



O J I B W E I N A A J I M O W I N

SEPTEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 9

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



Virgil Wind, left, helped out with the Elder food distribution in the urban area last month.

WIND WINS IN DISTRICT I CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN REELECTED

Melanie Benjamin will continue to serve as Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and Virgil Wind will assume the position of District I Representative after the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's general election on August 18.

This is the sixth consecutive win for Melanie, who received 58.94 percent of the votes compared to 41.06 percent for challenger Carolyn Beaulieu. A total of 1,096 ballots were cast in the race for Chief Executive.

Melanie said she is excited about what the Band is poised to achieve over the next few years in close collaboration with other elected officials and community involvement. "In our three-branch system of government, it takes unity and cooperation to get big things done," said Melanie. "We have that now. I'm excited about our future and what we're going to achieve together for Band members."

In the race for District I Representative, Virgil Wind received 57.12 percent while incumbent Sandra Blake received 42.88 percent of the 646 ballots cast for District I Representative.

Wind has served as an Onamia Public School District school board chairman, local Indian parent committee member, businessman, and independent contractor.

"As the Onamia Public School chairman, I have learned valuable lessons on leadership," said Virgil. "One of the most important aspects of this work has been empowering people and bridging communities, something I hold in high regard," said Wind. "I value every lesson I have learned along the way as they made me who I am today, a resilient and compassionate leader. I pledge to always have the best interest of the Band at the heart of every decision and will always have an open door. I am ready to listen to the Band members and get to work for the community."

The Band Assembly, which is the Legislative Branch of the



Melanie Benjamin held a campaign rally in the urban area on Saturday, August 15.

tribal government, consists of one Representative from each of the Reservation's three districts and the Secretary/Treasurer, who presides over the Band Assembly as Speaker of the Assembly. The Chief Executive leads the Executive Branch. All elected officials serve four-year terms.

"All of the ideas in this election had to do with how we can best serve the people, and the best ideas always come from the people," Melanie added. "During this election we talked about some big goals for the Band, and I know that working together, we will achieve every one of those goals. If we follow our Anishinaabe values and keep our Elders, our children, and our future front-and-center every day, I am convinced that the best days of the Mille Lacs Band are ahead of us. To me, there is no higher calling than service to our Band and I am grateful we have so many Band Members who are committed to public service and building a brighter future together. Miigwech."

Election see page 5

MONOLINGUAL BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Mille Lacs Band Elders authored stories for Ojibwemowin books

Through the Aanjibimaadizing Project, 16 first speakers from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe have teamed with linguists, teachers, and Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language) experts to create three new books for Ojibwe language and culture learners. Conceived and presented only in Ojibwemowin, the stories reflect a rare authenticity as they transmit cultural values, increase vocabulary, and reinforce identity.

Each book is edited by Anton Treuer and Michael Sullivan Sr. and illustrated by a renowned Ojibwe artist.

Anton Treuer, professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, is the author of *The Language Warrior's Manifesto* and 14 other books on Indigenous history and language.

Michael Sullivan Sr. is the resident linguist for the Waa-dookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation.

For a video about the project, see youtube.com/millelacsband.

Nishiimeyinaanig (Our Little Siblings)

Illustrated by Wesley Ballinger

In these 26 charming and original stories, animal characters act foolishly and bravely, show wisdom and weakness, and have funny and surprising adventures. Join cunning Waa-gosh (Fox) as he finds ever more creative ways to trick rabbits; the famous Gaazhagens (Cat), who manipulates children and entertains their grandmother; and a menagerie of animals engaged in sports, games, and life lessons of all kinds.

Wesley Ballinger, a Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe artist, is a community engagement coordinator for the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota. He is the illustrator of *Hungry Johnny* by Cheryl Minnema.

\$17.95 paperback, ISBN: 978-168134-177-4, ages 10+
128 pages, 100 color illustrations, index, 6 x 9 inches

Anooj Inaajimod (They Tell All Kinds of Things)

Illustrated by Jonathan Thunder

In this anthology of 23 charming and original stories, people get into and out of trouble, make and solve problems, and have funny and surprising adventures. The tellings range from hilarious personal reminiscences to legendary exploits. From the true story of a family that raised a fawn until nursing it became too painful for its adoptive human mother to the squirrel that accidentally took the ride of its life across Mille Lacs Lake on the back of an owl, here is Ojibwe storytelling at its finest.

Jonathan Thunder, a member of the Red Lake Nation, is a multidisciplinary artist who works in canvas painting, animation, filmmaking, and 3D projection mapping. He is the illustrator of *Bowwow Powwow* by Brenda Child.

\$17.95 paperback, ISBN: 978-168134-178-1, ages 10+
128 pages, 100 color illustrations, index, 6 x 9 inches

Monolingual books see page 5

GRAND CASINOS ANNOUNCE NEW POSITIONS FOR BAND MEMBERS. SEE PAGE 10.

M E S S A G E F R O M T H E C H I E F E X E C U T I V E

Boozhoo! On August 18, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe held elections for the positions of Tribal Chair across all six Bands and for the position of District I Representative at Mille Lacs. I am so honored to have been elected by Band members to serve as your Chairwoman/Chief Executive for four more years.

Miigwech to all Band Members who participated in this election through volunteering, serving on the election board, or voting. I also want to give a quick shout-out to Asin, who took it upon herself to set up a conversation with the candidates and the youth of the reservation. This showed leadership. Miigwech to our Band youth for wanting to establish another forum to hear what the candidates have to say.

Different candidates have different approaches and ideas, but in the end we all agree that the important thing is improving the lives of Band members and securing a bright future for seven generations to come. Representing the people of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe continues to be the greatest honor of my life, and I am very excited about what we will accomplish together over the next four years.

During the month of August, I attended virtual meetings on a wide variety of topics daily. These included meetings with the Governor's Office, Minnesota tribal leader meetings, economic development meetings, and organizational board meetings, including the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, WEWIN, the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Board meeting, Band Assembly, and Cabinet meetings. I was also excited to hold Elder meetings in each district. We were able to meet outside in a social-distancing environment, and it was wonderful to see our Elders in person. The Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) also held our first virtual meeting of 2020.

We have all had to adjust to this new world of doing business in a virtual environment, and in many ways I think we are becoming even more productive. A continuous challenge tribal leaders face is balancing competing meetings and needing to be in two places at the same time. These days, we can actually be in many different places on the same day without needing

to travel. I am excited to continue expanding on opportunities for Band members to be involved in government through virtual connections, and using virtual meetings to keep Band members informed.

There are many priority issues I will be focusing on over the upcoming months, and I am particularly excited about developments in the area of housing in our three districts as well as the urban area. The Band is going to be constructing a community housing complex in the urban area across from All Nations Church that will also include a community gathering space and some offices.

I am establishing a committee of Band members to help guide the design of this new complex, and invite Band members living in the urban area to consider serving on this committee. We will need people with many different areas of interest to advise the Band about topics, including building design, whether housing should focus on rental apartments, condo-style ownership, or a mix of both, artwork, and many other topics.

Band members who are city residents and are interested in participating on this committee should send a letter describing why you are interested in serving on this committee, and I would also like to invite youth to consider serving on this committee. Letters can be emailed to me at melanie.benjamin@millelacsband.com or mailed to the Office of the Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN 56359.

As always, I want to caution all to continue social-distancing and wearing masks. What I am hearing from the news is that we are a long way from a vaccine for this virus, and there are scientists all over the world working on potential cures. But then there is still the practical problem of getting over 300 million Americans vaccinated, not to mention the other seven billion people on the planet.

The economy will continue to have its ups and downs until a cure is found for the pandemic. Public officials will ponder over whether and when to open schools, public buildings, and

businesses. It seems like the entire world is holding its breath while we wait for normalcy to return.

It is moments such as this when we need to remember all we have been through, and all our ancestors went through. Three hundred years ago we moved from rice camps to deer camps and survived off the land. When the Europeans came, many of us died from the illnesses they brought, but the Band continued on. When the United States tried several times to remove us from our lands, we stayed and would not be removed.

Our warriors fought in two World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. We have survived hostile federal, state, and county governments.

Now our generation is faced with this challenge. We will fight the virus with all the medical and spiritual wisdom we have. We will survive an economic downturn, and we will come back better than ever.

We draw our strength from our land, from our water, from our spirituality, from the wisdom of our Elders, and we fight for the future of our children and our grandchildren. Tomorrow will be another working day, and so will the next. We will get up, do the work we were meant to do, and then we will get up the next day and do it again.

Our ancestors and our grandparents knew that life was not easy. It is not easy for us. But we carry the blood of a great Ojibwe nation in our veins. We have faced down the worst challenges before and prevailed.

Now it is our moment to rise to the occasion. It is our time to fight the good fight. We will work together; we will fight our enemies — be it those who try to disestablish our Reservation or the disease that is trying to take our lives — and we will get up each day and do our jobs. We will work, we will fight, and in time — we will win.

When you reach your later years, I hope you feel the way I do about my job: It is an honor to serve the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Miigwech!

BAND MEMBER'S ARTWORK FEATURED IN MINNEAPOLIS

By [Amikogaabawiikwe \(Adrienne M. Benjamin\)](#)
Mille Lacs Band Member

Band member Chad Germann's art will be featured in Hennepin Theatre Trust's latest public art initiative titled, "It's The People." This project focuses on Twin Cities artists who have worked to display a wide array of meanings and intentions with photos that are meant to tell the real story of downtown Minneapolis and those who inhabit it, past, present, and future.

Chad was told of the project by a friend, who introduced him to Joan Vorderbruggen, Hennepin Theatre Trust's Director of Hennepin Theatre District Engagement. After a few meetings, Joan thought that Chad would be an excellent selection for the project.

The initiative allows artists to tell any story that they find relevant to them in any way they choose, allowing for maximum creativity and storytelling through the photography medium. When asked about his creative direction, Chad said, "When I started thinking about the project, I knew that I wanted to use this major showcasing opportunity to bring light to Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW). When I think about this cause, I think about my own sister, my mother, and my own daughter. This is such a major happening that I think it's important for more people to know about it. What better way than to see a photo of it on Hennepin Avenue?"

A number of different ideas came and went as Chad honed his focus onto what became the final outcome. He re-



membered, "At first I wanted there to be a strong Indigenous mother shielding her daughter away from different idealized bad situations that were happening all around them. I wanted them to be in a place that was dark with all of these threats surrounding them." When the pandemic swept the world, Chad had to change his plans a little, and he was forced to rethink and refine his idea a bit more.

"In my mind, I had an idea of the strong Indigenous mother

that I wanted to use for the project. I had met this woman on another project's video shoot, and I was impressed with her story and poise and the way that she talked about motherhood." That woman was Valentina Zargoza, who is pictured with her teenage daughter Lucia in Chad's final product. "I wanted her to look strong and protective, like someone not to be messed with, and I wanted her to be shielding her daughter from all of the world's troubles. That idea definitely stuck through until the end," Chad said.

"Due to the pandemic, I had to wait until the right time to take these photos. Some of my other ideas originally involved other people, and that had to be thrown out," Chad added. In the end, the photography session turned out beautifully, and since then, Chad has been riding the wave of the project launch, even appearing for a feature interview on local news station KARE 11.

The portrait will be hung as a vinyl billboard on the side of the Pantages theater for an entire year, and it will also be shown as a digital billboard all over the Twin Cities area.

Congratulations, Chad, on this wonderful accomplishment, and miigwech for using this opportunity to tell this important story to a wider audience!

You can learn more about the project by visiting the Hennepin Theatre Trust website at www.hennepintheatretrust.org or by looking up the hashtag #ItsThePeople.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

BUSY MONTH FOR BAND ASSEMBLY

The Mille Lacs Band Assembly has remained active during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking care of routine business but also moving ahead with a variety of new initiatives.

On August 3, the Legislative Branch hosted the third in a series of historical presentations for staff by Don Wedell, a former commissioner and advisor for the Band. In attendance were Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd, District I Representative Sandra Blake, District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, District III Representative Wallace E. St. John Sr., and Legislative and Executive staff.

On August 5, Band Assembly approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Health and Human Services Department and Aanjibimaadizing for the transfer of the Wrap-around Program staff and services. (For more on the change, see page 4.)

On August 6, Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, the Child Support Director, an Attorney from the Office of the Solicitor General, and the Commissioner of Administration on Title 8, Chapter 12 (Child Support). The session was held to discuss the red-line version of the Revised Child Support Statute, a memo from the Chief Justice, and comments received from the public.

Participants discussed the process of revising and approval needed from the Office of Child Support Enforcement, as this is a grant-funded program. The attendees went through the red-line version of the statute line-by-line and discussed each item and whether to approve, deny, or revise the change.

On August 7, Elected Officials and Legislative and Executive staff attended a codification conference call and Zoom meeting with the State Revisor's Office. The discussion began with the history of the Band's Legislative Branch, followed by discussion of the current process of approving ordinances and bills, and the differences between Mille Lacs Band Titles, Commissioner Orders, Secretarial Orders, Executive Orders, and Solicitor

Opinions.

State Revisor's Office staff members Sandy Glass and Mary Novack shared the process the state uses to publish statutes and rules, including quality control, communications, software, and hardware. The Revisor's Office is involved from the beginning to the end of the Legislative process.

On August 12, Band Assembly approved the nomination of Elmer Nayquonabe to serve as the District I Justice of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to 5 MLBSA § 5.b. His term expired on August 15, 2020, and his next term will expire August 15, 2026.

A nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Syngen Kanassatega to serve as the District Court Judge, pursuant to 5 MLBSA § 7(a), was removed from the agenda. A motion was made to add a verbal nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for David Christensen to serve as District Court Judge. Band Assembly took action to expedite the process for court continuity. Judge Christensen gave a brief statement about the court's success and challenges, and he declined the nomination. A roll call vote was requested, and the nomination failed. The nominee was uninterested in serving

Representative Sandra Blake convened her first Child Protection Subcommittee. Topics included subcommittee ground rules, the legislative process, and expectations. One member of the subcommittee proposed introducing a bill that would require Family Services to publish policies within 90 days. Representative Blake also distributed revised versions of subchapters 1 and 2 of the Child Protection Code, asking subcommittee members to review the drafts before the next meeting. Subcommittee members were advised to be well prepared for each meeting and to provide comments on the revised subchapters.

Band Assembly also discussed a draft of Legislative Order 30-20: A Legislative Order Establishing Band Assembly Agenda and Live-Streaming Procedures.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

On Wednesday, August 5, through conference call and Zoom, representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 19-02-52-20 A Bill of Supplemental Appropriations and Budget Transfer for the Education, and Health & Human Services Departments for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2020. The bill was read and introduced by District III Representative Wally St. John.

On Tuesday, August 11, Band Assembly received a nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Carole Higgins to serve as the District III Justice of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to 5 MLBSA § 5.b. The item was tabled with a request for a confirmation hearing.

On Thursday, August 13, Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legislative Counsel, Staff Attorney, and the Commissioner of Finance. The work session included a presentation on a proposed Title 18 Department of Commerce presentation by Syngen Kanassatega, Legal and Policy Counsel.

Band Assembly discussed Legislative Order 29-20 A Legislative Order Authorizing Electronic and Stamped Signatures. Members discussed the scenarios where this order would be required, who would have authority to use the stamps, how the stamps would be safeguarded, and how the digital signature would be processed. All questions were answered, and the order will move forward to the agenda with minor changes.

DISTRICT III HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETING AT CASINO

When COVID-19 came to Minnesota in March, face-to-face community meetings were put on hold, but given the small number of cases in Pine County as of mid-August, Representative Wally St. John decided it was time for people to gather in person once again.

On August 19, more than 60 District III Band members gathered for information, a hearty meal, and catch-up conversations with friends and family.

Wally welcomed the crowd and introduced Commissioner of Natural Resources Katie Draper and Licensing Agent Vanessa Gibbs, who gave an update on the upcoming manoominike and hunting seasons.

Katie said the DNR staff had been pared from 54 to 17 during recent months due to the pandemic and closure of the casinos, and she thanked those staff members who had stepped up and kept the department functioning.

Vanessa encouraged Band members to sign up for the text alert systems to receive information about netting, ricing, and hunting.

Vanessa also announced that she had stepped down as Chair of the JOM (Johnson O'Malley) committee at Hinckley-Finlayson Schools, and those duties who be taken over by



Vanessa Gibbs and Katie Draper gave an update on the Department of Natural Resources at the August 19 community meeting.

Maria Costello and Trisha Moose. Vanessa reminded families that children need to be enrolled in JOM to receive benefits, and they can be from any tribe, not just Mille Lacs.

Wally informed the crowd about the activities of the Legislative Branch, especially the revision of Mille Lacs Band statutes. He explained that it is a time-consuming process because leaders need to follow the rule of law as they make revisions.

He talked about the process the Band Assembly follows when revising statutes, beginning with the identification of necessary changes, followed by discussion with Legislative Branch attorneys, who prepare a "red-line" version to bring back for review. After discussion of the red-line version, more changes may be made before it is brought back for inclusion in a Legislative bill. Once the bill is approved, it must be reviewed by the Executive Branch and signed by the Chief Executive.

"That's the short version," said Wally. "Some titles have an immense amount of information, so it's gonna take a while."

Wally said the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch work well together, acknowledging that unity is necessary for the Band to move forward in a good way.

"It may be slow, but we do not stop," said Wally. "The worst thing we can do in leadership is to stop progressing."

In response to a question from the audience, Wally talked about a new sober housing project that will open in District III.

He said providing a safe place for people leaving treatment was a priority of his when taking office. "If we just thrust them back into the community, what happens? The majority of the time they fall back into the same habits," said Wally. "We have to have someplace safe for them. We have to show them that we care."

Newly reelected Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was also in attendance to offer thanks to her supporters and give a preview of the next four years.

"We're always looking for solutions," said Melanie. "If you need help, please let us know so we can do something. A lot of our Band members work for the Band because they want things to be better for all of us."

"WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN DO SOMETHING. A LOT OF OUR BAND MEMBERS WORK FOR THE BAND BECAUSE THEY WANT THINGS TO BE BETTER FOR ALL OF US."

— CHIEF EXECUTIVE MELANIE BENJAMIN

"SOME TITLES HAVE AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION, SO IT'S GONNA TAKE A WHILE. IT MAY BE SLOW, BUT WE DO NOT STOP. THE WORST THING WE CAN DO IN LEADERSHIP IS TO STOP PROGRESSING."

— DISTRICT III REPRESENTATIVE WALLY ST. JOHN

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

St. Paul approves new art, despite objections:

The St. Paul City Council voted last month to install more inclusive artwork in its chambers despite objections from Dakota artists who said they were left out of the process. The new art will cover murals of larger-than-life white men towering over laborers and Native Americans. In December 2018, city and county leaders agreed to commission more diverse artwork to cover some of the original murals, but members of the Dakota community disagreed with early plans to display new art alongside some of the original murals and decided not to participate. When George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police in May, leaders agreed to cover all four of the original murals with new art, but the Dakota were not notified of the change or invited back into the process. *Source: startribune.com.*

Twin Cities Native Americans' safety net is short on revenues:

Without the same funding as tribal nations, many organizations that serve Native Americans in the Twin Cities are facing a revenue shortfall. These organizations often are a safety net for Native Americans living off-reservation in the Twin Cities, where federal treaty obligations to provide social services disappear. They also target their services to a substantial portion of the Native American population in Minnesota; about 7 in 10 Native Americans reside off-reservation or in the metro area. "For us, it was like, pandemic, and then riots. And now, it's pandemic and the aftermath of all of the violence. So we've had a double whammy here," said Mary LaGarde, executive director of the Minneapolis American Indian Center. *Source: minnpost.com.*

BIPOC more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19:

Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaska Native people are at a disproportionate risk of being hospitalized for COVID-19 in 12 states, including Minnesota, according to a University of Minnesota study published last month in JAMA Internal Medicine. American Indian/Alaska Natives were hospitalized with COVID-19 at higher rates than whites in all eight states that reported such data. The biggest disparity was in Arizona, where this group accounted for 15.7 percent of the hospitalizations, but only 4 percent of the state's population. In Minnesota, American Indians comprise 1.4 percent of the population and represented 2.7 percent of the hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the study. *Source: minnpost.com.*

Indian activist charged with defacing statue:

Mike Forcia, a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, is charged with criminal damage to property for toppling a Christopher Columbus statue on state Capitol grounds during a rally weeks after the death of George Floyd. Forcia, also a Twin Cities American Indian Movement activist, organized the June 10 American Indian Movement rally at the Capitol that resulted in the toppling of the statue, which came as many similar monuments were being pulled down worldwide after Floyd's death in late May. Ramsey County Attorney John Choi said his office will develop a community engagement process to "determine how best we hold Mr. Forcia accountable while healing our community from the harm that was caused." *Source: mprnews.org.*

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

WRAPAROUND MOVES TO AANJIBIMAADIZING

Effective September 1, Band members enrolled in the program formerly known as Wraparound will receive more streamlined and efficient services as the program moves to Aanjibimaadizing under a new name: Facilitated Services.

The helpful and experienced Wraparound staff will still be available to meet their clients' needs, but now most services — including Aanjibimaadizing case management — will be under the same roof.

Kristian Theisz is leaving his position as Community Support Services Director with Health and Human Services to serve as Director of Community Services at Aanjibimaadizing, which is part of the Department of Administration.

"We found that most people in the Wraparound program were also enrolled in Aanjibimaadizing for education, driver's licenses, or job training," said Kristian. "It just made a lot of sense for the Wraparound facilitators and Aanjibimaadizing case managers to work together."

Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom had already combined the Band's two youth programs before COVID-19 hit, and she saw a similar opportunity with Wraparound and transitional housing. "We were looking to do what we did with Niigaan. Two programs were serving the same clients, supporting the same work, and duplicating some services. Both programs help people overcome barriers, whether it's addiction, mental health, reentry from prison or jail, or homelessness."

Wraparound has been overseeing housing grants, which will also move to Aanjibimaadizing.

Aanjibimaadizing will maintain their office at "the Loop" in

District I and will also manage transitional housing in Districts II and III. Working a case plan successfully will be required for housing, and all housing will be considered sober housing.

Tammy Moreland, the Wraparound Coordinator, will also make the move to Aanjibimaadizing, along with Mary Boyd, Dondi Jonelle, William Smith, Rachel Boyd-Vogt, Marlene Poukka, and Evan Moser (some of whom remain on furlough).

One of the differences Wraparound clients will see is the requirement that they become Aanjibimaadizing clients and are assigned a case manager. Most Wraparound clients are already using Aanjibimaadizing services, but some will be required to fill out an application. Their case manager will work with them through the intake process, and if they have additional needs like housing or other support, they will be referred to a facilitator. The facilitator will conduct assessments to see where support is needed and to develop a plan.

Tammy Wickstrom, the Aanjibimaadizing Director, said the program's mission will be tailored toward helping Band members find employment by overcoming barriers, whether they are related to health, education, or housing. "I'm excited about the change," said Tammy. "We believe strongly that a team approach is the best way to help Band members become self-sufficient, and that self-sufficiency will in turn help Band members, their families, and their community."

Most of the Community Support Services Program will remain with Health and Human Services, including Family Violence Prevention, Emergency Services, Food Shelves, Commodities, Elder Services, Elder Energy, and Elder Disability.

KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT: HHS AND ADMINISTRATION

Facilitated Services (formerly known as Wraparound) is moving from Community Support Services, which is part of the Health and Human Services Department, to the Aanjibimaadizing Program, which is part of the Department of Administration.

Health and Human Services operates Health Services (including clinics and pharmacy), Substance Use programs (including Four Winds), Mental Health programs, Family Services, and Community Support Services. Nicole Anderson is the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

The Department of Administration is overseen by Commissioner of Administration Baabita Boyd and Assistant Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe. In addition to Aanjibimaadizing, the Department of Administration oversees Human Resources, Facilities, Information Systems, Self Governance, Child Support Enforcement, Grants, Elder Supplemental Income, and the Urban Office.

Aanjibimaadizing (formerly known as the Department of Labor) provides a comprehensive system of employment assistance, counseling, training, and education to promote healthy life choices, appropriate work habits, and relevant skills for success in tribal or non-tribal public or private work places. These services require that clients work with staff to develop the skills to balance their life and finances. Although some services have income requirements, most Band members and their families qualify. Services are available in Aitkin, Benton, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Hennepin, Anoka, and Ramsey counties.

Services include career training and development, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance, emergency assistance, food support, medical assistance, childcare assistance, adult support services, and the Mille Lacs Band's Elder Needs-Based Supplemental Income Program.

Aanjibimaadizing also operates the Ge-Niigaanizijig Youth Program for students age 12 to 20.

For more information, see <https://millelacsband.com/services/aanjibimaadizing>.



EXERCISING SOVEREIGNTY AT THE BALLOT BOX

Band members exercised their right to vote in the tribal election on August 18. Left, Marlene Poukka. Right, Election officials in District I: Colin Cash, LeAnn Benjamin, and Janelle Boyd. Cover: RaeAnn and Ruth Sam set a good example for the next generation.



DNR staff gave Band members an update on the manoomin harvest at a meeting August 5 at the Iskigamizigan powwow grounds.

MANOOMIN MEETING DRAWS BIG CROWD

A turnout of 82 at the August 5 Department of Natural Resources meeting to discuss the upcoming manoomin harvest showed that Band members were “chomping at the bit” — in the words of DNR Commissioner Katie Draper — to get out in the jiimaan this year.

On the agenda were the formation of a rice committee, the need to pass on ricing knowledge, and the outlook and procedures for the upcoming season.

With the passing of Leonard Sam this past year, the District I and IIa areas are without the leadership of a Rice Chief. Commissioner Draper expressed the importance of talking with community harvesters to hear how they would like to move forward in the absence of Mr. Sam. Community members said they would like to select an individual following this harvesting season after they see first hand who is involved in the harvest and would be best to fill that role. Attendees also welcomed the idea of a ricing committee.

Several of those in attendance expressed a desire to learn more about rice harvesting and processing, and many others expressed an interest in passing their knowledge and expertise

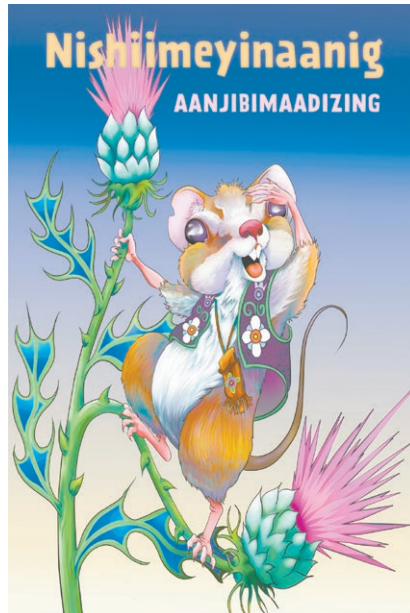
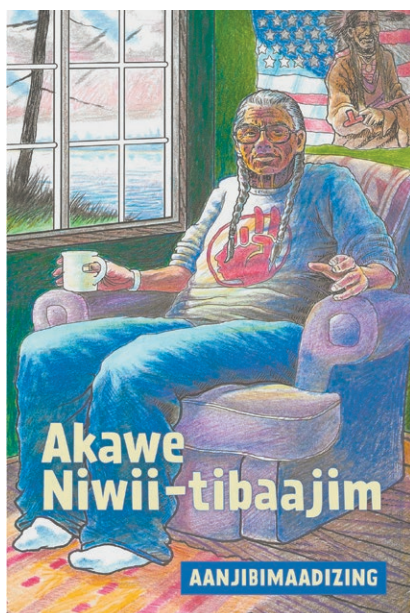
on to others. Amy Wyant of the Early Education Department said the schools would be incorporating ricing into their curriculum this year.

This year’s state harvest season began on August 15, but it was the consensus of those in attendance that the rice would not be ready to pick by then. In general, the rice looks good in the region, although there are areas that were hit by hail.

Ricing hours this year will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any violations or reports of people picking green rice can be directed to DNR staff.

In 2015, the Buck Moore Dam was removed at the outlet of Lake Ogechie to restore rice beds by lowering the lake level. By the next summer, the manoomin was already coming back, but it has not yet been harvested. Consensus at the meeting was that the lake should be left alone for another year to ensure that the rice is well established.

The DNR also put together packages of manoomin to include in the Elder food distribution on August 18. Five hundred pounds of healthy and tasty manoomin were given away!



Monolingual books from page 1

Akawe Niwii-tibaajim (First of All, I’m Telling a Story)

Illustrated by Steve Premo

In 80 brief original reminiscences and cultural stories, Elders of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe transmit a storehouse of experience and memories, wisdom and foolishness, and complex identity. Join Waasigwan (Shining Feather) as he navigates racism against African Americans in an Ojibwe com-

munity, learn about the cultural nuances of an Ojibwe naming ceremony, and experience the deeper meanings in the Ojibwe wild rice harvest. These are the stories that make us who we are.

Steve Premo, an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, is a graphic designer, illustrator, and fine artist.

\$18.95 paperback, ISBN: 978-1-68134-179-8, ages 14+
240 pages, 100 b/w illustrations, 6 x 9 inches

All three titles are now available from Minnesota Historical Society Press.

Election from page 1

More MCT results

The five other Minnesota Chippewa Tribe bands also held general elections on August 18 after the original June election was postponed due to COVID-19.

Incumbent chairpersons were reelected at all except Grand Portage. Robert (Bobby) Deschampe was elected Chairman of Grand Portage by receiving more than 50 percent of the vote in the June primary election.

The White Earth Band reelected Michael Fairbanks in the June 9 primary with over 57 percent of the vote, and Leech Lake reelected Faron Jackson in the June 9 primary with over 54 percent of the vote. In the August 18 general election, Bois

Forte reelected Cathy Chavers with 63 percent of the vote over Miranda Lilya, and Fond du Lac reelected Kevin Dupuis with 69 percent over Bryan (Bear) Bosto.

Results of the District Representative elections were: Bois Forte: Travis Morrison (incumbent) 190 votes over Tara Geshick with 170. Fond du Lac: Wally Dupuis (incumbent) 345-232 over Jeroam Defoe. Grand Portage: Marie Spry 136-112 over Rick Anderson. White Earth: Cheryl “Annie” Jackson 424-370 over Eugene (Umsy) Tibbets. Leech Lake incumbent Leroy Staples-Fairbanks won in the June 9 primary with over 77 percent of the vote.

White Earth voters also approved a referendum by a vote of 994 to 150 asking if the tribe should begin growing, regulating, and distributing medical marijuana on the reservation.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Indian Health Board lays out Tribal COVID-19 priorities: On August 6, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) sent a letter to President Trump calling for the prioritization of certain health policies which directly impact tribal communities. Specifically, NIHB calls for:

- A \$1 billion investment in water and sanitation/ sewage infrastructure across Indian Country;
- A \$2 billion investment for IHS facilities;
- The passage of S. 3937, Special Diabetes Program for Indian Reauthorization Act;
- Equitable distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine to Indian Country through a minimum 5% statutory set aside in funding for IHS, tribal, and urban Indian systems;
- The permanent extension of telehealth waivers under Medicare, and passage of the bipartisan CONNECT for Health Act; and
- Direct funding to tribal nations for COVID-19 relief, and the minimization or exemption of tribes from grant application and reporting requirements.

Trump visit called ‘political showcasing’:

Ivanka Trump visited Minnesota in late July to announce the opening of the nation’s first Indian Affairs task force office dedicated to solving cold cases of missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The visit drew rebuke from Democratic lawmakers and protesters, including Native American women who remain skeptical of the Trump administration’s commitment to resolving the root causes of violence against Indigenous women. “We in Minnesota had worked so hard for a genuine, community-led task force to address our missing and murdered Indigenous women,” state Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein, a member of the Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party who is a descendant of the Standing Rock Lakota tribe, said in a statement. “This sudden interest and visit by Ivanka Trump feels disingenuous and smacks of manipulated political showcasing.” *Source: news.yahoo.com.*

Smith calls for mental health care funding for Native youth:

U.S. Sen. Tina Smith (D-Minn.) has sent a letter to federal education and health officials, demanding accessible, comprehensive, and culturally competent mental health care for Indigenous youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the letter, Smith and several of her Senate colleagues say that Native American and Alaska native youth already faced mental and behavioral health challenges before the pandemic and may have an especially hard time finding care right now, during the pandemic. *Source: minnesota.cbslocal.com.*

Chiefs to prohibit Native American imagery at Arrowhead:

The Kansas City Chiefs will prohibit the wearing of Native American headdresses, face paint and clothing at Arrowhead Stadium. They also are discussing the future of the iconic tomahawk chop as they address what many consider racist imagery associated with their franchise. The Chiefs also said they are “engaged in a thorough review process of the Arrowhead Chop,” which is also used by fans of the Florida State Seminoles, Atlanta Braves and other sports teams. “We are exploring all options for a modified engagement moment from the Drum Deck that maintains a unifying effect between our fans and our players but better represents the spiritual significance of the drum,” the team said. *Source: sfgate.com.*

MARIE GUDIM

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Story by Amikogaabawiikwe (Adrienne M. Benjamin)
Photos by Jacqueline Moltaji



In the last few years, my family has been dealing with the aftermath of a crushing diagnosis for my Grandmother Marie: Dementia/Alzheimer's. It came on very slowly, with her repeating herself once in a while and asking the same questions in short time spans. One time I can remember being in the car with her and she asked me three separate times within an hour how my daughters were doing. I didn't pay it too much attention at the time and just answered her politely. This started to cause alarm, however, when my mother, aunt, and uncles all started noticing the same thing. At this time, it was barely noticeable, and she was still able to perform cognitive functions and daily activities normally.

It progressed rather quickly from that point. Another major turning point that I can remember was being at bingo with her and having to help her keep up with numbers. I mean, for some people this wouldn't be too serious, but this woman was a bingo queen who ordered two full 18 ons and didn't bat an eye. At this same bingo night, another odd thing happened; when signing her receipt, she signed it "Marie Benjamin" instead of "Marie Gudim." I watched her do this, and my head turned a bit as I knew that was incorrect and an odd thing as her last name had not been Benjamin in over 20 years. She looked down at what she had done, and a terrified and confused look came across her face. "I don't know why I just did that!" she said, and shrugged it off. I could tell it bothered her as she stared for a while at the receipt. I know it bothered me.

From there, our family reached out for the help and intervention of medical professionals, and the real journey began. From all of the testing, we found out that Grandma had an abnormally slow heart rate at night while sleeping, which her doctor attributed to the more rapid onset of the dementia symptoms. At this same appointment, we were told that Grandma also needed a pacemaker. This was a scary ordeal as at this point, Grandma was having good and bad days of remembering people, dates, and even where she was and how she got there. I

remember visiting her when she came out of surgery for her pacemaker. She looked so chill and happy. I asked her how she was feeling, and she replied, "I feel really good. Why am I here? Can I go home now?"

I told her, "Yep, pretty soon. The doctors just have to make sure you're okay first."

In that moment, it was the first time I cried for my Grandma and her condition. It's one thing to watch someone you love deteriorating in front of your eyes, but when I think deeply about what she must be going through, it hurts my heart on another level. I can't imagine what it's like to wake up and not know myself, to not recognize my partner of 20+ years, to not recognize my kids, and to feel terrified of not knowing where I am and how I arrived there. I cannot even fathom the fear she must feel in the moments that she does remember.

Now, she has progressed to being in a memory care facility full time, which was a heartbreaking decision for her husband and her children. She is now in the late stages of her diagnosis and has regressed to being in her childhood again as the rest of the memories have erased. Her doctor once described it as a cassette tape (I'm aging myself) being erased a little at a time until only the most recent things are able to be retained. She still remembers people, but only sometimes.

This decision to move her into a facility came only after many "runaway" attempts by Grandma. Some of these involved her taking off in her vehicle, which was incredibly scary, and on one occasion we had to use ONStar to find her. Other incidents involved her taking off on foot in the middle of winter, which was also just as scary. Bed alarms, door locks, or ankle bracelets couldn't stop this woman! Anyone who knows her wouldn't be surprised.

Being a high-level caretaker myself, I have to deeply commend her husband Jack for all of his patience, love, and care through all of this. Even when the decision was made to give her the care she needs and move her into a memory care fa-

Family members like Todd Sam, above left, and John Benjamin, right, have helped Marie Gudim with the transition to a memory care unit. A baby doll is a soothing presence for Marie — a common experience for Elders with dementia.



cility, he resisted it and would have rather kept her at home. It took convincing for him to let her go, realizing that the care that she needed was more than he could give at his age. I've found myself thinking about Jack, and it brings me to think about love. Through all of her issues, through the million times that she must ask him what day and time it is, to her physically fighting him and being afraid of him because she doesn't remember who he is... Through all of this, he still wants to care for her. It touches my heart and is so amazing and a shining example of pure and precious true love.

Grandma has been adjusting well at the care facility. She has a set of baby doll twins that comfort her (a common soothing practice with Dementia/Alzheimer's patients). Jack visits daily, and so do her other children. Dementia/Alzheimer's can definitely be sad, and it can be hard, but it also can bring out the best in people and teach you the true meanings of love and care if you let it.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

GRANDMA AND AUNT ROSE

By Isabelle Eubanks

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

I grew up in Isle, where I was raised by my grandmother and my aunt Rose. My father moved us here from Fond du Lac just after my mother passed away. I was only a baby, the youngest of six children.

I stayed here year-round until I was in the fifth grade. My sisters and brothers were away at Indian boarding school, so I asked my aunt if I could go too. Every year we would go away to school from September to May. We got to come home in the summer, except for one year. We would look on a list and if your name was on it, you would go home. That year, our names weren't on the list, so me and my sister stayed at school. While we were there, we husked corn, broke the ends off green beans, and went swimming. Indian kids came from all over the United States, and we got to meet them. It was fun, but we forgot our language because we never spoke it — the school didn't let the students talk Indian.

By the time we got home in the summers, we would be speaking only English. Before I left Isle, I could talk to my grandmother, but when I came back from school, I would forget a lot of the words. I would try to talk in our language, but I would forget what I was going to say, so it would get real frustrating. I can understand the language now better than I can speak it, but there's still quite a bit I don't understand.

When I would come home in the summer, my grandma and the others used to camp out by the highway and make birch bark baskets. They would put them out every day and sell

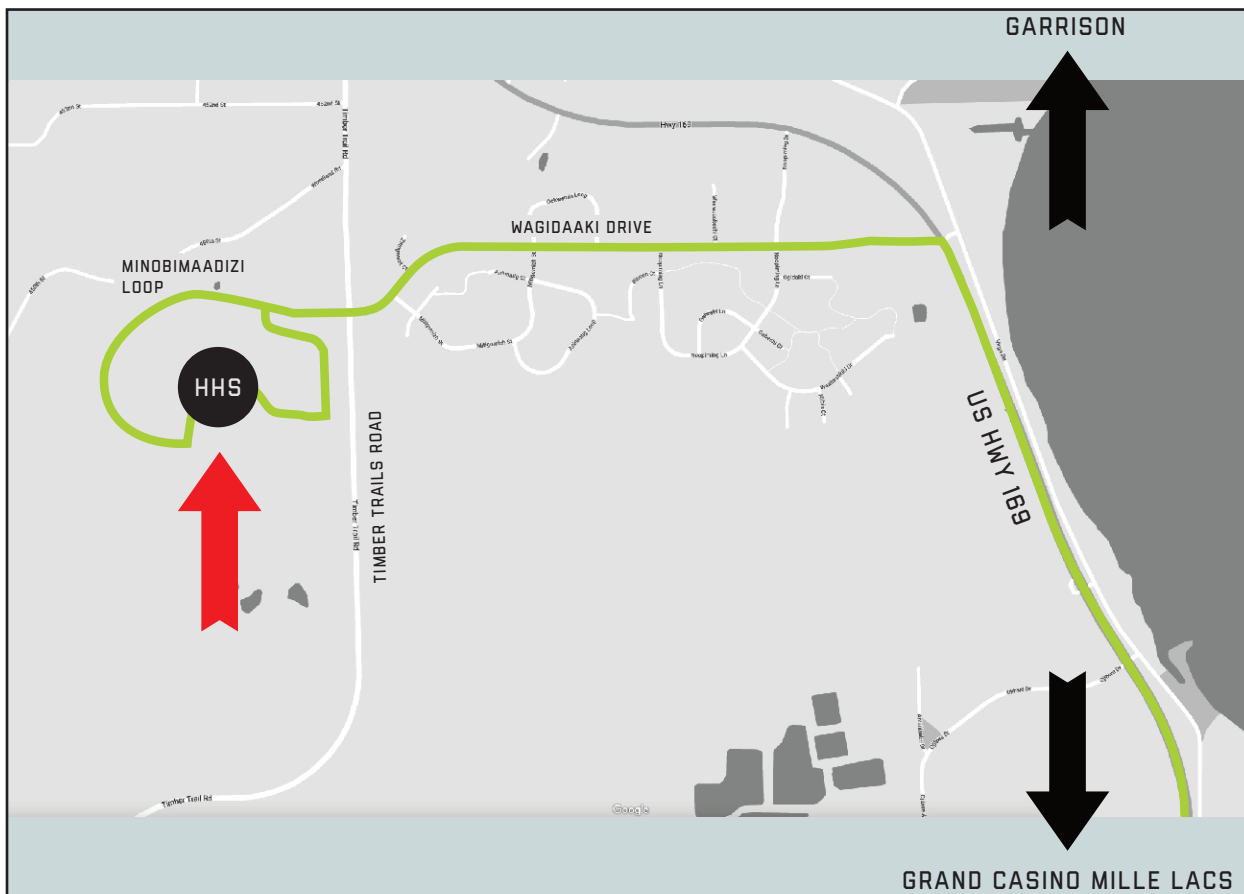
them. If I wanted any money, I would have to make them too, but I only made the small baskets and little miniature canoes. They would sell, and I would get a little money. We didn't have much, but we were happy.

My grandma didn't believe in anybody being idle. She always wanted me to be doing something and be productive. When I would get up in the morning, I would take my time doing everything — making my bed, getting dressed, eating breakfast, doing the dishes — because when I was done, I knew I had to start sewing.

When she made birch bark baskets, grandma would get the basket fiber from big rolls of basswood bark. She would take the rolls and pound them against a tree to flatten them out and make the fiber. Then we would make the designs on the birch bark. Then the fiber would have to be dyed to make the color you wanted, and we would stitch the designs on the birch bark with the fiber. When I think back, that was a lot of work. But they turned out nice.

My grandma also used to teach me how to make fry bread. When I was grown up, I would make it once in a while and my kids liked it, but it wasn't like my aunt Rose's bread. I can only make small ones, but I think I will start trying again.

I moved down to the cities in 1952, right after school was over. I had a family, raised my children, and worked at the American Indian Center. I just moved back up here to Isle in 2000. While raising my children, I didn't have much time, so it is just now that I'm starting to get back in the cultural aspect of things.



ARE YOU BEHIND IN HOUSING PAYMENTS? THE BAND MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!

Aanjibimaadizing Program is local administrator of COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

The Mille Lacs Band's Aanjibimaadizing Program will serve as one of the local administrators of the State of Minnesota's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program.

The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program provides housing assistance payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners.

The program is available in all districts and the urban area.

As a local administrator, Aanjibimaadizing will review applications from individuals and families requesting assistance, verify eligibility, and process payments for eligible expenses on behalf of households.

"A lot of people got behind in their payments due to COVID-19, and this is a good opportunity for Band members to get caught up," said Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom. "Remember, though, that this program has a deadline of December 30, so act fast!"

The Band will begin processing payments in September.

Eligibility

Are you a Minnesota resident?

Do you have a housing-related payment with a due date of March 1, 2020, or later that is past due?

Is the housing issue due to unemployment, illness, or another issue that happened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, contact Aanjibimaadizing for assistance.

Eligible expenses include:

- Housing expense payments
- Rent payments
- Mortgage payments (including homeowners insurance)
- Utilities
- Other housing related payments (association dues, manufactured home lot rent, etc.)

Eligible renters or homeowners must have a household income at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines. (Preference is given to households at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.)

Aanjibimaadizing can help you with the required Common Housing Application, which requires personal identification, household certification, release of information, and income documentation.

Funds must be paid directly to the Vendor or company.

Section 8 or subsidized housing is not eligible for the CHAP Funds.

If you have questions about the program, call Tammy Moreland at 320-292-1942.

Call Gladys at 320-532-7407 or email gladys.sam2@millelacsband.com to schedule an appointment with someone to walk you through the application.

You can also call 211 or 1-800-543-7709 or text "MNRENT" or "MNHOME" to 898-211. The 211 helpline has staff available to answer questions about the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you apply online, choose Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe as administrator.

These funds are only available through December 30.

NEW HHS BUILDING IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The new Health and Human Services building has been open for business since June, but not all Band members are familiar with the location of the new building, especially those from Districts II and III and the urban area. The building is located off Timber Trail Road. From Grand Casino Mille Lacs, go 1.5 miles north on Highway 169 and turn left on Wagidaaki Drive. Go all the way to Timber Trail Road, and the HHS building and new District I Community Center will be right across Timber Trail Road.

REPORT INFORMS BAND MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT ACTION DURING PANDEMIC

Letter provided update on Executive Branch departments

At the State of the Band address in January, Band members received an extensive Annual Report detailing the activities and accomplishments of Executive Branch departments and programs during the previous year.

Given the dramatic changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Executive wanted Band members to receive an update on how the Executive Branch was making adjustments in response to the pandemic to keep up with their essential duty to provide services to Band members.

The result was a 52-page letter sent to Band members last month, with the updates from each department:

Department of Administration, including the Tribal Emergency Response Committee, Aanjibimaadizing, Child Support Enforcement, Government Affairs, Human Resources, Information Systems, Self-Governance, Elder Supplemental, and the Urban Office;

Community Development, including Housing, Home Loans, Renovation Loans, Project Management, and Public Works;

Department of Natural Resources, including Agriculture,

Cultural Resources, Enrollments, Environmental Programs, Land Management, and Resource Management;

Department of Education, including Early Education, Nay Ah Shing Schools, Pine Grove Learning Center, and Higher Education;

Health and Human Services, including the Clinic, Public Health, Pharmacy, Dental, Substance Use Disorders, Four Winds Lodge, Mental Health, Client Access, Finance, Quality and Compliance, Information Technology, Family Services, Elder Services, Family Violence Prevention, Food Programs, and Wraparound;

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, including Grand Casinos, PPP loans, and Makwa Global;

Mille Lacs Tribal Police;

Office of the Solicitor General, including litigation updates, personnel updates, and COVID-19 updates.

If you are a Band member and didn't receive the letter or would like a digital version, email news@millelacsband.com.



HHS DEPARTMENT PROVIDES ONGOING PPE TRAINING

The Band's registered nurse team provided training to entrance staff at the new HHS building in District I last month. Staff were taught how to don and doff their Personal Protective Equipment to help protect themselves and the community from COVID-19. Left to right: Dianne Hamilton, Linda Moses, Anna Davis, Melanie Dammer.

NAY AH SHING SCHOOLS

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH MAJOR CHANGES

By Toya Stewart Downey Mille Lacs Band Member

Unlike previous school years where planning is done weeks, if not months, before students cross the threshold of the building, educators and administrators are still finalizing details for this academic year.

Blame the uncertainty on the novel coronavirus and the way it has changed our collective lives. Normally by now, school schedules would have been finalized, bus routes would have been established, and extracurricular and sports activities would have been determined.

For students and families in the Band-operated schools, one big change is that the school year will begin on Sept. 16 — more than a week later than it was supposed to start. The option was proposed by the Bureau of Indian Education, and it's one that administrators for Mille Lacs Band schools determined was best for all involved.

"The later start date will allow us to work out some of the kinks we might have with using new technology," said Lehtitia Weiss, Principal of grades K-5 at Nay Ah Shing. "We have ordered cameras so teachers can use a live feed or upload lessons for students who are doing distance learning."

"WE'RE ALSO FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH COMMITTED STAFF WHO WANT TO BE IN CLASSROOMS AND WORKING WITH STUDENTS. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO BE SAFE FOR OUR STUDENTS, OUR FAMILIES, AND OUR STAFF."

— BYRON NINHAM

As of mid-August, there were 95 families enrolled in Nay Ah Shing and Pine Grove Academy. The majority of families have selected the hybrid model — where students will go to the school building four days a week — and others have opted remote learning. A few families were unsure about what they would do.

To help determine what option families wanted, the school staff contacted each family. They have also spent time answering questions and to sharing the most recent steps the schools have been taking to keep students safe.

Based on feedback gathered by administrators, families have said they feel confident in the safety measures that have been put in place for the returning students.

"Families have wanted to talk about everything we're doing, and we're giving them the best information we have available right now," said Byron Ninham, the Nay Ah Shing Assistant Principal for grades 6 through 12.

But as everyone knows, that information changes daily based on the number of new cases of coronavirus. Band schools are relying on the regional data rather than the county data since the number of new cases in the county doesn't accurately reflect the areas where the schools are located.

Families who opt for distance learning will continue to get school meals for their children and can get help with hot spots or internet services to ensure success for their learners.

"We've fine-tuned what we're doing for distance learning because we had more time to plan for it compared to last spring," said Lehtitia. "But, we are reminding parents that it's fluid and depends on what happens in the community."

Kindergarten Round-up will be held on September 3, and the open house for Nay Ah Shing Abinoojiiyag and Secondary in District I will be September 10. The open house for Pine Grove Learning Center will be September 14.

"Every student will have devices this year. Last year it was two students to one device. Students in kindergarten through second grades will have iPads, and students in grades 3-12 will have Chromebooks," she added.

Students who attend school in the building will be expected to maintain a six-foot distance from others, Byron said. Classroom interaction will be limited, too, to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

"We're really focusing on keeping students safe," he said. "We've had to fine-tune or eliminate our out-of-school programming. Only students who are here for school can participate."

Some of the expectations that students should be prepared for are wearing masks and having their temperatures taken daily — on the bus or when they arrive at school. The school has touchless sinks and will distribute water bottles rather than use the fountains. Lunch time will look different too, with fewer students eating together. The cleaning efforts will be increased, too.

"There will be smaller class sizes, and that means we're hiring more teachers. We're not sure yet about extra bus routes," Lehtitia said.

Leaders have been meeting frequently to put plans in place to ensure that the students are safe and continue to receive a sound education.

"We're really fortunate we have technology options like

SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR FALL

In late July, Governor Tim Walz released guidelines for districts to follow when considering online, hybrid, or in-person teaching school this fall. If the 14-day case rate is fewer than 10 cases per 10,000 residents, the recommendation is for in-person classroom teaching.

The counties where Districts I, II, IIa, and III fall (Mille Lacs, Aitkin, and Pine) are all below 10 per 10,000, and therefore the recommendation is for in-person school in the fall. If an outbreak occurs and the rate exceeds 10, schools will likely move to hybrid or online education until the outbreak subsides.

As of late August, it appeared that all of our local schools will have in-person education this fall, with the option for students to learn from home.

In Hennepin County, the recommendation is for hybrid learning for all students. In Ramsey County, including St. Paul, the recommendation is in-person for elementary and hybrid for secondary.

Throughout the state, masks will be required, social distancing will be practiced as much as possible, and other actions will be taken. Drinking fountains will likely be turned off, so students may need to bring a water bottle, and lockers may or may not be provided, with new rules to keep things sanitary.

Watch your mail for letters from your local schools. If your school has a Facebook page, website, or text alerts, monitor those channels to stay up to date on any changes.

Google classroom," he said, adding with a chuckle that because distance learning is in place, it could mean the end of snow days.

"We're also fortunate to have such committed staff who want to be in classrooms and working with students," said Byron. "We're doing our best to be safe for our students, our families, and our staff."

WIND, CLITSO-GARCIA RUNNING FOR ONAMIA SCHOOL BOARD

Community members aim to expand Native American representation

Incumbent Onamia School Board member Virgil Wind will be joined on the ballot by Becky Clitso-Garcia, a member of the Navajo Nation and the District I community.

Since first being appointed to fill an open seat, Virgil has won reelection to the board and has served as chair in recent years.

"As the Onamia Public School chairman, I have learned valuable lessons on leadership," said Virgil. "One of the most important aspects of this work has been empowering people and bridging communities, something I hold in high regard."

Virgil was also elected August 18 to serve as District I Representative in the Mille Lacs Band's tribal government. (See



Virgil Wind



Becky Clitso-Garcia

page 1.)

Becky Clitso-Garcia is running for school board for the first time. Becky is originally from Kayenta, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation, but she has lived and worked in the Mille Lacs area for 14 years. She is currently an Education Specialist/Coach for Mille Lacs Early Education.

"I feel I am a good candidate for the school board at Onamia Public Schools because I want to serve our Native community and be part of the decision-making process on how to best prepare our children for their adult lives," said Becky. "I want our public schools to be successful for our youth, and I want parents to feel confident that our local district is providing the best education and opportunities for their children."

For more on Becky's background and her reasons for running, see next month's *Inaajimowin*.

EARLY ED OFFERS OPTIONS FOR PHASE I

Head Start underway in all districts as of September 1

Mille Lacs Early Education unveiled a Phase 1 plan on August 7 laying out safety protocols for schools and educational choices for families.

Early Ed Director Amy Wyant said in a letter to parents, "Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our schools, and that requires full cooperation among staff, management, and the families we serve. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of everyone involved with MLEE."

Phase 1 begins for Early Head Start and Head Start School on September 1 in all three districts and will run through December 23. School will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with transportation provided for Head Start students in all three districts.

The MLEE educational options are:

A. In-person learning at District I, II, and III schools in a classroom with a teacher.

OR

B. Distant learning via technology, using ZOOM, Facebook, or other media platform. Parents choosing this option are required to pick up food, supplies, and educational materials at their local district school Distant Drive-Up service once a week.

After the outbreak of COVID-19 temporarily closed programs in March, MLEE has been providing families with food, diapers, formula, baby food, toothbrushes, toothpaste, books, craft projects, educational newsletters, materials, and regular contact with educators.

Parents who did not contact their district school for reenrollment by Wednesday, August 12, were placed on a waiting list. No new enrollments were accepted for Phase 1.

During Phase 1, childcare is only available for reenrolled students who are birth to age 5, and parents must be working or attending school to be eligible for the Phase I childcare spaces. School-aged childcare is not available.

After the reenrollment period, Amy announced that 80 students would be starting in-person education on September 1, with another 51 learning via the Nagweyaab Distance Learning Program, and another 43 enrolled in childcare.

MLEE has created a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, which clearly outlines the health and safety protocols and requirements for parents, students, and staff during Phase I, including temperature checks, health screenings, hand cleaning, assigned seating (spaced apart), and daily bus sanitizing per the CDC's recommendations. All students will be receiving a second temperature check prior to lunch. Every morning, once the MLEE teaching staff enter the building, they will be changing into scrubs and wearing face shields with a mask. The scrubs will be left at school and laundered.

Several pages from the plan are posted online so that parents can see the careful planning and details of how Mille Lacs Early Education will operate during Phase I. The plan can be viewed at <https://millelacsband.com/news/early-ed-releases-preparedness-plan-in-preparation-for-phase-1>.

AROUND THE RESERVATION

Scholarship Program now processing funding:

The Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Program has started processing funding for Fall 2020 term. Students need to remember that Scholarship Program applications are due every fall. The application can be downloaded at millelacsband.com/services/scholarship-program, or students can email Michele Berger at mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com to receive the entire packet by email. Returning students will need to submit grades from their previous term.

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

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

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

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

Virtual ribbon skirt class for youth:

Buckanaga Social Club Founder Amber Buckanaga will be teaching the Ge-niigaanizijig youth, ages 13-plus, how to make ribbon skirts. This class will be done virtually over Zoom. Materials will be delivered to all youth that are signed up. Measurements will be taken, and the fabric will be pre-cut to size. Youth are encouraged to provide their own sewing machine and know how to work it, or have a parent/guardian available to assist.

This class will be open to 20 youth, five per district. Spots and sewing machines will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. All other youth will be placed on a waiting list.

Class Dates and Times:

District I and IIa: September 26 and 27, Noon to 6:30 p.m. District II and III: October 3 and 4, Noon to 6:30 p.m.

Contact Cheyanne Peet at cheyanne.peet2@millelacsband.com or 320-362-1608 to reserve your spot!

East Central Regional Arts Council grant

applications are open now: The following grants are open now:

Grants for artists:

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grants: Up to \$1,000, October 1 deadline.

Resiliency Grants: Up to \$600, rolling deadline.

Grants for organizations:

Art in Our Schools Grants: Up to \$3,000, October 1 deadline.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grants: \$5,000 to \$15,000, October 1 deadline.

Small/Art Project Grants: \$500 to \$5,000, October 1 deadline.

Resiliency Grants: Up to \$600, rolling deadline.

Questions about which grant application is a good fit for you or your project? Email the Grant Program Officer at grantinfo@ecrac.org or call 320-591-7034.

Ge-niigaanizijig Tribal Council

"THE NINE"
NATIVE YOUTH IMAGINING A NEW ENVIRONMENT

This council has been created to gain the youth's perspective about the planning and building of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. They will share their ideas and recommendations on how they would like to build the community and the Ge-niigaanizijig Program. The goal is not only to give the youth a voice but to experience how the Mille Lacs Band Government operates.

The members of the council (in each district) will consist of the following:
-2 youth ages 9-11
-2 youth ages 12-14
-4 youth ages 15-20

Each district will vote in 8 youth who they feel will best represent their voices. The youth will gain the experience of running for a position and campaigning. They will serve 1-year terms. Two youth, ages 15-20, will be chosen to represent their district on the Inter-District Council. These youth will select a chief and secretary-treasurer. The elected youth will hold meetings with their peers and allow a space for all youth to use their voices.

If youth would like to run for a position, reach out to your district coordinator and they will provide you with all of the information and application that is needed. The deadline is **September 28th** for all applicants. Voting will take place on **October 26th**. Each district will hold a Zoom meeting with youth to explain the details.

District 1- Stacy Boyd
District 2- Cheyanne Peet
District 2a- Jennifer Gahbow
District 3- Stanley Nayquonabe
D3- Mardell Thomas

CASINOS ANNOUNCE NEW POSITIONS FOR BAND MEMBERS

By Grand Casinos Inc.

We are proud to announce 10 development positions designed for Mille Lacs Band Members, spouses, dependents, and other Native Americans seeking careers with Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley.

If you are a strategic thinker, a problem-solver, and highly motivated to help our tribal casinos continue to build our economy as we grow business operations, we encourage interested Mille Lacs Band members of all education levels, skill sets, and previous work experience to express your interest.

We look for the following when evaluating new teammates:

Culture fit: You love our ambitious culture that is passionate about improving lives and restoring Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe communities. You strive to display heart, empathy, and resolve in your daily interactions.

Organizational aptitude: You are a strong project and people manager, capable of driving multiple work streams and stakeholders toward deadlines and juggling priorities in a dynamic environment.

Execution machine: You thrive under pressure, consistently meeting expectations and commitments on tight deadlines, all while managing a variety of tasks and relationships in an efficient and meticulous manner. You lead through our values, while energizing people.

If your skills, characteristics, and experience match what is listed above, you are an ideal candidate for these development opportunities, and we'd like to learn more about you. We are accepting cover letters and resumes for the following development opportunities:

Director of Operations

In this role, you will be supporting the VP of Operations in both the management and the function of Security, Facilities, Grounds, Risk Management, and Projects Departments at Grand Casino. You will be integral in enabling the department leaders to make sound business decisions and meet the company's objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

- Work alongside the VP of Operations in managing the department.
- Prepare and review financial analyses of activities, costs, and forecast data to determine departmental progress towards strategic goals and objectives.
- Create, develop, and implement effective strategies for the property, working with the VP of Operations to determine

GRA UPDATE

EXCLUSION PROCESSES AND RIGHTS

Exclusion Review Process

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. The GRA wants to keep Band members informed about your rights. If you are excluded from Mille Lacs Band Gaming Enterprises, you have the right for your exclusion to be reviewed annually. To have your exclusion file reviewed, you must submit a written request to the GRA. You may contact Teresa Kozumplik at 320-384-4811 for help with the process. From there, your exclusion file along with your request will be presented to the GRA Board during a regular board meeting. You will receive notice of date, time, and location to attend this meeting and provide testimony.

Temporary Suspension of Exclusion Process

Exclusion shall never prohibit eligible voters of the Band from entering non-gaming floor areas of a Gaming Enterprise for the purpose of exercising voting rights or attending tribal political or community meetings held in the convention/meeting areas of the Gaming Enterprise. Nor shall exclusion prevent



objectives for future growth and expansion.

Director of Finance

In this role, you will be supporting the VP of Finance in both the management and the function of the department. You will be integral in enabling the department leaders to make sound business decisions and meet the company's objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

- Work alongside the VP of Finance in managing the department.
- Maintain the financial health of the organization.
- Coordinate and manage financial projects.
- Support the management of the short- and long-term capital planning for Grand Casino.

Director of Special Projects

This role is responsible for working with the Casino Executive Team on planning and organizing the direction of activities and the coordination and monitoring of projects, communication, travel, operational plans, programs, and procedures. This position has the overall objective of improving services and responsiveness to changing requirements, driving efficiencies, and providing improved levels of services within the organization. Work also may involve preparing detailed reports, summaries, recommendations, and project plans. This role will assist in establishing and maintaining strong, collaborative relationships and communication between executive team members. This position reports to the General Manager and requires regular communication and the exercise of considerable independent judgment, initiative, and ingenuity.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

- Work closely with the Property Executive team to support initiatives and drive forward projects.

- Support the GM/AGM and act as a resource for other team members of the executive group.
- Work closely with the GM/AGM to review and evaluate departmental performance and take appropriate steps to resolve unsatisfactory results.

Director of Hospitality

In this role, you will be supporting the VP of Hospitality in both the management and the function of Food and Beverage, Hotel, Golf, and Retail operations at Grand Casino. You will work with the VP to provide and define strategic direction to continually improve Grand Casinos Hospitality areas. You will be integral in enabling the department leaders to make sound business decisions and meet the company's objectives.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

- Support the VP of Hospitality in managing and guiding the Hospitality department.
- Prepare and review financial analyses of activities, costs, and forecast data to determine departmental progress towards strategic goals and objectives.
- Create, develop, and implement effective strategies for the property, working with the VP of Hospitality to determine objectives for future growth and expansion.

Director of Gaming

Provide support for the VP of Slots and Director of Table Games in managing all gaming function. Works in conjunction with the VP and Director to define the strategic direction and implement strategies to continually improve the gaming operations. This role will assist in managing and growing an innovative team at Grand Casino.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES OF THE POSITION:

- Work closely with and support the VP of Slots and the Director of Table Games in managing all functions of the Gaming Department.
- Assist in defining the strategic direction and implementing strategies that continually improve the gaming operations.
- Formulate and administer department policies and activities including development of short- and long-term goals.

We look forward to meeting with you to personally discuss how we can partner to achieve your development goals.

Please send your cover letter and resume by September 14 to HK TalentAcquisitions@grcasinos.com (for Grand Casino Hinckley) or MLTalentAcquisitions@grcasinos.com (for Grand Casino Mille Lacs).

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

Compliance Recommendation. If the Executive Director makes a Recommendation in favor of the request for temporary suspension of exclusion, the temporary suspension of exclusion will take effect immediately.

For more information on exclusion processes, you may contact Becky Houle or Teresa Kozumplik.

Becky Houle, Executive Director of the OGR&C 320-532-8194

Teresa Kozumplik, Assistant Executive Director of the OGR&C 320-384-4811

More information and contact numbers can be found at <http://www.millelacsband.com/government/gaming-regulatory-authority>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Zoom.

EXERCISE YOUR SOVEREIGNTY!

MAKE SURE YOU'RE COUNTED.

It's our right as a sovereign nation to be counted accurately in the census, and this year's count will affect our community and nation for the next 10 years!

Federal funding and representation in the state and federal governments depend on an accurate count. Bottom line: If we're undercounted, we may lose money and/or a seat in Congress!

Act fast! The deadline for responding to the 2020 Census is September 30!



HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

1. If you received a census form in the mail, you can fill out the questionnaire and send it back.
2. If you have a computer or smartphone with Internet access, you can fill out the form online. The process only takes about 10 minutes. Only one person per household needs to reply. It's usually the head of household, but it can be completed by anyone 15 years of age or older with knowledge of the household.
 - > Go to MY2020CENSUS.GOV.
 - > Click START QUESTIONNAIRE.
 - > If you received a 12-digit ID in the mail, fill in the boxes with that number. If you don't have a 12-digit ID, no problem! Just follow the instructions and type in your street address to start the questionnaire.
 - > After answering each question, click the "Next" button on the bottom of the page
 - > When you get to the end, submit your questionnaire. You'll be taken to a confirmation page, which means you're done!
3. You also have the option of completing the questionnaire by phone. To begin, call **844-330-2020**.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household.

If you haven't filled out the questionnaire online, you may receive a visit from a census taker. Please cooperate and respond to their questions. Remember, it's confidential, and our children's future depends on an accurate count!

CENSUS DEADLINE COMING SOON

INDIAN COUNTRY COUNTS

OUR PEOPLE. OUR NATIONS. OUR FUTURE.

There's still time to respond

COVID-19 presented a challenge for the 2020 Census, but one thing hasn't changed: an accurate count for Native American communities remains as crucial as ever. Shelly Diaz is the Mille Lacs Band's Urban Liaison and Project Coordinator, and Coordinator of Minnesota Tribal Coalition (Hub) for the 2020 US Census. Shelly has been working diligently for over one year and through the pandemic on getting the message out to all Mille Lacs Band members to fill out and return their census.

"It's our right as a sovereign nation to be counted accurately in the census, and this year's count will affect our community and nation for the next 10 years," Shelly said. "We need to make sure that every person from our tiniest babies to our eldest Elders, and everyone in between are counted."

Billions of dollars of federal funding are based on census data, and representation in the state and federal governments also depend on an accurate count. "Bottom line: If we're undercounted, the Mille Lacs Band's share of federal funding may be reduced and/or we may lose a seat in Congress!" Shelly said.

The time is running out! All census responses must be received by September 30. Shelly is determined to make sure that every Mille Lacs Band member is counted. The good news: There's still time!

Representatives from the Band working with Shelly have been out to the Elder food distribution sites helping people fill out the census on the spot and giving away free t-shirts, water bottles, masks, and more. Shelly is getting a new shipment of Census swag for the final push to make sure every Band member is counted.

"Now more than ever we need to get an accurate count of all Native Americans," Shelly said. "We need to show the world we are not invisible but rather we are invincible. Indian Country Counts. Please fill out your census. It is our sovereign right."



2020 Census Snapshot — American Indian/Alaska Native

What is the census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all American Indians and Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census.

What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to provide a better future for our communities and future generations. By participating in the 2020 Census, you help provide an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Your responses to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year for programs and grants in our communities.

The 2020 Census is our count. Our responses matter. Regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or where we live, we all need to be counted.

Responding to the 2020 Census is:

> Easy

In early 2020, every household in the United States will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail.

> Safe

Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any other government agencies or law enforcement, including federal, local, and tribal authorities.

> Important

The federal government and local American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and decision-makers will use 2020 Census data in a variety of ways that can benefit Native people and our communities.

2020Census.Gov

D-OP-AI-EN-055

Shape our future
START HERE >



DAN WIND

GETTING IT RIGHT THIS TIME

WITH HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS
AND HIS CULTURE, DAN WIND
HAS FOUND A GOOD PATH

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Dan Wind Jr. was raised by his mother Rose Wind and step-father Gene Reynolds, who became Dan's father figure after Dan's dad passed away. Rose and Gene were traditional Anishinaabe who taught Dan the value of hard work and cultural activities, from ricing to sugarbush to gathering birch bark.

"They never fell into the alcoholism that was going around back then," said Dan.

With good parents and the positive influence of his grandparents, Jess and Maggie Kegg, Dan did not see himself as the kind of kid who would end up in prison. But an addiction to alcohol and meth led him down a dark path that ended with an attempted murder conviction and a 12-year prison sentence.

When he was released after eight years, Dan was hesitant to return to the community where his addiction took control, but with the support of friends and mentors — and the guiding spirit of his Grandma Maggie — Dan has turned to his Anishinaabe roots for healing and purpose in life.

Dan has been working at the Cultural Grounds in District 1 as Cultural Resource Specialist, and last month he started a new position as Cultural Apprentice to Lee Obizaan Staples. As he spends time in nature, he remembers gathering medicine with Gene, who was a cultural advisor at the old Nay Ah Shing school, back when it stood where the Grand Casino parking lot is now.

Now Dan is learning to gather medicines and speak the language of his ancestors. He assists at funerals with Obizaan and studies Anishinaabemowin with Nazhike (Bradley Harrington). He spearfished for the first time this spring, and he was planning to get out ricing this summer.

When Bradley was Commissioner of Natural Resources, he took a chance on Dan and gave him his job at the Cultural Grounds. Dan had worked there before, during one of his sober periods, when Doug Sam was still alive and active in the development of the site.

Doug is the one who put Dan in touch with Obizaan, encouraging him to volunteer to help at funerals.

Being back is like coming full circle, and Dan is grateful to Bradley for putting his faith in him.

"This is my dream job, really," said Dan. "With my record, there aren't too many places for me to work. A few years ago, I was out here with Doug, and now I'm back."

Doug is the one who first encouraged Dan to help Obizaan at funerals. Dan had been gifted a pipe at Four Winds, and Doug told him to bring the pipe to the community center and offer to help.

It took a few years and another bout with addiction, but now Dan is back at the Cultural Grounds, and back to helping Obizaan. "In life, I feel like things keep coming around until you get it right," said Dan.

Shattered

Dan started drinking and smoking weed at a young age, but when he turned 14, things took a turn for the worse. "My dad, Gene, had a stroke, and he was left as a vegetable," Dan recalled. "He was a big hero to me when I was a kid, and to see him like that ... My belief was shattered. I just didn't care. It was hard to go see him. I started drinking every weekend and



Dan Wind is an accomplished dancer and hopes to get back on the powwow trail soon. Photo by Chad Germann.

smoking every day."

A year later, Dan's faith took another blow when his girlfriend was killed in a car accident, along with several other kids from the reservation.

Drinking, weed, and crank turned from weekend habits to daily obsessions, until at age 22 Dan's daughter was born, which gave him a reason to stay clean for more than a year.

But the occasional drink turned into a slippery slope, and soon Dan was back to his old ways.

Then one night when Dan was blacked out on Captain Morgan, he assaulted his girlfriend and shot up their home with a .22 — fortunately without hitting anyone. He's tried to recall the incident through therapy, but he can't dredge up the memory. It didn't matter if he could remember or not; the evidence was enough to guarantee a conviction, and Dan took a plea for a reduced sentence: 12 years, or 8 with good behavior.

"I was never a criminal type person," said Dan. "When I would get in trouble it was drinking, kids' stuff. I was never like that as a kid, so it was culture shock when I got to prison. But a person can adjust to anything."

During his first year, Dan caused a lot of trouble and ended up in "seg" — solitary confinement. He didn't want that to happen again, so he started going to sweats as often as he could.

One day, to his surprise, he was asked to be a pipe carrier. "I don't know why they did it," Dan recalled. "I didn't want to at first, because I still wasn't believing, but I accepted it."

He took the role seriously. "You try not to do anything that will get you in trouble. You gotta be more responsible and respectful," said Dan. "After carrying the pipe, I started reading all the Native books I could and started trying to learn the language and memorize prayers."

Coming home

After eight long years, Dan got out of prison and went to treatment at Mash-ka-wizen on the Fond du Lac Reservation, but as soon as he completed parole and was "off paper," he fell back into addiction and was in and out of jail and treatment for the next few years.

His final turning point came when he was in jail again and his mom told him his Grandma Maggie was in the hospital. "I thought to myself, 'If I'm here and my grandma passes away, I won't even be able to go to her funeral. I'm done.' That was my

'aha' moment. From that day on, I stayed sober."

Dan went back to Four Winds, which was under Mille Lacs Band ownership by this time, and he credits the program with helping him in his recovery. After treatment, Dan was nervous about coming home and seeing all the friends he used to party with, but this time he found support from Sober Squad, the halfway house, and traditional activities like powwows, sweats, and mide.

"People I used to get high with hit me up when I got back, but I told them I was sober, and they had no use for me anymore," Dan said. "Sober Squad replaced all of them."

Around the same time, Dan was working on demolition at the Corporate Building when he saw Colin Cash, one of his Sober Squad friends. "Out of the blue, he asked me, 'If you could do anything with your life, what would it be?' I said I'd like to help people culturally and traditionally with our spiritual ways, and he told me about an opening at the cultural grounds."

"I'VE HEARD OBIZAAAN SAY THAT THE MANIDOOG ARE PAYING EXTRA ATTENTION TO A FAMILY THAT'S GRIEVING, AND I THINK THAT WAS TRUE FOR ME."

He called Bradley Harrington on the spot, and Bradley encouraged him to apply.

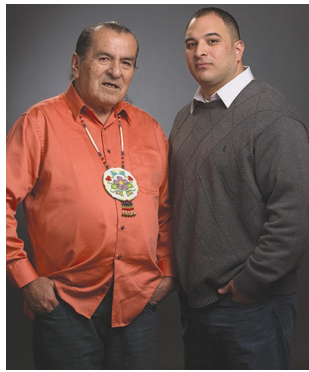
Bradley, one of Dan's mentors, has shared some wisdom that Dan holds onto. "He says that to break old habits, you have to make new, healthier habits for yourself. I was six or seven months sober when my Grandma passed, and for most people, that would've been a setback, but I made new habits: going to meetings, programs like Mending Broken Hearts, and sober activities. I've heard Obizaan say that the Manidoog are paying extra attention to a family that's grieving, and I think that was true for me."

Dan is especially grateful that he was able to spend time with his grandma before she passed away. "She got to see me graduate from Four Winds, she got to see me dance, and she got to see me be sober," he said, adding with a smile, "And I know she still loves me."

AABA KAWIZIG SNAP OUT OF IT

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

This article was originally published in the September 2015 issue of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*. It is reprinted here to give Band members a chance to reflect further on Obizaan's teachings.



Mii dash noongom waa-ni-dazhindamaan, noomaya omaa nigii-pi-wiindamaagoo gii-panaajichiged awiya iwidi endazhi-midewi'iweng Misi-zaaga'iganing. Mii i'iw gaa-izhi-chigewaad, ogii-piigwa'aanaawaan iniw ishkwaandeman imaa eyaamagakin niizh iniw waakaa'iganan eyaamagakin iwidi. Mii dash gaye i'iwapii gii-kimoodiwaad iniw anooj aabajichiganan ayaabadakin wii-nanaa'itood awiya gegoo.

This is what I am going to talk about: I was recently told that someone had destroyed property at the Mide grounds here in Mille Lacs. What they did, they broke down the doors to the two buildings we have out there on the grounds. They also stole tools from one of the buildings.

Gii-naniizaanichigewag ingiw gaa-izhichigegig i'iw. Mii imaa wenjida imaa ayaawaad ingiw Manidoog endazhi-midewid a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke ingiw Manidoog geget oganawendaanaawaa imaa endanakamigizid a'aw Anishinaabe ani-manidooked. Ishke mii imaa wenjida gikendaagwak ezhi-ayaangwaamitoowaad ingiw Manidoog ganawendamowaad imaa endazhi-midewid a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke mii-ko enindwaa ingiw ba-midewijig, "Weweni ganawendamok imaa endanakamigizing. Gego anooj apagidookegon imaa mitakamig i'iw ge-gii-apagidooyegiban endazhi-apagiji-ziigwebinigen. Ishke ingiw Manidoog weweni oganawendaanaawaa endazhi-midewid a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke dash ingiw Binesiwag waabandamowaad weweni ani-ganawenjigaadesinok wenda-wiinakamigaag endazhi-midewid, mii imaa bi-ziiga'andamowaad i'iw aki aana-wii-piinitoowaad."

This was a dangerous act committed by those responsible. These grounds are sacred. The Manidoog are present on these grounds, especially when the Mide Lodge is in session. The Manidoog keep a close eye on our sacred grounds. The following teaching points out how closely those Manidoog take of these grounds. Those that attend the Mide Lodge are told, "Take good care of these Mide grounds. Do not litter the grounds. When the Manidoog see the grounds trashed, the Thunder-beings come by, and it rains. What those Manidoog are trying to do is clean the grounds."

Ishke dash mii imaa ani-waabanjigaadeg i'iw weweni ezhi-ganawendamowaad ingiw Manidoog imaa endazhi-manidooked a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke dash booch ingiw Manidoog ogii-waabamaawaadogenan iniw gaa-pi-inigaatoonijin imaa endazhi-manidooked a'aw Anishinaabe.

This shows how closely the Manidoog watch over these grounds. I am sure the Manidoog saw the ones who were doing damage in the area.

Booch a'aw Anishinaabe ani-maazhichiged obi-azheshkaagon i'iw majayi'ii. Mii-go dibishkoo ani-minochiged awiya ani-mino-doodawaad owiiji-bimaadiziiman, mii gaye i'iw ge-bi-azheshkaamagadinig ani-giige'idizod naa-go gaye inow odinawemaaganan.

When Anishinaabe does wrong it usually comes back on them. The same goes for when you do something good for your fellow human being. This also comes back to you in ways to benefit you and your relatives.

Mii gaye ge-ni-ganawaabandamang, giinawind anishinaabewiyang gidoodaadizomin. Ishke ayaamagad i'iw akeyaa ezhi-gikinoo'amawind a'aw abinoojinh da-ni-maminaajitood gakinaga gego eyaamagak omaa akiing wenjida gaye owiiji-bimaadiziiman. Ishke nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe gaawiin i'iw akeyaa geyaabi odizhi-gikinoo'amawaasiin inow oniijaanisan. Gaawiin onjida gigii-miinigoowizisiimin i'iw akeyaa da-ni-izhichigeyang.

Dagwaaging...

nimanoominikemin. Manoominike-giizis izhinikaazo wa'aw giizis. Gaye, ingiw ininiwag wii-kiiyosewag. Odayaawaawaan a'aw giyosewasimoon. Minising, owii-ozhitoonaawaa i'iw akaadoowin. Dakaayaa, ganabaj wii-kimiwan. Giyosewininiwag owii-nooji'aawaa' ingiw waawaashkeshiwan, wii-pagami-ayaad, Gashkadino-giizis.

When it is Autumn...

we harvest wild rice. The Wild Rice-Moon (September) she is called this moon. Also, those men, they will go hunting. They have him, that hunting dog. On an island, they will build it that hunting blind. It is cool weather, perhaps it will rain. Hunters they will hunt for them those deer, when she will come to be, Freezing up-moon (November).

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN
(Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Gaawiin—as in father
Gaye—as in jay
Jiimaan—as in seen
Adoopowin—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Idash—as in about
Nitam—as in tin
Omaa—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 11 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Nindaabajitoonan niibowa aabajichiganan.
B. Dagwaaging, ninjiime. Nindayaan i'iw jiimaan.
C. Manoominikeyaan zaaga'iganing minwaabadiziwag ingiw bawa'iganaakoog.
D. Nitam nindadaawe i'iw manoominike-mazina'igaans.
E. Gaye nimbiidoonan iniw manoomini-mashkimodan idash dibaabiishkoojigan.
F. Nandawishibeyaan nimbimiwidoon i'iw zhiishiibanwii-baashkizigan.
G. Gaawiin niwanenimaasii a'aw asemaa.

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:
2. hunting blind
3. also
6. those
7. tobacco

Across:
1. It is cool weather.
4. canoe
5. I buy
8. he/she hunts
9. first

Verbs, Transitive, Inanimate (VTI)

Use VTI grammar patterns when verb action is directed to a non-living thing. Study this pattern that's used with verb root commands ending in -oon.

Biidoon!—Bring it!
Nimbiidoon.—I bring it. (nonliving thing)
Gibiidoon(an).—You bring it (them).
Obiidoon(an).—He/She brings it (them).
Nimbiidoomin.—We bring it/them.
Gibiidoomin.—We all bring it/them.
Gibiidoonaawaa(n).—You all bring it (pl).
Obiidoonaawaa(n).—They bring it (pl).

Niiwin—4

Verbs Transitive Inanimate

Biinitoon!—Clean something for someone!
Nimbiinitoon i'iw gitigaan.—I clean the garden.
Gibiinitoonan iniw abwiin.—You clean them those canoe paddles.
Dakobidoon!—Tie it!
Odakobidoon i'iw wiigob.—S/he ties that inner basswood bark.
Aabajitoon!—Use it!
Dagwaaging nindaabajitoomin iniw nooshkaachinaaganan.
When it is fall, we use winnowing baskets.

—Nim
—Gi
—O
—Nin —min
o— —aawaa

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. dakobidoo iniw makizineyaabiin.
2. biidoon i'iw manoominaaboo adoopowining?
3. biinitoon ina iniw onaagaansan?
4. Biijinaago gii-aabajitoon i'iw abwewin.
5. gii-piidoon makade-mashkiki-waaboo.

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. I have them many tools. B. When it is fall, I paddle and I have that canoe. C. When I go ricing at the lake, they are useful those rice knockers. D. First I buy it that little ricing-paper (license). E. Also I bring them those rice bags and scale. F. When I hunt ducks, I carry along that duck shot-gun. G. No, I don't forget him/her that tobacco.
Niswi—3 Down: 2. Akaadoowin 3. Gaye 6. Iniw 7. Asemaa Across: 1. Dakaayaa 4. Jiimaan 5. Nindadaawe 8. Giyose 9. Nitam
Niiwin—4 1. We tie them those shoelaces. 2. I am bringing that wild rice broth to the table. 3. You cleaned those, did you? those cups? 4. Yesterday they used that frypan. 5. She brought the coffee (black-medicine-liquid).
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. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA'IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Originally published in *Mazina'igan* Fall 2003. Reprinted by permission. Miigwech to GLIFWC and Shelly Ceglar.

Gaawiin gidaa-bizindawaasiwaanaan a'aw wayaabishkiwed da-ni-aanawendamang gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang.

What we need to look at is that we as Anishinaabe are doing this to ourselves. There are teachings that we have been given that encourage our children to have respect for everything on this earth and their fellow human beings. What is happening now, our Anishinaabe are no longer teaching their children this way. There is a reason we have been given these teachings. We have to quit listening to the white man discounting our teachings as Anishinaabe.

Ishke gaa-igooyaan niin gii-kwiizensiyiwaan, "Ani-ma-moosiwan i'iw anooj i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyan, gegapii-go gaawiin gegoo giga-ni- manaajitoosin wawaaj igo giwiji-bimaadiziim."

What was said to me when I was a little boy, "If you do not embrace the teachings that we have been given, in time you will have no respect for anything in this life, including your fellow human being."

Eshkam giga-ni-biingeyendaamin da-ni-noondamang naa-go gaye da-ni-waabandamang ani-izhiwebak. Ishke moozhag

noongom ginoondaamin weshki-bimaadizid ani-maazhi-doodawaad gechi-aya'aawiniin wawaaj igo akawaandawaanaad. Mii-go gaye ani-noondamang noongom wawaaj igo nisaawaad odabinoojiyensimiwaan anooj i'iw meshkawaamagadinig ani-aayaabajitoowaad megwaa maa gigishkawaawaad onii-jaanisensimaan ingiw ikwewag. Geget nebowa mayaanaadak ani-izhiwebadini a'aw Anishinaabe endanakiid. Aaniin danaa apii ge-goshkoziyang ani-aabaakawiziyang da-ni-moonendamang ani-izhiwebak ani-bagijwebinamang gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ni-bimiwidooyang bimaadiziyang anishinaabewiyang.

More and more we will be stunned and bewildered by what we hear or see is happening in our community. More frequently we hear about our young people harming our Elders and some are even going to the extent of raping them. We are also hearing of how pregnant women are killing their children through the use of drugs. There are a lot of bad things happening in our communities. When are we going to wake up and realize all the bad things that are occurring as a result of us abandoning our teachings and leaving them on the wayside as Anishinaabe?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

'HAWK' CROSSWALK WILL ENHANCE SAFETY IN DISTRICT I

The Mille Lacs Band's Planning and Project Management Department is planning a HAWK crosswalk at Highway 169 and Ataage Drive in District I to provide a safer way for pedestrians to cross from the schools, government buildings, and homes on the east side of the highway to Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grand Market, and neighborhoods on the west side.

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

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

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

"We knew the site was a problem area for pedestrian crossings and had approached MnDOT (the Minnesota Department of Transportation) on numerous occasions to do something about it," said Mike Moilanen, the Band's Director of Planning and Project Management.

In 2016, the Band partnered with the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies and MnDOT's Office of Transit and Active Transportation to study the location as part of a research project entitled Understanding Pedestrian Travel Behavior and Safety in Rural Settings. (Information about the study can be found at <http://www.cts.umn.edu/Research/ProjectDetail.html?id=2017034>.)

"As part of this study, we were able to install two cameras on the site to count crossing at both the signal and the hole in the fence," said Mike. "The data collected was hard to ignore as over 98 percent of crossers used the opening in the fence and not the controlled intersection. With this data, we were able to finally get local MnDOT support on the project and were successful in obtaining the grant."

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

The HAWK system design is used across the country because it is safer and more effective than traditional crosswalks. You may have seen HAWK crosswalks in St. Cloud and elsewhere. The city of Tucson, Arizona, has more than 60 HAWK systems.

HAWK systems are less costly to build than full-blown traffic signal systems, and they are also more energy-efficient than traditional signal systems, as the vehicle signal heads go black when the system is not in use.

The first phase of the project will begin in mid-August and last about six weeks. This phase will involve the building of signal bases, underground wiring, setting the electrical and signal cabinets, and installing sidewalks and ADA ramps.

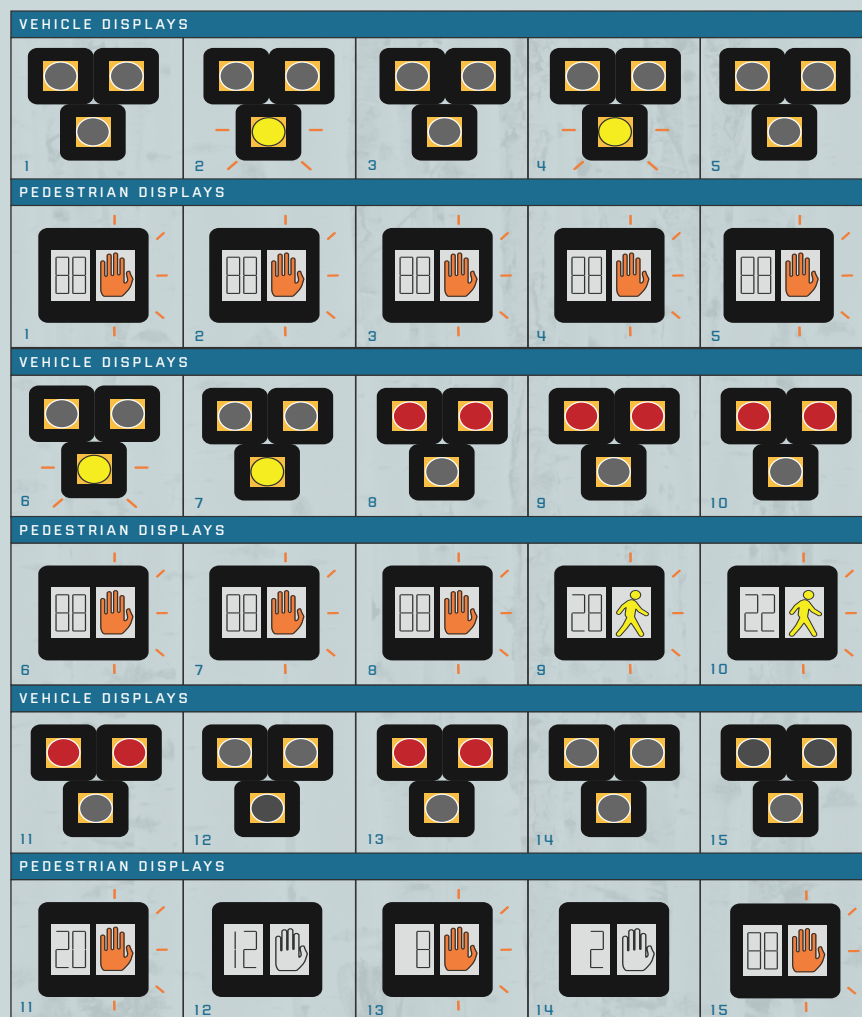
The second phase will not occur until November. This will take about three days and will be the actual setting of the signal mask arms.

MnDOT's central office also helped with camera counts as well as advocating for the project. Michael Petesch, MnDOT's Pedestrian & Bicyclist Data Coordinator, and Professor Greg Lindsey of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs were instrumental in collecting data and were supportive of the grant application.

A permanent counter installed at the crossing will become part of a statewide network of permanent pedestrian counters.

Watch for more information on using the HAWK crosswalk as a driver and pedestrian in future issues of *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

HAWK PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SYSTEM



1. The vehicle indication remains dark when the pedestrian crossing is not in use. The raised Don't Walk hand symbol remains on during this timing interval. (Note: The number in the lower left corner of the signal display indicates the order in which the signal sequence will occur.)

2 – 5. After the pedestrian button has been depressed, the yellow indication in the traffic signal head flashes yellow to indicate to the motorist that the display will soon be transitioning to a red display. The raised hand on the pedestrian display remains on during this time period.

6 – 10. Upon completion of the flashing yellow interval, the yellow display goes to a solid yellow for a period of time. After this timing period, the dual red indication is displayed. After another clearance period, the Walking Person indication along with the countdown display becomes visible on the pedestrian display. The pedestrian may now start walking across the street. An audible system will also notify the pedestrian that they may now proceed across the street.

11 – 15. After the pedestrians have had time to enter the crosswalk area with the Walk display showing, the pedestrian Walk indication transitions to the flashing Don't Walk display while the countdown display begins. At the same time the flashing Don't Walk display becomes visible, flashing dual red displays become visible to the motorist. With the dual flashing red displays, the motorist may carefully proceed provided the pedestrians have cleared the crossing. At the end of the countdown period, the solid Don't Walk display is once again displayed and the traffic signal indications for the motorists go black.

Source: City of St. Cloud Traffic Service System



ANIMOSHAG, GAAZHAGENSAG INCLUDED IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Elder food giveaway June 29 included pet food donations from People and Pets Together (<https://www.peopleandpetstogether.org/>). If Boo Boo and our other urban dogs and cats could talk, they'd say "Chi-miigwech" to Wahbon, Les, Virgil, Marilou Chanrasmi, and People and Pets Together. People and Pets Together, formerly The Pet Project, was founded in 2009 in response to the global economic downturn and heartbreaking stories of people who were forced to give up their pets due to financial hardship. In early 2016, they opened their pet food shelf in Minneapolis.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

AMERICANS' GOAL: A COMMUNITY DIVIDED

By **Nazhike Mille Lacs** Band Member



Divide and Conquer: to make a group of people disagree and fight with one another so that they will not join together against one.

A term as old as war itself and commonly portrayed in the demonstration of Grandpa giving his grandchildren a bundle of sticks to break, which they are unable to do. Then he gives them a stick one by one, and they are easily able to break them. The lesson ends with

a wise phrase told in a wise voice with wise intonations: "Together you are strong; separate you are easily broken." And then the family sings "Kumbaya" and are off to conquer the world with their newfound secret.

Most popularly referred to in the physical sense, how does this play out with Anishinaabe Spiritual Energy? Turning back the clock to pre-chimookomaan invasion, Anishinaabe were well-defined in their beliefs and common transfer of energy across a vast region. The acceptance of gifts from the manidoog reciprocated with an offer of gratitude further compounded the Spiritual Ecosystem the Anishinaabe rely upon. Think of a donation tray: Everyone pitches in a dollar, and in the end there will be plenty of dollars. Now again, think of a donation tray, where everyone pitches in everything they got. In the end, there will be plenty of everything. Add some energy by the

manidoog in the maada'ooking (passing around) of the donations to all involved, there will be everything plus more due to the compassion the manidoog have for the Anishinaabe. From the beginning of time to when Wenabozho lived among us and then to the present, we are still blessed by the gifts and offerings of gratitude by our ancestors.

In the last hundred years, our spiritual ecosystem has had a greenhouse gas effect applied to it. It's been saturated by anti-Anishinaabe energy, so the gifts from the manidoog are less relied upon, and offerings of gratitude are low. The Anishinaabe Spirit is, in a sense, starting to get a bit lightheaded. It's been weakened due to the lack of Spiritual Ecosystem, and a sense of urgency has slowly been rising within our communities. We have seen and heard the concern by our recent Elders, and in some ways, experienced the loss of hope by others.

As spiritual ecosystem declines, there are ways to offset the Anishinaabe Spiritual Climate Change. Our young people are demanding the language and knowledge in an effort to increase the cycle of energy which will bring balance to our people. For those of us with little to give, individually we are easily broken, but together we are strong. I challenge you to teach 5 people 10 years younger than you what you know. For those that are 10 years younger than someone, take some tobacco and offer it for anything you seek to know. This, my fellow Anishinaabeg, is the Green New Anishinaabe Deal. America has been wedging the division for hundreds of years, and it is now time we come together to ensure our people exist in a hundred years. Miigwech.

AAZHAWAAKWASING IKIDOWINAN



ACROSS

1. S/HE COOKS.
4. IT IS RED.
8. I AM HUNGRY.
9. GREETINGS!
10. THEY ARE BELIEVABLE.
14. OH!!
15. S/HE ARRIVES
18. TAKE IT OFF!!
19. S/HE IS SLEEPS.
21. MY RELATIVES.

DOWN

2. COME IN!!
3. GRADUALLY.
5. S/HE GOES TO A CERTAIN PLACE.
6. A KEY.
9. THEY CLIMB.
11. S/HE COOKS.
12. S/HE IS TICKLISH.
13. A WEASEL.
14. TOWN.
16. WAKE UP!!
17. YESTERDAY.
20. THE WEATHER WARMS UP.

See page 18 for answers!

HEALTH BRIEFS

Foundation provides relief funds for Native cancer survivors:

The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is providing relief funds to Native cancer survivors who live in Minnesota and are impacted by COVID-19. AICAF will provide up to \$50 per individual and/or a maximum of \$75 per household with multiple survivors and/or caregivers living under the same roof. This Visa gift card may help to offset lost income and essential expenses during these times of uncertainty. To apply, submit a brief form at bit.ly/AICAFrelief. Please contact AICAF with any questions at health@aicaf.org.

Time spent in nature can help people cope with stress:

Have you been feeling down? Sluggish and stressed out? How much time have you spent in nature lately? The answer to these two questions might be more closely related than you'd think. The modern way we live has changed, but our brains have mostly stayed the same. We still have a deep connection with nature, and research shows that if we don't nourish that bond, we may suffer in many ways. Get back to nature to energize your mind and body. Consider seeing a mental health professional if your symptoms are serious. For more information, visit the American Heart Association website at: www.heart.org.

New cookbook highlights food of Indigenous people of the Great Lakes:

A new cookbook serves up culture along with the food of the Indigenous people of the Great Lakes region. "Eating with the Seasons, Anishinaabeg, Great Lakes Region," combines recipes, language, and history. A hunger to preserve a piece of American culture and a developing interest in food are the main ingredients that prompted the cookbook, said Derek Nicholas, who is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and a senior at University of Minnesota, Morris, in rural western Minnesota.

"Back in the day, Elders would take their sons and their daughters out fishing and they would use the language," he said. "You'd hear how to catch the fish, how to net fish, how to cook the fish. Nowadays that's just not the case. If we can revitalize the language and the food, or both, it will all come together as one."

The cookbook includes simple and traditional recipes for each month of the year, including recipes for curried squash soup and venison chili. Along with recipes, the book includes Anishinaabemowin phrases. It also reports bits of history, like how the people used different moons as a calendar of when to hunt, plant, and harvest.

The book is available for free on the University of Minnesota website. Print copies can be ordered at blurb.com for \$16.

Crafting for Elders continues:

District I ALU residents have educated themselves in traditional and non-traditional arts and crafts during the pandemic. So far, they have made baby moccasins, earrings, holiday ornaments, water colors, salves, birch bark canoe ornaments, corn husk dolls, and medicine bags. District III is also getting into the act with dangly jingle cone earrings and birch canoe ornaments. Next they will make salve and moccasin ornaments. Elder and ALU Manager Carol Hernandez said, "The residents LOVE cultural crafting activities and most say they have never worked with hide, quills, birch, or beads before."

AROUND THE RESERVATION

PUBLIC HEALTH GIVEAWAY EVENT SEPTEMBER 2

The Public Health Department is holding a drive-through giveaway event on September 2 at the old Public Health/Behavioral Health building in District I, beginning at 1 p.m.

Items given away for free include t-shirts, bags, kids stuff, and "swag" from past events!

Your questions about COVID-19 will be answered by Public Health staff!

During this drive-through event, COVID-19 safety precautions must be followed and social distancing observed.

GE-NIIGAANIZIJIG FORMING YOUTH COUNCIL

"The NINE" — NATIVE YOUTH IMAGINING A NEW ENVIRONMENT — is a tribal youth council created by the Ge-Niigaanizijig Program to gain the youth's perspective about the planning and building of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. They will share their ideas and recommendations on how they would like to build the community and the Ge-niigaanizijig Program. The goal is not only to give the youth a voice but to experience how the Mille Lacs Band Government operates.

The members of the council (in each district) will consist of the following: -2 youth ages 9-11

-2 youth ages 12-14 -4 youth ages 15-20

Each district will vote in 8 youth who they feel will best represent their voices. The youth will gain the experience of running for a position and campaigning. They will serve 1-year terms. Two youth, ages 15-20, will be chosen to represent their district on the Inter-District Council. These youth will select a chief and secretary-treasurer.

The elected youth will hold meetings with their peers and allow a space for all youth to use their voices.

If youth would like to run for a position, reach out to your district coordinator and they will provide you with all of the information and application that is needed.

District I — Stacy Boyd

District II — Cheyanne Peet

District IIa — Jennifer Gahbow

District III — Stanley Nayquonabe

District III — Mardell Thomas.

The deadline is September 28th for all applicants. Voting will take place on October 26. Each district will hold a Zoom meeting with youth to explain the details.

DNR AND HHS HOST TRADITIONAL WELLNESS CLINIC

Todd Mikinaak Smith, Traditional Medicine Facilitator, will be available to see individuals on September 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mille Lacs Band Cultural Grounds wigwam, 43504 Timber Trail Road, Onamia, MN 56359.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Dan Wind at 320-674-0588.

Please bring your own tobacco.

BAND MEMBER VOICES

THE GREAT PAUSE . . . AND REFLECTION

By Amikogaabawiike (Adrienne M. Benjamin)

Mille Lacs Band Member

How has your life changed since the COVID-19 pandemic? In what ways are you thinking differently about life? How have you changed your habits? How are your kids holding up through this? These are all questions that I have been thinking a little deeper about lately as I reflect



on these last few months. We all learned new phrases like "social distancing," "masking up," and "shelter in place," and of course we all learned more than we needed to know about Hydroxychloroquine.

All of our lives have collectively changed in some way since this pandemic struck earlier this year. Many of us have kids who are struggling to understand and cope with the current situation at hand. They ask big questions that we don't always know how to answer. They miss their friends; they miss school and their teachers; they miss playing in a park and not having to worry about what they touch.

I have found my 10-year-old daughter constantly saying one of these particular phrases, "I hate COVID! COVID ruins everything! We can't do anything because of COVID!" She also asks these specific questions:

"Mom, when is this COVID stuff going to be done so we can be normal again?"

"Will I ever get to go back to school?"

"Are we always going to have to wear masks?"

My responses are always the same. "I don't know baby, we just have to make sure that we are safe and follow the rules so that hopefully, sooner than later, we can return to some form of normalcy."

This brings me to my next thought about this time. Normalcy. What was your normal before COVID? Did you notice things during this time of lockdown that maybe were things that you considered so normal that you actually did not miss too much? Which normalcies do you miss most? Having more time at home, being a furloughed worker with a special needs child has definitely had its ups and downs, but the more time that goes on, I find myself being incredibly grateful for this time. Normal for me was often a lot of stress, waking up earlier than I liked (I have never been a morning person and probably will never be as I write this at 12:49 a.m.), and I honestly missed my kids every day that I had to send them off to school. I loved my job, and the work was incredibly meaningful, but I still would treasure my weekend as my time to really "get stuff done," focus on my art, or to actually spend quality time with my two daughters.

Now, so many things have come to light about my own ambitions, how I want to move forward from this great pause, and in what ways can I best effect change and the healing that will be needed as we all move forward through this and after this. Not only in the external sense of the world, but for those closest to me. Is the best idea to send my kids off to a place that I have fought so hard to change? A place I know creates colonized mindsets? Who is their best teacher? How do I want them taught, and what kind of history do I want them to know? This time of "distance learning" has me really thinking deeply about what I have accepted in my life and "normal" and what we are actually capable of changing should we so choose.

This pandemic has really opened our collective eyes to how we have taken so many things for granted in our daily lives.

Something as simple as a hug. If you took your lockdown seriously, I'm sure you can understand how that felt to hug that parent, sister, or even grandparent once restrictions were lifted a bit. Something as simple as a smile from a stranger. Now when we travel or move in public, our faces are covered by masks. Our eyes are left to do the talking that our whole faces normally do. In an out-of-town grocery store recently, a man passed by me, and when he did so he gave me a wave; I returned it, and when I did he said, "I'm smiling underneath here but you just can't see it!" Needless to say, it made me laugh and have the realization of how much these masks are really changing our forms of communication and interactions with others.

Many of the situations that have been a part of this COVID pandemic have also felt really lonely. I just mentioned masks, and if you think about how expressionless they leave what little public interactions that we do get, it really can be disheartening. Especially during these worrisome times, when a smile from a stranger could really go a long way in brightening a day. Some Elders went through long phases without being allowed visits from their loved ones if they were in a long-term care facility. (When my family visits my Grandma, there is no hugging allowed.) Families are and were kept apart for safety's sake. Kids were kept from their friends. (Thank goodness for the internet.) Everyone in some way has felt a level of longing for others during these times.

"DURING THIS GREAT PAUSE, WE CAN EITHER BE REALLY ANGRY AND LIVE IN FEAR, OR WE CAN TRUST AND BE GRATEFUL. WE GET THIS WONDERFUL TIME TOGETHER THAT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED OTHERWISE, AND I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR THE WORLD."

Little do we realize, that we are actually experiencing something that is bringing us closer than we have ever been in our shared humanity. We really all are experiencing this together; learning together, moving forward together, feeling scared together, and feeling hesitant about the next phase together. I think we have all realized that what we once thought of as normal, may not go back to normal for a while, and we will have to adopt a new normal.

In many ways, it's also an exciting time to be alive. This is what I've decided to tell my daughter. "We are living through a major historic event, and we get to decide what things we liked and didn't like before this and move forward with and without them. During this great pause, we can either be really angry and live in fear, or we can trust and be grateful. We get this wonderful time together that wouldn't have happened otherwise, and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Personally, I feel like my mind has never been more clear about the way I want to live my life now. What things are really important, and what really isn't. I hope that you have found some positive moments during these times, and have been able to release some negativity. I hope that you never felt too alone during any of these mega scary moments that we have encountered as a society and as humans over the past few months. I hope that as the world starts to turn again, you make your new normal out of only the things that bring you joy. I hope we all heal from this experience and become better in every way that we need to. Begizh weweni omaa.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL OR OPINION TO SHARE? SEND IT TO NEWS@MILLELACSBAND.COM

HISTORY

TRIBAL HISTORY OF THE ANISHINAABE

This passage is taken from 'Against the Tide of American History: The Story of the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe,' published in 1985 by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Putting together bits and pieces of information to tell the story of the early history of the Anishinaabe is much like building a puzzle in which many of the key pieces are missing. One way to try to solve the puzzle is to use written history or records left by outsiders. These outsiders met the ancestors of the Chippewa at times over the past three centuries. The written record, however, only begins at about 1640, 380 years ago. French missionaries told of meeting with some of the Anishinaabe at a village near what is called Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The history of the Anishinaabe began long before 1640. This written record is missing much information about the people and their way of life.

Another way to put together the puzzle of the past is to use something other than written records for proof. Archaeologists have facts to share about the ancestors of the Chippewa. Archaeologists gain much of their knowledge of the past from the remains that tribal people left behind. These remains tell something about where the people lived and how they made a living, but little else. There are some remains of ancient villages in the northern peninsula of Michigan. Some archaeologists believe these were Anishinaabe villages. Anishinaabe occupied them sometime before they met with Europeans. The location of these villages tells us that these ancestors of the Chippewa depended upon the canoe for transportation and fished for a living.

The language of the Anishinaabe also gives us clues to the past. We speak a language much like other tribal languages. All these languages belong to the Algonkian language family. When the Europeans first came, there were Algonkian speakers all along the Atlantic seaboard of North America. They were also in eastern Canada, along the Great Lakes and as far west as the Great Plains. Many years ago, the Algonkian speaking people, including the Anishinaabe, may have spoken one common language. There were vocabulary words that were alike in these languages. Language experts (linguists) have been able to use these words to rebuild some of the words that were part of the old common language. By examining the languages, the linguists believed that the Algonkian-speaking people began to separate from one another about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. At that time, the Anishinaabe homeland may have been what is now called the Province of Ontario, Canada, between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario.

One last way to find the story of the past is to look at the oral traditions (the spoken word) of the Chippewa people. For a very long time, Chippewa Elders have been the caretakers of a very rich oral tradition. This tradition tells of the events of



Steve Premo provided many illustrations, including the cover, for "Against the Tide of American History: The Story of the Mille Lacs Anishinaabe."

the past. These stories are older than the written record left by outsiders. Through legend, story, and song, Anishinaabe Elders explained how the earth came to be as it is now and how the people are a part of the earth and all living things. Oral traditions do not give exact times or dates as does written history. They do give us a special look into the ancient past which would otherwise be lost.

Written records, oral traditions, and the knowledge of archaeologists and linguists are all ways to find out about the past. Even taken together, they do not explain the rich and ancient history of the Chippewa people. Each does add, however, to the puzzle.

Following are two different views of the early history of the Chippewa people. One is based on the oral traditions of the people themselves. The other is based upon the written record left by outsiders.

The written records stress the relationship between the ancestors of the Chippewa and the Europeans. Chippewa oral tradition tells of the relationship between individuals and families of the Anishinaabe and the living earth. One of these traditions tells of how the people came to organize themselves into several grand families or clans.



"Storytelling" by Carl Gawboy illustrates the importance of Anishinaabe storytelling as a way of preserving the past.

BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2010

District II Representative Marvin Bruneau, District III Representative Diane Gibbs, and Secretary/Treasurer Curt Kalk were sworn into office on July 13. Joe Nayquonabe Sr. celebrated his second career hole-in-one at the Elders Golf tournament at Grand National Golf Course. Naomi Weyaus was interning as a general assignment reporter for the St. Cloud Times. Asked why it's important to vote in the primary, Sheldon Boyd said, "It's important to me because in the early '60s, my mother stormed down to the public school because a teacher told my little brother he couldn't be President of the United States. My mother would come poke us with her cane to get us to vote, because we are somebody."

15 years ago — 2005

The first-ever conference of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations was held at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and attended by the WEWIN founding members: Susan Masten, Co-President; Veronica Homer, Co-President; Cecilia Fire Thunder; Melanie Benjamin, Treasurer; Nora McDowell; Patricia Parker; Geri Small; and Rachel Joseph, Secretary. An attempt to start a state-run casino never got off the ground in the Legislature, despite support from Republican legislators and Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Rodney Dorr qualified for a brown belt in Tae Kwon Do. A chartering ceremony for the Mille Lacs Area Human Rights Commission was held August 17 at the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia.

20 years ago — 2000

Elders Eunice Garbow, Clara Sam, and Rose Noonday participated in the first-ever Wisdom Steps walk. The royalty at the 5th Annual McGregor Area Powwow were Demetrius Peet, Head Start Brave; Candace Killspotted, Head Start Princess; Tommy Benjamin, Jr. Brave; Amber Buckanaga, Jr. Princess; Brad Buckanaga, Sr. Brave; and Taria Aubid, Sr. Princess. Birdie Roberts was named General Manager of Grand Casino Hinckley. Alissa Koslowski was crowned Little Miss Onamia.

25 years ago — 1995

The Mille Lacs Band purchased First State Bank of Onamia, which would later become Woodlands National Bank. Onamia's only bank was in danger of closing, and by purchasing it, the Band became the third band or tribe in the nation to own a bank, and the first in Minnesota. The East Lake Community Center in District II celebrated its grand opening, and the Aazhoomog Community Center was scheduled to open in the fall. Mille Lacs Band students met with Senator Paul Wellstone in Washington, D.C. (see below).

The information above is from the July 2000, 2005, and 2010 issues of Ojibwe Inaajimowin and the 1995 issue of Woodland Voice.



In 1995, students and their chaperones met with Senator Paul Wellstone in his office in Washington, D.C.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

SEPTEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Cynthia Mae Benjamin
 Dennis Wayne Benjamin
 Joyce Marie Benjamin
 Julie Louise Benjamin
 Paul Wayne Benjamin
 Daniel Boyd
 Joanne Frances Boyd
 Robert Louis Boyd
 Rose Marie Bugg
 James Douglas Colstrud
 Raymond Allen Eubanks
 Lloyd Dale Evans
 Shirley Ann Evans
 Rina Margaret Fonder
 Lorena Joy Gahbow
 Joseph Wm. Garbow
 Roger Duane Garbow
 Bernice Bea Gardner
 Lisa Celeste Griffin
 John Alan Grothe
 Loretta Lea Hansen
 Carol Anne Hernandez
 Bernida Mae Humetewa
 Donna Lianne Iverson
 Kathleen Lorena Johnson
 Beverly Marie Jones
 Carmen Denise Kegg
 Lauren Lynn Matrous
 Rodney Charles Matrous
 Carol Jean Mojica
 Jacqueline Jean Moltaji
 Sherri Lee Monroe
 Elmer Eugene Nayquonabe
 Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe
 Laurene Jennifer Nickaboine
 DeWayne Michael Pike
 Alan Ray Premo
 Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce
 Bernadine Joyce Roberts
 Carol Ann Sam

Darlene Joyce Sam
 Karen Louise Sam
 Melanie Lou Sam
 Kevin Duane Schaaf
 Janice Arlene StandingCloud
 John Duane Stokke
 Charles W. Sutton
 Judie Erma Thomas
 Marty Russell Thomas
 Russell Harvey Thomas
 Arne Vainio
 Leonard Wayne Weyaus
 Bonita Diane White
 Donald Ray Williams

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy 24th birthday **Destanie Anderson** on September 3rd, with lots of love from your Son Carter James, Nephews Caden and Jaden, Shyla, Jordan, Dilly Bar and Gram • Happy birthday **Dan** on 9/14 love your fiancé • Happy birthday **Myla Joe** on 9/16. Happy 1st Birthday Baby, love Mom, Dad, Gramma Von, Gramma Val, Grandpa Dan, GG Kim, GG Brad, Randi, Rachel, Rory, Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Jay, Taylor Paige, Adam, Grand Uncle Brad, Daphne, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Trinity, Wes, Waase, Brynley, Bianca, Henry, and Binisikwe • Happy birthday **Myla Joe** on 9/16 love Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Aidan, Max, Baby Jake, Dusty, Jarvis, Baby Jarvis, Kiera'le, Miranda, Jacob, Aiva, Mark, Emery, Sharon, Ravin, Melodie, Nicole, Chris, Cordell, and Buddy • Happy birthday **Brother** on September 17, love brothers and sissys • Happy birthday **Tracy** on Sept 29th, love all your family.



A GOOD INVESTMENT

Elders at the ALU in District III have used their time well during the pandemic, learning watercolors as well as traditional crafts and medicines.



NOTEBOARD AND CALENDAR GUIDELINES

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

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

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members. Don't worry — we will not share your email or overwhelm you with emails. This will be used for weekly news summaries and important updates that need to be shared immediately. Send your email address to news@millelacsband.com so we can add you to the list!

ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a two-hour video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.

MILLE LACS BAND RECOVERY GROUPS

See page 19 for information on recovery groups during the COVID-19 Stay Home order.

District I Mille Lacs

Community Drumming

Mondays, 6 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House).

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30–7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (brown building next to the Halfway House). Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768.

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel, 777 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota.

Wellbriety Celebrating Families

Tuesdays, 6–8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group, 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota. Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768.

NA/AA Welcome

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House, 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick Building). Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768.

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1–3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia. Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-4768.

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5–6 p.m., East Lake Community Center. Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431.

District IIa Chiminising

Bi-mawadishiwen

Fridays, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Chiminising Community Center.

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

Wellbriety Talking Circle

Mondays, 6 p.m., Aazhoomog

Community Center.

Wellbriety 12-Step Group

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic Conference Room. Contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149.

Wellbriety 12-Step Group

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Meshakwad Community Center.

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.



Answers to the crossword puzzle on page 15:

JIIBAAKWE
 BIINDIGEN
 ESHKAM
 MISKWAA
 IZHAA
 AABAABIKA'IGAN
 APENIMO
 NIMBAKADE
 AANIIN
 AKWAANDAWEWAG
 DEBWETAAGOZIWAG
 GIIZEKWE
 GINAGIJII
 ZHINGOS
 OONH
 OODENA
 DAGOSHIN
 GOSHKOZI
 BIJIINAAGO
 GIIZIKAN
 NIBAA
 ABAATE
 NINDINAWEMAAGANAG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Millelacsband.com is updated regularly with news, job postings, events, and information about programs and services. The homepage, millelacsband.com, has links to all of those pages as well as government departments, programs, and services.</i></p> <p>CENSUS DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30!</p> <p>An accurate count will affect funding for Native American tribes for the next 10 years! Find out how to fill out the census on page 11.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Drive-through Giveaway 1 p.m. District I Public Health Building <i>See 16.</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Traditional Wellness Clinic 9 a.m.–4 p.m. District I Cultural Grounds <i>See 16.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p><i>Check out Indigenous online films at www.nfb.ca/indigenous-cinema</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Traditional Wellness Clinic 9 a.m.–4 p.m. District I Cultural Grounds <i>See 16.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA <i>See below.</i></p> <p><i>Check out these materials for kids (and adult learners) from GLIFWC: https://www.glifwc-inwe.com</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See below.</i></p>
<p>6</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Look up words or practice your Ojibwemowin at https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu.</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>The deadline for the October issue is September 15. Send submissions to news@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851.</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Play Indigenous educational games at www.7generationgames.com</i></p>
<p>13</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>“When Rivers Were Trails” is an adventure game about the impact of colonization on Indigenous communities: indianlandtenure.itch.io/when-rivers-were-trails</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Learn about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe’s history with the Student Government Handbook: https://millelacsband.com/news/mct-student-handbook</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Thunderbird Strike is an online video game with an Indigenous theme www.thunderbirdstrike.com</i></p>
<p>20</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Do you need sobriety support? Search Mino Miikana (A good path) on Facebook!</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Zaagibagaang: Anishinaabe Values in Action shares all kinds of useful information about the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: https://zaagibagaang.com</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p><i>Watch “The Woodlands: The Story of the Mille Lacs Ojibwe” at https://youtu.be/p29pYyOkW3g</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Virtual Ribbon Skirt Class 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>AA 2 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Wellbriety Celebrating Families 6 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Census deadline! <i>See page 11</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p> <p>Zooming into Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference.</p>	<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE</p> <p>All recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference during the COVID-19 pandemic. ID 601 532 2869 Password 456 267.</p> <p>CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!</p> <p>Mille Lacs Band members and community members from other tribes can be paid for news stories published in <i>Ojibwe Inaajimowin</i>. For stories of 500 words or more, compensation is \$400. The deadline for stories is the 15th of each month. If you have a story to submit or would like more information, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-495-5006.</p>		



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

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

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

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

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

SEPTEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 22 | NUMBER 9

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



SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY

Band members headed to the polls on August 18 to vote for Chief Executive and District I Representative. See page 1. Photo by Darla Roache.

**MONOLINGUAL OJIBWE
BOOK PROJECT
REACHES FRUITION**
page 1

**A BUSY MONTH FOR
MILLE LACS BAND'S
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**
page 3

**NAY AH SHING
SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE
PLANS FOR FALL**
page 8

**BAND MEMBER FINDS
HEALING, PURPOSE
IN CULTURE**
page 12