — from the white settlers' perspective — has been taught to children in schools. Photographer Sarah Stacke says, "The stories they're told of a golden age of friendship, new beginnings, and untouched wilderness, is a myth." Correcting those myths and looking at the evolution of Native American identity over the last 400 years is the mission of The 400 Years Project (www.400yearsproject.org), a pictorial collection of Native American life. It includes photo essays, text essays, and a digital library of Native photographers from the mid-1800s to the present. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Native youth call for dam removal:

In a letter organized by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Youth Leadership Council, Native youth from 10 Northwest tribes called on President Biden to remove dams on the lower Snake River to save salmon from extinction and protect Native ways of life for generations to come. "America made a deal and promised that we would be able to fish forever," the youth, aged 9 to 18, wrote in a letter to the White House. "We can't fish if there aren't any salmon left." The youth are asking the president for a video call to address their concerns. They include members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Yakama Nation; Blackfoot Nation; Suquamish Tribe; Makah Tribe; Puyallup Tribe of Indians; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Nez Perce Tribe; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation.



ELDER PICNIC

Melanie and Reine Garbow were among the satisfied customers at the Elder Services Program's picnic at the District I ALU on June 25. Cadillac Country entertained a large crowd who were treated to door prizes, an update from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, and a great meal of cheeseburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, beans, chips, and fresh fruit salad.

JUSTICE from page 1

She admits that she had her struggles as a young person, but all that changed when her daughter became sick with meningitis and encephalitis.

"I knew I couldn't be drinking and care for my sick daughter, so I quit everything at 23 or 24 years of age," Sylvia said. "She was very sick, teeter-tottering between life and death, so I stepped in and dedicated my life to her."

Doctors said her daughter would probably only live to be 5 or 6, but Sylvia sought out traditional healers, and her daughter is now 41. "Those years were like a living hell. I prayed a lot for my daughter and learned a lot about myself and my personal relationship with the Creator," said Sylvia. "When my baby was sick, that was all I had to trust in. I felt like I was guided by our Creator, and that's how I chose to live my life from then on."

After her daughter was grown, Sylvia suffered an injury, which meant she had to put her daughter into a group home. "That was the hardest decision of my life," she said. She took

the opportunity to go to college and came away with bachelor's degrees in American Indian Studies and Psychology from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Sylvia has witnessed the struggles of family members with alcohol and drugs, and she knows that most of the cases Tribal Court deals with involve substance abuse. As a judge, Sylvia sees herself not just as a "level-headed" interpreter of the facts of the case, but also as a source of hope and faith to those who are suffering from addiction. She is excited about the Judicial Branch's Healing to Wellness Court, which she sees as a great service to the community.

"A big part of being sober and having a good perspective on life is knowing that somewhere down the line, if you can make a change in one or two people, that's going to make it all worthwhile," said Sylvia. "Showing each other love, that's the thing. Love will change everything. If I was able to help one person, that would mean something to me, because you never know where that one person's trail will lead."

IF YOU BUILD IT...

KEVIN AND DONNA SUTTON AND GREG DAVIS FOLLOW AN INDIGENOUS VISION

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

After moving to a 70-acre hobby farm west of Hinckley three years ago, Kevin Sutton began to wonder what he could do to share his rural paradise with others. At first, he considered an RV park. "But it would've cost \$250,000 just to lay the pipe!" he said.

One morning, he was sipping his coffee on the patio under the eaves, and a vision appeared. "I looked across the field and saw teepees behind the trees," he said. "And then I heard a voice: 'If you build it, the people will come.'"

With help from his wife Donna and his first cousin Greg Davis, Kevin's vision — which he calls "Gabayshiwin" — has become a reality over the last year, and the first three teepees will be available to campers in July.

Kevin had a stroke two years ago and lost function on his right side, so he relies on Greg for the heavy lifting. He didn't lose his sense of humor, however. Pointing a thumb at Greg, he says, "He's my right-hand man."

Both cousins are retired now, so they have plenty of time to spend on the campground. Kevin was a heavy equipment operator, and Greg, a veteran, was a tribal veterans' service officer.

Greg also suffers from a service-related disability, a degenerative back problem, and recently had a back injury. "Last summer, we were barely able to do anything, but now this work has gotten me back into shape," said Greg.

In spite of the challenges, Greg and Kevin aren't taking it easy during retirement, and they aren't messing around. During the hot spell in June, they were hard at work. "We were moving kind of slow, but we were still out there," said Kevin.

Every step has been taken with precision and professionalism. In mid-June, a half dozen trucks were laying gravel on the road to the campsites. The campground was cleared, graded, and seeded, and a beautiful red pine fence surrounded the pond.

The campground is a mix of old and new. Portable toilets will be used, but water will come from a hand pump. Campers will have to park their cars a hundred yards from the teepees,



Greg Davis and Kevin Sutton are hard at work on Gabayshiwin teepee campground, with rentals available beginning in July.

but each teepee will have solar power and wifi. "People don't want to go anywhere without Internet service," said Greg.

Each teepee is placed on a circle of pea gravel, bordered by paving stones. The poles — ordered from Montana — have been sanded, water sealed, and lightly burned for an attractive finish. The canvas is tight as a drum and has been painted by Donna with Native themes (wolves on the first, bears on the second, turtles on the third).

The first three — each one 14 feet in diameter — will be ready for rental first, with four more added soon, including an 18-footer that will allow for larger gatherings.

After that, Kevin will need to go back to the township board for a permit to add 10 more.

The solar power and restriction of vehicle traffic are part of a choice to be environmentally friendly. Although the guys will continue to hunt the property, it will be treated like a wildlife refuge.

They also envision hosting cultural activities and workshops on the site. Both men are avid netters, ricers, and sugar-makers.

Standing inside a teepee that he and Kevin had recently finished, Greg remembered the first teepee he helped set up with his we-enh Dave Matrious at the cultural grounds in Rutledge.

He looked with awe at the blue sky through the opening, remarking on the strength and beauty of the design. "Our ancestors were geniuses," he said.

And now, the Indigenous ingenuity that designed the first teepee is on display at a new campground west of Hinckley.

"I LOOKED OUT ACROSS THE FIELD AND SAW TEEPEES BEHIND THE TREES. AND THEN I HEARD A VOICE ..."

— KEVIN SUTTON

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

TAKE PRIDE IN HERITAGE

By Dorothy Sam

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

My favorite hobby is making quilts, and I am teaching my daughter how to make them. Although I use a sewing machine to make my quilts — unlike my mother's handmade quilts — I still make them to give away at our Ojibwe ceremonies. This is a tradition we've held onto for many years.

We need to be proud of our heritage, and we should be happy to be involved with both modern and traditional ways. This is what I've taught others throughout my life.

I was born in the Aazhoomog community in District III of the Mille Lacs Reservation. Growing up we learned much about the Ojibwe ways. We learned the drum. We learned the ceremonies. We learned the language and heard stories from our Elders. We always lived off the land — we fished, harvested wild rice, picked berries, made maple syrup, and hunted for deer, rabbits, and porcupines. Our pharmacy was in our backyard. We ate healthy and naturally. That was our way of survival.

After I was married, I moved to the Twin Cities to work. I started working at a neighborhood club and then a detox center helping people with drug and alcohol addiction. I also worked with young Native mothers through a United Way program. After about 10 years of working in the field, I went back to school for chemical dependency counseling at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

During my education and training, I always remembered my Indian ways. Because of my experience in the field and my cultural background, I knew that a lot of the things I was

learning in books would need to be adapted to fit the Native culture.

After school, I went to work at Aurora Four Winds Lodge, a chemical dependency facility at the Brainerd State Hospital for people with Native heritage. I was a counselor and developed programs that included American Indian traditions, ceremonies, and teachings.

In my experiences, I found that illness and identity were the two biggest problems that addicts faced. They didn't know how to stop drinking or doing drugs, and they didn't know who they were. We had books that helped them get through alcohol and drug abuse, but they needed more than that. I brought back the American Indian ways, so that I could help them find their identity and move past their addiction. Illness and identity go hand and hand.

In my work, I saw a lot of young people involved in drugs and alcohol. Today our youth are not as interested in learning about our culture. So much of what I taught people about their addiction went back to finding their traditions and culture. It's about finding one's self and valuing life.

Life is important. We all have a spirit, and we shouldn't hurt other people's spirits. But, this can happen if people are involved with drugs and alcohol.

People today are so busy working to survive that our teachings are often put aside — this is how our culture will be lost. Learn the ways of your people. There are many more resources today to help us learn about the old ways. Even though we live in a modern world, we can turn to our Elders to ask questions and learn from them. We should always be proud of who we are.

'REUNIFICATION IS ALWAYS OUR GOAL'

FAMILY SERVICES MOVES FORWARD

Tabatha Boyd brings experience as mom, teacher to director's role

Tabatha Boyd was first contacted in 2018 about taking on the role of Director of Family Services, but she didn't pursue it. Shortly afterwards, she developed a life-threatening illness that renewed her belief that we are here to fulfill our obligations to our community.

"When I was asked again, there wasn't much hesitation," she said. "Everything happens for a reason, and it was all part of the plan."

Tabatha has been working for the Band since 1994, starting out as an Early Ed teacher and moving up to District II Program Coordinator. In March of 2019, she became Director of Family Services.

There's been a steep learning curve, but Tabatha has navigated it — with lots of help. "We have a really good infrastructure of folks who help guide our work. Reunification is always our goal, and accomplishing that takes a team effort involving the courts, counties, OSG (Office of Solicitor General), Band Member Legal Aid, law enforcement, and Family Services."

Although her training is in Early Education rather than Social Work, Tabatha sees a clear connection. "The common denominator is knowing that parents are the most important caregivers and providers," said Tabatha. "When you have experience in a school setting working with families and children, you learn what parents are going through. Everyone is at a different level of understanding, but we're all after the same thing: helping with what their children need and what's best for the family."

"I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE A REALLY GREAT TEAM OF SOCIAL WORKERS WHO ALL HAVE A BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK, AND THAT HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE."

— FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTOR TABATHA BOYD

When it comes to managing a professional staff — whether in Early Ed or Family Services — the requirements are also similar. "How you work with and treat people is still the same," said Tabatha. "You have different sets of guidelines, rules, and practices, but you apply the same human responses to guiding and directing and providing a positive work space so in turn our families get positive services."

Although she had been a foster parent for over 20 years, Tabatha admits that she didn't fully appreciate the challenging work a social worker takes on every day.

Now she knows better, and she's become a passionate advocate for her staff. "They have to be experts in education, health, and mental health," she said. "Anything a parent would do for their child, they manage for every child in their caseload — coordinating transportation, physicals, dental exams, education, home visits, referrals to Mille Band Programs, and every single thing a child needs. Some social workers have had caseloads of 50 or more, and for each one, they have to schedule team meetings with county agencies, guardian ad litem (GAL), and informal and formal supports. It's a huge balancing act. The social workers are working an ungodly amount of hours with little recognition and no compensation outside of the regular workweek, feeling defeated because what we've tasked them with feels impossible at times."

After turmoil in the Family Services Department in recent years, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin called on the Health and Human Services Department to create a smoother process and a more transparent and supportive environment for families. "Those things are vital to us moving forward," said Tabatha. "But I also think people need to hear that change doesn't happen overnight. It didn't get this way overnight, and it's going to take several years to demonstrate to the community that things are changing."

As Director, Tabatha oversees around 20 employees, most

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Services includes intake, screening, referral, child protection, foster care licensing, independent living skills and home/background studies for guardianships through tribal court, truancy case management, and monitoring of all state child protection cases that fall under ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) and MIFPA (Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act). The department also works on special projects to improve services to the community: tribal initiative, child advocacy center, and family preservation services.

The Intake process conducts screenings of all child welfare reports. "Most of the work we do there is to provide support and referrals so we can prevent an out-of-home placement," said Family Services Director Tabatha Boyd. In some cases, meeting with the family and helping them receive necessary services (active efforts) can fix the problems that led to the report, but in other cases, additional services or referrals need to be provided.

The Child Protection Services program conducts child protection investigations on neglect and abuse reports within the Band's jurisdiction, and the Child Protection Case Management program provides ongoing child welfare case management and prevention services.

Family Services also handles guardianships and is the licensing agency for Mille Lacs Band foster care. While the need is great, there are only 38 licensed homes that are willing to take placements out of our licensed Mille Lacs Band member homes.

Although emergency licenses for relatives can be done, the license process is lengthy, and the Band has only one supervisor and one licenser. "There's not enough people to do the work we need done," Tabatha said. "When I first started here, it was my belief that if you want to support people, you should be the first one there and the last to leave. In Family Services, you can't do that. If I come in early, staff are already here, and they're working until 8 or 9 at night."

Tabatha's goals include building the department's relationship with Mille Lacs Band communities, using prevention to decrease the need for out-of-home placement, and becoming a positive support to parents.

of them social workers. The turnover has historically been high, and with just over two years in the department, Tabatha has been there longer than most of her staff.

That appears to be changing, however, as the Band brings wages up to the level of surrounding communities, and as Tabatha builds that positive environment where people want to stick around. "I'm happy to report that we have a really great team of social workers who all have a background and education in social work, and that hasn't always been the case."

Tabatha feels fortunate that she was able to raise four daughters and a son in District II — while improving her opportunities through education. "I was a teenage mother, and I didn't finish school or do things the traditional way, but I was able to raise my children in District II while I got my GED, my AA degree, my bachelor's degree, and moved on to finally completing graduate school. A whole cohort went through that process, and we did it with the support of the Mille Lacs Band providing the opportunities."

With that experience, protecting the Band's families, communities, and sovereignty is personal for her. "Other agencies and governments have to be reminded that we're a sovereign nation, and we know what's best and right for our community."

RETHINK YOUR DRINK

By Jackie Braun, Diabetes Coordinator

What you drink plays a big role in weight management and controlling blood sugar.

Soda and Pop — Because soda or pop is a liquid sugar, it digests in the body quickly and causes a rapid spike in blood sugar. One can of Coke contains 39 grams of sugar, which is equivalent to almost 10 teaspoons of sugar and contains 140 calories. These can add up quickly over time and are a reason for weight gain.

Diet Soda and Pop — Artificial sweeteners, such as aspartame or sucralose, found in sugar-free beverages and diet soda, do not raise blood sugar. Artificial sweeteners are regulated by the FDA and are generally recognized as safe.

Juice — Juice contains a lot of carbohydrates and calories in a small portion, so count it in your meal plan and keep portions small. If you drink juice, choose juices that are 100% juice with no added sugar. Juice should be limited to no more than 4 ounces per day for children ages 1-3 years and no more than 6 ounces per day for children ages 4-6 years.

What about vegetable juice? — Low-sodium vegetable juice, such as tomato juice, is a great alternative to fruit juice. It often has less carbohydrates than fruit juice, but lots of vitamins. At 50 calories and 10 grams of carbohydrate in 1 cup, it's a healthy choice.

Sports and Electrolyte Beverages — These beverages were designed for athletes because they contain excess carbohydrates, electrolytes, and calories that refuel the body. Too many people sip on these sports drinks when they haven't been physically active. People should only have sports drinks during heavy exercise for longer than an hour.

Water — Water is one of the best and cheapest ways to hydrate yourself! Aim to drink at least one half ounce of water per pound of body weight. A person who weighs 150 pounds should be drinking at least 75 ounces or about 9 cups of water per day.

What if I don't like to drink plain water? — Water enhancers can add flavor to plain water and make it easier to drink more water. These water enhancers come in a variety of flavors, and some even have caffeine. Also, carbonated water drinks are a healthier choice than soda and may help you drink more water and less sugary drinks.

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.

ROCK BOTTOM TO HIGH HONORS

COLIN EAGLE PURSUES HIS DOCTORATE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Time, motivation, support, and effort can turn a life around in a hurry. Just ask Colin Eagle, a Mille Lacs Band member who graduated magna cum laude from Bemidji State this spring.

A few short years ago, Colin was addicted to methamphetamine and heroin. A bachelor's degree was a distant fantasy, and Colin's current plan for a doctorate wasn't on the radar.

For Colin, life was a challenge from the beginning. When he was two, his mother relinquished her parental rights, so Colin bounced around between relatives, foster homes, and group homes.

Still, after graduating from Floodwood High School, Colin went straight to college in pursuit of a law enforcement degree from Hibbing Community College. The trauma and alcoholism got the best of him, however, and he was kicked out of the program after partying too hard.

He tried again at Lake Superior College in Duluth, but again he failed. "The rez was just pulling me, so I went back to Cass Lake," said Colin.

At age 22, he was an addict and a dropout, with no prospects and a newborn son. Colin Eagle Jr., it turned out, was part of his father's salvation. "I didn't want to fail him," Colin said.

Colin checked himself into rehab in Grand Rapids and quit cold turkey. It was a strict, highly structured program — not

even TV — which gave Colin time to reflect on where he'd been and where he was going. "I didn't know it at the time, but that was what I needed to focus," Colin said. "I went through some hell in treatment."

Colin left with a plan to return to school at Leech Lake Tribal College. "My son was a big part of that," he said. "He pushed me to become better."

At LLTC, he discovered a part of himself he had forgotten about: his love of science and curiosity about the natural world.

"I GOT INVOLVED WITH THE STEM CLUB, AND THEN BECAME PRESIDENT. AS A CHILD, I WAS ASHAMED FOR LIKING SCIENCE, BUT I FELT THAT PULL."

"I got involved with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Club, and then became president," he said. "As a child, I was ashamed for liking science, but I felt that pull."

After attending a conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), a national nonprofit focused on increasing the representation of Indigenous peoples in STEM studies and careers, Colin started a chapter at LLTC.



Colin Eagle Sr., left, finds inspiration to succeed from Colin Eagle Jr., right.

From there, Colin was off and running. He took an internship with the U.S. Forest Service, presented his research at conferences, and moved on to Bemidji State University to study Indigenous sustainability, with a minor in environmental studies.

Michele Berger of the Mille Lacs Band's Scholarship Program helped Colin with funding, and he received support and encouragement from Melinda Neville, LLTC Natural Sciences and Technology Department Chair and Earth System Science Instructor.

Melinda saw Colin's potential, helped him find a job, recommended him for an internship, encouraged him to present at conferences — and even gave him a place to stay when he needed it. "She opened her home to me, and I never saw that coming," said Colin. Now she's his thesis advisor as he pursues his master's degree at Bemidji State.

The respect is mutual. Melinda calls Colin "one of the most dedicated and insightful students that I've had the pleasure to work with."

At 28, Colin has turned his life around and accomplished a lot — but he's still not satisfied. Once he finishes his master's, he plans to apply to Ph.D. programs, possibly at the University of Hawai'i, where he attended The National Diversity in STEM Conference in 2019, hosted by the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

The University is a leader in Colin's main research interest: microplastics — tiny pollutants that are present in waters around the globe, and even in the organisms, like human beings, that depend on those waters.

Wherever he ends up studying, "Doctor Eagle" is the goal, Colin said. "After that, a dream position would be Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band, or teaching, so I can do what Melinda did for me: help Native American students succeed in science and research."



YOUTH SPORTS CONTINUE IN JULY

The Ge-Niigaanizijig youth program has a host of fun sporting events planned for this summer, including the following events in July. For softball, basketball, and kickball, grades K-2 play from 5:30 to 6 p.m.; grades 3-6 from 6 to 7 p.m.; grades 7-12 from 7 to 8 p.m.

July 1: Slow-pitch softball in District I.

July 5-6: Basketball camp with Noah Dahlman in District III, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 8: Slow-pitch softball in District IIa, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 10: 3-on-3 basketball league tournament in District III, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 12: Golf league at Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 13: 3-on-3 basketball in District III, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 14: Family kickball league in District I, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 15: Slow-pitch softball in District II, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 17: Parents vs. kids softball tournament in District I, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 19: Golf league at GNGC, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 20: Basketball in District I, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 21: Family kickball in District II, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 22: Slow-pitch softball in District III, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

June 26: Golf league at GNGC, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 27: Basketball in District III, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 28: Family kickball in District IIa, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Tim at 320-339-6199 or tim.taggart@millelacsband.com.

A sports waiver and registration form are required for all students. You can access the form using the QR code above.

Capacity Limits: Golf, 20 persons; Basketball, 30 persons; Softball, 20 each age group; Golf Tournament, 60 persons.



SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM — JUST SHOW UP AND EAT!

Food for kids up to 18 is once again available at Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag school this summer.

There's no registration required, and no forms to fill out. Just show up and eat!

Meals are served Monday through Thursday through August 26, with the exception of Band holidays.

Curbside pickup is also available from 10:30 to noon.

Call at least one day prior to reserve meals.

Contact Deb Foye with questions at 320-532-4690, ext. 2213.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON STATUTE CHANGE

Band Assembly considers changes to Title 24 — Judicial Proceedings

In a June 24 letter to Band members, Band Assembly announced that it is seeking public comments on proposed amendments to Title 24 — Judicial Proceedings.

The proposed legislation would remove Mille Lacs Band Member Legal Aid from the administrative control of the Solicitor General for the purpose of eliminating the inherent conflict of interest involved in having the prosecution control the budget and personnel of the defense.

The proposed legislation would also (1) establish Band Member Legal Aid as an independent entity, (2) mandate that Band Member Legal Aid refrain from representing Band members for crimes committed against other Band members or for certain drug offenses, and (3) clarify that the Court of Central Jurisdiction has original jurisdiction over all causes of action arising from 24 MLBS Chapter 2.

The legislation is available on the Tribal Register of the new Mille Lacs Band website and the public comment period has been set at ten business days. Therefore, **please submit any**

written comments to legislation@millelacsband.com no later than 5 p.m. on July 8, 2021. Please use "Band Member Legal Aid" as the subject title. Band members and employees may also submit written comments in person to the District 1 legislative office.

June 23 Band Assembly meeting

On June 23, Band Assembly went into Executive Session to hear a presentation of the 2020 external audit from Brady Martz & Associates.

Band Assembly approved Bill 19-03-47-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

Two contracts and a hardship request were approved, and members gave reports to their constituents.

A work session was held on June 24 on Titles 21 and 24. For details, see millelacsband.com.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW PROCESSING FUNDING

The Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Program has started processing funding for the Fall 2021 term. Students need to remember that Scholarship Program applications are due every fall. Returning students will also need to submit grades from their previous term.

Along with the application, Michele needs a copy of the student's class schedule that shows credit load and a bill for tuition that indicates student ID#s and remittance information.

Also note: FAFSA funding is a requirement for all students taking 12 credits or more per term, and there are deadlines to keep in mind. See studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa for more information.

The Scholarship Office has additional resources for tribal members and descendants as well, and students/parents can still reach Michele easiest via email at mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com.

Michele will also return calls if voicemail messages are left at 1-800-709-6445, ext. 4775.

Make sure your address is up to date with Enrollments and OMB. The Scholarship Office has had mail returned, including GED/HD academic achievement awards.

ANISHINAABE VALUES AWARENESS RIDE

The next Anishinaabe Values Awareness motorcycle ride will be July 2. Riders will depart from the Grand Casino Mille Lacs at 9:45 and head to Four Winds Lodge in Brainerd to give a presentation.

The next stage will be a drive-by in support of those in Mash-ka-wisen Treatment Center, Tagwii Recovery Center, and Thunderbird/Wren House on the Fond du Lac Reservation. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will not be an in-person meeting.

The final stop will be Danbury, where the group will present at a Sobriety Feast geared to build a collaboration between the St. Croix and Mille Lacs Bands in the Danbury/Aazhoomog area.

Team members from both tribes' substance abuse/health programs will be invited to network with community members from both communities separated by a river.

If you have questions, contact Rich Hill at 320-532-4768, 320-630-2627, or richard.hill@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

CIRCLE OF HEALTH OUTREACH COMES TO ALL DISTRICTS

Circle of Health staff will once again make the rounds in Districts II, IIa, and III in July. Visit with staff to sign up for health insurance or get your questions answered at these locations and times:

July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29: District III Hinckley 10 a.m. to noon/Aazhoomog 1 to 3 p.m.

July 7, 16, 21, 30: District II East Lake Community Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 9, 14, 23, 28: District IIa Chiminising Community Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



INDIGENOUS ART SHOW IS JULY 28

Students participating in the Onamia Schools' Indigenous Arts & Culture Camps this summer will be holding a free Art Show and Dinner on Wednesday, July 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Rolf Olsen Center, 807 Main St. W., Onamia.

One of the primary things on display will be child-sized regalia made by older youth. This regalia will eventually be part of a lending project whereby young children who do not have their own regalia will be able to borrow what students have made. Students will also display other Indigenous arts projects, including beading, paintings, buttons, weaving, and more. Dinner will include Dawn Day's Fry Bread Tacos. There's no need to RSVP — you can just show up! For more details, contact the Onamia Schools' 21st Century Community Learning Centers program at 320-532-6829.

The Onamia Schools' regalia-lending project is being funded, in part, by the East Central Regional Arts Council, thanks to the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund.



Bella Nayquonabe, Glen Edward Shivers, and Lamya Morrison are among the students making regalia this summer.

DII RUNNING CHALLENGE

GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY

Last year, Morningstar and Harvey Goodsky were looking for a way to help their community, and they hit on an idea that would keep people active during the long winter months. They challenged their fellow District II members to run 500 miles at their own pace between November 1 and April 1.

Six of their neighbors accepted the challenge, with the three prizes going to (drum roll please): Third place (\$50), Dante Benjamin; second place (\$100), Taria White; and the grand prize winner was Keenan Gonzales, proud owner of a brand-new (well, pre-owned) car!

"We held this on our own to give back to the community," said Morningstar.

Congratulations to the winners, and miigwech to the Goodsky family and Mississippi Motors of Aitkin.

Top: Harvey Goodsky presented the keys to a vehicle to Keenan Gonzales. Below: Third place winner Dante Benjamin and second place winner Taria White.



SURGERY & WELLNESS ANIMAL CLINIC

Surgery/Wellness 7/24 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Wellness 7/25 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Spay/Neuter Surgeries & Wellness exams with vaccines
\$20 suggested donation



DII Minisinaakwaang Community Center
36666 State HWY 65, McGregor MN, 55760

Surgery spots are limited to 35 per day. You must register ahead of time.
Wellness exams are first come, first served.

Sign up for surgery at the Minisinaakwaang Community Center, or call the center at 218-768-5300 *35 SURGERIES PER DAY* THANKS



PET CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR ALL DISTRICTS

District II spay/neuter surgeries by MNSNAP are scheduled for July 24, with half-day wellness checks by SIRVS on July 24 and 25 at East Lake Community Center, 20650 363rd Ln, McGregor, MN 55760.

District Ila surgeries will be August 7 and wellness checks on August 7 and 8 at Chiminising Community Center. Lake Lena surgeries will be September 4 with wellness checks on September 4 and 5 at Aazhoomog Community Center. In Hinckley, surgeries will be September 18 and wellness checks September 18 and 19 at Meshakwad Community Center. The annual District I SIRVS Clinic will be held the second weekend in November.

Supplies and meals will be provided at all events. Call the community centers to sign up for surgeries. Wellness exams are first-come, first-served. District members are given priority. Remaining spots may be filled by members from other districts.

BABY BASKETS AVAILABLE FOR NEW ARRIVALS

The office of District I Rep. Virgil Wind is excited to honor our new generation by gifting a celebration of life baby basket. The baskets include some necessities for your newborn baby and custom-made items. Eligibility requirements: Parent must be an enrolled Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe member and reside in the DI area. Please contact the DI office at 320-532-7423 to inquire about details or with questions.

FOND DU LAC COLLEGE REGISTRATION EVENTS

With the COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the Mille Lacs Band's Higher Education Department is happy to announce that the registration events with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College will be in person this year at the following locations: District I Community Center: July 15, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. District II Community Center: July 15, 2–4 p.m. District III Meshakwad Community Center: July 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Call Michele at 1-800-709-6445, ext. 4775, or email mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com for more information.

PARTNERSHIP AIDS DNR WATER PROGRAM

The Mille Lacs Band's agriculture program received a grant this spring from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which is awarding the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and project partners \$3.5 million to implement conservation measures on irrigated lands.

Mille Lacs is partnering with Central Lakes College and AgCentric, an Agricultural Center of Excellence for Minnesota State colleges, to install a watering system at the greenhouse in District I.

AgCentric Executive Director Keith Olander was introduced to DNR Commissioner Katie Draper and Agriculture Coordinator Jon Houle by Mary Sam, a community member who is Dean of Students, Equity, and Inclusion at CLC.

"The grant is a catalyst to grow our relationship to help each other," said Keith. "We'll be looking at the Band's food production assets — indoor and outdoor — and bringing education and technology to conserve water used to grow food. The ultimate goal is to increase the Band's capacity to grow more healthy food locally for Band members."

According to its mission statement, AgCentric "promotes innovative agricultural education by connecting education and industry to support lifelong learning, career success, and community leadership."

The money is being awarded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and will fund a 5-year project that is focused on 20 counties across the state of Minnesota.

Through the RCPP, conservation partners like the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) work in collaboration with NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners throughout the

nation to implement systems that conserve water and soil resources, improve the health of wildlife habitats, and increase climate resilience.

The MDA project, "Implementing Innovative Irrigation Practices to Protect Groundwater Quality and Quantity," will work directly with agricultural producers using irrigation to implement conservation practices that protect groundwater and promote expanded precision irrigation practices. The MDA has partnered with SWCDs, educational institutions like Central Lakes College and the University of Minnesota, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, irrigation associations, and other public and private organizations to implement the project.

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said, "Irrigation is critical for many of our farmers, and this money will allow us to work with producers and our partners to enhance conservation measures on the land that will ultimately benefit our water resources."

"The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is public-private partnership working at its best," said Terry Cosby, Acting Chief for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. "These new projects will harness the power of partnership to help bring about solutions to natural resource concerns across the country while supporting our efforts to combat the climate crisis."

The 20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the project area are: Becker, Benton, Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Wadena, and Washington.

The irrigation project is one of 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships receiving more than \$330 million as part of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

AIR QUALITY SENSOR INSTALLED IN DISTRICT II

Charlie Lippert, the Air Quality Specialist for the Mille Lacs Band DNR, installed a PurpleAir Particulate Matter (PM) Sensor at the Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy last month.

PurpleAir sensors measure solid particles suspended in air, including dust, smoke, and other organic and inorganic particles.

"Currently, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the tribes in Minnesota are trying to figure out a way to put more of these sensors in the field, especially in the northwestern part of the state, as that would serve as an early warning system for any wildfire smoke blowing in from the western U.S. or western Canada," said Charlie.

Because the PurpleAir sensor is now online, you can go to www.PurpleAir.com, select Map, and find regional sensors reporting data, including the one at Minisinaakwaang. "As you can see from the PurpleAir Map, the eastern third of Minnesota is slowly getting populated with these sensors," said Charlie.

The Minisinaakwaang sensor also shows up on the AirNow Smoke and Fire Map (fire.airnow.gov) in addition to PurpleAir Map.

Because of the collaboration between PurpleAir and WeatherUnderground, the WUnder Map (wunderground.com/wundermap) for Air Quality now also shows the Minisinaakwaang PurpleAir Sensor.

SIGN UP FOR WILD PLANT WORKSHOP

Gidaa-naadamaagon i'i wisiniwin bagwaj wenjikaamagak —

The food that comes from the wild can help us

Band members are encouraged to sign up for a free summer woodland series: Foraging and Photography: Learn to Identify and Photograph Wild Plants for Food, Medicine, and Art.

The series consists of three segments, one day each month for three months during the summer and fall of 2021, beginning in July. All supplies, including cameras, camera accessories, computers, and other materials will be provided along with food and beverages.

Participants must attend all three segments:

Thursday, July 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Photography training and plant walk.

Wednesday, August 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Photography editing and selection.

Thursday, September 9, 1 to 8 p.m.: Photography show and presentations.

Locations will be announced later. Limited space is available, and registration is required.

Priority will be given to Mille Lacs Band members age 16 and over.

The leaders of the workshop are Linda Black Elk and Della Nohl.

Linda Black Elk is an ethnobotanist specializing in teaching about culturally important plants and their uses as food, medicine, and materials. Linda works to build curriculum and ways of thinking that will promote and protect food sovereignty, traditional plant knowledge, and environmental quality as an extension of the fight against hydraulic fracturing and the fossil fuels industry. She has written for numerous publications, and is the author of "Watoto Unyutapi," a field guide to edible wild plants of the Dakota people. Linda currently serves as the Food Sovereignty Coordinator at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota, and spends her free time



Linda Black Elk, right, has presented on medicinal plants in the Mille Lacs community for several years.

with her husband and three sons, who are all citizens of the Oceti Sakowin.

Della Nohl (Anishinaabe) is a fine arts educator who has guided students and workshop participants in the art of documenting their surroundings through photography. Della has worked as a photojournalist, stills photographer for an award-winning feature film shot on the Onondaga Nation, contract photographer for Indian Artist magazine, and an exhibiting artist best known for her photographic weaves. Della is currently working on anothotypes, a photographic process using plant-based emulsions.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

For More Details and Registration Information, email Colleen.McKinney@HHS.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

EVERY CHILD NEEDS SOMEONE... WILL IT BE YOU?

There is an immediate need for foster families in order to ensure that our children remain immersed in their community, culture, and family. Children and their families depend on us to provide support while they are working toward family reunification.

If you are interested in helping a child and family in need and want to learn more about the fostering process, call the Family Services Department at 320-532-4163, ext. 1743. For more information about MLBO Family Services, visit millelacsband.com/services/family-services.



BIZINDAW CHIANISHINAABEG

This article was originally published in the April 2001 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Gaawiin gidzhichigesiiimin aanogiidkikinooa- moonang-waa gigikichiaya aaminabaniig gaaininangwaa. Apane gii ikidowag asemaa aabaji ik. Anishinaabe mashkiki aabajitoog, gaawiin noongom naagwasinooon mashkiki. Miietago mashkikiadawewigamigong wendinamang mashkiki. Maashkiki ayaamagad, amanj geinaapined awiya. Gakina gegoo mashkiki megwayaak ogii ondinaan Anishinaabe onow bangii mashkiki-wan miinawaa gaainaabadak.

Gibaiminaan, aniibiishikaadeg giizhikaandag. Mii iniw ayaabadakin awiya omisad aakozid. Giiondeg nibiing mashkiki-waabo. Biidaakwaan miinawaa Asemaa. Azaadiiwanagek zhishigwaond, agobizon giishkishing gaye mookomaan bitizh-odizod. Abakamason, oshtigwaan awiya aakozid. Wayaabish-kibagak igaye.

Zanagad noongom geondinigaadegiban mashkiki. Chimookomaanag odibendaanaawaai iw aki. Ozaagitoonaawaa gakina ingoji agwaakwaigan agoode "Gegoo izhaaken omaa." Gakina gegoo mashkikiwan a aw mitig. Ojibik mitig, wanagek aniibi-ishibag, waabigoniins gayego, nibiikaang mayajjiiging waabashkikiing dezhiging, gayego adaawewigamigong giiondiniagaade. Miinawaago giianiibiishiked giiminikwed geget minwaagami onow bangii gaaminikweng aniibiish. Mashkiigobag, Awenisiibag, Waaboozobagoons, Mitigosiwang Miskominagaawanzh.

Gaamijiwaad igogaye megwayaak aanind ogii ondinaanaawaa. Bagwaj opiniig, zhigaagawanzh, Wewaagaayan, Bagaanag, Manoomin, Editeg anooj gegoo miinawaa dash niibing eta aanind majjiing ogiikikendaan waaizhitood jibanaa-dasinok, Waa asanjigod. Adaawewigamig ayaasinok noongom gidaagawanaandaamin.

Listen to Your Elders

We are not doing what our ancestors tried to teach us. There are a few things that we do remember, one is to always use tobacco. One thing we do not do is use Anishinaabe medicine. We do not see Anishinaabe medicine in homes. When we want medicine, we head for the drugstore. Of course, it is handier, and today we have money for medicines.

There is medicine in the forest for whatever ailment the Anishinaabe had. This is where the Anishinaabe got his medicine. Below are some medicines used by Anishinaabe. For lack of the correct botanical name, the Ojibwe names are given for whatever the plant is used for.

Plug bushel, regular tea and cedar boughs are all used for stomach problems. They were boiled to be used as a tea or broth.

Snuff, tobacco and the inner bark of aspen were made into paste and used as a poultice for wounds.

Sage, cedar boughs, or a mixture of flowers were made to burn and inhale for headaches.

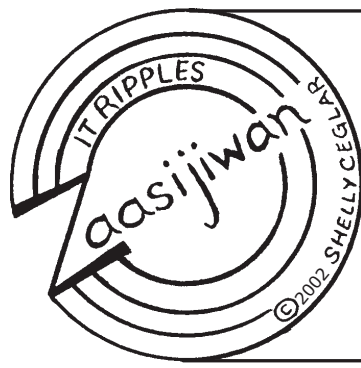
Other medicines and foods that were gathered from the forest are: herbs for tea, Labrador leaves, winter green leaves, moss vine leaves (rabbit leaves), and the stems of raspberry bushes.

It is hard to get medicine from the forest now because lots of land is owned by white people and almost everywhere you look, there is a sign that says "NO TRESPASSING." All parts of plants are used for the medicine. Roots, the wood part, the inner and outer bark, and the leaves. Blossoms and flowers were used as were plants that grew in the water.

Word find

Build your vocabulary by looking for words you know and by looking up words you don't know at ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.

Here are a few starters: Gaawiin (no); asemaa (tobacco); mashkiki (medicine); gakina gegoo (everything); giizhikaandag (cedar); aniibiish (leaf, tea); ojiibik (root); bagwaj (the woods); manoomin (wild rice).



Niibin—It Is Summer

Niibing, nindizhaa niimilidiwing. Gaye, nimaamaa dash nindede izhaawag imaa. Niwaabamaag ninosheyag idash ninzhisheyag. Nimawadishaag ingiw niijikweg. Niniim. Nindamwaa zaasakokwaan. Onzaam, nimbaap. Nindanamilaa. Niminotawaa alaw deweligan. Biindigen! Ambe imaa.

(When it is summer, I go to the traditional dance (powwow). Also, my mother and my father they go there. I see them my uncles and my aunts. I visit with them those friends (girls). I dance. I eat him/her frybread. Plenty, I laugh. I pray. I like to hear him, that drum. Come in! Come there.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Aaniin—as in father
Ambe—as in jay
Niibin—as in seen
Noodin—as in moon
—Short vowels: A, I, O
Idash—as in about
Nimbaap—as in tin
Ozaam—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.

Dependent Nouns My, Your, His/Her Family

Nimaamaa—My mother.
Gimaamaa—Your mother.
Omaamaa—His/her mother.
Nimise(yag)—My older sister(s).
Gimise(yag)—Your older sister(s).
Odimise(yag)—His/her older sister.
Nisaye(yag)—My older brother.
Gisaye(yag)—Your older brother.
Odisaye(yag)—His/her older brother.

These nouns always speak for who the family member belongs to. Also works with body parts!

Niizh—2

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

- A. Noongom gimiwan agwajjiing. Noodin gaye.
B. Gii-izhaayaan zaaga'amoowigamigong, gii-kisinaa.
C. Ningabesh zaaga'iganing. Mino-gabeshiwin.

D. Giziibiigisaginige-giizhigak, Anishinaabeg izhaawag imaa niimi'idwiwing.

E. Gaye gabeshiwag. Anaami-wiigwaasi-mitigoog.

F. Abinoojiyag odaminowag.

G. Iniwag makizinataagewag, dibikak.

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

Niswi—3

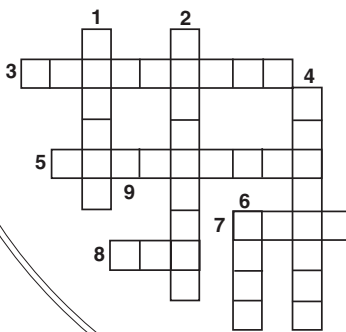
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- I dance.
- I eat it (animate).
- They go.
- Come.

Across:

- Come in!
- I camp.
- That (animate).
- Question marker.



Niwin—4

Dependent Nouns

Nishiime(yag)—My younger brother or sister(s).
Gishiime(yag)—Your younger brother or sister(s).
Nishtigwaan—My head.
Gishtigwaan—Your head.
Qshtigwaan—His/her head.
Ninik(an)—My arm(s).
Ginik(an)—Your arm(s).
Onik(an)—His/her arm(s).

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

- ____shiime obiizikaan ziibaaska'iganagooday.
- Niwi-giziibiiginaanan ginik____ningozis.
- Nimise____ apane niimiwag.
- Mandy ina a'aw ikwe awedi ____maamaa?
- ____dede ogizhaanaag ingiw abinoojiyan.

Ni
Gi
O
yag
an

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. Today it is raining outside. It is windy also. B. When I went to the outhouse, it was cold. C. I am camping by the lake. A good campsite. D. When it is Saturday (floor washing day), Indian people they go there to the dance. E. Also they camp under birch trees. F. Children they are playing. G. Men they play the moccasin game when it is night.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Niniim. 2. Nindamwaa. 4. Izhaawag. 6. Ambe! Across: 3. Biindigen! 5. Ningabesh. 7. A'aw. 8. Ina.

Niwin—4 1. Your younger sister is wearing it a jingle dress. 2. I want to wash them your arms my son. 3. My older sisters always they dance. 4. Mandy? Is that lady over there her mother? 5. My father he watches over them those children.

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 foreign language translation.

This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Summer 2002. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

MUSEUM, TRADING POST SEEK APPLICANTS

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post encourages Band members to apply for two job openings posted recently: Sales Assistant at the Trading Post and Lead Interpreter at the Museum.

The Lead Interpreter position exists to share the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe culture, traditions, and stories by engaging, educating, and entertaining visitors to the museum at an advanced and specialized level of delivery.

Job duties include: 1) Assist daily program operations by providing lead work direction to site guides and coordinating guest services; 2) Assist in the daily operations and administrative duties; 3) Deliver programs, tours, and assist in the creation of programs; 4) Participate in site leadership duties under the direction of the Site Manager or Program Supervisor; and 5) Mentor staff, interns, and volunteers.

Among the qualifications are a high school diploma or equivalent and knowledge of American Indian history and culture, specifically the history and culture of the Ojibwe in Minnesota.

The Sales Assistant II position exists to serve a lead role in facilitating gift shop sales, providing high quality customer service, and maintaining the overall museum store environment.

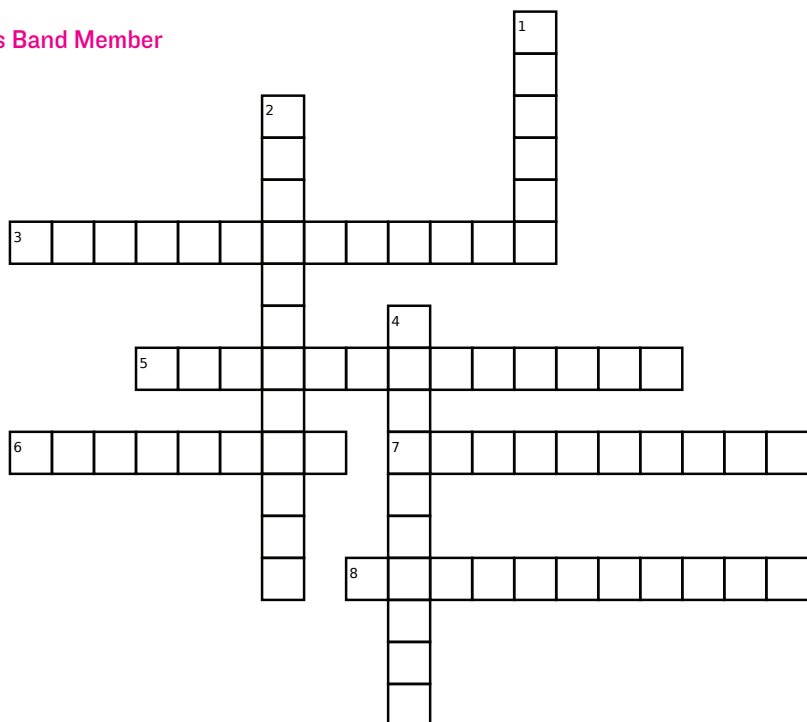
Job duties include: 1) Assist Store Manager with all general day to day store operations.; 2) Maintain a welcoming store environment and provide first rate customer service; 3) Assist Store Manager with inventory management and achieving sales goals; 4) Provide lead work direction to other staff; 5) Perform administrative tasks; and 6) Help ensure the safety of employees, visitors, and objects.

Among the qualifications are: Retail sales or admissions experience; Demonstrated reliability in work attendance and completion of job duties; Demonstrated willingness to pitch in and work collaboratively in a team environment; Ability to keep accurate records and reports, including accounting and math skills; Familiarity with technology, particularly admissions or retail software.

For more information, or to apply, go to www.mnhs.org/jobs.

AAZHAWAAKWASING AABITA-NIIBINO-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Down:

1. Awegonen gaa-_____? (What did she/he say?)
2. Awegonen _____? (What are you doing?)
4. Awegonen nenda-_____? (What are you seeking to know?)

Across

3. Awegonen _____? (What are they doing?)
5. Awegonen _____? (What am I doing?)
6. _____? (What?)
7. Awegonen gaa-_____ a'aw Wenabozho? (What did Wenabozho do?)
8. Awegonen waa-kana-_____? (What do you want to watch?)

CULTURE COLUMN

MORE THOUGHTS ON ENERGY

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

As Anishinaabe change their being status from Biibiyensiwid to Abinooyensiwid and so on until Gichi-aya'aawid, there are methods put into place that assist with the change. Right from the start of coming into this physical space, there is a naming ceremony where a connection is recognized through dreams.



Also, an introduction to the earth where little baby footprints are made to connect the spirit of the baby to the earth. What does this all mean? Why is it important?

As Anishinaabe, we have access to energy not of this world but from the world of the spirits. I imagine our ancestors were greatly connected as individuals and collectively as a people. Imagine an LED light. All by itself, it is bright, but when combined with other LEDs, the light is brighter. The same can be with our energy. Throughout the colonization of our lands, there were many tactics used to turn our attention away from our energy, to allow us to believe our ways were inferior and ultimately to believe that our ways were the work of the devil. For hundreds of years and many generations, those tactics were utilized, adapted, and redeployed.

I hear of prophecies such as the 7th fire where the 7th generation is going to re-ignite our energy. Today, we have many different areas where our energies are being utilized. Some pursue higher learning, which is good. Some dedicate their lives to work, which is good. Some learn our language, which is good. Some ensure our ceremonies are being utilized, which is good. Some participate in traditional harvesting activities — hunting, fishing, ricing, sugaring — which is good. As individuals, Anishinaabe are doing the best they can with what they have mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. There will be another 7th

generation from our own. They will need all those aspects in the future individually and collectively.

How to harness your Shinaabe Energy?

Utilize your name everyday. That builds your relationship with the spirit of that name. It is your special connection to the spirit world. Building that connection is like upgrading from smoke signal to 5G.

Take part in sweatlodge. Within the lodge, you will release energy you no longer use and take on energy you can start to use. It is also a place to establish your vision for any number of things — yourself, your family, your community, etc.

Seek out the Big Drum. The Drum came here for a reason and maybe you will find yours there.

Talk to someone about our way of life. I have met many people and still seek out their help to point me in the right direction when I am having trouble. There are activities within our communities that are returning. Seek your place at one or all.

Every Anishinaabe has a purpose; our job is to seek it out and pursue it. To paraphrase something Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd recently said, "From our Band members who hold degrees with positions of authority to our Band members still using in the street, they all dream of better days ahead." Together, we can help each other absorb knowledge and values to coalesce the Anishinaabe of the future.

"EVERY ANISHINAABE HAS A PURPOSE; OUR JOB IS TO SEEK IT OUT AND PURSUE IT ... TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER ABSORB KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES TO COALESCE THE ANISHINAABE OF THE FUTURE."

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Awegonen i'iw? Awegonen o'ow? Awegonen ezhichigeyan? Awegonen?

Asking, "What?" does not need to be difficult. Just say "Awegonen" (pronounced "Uh way go nayn").

Utilizing this phrase will assist your vocabulary as you ask what things are and eventually what they do.

Awegonen gaa-izhichiged a'aw Wenabozho?

Awegonen o'ow (hold up item)?

Awegonen i'iw (point at something)?

As you go through utilizing the word "awegonen," an understanding of the world around you will start to develop and that understanding will assist with understanding a bit more of how the language works.

Awegonen i'iw? (Uh way go nayn ih' iw) = What is that?

Awegonen o'ow? (Uh way go nayn oh' oh) = What is this?

Awegonen ezhichigeyan? (Uh way go nayn ay zhi chig ay yun) = What are you doing?

Awegonen gaa-izhichiged a'aw Wenabozho? (What did wenabozho do?)

Awegonen gaa-ikidod? (What did she/he say?)

Awegonen nenda-gikendaman? (What are you seeking to know?)

Awegonen waa-kana-waabandaman? (What do you want to watch?)

Awegonen ezhichigewaad? (What are they doing?)

Awegonen ezhichigeyaan? (What am I doing?)

Utilizing "Awegonen" assists with building words, perspective, and timelines for any activity or object.

Miigwech.

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

Awegonen o'owe? What's this?

Na' o'o. Awegonen o'o? Look at this. What is it?

Awegonen edaawaageyan? What are you selling?

Awegonen wedaminwaadang? What is she playing with?

Awegonenan memaachaagin? What are those big things?

JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR OJIBWE SPEAKER

The National Language Service Corps (NLSC) is a congressionally authorized Department of Defense program that provides language and cultural support to U.S. Government agencies.

Members are highly skilled language professionals who connect, share, and grow through networking, training, and testing opportunities. They are currently seeking Native American language/dialect speakers to help with a task.

For more information, please contact Victoria Fedorets, Recruiter, National Language Service Corps. Tel: 703-243-4855, ext. 168.

THE NEW MLBO SITE IS NOW LIVE — CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!

The all-new Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe site is LIVE, and you can now create your account! With your Member Account, you'll be able to access live-stream and recorded meetings, view special notices, find forms and applications, update your contact information, and more.

To activate your account:

1. Visit millelacsband.com on your computer or mobile device.
2. In the upper-right-hand corner, select ANISHINAABE and follow the directions.
3. You will need to provide your name, email address (can only be used for one person), Tribal ID, date of birth, and last four digits of your social security number.

Remember: You can ONLY create an account for yourself with your email address. Band members must be 16 or older to create an account.

Create your account today and enjoy everything the new Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe site has to offer!



MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

MLCV CELEBRATES ENTERPRISE ACADEMY GRADS

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) congratulates the graduates of the Enterprise Academy's Spring 2021 program. Participants were able to attend Enterprise Academy through a new pilot partnership between MLCV and Initiative Foundation. During the 12-week program, attendees received one-on-one training designed to help them develop a realistic business plan.

MLCV is proud to play a role in helping residents of the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy make their entrepreneurial dreams come true. The potential impact to the community the graduates could make is immeasurable.

"Passionate small business owners play an important part in the success of an economy. I hope this opportunity has provided each of the program's participants the tools to harness their passions to become successful entrepreneurs for themselves and their communities," states Aarik Robertson, Director of Strategic Initiatives at MLCV.

This group of entrepreneurs comprised the program's first cohort hosted in the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy. The graduates and their business plans include:

- Adrienne Benjamin and Julie Benjamin, Anishinaabe-inspired coffee and bake shop with a makerspace
- Melanie Benjamin, online shopping community for Native artists
- Terrence Flores, Founder of ColorFlo Painting
- Chris Matrious, stump-grinding business
- Cristal Mroczek, do-it-yourself automotive garage
- Daniel Pawaush, e-commerce business
- Diana Knobel Turner, Founder of Mrs. Knobel Knows Nature Connexions

"We are very pleased with the success of this initial Mille Lacs Tribal Economy cohort," shares Jeff Wig, vice president for entrepreneurship. "While much work remains to be done by the participants to make their business ideas a reality, the Initiative Foundation and our partners at the North Central Small Business Development Center are ready to help every step of the way."

While the Enterprise Academy brings several resources to the participants in a condensed timeframe, it is just the first step in the journey to owning a successful business. The next steps for the entrepreneurs can vary and include additional business planning, coordinating financing, searching for a location, and completing the legal incorporation documents necessary.

About Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is owned by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and manages its numerous businesses, including Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Casino Hinckley, the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel, the DoubleTree Hilton in St. Paul, Minn., the DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis Park Place in St. Louis Park, Minn., Makwa Global, a commercial laundry, cinema, a grocery store, gas/convenience stores, a golf course and a wastewater treatment plant. It also considers new economic opportunities to enhance the sustainability of the Band and the communities it serves.

About the Initiative Foundation

The Initiative Foundation's 14-county service area includes the sovereign tribal nations of the Leech Lake and Mille Lacs Bands of Ojibwe. The Foundation exists to improve the quality of life and to build stronger communities in Central Minnesota by offering business loans, nonprofit grants, leadership training, and donor services through its Partner Funds programs.

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.



Let your story begin.™

GRANDCASINOMN.COM





COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

First aid and CPR training was offered at the District II Aanjibimaadizing office on Friday, June 4. On June 19, Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk participated in Garrison's Fire Fest (right). For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Monte at 320-532-3430.



GRA UPDATE

WHERE DID ELDER BINGO GO?

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

In previous GRA articles, we described the three essential elements of gaming — CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, and PRIZE. This definition is key in understanding GRA's recommendation for future Elder bingo sessions. Remove any one or more of the elements and you no longer have gaming.

Bingo is a Class II game and contains all three elements of gaming — player pays for bingo cards (CONSIDERATION), a player's numbered card must be the first to cover the pattern when numbers are drawn (CHANCE), then the winning player receives a PRIZE.

Elder bingo operations in all districts were being played as true Class II gaming with consideration, chance, and prize. When Class II gaming operations are being conducted on Band Land, all National Indian Gaming Minimum Internal Control Standards and the Band's Detailed Gaming Regulations must be followed.

At a minimum, the GRA would need to license any facility where operations are conducted, we would need to license the key employees running the operations, the operations must have paper inventory and instrument maintenance procedures, and revenue and auditing standard compliance is necessary.

While GRA would assist in creating these procedures that protect the integrity of the game and safeguard assets, Elder bingo operations require significant resources... BUT THERE'S AN EASY FIX!

The cost of bingo cards for Elder bingo sessions tended to be small: a quarter, fifty cents, or a dollar per card. If the operators running Elder bingo no longer charged for cards, thus removing the CONSIDERATION element, Elder bingo would no longer be "gaming" and no longer require the cumbersome controls, procedures, or GRA oversight.

Elder bingo operators are challenged to run sessions without charging Elders for bingo cards or begin working on getting their operation and facility in compliance.

As always, we welcome questions; please contact Executive Director Becky Houle at 320-532-8194, Assistant Executive Director Teresa Kozumplik at 320-384-4811, or Compliance Director Becky Majzner at 320-384-4807.

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at www.millelacsband.com. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public.

APPLY FOR GRA BOARD OPENING

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd is seeking Band members interested in applying to serve on the Gaming Regulatory Authority Board of Directors. To learn more, please email Legislative Director Brianna Boyd at brianna.boyd@millelacsband.com no later than Friday, July 9, 2021.

**Host Drums
PIPESTONE &
RED WILLOW**

**VETERAN'S FAMILY
FLAG RAISING,
FRIDAY, 5 P.M.
WILL BE FLOWN
ALL WEEKEND.**

Home of the Jingle Dress

PUBLIC WELCOME!

**ISKIGAMIZIGAN
Est. 1966**

**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
WELCOMES YOU! TO OUR
55th ANNUAL
TRADITIONAL POWWOW**

AUGUST 20, 21 & 22, 2021

GRAND ENTRY
FRIDAY 7 P.M.
SATURDAY 1 P.M. & 7 P.M.
SUNDAY 1 P.M.

EMCEE'S
"NAZHIKE"
BRAD HARRINGTON MLB
"MIGIZI"
MIKE SULLIVAN LCO

AREA DIRECTORS
DEAN SMALLWOOD MLB
DUCK WHITE LCO

SATURDAY MID MORNING
• PARADE
• REZ CAR
• HORSESHOE
• MOCCASIN GAMES

POWWOW COMMITTEE SPECIALS
WOMEN'S
OLD STYLE JINGLE DRESS
MEN'S
WOODLAND STYLE

**ALL DANCERS MUST BE IN APPROPRIATE
REGALIA AT EACH GRAND ENTRY AND
EXHIBITIONS, IN ORDER TO BE PAID**

**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS
FOR LOST/STOLEN ITEMS.**
**NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR FIREWORKS
ALLOWED!**
**SECURITY & MEDICAL STAFF
ON PREMISES**

**ISKIGAMIZIGAN
POWWOW GROUNDS
WEST SIDE OF
LAKE MILLE LACS
12 MILES NORTH OF
ONAMIA, MN AND
NORTH OF
GRAND CASINO
ON HIGHWAY 169,
FOLLOW SIGNS!**

**FREE:
ADMISSION, CAMPING,
SHOWERS, & FIREWOOD**

**OFF-SITE FIREWOOD
PROHIBITED**

**Entok minikwen nbi
Tik koon anaga
Gego minikween waashkobaagamig
mi - Don't drink sugary drinks**

AROUND THE RESERVATION

REGISTER NOW FOR WISDOM STEPS GOLF TOURNEY

The 17th Annual Wisdom Steps Golf Tournament will be held Friday, September 3, 2021, at Fond du Lac Black Bear Golf Course in Carlton, Minnesota.

All proceeds will go to Wisdom Steps, a Minnesota statewide 501C3 Non-Profit preventative health program that relies solely on fundraising, donations, and volunteers to support their health promotion incentive plan.

Elders participate year-round in healthy living activities and health screening and are recognized at the Annual Wisdom Steps Conference.

Registration will be at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m., lunch at 2 p.m., and social hour at 3 p.m.

To learn more or print out a registration form, go to www.wisdomsteps.org/events/2021-golf-tournament/.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

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 breaking news updates to Band members.

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

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



APPLY
BY
JULY 15,
2021

Native American Artist-in-Residence Program

with the Minnesota Historical Society

The Native American Artist-in-Residence Program is an exciting initiative designed to expose Native artists to museum and library collections. Through this program, artists will have the opportunity to advance their understanding of traditional art forms and to share that knowledge with their home communities in a way that they design.

"Maipiya ekta wakan, Maka ekta wakan (What is sacred above, is sacred below)." a beaded cradleboard created by Randlynn Boucher, 2019.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit mnh.s.org/residencies/naair or call 651-259-3281.

MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Ryan Sund

Nazhikebines, Ryan James Sund, 25-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on May 25, 2021. Visitation was at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 28, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 29, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Nazhikebines, Ryan James Sund was born on September 24, 1995, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to his mother, Michelle Bebeau, and father, Kevin Sund. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and skateboarding. Ryan liked to spend his time playing his guitar, cooking, and being with his family.

Nazhikebines, Ryan is survived by his mother, Michelle Bebeau; father, Kevin Sund; son, Tayden Sund; brothers, Aaron Sund, Nolan Sund; sister, Hailey Chevalier; and many loving aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Bonnie Belle Dorr; and great-grandmother, Genevieve Dorr.



Dorothy Sam

Wewenibiikwe, Dorothy Sam, 81-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on May 26, 2021. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

A funeral ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 30, at the District I Community Center with Skip Churchill officiating. Burial was in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Dorothy dedicated her life to helping people in the chemical dependency field and served as Chief Justice for the Mille Lacs Band. Dorothy enjoyed sewing blankets, going to ceremonial dances, and spending time with friends, family, and grandchildren. She liked playing bingo at the casino and solitaire on her phone. Dorothy loved watching old western TV shows, and was well known by Anishinaabe people across the country and in Canada for her spiritual teachings.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her mother and father, John "Ne-gon-i-gii-shik" and Lucy "O Madwe" Clark; brothers, James Clark, Charlie Roach, Steven Clark, Norman Clark, Harlan Downwind; sisters, Grace Boyd, Rose Premo, Nancy Hansen, Genevieve Dorr, Kanchel Clark, Mildred Benjamin; daughters, Linda Sam and Isabelle Sam.

She is survived by her husband, Fred Sam; sons, Jay Kanasatega, Darrell Sam, and Paul Sam; daughters, Ida Downwind, Elaine Sam, Denise Sargent, and Erin Rafael; and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.



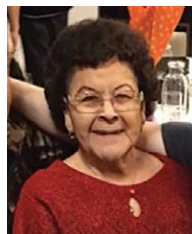
Marie Gudim

Naanogaabawiikwe (Marie "Sam" Gudim) passed on into the spirit world on June 9, 2021. She lived a vibrant life that began with her birth in Cloquet, Minnesota, on March 25, 1937, to John Sam and Maggie Armstrong. Marie grew up and attended school in Isle, Minnesota, until the 11th grade and then obtained her GED, after which she then decided to help out her family with the sale of their cultural art and yearly manoomin harvesting. This is where Marie found her groove as a pro rice knocker. When she met Oliver Benjamin during her teenage years, they married and they became known all over Anishinaabe akiing as two of the best ricers around. They had six children together: James, Jacqueline (Moltaji), Julie, Jeffrey, Johnathan, and Jennifer. Two of whom, Jeffrey and Jennifer, precede Marie in the spirit world. She was also blessed in her long life with six grandchildren: Adrienne, Matthew, Dakota, Christina, Amelia, and Rebecca, and four great-grandchildren: Isabella, Taliya, DeLilah, and Lucas.

Later in life, an old high school love came back around and she married Jack Gudim. They happily explored the world together. There wasn't a stone they left unturned. From the dance floors of Isle, to the mountains of Hawaii, and even living their later years in the slow-paced snowbird life in Arizona during freezing Minnesota winters, they were absolutely inseparable.

Marie accomplished much in her life. She served as the Honorable District II Representative of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for a number of crucial years while the path for economic prosperity that is seen on the reservation today was being built and bargained for in small meetings with the State and Federal government. As a woman in her time, it was trailblazing to be a woman leading among men.

Marie will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She always had a warm hug, a sweet compliment, and an inspiring word of advice for her friends and family. One of her most memorable attributes was the way that she lit up a room with her fashionista flair; gold glittery hair, red nails, red lipstick, and a killer pair of heels. She will always be remembered as a Mille Lacs Lake fashion goddess.



Bonita White

Anwaatinibikwe, Bonita "Bonnie" White, 65-year-old resident of Hinckley, Minnesota, passed away on June 2, 2021. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

A funeral ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 6, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Gisibaneb officiating. Interment was in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

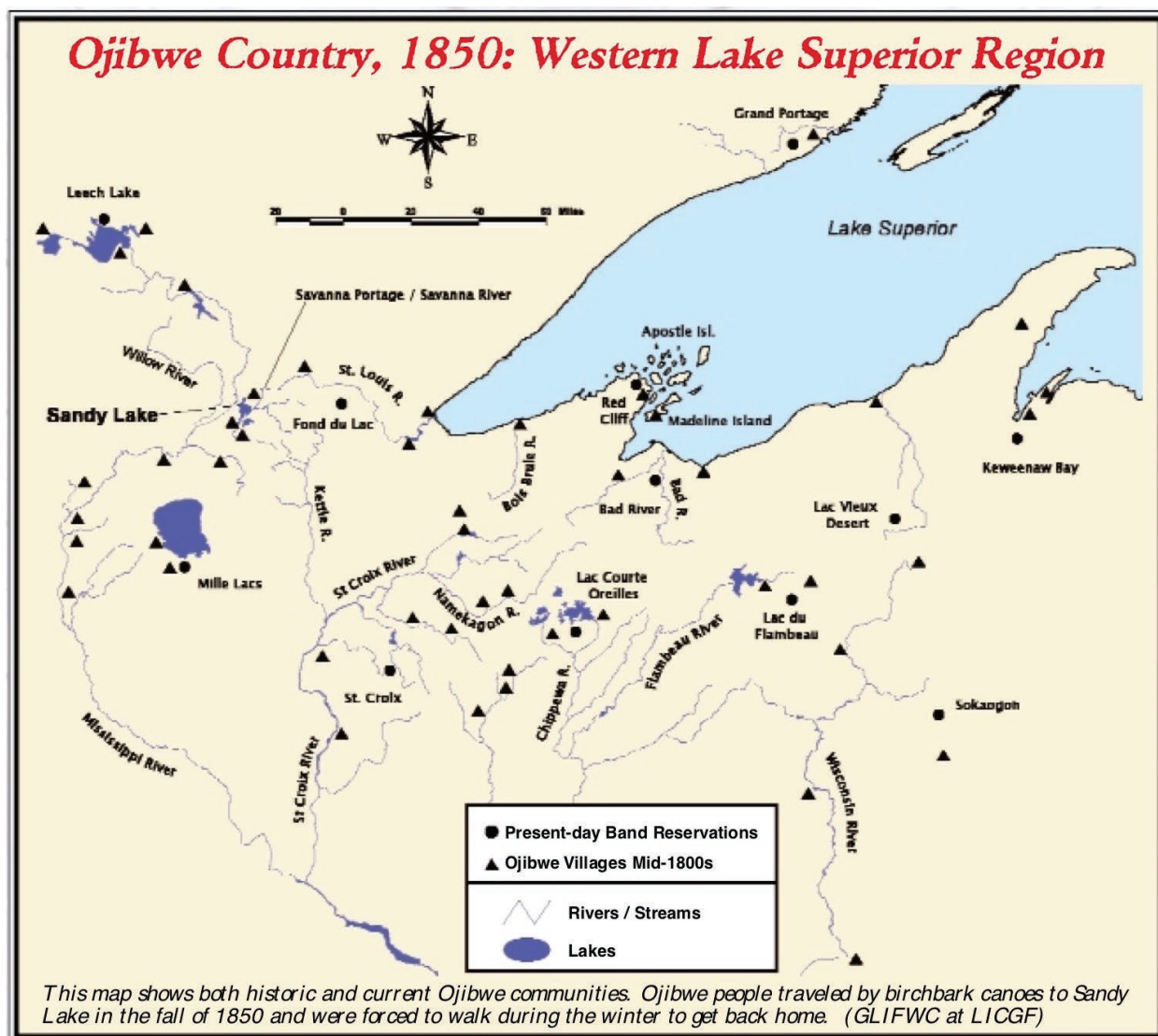
Anwaatinibikwe, Bonita "Bonnie" was born on September 30, 1955, in Cass Lake, Minnesota, to Elfreda (Dorr) and Bain Sam. She participated in many ceremonial dances, was a jingle dress champion, and Mide. Bonnie enjoyed traveling, especially through the mountains. Quilting, playing bingo, and being with her family was how she liked to spend her time. Bonnie loved her nieces and nephews like they were her own. She will be greatly missed by her family.

Anwaatinibikwe is survived by her loving husband, Donald White; mother, Elfreda Sam; sons, Troy Sam and an adopted son; brothers, Robert Kegg and Steve Sam, Lonnie Burr; sisters, Bernice Pawaush, Christina Gale, Melanie Benjamin, Clara Jackson; grandchildren, Marius, Lonika, and many other grandchildren; along with many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Bain Sam; two infant sons; two brothers; and two sisters.



This page is offered as a service to those families who would like to share the news of their loved ones' passing. Please submit memorials for Mekweniminjig to news@millelacsband.com. Photos are accepted but not required.



MIKWENDAAGOZIWAG — REMEMBERING THE SANDY LAKE TRAGEDY

In an annual ceremony sponsored by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Anishinaabe from around the region remember those who died in the tragic events of 1850. The ceremony will be virtual again this year from 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 28. The ceremony log-in will be posted on on GLIFWC's Facebook page prior to the event.

THE SANDY LAKE TRAGEDY OF 1850

In the 1840s, most Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Ojibwe bands received their annuities by early autumn at La Pointe on Madeline Island — a cultural and spiritual center for Ojibwe people. Some government officials in the Minnesota Territory, however, wanted the distribution site moved out of Wisconsin in order to reap the economic benefits of a large, concentrated Indian population.

Alexander Ramsey, the Territorial Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Minnesota, worked with other officials to remove the Ojibwe from their homes in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to Sandy Lake, known to the Ojibwe as Gaamiitawangagaamag. The flow of annuity money and government aid to build Indian schools, agencies, and farms would create wealth for Ramsey and his supporters in Minnesota.

Pressured by Ramsey and others, United States President Zachary Taylor issued an executive order in February 1850 that sought to move Ojibwe Indians living east of the Mississippi River to their unceded lands.

Initially stunned by the breach of the 1837 and 1842 Treaty terms, Ojibwe leaders recognized that the removal order clearly violated their agreement with the United States. Soon, a broad coalition of supporters — missionary groups, newspapers, businessmen, and Wisconsin state legislators — rallied to oppose the removal effort, and Band members refused to abandon their homes.

President Taylor's removal order had failed. Nevertheless, Ramsey and Indian Sub-agent John Watrous had a scheme to lure these Ojibwe into Minnesota and trap them there over the winter. They informed Band members that the treaty annuity distribution site had changed from La Pointe to Sandy Lake, some 285 canoe miles to the west. If the Ojibwe hoped to receive anything that year, they were instructed to be at Sandy Lake by October 25, 1850.

While Band members from Michigan and some eastern reaches of Wisconsin refused to travel with winter fast approaching, more than 5,500 Ojibwe journeyed to Sandy Lake

that autumn. They arrived fatigued and hungry after the arduous journey, only to find no one there to distribute the supplies. Wild game was scarce, fishing was poor, and high water had wiped out the local wild rice crop for the second consecutive year. For the weary travelers and those Ojibwe who resided at Sandy Lake, living conditions deteriorated rapidly.

Over a six-week period as harsh winter conditions set in, Band members waited near the newly established Indian sub-agency. Without adequate food or shelter, disease and exposure ravaged Ojibwe families. More than 150 died at Sandy Lake from complications caused by dysentery and the measles.

A partial annuity payment was finally completed on December 2, providing the Ojibwe with a meager three-day food supply and no cash to buy desperately needed provisions. The following day most of the Ojibwe broke camp, while a few people stayed behind to care for those too ill to travel. With the canoe routes frozen and over a foot of snow on the ground, families walked hundreds of miles to get back home. Another 250 died on that bitter trail, and the Ojibwe vowed never to abandon their villages in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan for Sandy Lake.

In the years following the Sandy Lake tragedy, Ojibwe bands and their non-Indian supporters vigorously opposed further attempts at removal from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Newspaper editors and missionaries rallied public support for the Ojibwe. Ramsey and Watrous tried again to bring the bands to Sandy Lake in 1851, but were rebuffed by survivors who called the annuity payment site a "graveyard."

A delegation of Ojibwe chiefs and headmen traveled to Washington, D.C. in the spring of 1852 to protest Ramsey's removal efforts and the needless suffering that occurred at Sandy Lake. Led by Chief Buffalo of La Pointe, who was well into his 90s, the Ojibwe requested an official end to removal efforts. After meeting with tribal leaders, President Millard Fillmore agreed to rescind the removal order and pledged that overdue and future annuities would be made at La Pointe.

Source: glifwc.org/publications/pdf/SandyLake_Brochure.pdf.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

"Non Removable," a video created by Nay Ah Shing School youth, received the first place award in both technical quality and viewer's choice at the Native CHAT (Natives for Curbing HIV/AIDS Transmission) Film Festival held at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Natalie Bueno and Kayla Cash accepted the award and a \$550 prize for Nay Ah Shing School. Clara Gahbow won first place, and Shauna and Meghanne Benjamin won second place in the Community Healing Project's Father's Day essay contest. They received dinner at Woodlands Steakhouse with their dads. Lonnie Bellcourt, Megan Saboo, Mackenzie Osburn, and Adam Benjamin were the runners-up. They received passes to take their dads to a movie. Gail Kulick, a long-time Mille Lacs attorney and civic leader, became the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Commissioner of Corporate Affairs in June.

15 years ago — 2006

Band members and veterans Kenny Weyaus and Allen Weyaus attended Matt Entenza's press conference in Brainerd on June 12. Entenza, the DFL-endorsed candidate for state attorney general, announced proposals to protect veterans in light of the recent theft of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' data. On June 13, Mille Lacs Band members re-elected Herb Weyaus, Marvin Bruneau, and Harry Davis to their posts on the Band Assembly. Weyaus was Secretary/Treasurer, Bruneau was District II Representative, and Davis was District III Representative. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke to nearly 3,000 people from across the state at the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) 2006 State Convention in Rochester. After attending a Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) precinct caucus and county convention, Elizabeth Towle was chosen to serve as an alternate to the DFL state convention. Elizabeth went to the convention with her grandmother, Carol Towle, who learned about politics with her. Band member Michael Thomas and his two grandchildren, Krista and Michael Thomas, represented Minnesota in the North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado, on July 2–8.

20 years ago — 2001

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin held hearings with Band members regarding the budgeting process. At those meetings, it became clear that Band members wanted more participation in shaping the spending priorities of the Band. In keeping with the desire of Band members for more input, ballots were sent to them asking their preference on a number of issues to determine how Band money would be spent. The Mille Lacs Band appointed two Band members to commissioner posts with the tribal government: Duane Dunkley was the Commissioner of Education and Curt Kalk was the Commissioner of Natural Resources. Band member Anita Misquadace was the new Program Administrator at the East Lake Community Center. Congressman James Oberstar, who represented Minnesota's Eighth District, visited the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Civilian Community Corps (TCCC) program with Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Band member Donald Graves, the head of surveillance at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, ran in the 25th annual Grandma's Marathon in Duluth on June 16. Band member Bill Hemming was named Vice President of Facilities at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

The information above is from the July 2001, 2006, and 2011 issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

JULY ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Lori Ann Craker
Douglas Rodney Sam
Rhonda Lynn Jones
Robert Duane Anderson
David Niib Aubid
Cynthia Pauline Backora
Darline Ann Barbour
Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu
MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde
Faith Caylen Bellecourt
Anita Lynn Benjamin
James Oliver Benjamin
Roberta Joy Benjamin
Timothy Adam Benjamin
Roxann Lynn Carr
Archie Dahl Cash
Kevin Scott Churchill
Randall Clark
Rosa Mae Colton
Christine Marie Costello
Gary Lee Davis
Michael Wayne Davis
Brian DeSantis
Victoria Lynn Dunagan

Rosella Marie Eagle
Marc Alan Fahrlander
Lisa Rosanne Frolichman
Carla Jean Gargano
Donna Lou Gilmore
Jay Alex Graikowski
Karen Harrington
Lisa Michelle Jackson
Debra Ann Kamimura
Dixie Marie Kamimura
Judith Joan Kanassatega
Vivian Roxanne Kegg
Richard Joseph Keller
Terry Bruce Kemper
Deborah Jean Kersting
Darlene Ann LaFave
Bonita Marie Lucas
Jennifer Carole Mancini
Virginia Mann
Brian David Matrious
Meskwanakwad
Alan Douglas Mitchell
Doreen Kay Mitchell
Jo Ann Mitchell
Letitia Mitchell
Darren Wayne Moose

Carol Jean Nickaboine
James Gregory Nickaboine
Wanda Marie Nickaboine
Alan Michael O'Brien
Debra Ann Olson
Kevin Dean Pawlitschek
Karen Peterson
Joseph Vincent Pawaush
Frederick Allen Pike
Steven Edward Premo
Daryl Alan Quaderer
Deanna Louise Sam
Elfreda M Sam
Steve Leroy Sam
David Frederick Schauf
Orretta Faye Sharlow
Valerie Jayne Shingobe
Alicia Lydia Skinaway
Geraldine Ellen Skinaway
Darryl Gene Smith
Andrew Felix St. Clair
Kevin William Sutton
Patricia Louise Thomas
Christine Lynn Torres
Elizabeth Annette Wilson
Jollette Marie Zapf

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday June 20 to the most amazing woman ever, my **Candy Joy Shaugobay!** Happy birthday, Mama, we love you very much! Love Jake, Tan Tan, Carmelo, and Cyrell! Love you baby! Always and forever!

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Nicole** on July 2 with love from the Harrington family • Happy birthday **Dean** on July 2 love Mom, bros, sis, and Mila • Happy birthday **Anita Benjamin** on July 5. Love you lots, Tony & Cassie Benjamin • Birthday shout out to **Marcel Richey** on July 6 from Uncle Tony & Aunty Cassie • Happy 17th birthday **Arriana Benjamin** on July 12. Love you lots, Mom, Dad, Alliana, Anthony, Adriana, Avriana

• Happy birthday **Max Dean** on July 12. Love, the Harrington family • Happy birthday to my sister **Chasity Benjamin** on July 13. Love lots, your sister Cassie Benjamin • Happy birthday **Karen** on July 13. Love, the Harrington family • Happy birthday **Rachel** on July 21. Love your brothers and sissys • Happy 6th birthday **Caden Shingobe** on July 24, with lots of love from Mom, Dad, brothers Jaden and Carter, Auntie Destanie, uncles Jordan and Dallas Jr. and Great-Gramma Gina. • Happy 6th Birthday **Carter Anderson** on July 25, with lots of love from Mom. Dad, brothers Jaden and Caden, Auntie Shyla, uncles Jordan and Dallas Jr. and Great Gramma Gina.

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

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 Baabiitaw 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

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

Emergency Services: 320-532-1755 or 320-532-1756. After hours: 320-630-2432 or 320-362-4672

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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

NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

The Tribal Noteboard welcomes Band member submissions, including birthdays, congratulatory messages, and memorial tributes. For birthday messages, send name, birthday, and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to news@millelacsband.com or **320-237-6851**. The deadline for the August issue is July 15. Photos may be included if space allows.

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



COME TO "THE REZ"

"The Rez" NA meeting meets in person (with social distancing and masks required) on Fridays at 6 p.m. at the old Ne-la-Shing Clinic/New Aanjibimaadizing Building, 43500 Migizi Drive.

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>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. 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 Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Youth softball 5:30 p.m. District I <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Anishinaabe Values Ride <i>See page 9</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See left</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>				
<p>CIRCLE OF HEALTH OUTREACH COMES TO DISTRICTS II, IIA, III</p> <p>Circle of Health staff will once again make the rounds in Districts II, IIA, and III in July. Visit with staff to sign up for health insurance or get your questions answered at these locations and times: July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29: District III Hinckley 10 a.m. to noon/Aazhoomoog 1 to 3 p.m. July 7, 16, 21, 30: District II East Lake 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 9, 14, 23, 28: District IIA Chiminising Ctr. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>				<p>4</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Basketball camp 9 a.m.–4 p.m. District I <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Basketball camp 9 a.m.–4 p.m. District I <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Safe Native American Passenger Training <i>see page 16</i></p> <p>Women's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming, Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Youth softball 5:30 p.m. District IIA <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Wild plant workshop <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Youth basketball tourney 11 a.m.–3 p.m. District III <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>Youth golf 5:30 p.m. Grand National Golf Club <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Youth basketball 5:30 p.m. District III <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Women's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Family kickball 5:30–8 p.m. District III <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Fond du Lac College Registration District I and II <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>Youth softball 5:30 p.m. District II <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Parents vs. kids softball tourney 11 a.m.–3 p.m. District I <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>				
<p>18</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Youth golf 5:30 p.m. Grand National Golf Club <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Youth basketball 5:30 p.m. District I <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Women's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Fond du Lac College Registration District III <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>Family kickball 5:30–8 p.m. District II <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Red Brick, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Youth softball 5:30 p.m. District III <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>District II Pet Clinic 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Minisinaakwaang Community Center <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>				
<p>25</p> <p>District II Pet Clinic 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Minisinaakwaang Community Center <i>See page 10</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Youth golf 5:30 p.m. Grand National Golf Club <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Youth basketball 5:30 p.m. District III <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>Women's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>District I Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Old District I community center</p> <p>Art at the ROC <i>See page 9</i></p> <p>Sandy Lake Tragedy Memoria <i>See 17</i></p> <p>Kickball <i>See page 8</i></p> <p>First Aid/CPR <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>District II Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety, Zooming <i>See above</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building <i>See 18</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>				



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359

millelacsband.com

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 30308



OJIBWE

INAAJIMOWIN

AABITA-NIIBINO-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 7

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



MAKING HISTORY

Band Assembly live-streams meetings to Band members. See page 1.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaa Jimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. The August issue deadline is July 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.

**NEW JUSTICE HAS
A PASSION FOR
SERVICE**
page 1

**COUSINS BUILD
CAMPGROUND WITH
INDIGENOUS THEME**
page 6

**FAMILY SERVICES
DIRECTOR OVERSEES
POSITIVE CHANGES**
page 7

**HONOR STUDENT
EMBRACES LOVE OF
SCIENCE**
page 8