



OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

BINAAKWE-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 10

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



OGECHIE MANOOMIN LONG-AWAITED FIRST CROP LOOKS GOOD

Todd Moilanen, the DNR's Director of Cultural Resources, was the first Band member in more than 70 years to harvest manoomin from Lake Ogechie. But he won't be the last.

Six years after the Buck Moore Dam was removed where the Rum River leaves the lake in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, the Mille Lacs Band DNR opened the lake to rice harvesters. Unfortunately, it wasn't easy to access, and the low water level made it almost impossible to pole through the rice beds.

"It was nature's way of telling us to leave it alone for another year," said Todd. "It's beautiful rice, though!"

Todd knocked about five pounds of rice when he was out by himself, processed it at home, and fed it to Nay Ah Shing students before they headed out to Onamia to learn ricing in a more accessible location. He also donated some to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum for a rice demonstration on Saturday, September 18.

In 1950, before the concrete dam was built, replacing an earthen dam, Mille Lacs Band Chairman Fred Sam warned the State of Minnesota about what was going to happen.

(Fred is pictured below in the center, along with Ole Sam,

Jim Davis, Mrs. Jim Hill, and Mrs. James Beaulieu.)

A *St. Paul Pioneer Press* story reprinted in the Feb. 16, 1950, *Mille Lacs Messenger* said, "Onamia Lake, once a source of much wild rice, has been raised and most of the wild rice beds destroyed. Lake Ogechie, another rice lake, is to be raised four feet, he (Fred Sam) said, which means another heavy loss to the Indians."

The dam was built, and Fred's prediction came true, as wild rice was almost completely eradicated from the lake.

In 2015, the dam removal process began, and within a year, the rice was coming back on its own.

According to Wikipedia, this was not the first time the Mille Lacs Band removed a dam. In 1856, after lumbermen built a dam at the Onamia outlet that flooded out the rice, Band members removed the dam.

The dam was eventually rebuilt and the rice ruined, but the state removed the Onamia Dam several years before the Buck Moore Dam. Lake Onamia is back to its former glory as a haven for ducks and ricers alike. Ogechie may not be a popular ricing ground this year, but that day will also come.



Commissioner Peter Nayquonabe, back right, with his father Joe, wife Shannon, and children.

COMMISSIONER LOVES WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

Peter Nayquonabe has spent his life on the Reservation

By Vivian LaMoore Director of Public Relations

Having grown up in the Onamia community, Peter Nayquonabe is deeply rooted in his hometown and Reservation life. He continues his community first-theory by helping to raise seven children in the community as well. Family, community, and education hold high levels of importance to Peter as he brings his experience to his role as Commissioner of Administration, a role he sees as one where he is working for the people.

He has worked for the Mille Lacs Band for 20-plus years. He started out in Health and Human Services and Youth Services before a stint as the Office Manager for Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin in 2005. "She wouldn't give me Deputy Assistant until I finished school." With education being a priority, he finished school and graduated from St. Cloud State in 2007 with a degree in finance and was then given a shot at the Deputy Assistant position. "But that was only for a month," he said, laughing. "And then I became Assistant Commissioner of Administration."

Peter is the son of Joe Nayquonabe Sr., who has been a guiding force in Peter's life. Education is, and always has been, important to Joe Sr., who insisted on his children investing in not only their own personal future, but the future of the Mille Lacs Band as a whole by educating themselves. Peter did not stop at one degree. He went back to college and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting as well as a Master of Tribal Administration and Governance.

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CEREMONIAL DANCE DATES, FALL 2021

Mick & Syngen, Mille Lacs, October 1 & 2

Andy & Steve, Mille Lacs, October 8 & 9

Lynda & LeAnn, Mille Lacs, October 15 & 16

Joe & George, Mille Lacs, October 22 & 23

Bob & John, Mille Lacs, October 29 & 30

Sheldon & Joe Jr., Mille Lacs, November 5 & 6

Darrell & Skip, Lake Lena, November 12 & 13

Lee & Mike, Lake Lena, November 19 & 20

Tim & Tom, East Lake, November 26 & 27

(Note: Vince & Dale's dance was held at East Lake September 10 & 11)

Around the region:

Giniw Giizhig, Cass Lake, MN, October 1 & 2

Paul Day, Oak Point, MN, October 7-10

Dan, Round Lake, WI, October 8 & 9

Allen Hardy, Cass Lake, MN, October 22 & 23

Donna, Round Lake, WI, October 29 & 30

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Dear Band Members,

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I want to begin my column this month by saying “miigwech” to the members of the Band Assembly and Secretary-Treasurer/Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd.

Some of you have heard me say this before, but I continue to be amazed at how much work this Band Assembly is getting done for the Band membership under the leadership of Secretary-Treasurer and Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd.

Title 3 of Band Statutes includes the phrase “to the people is reserved the power” to participate in government. Under Secretary-Treasurer Boyd’s leadership, the people now have multiple opportunities to exercise that power. With the support of the Band Assembly and outstanding staff, he has created a welcoming environment in Band Assembly for Band members, and information-sharing with Band members has skyrocketed.

Speaker Boyd and this Band Assembly have achieved more transparency, professionalism, progress, and efficiency in the legislative process than any other Secretary-Treasurer or Band Assembly I have ever worked with. Band members can now watch all Band Assembly sessions. So many Band members have told me they enjoy watching the Band Assembly in action and feel more involved. Public comment periods are being offered for proposed legislation, and public hearings are being held so that Band members can have a voice before a bill becomes a law.

Some people think that it is the job of the elected officials to make all the decisions, and that the only decision the Band members have is who they vote for. Except that is not how democracy works. Yes, democracy is about voting for a person who will represent them when he or she votes, but that’s only a small part of it. Democracy is about citizens having an active voice in government and having enough information to provide input to their representatives to guide their decision-making. Speaker Boyd has led us through changes that have increased the power of the people to be involved.

During the September 23 Band Assembly session, District III Representative Wally St. John addressed his community members, encouraging them to attend his community meetings. He talked about how he doesn’t hold these meetings for himself. He holds those meetings so the Band members can

hear about what is happening in government, ask questions, get answers, and tell him how they feel about issues he will be voting on. He made an excellent point which the other Representatives echoed — when they vote, they are not representing themselves. They are representing you, the voters. They wanted Band members to know that you have an opportunity to influence decision-making by sharing your voice, attending meetings, and providing your comments about proposed legislation in person or in writing. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Attend meetings, read the information shared, and let us know how you feel.

“DEMOCRACY IS ABOUT CITIZENS HAVING AN ACTIVE VOICE IN GOVERNMENT AND HAVING ENOUGH INFORMATION TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO GUIDE THEIR DECISION-MAKING.”

I want to highlight just a few of the meetings that I held this month that I am very excited about for the Band. On September 15-16, the Commissioners and I held our first in-person two-day Cabinet meeting since before the pandemic began. The Cabinet meeting was attended by Pete Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Administration; Maria Costello, Assistant Commissioner of Administration; Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources; Tim Jackson, Commissioner of Community Development; Joe Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs; Byron Ninham, Executive Director of Education; Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General; and Mel Towle, Commissioner of Finance. We have a very strong leadership team, and it was really exciting to spend our retreat doing strategic planning. I am also excited to bring the draft plan out to the community for your input.

Also in September, I attended a Tribal Energy Development Workshop hosted by White Earth to learn about exciting new opportunities for tribal governments to become involved with solar energy development. The federal Infrastructure bill also

includes new funding to bring broadband to rural tribal communities, and the Executive Branch is already planning so we are ready to take advantage of these new opportunities as soon as the bill passes into law. It is a top priority of mine to ensure there is strong broadband internet available for every Band household in Minnesota.

On September 14, District II Representative Bruneau and I met with Secretary of State Steve Simon to talk about the need for restoring the voting precinct in Spalding Township near the East Lake community, and District Representative Bruneau spoke to how critical this is. Many years ago, Band members in the East Lake area could drive a few miles to cast their vote in state and federal elections. This changed when some local precinct officials in that area made the decision to close that precinct. Since then, many District II Band members now have to drive between 60 and 80 miles round trip just to cast a ballot in state and federal elections. This is unacceptable. Representative Bruneau and I are working closely to do whatever is possible to resolve this issue, and we have requested support from Secretary of State Simon.

I had an opportunity in December to introduce Governor Walz at an event in his honor. Throughout the worst parts of the COVID-19 pandemic when it first took hold, when information was scarce and people were fearful, there was the Governor. He was like a pillar of strength, confidence, and leadership. For us tribal leaders, he was on the phone with us — sometimes every single day. He was always there for us, our tribes, and the people of our state. I was happy to have a chance to talk about his strong leadership.

As I write this article, I am attending the fall conference of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA). I am a member of this board, and NAFOA has become the go-to national organization in helping tribes take advantage of the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) opportunities to “build back better,” as President Biden likes to say. Along with the infrastructure bill that is going through the Congress, President Biden has led the largest infusion of desperately needed funding into Indian Country we have seen in this country’s history. Miigwech to our state and federal leaders who have been so supportive of Indian Country, and miigwech to our Band members for getting involved in Band government!

Commissioner from page 1

Peter says while it is important to have a formal education, his community education, support from his family, and guidance from his parents are what keep him grounded. He said he has grown up his entire life on the Reservation, knows his neighbors and fellow Band members well, and has a good idea of what the community’s needs are. He is always willing to listen to new ideas and look at old ideas with new eyes. He is committed to the Band members and will do his best to answer any questions. He said he doesn’t always have all of the answers, but he will continue to do his best to do what is right for the Band. “People can call me anytime,” he said.

His priorities for this term are:

- To streamline government
- To control costs while improving services
- To create better work flow and leaner government
- To improve employee morale

Peter added a caveat to the employee morale statement: “The staff are who make this all work. They are the ones doing the jobs and getting things done. I love going to work every

day. And I want them all to feel the same way. Everyone wants to feel worthwhile. My hope is that all employees will feel appreciated and know that what they do is meaningful.”

Peter learned from his parents the importance of culture, a strong work ethic, and service to the community. “Both of my parents always worked,” he said. “Their work always included finding ways to help the community as civil servants. Seeing them every day, working to make a difference, influenced me, and I hope to pass that on to my kids. It’s their generation who will be running this government in the future. For me, it’s never been about a title. It’s always been about being a good Band member, a father, and a husband. My culture and the next generation are important. That is why I like working for the people.”

Peter has also assisted in Community Development followed by a second term as Assistant Commissioner of Administration, a role he took on right at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pressure of the pandemic taught him a lot and helped to set his priorities for this term as Commissioner.

“The most important thing I learned during the beginning is that we were not really ready for a real-life pandemic,” he said. “We had the TERC, who has had some training scenarios, but nothing real. So then it happened. And we all worked together as one team with one goal: to keep our community safe. And we managed to mitigate a life-changing situation with very few hiccups. It was a situation that required a rapid response to ever-changing information. We made some mistakes but had many more successes. You learn from failure as much, or more so than you do from success. You need to know you are going to fail at some point. And that’s okay. That’s how you learn.”

Those who know Peter are aware that he is a “Native humor” kind of guy who wants to have fun. He takes his job very seriously, but says he still manages to have fun, and loves to collect Star Wars memorabilia. With family being his top priority in life, he said, “The most important thing I have learned since my mom passed is that we don’t have enough time. There is never enough time.”

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SPECIAL UPDATE FROM HHS COMMISSIONER

COVID-19 cases are increasing nationwide. These increases are also affecting the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community members and employees as we head into “sick season.” We will likely see this continue throughout the next couple of months as we head into fall and winter.

We are actively monitoring local cases and adjusting as needed to continue to service Band members.

In the event that a Mille Lacs Band department is affected by a COVID-19 positive case, rest assured that we are addressing the issue immediately.

When an HHS department is affected by COVID-19, the Band will do several things.

1. Contact you to let you know that your appointment will be virtual or rescheduled if you want to be seen in person.

2. Send communication through text alerts and Facebook posts that the department will be temporarily doing visits virtually. Please ensure HHS clinic has your most accurate phone number. Please call 320-532-4163 #2 to update your phone number.

Things to know:

1. Safety is important to us. All of our buildings are screening, have a mask mandate in place, and follow COVID-19 procedures and protocols.

2. Masking, social distancing, and hand washing are effective ways to reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19. We also encourage getting the vaccine as it does reduce the severity of symptoms.

3. While the vaccine may reduce the severity of symptoms, it does not prevent the transmission. Please continue to be mindful of this and use safety measures.

District I vaccination clinic

On October 8th between the hours of 8-12 at D1 Clinic third dose booster vaccinations will be offered in addition to those

who still need their first and/or second dose. The third dose booster is only available to those that completed their two-dose series of Pfizer between the months of December 2020 and March 2021.

Those who have received their Pfizer two-dose series after March 2021 will be able to receive their third dose booster when it has been 6 months since your last dose. We will be announcing additional vaccine clinics each month to include those who will then be eligible for third doses.

Vaccinations available as follows:

1st or 2nd dose of Pfizer (12 years old and older) or Moderna (18 years of age and older)

1st dose of Janssen 18 years of age and older

3rd dose of Pfizer for those that received their 2-dose series between the months of December 2020-March 2021 and are 18 years of age and older

At this time, there are no recommendations for additional doses for those who have received the Moderna or Johnson&Johnson vaccination.

Please call 320-532-1984 to leave your name, date of birth, which vaccine you would like, and which dose you are requesting.

Who SHOULD get a booster shot?

People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings SHOULD receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine

People aged 50-64 years old with underlying medical conditions SHOULD receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine.

People aged 18-49 years old with underlying medical conditions MAY receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine.

People aged 18-64 years old who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting MAY receive a booster shot of Pfizer vaccine, based on their individual benefits and risks.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Band Assembly meeting highlights

Wednesday, September 1: Representatives of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy gave a report and presentation about the academy and requested a donation from the Band.

Band Assembly approved two easements with the City of Isle, a rent-to-own policy, a resolution amending the tax agreement with the Minnesota Department of Revenue, and Band Assembly Bill 19-04-66-21: A Bill amending Title 26 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) for the purposes of amending § 6 (d), which incorrectly provides that the depository institution for all Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe elected official pension loans is Wells Fargo.

Thursday, September 9: A confirmation hearing was held for Brenda Moose, Nominee for District II Associate Justice. Band Assembly approved the following:

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-67-21: 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.

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-68-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the October and November 2021 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for Adult members for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

Band Assembly Bill 19-04-69-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the October, November, and December 2021 American Rescue Plan Act.

Resolution 19-04-78-21: A Resolution Approving a License to Operate Wewinabi, Head Start, and Early Head Start in Districts I, II, and III.

Resolution 19-04-82-21: A Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce-Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Resolution 19-04-83-21: A Resolution Approving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Rent-to-Own Program.

Wednesday, September 16: The nomination passed for Brenda Moose to serve as the District II Associate Justice. Also approved:

— Resolution 19-04-80-21: A Resolution to Terminate a Residential Lease.

— Resolution 19-04-81-21: A Resolution Authorizing a Land Lease.

— A contract for Blue Stone Strategy Group, LLC to provide consulting services to include a comprehensive assessment of current operations, processes, and staffing analysis of departments within Mille Lacs Band, create actionable plans to support the strategic alignment of creating better services and programs for the Band’s membership.

Wednesday, September 23: Hearings were held for Byron Ninham, nominee for Commissioner of Education, and three nominees for the Housing Board: Kelly Miller, Percy Benjamin, and Tony Pike.

Band Assembly approved 12 contracts and Band Assembly Bill 19-04-70-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch and the Department of Athletic Regulation for the Fiscal Year ending September 30.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TITLE 3 AMENDMENTS

Band Assembly will hold a formal public hearing on Wednesday, October 6, at 10:30 a.m. to listen to Band member comments on proposed amendments to Title 3 — Legislative Branch.

The proposed legislation, available online on the Band’s Tribal Register, would accomplish the following:

— Establish legislative sessions for the periods of January through April and July through September of each year, during which time the Band Assembly will perform all of its official responsibilities.

— Authorize the Speaker of the Assembly to call special sessions of the Band Assembly under exigent circumstances, during which time the Band Assembly will perform any of its responsibilities that could not reasonably have been completed during a legislative session.

— Clarify that official hearings of inquiry shall be conducted according to rules adopted by the Band Assembly.

To participate in the public hearing, please contact Darcie Big Bear at Darcie.BigBear2@millelacsband.com.

A public comment period was set at 10 business days with written comments accepted through 5 p.m. on September 29.

Band Assembly also received public comments last month on proposed amendments to Title 2 — Band Governmental Power and Sovereignty.

Through those amendments, Band Assembly was seeking to reenact exclusion and removal procedures that were previously struck down by the Band’s Court of Appeals. The legislation is available on the Tribal Register at millelacsband.com.

No public hearing was scheduled on the Title 2 amendments.

NEW VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

By Deanna Sam Deputy Registrar

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would like Band members to know the requirements for registering their cars and receiving Mille Lacs Band license plates. When you come to the DMV office, please bring the following:

- Bill of Sale. Must have vehicle information, purchase price, and seller.
- Original title/certificate of origin. Must have signatures of seller and buyer and lien release form if required. Also current odometer reading if 10 years or newer.
- Proof of current insurance. If you do not have an insurance card, you can have your insurance company fax a copy to 320-532-7805. No exceptions!
- Copy of the Mille Lacs Band ID with proof of current ad-

dress.

- Mille Lacs Band tax, which is 5 percent of the vehicle’s purchase price, if you did not pay state tax.

Band plates are to remain with the Band member if the vehicle is sold or traded in. Plates can be transferred to different vehicle once required documents on new vehicle are brought in to DMV.

Band plates are only distributed to Band members who reside within the service area, or to governmental departments.

MLB DMV Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 pm. If you should have any questions when purchasing a vehicle, please call the office at 320-532-7498 or (cell) 320-279-0178.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Vaccinated make up minority of severe COVID-19 hospitalizations in Minnesota:

Updates from two large hospital systems show that fully vaccinated people make up a minority of COVID-19 hospitalizations and an even lower share of severe illness requiring intensive care and ventilators. Minneapolis-based Allina Health reported that 176 patients were hospitalized with COVID-19 on September 20 and that 40 (22 percent) were vaccinated. Sioux Falls-based Sanford Health reported 159 patients with COVID-19 hospitalized on September 21 and that 16 (10 percent) were fully vaccinated. *Source: startribune.com.*

'The Squad' visits Line 3 camp: A contingency of U.S. lawmakers traveled to northern Minnesota September 3 to hear directly from Line 3 opponents at Camp Namewag, a resistance camp several miles south of Park Rapids. The contingency was led by Minnesota U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar and included U.S. Reps. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Cori Bush (D-MO), and Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), and Minnesota state Sen. Mary Kunesch. The visit was in response to an invitation for Rep. Omar by camp leadership to bring her colleagues from Washington to a Line 3 resistance camp. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

Tribes close wild rice waters to state hunters:

The Leech Lake and White Earth bands declared their reservations' wild rice waters off limits to hunters during the state's experimental five-day teal-hunting season last month. The bands said the action, which surprised Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) managers, was taken to protect wild rice harvesters. The Leech Lake band also prohibited over-water goose hunting during the state's 16-day early Canada goose season. Minnesota DNR attorneys are reviewing the closures to determine whether hunting on the waters is controlled by the state or the bands, DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said. *Source: startribune.com.*

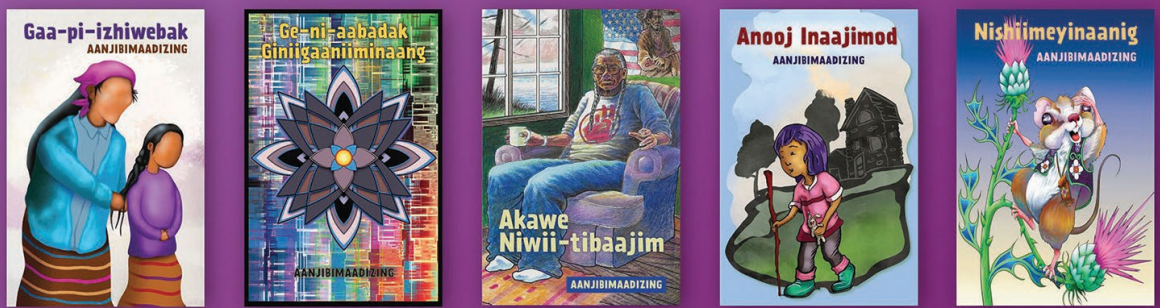
Camp Ripley Hosts Open House Honoring Native Americans:

Camp Ripley hosted its Open House September 19, giving the public an opportunity to experience military life for a day. This year's theme was honoring Native American veterans. During a ceremony, the installation recognized the contributions made by men and women, both past and present, and the lineage of the "Warrior Spirit" in Minnesota. Maj. Rachel Tarrats, the Training Support Unit's Administration Officer, introduced the Honor Guard teams, Cedar Lake Drum team, a Spiritual Advisor, and key Minnesota National Guard Leaders. Charlie Smith, Fond Du Lac Spiritual Advisor, performed an invocation. *Source: dvidshub.net/news.*

Westerman is first Indigenous Poet Laureate:

Gwen Westerman, a professor of English at Minnesota State University, Mankato, is Minnesota's new Poet Laureate. Westerman is the third poet to hold this honorary title and the first Indigenous person to do so. A speaker of the Dakota language, she is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Oyate, her father's people, and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, her mother's people. Westerman is the author of "Mini Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota," winner of a 2013 Minnesota Book Award. *Source: www.twincities.com.*

Celebrate The Aanjibimaadizing Project



Authors will be celebrated at an event October 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in District I.

OCTOBER 6 BOOK LAUNCH AT MUSEUM

Band members are invited to celebrate the publication of five Ojibwe language books published in cooperation with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Aanjibimaadizing Project. The event is co-hosted with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Refreshments will be served, and masks are required.

Aanjibimaadizing, which means "Changing Lives," is a program of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Through the Aanjibimaadizing Project, 16 first speakers have teamed with linguists, teachers, and Ojibwe language experts to create this new literature for Ojibwe language learners. Conceived and presented only in Ojibwe, the stories reflect a rare authenticity as they transmit cultural values, increase vocabulary, and reinforce identity.

Elder writers who have worked on the project include William Premo Jr., Lee Staples, Carol Nickaboine, Elfreda Sam, James Mitchell, Bette Sam, David Sam Sr., Susan Shingobe, Lorena Gahbow, Ralph Pawaush, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., Brenda Moose, Shirley Boyd, and Frances Davis.

Transcribers include Mille Lacs Band and community members Amanda Nickaboine, Baabiiyaw Boyd, John P. Benjamin, Bradley Harrington, Jada Montano, and Samantha Peet.

The books were illustrated by Wesley Ballinger, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe artist and community engagement coordinator for the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, Steve Premo, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe graphic designer, illustrator, and fine artist, and Jonathan Thunder, a member of the Red Lake Nation and a multidisciplinary artist who works in canvas painting, animation, filmmaking, and 3D projection mapping.

Editors of the series are Anton Treuer and Michael Sullivan Sr. Treuer is professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, and author of *The Cultural Toolbox*, *The Language Warrior's Manifesto*, and fourteen other books on Indigenous history and language. Sullivan is the resident linguist for the Waadookoading Ojibwe Language Immersion School on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation.

Learn more about the five books, and the authors, illustrators, Elders, and transcribers who brought them to life at shop.mnhs.org. Search for *Gaa-pi-izhiwebak*, *Ge-ni-aabadak Giniigaaniiminaang*, *Akawe Niwii-tibaajim*, *Anooj Inaajimod*, and *Nishimeyinaanig*.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER EXTENDS MASK MANDATE THROUGH DECEMBER

On August 31, Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson issued Commissioner's Order 21-04, extending the requirement for individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in government facilities and Band-owned businesses. The Order went into effect September 1 and is set to expire December 31.

The Order cites the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classification of the Delta variant as a "Variant of Concern," meaning there is evidence of increased transmissibility, more severe disease, significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures."

The Order also cites the CDC recommendation that masks be worn in areas of high risk of transmission, which include Aitkin County, Crow Wing County, Mille Lacs County, and Pine County, where the majority of Band members live and work.

"It is necessary to take preemptive measures in order to protect the health and safety of Mille Lacs Band members and other individuals from transmission of the Delta variant," the Order states.

Specific requirements include:

- Any individual who is over the age of two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to

cover their nose and mouth with a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask when in Band government facilities and Band-owned businesses within the Band's territorial jurisdiction.

- All government personnel entering government facilities and employees of Band-owned businesses within the Band's territorial jurisdiction shall wear a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask when engaged in face-to-face contact with the public.
- All government personnel who enter Band member residences for the purpose of providing any public services shall wear a cloth face covering or medical-grade mask.

The Order replaces Commissioner's Order 21-03, which went into effect on August 2 and expired on August 31.

The initial mask order, Commissioner's Order 20-01, went into effect on May 27, 2020, and expired August 31. Commissioner's Order 20-02 extended the order through November 30, and Commissioner's Order 20-03 extended it through February 2021. Commissioner's Order 20-04 on March 1 extended the requirement until it was rescinded May 14.

As cases rose again during the summer due to the Delta variant and unwillingness of many to get vaccinated, Order 21-03 brought the mask mandate back to the Reservation on August 2.



Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate welcomed hunters, introduced DNR staff, and shared information about the upcoming season. Right, Joe Nayquonabe Sr. spoke in Ojibwemowin to start the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DNR HOSTS DEER HUNTING MEETING

The Department of Natural Resources hosted a meeting for deer hunters at the Iszigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I on Thursday, September 2, to answer questions and share information about the upcoming harvest.

The big news of the day was the announcement of a special hunt at Mille Lacs Kathio and St. Croix State Parks. The Kathio hunt will be November 6–8 with regular firearms. At St. Croix, there will be a youth hunt with regular firearms October 30–31, a regular firearms hunt November 18–21, and a muzzleloader hunt December 1–5. Band members are eligible for both hunts and if interested should contact LeRoy Day at 320-532-7439.

Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate also shared the news that white-tailed deer have been infected with coronavirus. A study from the eastern U.S. showed that 33 percent of whitetails have antibodies.

It is recommended that hunters take precautions like wearing gloves and masks while processing deer.

Fortunately, there is no evidence that eating infected deer is dangerous. As always, make sure venison reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees.

Kelly also gave an update on Chronic Wasting Disease, a contagious, fatal brain disease affecting wild and farmed deer and other species. Although no cases in wild deer have been found in reservation communities, there was one case in a wild deer in Crow Wing County last year, and the DNR is closely monitoring deer in the Bemidji and Pine County areas, where captive deer have tested positive.

Watch for updates on testing requirements at www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd.

Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans, but public health officials recommend that no one consume meat from animals known to be infected. If you shoot a deer in a CWD management area, it is best to wait for test results before consuming the meat.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk led Safe Native American Passenger (SNAP) training for Aanjibimaadizing staff on September 17 and taught First Aid and CPR at Meshakwad Community Center in Hinckley on September 10. 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.

DEER HUNTING FAQS

What are this year's deer hunting season dates? The main off-reservation deer hunting season begins the day after Labor Day and runs through December 31.

Where can I hunt? Tribal lands (fee and trust), public lands with Band license within the 1837 ceded territory. If interested in hunting a specific area, or if you need a map, please contact MLBO DNR.

What are safe hunting times? Off-reservation in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory, 30 minutes prior to sun-up and 30 minutes after sunset.

How do I get a permit? Contact your local MLBO DNR office at the numbers below.

What is NAGFA? Native American Game and Fish Applications (NAGFA) is a web-based system that will allow you to manage and track all of your tribal licenses and permits and to self-register your deer.

How can I get signed up and start using NAGFA? If you've hunted with a Band harvester permit previously, it is likely you are in the NAGFA system. You will need your NAGFA ID number to log in and use the system. Call one of the numbers below with questions.

What do I need to bring to get a Band harvesting license? Tribal ID. If you have a hunter safety certificate or number, please provide that as well.

With additional questions, contact: LeRoy Day (District I): 320-532-7896; Steven Aubid (DII): 218-768-5316; Vanessa Gibbs (DIII): 320-384-6240, ext. 3230.



NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Petitions Filed on ICWA Constitutionality: The state of Texas, four tribes, and several parents have filed petitions asking the Supreme Court to review the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The petitions stem from a U.S. 5th Court of Appeals decision last April in *Brackeen v. Haaland*, formerly *Brackeen v. Bernhardt*, that originally alleged the ICWA is unconstitutional for discriminating against non-Native families in the placement of Native children. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

Voting rights act would help protect Native vote: In August, U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., and Reps. Sharice Davids, D-Kan., and Tom Cole, R-Okla., introduced the Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act of 2021. The bipartisan legislation follows the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brnovich v. DNC*, which upheld two Arizona voting policies that made it a felony for anyone but a family or household member or caregiver to return another person's mail ballot. Ballot harvesting is often used by get-out-the-vote groups to increase Indigenous turnout. Activists and attorneys say the July ruling will make it harder for Indigenous populations to vote. *Source: www.hcn.org.*

Vaccinations required for BIE staff: The U.S. Department of the Interior last month announced it will require staff and faculty of Bureau of Education (BIE) facilities to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The announcement said vaccination against COVID-19 is the leading health strategy to end the deadly virus. The requirement is a means to ensure the safety of students, teachers, and tribal communities, the statement said. "Getting school communities vaccinated — including school staff and eligible students — will go a long way in preventing outbreaks before they happen and help to ensure students can remain learning in-person at school," the announcement said. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

Wolves stay off endangered list: Kevin Allis, a member of the Forest County Potawatomi Community and former CEO of the National Congress of American Indians, is disappointed in President Biden's decision not to reverse Donald Trump's removal of wolves from the Endangered Species List. Writing for Roll Call, Allis said, "Had either the Trump or Biden administrations consulted tribal nations — as treaty and trust responsibilities require — they would have learned that as a sacred creature the wolf is an integral part of our land-based identity. The land, and all it contains, is our temple, and the current assault on wolves should be viewed no differently than an attack on a temple or cathedral." *Source: rollcall.com.*

Fred Dakota, Native American Gambling Pioneer, Dies At 84: Fred Dakota, whose garage casino in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1983 was a milestone for Native American gambling, has died at age 84. Dakota, a former leader of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, died September 13 at his home in Baraga. The cause was not disclosed. "We gave the government vast tracts of land in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota when we signed that treaty in 1854," Dakota told *The New York Times* in 1984. "And what did we get in return? We got the government to agree not to kill us. Well, now it's time we got something more. Gambling is going to make a lot of Indians rich." *Source: www.npr.org.*

LANGUAGE LADIES SHARE WISDOM AND HUMOR

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Shirley Boyd and Bette Sam have been working with Samantha Peet and James Clark this summer to help with the Aanjibimaadizing language revitalization efforts.

The four have met via Zoom on a weekly basis to record language samples and discuss the meanings of various words and phrases.

The Zoom connection was essential, especially during the pandemic. They were able to continue working while keeping the ladies as safe as possible.

Shirley and Bette have both adapted to Zoom well, but Shirley says Bette is the “whiz.”

“I’m an old whiz that forgets!” Bette replied.

James sits in his car at Eddy’s during meetings — halfway between Shirley’s and Bette’s. If either of them has a problem with their technology, James can be there quickly.

At times, the ladies have worked on language projects where people say things incorrectly. “If you don’t say anything, it’ll keep going on,” said Shirley. “No matter how much college they have, we still know the language from baby on without going to college for Ojibwe, yet now, we have to do it their way.”

That’s not the case when they work with Sam and James. Shirley and Bette are the experts, and the authorities on correct language use.

“We did pretty good with Sam,” said Bette. “It was fun.”

“It’s something to look forward to, besides just sitting at home,” Shirley added.

Samantha often brings questions from her study of Baraga’s Ojibwe dictionary. Baraga was a Catholic priest who wrote the first Ojibwe-English dictionary in 1853. The updated version from 1878 is still available and includes many uncommon words that Samantha asks about.

“We would go word by word and see what they meant or how I would use them,” said Samantha. “I just wanted to compile a list for people to have access to grow their vocabulary.”

James has set up Zoom recording devices to get good sound quality. The recorded words will be cataloged and used to build a repository. “Eventually, once we’re done, we would like to get them each a copy of the recordings we have to share with their families.”

Sam types up notes from their conversations each week



Bette Sam and Shirley Boyd are old friends who are working on language revitalization with Samantha Peet and James Clark.

and sends copies to Shirley and Bette, which often leads to follow-up discussions.

“It’s interesting, some of the words she brings up, and we tell her what they mean,” said Shirley.

One fun word that came up in their conversations was “gii-inishkitaage,” which means something like “mad about gambling.” It combines “nishki” — the root word meaning “to get angry” — with “ataage,” meaning “to gamble.”

“One word I don’t care for is ‘Boozhoo,’” said Bette. It was not a common greeting at Mille Lacs during their youth, but some teachers from other regions use it more often than “Aaniin,” which is the local greeting.

Shirley agrees. “‘Aaniin’ is the best word to use.”

The common greeting when the ladies were young was “Aaanin gonaa giin?” or “How are you?”

Some of the sessions have focused on ceremonies or traditions like rites of passage into adulthood, death, dream catchers, and fire building.

“They kind of were guiding me while we were in session, correcting me if I was wrong, kind of mentoring me,” said Samantha.

“We’re bridging that intergenerational gap in knowledge that we didn’t grow up with,” James added.

Bette and Shirley see great value in what they’re doing to keep the language alive and thriving. “Once the older people

are gone, there will be no Ojibwe unless the young people learn,” said Bette.

What stands to be lost are traditional ceremonies, which take place only in Ojibwe. But not only that. “There’s a lot of humor in our language,” said Bette. “When you see people speaking Ojibwe, they’re always laughing. You have to know what they’re saying to know where we belong, where we came from, how different we are.”

Samantha and James also teach youth in the Ge-niigaanizijig program, and Shirley and Bette have written stories for the Aanjibimaadizing book project. Shirley is also one of the lead actors in the Rosetta Stone Ojibwe language learning program.

They really enjoyed getting together with other Elders during the book project. A lot of laughter was shared.

“That was a lot of fun, when we all met together,” said Shirley.

Bette agreed. “We had fun. We laughed.”

“We did it all weekend long, all day!” said Shirley. “We didn’t even go gamble! We just went right to bed! And I love to gamble!”

Seeing their smiles and hearing their fond memories of speaking Ojibwe with other Elders drives home the importance of keeping the language alive. As Samantha and James smiled and laughed along, it looked and sounded like hope.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

LANGUAGE IS A BRICK WALL

By Jim Clark

This article by the late Jim Clark (Naawigiizisiban) was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to preserve his teachings and bring them to the next generation.

To me, language is a great big brick wall that you can’t get over. If you can’t understand what other people are saying, you can’t really know what they’re doing.

I’ve said before how important language is to keeping our Ojibwe traditions alive. Our prayers cannot be translated. Our teachings cannot be translated. Speaking our language is more than a way of communicating — it’s a way of life, of keeping our identity.

We were given our language by the Creator to use, as other people were given their languages to use. We believe that we have to carry on our traditions in the Ojibwe language.

Some people say that we are losing our language. But to me, we are giving it away, because some people who learned English want to use English more than Ojibwe. So, the people down in the cities, away from the reservation, are more for learning English than the Anishinaabe way.

Fortunately, now the Mille Lacs Band and other bands are teaching the Ojibwe language in their schools. It’s hard to teach the language with so much English around and hard to learn it. I’m proud of the people who are learning or relearning Ojibwe. It’s not easy; any

language is complicated. (English certainly was complicated for me as a boy.)

We still use our Indian names, too. Mine is Nawigiizis, which means the center of the moon. All of my kids have Indian names. There was a guy on the corner the other day and I asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Owane Gahbow” just as plain as can be. But when you ask some people, “What is your Indian name?” they know they have one, but they don’t know how to say it.

I go back to where I grew up, and I ask people there if anybody is still using this word or that word, and they don’t know. We used to have names for all the different places, and I go back and ask them in Ojibwe about this place or that place, and nobody knows. We run into that language barrier again, because some of the older people are gone now. They were the ones who always insisted that we use the language. My grandmother would say, “You have to talk to the Creator in that language; that’s why he gave it to you.”

And that brick wall: non-Indians want us to explain some things that we do, and we can’t. It just won’t work, because there are things we can say in Ojibwe that you can’t translate into English, or things in English that you can’t translate into Ojibwe.

Of course, I can’t teach Ojibwe through a short newspaper column. You can’t hear what it sounds like, which is crucial to learning. But maybe I have given you a little idea of why it is so special.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please quarantine for four to five days, then call the triage line at 320-630-0855.

Please quarantine for a total of 14 days from the first date of symptoms.

If you are VACCINATED and have had exposure to a confirmed positive, please quarantine for 10 days. If you become symptomatic, please get tested. Rapid testing is a moment in time.

If you are NOT VACCINATED and have had exposure to a confirmed positive, please quarantine for 14 days.

HOUSEHOLD FAMILY MEMBERS should all quarantine at home for 14 days if someone in the home is positive. The positive individual must do their best to isolate and use a separate bathroom.

PLEASE USE MASKS!

Those who are immunocompromised will require a written note from their primary physician in order to receive their third dose.

You are considered immunocompromised if:

- You have been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- You have received an organ transplant.
- You are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- You have received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years.
- You have moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome)
- You have advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- You are actively being treated with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs to suppress your immune response.



Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Justice Services

Missing & Murdered Unit

Email **OJS_MMU@BIA.GOV**

Call
1-833-560-2065

Confidential | Toll-Free | 24/7

Text Keyword **BIAMMU**
and location to **847411**

Call, text, or email tips or referrals to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Missing and Murdered Unit to help with any information concerning a missing Indigenous person or homicides in Indian Country.

YOU CAN HELP.



Missing and Murdered Unit

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ojs/missing-murdered-unit>

OPERATION LADY JUSTICE

<https://operationladyjustice.usdoj.gov/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2022 PET CLINICS

Pet clinics will be held in all districts once again in 2022.

Aazhoomog (Lake Lena): MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 2. Second Hand Hounds (SHH) wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3, at District III Community Center.

Hinckley: MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 16. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17, at Meshakwad Community Center.

Minisinaakwaang (East Lake): MN SNAP surgeries

Saturday, May 7. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, at District II East Lake Community Center.

Chiminising: MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 21. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, at District IIa (Isle) Chiminising Community Center.

The annual District I clinic will be held the second weekend in November once again in 2022.

For information on this year's District I and urban clinics, see right.

HEALTH BRIEFS

CIRCLE OF HEALTH OUTREACH DATES FOR OCTOBER

The Circle of Health program will once again visit Districts II and III in October.

Staff will be in Hinckley from 10 a.m. to noon and Aazhoomog from 1 to 3 p.m. on October 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, and 28.

District II East Lake visits will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 8, 13, 22, and 27.

District IIa Chiminising visits will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 1, 6, 15, 20, and 29.

Dates and times are subject to change. To make an appointment, please call 320-630-0916 or 320-532-8932.

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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

NOVEMBER PET CLINICS IN DISTRICT I, URBAN AREA

The next pet wellness clinic will be held November 13 and 14 in District I. It will be a combined effort of SIRVS (the Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services), Second Hand Hounds, and MNSNAP (the Minnesota Spay/Neuter Assistance Program).

The number of surgeries will double over previous years due to the partnership of organizations. SIRVS can see 22 pets for spays and neuters (preferably 11 dogs, 5 female, 6 male, and 11 cats, 5 female, 6 male).

MNSNAP can care for 10 dogs and 25 cats.

Wellness clinics by Second Hand Hounds will take place both days.

On November 19, the first annual one-day urban pet clinic with Second Hand Hounds and MNSNAP will be held at All Nations Church. Watch for more on Facebook or in next month's Inaajimowin.

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



POLE, KNOCK, PARCH, JIG, WINNOW

Nay Ah Shing students learned the art of rice harvesting and processing with help from the Department of Natural Resources and school staff. After harvesting rice at Lake Onamia, students parched the rice in a cast iron kettle, donned a pair of clean moccasins to jig the rice in a wooden bucket, and winnowed the rice with a birch bark tray.



MILLE LACS CORPORATE VENTURES

MAKWA GLOBAL AWARDED CONTRACT WORTH \$30 MILLION

Since receiving its 8(a) certification in March 2020, Makwa Global, a Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures company, has been building a successful portfolio of government contracts.

With the SBA 8(a) certification, Makwa Global has four overseas construction contracts with the State Department, each worth \$10–\$20 million. In comparison, other (non-Tribal) 8(a) companies can only receive sole-source awards up to \$4 million (\$6.5 million for manufacturing).

Additionally, Makwa Global has also received a \$20 million contract for five years to assist the Department of State with a training program.

While details of the above-mentioned contracts are confidential, Makwa Global was recently awarded a Minnesota contract about which details can be shared.

Beginning on October 1, 2021, Makwa Global Facility Services, LLC (MG Facility Services), was awarded the Multi-Phased Infrastructure Upgrades Contract for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mid-Continent Ecology Division in Duluth, Minnesota. This has a total contract value of \$30 million.

MG Facility Services will be providing construction and upgrades to the laboratory for the Mid-Continent Ecology Di-

vision. The EPA Mid-Continent Ecology Division's existing main laboratory building is a 93,484 square foot, two-story building that was originally constructed in 1967 with a lab addition constructed in 1982, and an administrative addition in 2001.

Derek Dorr, CEO of Makwa Global, shared that they will be leveraging local partners to provide the EPA with a customized solution. "We are proud to have been selected by the EPA to provide these essential upgrades to their Laboratory that have been many years in the making," said Dorr.

SENATORS SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS BILL

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee with jurisdiction over federal elections, and U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) joined Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and 13 of their Senate colleagues to introduce legislation to protect the right to vote and ensure equal access to the electoral process for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and People Living on Tribal lands. Companion legislation was introduced in the House by U.S. Representatives Sharice Davids (D-KS) and Tom Cole (R-OK).

"The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, but exercising that right remains too difficult for many Americans, especially those in historically disenfranchised communities," said Klobuchar. "This legislation will help address the challenges that many people in Native American and Tribal communities face that impact access to the ballot box. Our democracy works best when all citizens are able to participate, and this bill is an important step forward in making that a reality."

"Voting is the most fundamental right in any democracy. We need a transparent election process that we can trust and where Americans have equal freedom to vote," said Smith. "But right now, coordinated campaigns are trying to restrict the right to vote for Indigenous, Brown, and Black Americans. Congress needs to pass the NAVRA Act to protect voters' rights on Tribal lands and Tribes' sovereignty in upholding those rights. I'm also pushing the Senate to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to continue defending our democratic

process."

The Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) would enact key measures to protect the right to vote and ensure equal access, including allowing Tribes to specify the number and location of requested voter registration sites, drop boxes, and polling locations on Tribal lands. It would also authorize Tribal ID cards for voting purposes. Additionally, the bill would secure \$10 million to establish task forces focused on identifying barriers to voting for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and People Living on Tribal lands. The bill would also require prior Tribal notice and consent before States and local governments could remove, consolidate, or otherwise reduce access to voting locations on Tribal lands.

The legislation is led by Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and cosponsored by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NN), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Chris



Senator Amy Klobuchar

Van Hollen (D-MD), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) in addition to Klobuchar and Smith. More than 30 voting rights and Tribal organizations have endorsed the legislation.

As Chairwoman of the Rules Committee, with jurisdiction over federal election law, Klobuchar has been a leading advocate for protecting the right to vote and increasing access to the electoral process. In March, she introduced the For the People Act with Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to establish national standards for ballot access, ban partisan gerrymandering, and end the influence of dark money in elections. In July, under Klobuchar's leadership, the Rules Committee traveled to Georgia to hold its first field hearing in 20 years to spotlight the unprecedented attack on voting rights in the state.

Smith is also committed to fighting voter suppression and making sure Americans' voices are heard. She supports the For The People Act as well as the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.



Senator Tina Smith



The new center in District I has a variety of fitness machines, a boxing ring, a gym, a golf simulator, and a swimming pool.

COORDINATOR JOINS FITNESS CENTER

Clayton Foster looks forward to helping members meet health goals

A state-of-the-art recreational facility like the new Aquatics and Fitness Center in District I sends a strong message, according to Clayton Foster, the center's new Aquatics and Fitness Coordinator. "It is clear that the Band has built this facility to increase awareness of healthy lifestyle choices — and opportunities to pursue that lifestyle," said Clayton. "To me, that's extremely important and exciting."

Clayton brings a passion for fitness and a strong "track record" of work in "the field" — beginning as a track and field/cross-country athlete at Minnesota State University Moorhead, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science with minors in coaching and strength and conditioning.

Clayton moved to Alamosa, Colorado, to earn his master's degree in Exercise Science and Human Performance at Adams State University. He served as a full-time assistant coach for the cross-country and track and field program for five years. "Their distance running program is one of the best in the nation, with 56 team national titles in school history," said Clayton. "I was fortunate enough to work with six of them."

From there he accepted a head cross country coaching job at Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, where he led the team to five out of six conference championship titles, several individuals to All-American honors, and five coach of the year honors. At both universities, Clayton worked with diverse groups of athletes from around the world, which he found rewarding. "It doesn't matter what walk of life you come from; all that matters is pursuing a common goal together at the best of your ability," said Clayton.

When his two children were born, Clayton and his wife decided it was time to move closer to home. His wife is a teacher

in Pillager, and Clayton came to work for the Band.

In his role at the center, Clayton will oversee all aspects of aquatics, fitness, training, nutrition, and overall physical health. "My goal is to write individualized programs for people who walk in the door and want a program based on their goals — whether it is lose weight, get stronger, overall feel better, or get ripped," said Clayton. "I'll program your workout to your needs, provide appropriate demonstrations of exercises, and keep you motivated to work hard, just like a personal trainer. Then once you get to know the workouts, you'll be able to come in, grab your workout file, and get to work."

"I cannot stress enough that I want to help everyone!" Clayton added. "You do not need to have a fitness background or be a well-trained individual. Do not be afraid to come in and meet with me; I will cater to your needs and create a regimen specifically for you. The first step in changing your lifestyle is walking through the door. I'll guide you the rest of the way."

Clayton will also oversee organization of classes and leagues in the gym, the pool, and the weight room — including yoga classes, group exercise classes, group water aerobics, fitness clubs, and various sporting tournaments.

Because of the pandemic, the opening of the center has been gradual. It is currently open only to Band members, but the plan is for it to be open to employees and the general public eventually.

Clayton is looking forward to seeing larger crowds in the facility. "I'm a people person, and I love to motivate people to change their lifestyle, to help them realize that exercise and a positive attitude can change your life to benefit you in many ways."

AANJIBIMAADIZING BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUNDING

Aanjibimaadizing has received back-to-school funding for all families who are members of federally recognized tribes, who have children living in the home, and who have had lower income levels due to the pandemic.

Applicants must apply through the 477 program, and those eligible must have children living in the home and must prove custody and school enrollment in programs from Early Head Start to college.

Funds can be used to pay for clothes, school supplies, technology needs (like device deposits required by schools), shoes, backpacks, and hygiene supplies.

The adult in the family must apply. Single people may not apply. These funds can be applied for no more than four times in the next 12 months.

Funding is \$300 for children ages 10 and under and \$400 for children over 10. Families who receive funding must submit receipts for items purchased within 30 days. Failure to submit receipts will result in suspension from the program.

Other items may be covered, including rent, mortgage assistance, utilities, or other expenses families need assistance with due to the pandemic. CERA will be used to cover rent until funds are gone. These type of payments will be vendor paid.

Recipients may only receive four months of benefits total, with funds being non-recurring. This means funds should be used for periodic expenses and not used for the same item repeatedly.

Contact a case manager to apply: Candace Benjamin, 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus, 218-316-2437; Winona Crazy Thunder, 320-364-3049; Renee Allen, 320-591-0559; Dawn Paro, 612-368-9417; Winona Spaulding, 612-360-7219; Rosa Sam, 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson, 320-290-8729.



HAND DRUM CONTEST

Several groups and individuals of all ages participated in a hand drum contest held on Thursday, September 2, in the parking lot of the Grand Market with many people gathered to watch.

There were 13 contestants which consisted of eight teams. First place went to "Mos def" Carlos Daville-Day, Thomas Butcher, and Hoksie Blacklance; second place, Little Otter (Pete Gahbow, Erik Gahbow, and Eldon Cloud); third place, "Da Gun and Gabe," Tommy Benjamin Sr, and Gabe Gahbow (center left); fourth place, Vito Buckanaga; fifth place, Jathan Joseph (pictured above). Other participants were Lloyd Keoke, (near left), Lindsay Mitchell (far left), and Leann Woiteshek. Over \$2,000 in prize money was raised. A special thanks to the five judges and Elder advisor Joseph Nayquonabe Sr.

The event was sponsored by the PerCap Patrol, Women's Healing Circle, Men's Empowerment Group, and the American Indian Resource and Resiliency Team with assistance from District I Representative Virgil Wind. The event was well attended, and plans for more such events are in the works.



WIIGWAASI-JIIMAAN

THE TRUE GEM OF THE ANISHINAABE

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

"The is a true gem — the birch bark canoe," said Erik Simula, a master craftsman who has built 20 birch bark canoes. "It's the prettiest canoe, and the most meaningful canoe." Erik provided an introduction to the art to District III community members and guests at Meshakwad Community Center on August 30.

Earlier that day, Erik had led the group to a spruce and tamarack bog near Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) to harvest black spruce root, which is used to attach the birch bark hull to the cedar gunwales. Youth and Elders alike got their hands dirty, digging through the peat to follow the roots as they wound their way 10, 20, even 30 feet through the moss. After cutting the roots, they were careful to return the mossy covering to keep other roots from drying out.

Back at Meshakwad, the group ate lunch, and Bill Schaaf introduced Erik. Erik talked about the art of canoe-building, the history of the wiigwaasi-jiimaan, and how he learned the art from Native mentors like Bunky Fairbanks of Ball Club.

"When the white man came, about 400 years ago, they adopted this canoe without any changes and used it for over a couple hundred years," said Erik. "They didn't know how to make these, so they relied on Native builders to build the canoes and make them bigger so they could haul more freight."

He talked about the importance of preserving the art and passing it on to future generations. "In 500 years, this canoe has really never been improved upon," Erik said.

He demonstrated how a cedar log could be split using a moose rib and a mallet, and how a rib could also be used to plane down cedar for ribs or gunwales. He talked about harvesting birch bark and making pitch to waterproof the seams, after which the group worked on processing the spruce root they had gathered for use on the canoe.

"We're all here for a reason," Erik said. "We want to learn, we want to build a canoe, and we want to take pride in it and carry on the traditions."

Erik's visit was made possible in part by his wife Dawn's uncle, Mille Lacs Band Elder Bill Schaaf, who has known Erik for many years.

Also assisting were Birdie Dunkley, the Community Cultural Coach with the Pine County Collaborative; Ed St. John of Mahkoonz Cultural Camp; Mat Pendleton, Cultural Activities Coordinator with the Lower Dakota Community; Jacob Bernier, Community Outreach with the Minnesota Historical Society, and Sandy Korf, Cultural Coordinator with Hinckley-Finlayson School District.

Mat and Jacob, who brought some Dakota youth to the event, have been working together for three years to preserve canoe-building traditions. They co-curated an exhibit called "Why Canoes?" at Northrup on the University of Minnesota campus, and they've worked with Micronesian canoe builders and built Dakota dugout canoes of cottonwood and basswood.

To help bring Erik to District III, Mat received a grant from the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Board of Directors, for a Revitalizing Dakota Birchbark Canoes project. They reached out to Bill because they don't have the natural resources for birch bark canoes in southern Minnesota.

Bill told the group that his plan is to build two birch bark canoes over the winter.

"We wanted you to learn something very important to who we are," Bill said. "This is what our ancestors did. This is how our ancestors survived in the old days."



Top: Elders Bill Schaaf (left rear) and Ed St. John (right front) helped youth from Mille Lacs and beyond find black spruce root for a canoe-building project led by master craftsman Erik Simula. Below: Erik (with help from X) identified spruce and tamarack trees in a District III bog, Birdie Dunkley worked on a spruce root, and Rechar Bridges, a senior at East Central, showed off a coil of roots that will be used in the construction of a wiigwaasi-jiimaan — a birch bark canoe.





BAND MEMBER VOICES YEARS OF LOSS AND CHERISHED MEMORIES

By Colin Cash Mille Lacs Band Member

COVID-19 has ripped a hole not only in our community, but in our culture as well. I recall early in my recovery I was insecure about the path before me. Who am I going to be? Who am I as a Native man in recovery without the drug lifestyle, the drug seeking, and manipulation? Strip those things from my life then what am I left with? I was afraid and had an identity problem because I believed my personality was associated with those things and they somehow defined me. Little did I know the answers to these questions were right in front of me.

Wednesday nights at 6 p.m., Perry Benjamin, Larry Wade, Elmer Nayquonabe, Dave Sam, and Herb Weyaus would gather and play the Moccasin Game. My first time attending this weekly event left me baffled and excited at the same time. The thing that stood out to me was how goofy and fun the night was. I was scared of Mille Lacs at the time because I was 30 days clean and barely hanging on and knowing that any moment I could use and die. This is the sad reality of drug use.

Being in fear of using was a reality for me in the early months, but somehow on Wednesday nights all that fear would dissipate for a few hours and I learned how to enjoy what was in front of me. I remember being shocked by these Elders because I had insurmountable respect for them, and to see them tease and joke with each other in ways I thought Elders shouldn't left me speechless yet at ease. Imagine having a view of Elders as super sacred and yet hear them clown each other and pick on each other in a way that leaves you laughing and speechless. The first few Wednesdays, I am sure my jaw was on the floor most of the time, or laughing until tears came down my face.

I needed that laughter; it is always the best medicine. They



David Sam was among those who taught Colin Cash makazinataagewin (the moccasin game) — and other important lessons.

taught me the game of Moccasin, but more importantly they taught me about life and how to be a Native American man in recovery. All of them were sober with decades of recovery. Looking back on these memories makes me feel spoiled because of the hours I spent with them. Nothing can take those memories from me or the hours we spent laughing. The Moccasin game is more than just a game; it's about being who you are and who you are meant to be. The songs, the joking, the poker faces, and the connections are what meant the most to me. So, to Perry Benjamin, Larry Wade, Elmer Nayquonabe, Dave Sam, and Herb Weyaus, I will always have a debt of gratitude in my heart for what you all taught me about the game and how to conduct myself as a Native American man in recovery.

DAVE SAM, FRED JACKSON, AND THE HEALING GAME

Most would agree that David Sam, who passed away last month, was as instrumental as anyone keeping the moccasin game alive at Mille Lacs. His love of the game is evident in the photos above. But Dave was careful to give credit where it was due: the late Fred Jackson. "I firmly believe that the way this game has caught on now is because of this man's passion," Dave said.

Dave met Fred in Minneapolis in the 1970s, when Dave was running a halfway house for Indian men. Although their program was having an impact on younger men, Dave and the counselors were having a hard time reaching the Elders. They decided they needed to see what made the older men tick, what they were passionate about.

"He was passionate about this thing called the moccasin game," Dave said. "He started making the game parts — the pads, hand-carved hickory sticks, and hand drums. Then he started playing with the guys from the house."

At the time, Dave didn't have much interest in or knowledge of the game, but as time went on, that changed. He learned not only of the entertainment value of the game, but also of its healing power. As the old men played the game, their sobriety took hold, and their friendships grew.

Fred, Dave, and other Band members from the Cities would drive up to Mille Lacs every week to play. Dave remembers driving through snow in his low-rider '66 LeMans. "We'd get to the top of a hill and have to brush off all the snow that was causing it to overheat," Dave recalled.

AANJIBIMAADIZING FIRST AID, NARCAN, CPR TRAINING

Aanjibimaadizing hosts First Aid & CPR/Narcan/AED Training from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, October 1, at the District II Aanjibimaadizing office in McGregor and Friday, November 5, at the District I Aanjibimaadizing office.

The AHA's First Aid/CPR/AED course trains participants to provide First Aid/CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) in a safe, timely, and effective manner.

It is designed for anyone with little or no medical training who needs a course completion card for their job, regulatory (e.g., OSHA), or other requirements, or anyone who wants to be prepared for an emergency in any setting. Upon completion of all course requirements, participants receive a card which is valid for two years.

Lunch will be provided. Individuals can attend the full 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. session, just the morning, or just the afternoon. Maximum of 10 people each session.

Free for Aanjibimaadizing clients, who will have first priority. For others, cost will be \$20 per full day, or \$10 per morning or afternoon session. Note that Aanjibimaadizing hosts First Aid/CPR classes the first Friday of the month, throughout all of the MLBO districts.

For more information or to register, contact Karen at 320-362-4139 or karen.pagnac@millelacsband.com.

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.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT OUR LEGACY

To report suspected human trafficking, call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tip line: **1-866-347-2423**

If you are a victim and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**

BLUE CAMPAIGN
One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.

GII-KIIGOOIKED MEWIZHA ANISHINAABE

This article was originally published in the October 2001 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. Miigwech to Charlie Lippert for editing.

Eniwek gaa-nibwaakaad a'aw anishinaabe mewizha wii-amwaad giigooyan inashke-wiin iwapii gaawiin gegoo gii-ayaa-sinon dinowa noongom ayaabadak giigooyikeng. Gaawiin gegoo migiskan miinawaa migiskaneyaab gaye migiskanaatig, gaawiin gegoo anit. Baanimaa dagoshing chimookoomaan miiwapii ga-wenipasid wii-amwad giigooyan anooji gii-in-aapinanaan gii-amwaad. Giigooyan okanesan ogii-aabajitoo migiskan gii-ozhitoon miinawaa waawaashkeshi ojiitadeyaab ogii-omiskaneyaabiin. Mii-wiin i'iw gii-wewebanaabiid. Anitiin-wiin ogii-michozhitoonan okanes gaanaanig mitigong ogii-takobidoon gaa-aabajitooon bibooninig gii-akwawaad miinawaa-go gii-waaswaad miinawaa-go-gaye. Gii-piinjiibooganaganike mitigoon bebiwakosinijin ogii-mawaandoooninan gii-ozhitoon imaa ji-biindabogonid giigooyan miinawaa-go-gaye asabiin ogii-oshi'awaan ga-nitaa-asabiikejig awegodogwen-wiin-gaye gaabajitowaaagwagwen gii-asabiikewaad.

Geget-wiin noongom-wiin wenipanad chimookoomaanag galkina gego odaayaan edaamang wii-abaajitoooyang. Miinawaa-go biinish wii-amwang giigooh chimookoomaan gidadaamanaa.

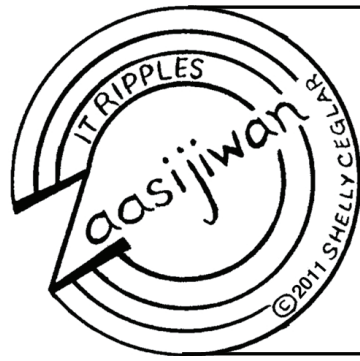
Mewizha gaye gaa-wiikaa gego awashime ogii-mamosiin mii-eta-go minik ge-miijid minik gaa-mamoodwaa. Anishinaabe gii-pagidawaad miinawaa gii-piinjiiboonaaganiked awashime minik a'aw amwaad gii-nisaad ogii-miigwenan mii iw gaon-jidanisig aw Anishinaabe, mii iw.

How Anishinaabeg Procured Fish Long Ago

The Anishinaabe long ago had to be very smart to eat fish because there were no ready materials like today to use in fishing. [Everything they needed to get fish had to be made by hand using whatever material was available.] There were no fish hooks, line or fishing poles — not even a spear. Later when the Americans came, it became easy if we wanted to get various fish to eat. Fish hooks had to be fashioned from fish bones and the fish line was made from deer sinew. Thus that is how they had fished. For spearing, they used sharpened animal bones tied to the ends of a pole for winter-time spearing through the ice and by light [in summer nights]. [There were also other ways to get fish.] They made fish weirs [now illegal] by tying small poles together, rounding up the fish with nets from material unknown [to us today] for netting.

But unlike today, life was not easy [for Anishinaabe people until the arrival of] Americans who sold everything that was needed [to get fish]. And we can now eat by buying fish from the Americans.

And back then, the Anishinaabe took not more than what they could eat or use; when they netted or weired more than enough to eat or have killed, they shared with other Anishinaabe. That's all.



Dagwaaging—When it is Fall

Dagwaaging, izhaa gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong. Aabajitooon i'iw mazinaabikiwebinigan. Odagindaanan ingiw mazinaa'iganan. Aaniin waa-gikendang? Owii-nitaa-ganawendaan ina nibi? Owii-nitaa-ganawendaan ina Aki? Owii-nitaa-gikendaanan ina Niizhwaaso Ojibwe Gikinoo'amaadiwinan? Zaagidiwin ina? Minaadenidiwin ina? Aakode'ewin ina? Gwayakwaadiziwin ina? Nibwaakaawin ina? Dabaadendiziwin ina? Debwewin ina? Omaamaa, Odede, dash ogekinoo'amaagejig ga-gikinoo'amaagewag.

(When it is fall, s/he goes to the school building. S/he uses that computer. S/he reads them those books. What will s/he know about? Will s/he be skilled-at taking care of it? water? Will s/he be skilled at taking care of it? Earth? Will s/he learn the Seven Ojibwe Teachings? Love? Respect? Courage? Honesty? Wisdom? Humility? Truth? His/her Mom, Dad and teachers, they will teach.)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waabooz—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Aaniin—as in seen

Mooz—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Dash—as in about

Ingjw—as in tin

Niizho—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.

Niizh—2

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

A. Giwii-manoominike na dagwaaging? Aandi waa-izhaayan?

B. Nanda-anokii na oodenaang? Aandi nenda-anokiid?

C. Gii-bimosem ina miikanang? Aaniin apii gaa-bimoseyeg.

D. Gikinoo'amaagoziwag ina? Aandi gekinoo'amaagoziwag?

E. Giwii-nandawishibe na? Gidayaan ina jiimaan zaaga'iganing?

F. Gidojibwem ina? Eya.' Nindojibwem bangii.

G. Inashke! Waabam! Giwaabamaa na mitig? Miskozi.

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

Ask?

There are two types of questions, Yes/No or the Who, What, Where types. Yes/No-> Use ina or na as the 2nd word in the sentence. The W questions demand all verbs B-form to follow them. VAI B-form suffixes underlined: Izhaa.—S/he goes. Where are you going? Aandi ezhaayan? Where am I going? Aandi ezhaayaan? Where is s/he going? Aandi ezhaad? Where are we going? Aandi ezhaayaang? Where are you all going? Aandi ezhaayeg? Where are they going? Aandi ezhaawaad?

Niswi—3

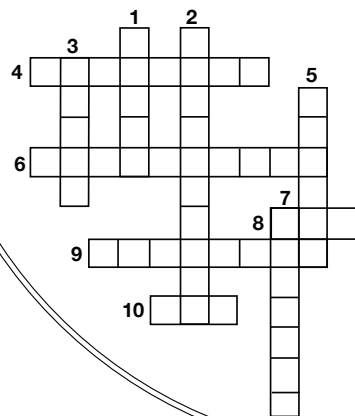
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. See him/her!
2. Love (noun).
3. S/he goes.
5. Greetings. How or in what way?
7. S/he hunts.

Across:

4. You have it.
6. S/he uses it.
8. Past tense marker.
9. truth (noun)
10. question marker?



Niiwin—4

W-questions demand verbs in their unique B-form, Verbs' 1st vowel changes happen: e, i, & a->e, o->we, aa->ayaa, ii->aa, oo->waa after:

Aaniin.—How or in what way?
Aandi or Aaniindi—Where
Aaniin apii—When in time
Awenen—Who
Giiyose.—S/he hunts.
Aandi gaagiiyosed. Where did s/he hunt? (Tense marker gii- spoken as gaa-with 1st vowel change after Aandi. B-form for s/he is verb's d ending.)

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Ninzaagitoon Dagwaaging. Aandi gaayose _____ (they).

2. Aaniin apii w _____-giwewaad? (will/want wii-).

3. Gidojibwem ina gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong? Aandi _____ jibwemoyan giziibiigiisaginige-giizhigak?

4. Aandi wenjibaa _____? Gidaa na Mahnomening?

5. Aaniindi _____zhaayaang? Daga mino-izhiwebizidaa!

Translations:

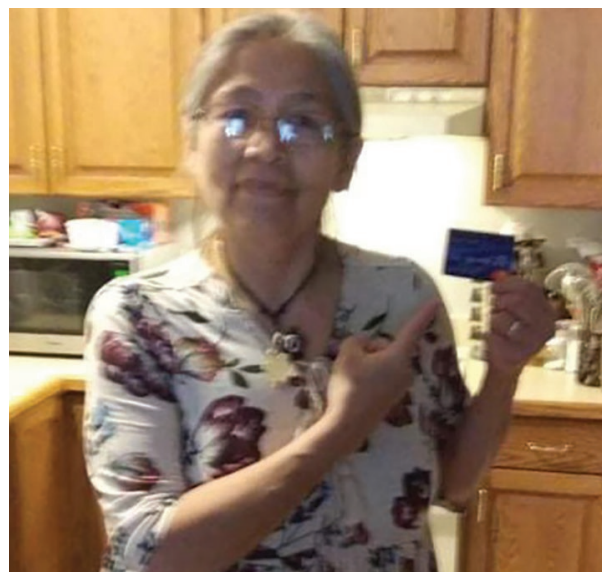
Niizh—2 A. You want to go ricing when it is fall? Where do you want to go? B. Is she looking for work in town? Where is she looking for work? C. Did you all walk on the trail? When did you all walk? D. Do they go to school? Where do they go to school? E. Do you want to go duck hunting? Do you have a canoe at the lake? F. Do you speak Ojibwe? Yes. I speak Ojibwe a little. G. Look! See him/her! Do you see (him/her) the tree? S/he is red.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Aandi? 2. Zaagidiwin 3. Izhaa 5. Aaniin 7. Giiyose Across: 4. Gidayaan 6. Aabajitooon 8. Gii- 9. Debwewin 10. ina

Niiwin-4 1. I like it when it is Fall. Where are they/-waad hunting? 2. When will- (wii->waa-) they go home? 3. Do you speak Ojibwe at school? Where do you speak Ojibwe (o->we) when it is Saturday? 4. Where do you/-yan originate from? Do you live in Mahnomen? (note: onjibaa -> wenjibaa) 5. Where are (i->e) we going? Please let's all behave well!

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

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Dagwaaging 2011. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

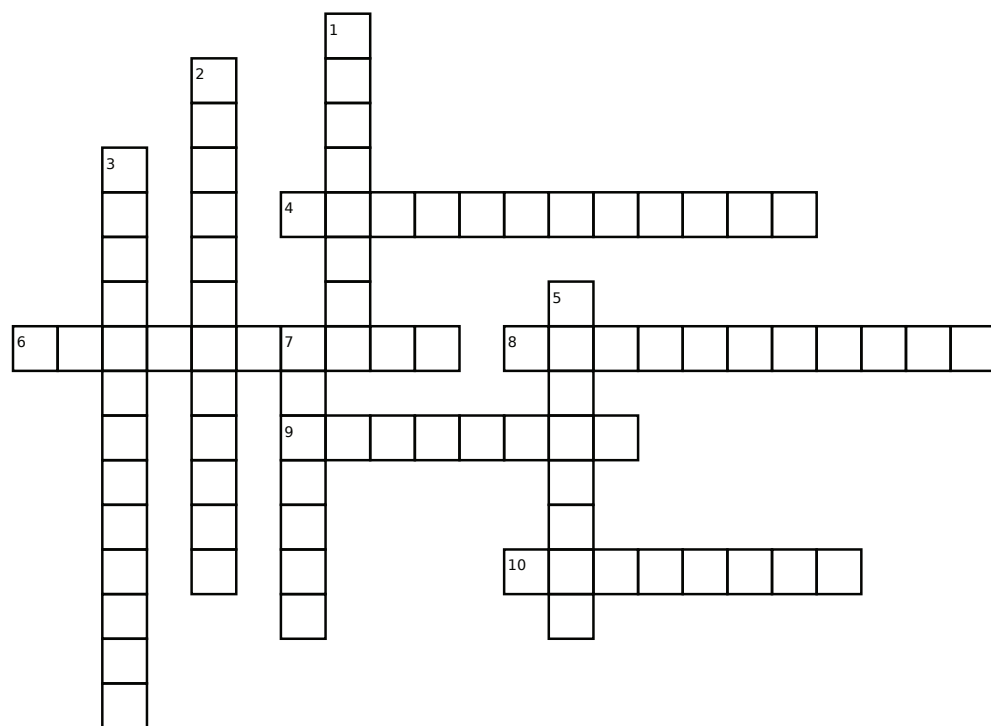


SURVEY DRAWING WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Churchill, Norma Diver, and Keith Benjamin. They were the survey prize drawing winners and each received a \$100 Visa gift card for their participation in the Long Term Care Program for Tribal Members Survey, which was conducted back in July and August. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Human Services Department (a division of Health and Human Services) would like to give a huge shout out to ALL 241 participants in the survey. Thank you all for your time!

AAZHAWAAKWASING BINAAKWE-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Down

1. his/her son
2. Your ball
3. my fork
5. your daughter
7. my son

Across

4. Ginoondawaa ina a'aw _____? (Do you hear my car?)
6. _____ ina biizikang? (Is she wearing her shoes?)
8. Giwaabandaan ina _____? (Do you see my sock?)
9. Ningii-waabamaa a'aw _____. (I did see your mom.)
10. Aanapii wii-tagoshing _____? (When does your younger sibling intend to arrive?)

BAND MEMBER VOICES FUNERALS

As Anishinaabe, we were given a place to go when the Manidoog decide it is time for us to change worlds. It is because those Manidoog have great compassion for the Anishinaabeg. We also were given a certain way to be sent to that place. Great care and instruction go into the Ceremony in order for the family to process grief and, also, for the one passing on to process what is happening. This Ceremony must be done in our language.

Ensuring you spend time with your grief and letting go as you are ready will help with the tough time you are going through. Put your grief in asemaa. A little bit goes a long way. You can pack as much as you are ready to into the asemaa and offer it to the spirits for them to take it from you. Keep gratitude for the person you are grieving that they are being taken care of by the Manidoog. As the day of the Ceremony approaches, dress yourself nicely, cook some food, and spend time with your relatives. Your collective grieving will allow for more efficient processing of grief, and you will give life to one another as you work to prepare for your loved one's Ceremony.

Getting to the wake, place your food in the kitchen to be prepped by the helpers. Your love and compassion is placed within the food, and there will be a feast with your loved one. During the feast, be sure to eat up. Your loved one will also eat and be filled with the love and compassion within the food. They need plenty of support in order to change worlds, and everyone offering tobacco and accepting the food is providing that support. Listen to the stories. Feel free to ask questions to the helpers of the ceremony. They agreed to provide for their community, and it is their honor to serve you and your family during your hard time. Take time to rest.



The day of the funeral, make more food and support your relatives having a tough time. If it is you, then please ask for help. If you hold in your grief, pressure will build up then eventually you will explode and it will affect those closest to you. Let your emotions out. The Manidoog and your fellow Anishinaabeg will hear you

and send their love and compassion to you. As the ceremony comes to an end, remember that it is not a "Goodbye." Anishinaabe do not say goodbyes. It is a "See you again." When the Manidoog decide it is our time to go, we will be reunited with our loved ones that went before us. They will be happy to see us again.

As the funeral closes, avoid having tears fall on the body. It will be tough for them to leave, and there will be a foggy mist on their path. Pregnant women and young children are discouraged from viewing the body. It takes a lot of energy to leave this world and arrive here. We don't want those energies to cross. As the body is being taken away, we should only stand for veterans. But, all in all, your family may have teachings, and you are encouraged to follow them and teach them to your younger relatives.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

As we go about and apply the language, the relation in which you interact will change. There are certain qualities of an object or person that make it relational to who you are and who others are. When we apply "My" or "Your" to another person or object, it is not saying that that is yours, that you possess it. Rather, that you are in relation to him/her or it. English implies that there is a sense of ownership, but Anishinaabe imply a sense of relation.

Ingozis = my son (in go zis)

Gidaanis = your daughter (Gih dah nis)

Ogozisan = his/her son (O go zis sun)

Gibikwaakwad = Your ball (Gib bik kwah kwud)

Nimbadaka'igan = my fork (Nim bud duck kai ig gun)

Ningii-waabamaa a'aw gimaamaa. = I did see your mom. (Nin gee wah bum mah uh ow gim mah mah)

Giwaabandaan ina nindazhigan? = Do you see my sock? (Gih wah bun dahn in nuh nin duzh zhig gun)

Omakazinan ina biizikang? = Is she wearing her shoes? (Oh muk kuz zin nun in nuh bee zik kung)

Ginoondawaa ina a'aw nindoodaabaan? = Do you hear my car? (Gih noon daw ah in nuh uh ow nin doo dah bon)

Aanapii wii-tagoshing gishiime? = When does your younger sibling intend to arrive? (On up pee wee tug go shing gih shee may)

Utilizing Ojibwemowin assists with understanding who you are in relation to others. Miigwech.

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

Memeshkwad giziibiiginaaganewag nindaanisag. (My daughters take turns washing dishes.)

Agaamindesi nibaa nindaanis. (My daughter is sleeping across from me in the lodge.)

Zhebaa nitam gii'-oda'amii nindaanisens. (My little daughter took her first step this morning.)

Ominwaadodaan i'iw gaa-o-waabandang minisi. (He speaks well of the island he went to see.)

Niwii-shaabonaan owe mitigoons. Nakwebidoon iwidi waabandaman. (I'm going to push the stick through. If you see it there, catch it.)

Ogii-minwaabandaanaawaa gaa-waabandamowaad iwe gichi-mandaamini-gitigaan. (They liked the huge cornfield they saw.)

Wegonen gaa-pi-waabandaman gii-bi-bimibizoyan. (What did you see on your drive here?)

Ningii'-noondawaa "gaawiin" ikidod. Gaawiin ganabaj oada-gashkitoon. (I heard him say "No." He doesn't think he can do it.)

Zhebaa ningii-noondawaa a'aw animosh madwe-migid. (This morning I heard the dog barking.)

Makadewaawan nimakizinan. (My shoes are black.)

Anaami-adoopowinaakong ateniwan omakizinan. (His shoes are under the table.)

LINE 3 PIPELINE

PROTESTERS MARCH ON STATE CAPITOL

Photos by Bradley Roache Jr, Mille Lacs Band Member



Band member Bradley Roache Jr. attended a march on the Capitol in St. Paul against the Line 3 pipeline on August 25. About 2,000 attended the march, including a group of walkers who traveled on foot from the White Earth Reservation. More than 200 state troopers monitored the march and arrested three protesters. Organizers said, "We need President Biden to step in and direct the Army Corps to cancel this pipeline's permits. This pipeline directly violates treaties, preventing Anishinaabe communities from exercising their guaranteed rights to hunt, fish, and engage in cultural practices. It's also a climate disaster and a carbon bomb, threatening to release as much greenhouse gas emissions as 50 coal plants — every year for decades." The Mille Lacs Band continues to challenge the pipeline through the courts and last month asked President Biden to order an environmental impact analysis by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency.



MEET THE NEWEST GRA BOARD MEMBER

The GRA is proud to welcome our newest Board member, Crystal Weckert, who was sworn in for duty on August 4, 2021. She is replacing Maurice Benjamin as the Secretary-Treasurer nominee. Crystal is deeply committed to working with and helping Native American communities and has been working for Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services since 2004. She was the director overseeing the Substance Abuse Department and Mental Health Services for HHS for over six years. Crystal's undergraduate degree is in social work, and she has a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and an additional master's degree in Tribal Administration and Gov-



Crystal Weckert

ernance (MTAG) from the University of Minnesota. She and her husband have been licensed foster parents for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for over 10 years, and they have five wonderful children. Crystal is excited to serve her community in this new role and help protect the integrity of the gaming activities within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

GRA Board Members include:

Susan Klapel, Chairperson, nominated by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

Michelle Pomerleau, Vice Chairperson, nominated by District III Representative Wally St. John

Michael Davis, Secretary, nominated by District II Representative Marvin Bruneau

Megan Ballinger, Board Member, nominated by Former District I Representative Sandi Blake

Crystal Weckert, Board Member, nominated by Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

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. The new website address is <https://www.millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>.

You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.



FORAGING AND PHOTOGRAPHY — A LEARNING COMBINATION

Band members and other community members who participated in a foraging and photography workshop this summer celebrated their success on September 9 with an exhibition of their work at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum.

Bringing photography and foraging together in one class was the brainchild of Colleen McKinney of the Public Health Department, who had worked with ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk on previous workshops and knew photographer Della Nohl from childhood. Colleen had help from Cyndy Rudolph of Onamia Community Education as well as Brittany Wind and her staff in the Mille Lacs Band Grants Department.

Linda is an ethnobotanist specializing in teaching about culturally important plants and their uses as food, medicine, and materials. A former employee of the Mille Lacs DNR, 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 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 anthotypes, a photographic process using plant-based emulsions.

This activity was 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. Additional funding came from Minnesota Department of Health SHIP and Tribal Tobacco grants.

Bringing a photographer's eye to the medicine gathering process helped the students focus on the unique characteristics of each plant, and the emphasis on plant identification meant plenty of beautiful subject matter for the photography students to practice their art.

Band member Chandell Boyd was initially drawn to the botany — but she discovered a new skill and interest. "I saw the flyer for the plant walk, but I liked taking photos, too," she said. "That was my favorite part."

Joanna Hill is a long-time forager who also found the photography interesting. "I loved it," she said. "Being in the woods and learning about native plants is my favorite thing. I hope they have more opportunities like this in the future."

The group met initially at the Rice Lake Federal Wildlife Refuge in District II in July for a plant walk and an introduction

to photography.

In August, they reconvened at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park for more photography training and another plant walk, followed by a session at the computer lab at Nay Ah Shing High School for photo editing and selection.

The next day, some students from the Reservation joined Linda in another plant walk and Della as she presented information on photography and told stories about her career and experiences as an Indigenous photographer.

The September exhibition included photos from all the participants and featured a talk by Linda and Della where they pointed out the botanical and photographic elements of each picture on display.

Vicki Kroschel said it was the highlight of her summer to learn about all the medicinal plants in the woods.

Rylea Durbin and Dallas Behnke work with the youth in Chiminising through the Ge-niigaanizijig program. They loved learning about photography and plant ID.

"Della was supportive as heck," said Rylea.

Dallas agreed. "She was a big inspiration."



Clockwise from left: Band members Vicki Kroschel, Joanna Hill, Chandell Boyd, Reine Garbow, and Bobby Eagle were among the participants in the photography and foraging workshops this summer. Their work was on display at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in District I on Thursday, September 9. Photos by Della Nohl.

MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Cayden Eagle

Miskwaanakwad, Cayden Eagle, 17-year-old resident of Isle, Minnesota, passed away on September 2, 2021. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 6, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 5, at the District I Community Center. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Miskwaanakwad, Cayden Michael Lee Eagle was born on May 20, 2004, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Erikkah Skog and Michael Eagle. He was an exceptional student at Onamia High



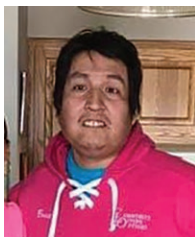
School, where he participated in basketball, baseball, and football. Cayden was passionate about his Native American culture and language. He loved being with his brother, sisters, and friends, where they would spend their time listening to music, gaming, and driving around in his car. Cayden was proud of his first car, a 1989 Chevy Celebrity that he worked for and bought on his own. He will be greatly missed by all.

Cayden is survived by his mother, Erikkah (Pete Braith) Skog; father, Michael Eagle; brother, Carson Braith; sisters, Amanda Eagle and Reyale Sam; grandparents, Maurice, Laurie Rogerson, Rosella Eagle, Kenneth Shingobe, Roger and Viv Braith; and many loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Melvin & Delores Eagle, Nancy Schaaf, and Kim Braith.

Bruce Boyd

Badwewidang, Bruce Allen Boyd, 40-year-old resident of Pine City, Minnesota, passed away on September 6, 2021. A Funeral Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 10, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Nazhike officiating. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, at the District I Community Center. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



ments were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Badwewidang, Bruce Allen Boyd was born on April 5, 1981, in Onamia, Minnesota. He enjoyed being with his family, nieces, nephews, and friends. Bruce liked to spend his time watching TV, especially Wheel of Fortune and the Price is Right.

He is survived by his mother, Alvera Smith; brothers, James Smith, Jack Smith, Dan Boyd, Tim Boyd, Chris Weyous; sisters, Rachel Boyd, Danielle Boyd, Mary Boyd, Danni Jo Harkness; and many loving relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Boyd; and his grandparents.

Sheldon Garbow

Chi-noodin, Sheldon Garbow, 31-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on September 10, 2021. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 14, at the District I Community Center with Nazhike officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



raised by his grandparents, Maggie and Jesse Kegg, whom he loved dearly. He liked to spend his time with his baby sister and all of his nieces and nephews. Sheldon enjoyed gaming on his Xbox and being with his family.

Sheldon is survived by his mother, Beverly Kegg; stepfather, Gerald Nickaboine Sr.; brothers, Sean Garbow, Levi Kegg, Gerald Nickaboine Jr., Levin Nickaboine; sisters, Kacie Garbow, Erica Garbow, Darian Kegg, Jodi Nickaboine, Natalia Kegg; grandmother, Joan Littlewolf; and many loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harvey Garbow; grandparents, Maggie and Jesse Kegg, and Lillian Garbow; brothers, Grant Garbow, Jamie Solis; aunt, Maria Kegg; nephew, Dennis Solis; uncles, Dennis, Conrad, and Gerald Kegg.

Sandra Skinaway

Sandra Marie Skinaway, (Bagwejiwashiiik), 55, of McGregor, passed away Tuesday September 14, 2021, at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sandra was born November 18, 1965, in Chicago, Illinois, to Clifford Monroe Skinaway Sr. and Gloria Jean (Sayers) Skinaway. Sandra attended Fond du Lac Ojibwa school and graduated from McGregor high school (class of '84) and enlisted in the United States Army ISC-PTC from June 1984 to March 1987, where she was stationed in Arlington, Virginia. Sandra was married to the father of her two children, Kenneth Perry Sr. (eventually they divorced). She began her career working at the Pentagon. She moved to Minneapolis and soon relocated back to her original homeland, on the north side of (Big) Sandy Lake.



She worked with GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission), every third Wednesday of July, as a gracious host for the Sandy Lake Tragedy Memorial paddle. In recent years, she worked as secretary of the 1855 Treaty Authority. She was also actively involved in advocating for the wolf. Her family and tribal roots remained a priority. Sandra loved spending time with her children and family, and enjoyed her grandchildren the most. She is survived by her beloved children, son Kenneth Perry Jr. of McGregor, and her daughter Tashina Perry of Duluth. She had eight grandchildren who she loved very much; Kenneth Perry III, Atreju John Perry, Peyton Perry, Wabagheezhigikwe Anastazia Lee Sandman-Shelfoe, Alexis Perry, James Perry, Elizabeth Perry, and Anthony Perry. Sandra was the oldest of nine children and was preceded in death by both her parents, Clifford Monroe Skinaway Sr. and Gloria Skinaway, her sister Emma Skinaway, and her brother Monroe Skinaway. She leaves behind six younger siblings and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She worked in Aitkin as an office manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources from June 1991 to August 2005. She retired from the DNR but never stopped working as the tribal chairwoman for her tribe, the Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa. Sandra was a pillar in the community and recognized leader of the Sandy Lake Band. She worked for years, following the passing of her father (Clifford Monroe Skinaway Sr. '94), fighting to restore federal recognition for her homeland. She worked alongside many local, state, tribal, and federal representatives throughout her lifetime.

Tribal rites were held 10 a.m. Friday, September 17, 2021, at the East Lake Ceremonial Building in East Lake-McGregor. Vincent Merrill was the Tribal Rites Leader. Visitation was at dusk on September 16 at the Ceremonial Building. Burial was in the Big Sandy Lake Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with McGregor Funeral Home & Cremation Services in McGregor. To leave a message of condolence, please go to www.srtfuneral.com.

David Sam

Amik, David Sam, 70-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at the Carris Health-Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar, Minnesota. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A Funeral Ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, at the District I Community Center with Gimiwan officiating. Interment was in the Faith Lutheran Cemetery in Isle, Minnesota. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.



Amik, David Wayne Sam, of Onamia, was born November 25, 1950, in Isle, to Frank Sam and Dorothy Passehl (Smith). His story is extraordinary, one that cannot be matched. A first language speaker, raised by his grandmother Annie Sam, David was directed to learn about living in two worlds, so he could one day come back and make a difference in others' lives. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Boston and Bush Foundation Leadership Fellow. David was a gifted leader, teacher, spiritual advisor, language instructor, loving father and grandfather, an avid outdoorsman, and Makizin instructor. He loved teaching the 'healing game' to young men, and his commitment to healing and sobriety guided his life and work. He served on many leadership boards ranging from Indian Education, chemical dependency, to community leadership. He believed in being solution-centered. He was a strong advocate for human rights, sovereignty, and building cross-cultural relationships within our community. With his wife, children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews always at his side, he guided and grounded his family in ceremonies, maple syruping, hunting, snaring, fishing, ricing, birch bark basket making, and blanket making. He was a skilled artist and craftsman. As a professional, his most honored position was his recent appointment as the Chief Appellate Court Justice for the Mille Lacs Band, where he could lift up those committed to leadership and service, and help create equitable and cultural change for our community. With pride and excellence, David served as the ML Wastewater Manager for nearly 20 years. David was an exceptional employee, husband, father, friend, and mentor to the world around him.

David is survived by his best friend and wife, Mary; sons, David (Dana), Benji (Candace), Justin; daughters, Annie (Tony), Kevyn (Ted), and Jono, Virgil, Damon, Melonee, and David Shawn; grandchildren, Logan, Lucas, Anthony, Star Love, Millee Rose, Silas, Bazile, and Sophia; many wonderful nieces, nephews, We-ehs, siblings, Fred and Sharon.

David was preceded in death by his parents, adopted mom, Amelia Day; daughter, Dawn Renee; granddaughter, Tanya; hunting partners, Leonard, Bradly, Charlie, Elmer; and siblings, Frank, Paul, Joe, Herb, Isabelle, Adeline, and Donna. David had a knack for making us smile, to be better, and to love more.

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.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

A STORY OF HOPE

By **Randell Sam** Mille Lacs Band Member

Boozhoo Band members. This month's story is inspired by one of our local band members from District I, Wasiigiizhigookwe (Vanessa Weyaus). She is a woman in long-term recovery and is willing to share some of her struggles. Her story is an inspiration to anyone who is still struggling with living life on life's terms. As for many of us who are fortunate enough to enter recovery and search for our purpose in life, we fear the unknown of what recovery will bring us. Many of us feel we need to exit our environments that contributed to our demise. Many leave to heal and try a different life. But for quite a few of us, home is where the heart is and home is Mille Lacs. We harbor doubts that we can stay clean at home. I believe it is fear from the unknown.

Vanessa has resided in Mille Lacs most of her life. So many of us experiment with drugs at a very young age. Some of us love it, others don't. Some of us find that drugs relieve us from the reality we live in. Unfortunately, we don't realize the damage we are doing to ourselves, to our families, and to our community. We find ourselves in circles where drug use is the social norm and begin to experiment with harder drugs. This sends us into a downward spiral of hopelessness and despair. We lose our connection with our families, our spirituality, and to those who care about us deeply.

"I AM LIVING PROOF THAT ANYONE CAN TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES HERE AT HOME AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. TODAY I AM AN EMPOWERED WOMAN BECAUSE OF MY RECOVERY."

Drugs isolate us from everything that is good in our lives and leave us feeling alone, ashamed, and ridden with guilt. We lose ourselves in this vicious cycle of using to escape and escaping to use. Vanessa was no exception with her life choices. She found herself being questioned by a local cop while walking down a road with everything she owned in a duffel bag and six felonies hanging over her head. She found herself in a state of surrender and began her recovery journey in handcuffs.

I bumped into Vanessa W. in St. Cloud at a local support group. She was nine months into her recovery journey. The strength of her recovery program and all the changes that come along with it were evident in her words and manner. She was at the crossroads in her life, ready to leave the halfway house with her two youngest children and unsure of the next



right thing to do. Her family needed her to return to Mille Lacs. Her elderly mother needed her daughter back, physically and spiritually, as well as her other five children. Vanessa was concerned about how coming home would affect her recovery, even though she knew it was where she was needed. She contacted the tribe and utilized the programs available to ensure she had all the support to help her remain successful in her recovery journey. With the help of the Aanjii program and the Wraparound program, she has been able to secure a home in the Mille Lacs Band sober community and employment through her tribe.

Today, she has become a pillar in the Mille Lacs sober community with thirty-two months of continuous sobriety. Vanessa maintains full time employment and has regained her full driving privileges. She is a full-time mother to all seven of her children and has reconnected to her extended family. Inspired by Vanessa's journey, one of her older daughters is closing in on one year of continuous sobriety. She attends our local women's healing circle and takes part in our local sober community events. She has plans to further her education and has become a leader in our sober community, selflessly giving of her time to local mothers who are also in recovery. She was inspired by others in the community by watching them maintain sobriety in the same community they chose to destroy themselves in.

With the help of the excellent programs provided by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and peers in our local support groups, Vanessa is still going strong in her recovery and becoming an inspiration to numerous others. Vanessa's story is one of strength and healing and a major comeback that we can all learn from.

"I am living proof that anyone can transform their lives here at home and give back to the community. Today I am an empowered woman because of my recovery." — Wasiigiizhigookwe (Vanessa Weyaus).

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) presented Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk with the Outstanding Elected Official Award at its annual fall conference in September. Donald Graves, the Band's archivist, shared his experiences of working on oral history, amateur boxing, and participating in the Waabanong Run from Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, to Washington D.C., in support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's 1837 treaty rights case, which the Supreme Court heard on December 2, 1998. Hinckley boxer Tim "Thunder" Taggart faced Wisconsin's Harley Kilfian at Grand Casino Hinckley's Friday Night Fights series in September. Band member and Hinckley native Bill Peel was a new fourth-grade teacher at Hinckley Elementary School after serving more than 20 years in the military. Band member Wesley Ballinger (Niyo-giizhig) received Minnesota's Best Read for 2011 for a children's book he illustrated titled *Awesiinyensag: Dibaajimowinan Jigikinoo'amaageng*, which translates to *Little Animals: Stories for Teaching*.

15 years ago — 2006

The 2006 Mille Lacs powwow grew over 28 percent from the previous year with 1,024 dancers, 24 drums, 33 vendors, and over 1,200 spectators a day. Nay Ah Shing students Yulanda Smith, Rene Short, Amber Buckanaga, Miranda Nickaboine, Jeremy Nickaboine, Kyle Aune, Jon Reynolds, Anthony Buckanaga, and Kelly Graves earned the opportunity to meet our foreign journalists from Australia, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, and Spain. The Band Assembly ratified Alvina Aubele to serve another six-year term as the Associate Justice for the Court of Appeals in District III. Band member Gilda Burr was the new Court Administrator. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs about changes needed to federal Self-Governance laws. A memo from Mille Lacs County Attorney Jan Kolb that went public told county department heads to "make sure all of your staff know that there is no longer a reservation in Mille Lacs County. The reservation was long ago disestablished, and what exists now are lands held in trust for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe."

20 years ago — 2001

Band members Darcie Big Bear, Kim Big Bear, Daniel Sam, and Garrett Sam were selected by First Americans in the Arts (FAITA), a non-profit organization comprised of American Indian and non-Indian professionals in the entertainment industry, to compose music for its award show in Beverly Hills in February, 2002. Construction of the Band's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility was on track for completion in 2002. The \$12 million project was financed by the Band and a federal grant. No local or state tax money was used for construction. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin testified before the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs about several issues important to the Mille Lacs Band and other American Indian tribes. Phil Galeoto, who had 25 years of law enforcement experience, was named Tribal Police Chief for the Mille Lacs Band. Jada Grapp-Staples was named Mille Lacs Band Powwow Princess, Joe Big Bear had the best rez car, and Butch Anderson won the fry bread contest. Jon Swimmer was the new Deputy Solicitor General.

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



HELPING MOTHER EARTH

The Minnesota BIA module worked 14 days for 16 hours per day last month in the Boundary Waters fighting the Greenwood fire. Left to right: Dan Snetsinger (White Earth), Brady Boutta (Bois Forte), Dave Snetsinger (White Earth), Jamaal Baird (Mille Lacs — Oneida Band), Marquis Smith (Mille Lacs Band member, Fond Du Lac employee), Elijah Staples (Mille Lacs), Damon Panek (Fond Du Lac employee, Bad River Band member), Paul Prestley (Fond Du Lac), Shawn Niesen (White Earth). Miigwech for putting your lives on the line to protect our forests and communities. Right: Jamaal, Marquis, and Elijah at the job site.



TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

OCTOBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Diana Marie Anderson
Beverly Jean Bearheart
Kevin Alan Benjamin
Sheldon Ray Boyd
Marvin Ray Bruneau
Steven Lawrence Churchill
Gregory Dean Davis
Darlene Marie Day-Beaulieu
James F. Dowell
Joycelyn Marie Drumbeater
Ronda Leigh Dunfee
Jack Leo Dunkley
Angeline Marie Eagle
Gary Richard Garbow
Helena Graikowski
Lorna Mae Hanks
Lucy May Hansen
Delores Mae Hegland
William Robert Hemming
Steven Blane Hensley
Sherry Lynn Herrick
Rocky Patrick Hill

Kevin Scott Karsjens
Robert Lee Kegg
Doreen Lorraine Knutson
Valerie Marie LaFave
Terrance Steven Leyk
Joan Littlewolf
Marcella Jean Maurice
Jacqueline Applegate McRae
James Dion Mitchell
Betty Mae Mondeng
Brenda Joyce Moose
Beverly Marie Nayquonabe
Joseph Wade Nickaboine
Linda Jean Nickaboine
Joni Jayne O'Brien
Debra Jayne Otten
Teresa Lynn Packard
Bernice Pewaush
Jacqueline Ellen Redearth
Marsha Colleen Sam
Ruth Anne Sam
Virginia Louise Sam
James Robert Schroeder
Starry Lynn Silva
Steven Loren Silva

Amanda Lynn Skinaway
Christine Marie Smith
Nancy Jean Spittell
Montgomery Jay Staples
Jack Russell Thomas
Russell Ernest Towle
Jill Marie Valentino
Darlene Almeda Warren
Earl Ellsworth Whitney
Vernon James Woyak

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday and congratulations on making it to 'elder status' to **Greg Davis** on 10/15 from Kevin, Donna, and David • Happy 21st birthday **Fred Mitchell** on 10/25 from Mom, Chad, Jeremiah and your Dad Alan • Happy Birthday **Eric** on October 25th love Dad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Tiny, Bryn, Galli,

Bam, Binisiikwe, Granny, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Dan, Kev, Myla, Pie, Rachel, Rory, Randi, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor, and Guy • Happy Birthday **Melodie** on October 31st love the Harrington Family

NOTEBOARD 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. *The deadline for the November issue is October 15. Photos may be included if space allows.*

If you would rather not have your name included in the Elder birthday list, please contact the Government

Affairs office at 320-630-8195 or email news@millelacsband.com before the 15th of the month preceding your birthday.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL!

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

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

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:

Administration: Peter Nayquonabe: 218-670-0745; Maria Costello: 320-630-7643

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Tim Jackson: 320-362-4245

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Stephanie Dunkley: 320-532-7828

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.

REVISED HOLIDAYS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Monday, October 11, 2021, American Indian Day

Thursday, November 11, 2021, Warrior's Day

Wednesday, November 24, 2021, Noon Closing

Thursday/Friday, November 25 & 26, 2021, Mii Gwetch Day

Thursday/Friday, December 23 & 24, 2021, Midwinter Break

Thursday, December 30, 2021, Noon Closing

Friday, December 31, 2021, New Year's Day

Monday, January 17, 2022, Civil Rights Day

Monday, February 21, 2022, Chief's Day

Friday, March 18, 2022, Noon Closing – Treaty Day

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, Art Gahbow Day

Friday, May 27, 2022, Noon Closing

Monday, May 30, 2022, Memorial Day

Friday, June 17, 2022, Noon Closing (Hinckley Powwow)

Monday, June 20, 2022, Juneteenth

Friday, July 1, and Monday, July 4, 2022, Mid-Summer Days

Friday, July 15, 2022, Noon Closing (East Lake Powwow)

Friday, August 19, 2022, Noon Closing (Mille Lacs Powwow)

Monday, August 22, 2022, Mille Lacs Day

Friday, September 2, 2022, Noon Closing

Monday, September 5, 2022, Labor Day

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 8 p.m. 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>NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCT. 3-9</p> <p>The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," focusing on educating the public on the different sounds smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms make. Learn more at www.nfpa.org/fpw.</p>					<p>1</p> <p>Mick and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>First Aid/CPR training <i>see page 11</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mick and Syngen's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Safe Native American Passenger training <i>see page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccination clinic 8 a.m. to noon. Ne-la-Shing Clinic <i>See page 3</i></p> <p>Andy and Steve's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Andy and Steve's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>11</p> <p>American Indian Day Government offices closed.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lynda and LeAnn's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lynda and LeAnn's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Safety Day Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiyag</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick, Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Joe and George's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Joe and George's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>24/31</p> <p>Happy Halloween on October 31!</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Sa Miikana 7 p.m. via Zoom <i>See above</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>First Aid/CPR <i>see 7</i></p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to noon. Hinckley. 1 to 3 p.m. Aazhoomog <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Zooming, Wellbriety <i>See above</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bob and John's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Circle of Health 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chiminising Community Center <i>See page 7</i></p> <p>Zooming, On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bob and John's Ceremonial Dance</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>October 30-31: St. Croix State Park youth hunt. See page 5.</i></p>



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

ABOUT US

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs Department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. Please send questions, comments, corrections, or submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195. The November issue deadline is October 15.

NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Shelter: 866-867-4006.

Batterers' Intervention: 320-532-8909.

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

District I and IIa: 320-630-2498.

District II: 320-630-2492.

District III: 320-630-2497.

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



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