



OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

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



NEW COMMISSIONERS JACKSON, APPLGATE JOIN CABINET

Commissioner of Community Development Tim Jackson, second from left, and Commissioner of Natural Resources Kelly Applegate, third from right, were sworn in on August 11 by Chief Justice David Sam in front of a joint session of Band Assembly and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.



Two new commissioners joined the Executive Branch on August 11 — about two weeks after three colleagues were sworn in on June 30.

Tim Jackson takes the helm at the Department of Community Development, and Kelly Applegate joins him in the Chief Executive's cabinet as Commissioner of Natural Resources.

They join Commissioners Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe, and Assistant Commissioner of Administration Maria Costello, who were sworn in last month, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs Joe Nayquonabe Jr., and Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle, who is part of the Legislative Branch. The Commissioner of Education position remains vacant.

For more on Kelly, see page 4, and for more on Tim, see next month's issue of Ojibwe Inaajimowin.



BAND MEETS WITH CORPS OVER LINE 3

By Brett Larson
Inaajimowin Editor

On August 10, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, and other members of the tribal government met face-to-face in an official consultation with Jaime Pinkham, Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers, to register their disappointment with the Line 3 pipeline consultation and approval process and to seek redress from the Corps.



Jaime Pinkham

The meeting was also attended by Jamie Edwards and She-na Matrious of the Office of Government Affairs, Kelly Applegate and Perry Bunting of the Department of Natural Resources, and Commissioner of Administration Peter Nayquonabe.

Kelly said the Band's "big ask" was for "a supplemental federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) done by the Army Corps to better inform regulators and the public about environmental impacts. And if they can't do it, advocate for us to the Environmental Protection Agency to do the supplemental federal EIS."

"THIS PIPELINE POSES A DIRECT RISK TO THE MILLE LACS BAND LAKES, RIVERS AND LAND, AND WILD RICE, WHICH IS A FEDERALLY PROTECTED TRUST RESOURCE."

In a letter dated the same day, Melanie expressed the Band's concerns about the pipeline and the consultation process: "It is the position of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe that the Enbridge Line 3 replacement project was flawed from the beginning because the State's approval process is itself flawed and there was little if any federal oversight."

State regulations regarding pipeline approvals were written seven decades ago with power lines, not pipelines, in mind, the letter states. The Band was not meaningfully consulted on the project, and the "regulatory impairment" led to an underestimate of impacts to wetlands, manoomin, and Anishinaabe people. There was a bias toward a new pipeline corridor and a failure to identify tribal cultural and historical areas.

One specific complaint concerned the estimated amount of dewatering that would be required — which rose from 400 million gallons to nearly 5 billion gallons. "With a significantly higher estimate, Enbridge asked the State of Minnesota for an amended Water Appropriation Permit," the letter states. "Due to this unusual situation, Minnesota offered a briefing to the affected Tribes, but without consultation or public comment, then the State issued the amended permit."

Army Corps see page 2

COVID-19 REMINDERS FROM MILLE LACS BAND PUBLIC HEALTH

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please quarantine for 4-5 days then call the triage line at 320-630-0855. Rapid testing is a moment in time. Please quarantine for a total of 14 days from the first date of symptoms.
- If you are vaccinated and have had exposure to a confirmed positive, please quarantine for 10 days. If you become symptomatic, please get tested.
- If you are not vaccinated and have had exposure to a confirmed positive, please quarantine for 14 days.
- HOUSEHOLD FAMILY MEMBERS should all quarantine at home for 14 days if someone in the home is positive. The positive individual must do their best to isolate and use a separate bathroom.
- Please use masks!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 55TH ISKIGAMIZIGAN POWWOW — 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, aaniin Band members. Over the past 14 months, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has done everything in our power to protect Band members from COVID-19. Nobody had a road map of how to fight a pandemic, so we had to create our own by following guidance from Band, state, and federal health experts. Our community fought hard against the spread of COVID-19, including following stay-at-home orders, shutting down government buildings and our businesses temporarily, providing meals and assistance to Band members, and then being one of the first communities in Minnesota to offer the vaccine last winter.

We fought hard. After a summer of finally being able to return a little bit to normal, it is time to roll up our sleeves once again. We are now waging a battle against the 4th wave of COVID-19, called the "Delta variant." The Delta variant is much more dangerous and deadly than the original virus, and it is now responsible for the majority of all virus hospitalizations in Minnesota.

It is critical that all Band members get vaccinated immediately. Do not hesitate, do not wait, do not put it off for another day. If you are not fully vaccinated, your life is at risk from the COVID-19 Delta variant. The COVID-19 Delta variant is rampant, and it is much easier to spread and to catch.

A virus only wants one thing, and that is to stay alive. It does this by spreading from one person to another and by mutating or changing itself in order to remain alive and keep spreading. This is what has happened with the COVID-19 Delta variant, and this is why there have been some "breakthrough" cases where some fully vaccinated people have become sick

with the Delta variant, although the majority of hospitalizations are still among unvaccinated people. If everyone in the country were vaccinated, the virus could not mutate anymore and it would be stopped.

"WE WILL ONLY STOP THE VIRUS IF A MAJORITY OF US ARE FULLY VACCINATED. THIS IS WHY WE NEED EVERYONE TO GET VACCINATED."

So why get vaccinated if vaccinated people can still get sick from the Delta variant? Because if you do become ill, the vaccine can help keep you alive. The vaccines are very effective at the critical task of keeping most vaccinated people with breakthrough infections out of the hospital, and for those who do become hospitalized, the vaccine is helping them stay alive. Vaccinated people tend to become less ill. The vast majority who become severely ill or pass away from the Delta variant are unvaccinated people.

There is another reason for concern about the Delta variant. The data is also showing that those who are most likely to become severely ill from the Delta variant are younger people and those who suffer from other health issues such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer and asthma and respiratory diseases. Our American Indian population is at much higher risk of severe illness or death from the Delta variant than other groups

in Minnesota, but we can still survive if we are vaccinated.

Of our Band Members who we are able to track living in Districts I, II, IIA and III, 772 Band Members have been vaccinated as of August 25, 2021. That is less than 50% and far too low. People who are not vaccinated not only risk their own lives, but they put the lives of their loved ones at risk as well. We will only stop the virus if the majority of us are fully vaccinated. This is why we need everyone to get vaccinated.

This is also why the Band is again requiring that masks be worn inside all government buildings and businesses. At a meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council on August 24, Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm informed us that a person only needs to be in contact with someone carrying the virus, even if they seem healthy, for less than 15 minutes in order to catch it. Vaccinated people who will never get sick from the virus can still carry and spread the virus, which is why we need everyone to wear masks, even if you are vaccinated.

The Band will also begin offering a third vaccine shot for those who are vaccinated to offer additional protection. Please watch for information about that from Health and Human Services in the near future. Three shots will provide better protection for those who are at high-risk.

In the meantime, please get vaccinated if you have not already. If you are vaccinated and know someone who is not vaccinated, now is the time to do whatever is necessary to help that person get vaccinated. Please do this for yourself, for your loved ones and our Band community. Miigwech.

Army Corps from page 1

The letter continues with a request for a Supplemental EIS to assess downstream impact of pipeline crossings and to conduct an extensive hydrological study of the whole pipeline route. "This pipeline poses a direct risk to the Mille Lacs Band lakes, rivers and land, and wild rice, which is a federally protected trust resource. Consequently, it is the position of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe that the Army Corps of Engineers has a trust responsibility to advocate for the Band with regard to Enbridge's Line 3 developments and impacts."

"With a Supplemental Federal EIS better informing the regulators and the public of the wetland impacts, groundwater impacts supporting these wetlands, and their potential effect on our manoomin, we can then make the proper determination if the project should proceed or not. And, if it is determined that the project may proceed, we then are able to appropriately mitigate for any potential irreversible damages to the natural resources and the environment, and safeguard our sacred manoomin for the current and all future generations."

Pinkham met with officials from Red Lake and White Earth the following day.

The consultations took place in accordance with President Biden's Executive Memorandum to federal agencies to consult with tribes on any federal actions that might impact them.

As the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Pinkham, a citizen of the Nez Perce Tribe, establishes policy direction and supervises the Department of the Army functions relating to all aspects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. These responsibilities include programs for conservation and development of the nation's water and wetland resources, flood control, navigation, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION KEEPS TRIBAL COURT ACCESSIBLE DURING PANDEMIC

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mille Lacs Band Court of Central Jurisdiction faced the dilemma of how to continue to provide court services while keeping court staff and court users safe from the outbreak. Implementation of the electronic filing (e-filing) system, File and Serve Express, provided the answer. FSX already successfully provides e-filing and e-services to over 1,400 courts nationally, but the Mille Lacs Band is the first tribal court to use the system. In another first, FSX, in cooperation with Justice Systems, Inc., has integrated the new system, with the Court's existing case management system, Full Court Enterprise.

The Court of Central Jurisdiction was already moving toward a paperless court filing system to reduce storage space and improve court record security when COVID-19 struck. "The Mille Lacs Band Court and court administration are always looking to enhance productivity," said Gilda Burr, Court Administrator. "Our court system has made a significant advancement in operational efficiency by adding e-filing. The FSX service will improve how documents are filed and served on the parties and will lead up to a more proficient paperless system." The Court's move to contactless filing and service was expedited by the Mille Lacs Band's receipt of federal COVID-19 CARES Act funding.

FSX was selected as the exclusive electronic filing service provider based on its successful track record with state and federal courts nationally and its status as the longest-tenured provider of e-filing and e-service technology and services focused exclusively on the needs of law firms and courts. "We

are thrilled to be part of the Court's innovation project," said FSX Chief Executive Officer Tammy Carter. "Our thirty years of experience and cloud-based technology will bring the Mille Lacs Tribal Court the automation, efficiency, and capabilities desired. We look forward to serving the judicial and legal community."

FSX became available for use by attorneys and self-represented persons for civil District Court filings on June 1, 2021. District Court Rule 134, Electronic Filing and Service, was adopted by the Mille Lacs Band Court of Appeals on June 15, 2020 and ratified by the Mille Lacs Band Assembly on July 8, 2020. Amendments to Rule 134 officially adopting FSX as the Court's approved e-filing and e-service provider have been drafted and await approval by the Court of Appeals. The appointment of a third Justice to the Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy left in the District II position by the resignation of Justice Ramona Applegate is pending. Appointed as an Associate Justice in 2017, she served as Interim Chief Justice from 2020 to 2021.

In addition to the implementation of the FSX e-filing and e-service system, the Court has been conducting telephonic hearings and video conference trials as COVID precautions. "The Mille Lacs Band's judicial philosophy is to promote the traditional teachings of the Elders to resolve conflicts between individuals, to restore zhawenimaa (sha wa ni ma), and to help those who come before the Court to experience a good life," said District Court Judge Richard Osburn. "The Court will continue to carry out its mission and the new technology will allow us to do it more safely and efficiently."



BABY BASKETS IN DISTRICT I

Caroline Kay Oswaldson, above, was born on June 2 to Robert and Kelsey Oswaldson. Big sister Ruby (pictured in the photo at right with her mom and District I Representative Virgil Wind) is a good helper. Bobbi Oswaldson, below, and her baby Peyton Jean Oswaldson, born on April 20, were gifted their girl baby basket on August 13 by Representative Wind.

The onesie and baby blanket are custom-made items included in the baskets. These Celebration of Life baby baskets are given to District I enrolled Band members who recently had a newborn baby. Representative Wind takes great pleasure in celebrating these newborn members to our community and wishes them all the best! For more information, please contact the District I Office at 320-532-7423.



INTERN APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

Caleb Moon, who will be a senior at East Ridge High School this fall, was looking for an internship in government when a family friend put him in touch with Adam Candler, the Band's Legislative Counsel.

Adam gave Caleb a summer internship to work in the Legislative Branch office, where he performs clerical duties like organizing and labeling files and occasionally gets to assist the attorneys with research. He has also been helping Revisor of Statutes Hanna Valento to scan files that will be uploaded to the Tribal Register on the website.

It's a two-hour drive, but only two days per week, and he's able to carpool with Adam and Hanna.

"Every single thing I'm doing is completely new to me," said Caleb. "I've never witnessed behind-the-scenes government operations. What I've found most interesting is sitting in on Band Assembly meetings every Wednesday to see bills that are approved."

Caleb says he has always had an interest in government, so it seemed like a natural step to seek an internship. Seeing government in action has been a valuable experience — as well as learning about a Native American tribe. Prior to this, all he knew about tribes was what he was taught in public school.



Caleb Moon will be a senior at East Ridge High School.

"I've been loving this internship so far," Caleb said. "It's a really unique opportunity, and I am appreciative of the people here showing me a wider array of experience."

Caleb is currently applying to colleges on the East Coast, where he plans to major in Political Science.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Wednesday, August 4: Confirmation hearings were held for Kelly Applegate, the Chief Executive's nominee for Commissioner of Natural Resources, and Timothy Jackson, nominee for Commissioner of Community Development. Opening statements by the nominees were followed by questions and comments. Both nominations were tabled, and both nominees were confirmed at the August 11 meeting.

Representatives approved the following:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-57-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation and Authorization of Long-Term Savings Funds for the Red Willow Estates Housing Development for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-58-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

— Resolution 19-04-76-21: A Resolution Approving the FY2022 Required Match for the United States Administration for Children and Families Tribal Child Support Enforcement Grant.

Band Assembly tabled Band Assembly Bill 19-04-59-21: A Bill for an Act to establish the Band Commission on the Exercise of Inherent Sovereign Rights of the Indigenous People who comprise the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The Band Assembly has determined that it is in the best interests of the Band that an independent commission be established to evaluate the Band's relationship with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. This Bill creates an independent commission for the purpose of providing to the Band an analysis of possible courses of action. The commission is to complete its work by September 30, 2022.

Two foster care licenses and a contract were approved.

Wednesday, August 11: After affirming the nominations of Tim Jackson for Commissioner of Community Development and Kelly Applegate for Commissioner of Natural Resources, Band Assembly completed budget review for the Chief Executive, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Natural Resources, and Education with summaries by Office of Management and Budget and discussion with representatives from each program.

Wednesday, August 18: Band Assembly approved the following:

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-61-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revisions/transfers for the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-62-21: A Bill repealing Titles 12, 13, and 14 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes ("MLBS") and reenacting them in a revised Title 12, entitled "Community Development."

— Band Assembly Bill 19-04-63-21: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the September 2021 Tribal General Welfare Assistance Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.

Band Assembly also approved four contracts, a foster care license, and provider agreements with Nurse Practitioners Chelsey Hanen and Jennifer Waldriff.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Manoomin is plaintiff in lawsuit: The White Earth Nation of Ojibwe is suing the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in tribal court on behalf of wild rice. The north-central Minnesota band argues that letting Enbridge Energy temporarily pump up to 5 billion gallons of groundwater during construction of the Line 3 oil pipeline puts wild rice — manoomin, in the Ojibwe language — at risk and violates members' treaty rights. It's believed to be the first case brought in a United States tribal court on behalf of the rights of nature, a recent movement gaining momentum around the globe. It seeks to establish legal rights for nature and ecosystems, rather than treating them as property. *Source: mprnews.org.*

Extreme and exceptional drought conditions: The U.S. Drought Monitor showed a portion of northwestern Minnesota experiencing unprecedented "exceptional" drought conditions last month. It is the first time since drought level analysis began in 1999 that any part of Minnesota has been in exceptional drought, which is the worst level possible and can lead to "widespread crop and pasture losses, fire risk, and water shortages that result in water emergencies," according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. *Source: bringmethenews.com.*

Mendota Mdewakanton seek federal recognition: The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community (MMDTC), a 125-member group who can trace their ancestry back to the mid 1700s, is seeking federal acknowledgment from the U.S. Department of the Interior. MMDTC members expect the road to federal recognition will be a long one. Currently, the BIA has six petitions that have each been submitted as far back as 1994, with no time limit set for a decision. An additional five potential tribes are in the pipeline once they supplement their petitions. *Source: tribalbusinessnews.com.*

Ground broken for bison preserve: Dakota County officially broke ground to start construction on a fence that will one day contain about 15 bison in Spring Lake Park Reserve. Several area members of the Minnesota Legislature, along with members of the Dakota County Board, Dakota tribal officials, community leaders, and lawmakers attended the July 30 ceremony. Shelley Buck, president of the Prairie Island Community Tribal Council, said, "My people, the Dakota, lived on this land once with the tatonka, or buffalo, for centuries. We have a special relationship with these beautiful animals." The Prairie Island tribe has had its own buffalo herd since 1992, which has grown to 200. *Source: hometownsource.com.*

State in fourth COVID-19 wave: Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said on August 18 that the state is in its fourth COVID-19 spike. The Department of Health reported 3,054 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19, a large increase in reported cases last seen in April. Case rates are 54 percent higher than they were this time last year. Minnesota's seven-day average was over 1,250 new cases per day, up significantly from about 91 daily at the start of July. It's hitting the unvaccinated hardest, including children who aren't yet eligible for shots. The rate of tests coming back positive was 5.21 percent, above the 5 percent threshold that officials find concerning. *Source: mprnews.org.*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LONG-TIME BIOLOGIST TO LEAD DNR

Kelly Applegate brings 15 years with agency to leadership post

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

For Kelly Applegate, newly confirmed Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band, traditional Anishinaabe practices take precedence over all else.

"Sometimes there's a conflict between western science and our cultural beliefs, but our culture is always first," said Kelly. "We start the day off putting tobacco down. Good things happen when you do that. It's just a way of life."

That said, Kelly doesn't discount the importance of science, especially when working with the State of Minnesota to manage natural resources equitably — something he's been doing for much of his 15 years with the agency.

He sat on the Voigt Task Force with the late Leonard Sam, attended meetings where the State and Bands wrangled over quotas, and worked in the background to bring a series of Commissioners up to speed on treaties, harvests, GLIFWC, quotas, and other topics only a biologist can appreciate.

When Kelly was asked if he would accept the Chief Executive's nomination, he took some time to consider. "With change, I have to take a moment and think about it. I'm not quick to respond," Kelly said. "I thought about it over the Fourth of July weekend, had a conversation the next week, and by then I was accepting and pretty excited about it."

After an interview with Band Assembly, the nomination was confirmed, and Kelly was the new Commissioner. Fortunately, he inherits a Department with many long-term employees to help out — just as Kelly helped former Commissioners.

"Our entire staff is so talented, it's unbelievable," he said. "They are top notch, they truly are. All of our directors, all of our employees. I can think of every one of our employees and how dedicated they are. My job is to keep encouraging them and help them build their careers."

The Department of Natural Resources may not be the biggest of the Executive Branch departments, but it is very complex, including not just Resource Management (which Kelly led and will continue to oversee) but also Enrollments, Archives, Land Management, Cultural Resources, and the Tribal Historic Preservation Department. Fortunately, Kelly has been working in the department since 2006, when he applied for a position



DNR Commissioner Kelly Applegate

as Wildlife Biologist.

Curt Kalk, the Commissioner at the time, brought Kelly on board and helped him learn the ropes, and in 2018, he was promoted to Director of Resource Management. "That really kind of gave me an introduction to management and opened the door to being a leader," he said.

In that role, he's learned what works for him, and what's most important. "I kind of lead with my heart," he said. "It's important to remember the history of our tribe and how we got here today, the ancestors and previous leaders who designed our form of government and signed our treaties, our cultural practices, all the way back to our creation story, why we're here — the food that grows on the water."

His main goal is to do what he can to protect that legacy. "A lot of people are questioning what's going on with our world. They see it burning; they see the smoke. People are not at ease with how it's going. Lakes and rivers and streams are drying up. People are seeing that. It's my job and purpose to help that situation, fix that, do whatever I can to help ensure that our resources are intact for seven generations ahead of us."

Kelly will do it by leading with his heart and coming to work with a smile on his face. "I wake up in the morning and I'm excited to go to work," he said. "When you have that feeling, it's not like work."

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COMMISSIONER'S ORDER BRINGS MASK MANDATE BACK TO RESERVATION

Order set to expire on August 31 — Watch for updates

On July 30, Commissioner of Health and Human Services Nicole Anderson issued Commissioner's Order 21-03, requiring individuals to wear masks or cloth face coverings in government facilities and Band-owned businesses. The Order went into effect August 2 and was set to expire August 31. (See facebook.com/millelacsband or millelacsband.com for updates.)

The Order cites the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation that masks be worn in areas of high risk of transmission, and the CDC finding that the Delta variant of the coronavirus is potentially more transmissible, less responsive to vaccination, and less treatable.

Crow Wing County has been designated by the CDC as an area of substantial risk of transmission, and since many Band members and employees travel to and from the County, "it is necessary to take preemptive measures in order to protect the health and safety of Mille Lacs Band members and other individuals from transmission of the Delta variant," the Order states.

Specific requirements include:

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

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

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

A Commissioner's Order on May 14 ended the tribal government's requirement that masks be worn in all Mille Lacs Band buildings.

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

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Refer to the chart above when determining whether air quality is a concern for you and your family.

AIR QUALITY INDEX BASICS

By **Charlie Lippert** DNR Air Quality Specialist

Mille Lacs Band communities have fallen under an unprecedented number of air quality alerts this summer, due to smoke from wildfires across the U.S. and in Canada — and it looks like the conditions may persist into the fall. The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is a quick reference index for reporting ambient air quality. The EPA has established AQI values for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act.

Each of these pollutants has a national air quality standard set by USEPA to protect public health: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter, including PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

The air pollutant with the highest value is then reported as the area's AQI. What do the values mean? Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. For example, an AQI value of 50 or below represents good air quality, while an AQI value over 300 represents hazardous air quality.

For each pollutant, an AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to an ambient air concentration that equals the level of the short-term national ambient air quality standard for protection of public health. AQI values at or below 100 are generally thought of as satisfactory. When AQI values are above 100, air quality is unhealthy — at first for certain sensitive groups of people, then for everyone as AQI values get higher.

For quick reference, AQI is divided into six categories. Each category corresponds to a different level of health concern.

Each category also has a specific color. The color makes it easy for people to quickly determine whether air quality is reaching unhealthy levels in their communities.

Community AQI can be looked up at USEPA's AirNow website at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. Additionally, during wildfire season to see what the regional air quality monitors and sensors are reporting, a joint USEPA and US Forestry Service effort to track and report wildfire smoke movement and on the ground air quality conditions can be viewed through AirNow Fire and Smoke website at <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

There also are commercial sites that report estimated AQI values to help inform the public. These sites include PurpleAir (<https://www.purpleair.com/>), IQAir (<https://www.iqair.com/air-quality-map/>), and the Weather Underground's WunderMap (<https://www.wunderground.com/wundermap>).

For the Mille Lacs region, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency operates a particulate matter monitor at the Brainerd Regional Airport, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR operates an ozone monitor at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds. The area is also served by five PurpleAir particulate matter sensors located at Ideal Corners by Pequot Lakes, at Vineland, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy in East Lake, at Pokegama west of Pine City, and at Johnson Lake south of Danbury, Wisconsin. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is actively encouraging Minnesotans especially in northern and western Minnesota to participate in citizenry science by purchasing and hosting a PurpleAir particulate matter sensor, as the sensor can be used for air quality trend analysis and serve as an early warning system for wildfire smoke that typically blows in from the western U.S. and from Canada.

DEALING WITH SMOKE — ADVICE FROM THE MPCA

Wildfire smoke contains hundreds of pollutants in the form of tiny particles that can be difficult for our bodies to deal with. Air quality alerts are issued when the amount of pollutants in the air is expected to be unhealthy for sensitive groups (rated orange) or worse. Lately, large parts of Minnesota have experienced conditions rated red and purple on the air quality index scale, which means the air quality is unhealthy or very unhealthy for everyone.

During an air quality alert, reduce your personal contribution to unhealthy air quality by limiting activities that burn fuel. Postpone backyard fires and grilling. Don't use gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment. Reduce vehicle trips and use public transport or carpool. Conserve electricity and hot water. If you can, invest in long-term choices that benefit air quality such as manual or battery-powered lawn and garden equipment, renewable energy sources, and electric vehicles.

To protect your health during an air quality alert: Limit, change, or postpone outdoor physical activity. Take it easy and listen to your body. Stay away from local sources of air pollution like busy roads and recreational fires. If you have asthma, follow your asthma action plan and make sure you have your relief/rescue inhaler with you. Consider setting up a 'clean room' in your house to ensure you have a place where you can breathe easy. See the EPA web page on clean rooms for more information.

Visit www.pca.state.mn.us/air to learn more and stay abreast of changes and threats.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

'Reservation Dogs' smashes stereotypes:

Sterlin Harjo, a Seminole and Muscogee filmmaker from Oklahoma, teamed up with Taika Waititi, a Maori director from New Zealand, on "Reservation Dogs," a new series that debuted last month on FX on Hulu. Filmed entirely on the Muscogee Nation reservation in eastern Oklahoma, the network says the half-hour comedy is the first show on cable TV in which all the writers, directors, and regular characters on the series are Indigenous. "There's been 130-something years of cinema, and we're finally showing ourselves as human beings, which shouldn't be radical, but it is pretty radical today," said Harjo. *Source: startribune.com.*

Former Bay Mills leader confirmed as

Assistant Secretary: The U.S. Senate voted on August 7 to confirm Bryan Newland as Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. Newland now has the solemn responsibility of maintaining the United States' government-to-government relationship with the 574 sovereign tribal nations. In his role, Newland will oversee the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative that was established by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in June. Newland is the former president of the Bay Mills Indian Community, based in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. More than 40 tribes and tribal organizations supported Newland's nomination. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

Totem pole delivered to DC: In late July, tribal leaders and Native American activists delivered a totem pole honoring sacred Indigenous sites to the Biden administration. In an event on the National Mall, the totem pole was welcomed by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and others. Leaders and activists brought the totem pole to places sacred to Native peoples that are at risk, including Snake River, Bears Ears, Chaco Canyon, Black Hills, Missouri River, Standing Rock, Line 3 in Minnesota, and Line 5 in Michigan. *Source: Pyramid Communications news release.*

Native population increasing: Demographic data from Census 2020 shows that the American Indian and Alaska Native population, when counted alone and not combined with any other race, was 3.7 million, which is 1.1 percent of the total population of the United States. In 2010, there were 2.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The growth rate over the past decade was a 27.1 percent increase. More astounding was that the American Indian and Alaska Native in combination population increased by 160 percent from 2010 to 2020. The combination population was 9.7 million people — or 2.9 percent of the total population — up from 5.2 million in 2010. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

New York Times gets Bingo for stereotypes:

Each year, the Native American Journalists Association uses a scorecard called the NAJA BINGO Card to track how publications portray Native Americans through reliance on stereotypes and trigger words, such as "alcohol," "a warrior," "horses," "plight," "poverty," "dying language," and "violence." The "2021 NAJA Media Spotlight Report" found that of the 300 New York Times articles examined, 804 total stereotypes were used. "Violence" was the most frequently used bingo card word, followed by the phrase "vanishing culture." The report concludes that publications should utilize Indigenous sources to ensure there are present voices, instead of casting Native communities in the past tense. *Source: nativenewsonline.net.*

PRAYER WALK FOR BOARDING SCHOOL SURVIVORS

Noojimo'iwewin, the Women's Healing Circle, and the Men's Empowerment Group (MEG) organized a prayer walk in late July to remember the residential school children who never made it home and their survivors. Joe Nayquonabe opened the ceremony with a prayer. The Women's Healing Circle meets Mondays at 5:30 at the old District I Community Center. MEG meets on Wednesdays at 6, also at the old community center.



Left: Carrie Sam, one of the organizers, and Joe Nayquonabe, who gave the invocation. Center: Jason Sam, one of the organizers, took a selfie with some of the marchers. Right: LeeAnn (Niizhoo Gaabawiikwe) Woiteshek and her mother Fran "Frenchy" Benjamin (Dunkley), who is a survivor, were among the participants.

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

By Rose Noonday

This article was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to preserve Rose's teachings and bring them to the next generation.

I grew up in a big family. I had seven brothers and one sister. I was the second youngest. Now I'm the only one left.

I was born and raised in Isle. We all managed to live in a two-room house. I often wonder how we all were able to live in such a small house. It's a big difference from now and then.

But I was also gone a lot, gone away to an Indian boarding school for six years in Pipestone. We were all sent away to school, all except my sister because she was smaller than the rest of us. I would come home in the summer and didn't remember a word in Ojibwe because we had to speak English at school. But Ojibwe would come back to me during the summer time, and I'd learn it all over again.

Me and my siblings were crazy! There were days when all of us kids used to play together. We used to push a big wheel up the hill, and then all get in and ride down. We could do that all day. We didn't have anything else to play with. The kids now want everything they see. I tell my great-grandchildren that when I was young we didn't have anything, but look at all the toys you have now.

During my younger years, we didn't have much. When I would get a dime, I thought that was a lot of money. I always had to work. I think of all the work years ago, hauling water and firewood. Now you can just turn on the faucet or the heat.

In the summertime, I would go with my mom and aunt to pick berries of all kinds – June berries, raspberries, chokecherries, blueberries. My mom would can all that stuff, and sometimes we would sell it.

In the fall, we would harvest wild rice. It was hard for me at first. My mother wanted me to guide her in the boat. I started out good, but I couldn't steer the boat and I kept going towards open water. But eventually I learned how after she told me how to go into the rice paddies. I thought that was fun, and it gave me something to do. Then when we got back, we would bring the rice in and dry it, then parch it, and then my dad and brothers would thrash it with their feet while me and my mother would fan it.

I learned a lot of stuff in my younger years. I used to go with my mom when she would pick roots for medicine. That was many years ago. Now I only remember what sage looks and smells like. Somebody taught me that raspberry root helps with pink eye. You clean it up and let it dry, then take a little bit and put it in warm water and let it dissolve, and then put in the person's eye.

We were also taught some things not to do, like whistle at night. Because when you whistle at night, you're calling spirits. I always listened to my parents when they told me things like that. One of my grandsons says he whistles at night, and I told him, one of these days you're gonna hear something back when you whistle!

BAND MEMBER VOICES A STORY OF HOPE

By **Randell Sam Mille Lacs Band Member**

A young couple from the White Earth Reservation were struggling with addiction. They had a wake-up call one day when their seven children were taken from their custody and placed into foster care. It was time to sober up and get their lives together or lose their family forever. They made the necessary changes needed to make a better life for themselves on the Mille Lacs Reservation. I had the privilege of meeting them over a year ago and asked them today if I could write their story in order to encourage and inspire others facing similar struggles. This is their story of experience, strength, and hope.

Let us start with Douglas B., who I now have the honor of calling my brother in recovery. Doug has a sobriety date of January 16, 2020. I first met Doug while he was a client at a local men's halfway house. He approached me one day and asked if I would mentor him and help him maintain his sobriety. After getting to know Doug and a bit of his background, I knew he was in a good place and had the motivation to do whatever it took to achieve his main goal: to regain custody and be a father to his seven children.

We started with one-on-one talks. Then he started attending local 12-step groups in person and online, as well as other local support groups in our area. With the help of some of the excellent programs provided by the Mille Lacs Band, Doug has come a long way in achieving his goals. Doug is now a licensed driver. He has a good job. He has a vehicle and a home right here in our sober community on the Mille Lacs Reservation. It might not seem much to a non-addict, but for us addicts in recovery these are huge milestones in recovery. Doug is still making the necessary changes in his life to be a better male role model to his children.

JoLynn P. (Jo) came to Mille Lacs after completing her own journey through inpatient treatment and a halfway house. She was reunited with her longtime partner when she and Doug moved into the Mino Bimaadiziwin here in Mille Lacs. Unsure of what to do next, Jo started attending local women's groups, working with some of the programs the Mille Lacs Band has to offer. She is coming out of her shell and meeting new people in recovery. Jo has attended sober camping trips and fellowships, as well as many different recovery meetings. She was willing to do whatever it took to gain a support network she could rely on.

I need to point out that this was all happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many people were struggling with loneliness, isolation, and addiction. So most of the support that she found was through online meetings and conferences. Jo's main goal is to regain custody of the seven children she lost due to her addiction. Jo has also gained her driving privileges, maintained employment, and has stayed in ongoing



After struggling with addiction and finding help at Mille Lacs, Doug and Jo are putting their family back together.

recovery through all of this. I am proud to call her my sister in recovery today.

After living a life controlled by alcohol and drugs, sometimes we addicts don't know what the future will hold for us. The unknown can be frightening. How do we recover our lives again? So we share stories with other addicts to show them that recovery IS possible.

These two individuals have beaten the odds against them. They made the necessary changes in their lives to become better human beings in order to be better parents and to show their children the good way of life. I am happy to announce that they have five of their seven children back at home ... their new home here in Mille Lacs. The other two will be home shortly.

"I USED TO ASK MYSELF, 'WHO MOVES TO A RESERVATION TO GET SOBER?' I HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT TODAY — DOUG AND JO!"

I used to ask myself, "Who moves to a reservation to get sober?" I have an answer to that today — Doug and Jo!

With patience, hard work, the support of members in the community, and a lot of help from Mille Lacs Band programs, these two have overcome the impossible. Success is out there if you want it. I am inspired when I see this family together. Their kids are wonderful, and these kids are now my family as well.

So this story is a message to whoever needs to hear this today. It's never too late. Reach out and accept the help that is offered. Make the right choices, and good things will happen. It doesn't happen overnight. It does take time. It may take a long struggle, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. You will accomplish things you never dreamed of. Doug and Jo are proof that this program works if you are willing to work it. Miigwech.

HEALTH BRIEFS

YOGA FOR HEALING IN DISTRICT II SEPTEMBER 1 AND 8

Research shows that a strong mind-body connection is important to healing past traumas. Yoga can release tension and allow us to open up to the process of healing.

With that in mind, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program has offered Yoga for Healing on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in District II with Deb Newton, Certified Yoga instructor.

It's not too late to get a taste of yoga. Two more sessions will be held on September 1 and 8 at 9 a.m. at the Minisinaakwaang Community Center.

The class is open to Mille Lacs Band community adults 18 and older.

This project is funded by Grant 2017-TW-AX0056 awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

PASSENGER SAFETY IS A SNAP

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

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS

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

FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES AT HHS BUILDING

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



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

For information on CPR/AED, Basic First Aid, Fire Extinguisher Training, Car Seat Training, and free car seats and fire alarms, contact Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk at 320-532-3430.



NIBIIKAA!

Randell Sam passed out lots of water at the powwow August 20–22 — among other duties. Miigwech to all who helped out!

OSHKI-MAAJITAADAA

NEW OPTION FOR A NEW START

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Oshki-maajitaadaa — “Let’s start new together” — is a program offered by Nay Ah Shing Schools to help young community members earn their high school diploma.

The program is the brainchild of the Nay Ah Shing School Board, Principal Lehtitia Weiss, and former Assistant Principal and new Executive Director of Education Byron Ninham.

Sarah Pylvanen, who replaced Byron as Assistant Principal, said the concept has been in the works for a long time as leaders have realized that traditional classroom education does not work for everyone.

“They recognized that there had to be another way to help students earn their diploma and find success after school,” said Sarah. “They dreamed about this project for a while, and it’s come in stages until they hired the teacher.”

That teacher is Paula Hoffman, an experienced educator with a background in workforce development, post-secondary education, and the transition from high school to two-year college. Paula has run her own consulting business and has worked closely with schools in East Central Minnesota. She is completing her dissertation in education and workforce development. “My passion has been building bridges culturally to access education,” said Paula.

“Paula jumped in with both feet and has started the program already,” Sarah said.

“The program is not willy-nilly,” said Paula. “It’s based on other successful programs, but it’s Mille Lacs Band flavored.”

Oshki-maajitaadaa offers two alternatives: a day program held Monday through Thursday during the regular school day, and an evening program that includes more remote and hybrid learning and is designed for those who have daytime jobs and/



Teacher Paula Hoffman and Assistant Principal Sarah Pylvanen are helping to make Oshki-maajitaadaa into a great option for community members looking to complete their high school diploma at Nay Ah Shing.

or children to care for.

Students will work with Paula to determine how many credits they need, and in what areas. They will design their own programs based on their interests and will be able to receive credit for work, volunteering, and cultural activities. One of the current students has already earned credit for lifeguard training and a blanket-making workshop.

“The plan will be based on where they’re at, where they want to go, and how to get them there,” Paula said.

The classroom will include a “living room” area, a coffee corner, a quiet space, adjustable standing desks, a collaborative work zone, and a “graffiti board” for students to share positive messages. There is also a separate hallway with more study areas. The main rule is simple: respect yourself and everybody else.

Paula is grateful to other programs like Empower Learning Center in Hinckley and the Cloquet Alternative Learning Program, which have shared ideas and advice.

Paula also points out that the program is not for everyone; some students require more regular help and hands-on instruction. “If you need structure, this may not be your best choice,” she said. “You’re going to have to want to be here.”

The ultimate goal is to help students who may have struggled to get a fresh start — as the name “Oshki-maajitaadaa” indicates.

“Just because you’ve struggled in the past, that doesn’t mean you can’t succeed,” said Sarah. “It is hard work to get through school, and some of our students have more challenges than others. We want to meet them where they are.”

Paula said, “We want Nay Ah Shing students to be proud of the fact that they’ve earned that diploma and are ready to contribute to their communities. They own this. The success is in their hands. All I have to do is hand them some work gloves.”

FORAGING AND PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES

Photography exhibition is September 9 from 1 to 6 p.m. at District I Aquatic and Fitness/Community Center

Members of the Mille Lacs Band community had the opportunity to learn about Foraging and Photography at a Summer Woodland Workshop series this summer, which will wrap up with a Photography and Foraging Exhibit and Event on September 9, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the new District I Aquatic and Fitness/Community Center.

The workshop series began in July with photography training and a plant walk at the Rice Lake Federal Wildlife Refuge, just down the highway from the District II Community Center. Photographer Della Nohl and ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk worked with the participants in this first of the workshop events, which included camera use information and a plant walk.

The second day of the workshop series, August 11, was held at Kathio State Park. The day began with a “get to know your camera” training by Nohl, then a plant walk with Black Elk, followed by training on photo editing for all the participants.

Black Elk and Nohl also presented photography and foraging information to students of the Onamia Schools Community Education program on August 12, also at Kathio State Park. This additional event for students was a collaboration with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health Department SHIP and Tribal Tobacco grant.

The third and final part of the series is a Wild Plant Photography Exhibition and Event, which will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on September 9 at the new District I Aquatic and Fitness/



Band members learned plant identification and photography skills from Linda Black Elk and Della Nohl. Phot by Della Nohl.

Community Center. The event, which will be free and open to the public, will showcase a display of plant photos taken by the participants of the workshop as well as photos by Nohl, a professional photographer who is also a member of the White Earth tribal community. A presentation on Photography and Foraging will be given at 4 p.m. by Black Elk and Nohl.

The Summer Woodland Workshop series, including the upcoming exhibition, is made possible through a grant from the East Central Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Additional funds for this series are provided through the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health Department MDH SHIP and Tribal Tobacco grants.

For more details, email: Colleen.McKinney@HHS.millelacsband-nsn.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Mille Lacs Band’s Scholarship Program is accepting electronic applications for the 2021–2022 academic year. The applications are available on the Band’s website.

Tribal members need to create an account and find the Scholarship Program under the SERVICES menu. Click on the EDUCATION drop down and look for SCHOLARSHIPS.

For those not enrolled (descendants), find the application under RESOURCES at the bottom of the home page (millelacsband.com). Scroll past the Aanjibimaadizing information. Under the heading “Electronic Forms,” you will find the MLB Scholarship Application (needed annually for college students), the Educational Enrichment program (to be used for conferences, trainings, community ed, and education-related camps), the Award Request (Academic Achievement for diplomas, degrees, and certifications), and Scholarship Semester/Quarter report (for college students to submit their next quarter or semester billing, class registration, and previous term grades).

As always, please update your mailing address and contact Michele at mlb.scholarships@millelacsband.com or 1-800-709-6445, ext. 4775, if you have submitted forms or requests and did not receive a response, a check, or the help you were requesting.



PLANT WALK WITH LINDA — PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW IS SEPTEMBER 9

Ethnobotanist Linda Black Elk, a former employee of the Mille Lacs Band's DNR, was back in the area recently to lead a workshop on wild plants and photography. Students joined Linda for a plant walk at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park on August 11. On Thursday, September 9, from 1 to 6 p.m., there will be a photography show and presentations. See page 8 for more.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

MINNESOTA INDIAN TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program (MITTP) provides scholarships to American Indian students who are pursuing any pre-K through grade 12 career in an educational setting. In addition to teaching degrees, other eligible academic programs include, but are not limited to, American Indian language and culture educators, early childhood educators, counseling or mental health services, paraprofessional services, administration, school health care, and social work.

This program is currently offered at six universities and colleges and is a partnership between postsecondary institutions and school districts, and it provides collaboration and support for aspiring American Indian education professionals. Scholarship funding is granted to applicants who are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe, or a first- or second-degree descendant of an enrolled member.

Prospective students who are interested in applying for the Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program must meet the following eligibility. Applicants must:

- Be accepted into or currently attending one of the following participating, postsecondary institutions: Augsburg University, Bemidji State University, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Moorhead State University, St. Cloud State University, University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- Be pursuing a pre-K through grade 12 career in an educational setting.
- Have and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- Meet the requirements of their attending institution.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Priority is given to students who are enrolled tribal members, and then to first- and second-generation descendants. Students who have applied for the Minnesota Indian Scholarship through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education are strongly encouraged to also apply for the MITTP.

To learn more, please reach out to the applicable college or university of attendance.

Augsburg University: Jamie Randall, 612-330-1144; Bemidji State University: Chrissy Koch, 218-755-2141; Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College: Sara Montgomery, 218-879-0859; Moorhead State University: Jessica Swedberg, 218-477-2084; St. Cloud State University: Barb Miller, 320-308-5447; University of Minnesota Duluth: Heidi Labyad, 218-726-8378.

DISTRICT III FIREARMS TRAINING IS SEPTEMBER 18

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police and DNR Enforcement will be hosting a Firearms Safety Class in District III on September 18, 2021, at the Hinckley-Sandstone Sportsman Training Center from 8 a.m. until noon. Parent or guardian must attend the first 30 minutes of field day. Any questions, please contact Sgt. Jason Rice at 320-532-7540 or jason.rice@mltpd.com. (For District II firearms training information, see page 16.)

Send your news tips to news@millelacsband.com.



Health and Human Services Diabetes Program presents

8-Week Weight Loss Challenge Open to Band Members and Band Employees

September 8 – November 3

Registration is required. To register for the Weight Loss Challenge, you must have your starting weight recorded at one of the clinics on September 8, 2021 between 8 AM – 5 PM:

Ne-la-Shing Clinic (District 1)
East Lake Clinic (District 2) or
Aazhoomog Clinic (District 3)

Winners will be awarded based on the highest percent of body weight lost during the 8 week time frame.

Teams of 3

1st place: \$600 total (\$200 each)
2nd place: \$300 total (\$100 each)
3rd place: \$150 total (\$50 each)

Individual

1st place: \$500
2nd place: \$300
3rd place: \$100



Contact Jackie Braun, Diabetes Program Coordinator with any questions: 320-362-0020 or email: Jackie.Braun@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov



SMILES AND TEARS AT RETURN OF POWWOW

The joy was evident as dancers made their way into the Iskigamizigan Powwow arena on August 20 — a needed return to normalcy after 17 months of pandemic reality.

On Saturday, August 21, the joy was replaced for a time with remembrance and sorrow, as Band members reflected on the loss of Jonathan Holmquist in a fishing accident this spring.

Three men who survived due to actions of community members shared their grief and their gratitude with their heroes and John's family.

Tony Pike, Dan Thomas, and Sean Racelo thanked Curt Kalk, Luther Sam, and Officer Josh Hemsforth for risking their own lives to save others, and they expressed their grief at the loss of their friend. The heroes and family were given Pendleton blankets in recognition of their deeds and their loss.

As John's family members danced into the circle to a song from the Little Otter Singers, they were overwhelmed by a crowd of friends who shared zhawenindiwin — compassion, kindness, and unconditional love.



AANJIBIMAADIZING

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FUNDING AVAILABLE

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

"We really want to make sure that everyone who is eligible receives this assistance," said Aanjibimaadizing Executive Director Tammy Wickstrom. "Just be aware that the funding comes from the Office of Family Assistance (TANF), which means there are strict guidelines for who can apply, and how."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact a case manager to apply. (See below.)

Candace Benjamin	Director of Case Management	320-532-7574	320-362-0014
Kaari Weyaus	Case Manager	320-532-7544	218-316-2437
Winona Crazy Thunder	Case Manager	218-768-5337	320-364-3049
Renee Allen	Case Manager	320-384-6240	320-591-0559
Dawn Paro	Case Manager	612-746-4811	612-368-9417
Winona Spaulding	Case Manager	612-746-4824	612-360-7219
Rosa Sam	Case Manager		320-364-3187
Julie Peterson	Case Manager	320-532-7559	320-290-8729

Enterprise Academy

ARE YOU AN ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR?
WANT TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

LEARN MORE AND APPLY TODAY!



CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures will provide a stipend to those students who graduate from the program with a completed business plan.



Apply to participate in the Enterprise Academy, where you'll learn from business experts and create your own individual business plan. Classes are held once per week for 12 weeks and feature training specifically tailored to you, with one-on-one assistance available to help create a realistic business plan to serve as your road map.

Those selected for the program will be asked to contribute up to a \$100 fee on a sliding scale; if this presents a barrier, we will work with you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Abdi Daisane, Program Officer | Jessy Beto, Program Specialist
(320) 224-1713 | enterprise@ifound.org

Beth Gruber, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Director of Planning and Community Engagement
(320) 532-8810 | bgruber@mllcv.com



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

This Enterprise Academy cohort is supported through a partnership with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures.

YOUNG LEADER PIVOTS TO BROADBAND

James Clark (Ozaawaanakwad), a Mille Lacs Band descendant who works for the Band through the Lead for Minnesota (LFA) program, has been selected as one of 50 fellows of the American Connection Corps (ACC), a



James Clark

new program focused on bridging the digital divide, led by Land O'Lakes and LFA and funded through the support of 20 additional partners.

James grew up in the north metro but spent a lot of time at Mille Lacs in his youth with relatives including his great-grandparents, the late Jim (Naawigiiziban) and Jessie Clark (Mookwewidamookweiban), who were well-known teachers, writers, and speakers of the Ojibwe language. "It gives me the drive to keep going, knowing they'd be happy that someone in their family is working hard to help revitalize the language," said James.

With LFA, a national nonprofit that helps outstanding young people become civic leaders, James has been providing support to the book-making project, and he's been assisting Samantha Peet with weekly online language classes for youth in the Ge-Niiganizijig program.

He has also been working with Elders to gather Ojibwe-language samples to add to a repository of language-learning materials. He has enjoyed making connections with Elders and native speakers around the Reservation.

"I can't tell you how over the moon I was that the Band approved me working as a fellow," James said. "I love what I do. To me, it's not work. I haven't worked a day since I got here."

As part of a national network, James and other ACC Fellows will have access to national training on community organizing, broadband, and digital inclusion, and a network of LFA leaders nationwide. Over the course of the application window, the program received hundreds of applications from emerging leaders across the country. After an extensive interview process, the Fellows program selected 50 individuals to serve as community leaders across the country.

As an ACC fellow, James will help ensure that digital equity is woven across the Mille Lacs language revitalization efforts, which includes ensuring that Elders have access to and understand how to use technology tools and that youth have access to devices and hubs for internet access to attend online language trainings. He will also work with the tribal leadership to determine broadband infrastructure gaps and get connected to opportunities for funding and technical assistance.

"I only have a calendar year, so my goal is to do what I can, knowing I can't achieve everything," said James. "LFA and ACC set high bars because they want us to do good things. They want to show what young people can do."

James is also eager to contribute to the Band and to help preserve the language and culture that were so important to his family. "I don't do this for me," he said. "I do this for those who came before me and those who will come after."

NATURAL RESOURCES

FROM SMALL FRY TO FINGERLINGS

Hatchery grows along with walleyes

Chinoodin Weyaus, Harvey Goodsky, and Keith Wiggins have been busy netting fingerlings and stocking area lakes this summer.

By Brett Larson Inaajimowin Editor

Aquaculture Biologist Keith Wiggins came back to Mille Lacs in 2018 to work on a fledgling hatchery cobbled together by biologists Carl Klimah and Chad Weiss, under the direction of former Commissioner of Natural Resources Susan Klapel.

When he first saw the hatchery, he said at the time, "My first thought was 'Oh no!' There's a reason we call it 'the Frankenhatchery.'"

Fast-forward three years, and the Frankenhatchery has exceeded its expectations, with 8 million oga (walleye) fry and 65,000 oga fingerlings being stocked in 13 area lakes, including Platte, Sullivan, Ann, Shakopee, and Nammachers.

"Last year we put 800,000 in Ann Lake and around half a million in Shakopee," said Keith.

On an August morning, Keith was out on the "giigoonh ponds" (former wastewater treatment ponds) behind Grand Casino in District I, pulling fyke nets full of "phase 1 fingerlings," with help from Harvey Goodsky and Chinoodin Weyaus, an intern with the WEX program.

Most of the ogaawag were 2-3 inches, with a few at 4-5. "Those are the cannibals," said Keith.

The fingerlings grew from fry that were hatched in the Band's facility near Shakopee Lake, with eggs taken from speared and netted walleyes. The fry were brought to the giigoonh ponds in early June and grew fast into August.

"Those eggs would've ended up in the garbage, so we are truly making something from nothing here," said Keith, looking fondly at a thousand or so of his "babies."

The goal of the hatchery program is to create opportunities for Band members (and others) to catch fish within the 1837 ceded territory.

Eventually, they'd like to open some of the giigoonh ponds to Elders and youth for fishing.

That may be a few years off, as Keith and the crew are still dealing with challenges like algae blooms, caused by abnormally high temperatures and no rain, which can kill fish.

He's also experimenting with aerators to make sure the shallow ponds receive enough oxygen. Some of the full-grown fish pulled from the fyke nets show that plenty are making it through the winter.

"I hate that my job exists, but I love doing it," said Keith. "In a perfect world, you wouldn't need fish hatcheries, and the fact that we do means things are out of whack."

The fisheries department is still set on its goal of building a brand new hatchery one day and are currently working towards that vision. Until that time, they will continue stocking and hatching oga, to help expand tribal fishery resources.



NEW LEAD LICENSING AGENT

LeRoy Day is the new licensing agent based at the DNR headquarters in District I. LeRoy is a District Ila Band member who has been working at Grand Casinos for more than 20 years, as security director, executive host, and player development supervisor, among other roles. "I decided to retire out of the casino, and took a job for two years in a non-Band organization, but I got tired of that and decided to come back to the Tribe to put my skills to use," said LeRoy. His favorite part of the job so far? "Meeting people. I've seen everybody around, but I've never had the chance to know their name and talk with them face-to-face." LeRoy's law enforcement degree gives him experience working with rules and regulations, and he honed his clerical skills at Grand Casinos. As Lead Licensing Agent, he supervises agents in Districts II and III and the urban area and tracks all data on licenses for fishing, hunting, and harvesting rice and other foods and medicines.



Monte Fronk, left, has been instrumental in bringing pet clinics to all Reservation districts. Carrie Openshaw, center, said the Secondhand Hounds team enjoys their trips to the Reservation. Gary Branchaud, right, has befriended and rescued countless dogs as he has made the rounds in his garbage truck. Photos courtesy of Secondhand Hounds.

PET CLINICS HELD IN DISTRICT II

Pet clinics were held in Minisinaakwaang and Chiminising in late July and early August.

"The pet clinics are part of the Band's CRR or community risk reduction efforts," said Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk. "These clinics reduce the risks of unplanned litters or disease that could spread between pets."

Monte said "miigwech" to District II Representative Marvin Bruneau for sponsoring the clinics and to Amanda and Mandi from the community centers for taking registrations for the surgeries and wellness checks.

After the Chiminising event, Carrie Openshaw, Programs Director for Secondhand Hounds, said, "We had an amazing clinic in Isle. Our team loved every minute of it. MNSNAP did



30 surgeries, and we saw 59 wellness patients. We loved the community and met so many great people."

Clinics will be held in Aazhoomog (Lake Lena) on September 4 and 5 and in Hinckley on September 18 and 19. See right for details.



SUMMER FISH SCHOOL

Nay Ah Shing summer school students in grades three through eight visited the powwow grounds in July to learn from DNR fisheries staff Carl Klimah (left), Jaylyn LaBine (right), Keith Wiggins, and Harvey Goodsky about invasive species, the DNR's hatchery program, and other topics. Teachers Brittny Wold, Ray Jackson, Matt Sell, Kristie Vance, and staff member Danielle Borchert also had fun and learned a few things. Miigwech to our teachers and DNR staff!



PET CLINICS SET FOR DISTRICT III

A summer of pet clinics concludes in District III this month.

In Aazhoomog (Lake Lena), spay/neuter surgeries by MNSNAP will be on September 4 and wellness checks on September 4 and 5 at Aazhoomog Community Center.

In Hinckley, surgeries will be September 18 and wellness checks September 18 and 19 at Meshakwad Community Center, 38043 Hinckley Rd, Hinckley, MN 55037.

Supplies and meals will be provided at both events.

Call the community centers to sign up for surgeries. Wellness exams are first come, first served. District members are given priority. Remaining spots may be filled by members from other districts.

District II clinics were held July 24 and 25, and District Ila clinics on August 7 and 8.

The annual District I SIRVS Clinic will be held the second weekend in November.

Mark your calendar for 2022 clinics!

Aazhoomog (Lake Lena): April 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 2. Second Hand Hounds (SHH) wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3. District III Community Center.

Hinckley: April 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, April 16. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17 at Meshakwad Community Center.

Minisinaakwaang (East Lake): May 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 7. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, at District II East Lake Community Center.

Chiminising: May 2022. MN SNAP surgeries Saturday, May 21. SHH wellness Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, at District Ila (Isle) Chiminising Community Center.

The annual District I SIRVS Clinic will be held the second weekend in November.

GAA-IZHICHIGENG MEWIZHA

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

Noongom gaawin ginataa-mawadishiwesimin gaa-izhichigewaad. Mewizha wii-mawadisawaad awiwa gomaa-pii endanid, gaawin gego ge-bimiwinigowaad, ogii-ayaaziinaawaa mii-go gaa-zhi-mitosewaad. Oshkaya'aag-wiin gaawin ingodano chi-aya'aag dash-wiin gii-sanagadini-bimosewaad. Mii-dash-igo ingiw gaa-minwendangig mawadishiwewaad. Gegoo-go gaye gii-onji-mawadishiwewag wii-waabandiwaad, ezhiwebak wii-wiindamaadiwaad, mashikiki meshkwadonnaaadiwaad, ashandiwaad neboowaagadinig, eyamowaaad wiisiniwin, biizikaagan ayaabajitoosigwaa wenji-dago wii-ta-dibaaajimotaadiwaad.

Wewiikaa gii-waabandiwaag Anishinaabeg gaa-onji-mawadishidiwaad miinawaa gikendamowaad ezhi-ayaawaad. Chi-aya'aag owii-mawadisawaan chi-aya'aan gomaa-pii endaninjin waa-mawadishiwewag ozhiitawag bimiwanaaniwakewag gemaa bebezhiweg waaboowayaan miinawaa waa-miinaawaad mewadisawaajin mii iw ezhiwanewaad. Gigizheb maajaawag maagizhaa gabe-giizhik da-bimosewag. Ji-dagoshinowaad ezhaawaad gii-dagoshinowaad idash zaginiiniidwaad weweni gii-izhi-anamikodaadiwaad aw ikwe mewadisind mii-go iwidi endazhi-jibaakwed izhaa mewadisigojin ashamaad miinawaa gii-maminwabii'aad miiwapii gaye-wiin nemadabid mawadisaaad mewadisigowaajin. Giishpin onaagoshinig dagoshinowaad mewadishiwewag gaawin ginwezh mawadisidiwwag akawe anwe bi-aawag nibe'indwaa baanimaa waabaninig mii-dash gabe-giizhik mawadisidiwaad da-dibaaajimotaadiwwag, bizindaadiwwag, gikinoo'amaadiwwag onji-gikendaasowag, mii-dash-igo apane baapiwaad.

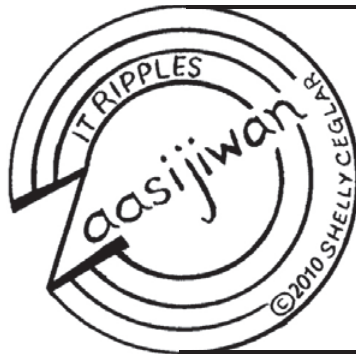
Igaye ininiwwag dibaaajimowag giiosewaad, giigooyikewaad, miinawaa enanokiwaad. Ikwewag da-dibaaajimowag ezhihigewaad eyinizekwewaad eyikwaasowaad. Diisaajimotaadiwwag manoomin dazhiikamawaad, mawizowin igaye mii-dash-igo apane baapiwaad. Giishpin abinoojiiwwag ayaawaad, mii-go gaye wiinawaa dibishkoo endoodawindwaa. Noongom naanimidana daso-diba'igan iwidi indaa-mawadishiwe ji-oganaawaabandamowag mewadisag omazinaatesijigani-makak epii-chi-gaaganooaad awiwa imaa ogiigidowining gaawin booch ninoondaziin genawaabandamaan ozaam ombiigwewe i'iw gaa-giigido-makakoons. Mii-dash ba-izhi-giiweyaan biskaab.

Remembering Old Customs

Today we do not know how to visit each other as they did a long time ago. In the past, if they wanted to visit someone who lived a few miles away, because they did not have any transportation, they had to walk. For young people it was no problem, but for the elderly, it was not so easy to walk. And they are the ones who liked to visit! There was always a reason for these visits for them: socializing, carrying news, exchanging medicines, caring for the ill, eating food, or [sharing] clothing they no longer needed, but mostly it was to exchange news.

People did not see one another very often, so visiting was more for socializing and the knowledge of each other's welfare. An elderly couple may decide to visit another elderly couple, so the visiting couple might pack a blanket each and whatever they want to bring as a gift for the people they are visiting. They start early, as it may be an all-day walk. When they arrive and all the greetings are done, the lady of the house will usually head for the cooking area and will not visit until her company has been fed and made comfortable. If the visitors came late in the day or evening, the visit was not long: first, for rest they were offered a place to sleep, but later the next day, they spent visiting all day, telling, listening, teaching, and learning from each other, and always laughing [as they talked].

Men shared stories of hunting, fishing, and working. Women talked about cooking and sewing. Together, the couples would talk about ricing, berry picking, and would always laugh. If the visitors brought children or the hosts had children, they were included in the visit. [Usually these turned out to be two night visits with no television, no telephone, and no radio.] Today, I can go visit 50 miles away, watch my host's TV while he talks to someone on the phone, and I can't even hear the TV because the radio is blaring. And I come home the same night.



Dagwaaging—When it is Fall

Dagwaaging, nindikid. “Aaniin endaso diba’iganek diba’igiiziswaan? Noongom, ningikinoo’amaagoz. Nimbizindam. Ningikinoo’amaage. Gaye, ninandagikendaanan. Gabe-giizhik, daso-diba’igan ningaagiikid, “Agindaasodaa!” Nindagindamawaanaang awesiiyaw. Ninzaagi’aa makoons, Hope izhinikaazo. Nindazhimaanaang bineshiyawag. Nimbimosemin agwaiing. Ongow abinoojiiwwag gichi-odaminowag. Nindasigibii’igemin. Nindagindaasomin. Nindojibwemomin. Giweyaan, nindanweb idash ninibaa. Gashkii-dibikad. Mii’iw.

(When it is fall, I say, “What time is it clock?” Today, I go to school. I listen. I teach. Also, I seek to learn. Every day, every hour, I speak, “Let’s all read!” We read about wild animals. I love a bear cub. Hope she is named. We talk about birds. We walk outside. Those children they really play. We write numbers. We count. We speak Ojibwe. When I go home, I rest and I sleep. The night is dark. That’s all.)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waabooz—as in father
Miigwech—as in jay
Aaniin—as in seen
Moos—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Dash—as in about
Igiw—as in tin
Ikidog—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.

Clock: An easy pattern using numbers

Aaniin endaso diba’iganek? What thusly unit is it? (VII’s) “It is...” verbs.
Diba’iganek.—It is such at time.
Naawakwe.—It is noon.
Aabita-dibikad.—It is half-way-night.
Ningo diba’iganek.—It is 1 o’clock.
Niizho diba’iganek.—It is 2 o’clock.
Niso diba’iganek.—It is 3 o’clock.
Gii-niyo diba’iganek.—It was 4 o’clock.
Wii-naano-diba’iganek.—It will be 5:00.
Niizho diba’iganek **ashi aabita**: It is 2 o’clock and half-way. (2:30)

Niswi—3

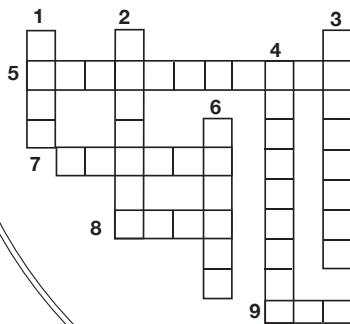
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- three
- I sleep
- Build a fire!
- wild animals
- how? or what? or Greetings!

Across:

- S/he is named so.
- halfway
- and (in counting)
- Short for No!



Niizh—2

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

- A. Gigizhebaa Ningoshkoz. Ninoondawaag bineshiyaw.
- B. Gekek onandawaabandaan miijin. Opichiwwag aazhikwewag.

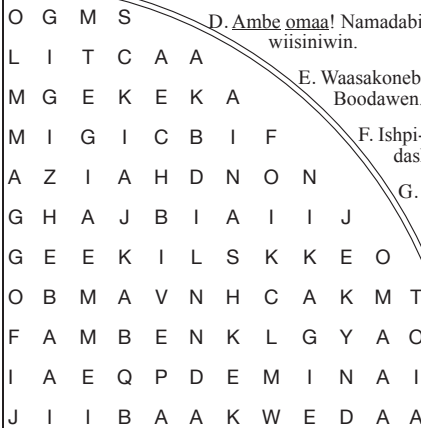
- C. Animosh, migi. Bimibaatoos. Gwaashwani. Gaa!

- D. Ambe omaa! Namadabig! Gigizhebaa-wiisiniwin.

- E. Waasakonebidoon gizhaabikizigan. Boodawen. Jiibaakwedaa!

- F. Ishpi-giizhidag. Dakayaa dash noodin agwaiing.

- G. Inashke! Nikag izhaawag zhaawanong.



Niiwin—4

Aaniin endaso diba’iganek?

Diba’igiiziswaan—clock, watch
Diba’igaan—minutes
Ishkwaa—after Jibwaa—before
Ningodwaaso diba’igaans ishkwaa niso-diba’iganek.
It is 6 minutes after 3:00. This pattern for time 1 to 29 minutes after the hour, change numbers.
Midaaso diba’igaans jibwaa niyo diba’iganek.
It is 10 minutes before 4:00 (or 3:50).
31 to 1 minute before the next hour.
There are also informal times:
Waaban.—It is dawn.

Goojitoon! Try it!

Translation below.

- ____ (2) diba’iganek, niwii-izhaa zaaga’iganing.
- ____ (5) diba’iganek ashii aabita. Nimaajaa. Giwii-izhaa na gaye?
- Gigii-nibaa na aabita-dibikak ____ (12:30).
- Nimbakade. Niwii-wiisin noongom. (12:00) ____.
- Nimaamaa anokii wiisiniwigamigong. Maajaa midaaso diba’igaans jibwaa (4) ____ diba’iganek.

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. It is morning. I wake up. I hear the birds. B. A hawk he looks for food. Robins they scream. C. The dog, he barks. He runs. He jumps. NO! D. Come here! You all sit down! Morning food—Breakfast. E. Turn on the stove. Build a fire! Let’s all cook! F. It is late morning. It is cool and windy outside. G. Look! Canadian geese they are going to the south.
Niswi—3 **Down:** 1. Niso 2. Ninibaa 3. Boodawen 4. Awesiiyaw 6. Aaniin **Across:** 5. Izhinikaazo 7. Aabita 8. Ashii 9. Gaa
Niiwin—4 1. When it is 2-Niizho o’clock, I want to go to the lake. 2. It is 5-Naano o’clock and halfway (5:30). I am leaving. Do you want to go, too? 3. You were asleep? when it was half-way-night and halfway (12:30 a.m.)? 4. I am hungry. I want to eat now. It is noon. Naawakwe. 5. My mother works at a restaurant. She leaves when it is 10 minutes before 4-Niyo o’clock (3:50).
There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author’s written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA’IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 pio@glifwc.org.

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FUN WITH OJIBWEMOWIN

An Elder shared these old sayings with the Inaajimowin in 2001.

Nibi, nibi kinangoji gaawin ingobangigaa jimnikwengiban. (Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink.)
Zhumingwenin, gakina eyaad akiing gawiiizhu-miingwetaag. (Smile, and the whole world smiles with you.)
Gego agimaaken gibaakaakwensimag jib-waabaaskaweowaad. (Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.)
Manashkosiwen eshkwaagagizhaateg. (Make hay while the sun shines.)
Bizindawgigichiyaag aamag. (Listen to your Elders.)
Gego gagweaawiken ayaa wisiwan. (Don’t try to be who you aren’t.)
Miigiwen aanind eyaman. (Share.)

OUR PEOPLE ARE SACRED

To report suspected human trafficking, call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tip line:

1-866-347-2423

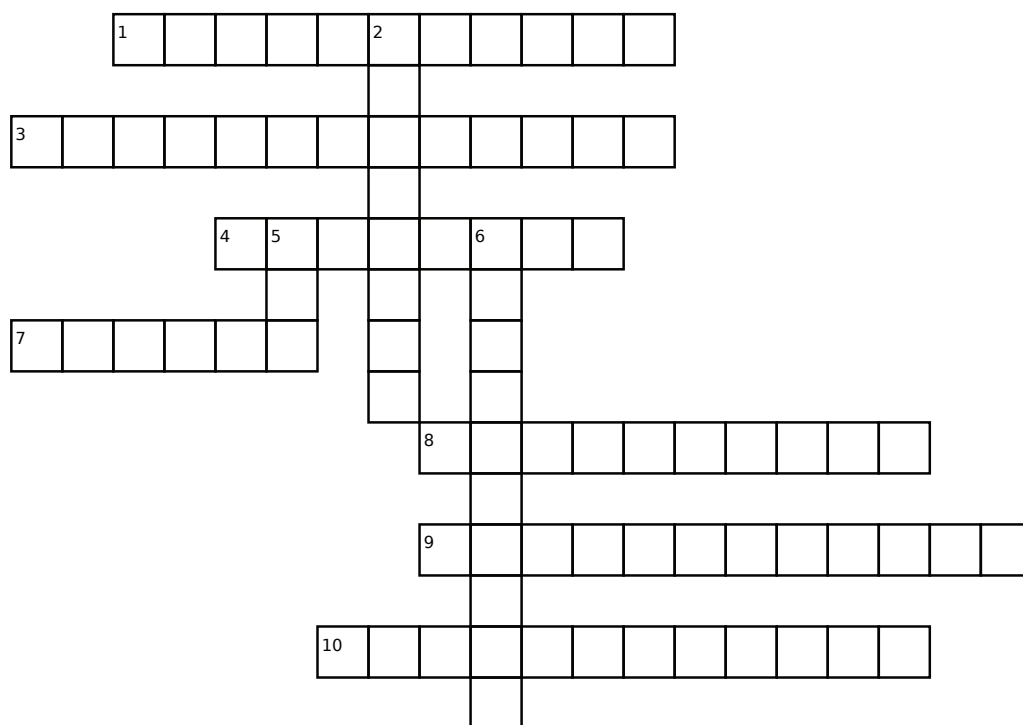
If you are a victim and need help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

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

AAZHAWAAKWASING WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member



Down:

2. Ningii-pizindawaa a'aw _____ nibaad. (I heard my daughter when she slept.)
5. Wiikaa ___ bizaan-ayaa? (Does s/he ever be quiet?)
6. Gigii-pizindoonin _____. (You were heard by me when you were eating.)

Across

1. You listen to me.
3. You are listened to by me.
4. They are sleeping.
7. late, ever, seldom.
8. They are eating.
9. I see it!
10. _____ ina i'iw onaagaans (Do you see the cup?)

CULTURE COLUMN

MANOOMIN

By Nazhike

Mille Lacs Band Member

As Anishinaabe, we know that the prophecy of the "land where the food grows on Water" led us here from the east. Following the prophecy took trust in the Manidoog, trust in the one that had the vision. Our people were so connected, they were able to have visions of the future, visions that led us to safety even though it may not seem like it. We have language intact, teachings still remembered, and ceremonies being performed. Now the return of Wenabozho. Wenabozho na gidayaa?



As we were getting to this land, the food that grows on water was bountiful. Not being without a labor of love, labor of healing (Brenda Child), the Anishinaabe knew that taking part of the Harvest was a highly spiritual activity. After all, it was a vision from centuries past that led our people, through generations, to where we are today. Those that started the journey knew they may not be the ones to find this place, but they also knew that the Anishinaabe would.

We are all connected in the present, future, and past. Through our ancestors' and our energy, they reap the rewards with us every time we harvest, every time we eat, set a dish, Ashamind Awiya. Physically, they did not make it. Spiritually they are still here. You ever simply thought about ricing, the Drum, heard the language, and you felt an overwhelming sense of pride, power and distinction? That is your spirit recognizing the energy and

getting a charge. The charge of energy from our ancestors' actions is still among us. Everything they did contributed to a cycle of energy that is still providing blessings for us today. What are we doing to contribute to the generations ahead?

Nowadays, Anishinaabe are seeking out energy. Teachings. Knowledge. It is held within our activities, our way of life and our language. There is an inner pull that tries to bring us to our ways. Our Ways. Activities, Ceremonies, Language. Ricing is one of those activities that hold a TON of energy. There is so much work that goes into it, and work is energy. Keeping your mind positive and intentions good transfers to the rice from making the knockers, to ricing on the lake, to parching and winnowing, to feeding your family and community, then all the way to eating the rice. A long transmission of energy from one person can have an impact on many. Imagine if 100 shinaabe rice. How much energy would that produce?

Ricing will keep us safe. The rice will keep us safe. The land where the food grows on water will keep us safe. Manoomin-keng will keep our future safe.

Manoomin. There is plenty of knowledge in the Manoomin. Traditional and contemporary. We will learn about ancient knowledge and biology. Math, planning, teamwork, connection. We rely on one another to keep energy flowing. If you know how to rice, even a little bit, it would help someone else learn that much more. A little bit goes a long way, from asemaa to knowledge. A little bit of energy can go a long way — hundreds of miles or years. A little bit of rice can go a long way. Ask anyone that has ever cooked a little bit and fed a village.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike Mille Lacs Band Member

Using the Ojibwe language builds a mindset that changes how you look at the world.

The tree isn't a just a tree, an inanimate object. It is Mitigwaabiwinini, a spiritual being that has agreed to come help the Anishinaabe.

The lake isn't just a lake, it is a source of bimaadiziwin and there is a Manidoo in every body of water. It is also relational.

Where are you in relation to another being? Yourself? An object? Your perspective changes and life becomes a bit more understood.

The language is a strong spiritual sound that I imagine sounds like music in the spirit world. It also shows our connections.

Nibaawag = They are sleeping.

(Nib bah wug)

Wiisiniwag = They are eating.

(Wee sin nih wug)

Gibizindoon = You listen to me.

(Gib biz zin doon)

Gibizindoonin = You are listened to by me.

(Gib biz zin doon in)

Niwaabandaan = I see it!

(Nih wah bun dawn)

Giwaabandaan ina i'iw onaagaans. = Do you see the cup?

(Gih wah bun dawn inuh ih' ew owe nah gahns)

Wiikaa = late, ever, seldom.

(Wee kah)

Wiikaa ina bizaan-ayaa? = Does s/he ever be quiet?

(Wee kah inuh biz zawn ay yah)

Gigii-pizindoonin wiisiniyan. = You were heard by me when you were eating.

(Gih gee piz zin doon nin wee sin nee yun)

Ningii-pizindawaa a'aw indaanis nibaad. = I heard my daughter when she slept.

(Nin gee piz zin daw wah uh ow in dawn nis nib bod.)

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

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

Gichi-noonde-nibaayaan gaa-izhi-gawishimoyaan wiinibaayaan. I was so sleepy I lay down to go to sleep.

Gaawiin aapiji gii-nibaasii dibikong gaa-onji-noondeshing i'iw ezhichigepan. He didn't sleep much last night so that's why he couldn't go on with what he was doing.

Awasiigakiiw gidaa-ani-nibaamin. We can go sleep on the other side of the portage.

Gaa-naningowed igo naa 'a nebaad. Ganabaj maanaabandam. The sleeper is whimpering and sobbing. I think he's having a bad dream.

Ambe daga wiisiniidaa. Come on let's eat.

Bangii eta go niwiisin. I ate only a little bit.

MEKWENIMINJIG THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

Mary Bedausky

Bezhighoobiikwe, Mary Ann Bedausky, 64-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on Friday, August 13, 2021, at Essentia Health in Brainerd. Visitation began at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 16, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 17, at the Community Center. Interment was in the Bedausky Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Bezhighoobiikwe, Mary Bedausky was born on October 17, 1956, in Onamia, Minnesota, to the late George and Veronica Bedausky. She was a champion log roller, bowler, and men's fancy feather, women's fancy shawl, and jingle dress dancer. Mary liked to spend her time shopping for new shoes and Coach purses. She enjoyed being with her family and grandchildren. Everyone loved Mary, and she affectionately referred to everyone as "her baby." She will be greatly missed.

Mary is survived by her children, Jerome Bedausky and Brenda Bedausky Best (Lucas); grandchildren, Brent, Taryn, Rome, Logan, and George; great-grandchildren, Lyric, Tahlia, Nova, Sage, Maverick, and Braxton; adopted daughters, Fran Free (Rhonda) and Georgia Cobenais; and many loving nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Veronica Bedausky; sisters, Nancy Zeleznik, Patricia Free, Delores Rogers, Josephine Rogers, Gladys Bedausky, Georgia Bedausky, and Maxine Hunt; brothers, George Bedausky, Jr., Silas Bedausky, and Wesley Bedausky.

Patricia Clark

Nezhike-wa-waasamokwe, Patricia Jean Clark, 70-year-old resident of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on August 18, 2021. Visitation began at dusk on Saturday, August 21, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation. A funeral ceremony began at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 22, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Reservation with Gisibaganeb officiating. Interment was in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements were with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Nezhike-wa-waasamokwe, Patricia Jean Clark was born on January 26, 1951, to Jessie (Boyd) and James Clark in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she attended and graduated from South High School. Patricia worked in the Mille Lacs Band Urban Office for many years and later retired. She looked forward to going on the annual Elder trips and being with her family and friends. Patricia enjoyed going to the casino, playing cribbage, and watching her "soaps" on TV, especially The Young and the Restless and General Hospital. Sewing, reading magazines, and spoiling her dog, Crinkles, was how she liked to spend her time. Patricia loved the fall and winter holidays to be with relatives and listening to them share their accomplishments and achievements with her. All will dearly miss Patricia.

Patricia is survived by her brothers, Randall Clark, Kelly Kegg, Gordon (Susan) Parr, Jim Boyd, and Sheldon Boyd; sisters, Karen Clark, Iona (Jim) Wygralak, Judy (Terry) Kanassatega, Phyllis Boyd, Donna (Carl) Iverson, Jolette (Darrin) Zapf, and Kimberly (Kyle) Kegg; adopted sisters, Michelle Braaten, Kathleen Kleckler, and Judy Sieber; and many special nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jessie (Boyd) and James Clark; brothers, Lou Boyd, Les Boyd, Sr.; adopted sister, Panji Garbow; and nephew, Brian Clark.

Send your Mekweniminjig remembrances to news@millelacsband.com. Photos are accepted but not required.



GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY WHAT IS THE GRA AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Ask most people why tribes can run casinos and the answer you'll get will involve the word "sovereignty." That answer is correct... sort of. Sovereignty is defined in legal dictionaries as "The supreme political authority of an independent state."

Wait a minute, "supreme political authority of an independent state?" Tribes aren't the supreme political authority over their independent states... the federal government controls a lot of what they do, even down to the specifics of where and when a new casino gets built.

It might be more accurate to say the United States defines and recognizes the limits, powers, and exercise of sovereignty for all subordinate sovereigns like tribes, states, or territories. When the federal government passed the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in the late 1980s, one power Congress recognized was that "Indian tribes have the exclusive right to regulate gaming activity on Indian lands..." But Congress also set up the rules for how that was to be accomplished. Among the rules was the requirement that tribes pass a gaming ordinance which it is expected to enforce by itself, but the federal government approves that ordinance and oversees that enforcement to varying degrees.

That's where the Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) and the Office of Gaming Regulation & Compliance (OGR&C) come in. Their only job is to make sure Mille Lacs is abiding by all the various laws, regulations, and agreements that the tribe has agreed to abide by. They're the heart of tribal self-regulation for the huge economic engine that drives the Mille Lacs Band.

On a day-to-day level, the GRA and the OGR&C run background checks and license everyone who works in the casinos, they continually audit everything that occurs there, they classify games on the floor and work with federal and state regulators who do the same, they work with vendors for the casinos, they exclude and review exclusions for people who disrupt or endanger the gaming enterprises or patrons, they work with legal counsel for the Band and for Corporate Ventures.

Even with all of these responsibilities, the Mille Lacs GRA doesn't operate on an island. There is still oversight by the federal government. One long-term goal that the Mille Lacs GRA hopes to achieve is greatly reducing that oversight. Under federal law, tribes can reach "self-regulation status" with reduced oversight only if a tribe can demonstrate it has ensured its gaming activities have been following the federal gaming laws, regulations, as well as the tribe's own laws and regulations for several years in a row. If that happens, the federal government issues a certificate, and the tribe gets relieved of a significant burden when it comes to many casino games. The role of the GRA in expanding the sovereignty of the Mille Lacs Band is more important than ever in establishing that solid track record.

The GRA Board has five members, appointed in turns by Mille Lacs elected officials. The Board is fully staffed now, but vacancies occur after terms expire or people leave the Board for other opportunities. No special knowledge of gaming, regulation, or government is required. If you or someone you know would like to support the sovereignty of the tribe by serving on the Board or working at the OGR&C, talk to your elected officials or current Board members.

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

AROUND THE RESERVATION

BEWARE OF DOOR-TO-DOOR SCAMMERS

There have been several reports of door-to-door salespeople in all three districts of the Mille Lacs Reservation, including Hinckley and Isle. Some have also been stating they are representatives from current providers at the home.

The best practice is to not sign any documents or accept any "pitches," unless you have specifically requested a visit from your company. Also, if something doesn't feel right, then it probably isn't.

These companies will then begin sending you bills, and if you don't pay, it will affect your credit, it may be sent to a collections agency, or you might get taken to court.

For more information, please read the information provided by the Minnesota Attorney General at <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Publications/SecurityAlarmSales.asp>.

If you have already found yourself in this type of situation, please contact Band Member Legal Aid at 320-532-7708.

DEER HUNTERS WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 2

The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources will host a Deer Hunters Workshop Thursday, September 2, at noon at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I.

Topics include the NAGFA system, where to hunt, how to register a deer, how to get started with hunting, Chronic Wasting Disease, and an open forum for questions.

Food will be provided. Masks are not required but are highly recommended. Please practice social distancing.

If you have questions, contact LeRoy Day at 320-532-7896 or leroy.day@millelacsband.com.

DISTRICT II FIREARMS TRAINING IS SEPTEMBER 25

2021 District II Firearms Safety Class will be held September 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at Wealthwood Gun Club 23573 420th Place, Aitkin, MN 56431.

Students must complete the 12-hour Hunter Course online program to participate in the field day and must bring the Field Day Voucher to class.

The class is limited to the first 25 registered.

Youth ages 11 and older can attend a firearms safety certification course and receive their certificate. The Firearms Safety Certificate becomes valid at age 12.

Parent or guardian must attend the first 30 minutes of field day.

Firearms will be provided for the course. No firearms or ammunition allowed without instructor's permission!

With any questions, concerns, and to sign up, please email jason.rice@mltpd.com or call 320-532-7540. Include student's name and phone number.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS WITH ENROLLMENTS, OMB

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.

REGISTER NOW FOR OUR SEPTEMBER FAMILY GOLF OUTING!

Come out and have fun on the green!

This year's Family Golf Outing is on September 18, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley. Your family members will each get a sleeve of balls, cool Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures swag, morning donuts, and coupons for food at Grand Casino Hinckley.

If your team gets one of the top three places — or wins a door prize drawing — you'll win gaming devices, backpacks with school supplies, or other big surprises.

Registration is FREE and limited to the first 36 teams. Teams must include two adults and two youth players age 17 or younger.



Golfer Name: _____

Golfer Name: _____

Youth Golfer Name: _____

Youth Golfer Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Return completed registration forms by September 10 to: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Attn: Beth Gruber, 700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359
For questions, contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or bgruber@mlcv.com.



BACK IN TIME

10 years ago — 2011

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe named Michele Palomaki as its new Assistant Commissioner of Administration and reappointed Arlene Weous as a member of the Corporate Commission Board of Directors. Governor Mark Dayton appointed Brad Kalk, the Band's Commissioner of Natural Resources, to the Minnesota Clean Water Council. 2011–2012 Mille Lacs Powwow Royalty were Nakaya Losh, Junior Princess; Noel Kegg, Senior Princess; Eldayshun Day, Junior Brave; and Darius Barnes, Senior Brave. The Nay Ah Shing Petites Softball Team won second place in the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Softball League this summer. The team was composed of Band members ages 8 to 10. In less than two years, 8-year-old Dakota Aportela met all of the requirements to earn a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Commissioner of Education Dennis Olson and Nay Ah Shing School staff Laurie Campbell and Bugs Haskin faced off against the Garrison firefighters in a waterball fight during National Night Out in August.

15 years ago — 2006

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police department held its annual picnic on Saturday, September 30, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Band's powwow grounds with an appearance by McGruff the Crime Dog. Powwow winners included: Brave — Demitri Wind, Princess — Wynona CrazyThunder, Jr. Brave — Lucas Long Goetz, Jr. Princess — Susan Potter. Randy Pendegayosh and Todd Sam won the horseshoe tournament, and Reginal Garbow and Richard Davis won the moccasin game. The Band reconvened a Housing Board to act in an advisory capacity and assist the Housing Department and Commissioner of Community Development with housing-related matters. Housing Board members were: Sylvia Wise (District III), Connie Kevan (District I), Marge Anderson (District I Elder), Delores Hegland (District I Elder), John Mojica (District I), Jenny Gahbow (District IIa), and Jen Aubid (District II). Barb Benjamin-Robertson, Urban Program Administrator for the Band, was meeting with representatives from Twin Cities American Indian communities, the Division of Indian Work, and the city of Minneapolis to develop a communications component to the city's Emergency Preparedness Plans.

20 years ago — 2001

At an employee appreciation picnic held August 10, the following Band members who work at the Ne-la-Shing Clinic were honored for their many years of service to the Band: Francis Davis, Contract Health employee — 27 years; Gertrude Lambert, Certified Nurse Practitioner — 30 years; Elmer Nayquonabe, Environmental Services Assistant — 21 years; Rita Nayquonabe, Licensed Practical Nurse — 21 years; Karen Sam, Assistant Clinic Director — 21 years. Nine-year-old Band member Jarvis Harrington received a gold belt in Tae Kwon Do. Bradford Staples, son of Band member Reine Garbow, was named to "Who's Who Among American High School Students" for the 2000–2001 school year. Ojibwe artists Randall Schaaf and Patrick Kruse used the traditional medium of birch bark to tell a modern story — "Looking Through Our Past; Into Our Future" — celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Band's casinos.

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



LIFEGUARD TRAINING IN DISTRICT I

Community members received Red Cross lifeguard training, including First Aid and CPR, at the new District I Aquatic and Fitness Center pool August 9–12. Watch for more opportunities to receive training to serve the community as a lifeguard.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

SEPTEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Lonnie Joseph Bellcourt
Cordell Arlen Benjamin
Cynthia Mae Benjamin
Dennis Wayne Benjamin
Joyce Marie Benjamin
Julie Louise Benjamin
Paul Wayne Benjamin
Paula Lynn Benjamin
Daniel Boyd
Joanne Frances Boyd
Robert Louis Boyd
Rose Marie Bugg
James Douglas Colstrud
Jeffrey Anthony Cruz
Raymond Allen Eubanks
Lloyd Dale Evans
Shirley Ann Evans
Rina Margaret Fonder
Roger Duane Garbow
Bernice Bea Gardner
Lisa Celeste Griffin
John Alan Grothe

Loretta Lea Hansen
Lisa Ann Haynes
Carol Anne Hernandez
Bernida Mae Humetewa
Donna Lianne Iverson
Kathleen Lorena Johnson
Beverly Marie Jones
Carmen Denise Keggs
Kimberly Jayne Keggs
Lauren Lynn Matrious
Rodney Charles Matrious
Todd Michael Moilanen
Carol Jean Mojica
Jacqueline Jean Moltaji
Sherri Lee Monroe
Sheri Ann Morrison
Joseph Leonard Nayquonabe
Laureen Jennifer Nickaboine
DeWayne Michael Pike
Alan Ray Premo
Jane Yvonne Rea Bruce
Sandra Jean Reynolds
Bernadine Joyce Roberts
Carol Ann Sam
Karen Louise Sam

Melanie Lou Sam
Kevin Duane Schaaf
James Shaugobay
Janice Arlene StandingCloud
Rodney Dale Staples
John Duane Stokke
Charles W. Sutton
Judie Erma Thomas
Marty Russell Thomas
Russell Harvey Thomas
Arne Vainio
Leonard Wayne Weyaus
Donald Ray Williams

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday **Tony Pike** on September 3 and my grandma **Deloris Pike**, love Stina • Happy birthday **Destanie Anderson** on September 3 with lots of love from your Son Carter James, Nephews Caden and Jaden, Shyla, Jordan,

Dilly Bar and Gram • Happy birthday **Baby** on September 14 love Val • Happy birthday **Ogimaa Binesiikwe** on September 16 love Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle, Auntie Kate, GG, Papa, Rosie, Mila, Mike, Uncle Brad, Daph, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Braelyn, Eric, Waase, Payton, Tiny, Brynley, Gally, Bam, Binesiikwe, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Taters, Guy, Auntie Randi, Auntie Rachel, Rory, Gram Karen, Tracy, Shelby, Jake, and Jarvis • Happy birthday **Brother** on September 17 love your Sissys and Brothers • Happy birthday **Tracy** on September 29 love all your family

BELATED WISHES

Happy 50th anniversary to Diane and David Barstow on August 27. Love Your Family.

SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations **Savannah Salay** on graduating MN State Mankato in May for English Lit & Indigenous Studies! Love Dad & Mom.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL!

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

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

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Please refer to the following list to find answers to your questions or to reach the individuals or departments you need.

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181

Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430

Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994

Commissioners:

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

Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

Community Development: Tim Jackson: 320-362-4245

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

Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475

Chief Executive's Office

Stephanie Dunkley: 320-532-7828

Court Administrator

Gilda Burr: 320-532-7401

Legislative Inquiries

Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director: 320-532-7536 (work); 320-630-8702 (cell); 320-532-7506 (fax)

Band Assembly Inquiries

Darcie Big Bear, Parliamentarian/Clerk of the Assembly: 320-532-7420; darcie.bigbear2@millelacsband.com

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Inquiries

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

Aanjibimaadizing

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

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

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

Urban — Wahbon Spears: 612-360-5486

Housing Emergency On-Call

Districts I and IIa: 320-630-2498

District II: 320-630-2492

District III: 320-630-2497

Dan Boyd, Housing Director: 320-630-2620

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

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

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

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

Chad Dunkley, Earthworks: 320-630-4763

Health and Human Services

24/7 Nurse Line: 320-630-0855

Provider appointments: 320-532-4163 option #2

Nurse Line Clinic: 320-630-0397

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

Mental Health call line: 320-674-4385

Substance use assessments and counseling: 320-532-7773

Pharmacy: 320-532-4770

Dental emergencies: 320-532-4779

Commodities: 320-630-8362

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

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

Elder Advocate: 320-630-7666

Office of Management and Budget

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

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

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 your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com!

TRIBAL HOLIDAYS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Monday, October 11, 2021, American Indian Day

Thursday, November 11, 2021, Warrior's Day

Wednesday, November 24, 2021, Noon Closing

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

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

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

Monday, January 17, 2022, Civil Rights Day

Monday, February 21, 2022, Chief's Day

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

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, Art Gahbow Day

Friday, May 27, 2022, Noon Closing

Monday, May 30, 2022, Memorial Day

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

Monday, June 20, 2022, Juneteenth

Monday, July 4, 2022, Mid-Summer Day

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

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

Monday, August 22, 2022, Mille Lacs Day

Friday, September 2, 2022, Noon Closing

Monday, September 5, 2022, Labor Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HELD VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Many recovery meetings are held via Zoom conference. The Sunday Wellbriety ID is 601 532 2869 and the password is 456 267. The Monday night Migizi meeting ID is 856 8473 0121, and the password is 56359. The Wednesday night Red Brick meeting ID is 895 631 97923, and the password is 56359. The Thursday Wellbriety meeting ID is 966 0395 9591, and the passcode is 944772. The nightly Zooming Towards Recovery code is 601-532-2869, and the password is zoom800. Urban recovery groups meet Tuesdays at 7 (Sa Miikana) and Fridays at 6:30 (On the RedRoad). ID: 214 608 6245; password: Redroad.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Yoga for Healing 9 a.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Deer Hunters Workshop <i>See 16</i></p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See left</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Aazhoomog pet clinic <i>See 13</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See left</i></p>
<p>5</p> <p>Aazhoomog pet clinic <i>See 13</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building (old Ne-la-Shing Clinic)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Safe Native American Passenger Training <i>see 7</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Yoga for Healing 9 a.m. East Lake Community Center <i>See 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>
<p>12</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building (old Ne-la-Shing Clinic)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Hinckley pet clinic <i>See 13</i></p> <p>District III Firearms Training <i>See 9</i></p> <p>MLCV Family Golf Outing <i>See 17</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>
<p>19</p> <p>Hinckley pet clinic <i>See 13</i></p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building (old Ne-la-Shing Clinic)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>On the RedRoad <i>See above</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>District II Firearms Training <i>See 16</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>
<p>26</p> <p>Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery <i>See above</i></p> <p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. Aanjibimaadizing building (old Ne-la-Shing Clinic)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Sa Miikana <i>See above</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>First Aid/CPR <i>see 7</i></p> <p>Red Brick AA/NA Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Men's group 6 p.m. Old District I Community Center</p> <p>Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p> <p>Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom conference. <i>See above</i></p>	<p>DRUG TIP HOTLINE</p> <p>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.</p>	



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OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

WAATEBAGAA-GIIZIS 2021 | VOLUME 23

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



BACK ON THE POWWOW TRAIL!

55th Iskigamizigan Powwow brings tradition back to the Reservation. See page 10.

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.

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.

**NEW COMMISSIONERS
JOIN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DNR**
page 1, 4

**BAND MEETS WITH
ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS ON LINE 3**
page 1

**OSHKI-MAAJITAADAA
OFFERS A NEW START
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BRINGS FINGERLINGS
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