



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



By Vivian LaMoore, InaaJimowin Editor

On Thursday, September 28, the District I Community Meeting was buzzing with energy as area educators with over 400 years of collective education experience gathered for a meet and greet at the District I Community Center. The evening was focused on supporting and recognizing those who dedicate their lives to education. Over 100 teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, school board members, bus drivers, and cooks from the local area schools gathered to support and celebrate education in the Mille Lacs community. District I Representative and Onamia School Board Chair Virgil Wind invited the area educators to meet the community during the District I September Community Meeting and he said the event held many purposes.

"We are proud to partner with Nay Ah Shing, Mille Lacs Early Education, Midstate District, Central Lakes College, Mille Lacs Band Higher Education, SUD, and Onamia Public Schools. We had educators that ranged from days of experience to over 45 years of educating our children," Wind said.

The event welcomed the local educators into the Mille Lacs Band community with introductions. As each of the educators in attendance shared their years of experience and positions, many remarked on how pleased they were to see so many students and families in attendance and how grateful they felt to be part of a welcoming community.

"It was also about sharing and showing them that our community realizes that often they are asked to do way more than just teach," Wind said. "They build relationships and become family with our kids throughout their education, often stepping into roles to mentor and assist in all of the events of our kid's lives."

Participants were honored as they shared a meal with community members, families, and students with whom the educators and staff members have dedicated their careers to.

Most importantly, the event gave the educators appreciation and recognition for all they do for the children and youth in the community. "I can't say enough how very grateful I am to them for all their hard work and dedication to help our kids to become the best that they can be," Wind said. "And they had the patience to help me in my younger years," he added.

All in attendance had the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another with conversation, laughter, and finishing the evening with dancing.

"A huge heartfelt and very grateful thank you to all of the educators who attended, to the community who made this a success, and of course the District I staff, center staff, and volunteers who made this possible," Wind said.

More photos are available for viewing at InaaJimowin.com/galleries.

LAWSUIT UPDATE

FRIENDS OF THE COURT FILINGS SUPPORT POSITION OF THE BAND

Federal government, state government, and NARF file amicus briefs

By Vivian LaMoore, InaaJimowin Editor

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has gained additional support from the United States Department of Justice, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), who have all filed amicus curae (friends of the court) briefs in support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in their case against the county, which is being heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the National Congress of American Indians, represented by the Native American Rights Fund, also signed on as supporters by signing on the amicus brief with NARF.

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, stated this is a "huge" showing of support. He explained an amicus brief is a filing in court from one party outside of a lawsuit, but is a friend of the court filing. "So essentially, the state, the federal government, and NARF agree with our position for various reasons. We are very thankful to have that support from those amici. That speaks volumes about the position of the Mille Lacs Band as well as the importance of the case."

For many years, the county and the Band had a cooperative

AMICUS BRIEF'S SUPPORT BAND LAWSUIT page 3

BLOOD QUANTUM SURVEY

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin held meetings in each district and the Urban Area to discuss Mille Lacs Band enrollments and the blood quantum survey during the month of



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin at the Urban Area Community Meeting.

October. All Mille Lacs Band members are encouraged to submit the blood quantum survey being conducted by the independent Wilder Foundation, which will help speculate the future enrollment numbers of the Band under specific scenarios.

MILLE LACS BAND WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS FIGHT CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE — SEE PAGE 12

MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Aaniin, Boozhoo! It was great to see all the Band members who attended community meetings that I held in October on the topic of our Enrolling Seven Generations (E7G) Blood Quantum project. When we are finished with E7G, every Band member will receive a detailed report about whether our enrolled Band member population is expected to increase or decrease if changes are made to the current blood quantum system, or if no changes are made. The report will include predictions for every ten-year period through the next 100 years. Please watch your mail for a E7G Blood Quantum Survey that will be mailed by Wilder Research to the addresses on file for all Mille Lacs Band members over the age of 18. It is very important that you fill these out and return them. An on-line option will also be available, so watch for the on-line information, which will be coming soon.

Many Band members have expressed concern at these meetings about a future Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) secretarial election to change the enrollment requirements in the MCT constitution. They are worried about a majority of MCT voters being able to make decisions that impact enrollment at Mille Lacs, which is one of the smaller MCT Bands. Previously the MCT asked the BIA to approve a Secretarial Election for this November.

I told Band members at these meetings that I was certain there would be no election in November or anytime soon, and that's accurate. At the October 25 meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the MCT, the TEC agreed to put the Secretarial election plans on hold at least until next spring. It was decided that the MCT attorneys will use the winter to work out issues that are slowing the process. For example, roadblocks have been put up by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The MCT Constitution states that if an election is held and a majority of voters vote to change the constitution, those changes are not valid unless at least "30 percent of those entitled to vote" voted in the election. Right now, the TEC and the BIA do not agree on what "entitled to vote" means. The BIA's position is that this means only registered voters who have to

be on a list sent to the Secretary of Interior, whereas the TEC interprets that to mean all voters who are eligible to vote, even if they are not registered or have never voted before.

Another constraint is that the MCT needs to engage in an MCT-wide educational campaign for voters before a Secretarial Election can be held, but there is no formal agreement yet among the Bands for approving the educational campaign materials. We will continue to keep you update about this process.

On October 1-3, I attended the fall conference of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), and am also a NAFOA board member. NAFOA holds one of the best and most informative conferences throughout Indian country, in terms of helping tribes navigate new financial opportunities, providing expert financial management resources and advocating for tribes in Washington D.C. with the U.S. Treasury Department and other agencies.

Another committee meeting that I attended this month was the Self-Governance PROGRESS Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. In 2022, I was appointed by U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to represent the Midwest region on this committee. Our purpose is to advise the Secretary on how to implement changes that were made by the Congress to the Self-Governance and Self-Determination programs. Even when an Administration is very friendly toward tribes and we have allies in charge, it is incredibly difficult to achieve positive change. There is an enormous bureaucracy that still has to be worked through and we have spent many long meetings negotiating with the BIA to get the best outcome for tribes.

Our Band Statutes make the Chief Executive responsible for conducting external government relations on the Band's behalf, and much of that work involves shaking trees and rattling bushes to get attention and responses from state and federal agencies. Regarding the proposed nickel mine in Tamarack, we have repeatedly requested that Department of Energy (DOE) engage in government-to-government consultation with the Band regarding federal support of the mine. Just days following a conversation I had with a DOE official in Reykjavik

expressing our concerns about federal funding for the public relations campaigns of the mining companies, DOE officials finally contacted the Band and asked if they could visit the reservation for a meeting. On October 13, a delegation of U.S. Department of Energy officials visited the reservation. Commissioner Applegate did an outstanding job of representing the Band's concerns regarding the proposed mine. On October 16, Commissioner Applegate, Solicitor General Dogeagle and I held meetings in Washington D.C. with other federal agencies on the topic of the proposed mine as well.

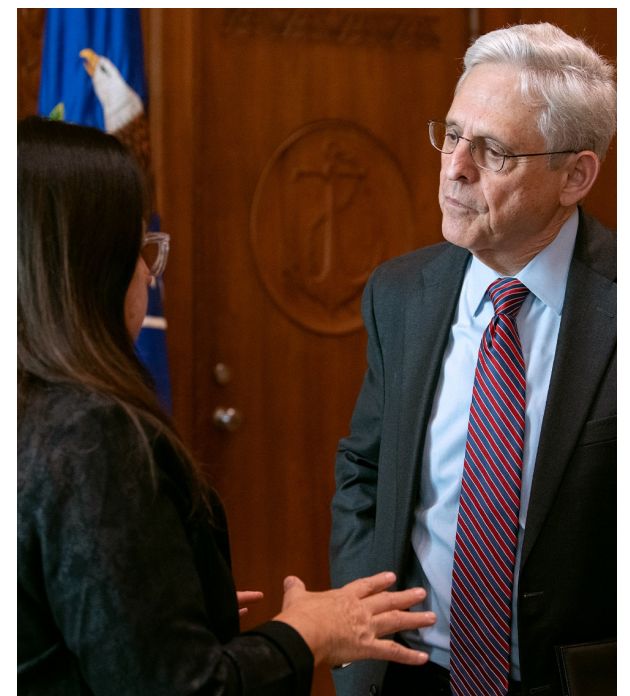
On October 25, I attended a meeting in Washington D.C. with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and eleven other tribal leaders representing various regions of the United States. The Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC) was formed about ten years ago to advise the Attorney General on matters important to Indian Country. I have been serving as the Midwest representative on the TNLC since it was formed. While we are supposed to hold in-person meetings at least once a year with the Attorney General, COVID-19 put a hold on that.

When Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta visited the Reservation on June 15, I asked her to find out when our next in-person meeting would occur, so that got the wheels moving for our first in-person meeting during the Biden Administration. I was publicly credited by DOJ officials with being the reason this meeting happened, but I want to stress that anytime that I achieve anything for the Band, I always remind people that I'm just the voice of the Band members, and what is important are the results, not who gets credit. We shared a paper that Mille Lacs compiled about the various different topics of concern to tribes in the Midwest that DOJ could be helpful with. This was a very interesting and productive meeting.

My priority is to always represent the voice of the Band members. If we don't run into each other out in the community, I want to encourage Band members to contact me and share your views about issues you care about. I hope everyone had a safe and happy Halloween, and wish all our families well as we begin to head into the colder seasons. Miigwech!



The Justice Department hosted a two-day conference of the Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC) with Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and officials from across the Department to discuss a range of pressing issues impacting American Indian and Alaska Native people. Also participating in the roundtable discussions were Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco, and Associate Deputy General Vanita Gupta. TNLC members who participated were Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, President of Oglala Lakota Nation Frank Star Comes Out, President of the Navajo Nation Buu Nygren, Vice President Ketchikan Indian Community Gloria Burns, Tribal Chairman/Executive Director of Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe W. Ron Allen, and Councilwoman of the Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians Juana Majel Dixon. Photo courtesy of the Department of Justice.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin speaks with Attorney General Merrick B. Garland during a two-day conference of the Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC) hosted by the Department of Justice. Photo courtesy of the DOJ.

GRA UPDATE

PROBLEM GAMBLING PREVENTION

Be aware of some common problem gambling warning signs like being restless or irritable when unable to gamble, hiding gambling from friends/family, inability to stop gambling, borrowing money to pay bills due to gambling losses, and continuous thinking about gambling while doing other activities. These are just a few of the many signs indicating that you may have a gambling problem. This issue does not discriminate based on gender, age, ethnic, social, or economic group, and often the added stress of holidays can magnify the trouble.

If you identify with any problem gambling warning signs and feel concerned about your gambling, you can pursue self-exclusion to give yourself some time away from the casinos for as little as six (6) months at a time. Please text or call our office (320-532-8135) or visit the GRA page on the Mille Lacs Band website to obtain a copy of a Self-Exclusion Form to help streamline your request for exclusion: <https://millelacsband.com/government/indian-gaming-regulation>.

For those fighting problem gambling issues, whether it be your own or someone you care about, if you need someone to talk to, please call the Problem Gambling Hotline at 1-800-333-4673 (HOPE) or text "HOPE" to 53342.

GAMING REGULATORY AUTHORITY



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

The Mille Lacs Band Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) is an independent regulatory agency of tribal government established to separate the government's regulatory function from the management function of the Gaming Enterprises. More information and contact numbers can be found at <https://millelacsband.com/home/indian-gaming-regulation>. You can also LIKE us on Facebook at Mille Lacs Band GRA. GRA Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are currently being conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams.

AMICUS BRIEFS SUPPORT BAND LAWSUIT from page 1

agreement that recognized the authority of the tribal police to enforce state criminal laws and pursue investigations on the Reservation. In 2016, the county revoked the cooperative agreement. Crime on the Reservation increased as a result of actions taken by the county to limit the authority of tribal police. The Band filed suit against the county as a result of the revocation of the cooperative agreement which resulted in increased criminal activity. The county argued that the Mille Lacs Reservation had been disestablished and diminished so that the tribal police were exercising authority outside of their jurisdiction.

In March 2022, the District Court issued a ruling that affirmed that the Mille Lacs Reservation boundaries still exist as they were established in an 1855 treaty. But the District Court had still not ruled on arguments from either side regarding the law enforcement jurisdiction and authority of Tribal Police. Both sides filed briefings arguing their case. The final ruling was issued on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The ruling stated that the Band "possesses inherent sovereign law enforcement authority within the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation [...] The inherent sovereign law enforcement authority includes the authority of Band police officers to investigate violations of federal, state and tribal law."

The county appealed the District Court's decisions to the Eighth Circuit.

Minnesota statutes were recently revised to recognize tribal nations and local county sheriffs' concurrent jurisdiction to enforce state criminal laws (this law only applies to criminal

activities and does not include civil jurisdiction) meaning it is no longer necessary for the Band, or any other tribal nations in Minnesota, to have a signed cooperative agreement with the county in which they reside in order to perform law enforcement duties on their reservations. "It is no longer an issue," Dogeagle said. But the Reservation boundary remains an issue that could come up in another case.

The amicus brief filed by the U.S. Department of Justice argues the appeal by the county is moot, the district court had subject-matter jurisdiction, the 1855 Mille Lacs Reservation is intact, the treaties of 1863, 1864, and 1867 did not disestablish the Reservation, the Nelson Act did not disestablish the Reservation, no subsequent statute disestablished the Reservation, and that the Supreme Court has not held that the Mille Lacs Reservation was terminated.

The amicus briefs filed by the federal government, State of Minnesota, and NARF all make the argument that the issue is now moot, as well as make the argument that the Mille Lacs Reservation has not been disestablished, along with other various arguments.

The county has until November 2 to respond to the briefs filed by the Band and the amicus briefs filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, the State of Minnesota, and NARF. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals will then make a decision as to the appeal by the county. They could either dismiss the appeals as moot, uphold the district court's decision on the merits, or overturn the decision, in whole or in part.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

October 18

The District Representatives approved nomination (nomination from Chief Benjamin,) nominating Bernida Humetewa for the District III Appellate Judge position. Current term ends August 15, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Vanessa Gibbs Nomination (Pursuant to 12 MLBS § 306(a)(9) on August 22, 2023, the District III Representative submitted two names to the Chief Executive to serve on the Housing Board: District 3 Position, Vanessa Gibbs and Katie Draper. On September 13, 2023, Chief Benjamin nominated Vanessa Gibbs for confirmation. Current term ends June 30, 2026).

October 16

Workshop:

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding a draft bill to enact a cannabis code.

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding a draft Human Resources Personnel Policy: parental leave, social media, and use of telecommuting.

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-10-23: A Resolution approving the enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those who meet the 1/4 degree requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-11-23: A resolution denying the enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those who do not meet the 1/4 degree requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-12-23: A resolution denying the enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for applicants who were not born to an enrolled Mille Lacs Band member.

October 11

The District Representatives approved nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Bradley E. Harrington to serve on the Corporate Board, At-Large position. Current term ends March 31, 2027.

The District Representatives approved nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Jennifer Gahbow to serve on the Corporate Board, District II position. Current term ends March 31, 2026).

In the "Messages from the Representatives" portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thanking those who reached out with input, questions, and concerns regarding the nomination process. "It's a tough determination to make, but the input of the community helps solidify those decisions," he said.



BAND MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY BY DECEMBER 4, 2023.

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Felons' voting rights unaffected by unprompted ruling by judge on new law, say AG Ellison, Sec. Simon: District Court Judge Matthew M. Quinn sentenced people to probation after being convicted of felonies then went on to prohibit them from registering to vote, declaring the new law unconstitutional. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison is intervening, along with Secretary of State Steve Simon. And the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota said the ruling undermines the new statute, calling it unprompted and unlawful. The judge's ruling doesn't affect the right to vote for any felons outside of his courtroom, but concerns remain over whether the ruling may cause confusion about voter eligibility and suppress the votes of the newly restored demographic. Source: *Minn Post*.

Innovative collaboration between Tribal communities and U of M to slow CWD spread: Several Tribal Nations in Minnesota are combining forces with the University of Minnesota in a groundbreaking collaboration aimed at stopping the continued spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) on and near Tribal lands. Together, they're developing one of the first tribal CWD management plans in the U.S. This new collaboration includes the White Earth Department of Natural Resources, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Department of Natural Resources, and University researchers. The group will jointly explore solutions through a series of workshops on CWD ecology, community expertise and management strategies. Source: twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events.

White Earth Nation says water ordinance is allowed under 20th century treaties: While farmers on and near the White Earth Band of Chippewa Reservation — or White Earth Nation — believe state, rather than tribal, officials control the issue of irrigation permits, the band itself believes it retained the right to control natural resources like water rights through its treaties with the U.S. government through its history. On May 5, 2023, the White Earth Reservation Business Committee — the governing body for the White Earth Band of Chippewa's reservation — passed a new water resolution and ordinance that required farmers who wish to irrigate on the reservation or within a five-mile zone around it to apply for a tribal permit, in addition to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permit. Source: *Ag Week*.

Anne Defot-Sido joins Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) has named Anne Defot-Sido as the new vice president of federal growth strategy. This hire aligns with the company's strategic plan and organizational vision to enhance industry knowledge and develop long-term strategies that will help MLCV manage its investment in the federal sector. MLCV CEO Joe Nayquonabe, Jr. shared, "We are excited to add Anne to the leadership team here at MLCV. Anne's experience and work spans across the globe. With her expertise, she will be instrumental in MLCV expanding its presence within government contracting industries." Source: *Aitkin Independent Age*.

GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

IS CARBON CAPTURE A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION OR IS IT GREENWASHING?

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe leaders are arming themselves with knowledge to conscientiously work towards combating global warming and climate change while protecting their lands, resources, cultural sites, and rights

By Vivian LaMoore

Leading international scientists, policymakers, industry experts, and climate advocates convened at the Carbfix Mineralization Summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, to discuss the global status and potential of carbon dioxide (CO₂) mineralization, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe leaders were presented with the opportunity to have a seat at the table and participate in conversations, voice concerns, and understand the various aspects of current and potential technologies from various entities. As the only federally recognized Native American tribe invited to participate on a panel discussion, the Band was able to have a voice at the table and share its concerns with the international community. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and Solicitor General Caleb Dogeagle were two of the Mille Lacs representatives who attended. DNR Commissioner Kelly Applegate was scheduled to attend but canceled due to a death in the family.

Why is carbon capture and CO₂ mineralization a concern to the Mille Lacs Band? The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$2.2 million in Research and Development (R&D) funding to Talon Metals Corp. to explore the carbon capture and storage (CCS) potential at the proposed Tamarack Nickel Project near Mille Lacs Band lands. The Mille Lacs Band is deeply rooted in the commitment to protect Mille Lacs Band members, natural resources, and cultural sites from the negative impact of nickel mining. Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General for the Mille Lacs Band said the promotion of CCS at Tamarack is a prime example of greenwashing (the act or practice of making a product, policy, activity, etc. appear to be more environmentally friendly or less environmentally damaging than it really is).

The proposed Tamarack mine was on the agenda two times during the two-day summit, which included a Talon Metals presentation and a separate presentation by Rio Tinto, Talon's partner — an illustration of the international attention that the proposed Tamarack mine has generated.

"When we learned that the mine was on the agenda for discussion twice by two mining companies at this international conference, we decided we needed to hear what was being said about the mine and about Indian Nations," Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said.

U.S. Department of Energy officials were also on the agenda. One official stressed in her presentation that "community engagement" was an absolute requirement of mining companies receiving grants from the federal government. "Community engagement basically means public relations. That was new information for us, and I had concerns about that," said Chief Executive Benjamin.

Benjamin followed the official out of the meeting room to talk with her following her presentation. "I told her that the community engagement requirement in the federal grants means that the federal government is basically paying for the mining company's public relations campaign. Yet we use our own resources to raise attention about our concerns about this mine."

The DOE took that message back to D.C. and it has been a discussion point with DOE since then.

What is carbon capture storage/mineralization? It is a process that extracts carbon dioxide from the air, turning it to liquid form, and then pumping it deep underground for permanent storage. Carbon mineralization is a process that naturally occurs over hundreds or thousands of years in which certain minerals inside rocks react with atmospheric CO₂ to create carbonates, solid minerals, that securely remove and sequester (isolate) CO₂. Proponents say the biggest advantage of carbon mineralization is that the carbon cannot escape back to

the atmosphere.

But there are risks. Water contamination and seismic activity are potential risks associated with carbon mineralization, although further research is needed. Contamination of surface and groundwater is a potential risk associated with carbon mineralization. Large-scale implementation raises concerns and is unproven beyond laboratory-based and small field-based experiments. Not to mention the entire process from extraction to transportation and storage creates emissions of CO₂ into the atmosphere. "We don't know what we don't know; the uncertainty is cause for caution," Dogeagle said. "We attended the summit to educate others and ourselves, as well as engage as a sovereign nation on an international platform."

Nickel mining in itself poses significant threats to the environment. The additional threats of carbon capture and storage/sequester (CCS), may multiply the environmental threats, but it is unknown at this time the scope of Talon's proposed project. Talon's joint venture partner Rio Tinto plans to lead a team of climate researchers who will explore new approaches in carbon mineralization technology as a way to "safely and permanently store hundreds of millions of tons of carbon in solid rock form," according to their website with the initial release of the project.

Mille Lacs DNR Commissioner Kelly Applegate said the Band has made several requests to Talon for information on the proposed CCS project at Tamarack. To date, there has been no solid data or proof provided to the Mille Lacs Band by Talon as to the scope of the CCS project at Tamarack.

Dogeagle spoke on a panel regarding Environmental Justice at the Carbfix Summit. The topic of environmental justice has a focus on recognizing past harms and past problems that have disproportionately affected cultures and communities by large infrastructure projects over the years.

Panelists discussed the importance of environmental justice and the rights of Indigenous peoples at the onset of projects, including in the research and development stages where Indigenous peoples are often not included particularly in the United States. Federally recognized tribes are governments, and as such, the federal government, along with state and local governments, are required to consult with tribal governments, even at the research and development stages before a project gets off the ground.

"Equity is a good target and goal to be looking towards," Dogeagle said during the summit. "I don't want to brush pass the importance of greenwashing. We want to make sure that projects where the carbon is coming from are being held to certain standards. We want them to stand alone on their own merits. We don't want previous bad actors, or polluters, to not move towards more sustainable mechanisms just because they can do carbon capture. We don't want to lose sight of that. Our goal is to reduce carbon output and move towards more renewable and sustainable practices."

Dogeagle later said in a follow-up interview that mining projects are major polluters. "There is not a mine in the world that has not polluted. Ever," Dogeagle said. He believes extractive industries like mining projects in particular greenwash the project of mining by also including "green" projects such as carbon capture. "It's a sleight of hand type of thing. 'Never mind this bad thing over there, but look at this good thing we are doing over here.' Each should stand alone. If there is a proposed mine such as Tamarack, even if it is also proposing a

"I DON'T WANT TO BRUSH PASS THE IMPORTANCE OF GREENWASHING. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT PROJECTS WHERE THE CARBON IS COMING FROM ARE BEING HELD TO CERTAIN STANDARDS."

— CALEB DOGEAGLE

CONFERENCE CREATES NEW ENERGY

NAFOA Fall Finance and Tribal Economics Conference prepares leaders with creative initiatives to bring the Band forward

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

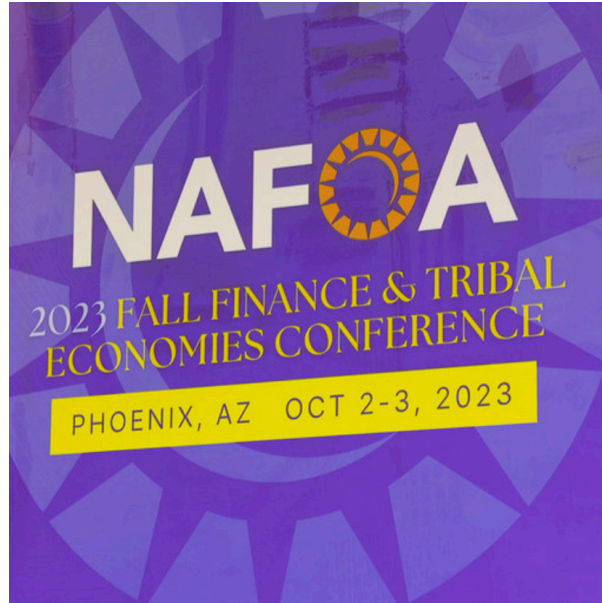
The Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) conference was held October 1-3, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. According to Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Kelly Applegate, the NAFOA conference is one of the most supportive and strongest conferences in Indian Country with several high-ranking federal officials involved throughout the conference as well as vast participation from tribal leaders from all over the country. By participating in the conference, Applegate said he returns to his role with intensified energy and new ways of thinking.

"I brought back new energy and ideas thinking about how we can create change and bring the Band forward," Applegate said. "It is energizing. Sometimes as a tribal leader you can get stuck in finding solutions, but having that network of other high-level problem solvers is so valuable. You can come back and arm yourself with new tools to create new solutions for the Band to bring the Band forward."

Founded in 1982, NAFOA supports the advancement of independent and culturally vibrant American Indian and Alaska Native communities through our work in growing tribal economies and strengthening tribal finance. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin holds the office of Secretary for NAFOA. She, along Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd, Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle and Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Kelly Applegate attended this year's conference.

NAFOA is committed to supporting tribal economies through sound economic and fiscal policy, innovative learning opportunities, convening thoughtful leadership, and developing resources for tribes that strengthen governance and exercise sovereignty. NAFOA advocates for sound economic and fiscal policy, develops innovative training programs in financial management, builds the financial and economic skills of the next generation, and convenes tribal leadership, experienced professionals, and economic partners to meet the challenges of economic growth and change.

There were several breakout sessions throughout the conference holding the attention for participants. Applegate highlighted a session relevant to his role in Natural Resources titled "Forewarned and Forearmed: Emergency Response Management." Panelists discussed various forms of emergency management and how other tribes used resources and policies to get through the pandemic and other disasters. The panelists discussed ways to prepare their department, or tribe, for the potential next disaster based on what they have learned from past disasters. They discussed deployment of emergency services, how they you handled shutting tribal operations down, what that means to the tribe and how they prepared for that.



The panel spoke about how they have created their emergency response plans and included a financial tone.

"When I was there, I was thinking the Mille Lacs Band could be on that panel as an example. Our Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) is top notch," Applegate said. "For me to hear that session with all of the other tribal leaders, I feel that we are doing well. We have it handled well so that is a thumbs up to the Band. Our TERC is strong."

From another session regarding data collection, he learned the Band can do better. "We have a long way to go with collecting our own data in terms of government. We have enrollment data birth rates and death rates, family trees, and more — we do an excellent job of that but we miss the bus having other governmental data and we really on state and federal agencies to produce the data for us when we could be producing that ourselves."

Applegate said some tribes collect and produce complex data on their tribes. "We have basic data. We should be self-sufficient on our own data, putting that to a use, and really driving information and conclusions from the data. We have the basics of processing the data and show trends, but we need to produce that into something Band members can understand. I think that is an area where we can improve."

The benefit of the conference is a high volume of networking opportunities. "When we go out there, we capitalize with the time we have with other tribal leaders with meetings and discussions on issues between one tribe to the next. It is a very effective. It is energizing to hear new ideas and helps me find create solutions. That is what our jobs are — to bring the Band forward."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Readout of the Tribal Nations Leadership Council Meeting:

The Justice Department hosted a two-day conference of the Tribal Nations Leadership Council (TNLC), where council members met with Attorney General Merrick B. Garland and officials from across the Department to discuss a range of pressing issues impacting American Indian and Alaska Native people. Discussion topics included the Department's prioritized efforts to address the disproportionately high rates of violence experienced by American Indians and Alaska Natives, as well as the high rates of indigenous persons reported missing. Those efforts include the Department's June 2023 creation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Regional Outreach Program, which provides for placement of an MMIP Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) and an MMIP Coordinator in five designated regions with Indian Country across the United States. Other topics raised included the need for additional law enforcement and other resources to address crime, substance abuse, and the needs of Native youth. Department officials also reflected on experiences and feedback gained during visits and consultations with Tribal leaders and communities this year, including in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Alaska, where the Department announced its implementation plan for the Alaska Pilot Program. The TNLC also raised the need for increasing data sharing and cross-jurisdictional cooperation, with the potential for building on the success of the Tribal Access Program, and leveraging new MMIP resources. Earlier in the day, the TNLC met with officials from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys and the FBI's Violent Crime Section and Indian Country Violent Crime Unit, among others, to discuss pressing public safety issues. The Department is grateful to the TNLC members who were able to attend this week's meeting: Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Frank Star Comes Out, President, Oglala Lakota Nation, Buu Nygren, President, Navajo Nation, Gloria Burns, Vice President, Ketchikan Indian Community, W. Ron Allen, Tribal Chairman/Executive Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Juana Majel Dixon, Councilwoman, Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians. Source: *Justice.Gov*

Wisconsin DNR Board votes to approve wolf management plan without numerical population goal:

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board voted unanimously Wednesday to implement a new wolf management plan, approving the Department of Natural Resources' decision not to include a numerical population goal over the objections of Republican lawmakers and pro-hunting groups. The board is now entirely made up of appointees of Gov. Tony Evers, including four new members, who were appointed to the body last week by Evers when Republicans in the state Senate voted to fire his previous appointees, partially because of their stated support for the DNR plan. The plan's approval is the culmination of a years-long process as wolf management in Wisconsin has become one of the state's most controversial conservation issues. Public comment ahead of the vote lasted for hours as more than 50 people weighed in one last time on the draft plan. That comment came after thousands of people shared their opinions during the drafting process. Source: *Wisconsin Examiner*.

CARBFIX SUMMIT from page 1

a carbon capture mine along with it, it shouldn't lessen the scrutiny placed upon the initial project."

A lot of the mineralization projects worldwide have been on Indigenous lands. Dogeagle told the panelists and audience at the summit that companies and industries in the United States have requirements from federal, state, and local laws. "One of the things that has not been mentioned previously, but I am going to mention now, is tribal laws. The UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has provisions built in for consultation with Indigenous peoples. The FPIC [Free, Prior, and Informed Consent] is a specific recognized right. The UNDRIP protects the rights to land, resources, territories, and self-determinations, and a lot those legal frameworks are also within US law. I don't think a lot of companies realize the complexities of tribal rights in the American legal system."

"The right of Indigenous consultation is required under federal law. It is important that we are part of the dialogue. It is important that we are at the table at the start and part of the

conversations," Dogeagle said. "Consultation is not consent. It needs to be meaningful. Consent needs to be gotten without any sort of coercion."

The U.S. Government provided funding to private companies across the United States, including Talon Metals, specifically for community engagement regarding their proposed projects that have not even been approved. Yet the communities who are potentially affected are not receiving funding for community engagement and are not afforded the same funding opportunity to advocate for their own rights. "There is still unbalance in the scales," Dogeagle said.

One of the main goals of the Carbfix Mineralization Summit was to promote awareness and engagement around mineralization technologies, which could have a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change. The summit provided a platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with the deployment of CCS.

SPECIAL EDITION OF MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

WARRIOR DAY IS NOVEMBER 11

Honoring all warriors

MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

A MONUMENT TO LOYALTY AND SERVICE

By Don Wedll

This article by Don Wedll was first published in the Mille Lacs Messenger. It is reprinted here to preserve his teachings and bring them to the next generation.

In August 1862, the United States was nearly a year and a half into the Civil War and at the doorstep of two of the deadliest battles of the war. But here in Minnesota, then just four years into statehood and several hundred miles from the nearest battlefields, there were other tensions facing the military and the residents.

In 1853, the U.S. military had constructed Fort Ridgely to help keep peace along the Minnesota River near New Ulm, where settlers were moving into an area that once was home to Dakota Indians, who had been moved onto a nearby reservation. Later the fort became a training base for Civil War volunteers. By August 1862, the federal government's unkept promises to the Dakota people contributed to heightened hostilities, prompting the Dakota to attack Fort Ridgely.

While Fort Ridgely was at the epicenter of the Dakota Conflict, the troubles were much more widespread. Several Chippewa/Ojibwe bands also took up arms against non-Indians in Minnesota. Although this occurred separately from the Dakota Conflict, there was a joint effort to have it occur at the same time, and the results were similar for the Dakota and Ojibwe bands that took part. They were removed to new reservations, and their lives would never be the same.

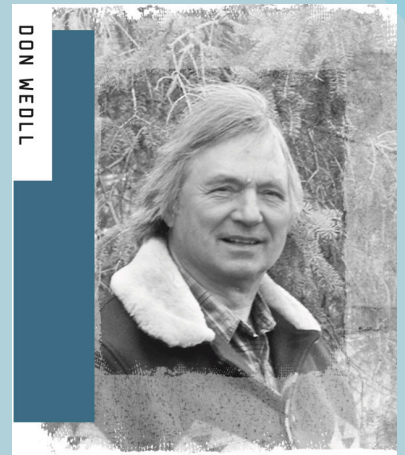
But there was an important exception to the removal policy that resulted from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's loyalty and service to Minnesota and the United States during this conflict. There is a lasting reminder of gratitude to the Mille Lacs Band in the Fort Ridgely Cemetery. The monument — dedicated on August 20, 1914 — reads:

"Erected by the State of Minnesota in recognition of and to commemorate the loyal and efficient services rendered to the state by Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee and the Chippewa Indians during the Sioux outbreak and the Civil War."

So who was "Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee?" He was one of the Mille Lacs Band's leaders at the time of the Dakota Conflict. When invited to go to war against the United States by a runner for Hole-in-the-Day, a Gull Lake chief, the Mille Lacs Band adamantly rejected the offer. In the Treaty of 1855, the Mille Lacs Band had agreed to live in peace and friendship with the United States.

Historical records show that Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee directed more than 300 Mille Lacs

"CHIEF MOU-ZOO-MAU-NEE DIRECTED MORE THAN 300 MILLE LACS BAND WARRIORS TO HELP PROTECT SETTLERS WHO HAD SAUGHT REFUGE AT FORT RIPLEY — NEAR PRESENT-DAY LITTLE FALLS. THE MILLE LACS BAND WARRIORS ARRIVED AT FORT RIPLEY PRIOR TO HOLE-IN-THE-DAY'S TROOPS, AND HELPED SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND THE PEOPLE AT THE FORT."



DON WEDLL

— DON WEDLL

Band warriors to help protect settlers who had sought refuge at Fort Ripley — near present-day Little Falls. The Mille Lacs Band warriors arrived at Fort Ripley prior to Hole-in-the-Day's troops, and helped successfully defend the people at the fort.



Federal Indian affairs officials who were at Fort Ripley when the Band warriors arrived later wrote a note of gratitude to Chief Mou-zoo-mau-nee. The next year, when Chippewa bands were invited to Washington, D.C., to negotiate a new treaty that would remove them from their lands and resettle them elsewhere, the Mille Lacs Band was shown additional gratitude. Article 12 of the new treaty preserved the Mille Lacs Reservation, the reservation that is home to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe still today.

The monument at Fort Ridgely is a reminder of how the Mille Lacs Band helped prevent death and terror at another Minnesota fort, in sharp contrast to the hundreds of civilians, soldiers, and Dakota warriors who perished in battle or from disease as a result of the Dakota Conflict. Fort Ridgely is a state historic site; for more information, visit mnhs.org and click on "places."

WARRIOR DAY
NOVEMBER 11

All Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Offices will be closed November 11, 2023 in observance of Warrior Day.

Chi Miigwech to all Veterans for your Service.

Native Americans have a rich history of serving in the United States Military. Native Americans serve in the United States Armed Forces at five times the national average and have served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years.

Young men of the Mille Lacs Band volunteered in high numbers to serve in the Civil War (1861-1865). Meanwhile in 1862, the Band was instrumental in keeping peace among the Ojibwe during the Dakota War in Minnesota. In recognition of good conduct during the Dakota War, the Mille Lacs Band received a guarantee in the 1863 and 1864 treaties with the U.S. government that Band members would not be forced to leave the Mille Lacs Reservation, becoming henceforth the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

To all who have served in the United States Military, we say miigwech for your service.

PREPARING FOR WINTER CHILL



Stay safe and warm this winter

By Vivian LaMoore, Public Information Officer

The days are getting shorter, the air is feeling cooler, and pumpkin spice is still everywhere. All of these indicators point to the inevitable — winter will be here soon. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center predict El Niño will remain steady or increase in strength throughout the winter. El Niño and La Niña are climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean that can affect weather worldwide and also makes weather hard to predict. What does that mean for Minnesota? Around Mille Lacs, it is more than likely there will be cold and snow. Just how cold and how much snow remains to be seen. But there are a few things we can do to prepare for the cold temperatures ahead.

Oftentimes, colder weather means grabbing an extra blanket for sleeping, turning up the thermostat, switching on a space heater, or starting a fire in the fireplace. With the introduction of these heating elements (other than the extra blanket) comes a concern of carbon monoxide poisoning. This is especially true if cooking and heating units that burn fuel are not properly ventilated or malfunction. Take care of your carbon monoxide (CO) alarms to ensure they are in working order, along with your smoke alarms.

Band members can pick up a free CO alarm from any District Community Center or the Urban Office free of charge. Smoke alarms are available by request from Emergency Management. Please call Monte Fronk at 320-362-0435.

The Mille Lacs Band Housing Maintenance Weatherization Quality Control Inspector Lee Thompson suggested some tips Band members can use to help stay warm in the colder weather. "Fill the propane tank and remember to check it once a week. Order more propane when the tank is at 30 percent. If you are short on funds, apply for fuel assistance," Thompson said. The Mille Lacs Band energy assistance provider is Lakes and Pines; you may contact them at 320-679-1800.

Thompson said it is very important to apply for this state program even if you are on the Band's Elder energy program. "It could make you eligible for weatherization, another state program that can air seal, insulate, and evaluate mechanical systems," he said.

Cold weather tips to keep you warm and safe

- Service air exchanger, clean filters, and outside vents. For winter months set at 25 to 50 % humidity.
- Check weather stripping and latches on doors and windows. Replace where needed.
- Close storm windows if you have them.
- Disconnect garden hoses from wall hydrant.
- Clean gutters.
- Clean bathroom fans.
- Schedule a furnace tune-up or inspection.
- Replace the furnace filter on a regular basis.
- Clean the vents and ducts.
- Inspect the exhaust flue, ensuring it is clear of debris.
- Keep the area around the furnace free of clutter. Do not store flammables near the furnace or place the kitty litter pan near the furnace.

- Open all vents.
- Make sure your CO alarm is working properly.

Keep an eye on the stove!

Did you know the leading cause of structure fires in Minnesota last year was cooking? Cooking fires caused an average of \$4.5 million in damage each of the last five years in Minnesota. The top two factors last year in cooking fires were unattended equipment and combustibles too close to a heat source. Accidents can occur at any time. But here are tips to prevent cooking fires, from the Minnesota Department of Safety:

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- If you leave the room, turn off the stove and move the pan from the burner.
- Keep things that can burn — oven mitts, towels, and wooden spoons — three feet from the stove.
- If a fire starts, slide a tight-fitting lid on the pan and turn off the heat.
- Avoid loose-fitting clothing that can easily catch fire.

Remember fireplace safety

If you have a fireplace or a wood stove in your home, here are some tips to help keep your home fire-safe this winter, from the U.S. Fire Administration and FEMA:

- Make sure your smoke alarm is working properly.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from your fireplace or wood stove.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Place the container outside, at least 10 feet from your home.

The Mille Lacs Band has a weatherization program for approved clients. Approval starts with filling out an application for fuel assistance with Lakes and Pines and requesting weatherization. For questions about weatherization, please call Lee Thompson at 320-630-7430 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For housing repair services during regular business hours, call 320-532-7448. For after-hours emergency housing repairs, please call 320-630-2498.



BRIEFS

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

National Diabetes Month happens each year in November. It is a time for community to raise awareness, share information, and improve the lives of all those impacted by diabetes. This year's focus is on taking action to prevent diabetes health problems. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and it is linked to some types of cancer.

Taking charge of your health may help you prevent diabetes health problems. Work with your health care team to help you prevent or manage diabetes. Call 320-532-4163 to set up an appointment with your primary care provider or the diabetes educator.

During National Diabetes Month, join us in spreading the word about how people with diabetes can successfully manage. By sharing your story with the community, you will help inspire and support each other. Your story matters! Contact Jackie Gluck, Population Health Manager, at jackie.gluck@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov or 320-362-0020 for more information.

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 Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., and the Men's Empowerment Group meets Mondays at 5:30 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.

PET CLINIC SCHEDULE

District I Pet Clinic will be Saturday, November 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All surgery spots are full. Wellness clinics are first-come, first-served with Elder preference. Microchips are available at no charge for all Band members.

URBAN PET CLINIC SUCCESS

The Urban Area pet clinic was held on Friday, October 19, at the All Nations Church. There were 34 wellness exams and 26 surgeries performed to help keep our pets healthy and safe.



Miigwech to Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance Program (MNSnap) and SecondHand Hounds.

EDUCATION

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY DAY

Photos By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Staff

Fire Prevention and Safety Day was held at Nay Ah Shing schools on October 17 at both the Upper and Lower schools. Students at Abinoojiiyag learned about fire prevention and safety, visited with firefighters from the Garrison Fire Department and the Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland firefighters; learned about gas and electrical safety from Mille Lacs Energy Coop, East Central Energy, and Center Point Energy. Students had the opportunity to see equipment used in each profession.

Upper School students had a crash course in seatbelt use and impaired driving conditions from representatives of Minne-

sota Department of Transportation Towards Zero Deaths program. Students had the opportunity to participate in exercises using the seatbelt convincer, a rollover simulator, and had a chance to drive the peddle powered go cart while wearing impaired vision goggles.

Safety day is an annual presentation coordinated through the Emergency Management Department and Community Risk Reduction.

See more photos at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES LEADS TO TRIUMPHANT RISING STAR & FUTURE LEADER

Nindaanis Benjamin receives honor of State Officer for MAAP STARS

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

When a shy and timid 17-year-old young lady who was about to give up on her education a few short months ago transforms seemingly overnight to become one of the Hinckley-Finlayson school district's rapidly rising stars and future leaders, that is a pretty good indication of a successful alternative learning program. The Empower Learning Center has been around for over 10 years, serving students ages 16 to 21, and while Nindaanis Benjamin has been in the program for a few short weeks, she has recently been elected as a State Officer for MAAP STARS.

MAAP STARS is a statewide student leadership organization under the larger Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) organization. Many alternative and charter schools in Minnesota, including Empower, have their own local chapters of MAAP STARS. Empower has had a MAAP STARS chapter since 2015.

In the years of having a STARS chapter, Empower has never had a student run for MAAP STARS State Officer, according to Valerie Kunze, Coordinator/Teacher/Advisor for Empower Learning Center at Hinckley-Finlayson Schools. "We are excited and proud to announce that this year, senior Nindaanis Benjamin made the brave decision to run for office," Kunze said.

During the evening session of a student leadership conference, Benjamin took the stage alongside the other officer candidates in front of over 100 other students and advisors from a number of different schools; she gave a three-minute speech discussing her educational journey and her qualifications and desire to be a state officer. At the conclusion of the second day, election results were read, with Benjamin earning a seat at the table as a newly elected MAAP STARS State Officer.

Her journey

She was a shy and timid young girl with an arduous childhood. She moved from house to house, not really having a home of her own. "We just lived with family members," she said. Because of that, she recalled she had been in roughly 13 different schools, and possibly more from early childhood. "I've never really spent more than a couple months or up to a year in most schools. The school I most frequented was McGregor because that's where my grandma lived."

Bouncing from place to place and not having a place to call home is difficult for anyone. The family would often leave and return again. Each time she returned to her school in McGregor, classmates would ask her why she had left. "It was hard when they would ask this because I didn't want anyone to know why we moved so much," Benjamin said. "It was really difficult for

me when we moved because I had to leave my friends and teachers behind and start all over every time."

She was bullied often in her younger years. Rumors spread like wildfire through middle school and high school. One lie told by one classmate can quickly burn out of control, leaving a blowback of bullying from classmates. She said she also carried the weight of having a last name with a reputation of kids being "aggressive, of being a fighter, of being a bad kid. So before I even met the teachers, they already had a bias against me. I would constantly get questions like, 'Are you So-and-So's kid,' or 'Are you related to this person?' But I wasn't that kid. I tried to do the work and be a good student, but sometimes the teachers just wouldn't care; they didn't even give me a chance. I would get into trouble for things that I didn't do because of my last name."

And then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and students were removed from classrooms and shifted to online studies. This was more than challenging for many students, and Benjamin was one of them. Her study skills began to waver; she fell behind in credits and fell way behind other students, she said. Not to mention her social skills were non-existent. When schools reopened for in-person learning, she was afraid to ask questions, or ask for help to catch up. "I didn't want to seem dumb in front of my classmates," she said. But as a result, she fell further behind.

She made an attempt at online learning in the 10th grade. But "things only got worse," she said. "I never wanted to do anything because I felt I wasn't smart enough. After a while, my parents re-enrolled me to return to in-person school. My social skills were nonexistent, my learning and motivation wasn't all there, my self-esteem was really low because I gained some weight. I had no belief in myself."

In her junior year, she was ready to give up, drop out, maybe get a GED, and get a job, because at that point, she believed she wouldn't graduate on time anyway and "making money was a better plan."

That is when one of her teachers, Ms. Vickstrom, told her about the Empower Learning Center. The Empower program is built to have a small teacher-to-student ratio so that we have the opportunity to really get to know students on a personal level in order to serve them best. Each student has their own individual credit plan and their learning is tailored around their interests and future goals. They incorporate as much hands-on work and experiential/community learning as they can while also focusing on post-secondary planning as a big part of what they do.

Benjamin had to wait nine months to get into the program due to the long waiting list. But once she was in, she dug her feet in and has made remarkable improvements.

"She has really stepped into her potential since starting here," Kunze said. "When she first started, she was shy and worked quietly at her desk. Now, she is an active participant in all of our activities. She came in hoping to graduate this year, but not too sure if she could. She now is 100 percent confident in her ability to do so. I have been a MAAP STARS advisor for many years and I knew instantly upon meeting Nindaanis that she possessed the potential to be an amazing leader. With a little coaxing, she agreed to try for a state officer position."

As a peer-elected State Officer, Benjamin will have the opportunity to attend specialized leadership training and will represent MAAP STARS and MAAP as a student ambassador at statewide events. She will be a representative for alternative schools across the state and will be a voice for the students in alternative education. She will have the opportunity to speak to legislators at Legislative Day, preside at the spring MAAP STARS Conference, the fall MAAP STARS Conference, and the MAAP Teacher/Administrator State Conference, as well as promote MAAP STARS throughout the year at various events.



"Empower Learning Center is very proud of the work Nindaanis has already done, and is looking forward to the great things she will accomplish this year as a MAAP STARS State Officer," Kunze said. "It has been an absolute joy to watch her confidence grow in the short amount of time she has gone through this process."

"Empower has helped me figure out what I want to do later on in life and they've helped me find a college I want to go to," Benjamin said. She is also participating in an apprenticeship with the Early Education school in Hinckley and loves the kids and teaching. She is looking forward to a career in Early Education.

Her confidence level is extraordinary for a 17-year-old who has overcome so many challenges, beginning the program as the shy and quiet introvert and emerging as a strong, powerful leader with a voice that is calm, confident, and courageous. She is excited about becoming an officer in the program and is encouraged by the opportunities and experience. "I love the idea of meeting new people and getting out of my comfort zone so I can have new experiences," Benjamin said. She also likes to be involved and volunteer wherever she is needed to help "my people or community," she said.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Dance 2023

NOV. 10th
11 AM - 6 PM
NEW D1
COMMUNITY
CENTER

18458 Minobimaadizi Loop
Onamia, MN 56359

Master of Ceremonies:
Keveon Kingbird
Chi Ma'ingan

Arana Director:
Nicholas Cash

Head Singing Judge:
Les Gahbow
Host Drums:
Little Otter
Hey Creek

Invited Drums:
Pipe Stone
Rocking Bear
Cedar Creek
P Town Boyz
Young Kingbird
Red Willow

8 Drum Spots Available @ \$200 a spot

WINNER TAKE ALL \$5000 Drum Contest

Dance Registration 11 AM - 1 PM
11 AM Invocation By Brenda Moose

Meal will be served 11 AM
Grand Entry 12 PM
Vendors Welcome

Vendors must provide everything they need for their booth.
Tables, Chairs, etc.
Please contact Lana Oswaldson @ 763-238-6629

Partnership
Office of DI Rep. Wind Maadaonidiwag
GCML Band Member Recruitment

Dance Special Payout
1st Place \$500
2nd Place \$300
3rd Place \$200

Dance Specials
Mens Woodlands
Old style Jingle
Mens Side Step
Womens Side Step
Teens Side Step
Tiny Tot Side Step
Mens Vs Womens
Fancy Dance

Dancer Payout
(18+) Payout \$25
(13-17) Payout \$10
(0-12) Payout \$5

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FALL FEAST!

WHERE
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Events and Entertainment Center
777 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359

WHEN
Thursday, November 16
Doors Open at 5 pm
Invocation at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6 pm

WHAT
Join us for a great night featuring a delicious meal and the opportunity to connect with community, learn about MLCV happenings, and give thanks.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHAT DOES MINOBIMAADIZIWIN MEAN TO YOU?

Photos By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Staff

The goal of the Mino-bimaadiziwin Community Project is to capture the perspectives of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe members of all ages to highlight community, culture, and wellness in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

The Mino-bimaadiziwin project is a joint effort between the SHIP grant at Health and Human Services and the Ojibwe Inaajimowin.

Staff set out visiting each District and the Urban area as

a way to include the perspectives from as many community members as possible.

Participants were asked to answer the question: "What does mino-bimaadiziwin mean to you?"

Each participant was photographed and their quote is highlighted by their photo. Those who chose to participate, but did not want to be photographed were given that option as well.

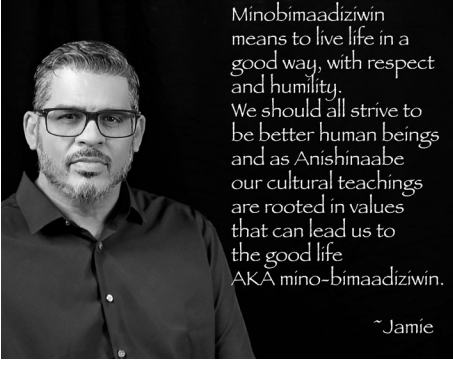
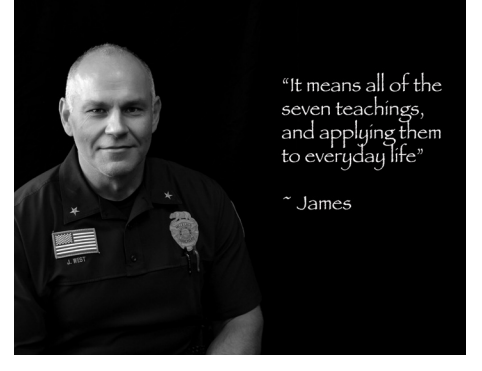
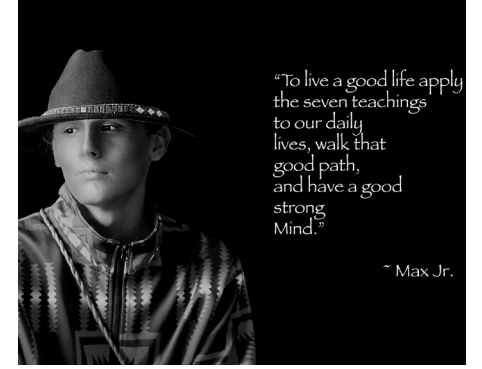
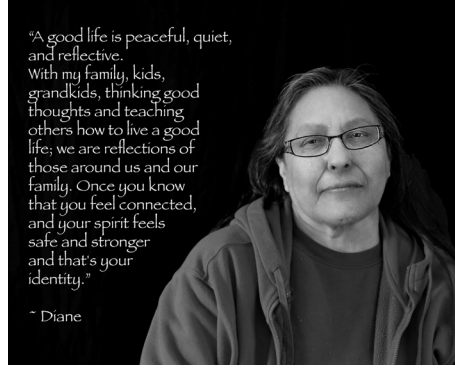
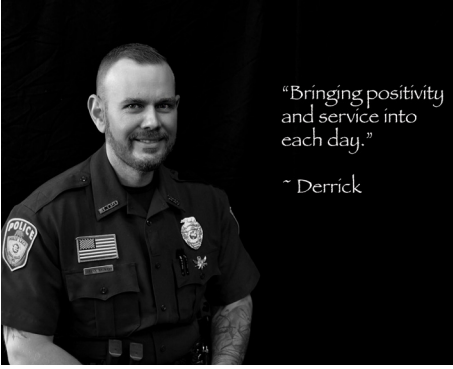
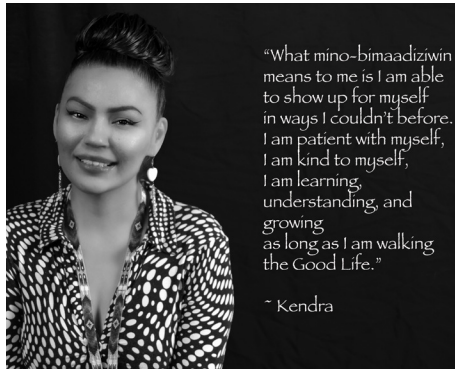
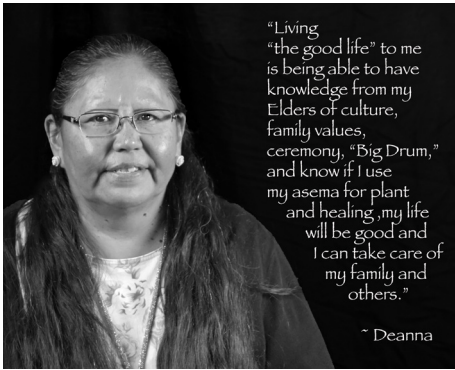
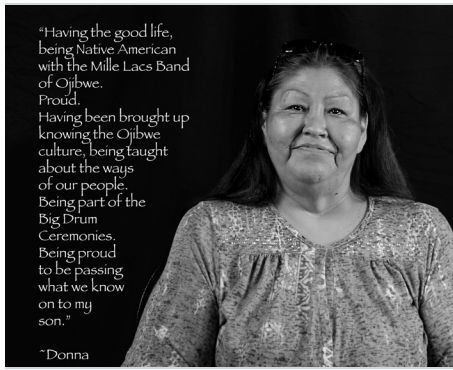
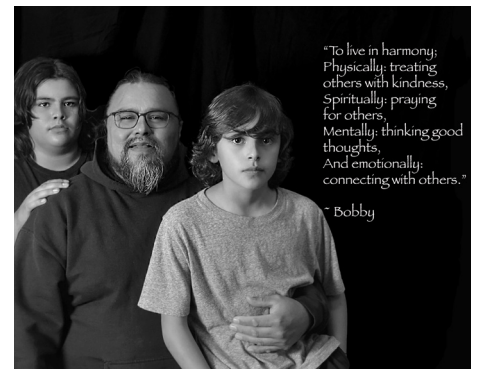
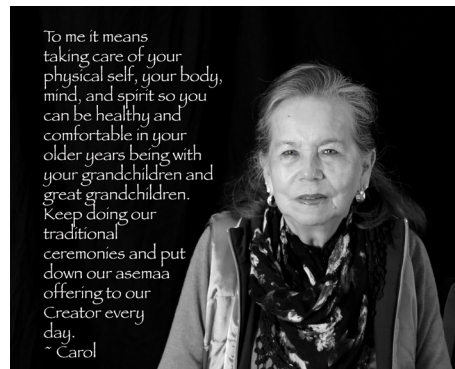
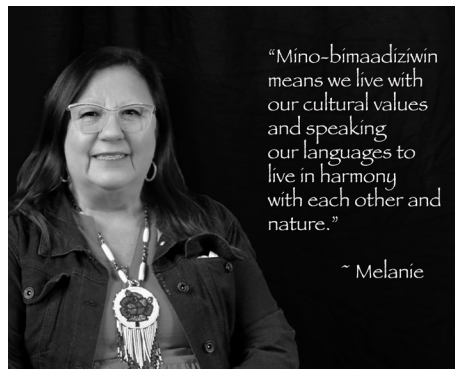
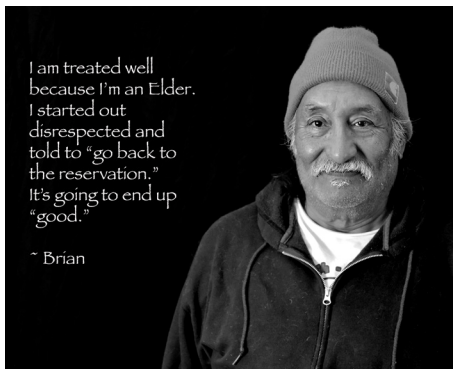
The project's images and quotes will be displayed at the Native American Heritage Month celebration powwow on November 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The powwow is hosted by

the District I Office of Representative Virgil Wind in collaboration with the Maadaonidiwag grant, Grand Casino Mille Lacs Band Member Recruitment, and Health and Human Services Population Health. Everyone is welcome to join in to share some of the beauty of the Mille Lacs Band culture with song, dance, family, and community

Photos have been placed in random order.

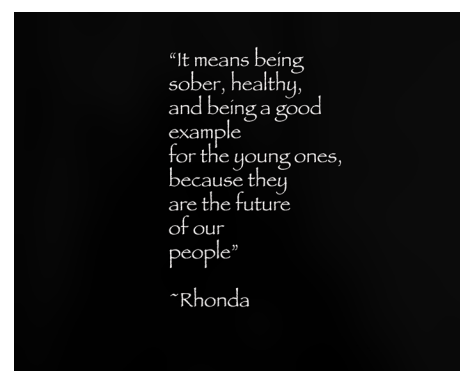
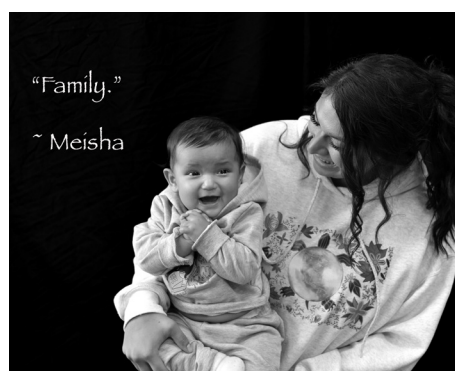
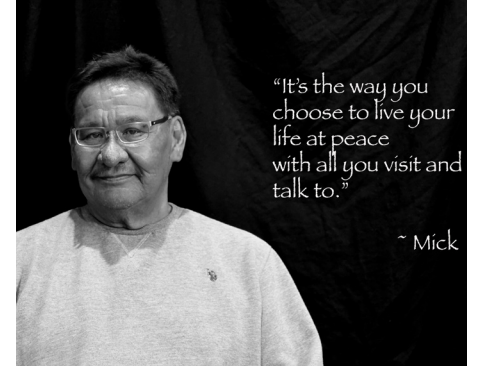
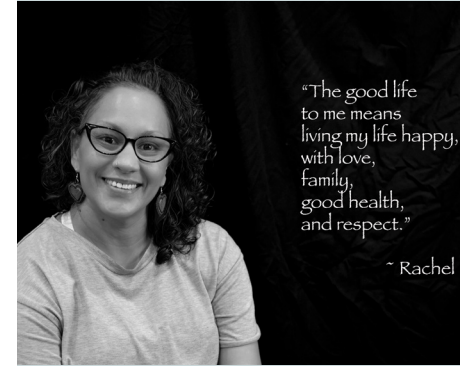
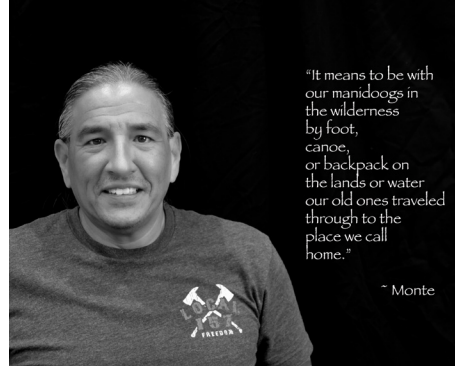
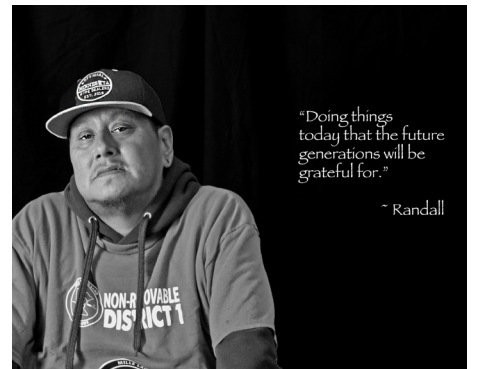
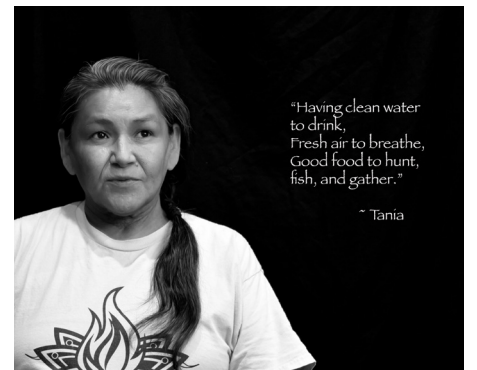
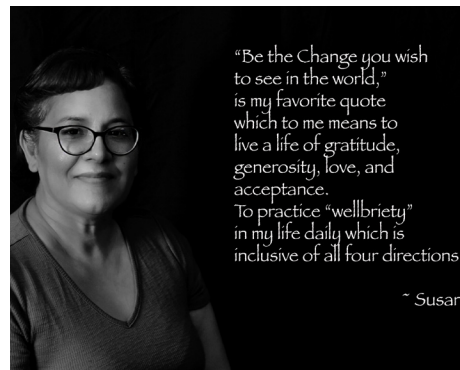
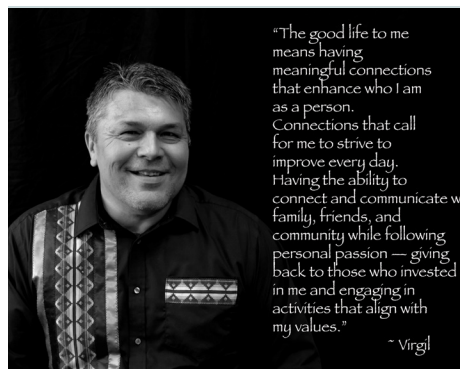
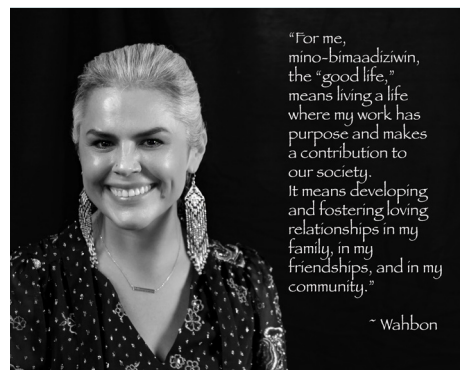
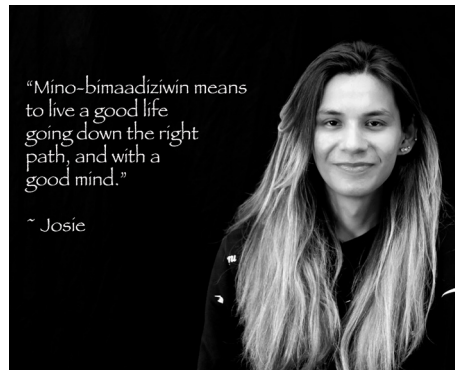
Photos will also be available for viewing at Inaajimowin.com/galleries.

Miigwech.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHAT DOES MINOBIMAADIZIWIN MEAN TO YOU?



Editor's note:

Rhonda opted out of having her photo taken, but wanted to have her quote listed.

Miigwech to all who participated in the Mino-bimaadiziwin Project.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
November 2023

NOV. 10th
11 AM - 6 PM
NEW D1 COMMUNITY CENTER

18458 Mino-bimaadizi Loop
Onamia, MN 56359

Partnership
Office of DI Rep. Wind
Maadaonidiwag
GCML Band Member
Recruitment

CONTROLLING THE LINES OF AN UNCONTROLLED FIRE

Members of the Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland Fire Crew deployed to duty fighting California wildfire

By Vivian LaMoore, Inaajimowin Editor

Record-breaking warmer temperatures all across the country this past summer could be part of the reason there appeared to have been an increase in wildfires across much of North America including the United States and Canada. Dry, less humid conditions create fuel that can ignite a wildfire which can get out of control quickly. That is why the Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland Fire Crew is ready to respond quickly to any small fire on the Mille Lacs Reservation and beyond. Through the partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) this September, the Mille Lacs firefighters were deployed to assist on a rapidly growing wildfire in California.

The Division of Wildland Fire Management (DWFM) under the BIA supports firefighters trained to interagency standards and qualifications, develops Incident Command System (ICS) trained personnel, and sponsors seven Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHC) and many hand crews to respond to fire incidents.

This September, the BIA activated and deployed the first-ever all Midwest Wildland Fire Crew drawing from tribes from Wisconsin and Minnesota. This included crews from Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, White Earth, Bois Forte, and Menominee. Fire fighters from Mille Lacs included Marvin Staples Jr., Eli Staples, and Nate Tulenchik-Pendegayosh. The entire crew traveled in a caravan across country to team up with hand crews at the ICS camp to knock down a wildfire that was burning 4,000 acres in the Trinity National Forest of Northern California.

The Midwest Wildland Fire Crew departed from Bemidji on August 16 and drove to California to perform their 22-day deployment. The deployment consisted of four travel days on both sides of a 14-day shift working 16 hours per day.

First BIA Initial Attack Hand Crew consisted of a 20-man crew with three squads of six people. Eli Staples was a squad boss. "We control the control lines on an uncontrolled fire," Eli said. He has been deployed to work on other wildfires throughout his 23-year career as a Wildland firefighter, but "California was a



BIA Wildland firefighters initial attack hand crew on the morning trail to their designated location. Submitted photo.



Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland firefighters Marvin Staples Jr., Eli Staples, Nate Tulenchik-Pendegayosh taking a break from wildfire duties along a mountain trail in California. Submitted photo.

new experience for me, personally," he said. "It was steep and difficult terrain. We were stationed at the bottom of the mountain, and the fire was at the top. It was a lot of hiking up and down the mountain every day."

Base camp was in Hayfork, California, with spike camps set up closer to the fireline, which was in Mad River. The BIA hand crew helped to manage the fire by cutting and clearing vegetation to create "fire lines" that slow the spread of wildfire, coordinating with firefighting aircraft, as well as other containment operations, such as mopping up.

Once underway, hand crews strengthen these initial containment measures during the mop-up phase of wildland fire management by digging trenches, removing nearby vegetative fuel, and thoroughly extinguishing embers. This sometimes calls for feeling the ground with their bare hands for hotspots. This is called cold trailing.

"When you see smoke on the ground, you have to go find the fire underground and put that fire out," Eli said. "It is so dry out there that fire can spread underground when conditions are right. Cold trailing is when you don't see the smoke, so you feel the ground for hotspots."

The hand crews do just that. "We just feel the ground with our hands. Sometimes you have to put your hands inside logs, crevices, holes in the ground, and you never know if there is going to be something in there," Nate said. "Not just fire. It could be a rattlesnake or scorpion, too."

Northern California is home to several sub-species of venomous rattlesnakes and scorpions — both of which have bites or stings that can be deadly if left untreated. If that is not enough to keep you on your toes, there is also the threat of black bears.

"Yeah, we had all three while we were there," Nate said. "One guy called over the radio and warned everyone that he had just been at camp and there was a bear there. Another guy called over another time and spotted a rattlesnake, and another guy another day had a scorpion. But we keep in close touch with each other and warn people."

The days were filled with long hours and hard work. "They feed us pretty good, though," Eli said. "I think I gained weight out there," Eli added with a laugh.

According to their website, the Trinity National Forest had four separate fires burning at the time the BIA Wildland crews were out there assisting. The BIA crew was assigned to the "3-9 fire" and there was another fire, the Pilot Knob (Creek) fire, in close proximity. Their job was to keep the two fires from joining together.

The crews slept in small one-person tents on the ground. "I grabbed the wrong size tent before we left," said Nate, laughing,

who is 6-foot-2-inches tall. "I couldn't really stretch out." All supplies, tents, sleeping bags, etc. are provided by the Band through the BIA. Because the days were long, labor-intensive hours, and unpredictable, they also grabbed a nap anytime, anywhere they could — even if that meant grabbing a 15-minute nap on a downed log. The brief naps would help to energize them and keep them on top of their game.

To say the work is dangerous would be an understatement. "You keep your head on a swivel," Eli said. Wildland fire crews encounter a variety of obstacles, including falling rock and debris. "Look up. Look down. Be aware. No concern is a dumb concern. Everybody looks out for each other and is in constant contact. At the end of the day, we make sure everyone is safe and everyone makes it home, or back to base camp."

"The work was hard, but it was a great experience," Nate said. Getting used to the elevation that ranged from 3,000 to 5,000 feet was a new experience for him. "Yeah, working above the clouds was pretty cool."

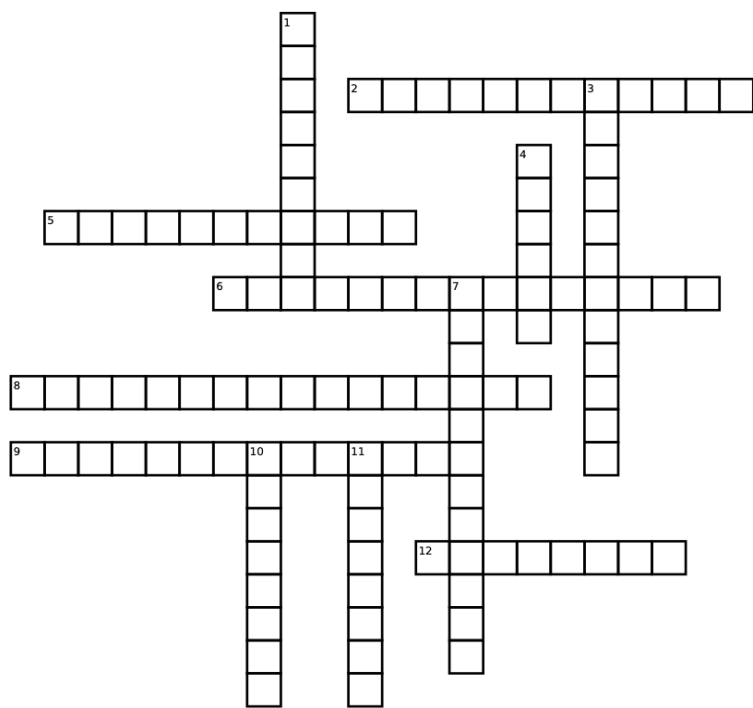
The Mille Lacs Band Wildland Firefighter crew consists of Jake Horbacz, Elijah Staples, Jamal Baird Sr., Aazhibik Aubid, Harvey Aubid, Marvin Staples Jr., Nathan Tulenchik-Pendegayosh, Clayton Benjamin Jr., Duane Sam, and Richard Martin. Each member of the team is eligible to be deployed by the BIA at any given time. While teams are deployed, the remaining crews take full responsibility for all duties. The team has responded to roughly nine fire calls during the 2023 fire season within the Initial Attack (AI) area of the Reservation. Under the umbrella of the BIA, the Mille Lacs Band DNR Wildland is responsible for protecting the lands of the District I tribal lands. Other areas contract with local fire departments and the Minnesota DNR firefighters.

All of the experiences gained during the California wildfire deployment and every wildfire deployment are, in a sense, a live training opportunity. "No matter how long you do a job — any job — if you are not learning something every day, then you are not paying attention," Eli said. "In this job, you gotta pay attention to everything. I am glad these guys got to go out and experience this. Everything we did out there gave experience and knowledge that we bring back here to use in our daily jobs."

Eli has been a firefighter for nearly 23 years. "I've done it for so long, it is just part of who I am. I grew up in this. The guy before me was Dean Staples, my uncle. He did 27 years here. He is the one who got me into it. He helped me understand fires. It's all in here," he said, indicating his heart and his mind. "I'll do it until I can't anymore. It's who I am. When I think back to all of the fires I've been on and all that I have witnessed, I wouldn't change a thing. I would do it all over again. It is a gift I was given."

AAZHAWAAKWASING GASHKADINO-GIIZIS

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member



Down:

1. Like it!
3. He/she is having it got for h/her.
4. Go get it.
7. I am listening to him/her..
10. Like him/her!
11. You are getting it.

Across:

2. You like him/her.
5. I like it.
6. S/he is seen.
8. It is liked.
9. It is got.
12. Get it for him/her.

A CALL TO ACTION

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member

As Anishinaabe, we have developed perspectives on one another that diminish the community. Before colonization, we had strong community dependency. Everyone had to pull their own weight and provide. With the community in mind, and with guidance and trust in the manidoog, we have been very blessed with bimaadiziwin.

There has been a disruption in our energy cycle. Trauma and oppression led to a deviation from contributing to the cycle of energy that we rely on. As spiritual beings, we need to be nourished and rejuvenated spiritually. As we would need to eat food for nutrients, and learn to strengthen our mind. It has been nearly 200 years since our bimaadiziwin cycle has been impacted by colonization physically and 500 years since we have been affected spiritually. All the while, certain culture keepers have ensured that our ceremonies continued and the manidoog have been sent offerings and thanks. Regardless, the disruption has had its consequences.

In today's age, we know a little of what we have. The energy our ancestors contributed to has allowed us to survive oppression and hostilities. It has allowed us to maintain a way of life that is intended to nourish our Jichaag (inner-spirit). We are spiritually starving and our community is showing us the ramifications of that spiritual hunger. If you have ever felt that you weren't enough — you could do more, you wanted to know more, you are meant for more — you may have also felt the effects. We know just enough, what we were meant to know, in order to maintain our spiritual connection.

With all that has gone on and how we are in such a dire, hungry state today, we now see each other as competition. Those that now hold the same worldly view as the majority of society will attempt to keep those that are trying to bring back our traditional ways down. They see them as counterproductive to their mission. It would be subconscious for them to believe that, as they can honestly believe they are doing what's right for the community. It's the same energy used to view each other as a teammate.



As we work toward being who we are meant to be as Anishinaabe, we need to start working toward our Anishinaabe purpose. It is said that we are here for a reason, that there is something we are meant to accomplish. It may be one thing, or the one thing can be a lifestyle that is meant to be demonstrated. Living a life well, teaching others, sharing the stories, using our language, and accepting the gifts is all part of that lifestyle in order for us to be Anishinaabe.

In order to see each other as Anishinaabe, we need to continue showing gratitude for all we have. And, we also need to take part in our actions that Anishinaabe are meant to do. We are to take part in our songs, language, ceremonies, traditions, customs, and so on. We were given so much as Anishinaabe, and using our purposes we can see each other as fellow Anishinaabe in order to ensure our future is being included in our cycle of bimaadiziwin.

Miigwech.

GIDINWEWINAAN — OUR WAY OF SOUND

By Nazhike, Mille Lacs Band Member

Ojibwe Language has multiple ways to use words. Seeing the different components in which words are used in Ojibwe can help build vocabulary. Phrases like “I like it” and “she likes you” and “it is liked” can use the same root word in Ojibwe with different components added in to express what you are trying to convey to whom you speak to. Let's try!

Minwenim = Like him/her!
(min wayn nim)

Minwendan = Like it!
(min wayn dun)

Giminwenimaa = You like him/her.
(gih min wayn nim mah)

Nminwendaan = I like it.
(nih min wayn dahn)

Minwendanjigaade = It is liked.
(min wayn dun jig gah day)

Minweninjigaazo = S/he is seen.
(min wayn nin jig gah zo)

Naadamaw = Get it for him/her.
(nah dum maw)

Naadin = Go get it.
(nah din)

Ninaadamawaa = I am listening to him/her.
(ni nah dum maw wah)

Ginaadin = You are getting it.
(gih nah din)

Naadanamaagwad = It is got.
(nah dun nuh mah gwud)

Naadamaagozi = He/she is having it got for h/her.
(nah dum mah go zih)

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

WAABISHKIBINES ENENDAANG — JOE'S THOUGHTS

DADAZHIMAAG WAADOKAAWIJIG JI-ANISHINAABEWIIYAANG OR THE ONES WHO ARE HELPING ME

**GAA-TIBAAJIMOD (told by) JOE NAYQUONABE SR.,
WAABISHKIBINES**

**GAA-TIBAAJIMOTAWAAJIN (transcribed by)
JAMES CLARK, OZAAWAANAKWAD**

I am so fortunate to have a grandson and a great-grandson at my home with me. The great-grandson turned a year old in July. The grandson will turn a year in October. Before the mothers take them to daycare, they bring the kids into my room. I will play and interact with them until they have to go. They help me in many ways, but I will talk about them more later.

I wanted to give a shoutout to some grown men who are helping me: Byron, Chato, Dan, Brad, Nick, James, Bob, and Virgil. These guys have helped me so much spiritually and culturally, and even with the language.

They are always so helpful to me whenever I attend a ceremony with them and they always take care, ensuring that I am comfortable. They've taken me to ceremonies and places my spirit and I are needed. Especially on those trips I am taken care of with the basic necessities. During these times there is a lot of laughter, joy, and serious talks about what we're going to do and what we just finished. The laughter is contagious and the fun is never-ending.

They've also introduced me to some of the best food

whether it's fish fries, prime rib, Chinese, and Mexican, they've even introduced me to Vietnamese restaurants. I get a little nervous when I go to the Vietnamese restaurants, because in the mid 60s I had negative encounters with people from there during the Vietnam War, not to mention I have something to remember them by lodged in my body [shrapnel]. Thus, my nervousness — just kidding.

I've done a lot of peacemaking with my thoughts and emotions about Vietnam by doing away with the hate that was in my heart and mind. Since letting go of all that, life has only been on the up and up for me.

Not only are there good men in my life, but many good women — just to name a few of the many are Melanie, Wendy, and the late Dorothy and Elfreda Sam. Without the women in my life, I wouldn't have gotten the pushes and teachings needed to do the work the Creator put me on Earth to do and continue.

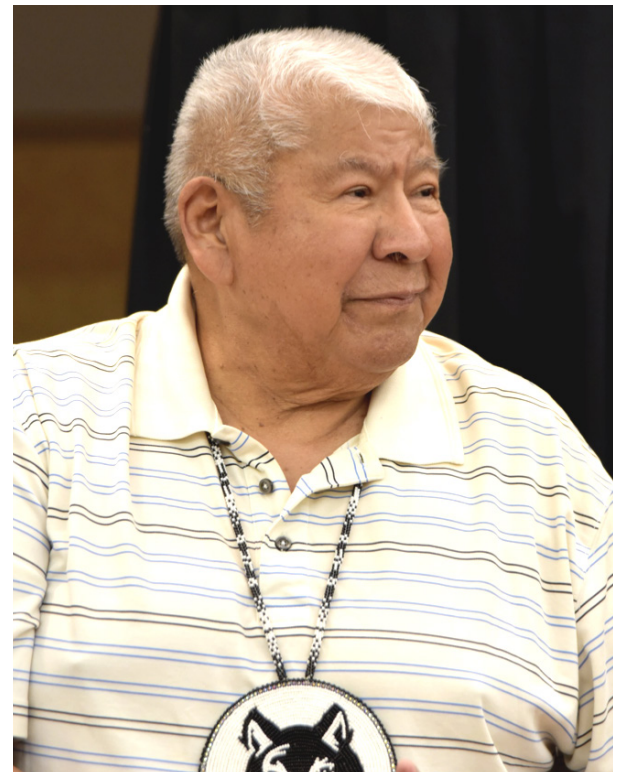
Because of all those people I mentioned who have and are supporting our culture, language, and ways of life, I believe that my grandson and great-grandson will be in good hands with these teachers and teachings, and how the Anishinaabe way of life will continue for another generation.

NOTES FROM JOE:

Aaniin Anishinaabedog! Waabishkibines omaa. (Hello fellow Anishinaabe!) Joe Sr. here. With the times we live in, I must tell you about the article I have submitted. This article is full of my words, observations, and experiences that I have encountered throughout my life, and it is time to have these subjects written down. Understand not everything needs to be written, but various teachings cannot be lost.

That being said, as Anishinaabe, we all experience life differently. This disclaimer is needed for all intents and purposes as the goal of this article is: to better equip our people who'd like to learn, and for topics people may not have the ability to ask an Elder about. If these teachings are not as you learned them, that is okay. It is not our way to blame and criticize but to teach and show compassion.

Any comments, questions, or further discussion, please feel free to reach out to me and I'd be happy to have a conversation. Miigwech.



CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

- Minwendanjigaade**
- Minweninjigaazo**
- Naadanamaagwad**
- Giminwenimaa**
- Nminwendaan**
- Naadamaw**
- Ninaadamawaa**
- Minwendan**
- Naadin**
- Naadamaagozi**
- Minwenim**
- Ginaadin**

OJIBWEMOWIN WORD FIND (CLUES TO RIGHT)

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

AROUND THE RESERVATION

MEN'S GROUP IS SUPPORTIVE AND COOL

All are welcome

By Li Boyd, Band member

Like most parents, Bob Eagle wants what's best for his kids, and in early 2020, he found himself struggling when one of his children made some missteps that ended in legal trouble. Bob, fearing that he was failing as a parent, reached out to other men in the community for advice. This was the beginning of the Men's Support Group, a true grassroots group focused on community support and solidarity.

The group is designed for men, and participants can bring any issues to discuss, including problems with relationships, parenting, substance use disorders, and anything that affects life and health. Jason Sam, group member and a peer recovery specialist at Ne-la-Shing Clinic, says this is his favorite part. "It's an open place for men to go," he says. "It doesn't have to be about recovery."

Joe Nayquonabe Sr., one of the first to answer the call when Bob Eagle started the group, echoed these thoughts and added that the group is largely informal. Most meetings will start with a smudge and a prayer for the manidoo to watch over everyone. Bob usually cooks a meal. In the talking circle, a feather is passed around so that each participant may have his time to speak uninterrupted. Joe stresses that confidentiality is an important element to meetings. The group is meant to be a safe space. What is said there, stays there, and that's a part of basic trust.

Joe also thinks it's important to remind men that they don't have to be in distress to participate. This is unique in a health and human services landscape that sometimes can't provide support until clients are already in dire need. Assessment is a commonly heard word in health programs, and the Men's Support Group doesn't require any of that.

One of the greatest pitfalls of modern society is the prevalence of something called Toxic Masculinity. It goes back to those old ways of thinking where men never cry, they don't have, much less share, feelings, and they don't show love and affection in healthy ways. In Indian Country, toxic masculinity is reinforced by the pressure of stereotypes our communities have carried for generations. The myth of the Stoic Indian Man is as common today as it was 50 or 100 years ago. To this day, representation in non-Native media plays on the falsehood that a stern Indian man is impervious. He is self-sufficient, silent, strong, needs no one, and cannot be hurt.

This is all, of course, absurd and part of the intergenerational trauma our communities have suffered due to colonization. Many victims of Indian Boarding Schools and their descendants highlight the inability to show love, or any emotion at all, as one of the most devastating after-effects experienced by survivors. This is part of what makes the Men's Support Group so crucial to our community as a whole. Though the group is designed for men, the ultimate goal is for the betterment of the entire community.

Nick Cash, peer recovery specialist and group member, thinks it's important that the group works to show men and boys that there is a different way to live. Our youth need to know that going to jail or prison isn't some kind of rite of passage. It doesn't equate to being tough or cool. Doing cultural activities, participating in drum ceremonies and sweat lodge, these are all things that are "cool." The group, Nick says, is about breaking the cycle, creating a safe space for men to vent and learn to be better with themselves. The group wants ev-



A grassroots men's support group meets each week focused on community support and solidarity is an open place for men to go. They can relax in a calm space and discuss anything from relationships, parenting, substance use disorders, anything that affects life and health. Discussions and support are not limited to recovery. All are welcome. The group meets weekly at 5:30 p.m. at the Old District I Community Center.

eryone to be comfortable enough to share their minds, hearts, the barriers they encounter, the stories they've lived, and the things that have helped them. In this group, there is no hierarchy. Everyone is equal.

That being said, Nick's day job focuses on recovery issues, and recovery is a large part of what the group addresses. Several members have taken part in suicide prevention training, and much of the focus is on meeting men where they are. "We want to get the guy who wants to stop but doesn't know how," Nick says. And there's no judgment or punishment. "If you fall off, we're still here. We want to keep people in recovery." Bob Eagle says that there are no rules about not attending the meetings under the influence. "We will speak to you immediately," he says.

While the group is largely self-sufficient, fundraising on its own without operational support from the Mille Lacs Band, in 2022, Mille Lacs Band Health and Human Services did take notice and began donating some financial support as well as referring some of their clients to the group for additional support. The group has also gained some recognition outside the boundaries of the Mille Lacs Band. Similar groups have started in Red Lake, White Earth, Cass Lake, Bemidji, and Minneapolis. "We're just one small group now," Bob says. Sometimes the newer groups come to Mille Lacs to share a meeting. At a recent potluck event, Bob says about 140 people showed up. The group also does community engagement, sometimes partnered with the Women's Support Group, in the form of smudge walks, fundraiser food sales, and similar events. The group utilizes sober and social networks to give participants the broadest base of support and resources possible. The group has even participated in wellness conferences across the United States, fundraising their own travel expenses to network in California, Arizona, and Colorado. At these events, they have been invited to share what the group is about and connect with similar groups on initiatives, what works, what doesn't, and new ideas to try.

The Men's Support Group meets every Monday at 5:30 p.m. usually at the Old District I Community Center. Funerals and other events sometimes require a change of location, and the group does its best to update its social media to reflect any changes. Joe Sr. says the group is comfortable in the Old Community Center though. There's a kitchen for Bob to cook in, there's a meeting room, and the men feel at home there. As the group's spiritual advisor, Joe looks forward to talking about culture, and the roles of men in communities and families, and he also hopes to see more and younger participants. There are no age requirements in the group, and it's important to all the members to get all the generations involved. To sum it up, Nick Cash says, "We're here for you."

ASK AUNTIE

Hi Auntie,

This is hard for me. I am a 14-year-old girl. I do well in school and I think I'm smart. I know many things for my age. I have a good family and many Elders who teach me spiritual things. Something has been bothering me lately. I feel confused at times. I am proud to be Indigenous but sometimes I don't understand what it means to be Indigenous. Sometimes my non-Native friends ask me what it means and sometimes I don't know what to tell them. I can't find the words sometimes. So, Auntie, what does it mean to be Indigenous?

Thank you,

Your confused Niece

Aaniin Nishimis,

You are a very wise soul. Thank you for your question. I think there are many of us, including me, who wonder what it means to be Indigenous. My niece, being Indigenous can mean many different things to each of us because we are all unique. To me, being Indigenous means being the best Auntie I can be. I have the responsibility to follow the path of the Creator and all my ancestors. For me, it means to not only acknowledge our past trauma, genocide, and injustices but to use the past strength and resiliency that our ancestors had. It means to me to protect our children and our Mother Earth. It means to live in balance and harmony with everything created and that has a spirit. It means to practice our culture and language to honor our ancestors and ensure the next generations have the opportunity to learn and keep our customs and traditions going. It means that I am responsible for my family and my community. It means to practice my treaty rights. It means dancing, singing, and going to ceremonies. It means finding your purpose and helping your community. It means fighting for all Indigenous people. It means I am beautiful and I have a beautiful spirit.

It means that no matter where I go, I am on Native land and I acknowledge the people who live there and the people who were there before me and will be there after me. It means I am always home.

It means I have the funniest sense of humor.

It means I have a solid connection with the Creator and all beautiful things that the Creator made. Most importantly, I know who I am and I pray for others.

Being Indigenous means something unique to everyone and could change depending on your mood, but one last thing for me is being Indigenous is being a warrior and fighting for all people.

Keep being wise, my girl, and whatever you think being Indigenous means, you're right!

Auntie

Submit your questions for Auntie to News@millelacsband.com. All submissions for Ask Auntie will remain anonymous.

MEKWEINIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

NIIZHOOGWANE, JESSE TAYLOR

Niizhoogwane, Jesse Taylor, age 37, passed away on October 6, 2023. A visitation was held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Ceremonial Hall, East Lake, Minnesota. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II Ceremonial Hall, East Lake, Minnesota, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment was in the Big Sandy Burial Grounds.

Niizhoogwane, Jesse was born on February 27, 1986, to Tammy (Sargent) and Kenneth Taylor Sr. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He enjoyed detailing and working on his car. Jesse loved to spend his time with his granddaughter and family.

Niizhoogwane is survived by his spouse, Tara Papsadora; children, Talia (Trevor) Taylor and granddaughter, Gianna, Jesse Taylor Jr.; brothers, Kenneth Taylor Jr., Carlos (Tara) Taylor, Ruben Taylor; sister, Desiree Taylor; aunts, Tabatha (Jeff) Boyd, Chrissy Reyes, Lisa (John) Carpenter; and many loving cousins, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tammy (Sargent) and Kenneth Taylor Sr.; sister, Missy Taylor; grandmothers, June Boyd and Eloise Carpenter; aunts, Kim Zgodava, Tara Kangas, Kay Beaupre, JoAnn Sargent, Marcia "Jean" Taylor; uncles, Richard Kangas, Franklin Boyd Jr., and Edwin "Bo" Peet.



IKWE'E, SHEILA BENJAMIN

Ikwe'e, Sheila Benjamin, age 55, of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on September 25, 2023. Visitation will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 29, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating. Interment is in the Vineland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Ikwe'e, Sheila was born on August 20, 1968, in Onamia, Minnesota, to Evelyn and Arthur Benjamin. She was raised by Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin Eagle Sr. Sheila enjoyed drawing, coloring, playing slots at the casino, doing beadwork, and cleaning. She liked to spend her time cooking, especially her cabbage rolls and fry bread, and being with her family.

Ikwe'e, Sheila is survived by her sons, Noah Sam, Gordon Sam, Jr.; daughters, Cheryl Benjamin, and Adrianna Benjamin-Sam; brothers, Raymond Benjamin, and Bernard Weyaus; sisters, Rosella Eagle, and Pamela Eagle; grandchildren, Ceceliyah Benjamin, and De'Adrian Benjamin.

She was preceded in death by her biological parents, Arthur and Evelyn (Weyaus) Benjamin; parents, Delores (Weyaus) and Melvin Eagle Sr.; sisters, Debra Weyaus, Betty Benjamin, Janet Benjamin, Cheryl Benjamin, Melvina Eagle, Anabelle Eagle, Victoria Eagle, Robin Eagle, Angeline Eagle, Vala Eagle; brothers, Melvin Eagle Jr., Brian Eagle; and many loving relatives.



NOODIN, CHEYENNE JOSEPH DAVIS SR.

Noodin, Cheyenne "Big Baby" Davis Sr., age 45, of Garrison, Minnesota, passed away on October 1, 2023. A visitation was held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Ombishkebines officiating.

Noodin, Cheyenne "Big Baby" Davis Sr., was born on February 20, 1978, in Onamia, Minnesota. He enjoyed playing blackjack, basketball, and the moccasin tournament. Cheyenne liked to spend his time drawing, helping his friends, and being with his grandchildren. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, especially for his rap music, and shows.

He is survived by children, Marlow Davis, Wyndessa Davis, Frances Davis, Sean Davis, Keiauna Sam; mother, Winifred Davis; brothers, Richard Davis, Louis Davis, Marlow Day, Randall Nickaboine, Ernest Boyd; grandchildren, Malaycia Davis, Bianca Day, Mariah Day, Marlow Davis Jr.; special friends, Tanya Castellano, Vanessa Weyaus, Rochelle Blake, Mike "Pops" Quinn; and many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, Cheyenne Davis Jr.; mother, Frances Davis; fathers, Bruce Harrington, Joe Anderson; sister, Kateri Boswell; grandparents, Harold Davis, Dolly "Grams" Kegg, Gloria Nickaboine; great-grandparents, Annie and Henry Davis Sr.; cousins, Tina Anderson, Dallas Anderson Sr.; and many loving relatives.



BAABIWAASH, CHRISTOPHER RAY NELSON

Christopher Ray "Baabiiwaash" Nelson, beloved son, brother, father, and friend, passed away on October 9, 2023, at the age of 32. He was born on April 8, 1991, in Mora, Minnesota, to his loving parents, Martin Nelson and Teresa Nelson.

Christopher will always be remembered as a great man, always there for those in need and deeply devoted to his family. He took pride in being the oldest among his siblings and cherished the special bond they shared. Christopher had a son, Christopher Ray Nelson Jr., whom he loved dearly and was proud to call his own.

A man of many talents, Christopher found joy in his hobbies and interests. He had a passion for driving around while listening to music, and his freestyle rapping showcased his remarkable talent. Not only was he musically gifted, but he was also incredibly intelligent, always staying true to himself and keeping things real.

Christopher was preceded in death by his beloved grandmothers, Nina Benjamin and Melody DeMar, as well as his cherished cousins, Daisha Shelene Honsey and Michael Nelson III, and his uncle, Randy LaFave-Benjamin.

Left to cherish his memory are his parents, Martin Nelson and Teresa Nelson, along with his grandparents, Lorelei LaFave and Randy Benjamin. Christopher leaves behind his brothers, Martin Nelson Jr., Timothy Nelson, Justyn Lundgren, and Tristyn Lundgren, as well as his sisters, Kellie Nelson, Katie Nelson, Lilly Nelson, and Brooklyn Lundgren.

To celebrate Christopher's life and honor his memory, a visitation will be held on October 12, 2023, at dusk at the Aazhoomoog Community Center. The funeral service will follow on October 13, 2023, at 10 a.m. also at the Aazhoomoog Community Center, officiated by Chato Ombishkebines Gonzalez and Lee Obizaan Staples. Following the service, Christopher will be laid to rest in a burial ceremony at Stevens Lake Cemetery.



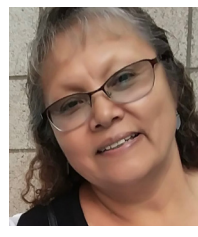
AGAASAA, DEBRA BLAKE

Agaasaa, Debra Blake, age 67, of Onamia, Minnesota, passed away on September 23, 2023. Visitation was held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Nazhike officiating. Interment is in the Woodland Burial Grounds. Arrangements are with the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Onamia.

Agaasaa, Debra was born on February 20, 1956, in Cloquet, Minnesota, to Violet and Lloyd Pindegayosh. She enjoyed traveling, going to the casino, and attending pow wows. Debra liked to spend her time working on puzzles and being with her family.

Debra is survived by her sons, Phillip (Mickey Sam) Harrington Sr., Jeremy Harrington; daughters, Asiniikwe (Jason) Sam, Sherry Harrington; grandchildren, Nadine Harrington, Phillip Harrington, Jr., Whitney Harrington, Zachary Moose, Mirayah Shaugobay, Kira Shaugobay, Keonna Mitchell, Cameron Harrington, Jada Harrington, Shawntel Jellum, Gabrielle Jellum; and many great-grandchildren; her sister, Diana Guizar; and brother, Donald Graves; and brother-in-law, Kelcey Packineau.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Blake; parents, Violet Shaugobay and Lloyd Pindegayosh; grandchildren, Charlotte Harrington, Renae Short, and Camille Wade.



BIIDWEWIDAMOOKWE ELFREDA "KAADAAK" SAM

Biidwewewidamookwe, Elfreda Sam, age 91, passed away on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Visitation was held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. A funeral ceremony was held at 10 a.m. on Friday, October 6, 2023, at the District I Community Center on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation, with Gisibaganeb officiating. Interment was in the Vineland Burial Grounds.

Biidwewewidamookwe, Elfreda was born on July 9, 1932, in Onamia, Minnesota. She enjoyed teaching others, especially children, the Ojibwe language and culture. Elfreda was a Drum and Mide member, where she participated in traditional ceremonies. She liked to spend her time quilting, beading, and traveling to pow wows. Elfreda enjoyed working on word search puzzles and playing bingo. She loved telling her stories to her grandchildren and being with her family.

Biidwewewidamookwe is survived by her sons, Robert Sam-Kegg Sr., Steve (Roberta Lemieux) Sam; daughters, Bernice Pewaush, Christina Gale; brothers, Herb Weyaus, Leonard Weyaus; sisters, Delsie Day, Joanne Boyd; 61 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; 6 great-great-grandchildren; and many loving relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ben; parents, Ole and Jennie; children, Elaine, Nora, Bonita, Ernest Sr., Michael; brothers, Spencer, Robert, Lindsey, Tony, Kenneth; Sister, Esther; grandchildren, Cory Sr., Lawrence, Lindsey, Emery, and one granddaughter; great-grandchildren, Marissa, Robert, Windy, Hazel, Dana, Michael, and one great-grandson.



MEKWENIMINJIG

THE ONES WHO ARE REMEMBERED

GI-SHI-BA-GWA-NEEB CLIFFORD KENNETH CHURCHILL



Clifford Kenneth Churchill, fondly known as "Skip" to his loved ones, passed away on October 21, 2023, at the age of 74. He was born in Minnesota on June 21, 1949, to Bernice and Albert Churchill. Clifford was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a cherished friend who touched the lives of all those around him.

Clifford spent his early years in Hayward, Wisconsin, before settling down in Pine City, Minnesota, and eventually Lake Lena. He graduated from Pine City High School and further pursued his passion for welding at Pine Tech. Clifford also attended the Iron Working School in Chicago, Illinois, honing his skills as an ironworker.

On December 29, 1969, Clifford exchanged vows with his beloved wife, Donna G. (Louis) Churchill, in Pine City. Their union was a testament to their unwavering love and companionship.

Clifford's life was a tapestry of diverse experiences. As a Spiritual Leader, he guided his community towards spiritual growth and enlightenment. He showcased his exceptional skills as a welder, carpenter, and ironworker, leaving a mark on numerous construction projects. Clifford proudly served his country as a Specialist 4 in the U.S. Army from March 16, 1971, until his honorable discharge on March 15, 1973. He bravely defended the values he held dear and contributed to the nation's security.

In his leisure time, Clifford pursued his passions with abundant enthusiasm. Whether it was hunting, fishing, tinkering with cars, golfing, or playing softball, Clifford poured his heart into every activity. His competitive spirit also led him to enjoy boxing and billiards, where he showcased his skill and determination.

Clifford's warm spirit and caring nature will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Bernice and Albert Churchill, his daughter Cara, and his brothers Daniel, Rayna "Rene," Albert Jr. "Sonny," and Bratan "Buzz."

He leaves behind his beloved wife Donna, their children Jennifer, Jamie, Jessica, Jeremiah Sr., Daniel, Jonnie, and Irene, his sister Bernida, and his cherished grandchildren Shaye, Eyrah, Jeremiah Jr., Braeton, Etcher, Brian, Tristen, Tena, Norma, and Gabriella. Clifford's enduring presence in their lives will forever be remembered and cherished.

Clifford "Skip" Churchill's memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know and love him. He will be dearly missed, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

To honor and celebrate the life of Clifford "Skip" Churchill, a visitation was held on October 24, 2023, at the Aazhoomog Community Center in Sandstone starting at 6 p.m. A funeral service was held on October 25, 2023, at the same location, beginning at 10 a.m.

CHI-MOOKOMON GEORGE WILLIAM PREMO



George Wilber "Chi-mookomaan" Premo, of Hinckley, Minnesota, passed away on October 21, 2023. He was 72 years old.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Aazhoomog Community Center in Sandstone, Minnesota. Visitation began at dusk on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Full obituary pending as of press time.

FUNERAL NOTICES

OBITUARIES NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME WILL BE PRINTED WHEN AVAILABLE.

MINO-GIIZHIGAD, IRA CHE AUBID

A wake was held Saturday, October 21, 2023 at dusk. A funeral service was held Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 10 a.m. with Waawaakeyaash officiating.

ANAKWAD, BILLY JOE GARBOW

A wake was held Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 7 p.m. A funeral service was held Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 10 a.m. with Ombishkbines officiating.

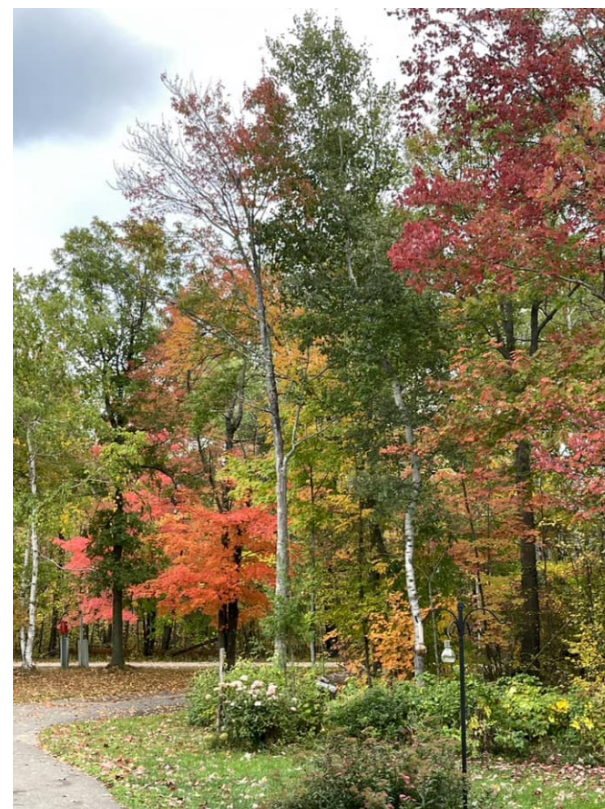
DNR FALL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The Department of Natural Resources held a Fall Photo Contest on their Facebook page. They asked Band members to post a picture of their favorite natural landscape and then chose the top three photos. The contest was posted on October 5 and three winners were chosen on October 20. First place winner won a \$50 gift card; Second place won a \$30 gift card; and Third place won \$20 gift card. Keep an eye on the DNR Facebook page for more contests like this.



1ST PLACE

Kymerly Thayer.



2ND PLACE

Barb Boyd Lobeko.



3RD PLACE

Cheyenne Peet.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FALL FEAST!

WHERE
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Events and Entertainment Center
777 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359

WHEN
Thursday, November 16
Doors Open at 5 pm
Invocation at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6 pm

WHAT
Join us for a great night featuring a delicious meal and the opportunity to connect with community, learn about MLCV happenings, and give thanks.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

NOVEMBER ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Cherie Jean Ambrose
 Floyd James Ballinger
 Clifford Wayne Benjamin
 Franklin James Benjamin
 Gregory Alan Benjamin
 Irene Bernice Benjamin
 Monica Lee Benjamin
 Barbara Jean Benjamin-Robertson
 Henry Benjamin Bonga
 Sean Allan Bonga
 William Boyd
 Kimberly Sue Brock
 Deanna Marie Bullchild
 Donna Lisa Bullchild
 Alice Elizabeth Carter
 Mary Maxine Conklin
 Mary Ann Curfman
 Michael Roger Dorr
 Douglas Duane Dunkley
 Donald Ross Eubanks
 Terrance Wayn Feltmann
 Roger Granger

Carol Holmes
 Eileen Johnson
 Michael Anthony Juarez
 Bridgette Marie Kilpela
 Christopher James Kuntz
 George Virgil LaFave
 Barbara Ellen Lobejko
 Sidney Ray Lucas
 Darlene Doris Meyer
 Mary Ellen Meyer
 Ann Marie Mitchell
 Marie Linda Nahorniak
 Judith Marie Nickaboine
 Paul Benjamin Nickaboine
 Bernadette Norton
 Lana Sue Oswaldson
 Elizabeth Anne Peterson
 Maria Rea
 Dale William Roy
 Rhonda Lee Sam
 Karen Renee Sampson
 Laura Jean Schaaf
 Kenneth Daryl Shingobe
 Maria Ellena Spears
 Nora Grace St. John
 David Le Roy Staples

Donald Gerard Thomas
 John Henr Thomas
 Jerry Lee Torgerud
 Joyce Lavern Trudell
 Shawn Henry Wellner
 Sylvia Jane Wise
 Patricia Beatrice Xerikos

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday, **Cake** on November 9, Love your BFF • Happy birthday on November 18 **Shawntel**, Love, The Harrington Family



ELDERS NEEDED!

The Government Affairs Department is seeking Elders to tell their stories for a new Moccasin Telegraph series as well as to preserve video and audio in the Mille Lacs Band archives for future generations. If you are willing to participate in a video interview to share your memories, please email news@millelacsband.com or call 320-630-8195.

Bobby Anderson submitted this photo as a winner in the October 1, 2023, Grand National Club Championships at Grand National Hinckley.

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 **320-630-8195**. The deadline for the December issue is November 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 320-630-8195.

Send your shout-outs to news@millelacsband.com!

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

The Government Affairs Department, which is in charge of communications with Band members, is compiling a list of email addresses so we can send weekly news summaries and breaking news updates to Band members.

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

IMPORTANT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Mille Lacs Band Government Center: 320-532-4181
Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police: 320-532-3430
Non-Emergency Phone: 320-630-2994
Chief Executive's Office
 320-532-7484

Commissioners:

Administration: Sam Moose: 320-630-2607; Assistant Commissioner: Maria Costello: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164
 Community Development: 320-630-7643, or 763-260-0164
 Education: Niiyogaabawiikwe, Brooke Mosay Gonzalez: 320-362-4245
 Finance: Mel Towle: 320-532-7475
 Health and Human Services: Nicole Anderson: 320-364-9969
 Natural Resources: Kelly Applegate: 763-221-0320

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

Public Works

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: 320-362-4672
 Family Violence Prevention 24/7 Crisis Line: 866-867-4006; or Kristen Allord: 320-630-2677
 Elder Advocate: 320-630-4395

Other frequently requested phone numbers

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.

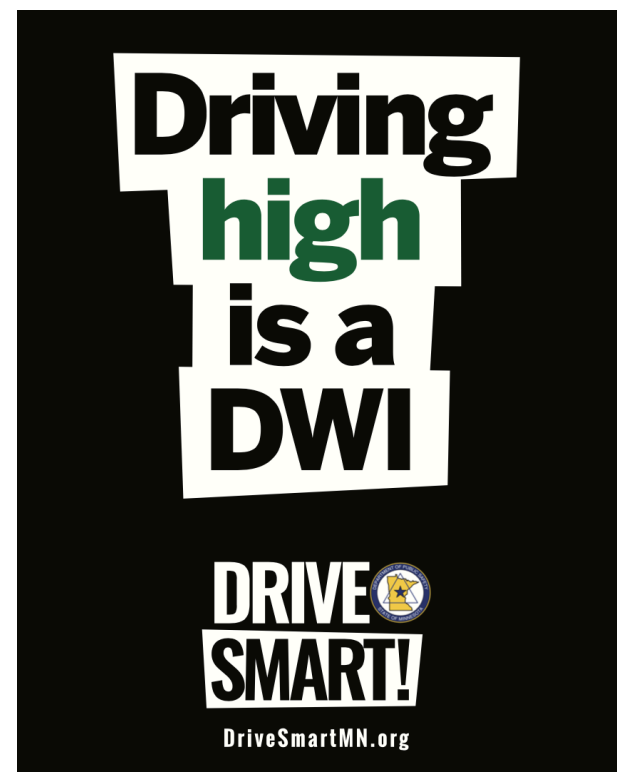
Aanjibimaadizing Case Managers

District I — Candace Benjamin, Director of Case Management: 320-362-0014; Kaari Weyaus: 218-316-2437, Rosa Sam: 320-364-3187; Julie Peterson: 320 290 8729; Camille Smith: 320-982-0836
 District II/IIa — Winona Crazy Thunder: 320-364-3049; Autumn Ballinger: 320-674-0655; Mary K Boyd: 320-630-1307
 District III — Renee Allen: 320-591-0559; Kathy Nelson: 320-630-2671
 Urban — Winona Spaulding: 612-360-7219

Office of Management and Budget

Economic Support and Per Cap: Katy Radunz: 320-532-7471, or Per Cap: 320-532-8928

Enrollments: 320-532-7730



DRUG TIP HOTLINE

The Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Department's anonymous drug tip line is 320-630-2458. Feel free to leave voicemails and/or text messages. If you would like a call back, be sure to leave your name and phone number. In case of emergency, dial 911.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Rez NA 6 p.m. is held at the 17222 Ataage Drive location.</p>			<p>1 Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>2 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>3 Ceremonial Dance Joe Jr. & Sheldon, Mille Lacs Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>4 Ceremonial Dance Joe Jr. & Sheldon, Mille Lacs</p>
<p>5 Daylight Saving Time Ends Set clocks back one hour Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>6 Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>7 Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center First Tuesday SNAP see page 7 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>8 Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>9 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>10 Warrior Day (Observed) Government Offices Closed Native American Heritage Month Powwow New DI Community Center Invocation 11 a.m. Grand Entry 12 p.m. Ceremonial Dance Darrell & Skip, Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>11 Warrior/Veterans Day Actual Ceremonial Dance Darrell & Skip, Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>
<p>12 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>13 Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>14 Minisinaakwaang Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>15 Chiminising Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>16 Fall Feast Grand Casino Mille Lacs Doors open at 5 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m. District III Community Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>17 Ceremonial Dance Tim & Tom, East Lake Ceremonial Dance Lee & Mike, Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>18 Ceremonial Dance Tim & Tom, East Lake Ceremonial Dance Lee & Mike, Lake Lena Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>
<p>19 Raider Roundy Onamia High School 2 to 6 p.m. Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>20 Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>21 Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>22 Miigwech Days Government Offices Closed. Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. District III Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>23 Miigwech Day Government Offices Closed. Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>24 Miigwech Days Government Offices Closed. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. On the RedRoad</p>	<p>25 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>
<p>26 Wellbriety Talking Circle 10 a.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery</p>	<p>27 Men's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Migizi Meeting 7 p.m. via Zoom conference. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>28 Women's group 5:30 p.m. Old District I Community Center Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom. Sa Miikana</p>	<p>29 Red Brick NA Meeting 6 p.m. at Red Brick. Last Wednesday first aid CPR see 7 Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p>30 Wellbriety 6 p.m. via Zoom. Zooming towards Recovery NA 8 p.m. via Zoom.</p>	 <p>YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FALL FEAST!</p> <p>WHERE Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events and Entertainment Center 777 Grand Avenue, Onamia, MN 56359</p> <p>WHEN Thursday, November 16 Doors Open at 5 pm Invocation at 5:30 pm Dinner at 6 pm</p> <p>WHAT Join us for a great night featuring a delicious meal and the opportunity to connect with community, learn about MLCV happenings, and give thanks.</p>	



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



NAS FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY

See page 8

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

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

ABOUT US

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

District I: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

District II: 320-630-7666

District III: 320-630-2691

24 Hour Crisis Line: 866-867-4006

Batters Intervention: 320-532-4163 ext. 7793

Elder Services: 320-532-7854

Emergency Services Loans: 320-532-4163 ext. 1755 or 1757

Food Shelf: 320-362-4672

Waivered Services: 320-362-0027

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: 320-532-4163, ext. 1714

On-Call Social Worker/After Hours Emergency 320-630-2444.



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page 4