

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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NATIVE PRIDE

ONAMIA SCHOOLS HELD THEIR FIRST ROYALTY CONTEST

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Jordan Nayquonabe was crowned Junior Brave by Mille Lacs Band Elder Carol Nickaboine at the Onamia School Powwow May 13.

BAND MEMBERS
SAY 'GAAWIIN'
TO PIPELINE

BIG SANDY
RESORT HOSTS
FISHING OPENER

FISH HATCHERY
PILOT PROJECT
SUCCEEDS

PURSUING
PASSION FOR
THE ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! Spring and early summer seem to have finally arrived. I hope families are getting outside together and enjoying the beautiful weather.

May was a very busy month, including many, many meetings with Band Members each week on important issues. To me, nothing is more important than the one-on-one meetings with individuals and families to learn about what is on your minds. These meetings also help me take information to our commissioners so we can make necessary changes to improve services to you, the Band Members, and to get the Economic Justice initiative off the ground. We are looking at all our services and determining where there are efficiencies we can implement to improve service-delivery, and to right-size our government.

On May 9, I invited District Representative Aubid and School Board members from Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy to my office to discuss the possibility of convincing the federal government to reinstate the school in East Lake as a BIA-funded school. This is an issue that I've looked into and believe has great potential. This was an excellent meeting, and I've directed our Washington D.C. lobbying firm to begin working on this with our Government Affairs Team. I'm excited to get this work going.

I convened a meeting of the Drum Keepers at Eddy's on May 10, at their request. We had a great discussion about the importance of language and culture as our greatest asset in combatting drugs and crime, as well as restoring hope and identity to our young people and youth. We also discussed putting a longer, two-day meeting together at the Immersion

Grounds later this summer when the building there is finished so we can go into more depth about issues important to all.

For the past few years, I've been strategizing about how to bring more tourism to our region through a collective effort involving the other tribes in Minnesota. My hope is that as the 11 tribal governments, we will establish a tribal non-profit that will promote tourism on our reservations, which I held several meetings about during May.

My office staff and I have been hard at work getting preparations made for the upcoming Elder trip to the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) conference hosted by the Seneca Nation in Niagara Falls later this summer. Making travel arrangements for such a large group can be very challenging, and I am grateful for the support from the Band Assembly in making this trip happen in a well-planned, comfortable way for the elders.

Speaker Beaulieu, Representative Blake and I all attended the First Lady's Luncheon in Washington D.C. on May 12. This is an annual event that for the past seven years has been hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama, bringing professional women together from all walks of life who are involved in community service and government. This was a great event, as always, and a wonderful networking opportunity. This was First Lady Obama's last luncheon, as there will be a new President and First Lady next year.

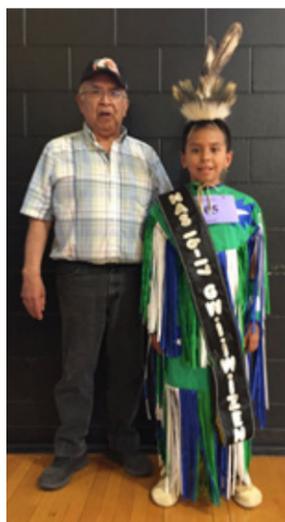
On May 14, we were proud to host the Governor's Fishing Opener at our brand new property, the Big Sandy Lodge and Resort. It was a very cold, wet day, but it was a great weekend for showcasing our new resort. In my welcome remarks, I told

the Governor and state officials about the Sandy Lake Tragedy and reminded them of the history and importance of the lake. In 1850, about 4,000 Anishinaabe people from Michigan and Wisconsin were lured to Sandy Lake by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey and federal officials who had schemed to trap them over the winter on Big Sandy with the promise of annuity payments, food and shelter.

When they arrived, there was no payment waiting. Hundreds died of cold, starvation and dysentery, and hundreds more died on the long walk back home in the middle of winter. I wanted Governor Dayton and his staff to know that for the Anishinaabe people of the Great Lakes region, Sandy Lake is a sacred place. I thanked Governor Dayton for his friendship and partnership with us on many different issues, noting how far we have come together in just a short period of time. After all, it was not that long ago that we were embroiled in a very hostile legal battle. We still have matters we disagree on, but I am committed — and I think Governor Dayton is committed — to making progress on those issues as well.

I'm speaking at the Head Start Graduation ceremony on May 27, and am very excited about this — one of my favorite events of the year! May and June are a time of graduations, the beginning of the pow wow season, warm summer breezes and families enjoying more time outdoors together. To me this is always a hopeful time of year, and I hope the summer for all Band families is a time of rejuvenation! Miigwech!

Melanie Benjamin



Pine Grove, Nay Ah Shing Hold Fun Run, Powwow

Pine Grove Leadership Academy students made the trip to District I May 13 for a fun run and May 20 for a powwow and royalty contest. Powwow royalty winners were Addison Grap Gahbow (Jr. Princess), Adrian Wade (Jr. Brave), Mia Sam (Sr. Princess), Giniw Buckanaga (Sr. Brave), Arianna Sam (Pine Grove Princess) and Randy Barrett (Pine Grove Brave). Little Otter, Timber Trails and Nay Ah Shing school drums participated, and Pete Gahbow served as Master of Ceremonies.



Onamia School District Holds Powwow, Royalty Contest

It was a great show of unity and native pride May 13 when Onamia Public Schools held their annual powwow in the high school gymnasium. The school has hosted powwows over the years, but this was their first royalty contest. The AmVets Post 53 Color Guard opened the ceremonies, Swamp Nation and Timber Trails drum groups provided the songs, and Carol Nickaboine crowned the winners. Onamia staff were led by Principal J.J. Vold, teacher Jared Barse and School Board Member Virgil Wind in an Honor Dance. Byron Ninham served as Master of Ceremonies, and Chris Nayquonabe and Adrienne Benjamin kept things running smoothly. District I Rep. Sandi Blake also provided support for the event. Royalty winners were Wyatt Oswaldson (Sr. Brave), Bella Nayquonabe (Sr. Princess), Kayla Nayquonabe (Jr. Princess) and Jordan Nayquonabe (Jr. Brave).

Gaawiin! East Lake Community Repeats Opposition to Pipelines

David Niib Aubid gave a lesson in Ojibwe to attendees at a public meeting May 11 concerning the proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines. Although he didn't give the direct translation, he made it clear that "gaawiin" means "no."

Niib welcomed visitors to Minisinaawkwaang, saying he was grateful to those who made the event possible — in particular, Friends of the Headwaters and Honor the Earth, whose lawsuit convinced the Minnesota Court of Appeals that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission had erred in granting a certificate of need for the Sandpiper project prior to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

That court decision meant the state had to go back to square one, holding a new series of scoping meetings prior to preparing an EIS. The certificate of need decision won't be made until after the EIS is complete.

Niib also relied on a visual aid to make his point. Midway through his testimony he "shed his skin" — removing his suit jacket to reveal a t-shirt that read "No Tankers, No Pipelines, No Enbridge, No Problem."

After explaining that he'd been a teacher of the Anishinaabe language for many years, he went into his language lesson, introducing the word "gaawiin" before launching into a lengthy address in his native language, punctuated with the word "Gaawiin!" which was echoed by many in the partisan crowd.

If it were up to those in the room, the pipelines would never be constructed. By an unofficial count, 25 testified against the pipelines compared to four in support.

Tania Aubid of Minisinaakwaang also used visual aids to make her point. When it was her turn to testify, she strode to the front of the room wrapped in an American flag and holding an eagle feather fan.

"I am the first daughter of a chief of the southern tribes of the Ojibwe, and I am standing here before you to let you know we are not going to stand this anymore," said Tania. She said

her people have protected the land since long before 1492, looking ahead seven generations.

In addition to Niib and Tania, tribal members from across Minnesota who spoke out included Harvey GoodSky Jr., Sandy Skinaway, Veronica Skinaway, Michaa Aubid, Korey Northrup, Debra Topping, Keenan Gonzalez and Frank and Vicki Bibeau.

They spoke of the danger to water and fragile wild rice habitat, the infringement on treaty rights, the tragic history of Indian peoples' relationship to the government, and the shocking fact that Enbridge plans to leave its abandoned Line 3 pipeline in the ground, without cleaning up the mess.

Harvey quoted the Constitution of the United States in his testimony. Emphasizing the word "Congress," he read, "Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Anishinaabeg." He looked around and said he didn't see any Congress members or federal government representatives in the room.

DNR Commissioner Susan Klapel gave the official position of the tribal government (see sidebar).

Three of the supporters were pipeline workers, including Audrey Tsinnie, who said she is half Navaho and half Ojibwe from Grand Portage. The fourth was Patrick Wussow, former Aitkin County and Brainerd administrator.

After the testimony was complete, moderator Barbara Tuckner asked if anyone else wanted to speak. Band member Terry Kemper talked about the importance of love in Anishinaabe culture. "I go out in the woods, and I sing to the trees. I sing to the water," said Terry. "I find love there. But I can't sing to a pipeline. I can't do it. Now I'm going to sing to the grandmothers, and the people who came here and voiced their opinions. Miigwech."

Terry's honor song was the final punctuation mark on the event, one final "Gaawiin" to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines.

Comments on behalf of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

I am Susan Klapel, the Commissioner of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Department of Natural Resources.

The Mille Lacs Band will submit written comments which will address the Band's concerns regarding the scope of the environmental review for the Sandpiper and Line 3 projects in greater detail.

Today, I want to make four points on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band:

First, the environmental review must be thorough and objective.

- Regardless of where the pipelines are constructed, they will affect thousands of people and the environment in which they live. However, some potential routes present more problems than others.
- In order to make an informed decision and to minimize the impact on people and the environment, the State must have a complete and accurate understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed projects and all reasonable alternatives.

Second, the pipelines are proposed to be located near Minnesota's most productive wild rice waters.

- These waters are not only important environmental and economic resources — they are an integral part of the cultural identity of the Mille Lacs Band.
- The environmental review must include an evaluation of all potential impacts on these waters including their unquantifiable value as cultural resources.

Third, the final scoping decision document must include a detailed plan for consultation between the State of Minnesota and the Mille Lacs Band.

- The Band is a sovereign government with a duty to protect the interests of its members.
- This can only be achieved if the Band and the State engage in early and meaningful consultation regarding the potential impacts of the proposed projects and the evaluation of alternatives to minimize those impacts.

Finally, I encourage the Department of Commerce, the applicant, and all agencies and officials involved in the environmental review process to listen carefully to the comments made by the community today. These individuals will be directly affected by the proposed projects and we all share an obligation to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to address their concerns and to minimize the potential impacts of the proposed projects.

Thank you.



Follow the Sandpiper scoping/EIS process at bit.ly/1U2IDqK and the Line 3 scoping/EIS process at bit.ly/1WGYcLW.

National News Briefs

Addressing Suicide: In the last 15 years, the number of suicides in Indian Country has skyrocketed according to a recent report from the National Center for Health Statistics, which reports that suicide rates have increased by 89 percent among American Indian and Alaska Native women and 38 percent among men. The report also warns that American Indian and Alaska Native populations may be underreported by up to 30 percent. Poverty, alcoholism and lack of social services are likely contributing factors, and tribal leaders have asked Congress to increase funding for mental health services, education and other critical programs in their communities.

Court to Rule on Tribal Convictions: The Supreme Court took up another Indian law case last month. The court heard arguments for *US v. Bryant*, the outcome of which will determine whether tribal convictions can be used in federal court to punish offenders who regularly abuse American Indian women. This case is a crucial test for tribal courts across the country and their ability to address high rates of domestic violence on Indian Reservations. The Supreme Court decision will finally resolve a major division among lower courts. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and 10th Circuit Court of Appeals have both upheld the use of tribal convictions while the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals came to a different conclusion, resulting in the loss of protections for Indian Women in a large number of states.

Senate Expands VAWA: Last month, the United States senate introduced a bill addressing the loopholes in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Since 2013, VAWA has recognized tribal authority over all offenders regardless of race. However, the act does not protect children or address the issue of repeat offenders draining already limited tribal law enforcement resources. The new bill, known as the Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act, recognizes the "inherent authority" of tribes to arrest and prosecute any person — regardless of race — for domestic violence against children and crimes committed against tribal law enforcement officers. It also addresses the drug epidemic in Indian Country, providing tribal jurisdiction over anyone who commits drug-related crimes.

Hero Walks On: Joe Medicine Crow, the last Crow war chief and last living link to the Battle of Little Big Horn, passed away on April 4 at age 92. During World War II, Crow was a scout for the 103rd Infantry in Europe where he led a mission across German lines to seize ammunition. He helped capture a German village, disarmed an enemy soldier, and, minutes before a planned attack, set off a stampede of 50 horses from a Nazi stable and rode away singing a traditional Crow honor song. Crow was dedicated to preserving Native American culture. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion d'honneur for his service.

If you have news or story ideas for *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*, please contact brett@redcircleagency.com or 320-237-6851.

Band Hosts Governor's Fishing Opener

It was a cold and windy morning at Big Sandy Lake May 14 for the annual Governor's Fishing Opener, but District II Rep. David Niib Aubid and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin gave a warm welcome to Gov. Mark Dayton and other dignitaries, including Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, U.S. Congressman Rick Nolan, House Speaker Kurt Daudt and Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.

The Band hosted the event at the recently acquired Big Sandy Lodge and Resort north of McGregor in District II.

After the National Anthem and introductory remarks from fishing opener chairwoman Lisa Kruse, Niib offered a pipe to Melanie and Gov. Dayton and explained that Anishinaabe give thanks and ask the blessing of the spirits, including those of the four directions, Wenaboozhoo and "Biboonike," or "Winter-Maker" — which, given the weather, drew a laugh from the crowd.

Melanie spoke of the Band's partnerships with the state and expressed her respect for Gov. Dayton.

"I know he will go down in history as one of the greatest Governors for all Minnesotans, including Native Americans, because he has made us feel respected as governments, and valued as Minnesotans," said Melanie. "And today... I am so

proud to call Governor Dayton my friend!

There is so much that the State and Tribes can accomplish together, and today is a prime example. "She also spoke about the Sandy Lake tragedy, calling the lake sacred to Anishinaabe people. The tragedy occurred in 1850, when thousands of Anishinaabe from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were told to come to Sandy Lake to receive payments and supplies. The aid came late, and some of the food was spoiled. Several hundred Anishinaabe died from starvation, sickness and cold at Sandy Lake and on the return trip home.

"I wanted to touch on this story, because it is my duty, and I want everyone understand why this place is so special to us," Melanie said. "This isn't just any lake. These grounds, these waters are sacred for the Anishinaabe."

"As we gather here today in friendship and partnership, as you head out into our beautiful waters, please take a moment to reflect on our shared history. But I also encourage you to think about the future, and all the opportunity it holds!"

After addressing the crowd, Gov. Dayton presented a commemorative plaque to Melanie and then took to the water, where he reeled in a walleye, a crappie and two perch.



Top: District II Rep. David Niib Aubid conducted a pipe ceremony and told the crowd about the significance of offering tobacco. **Bottom left:** Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin spoke of her friendship with Gov. Dayton and explained why Big Sandy is a sacred site to Anishinaabe people. **Bottom middle and right:** Among the dignitaries present were Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, House Speaker Kurt Daudt and U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan.

MCT Issues General Election Notice

On May 13, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe issued the 2016 General Election notice for the Mille Lacs Band. The June 14 election will determine the District I representative, who will serve a four-year term.

Candidates are incumbent Sandra Blake and Ginger Weyaus, the top two finishers in the April 5 primary. Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the District I Community Center and All Nations Church in Minneapolis. District I is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting.

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin was elected to another four-year term after receiving more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary.

Three candidates in the Primary Election filed timely contests, challenging the Election Board's conduct of the election and the certified results. The Mille Lacs Band Court of Appeals presided over hearings May 2 to determine the validity and sufficiency of the contests. The Court ruled in favor of the Election Board.

Grand Casino Announces Renovations



It's been 25 years since the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe first launched its flagship Grand Casino brand, and to mark the occasion, Grand Casino announced today it is making significant investments in property enhancements at both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley to improve the guest experience.

“Twenty-five years ago, the Mille Lacs Band had a vision of what Grand Casino Mille Lacs could contribute to the Mille Lacs area, but few people could have imagined how significant that impact would become,” said Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, which owns and operates both Grand Casino properties. “When a business approaches a large milestone anniversary like this, you often think of what else could be. And I’m thrilled to announce today that we have big plans in store for Grand Casino.”

Re-Concepting Food & Beverage Experience

A significant part of Grand Casino property enhancements will focus on food and beverage venues.

At Grand Casino Mille Lacs, the former Woodlands Steakhouse space will be replaced by a new concept called Brand Burger Bar. This 4,600 sq. ft. sports-centric restaurant will be an ode to sports fans where Guests can place their favorite burger order and settle in for a fun, community-based viewing of their favorite sports events. There will be over 35 big screen TVs and a bar-style seating area featuring popular slot machines.

The Grand Northern Grill will be replaced by a new concept called the 1991 Kitchen. This 7,075 sq. ft., casual 24-hour restaurant will be sit-down service and will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner comfort foods with a twist.

At Grand Casino Hinckley, a 7,425 sq. ft. diner will be built near the entrance of the Events and Convention Center. Keeping up with the American tradition, Stories Diner will quickly become “the spot” for locals and Guests alike, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner favorites while embracing the everybody-knows-your-name service.

MLCV also plans to introduce a Rival House Sporting Parlor, which is their successful game and fun-themed restaurant in its DoubleTree hotel in St. Paul. The 13,130 sq. ft. Grand Casino version will include bowling lanes, pool tables and other popular games along with Rival House staples like craft beer and shareable plates.

Renovations will also take place at the Grand Grill Americana. In its place will be a 10,301 sq. ft. Lola’s Taphouse, a restaurant serving Minnesota’s favorite craft brews and popular ales accompanied by a delicious menu serving simple, well-prepared gastro-pub fare that will include an extended selection of shareables, sandwiches, burgers and entrées.

The Grand Buffets will also be refreshed and rebranded as Grand Provisions at both Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley. This food hall concept is a multifaceted culinary marketplace that will feature multiple distinct kitchens at each property offering a variety of American, Mexican, Italian and Asian inspired meals, along with home-made pastries and dessert selections. Diners can roam from station to station and select the food they wish, then pay for it in one transaction. What separates this concept from other food halls is the restaurant’s ability to flip to a unique all-you-care-to-eat buffet on Fridays, Saturdays and special occasions that allows Grand Casino Guests to enjoy their beloved favorites like the popular Seafood buffet.

“Grand Casino is known for our food offerings. We have people that travel from miles away to share a meal with us,” said Tracy Sam, general manager of Grand Casino Mille Lacs. “We knew we could make that experience even better, and the improvements we announced today will really raise the bar for dining in the region.”

Another main focus of this project will be the gaming floors at each casino. Mel Towle, General Manager of Grand Casino Hinckley, said that a complete floor-to-ceiling renovation will take place at each property. “Everything from the ceiling and light fixtures to the wall treatments, carpet and property signage will be upgraded.”

Other Upgrades

Additional enhancements include:

- A new Associate dining area and break space at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs property
- A new pool area at Grand Casino Hinckley

“These improvements underscore our commitment to providing the best experience for our loyal Guests and Associates,” said Nayquonabe. “This is quite an undertaking that we are excited to begin, and we look forward to celebrating our continued success as we unveil each new upgrade.”

State and Local News



Friend of Band Appointed:

Governor Mark Dayton announced the appointment of Gail T. Kulick as District Court Judge in Minnesota’s Seventh Judicial District. Kulick has

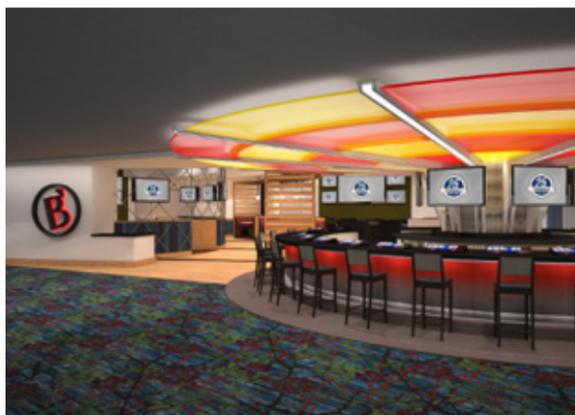
been a resident of Milaca since 1979. Previously, she was an attorney and policy advocate for Winthrop & Weinstine, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and represented District 16A in the Minnesota House of Representatives. “Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Gail T. Kulick has proven herself committed to justice for all Minnesotans,” said Governor Mark Dayton. “I trust that her commitment to justice and service will continue in her new role, as District Court Judge for Minnesota’s Seventh Judicial District.”

MNDNR Walleye Fry: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has launched an ambitious new project to solve the mystery of disappearing walleye from Mille Lacs Lake. Over the course of four days, the DNR netted close to 300 female walleye and harvested nearly 20 million eggs. With the eggs they collected, the DNR returned approximately 10 million walleye as fry to Mille Lacs Lake. DNR Project Manager Brad Parsons said they hope to track the fry released into the lake and better understand why younger walleye are disappearing.

Burial Mound Threatened: Officials from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council argue that a proposed \$4 million wastewater treatment project in Minneapolis including a storm water retention pond could pose a risk to Rattlesnake Effigy, the nearby burial mound. The city of Minneapolis hired archaeologists to investigate burial sites near Afton’s Old Village area. The council has the authority to protect burial sites under state law. However, archaeologists found no prehistoric artifacts or burial sites during a search of the site. The proposed wastewater treatment project is scheduled to begin construction in August.

Hospital Reaches Out: Through a new program called First Gift, Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota are helping American Indian newborns in the NICU and their families embrace culture and community at one of the most difficult times in their lives. For nearly a year, the program has invited American Indian women to learn to make baby moccasins, which are then presented to newborns in the NICU. The high infant mortality rate among American Indian babies motivated hospital leaders at Children’s to reach out and build trust with surrounding communities. In addition to First Gift, the hospital is also recruiting American Indian volunteers to hold babies who are sick.

Beware of High-Pressure Sales: Band member Donivon Boyd is warning District I residents about unscrupulous salespeople preying on vulnerable adults in the area. Donivon was pressured into purchasing a home security service and signing a five-year contract. When his home was broken into, the system failed. “It took my sister six months plus the Attorney General of the State of Minnesota to get out of the contract,” said Donivon. “They were claiming I had to pay \$1000 plus the monthly fee.” Once they got out of the contract, they couldn’t get the company to come and remove the unit. “Every time we would call them and talk to them, they’d say he would be there between 1 and 5 p.m. My sister would wait, and they wouldn’t show up.”



Gail's Got Goals, and with Help, She'll Achieve Them

Brett Larson Staff Writer

If you spend much time in District I, you probably know Gail Tyson. You may not know her name, but you'd recognize her as the spry elder who's often walking north or south along Hwy. 169. "My other name is 'Gail Walks Far,'" she jokes.

What some may not know about Gail is that she spends her days in the basement of the Government Center studying with the staff of the Department of Labor's (DOL) employment and training center.

"My goal is to get my GED and my driver's license — and I'm going to do it," she says.

Gail grew up mainly in Minneapolis, but she spent many weekends and summer days in District I. Her mother, May Skinaway, would put her on the Greyhound to visit her grandparents, Mary Pendegayosh and Ed Skinaway. She remembers Ed showing her how to process rice and build birchbark birdhouses, which he sold at the Trading Post.

Gail worked as a cook in Minneapolis and raised seven children before moving up to District I in 1987.

She started working with the DOL educators in January and has made incredible progress, according to Jen Shereck, one of the teachers in the program. She came in with no computer skills, but now she can log on and operate the programs — although her two-handed mouse operation is a little unconventional.

Jen used to work in the Early Ed department and taught GED classes part-time in the evenings. A few years ago she transferred to the Department of Labor full-time. Each week

she spends a day in District II and a day in District III in addition to her time at the Government Center in District I.

The other teacher is Deb Campbell, who also worked in Early Ed. The two were reunited when Jen came to DOL full time. Both are licensed teachers. Deb mans the District I classroom where she wears many hats, tutoring, mentoring and advocating for the students. "It's not just GED," Deb says.

Their partner in education is Donita Odden, who joined the staff in October. Donita came to them from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, where she served as Communication Specialist. As Communication Specialist, Donita facilitated Guest Service Trainings, organized bi-monthly communication meetings for the property and created the newsletter, along with other duties. Her previous position was with Band member Development.

In the Department of Labor she works as a Facilitator developing life and job skills classes and working directly with clients. "People are my passion, so I love that part of it," says Donita.

She has high praise for her colleagues, Deb and Jen. "Their personalities add to the programs," says Donita. "I have learned so much. They're both moms, and they're like mothers to everyone here. They have an open door policy, and they're approachable people."

Gail is just one of their many success stories. She gives credit to her three teachers at the DOL,

but also to many others. "Everybody on the reservation cheers me on and tells me to keep studying," she says. "Melanie encourages me to keep working towards my goals. Everybody in the building is happy that I'm getting it done. Somebody's watching me up there, making sure I do this right."

Gail isn't just a walker; she's also a dancer. You may have seen her at the Memorial Day powwow, and you'll probably see her at other powwows throughout the summer.

"I'm still spunky like I was in my younger days, and I'm gonna be like that forever," she says. "I'll still be dancing when I'm 90 years old. Pretty soon I'll be running around with my driver's permit, doing my little Indian dance."



Left: Gail Tyson is working toward her GED and her driver's license, with help from the Department of Labor. Right: Deb Campbell (back), Donita Odden and Jen Shereck are willing and able to help Band members with a variety of educational and training needs.

Education at the Department of Labor

The Department of Labor offers a variety of programs to Band members, including education, job placement and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).

The goal of the Department is "to empower low-income Mille Lacs Band members and their families to end dependency on assistance and to achieve a self-sufficient lifestyle."

The education program helps Band members prepare for their General Education Diploma (GED) or driver's license, but assistance is offered in other areas as well, including resumes, interviews and obtaining identification (Social Security cards, state IDs or tribal IDs).

The staff members like to start by hearing clients' stories, since each person is unique. They will work with each person to set goals, identify obstacles and work towards solutions.

The GED program begins with an assessment, TABE, or Test of Adult Basic Education, to measure literacy and numeracy skills. The assessments pinpoint areas in need of improvement, and a computer program provides the necessary study aids for the four tests: Science,

Social Studies, Mathematics, and Language Arts.

The program is self-guided and self-paced, and there are no set class times. Individuals can come at their convenience and either work independently or receive direct help from the teachers.

Once preparations are complete, students take pre-tests to ensure they're ready for the GED Exam. DOL staff help students set up a personal website used to register for the test and receive scores.

The tests are given at state centers in Brainerd, Cambridge, Duluth, Pine City and other locations.

After that, it's party time.

"It's a celebration when somebody passes," says teacher Jen Shereck. "It's a huge accomplishment."

Deb stated, "No matter how many students earn their GED, it is always exciting for me."

For more on Department of Labor programs, see bit.ly/10Ci6V6.

Band Member Finds Hidden Talent for Pyrographics

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Darrell Sam is no stranger to woodworking, having been employed as a carpenter since 1979. But when he was laid off from a job a while back, he found another gift. "I knew I could draw, and I thought I'd take it another step, so I picked up a hot iron," said Darrell. "Turns out it was something hidden."

This spring Darrell has been helping others get in touch with their hidden talents by teaching woodburning classes at the Cultural Grounds in District I. The fancy word for it, Darrell explained, is "pyrographics" — "writing with fire."

For materials, Darrell cuts his own wood or picks up scraps from sawmills. His favorite wood is cedar because it's soft and allows more control.

Each project begins with a pencil drawing, then carving the outline, and finally shading techniques to add a three-dimensional effect. Some of his pieces include carving as well

as burning.

Eventually Darrell hopes to move on from construction work to become a full-time artist, and so far he's been able to sell a lot of pieces. "I do plaques, awards, cabinet doors, arm chairs, welcome signs, stair risers — anything wood," Darrell said. "A lot of it is geared toward a specific group of people: bikers, natives, hunters, fishermen."

His portfolio includes traditional Ojibwe flower patterns, birds, deer, flags, military scenes and Harleys. He also carves traditional grave markers for Band members.

As a teacher, Darrell is willing to work with anyone — experienced artists with advanced drawing skills, or newbies who want to pick up a hobby or search for their own hidden talents.

Many different classes are being held at District I Cultural

Grounds and Community Center — from drumming to mocasin-making to cooking to quilting. Check the calendar at millelacsband.com for regular updates.



Congratulations! Meet Some of the 2016 Graduating Class



Clayton Benjamin



John Calkins



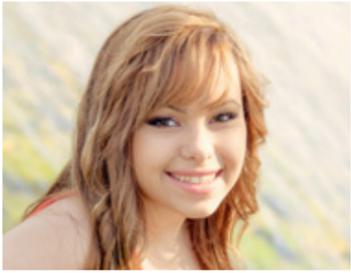
Chelsea Dunkley



Cody Dunkley



Brittany Eagle



Shawntell Jellum



Jared Laguard



Kassandra Merrill



Edward Nadeau



Aaron Nayquonabe



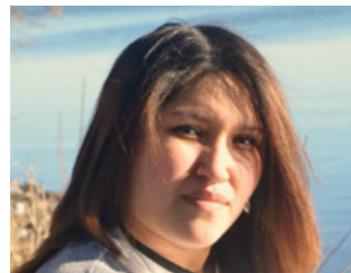
Alexis Petite



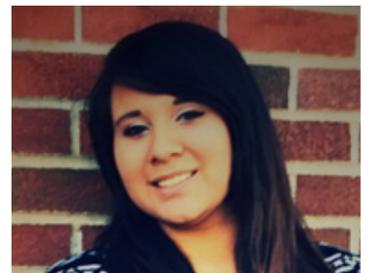
Andrea Sayers



Kyrrah Thompson



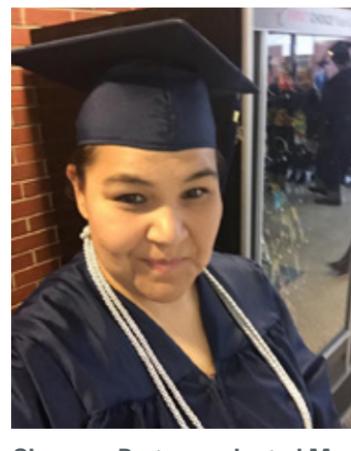
Tehya Wade



Leona Yellow-Hammer



Naomi Long, pictured with her family, graduated May 12 from Central Lakes College.



Shannon Porter graduated May 12 from Central Lakes College.



Arlyn Sam graduated from Central Lakes College May 12.

Do you know any high school, college or graduate school graduates who aren't pictured? Send photo, name and school to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com, and we'll run the photo in the July issue.

Isle Hosts Banquet for American Indian Grads

Band member graduates and their families were treated to a catered dinner and an inspiring speech at a banquet sponsored by the Local Indian Education Parent Committees at area districts. The banquet was held at Isle High School May 12.

Graduates from Onamia, Nay Ah Shing, Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy and Hinckley-Finlayson were honored, as well as one recent recipient of a General Education Diploma (GED).

Attendees were welcomed by Isle LIEPC chair Monte Fronk, Onamia Indian Ed Coordinator Chris Nayquonabe and Nay Ah Shing Counselor Heather Sasse. Tony Pike and Allen Weyaus of AmVets Post 53 presented the colors, and Swamp Nation played a flag song and an honor song for the graduates.

Allen talked about the importance of the songs, and District II Rep. David Niib Aubid offered tobacco and gave an invocation.

Next, Monte thanked former Commissioner of Education Suzanne Wise for her leadership and introduced school principals and other personnel in attendance, who in turn introduced

their graduates with stories and lists of accomplishments.

After a roast beef dinner catered by Da Boathouse, Health and Human Services Commissioner Sam Moose shared the story of his educational journey.

Sam told the students that he did not graduate from high school with his class due to his own poor choices, so he had to move to the Twin Cities to enroll in an alternative school.

Then, after getting a good start in college, earning a 4.0 and a spot on the Dean's List, the death of his father led him to drop out of school and return home, where he worked as a laborer.

After several years, and some additional poor choices, encouragement from people in his community led him to enroll in university again, and he was able to complete his degree and follow his dreams to a successful career in service to the Band.

He ended by repeating the four lessons illustrated by the



Left: Shawntell Jellum and her family enjoyed the banquet held at Isle High School May 12. Right: Sam Moose, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, shared his story and life lessons with graduates.



four chapters of his story:

- Be grateful for the support you have.
- Don't let others' opinions drown out your inner voice.
- Be prepared for adversity.
- Be mindful of the choices you make. They will define you and your future.

Following the speech, graduates and their families posed for pictures then headed home with an inspiring message to reflect upon as they take the next step on their own journeys.

Summer Powwows Will Be Extra Special this Year

This year's Mille Lacs Band powwows in all three districts promise to be even more fun and inspiring than usual. District III will host its 25th annual Grand Celebration in June; District II will dedicate its new powwow grounds in July; and District I will host its 50th Annual traditional powwow in August.

District III, June 17–19

The Grand Celebration Powwow takes place at Grand Casino Hinckley June 17–19. This powwow has been an annual event since 1992.

The Grand Celebration Powwow is a contest powwow drawing dancers and drum groups from around the nation and Canada who compete for substantial prize money in a variety of categories.

Little Otter will be the Host Drum, and invited drums include Black Lodge from White Swan, Wash., Young Bear from Mandaree, N.D. and Southern Boyz from Lawton, Okla. Terry Fiddler of Prairie Island and Edmund Nevaquaya will serve as Masters of Ceremonies.

District II, July 22–24

When the Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) community was planning its first powwow in 2015, a name was chosen that reflects the reason for the powwow: Gii-Ishkonigewag, which means "They saved it left for us."

To Michaa Aubid, the word commemorates the courage and foresight of the Rice Lake Anishinaabe who refused to give up their homes in the face of decades of pressure from the U.S. government.

The first powwow was held last July under rented tents set up on the powwow grounds five miles south of McGregor on the east side of Hwy. 65. This year's event will be on the same property but in a brand new facility.

District I, Aug. 19–21

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow takes place August 19–21 at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I.

Tony Pike has helped with the powwow for about 15 years, but this is the first time he ran for a position on the Powwow Committee, and he was elected co-chair. "The Committee's job is to make everything as fun and safe as possible," he said.

This year, since it's the 50th annual powwow, the Committee is considering some special attractions like fireworks, a biathlon and a special jingle dress competition. Tony is also expecting a good turnout of color guards from veterans' organizations representing surrounding communities.

One highlight will be the appearance of Joe Nayquonabe Sr. as Lead Dancer. After his return home from Vietnam in 1966, Joe was honored at the first powwow 50 years ago.

Also during the weekend there will be a Saturday morning parade, contests for Princess and Brave, a horseshoe tournament, and vendors selling traditional and contemporary artwork and clothing.

Chasity Gahbow participated in the Princess contest as a young girl, and now she organizes the competition. Chasity also dances and sews regalia. To her, a powwow is all about celebration of culture and community.

"A powwow to me is a gathering where not just Native people, but all people, come together to enjoy dancing, singing and Indian tacos," she said. "Powwows bring the circle of people closer to their family, friends and of course our culture. It's a celebration of just being Anishinaabe People and being part of such an amazing culture."

More Regional Powwows

SAA GII BA GAA POW WOW

When: June 3 – June 5, 2016

Location: Nett Lake, MN

148TH ANNUAL WHITE EARTH RESERVATION CELEBRATION & POW WOW

When: June 10 – June 12, 2016

Location: White Earth, MN

37TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING OF THE THREE FIRES TRADITIONAL POW WOW

When: June 11 – June 12, 2016

Location: Grand Rapids, MI

COUCHICHIG FIRST NATION 23RD ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW-WOW

When: June 24 – June 26, 2016

Location: Fort Frances, ON

VERMILLION POW WOW 2016

When: June 24 – June 26, 2016

Location: Nett Lake, MN

ONEIDA 44TH ANNUAL POW WOW

When: July 1 – July 3, 2016

Location: Oneida, WI

LEECH LAKE 4TH OF JULY POW WOW

When: July 1 – July 3, 2016

Location: Cass Lake, MN

PRAIRIE ISLAND DAKOTA SUMMER WACIPI CELEBRATION

When: July 8 – July 10, 2016

Location: Prairie Island, MN

MII-GWITCH MAHNOMEN DAYS TRADITIONAL 54TH ANNUAL POW WOW

When: July 15 – July 17, 2016

Location: Cass Lake, MN

HONOR THE EARTH HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AND POW WOW

When: July 15 – July 17, 2016

Location: Hayward, WI

WINNEBAGO 2016 POW WOW 150th Annual Homecoming Celebration

When: July 28 – July 31, 2016

Location: Winnebago, NE

ROSEBUD POW WOW CELEBRATION

When: August 26 – August 28, 2016

Location: Rosebud, SD

CHA CHA BAH NING 36TH ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW WOW

When: August 26 – August 28, 2016

Location: Cass Lake, MN

23RD ANNUAL POTAWATOMI TRAILS POW-WOW

When: August 27 – August 28, 2016

Location: Zion, IL



Top: Joe Nayquonabe Sr. will be an honored guest at the 50th Annual Powwow in District I. Bottom: The new powwow facilities in Minisinaakwaang will be ready in time for the second annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow. Right: The 25th Annual Grand Celebration Powwow in Hinckley will attract the nation's best dancers and drum groups.

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Honors Military in Kuwait

Some 6,000+ miles away, on the base of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait — in 115 degree heat — the 682nd Engineer Battalion proudly flies the Mille Lacs Band flag. Joe Nayquonabe presented it to Lt. Colonel Ferdon after he completed his volunteer duties serving meals to 3,500 troops along with other volunteers from the Serving Our Troops organization last month.

Many Americans remain unaware of the major contributions Native Americans have made to our nation's armed forces. In fact, according to Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, American Indians serve in their country's armed forces in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group — and have served with distinction in every major conflict for more than 200 years.

Because of those statistics, you've likely heard stories of friends and family members' bravery on the battlefield. There are so many Band members who have given selfless service to honor a nation despite decades of tyranny — including, for

many tribes, being forcibly removed from their homelands. As Gover stated, "if one thing is for certain, Native Americans step forward when duty calls."

Today, as the threat of global terrorism aims to destroy the very fabric of our freedom, over 2 million active duty and reserve military personnel are bravely fighting a prolonged and difficult war on terrorism. Recognition and appreciation for the efforts of our military have never been more important or deserving.

That's why last month — the month of military appreciation and Memorial Day, MLCV took a strong stance in remembering our Veterans and active service men and women. More than 1,200 people were honored with a free meal at the Grand Buffets, The Launch Bar & Grill, The Rival House Sporting Parlour and Citizen Supper Club.

While meals were being served here at home, Joe Nayquonabe was serving meals along with 24 other volunteers from

Minnesota with the Serving Our Troops organization. Joe Nayquonabe said he was happy to do his part to represent MLCV and the Mille Lacs Band and show gratitude and raise awareness for folks that are deployed and have served.

"I have always had a great appreciation for our troops with my dad being a Vietnam Veteran (Ogitchida)," said Joe Nayquonabe. "I now have an even greater appreciation seeing what these men and women do to prepare themselves to defend our nation. Our Band member Veterans and service men and women — they are the real superheroes."

Every American soldier bears the United States flag on their right shoulder — symbolizing the flag that was first carried into battle in the Revolutionary War — and in every war America has fought since. For Joe Nayquonabe, presenting the Mille Lacs Band flag to the army base was a symbol; of honor, of remembrance, and of respect for all those who have served.



The Seventh Fire Screening at Grand Makwa Cinema



Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is pleased to bring the film *The Seventh Fire* to the Grand Makwa Cinema in June. It's a film directed by Jack Pettibone Riccobono, presented by Tree of Life visionary Terrence Malick and executive produced by actress Natalie Portman.

When Rob Brown, a Native American gang leader on a remote Minnesota reservation, is sentenced to prison for a fifth time, he must confront his role in bringing violent drug culture into his beloved Ojibwe commu-

nity. As Rob reckons with his past, his seventeen-year-old protégé, Kevin, dreams of the future: becoming the most powerful and feared Native gangster on the reservation.

This powerful, must-see film was showcased at the White House in March and will be playing at the Grand Makwa Cinema on Wednesday, June 15 and Thursday, June 16 at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. MLCV will provide complimentary admission; concessions are available for purchase.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 5: What are you doing?

A common question to ask when you see someone is "What are you doing?" In Ojibwemowin, we say, "Aaniin ezhichegeyan?" The answer is in present tense. For example, "(N)indanokii." "I am working."

To ask what someone did last night, we say "Aaniin gaa-ehzichigeyan dibikong?" The answer is in past tense: "Ningii-anokii." "I was working."

To ask what someone is doing tomorrow, we say, "Aaniin ezhichigeyan waabang?" The answer is in future tense: "Niwii-anokii." "I will be working."

Following are some additional answers, in all three tenses. A couple things to notice: You can use "nind" or "ind" as the prefix for first person present tense. Different people and different communities have their own preferences.

Second, some consonants change when you add a prefix — 'b' becomes 'p,' 'd' becomes 't,' 'g' becomes 'k,' 'j' becomes 'ch,' 'z' becomes 's,' 'zh' becomes 'sh.'

It's just another one of the tricky aspects of Ojibwemowin! Don't worry, though, you'll pick it up eventually.

	Present	Past	Future
Working	(N)indanokii	Ningii-anokii	Niwii-anoki
Cleaning	Nibiinichige	Ningii-piinichige	Niwii-piinichige
Resting	Indanweb	Ningii-anweb	Niwii-anweb
Going home	Ingiwe	Ingii-kiwe	Niwii-kiwe
Cooking	injiibaakwe	Ingii-chiibaakwe	Niwii-chibaakwe
Shopping	Nimaa'ishkam	Ingii-maa-ishkam	Niwii-maa'ishkam
Swimming	Nibagiz	Ingii-pagiz	Niwii-pagiz
Gambling	Indataage	Ingii-ataage	Niwii-attage

Here's a final thought: Gidaa-gagwe-aabajitoon Anishinaabemowin endaso-giizhik, gabe-giizhik. (You should try to use the Anishinaabe language all day, every day.)

Pediatric Staff at Ne-la-Shing Strive to Ease Shot Anxiety

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer



Twila Jesso

There are probably very few people who don't get nervous about getting shots while at a doctor's visit. In fact, it's more common for people to have high anxiety about the medical procedure even though it happens relatively quickly and isn't terribly painful.

To help ease anxiety and to help reduce the pain associated with shots, Twila Jesso, a pediatric nurse practitioner for the Band, has piloted an initiative specifically for babies and youth called the "Gentle Pledge."

Quite simply put, the initiative is a pledge to be gentle when delivering shots and to use simple steps help ease the pain.

"We have advocated that babies under a year get sugar syrup that blocks the pain receptors and that babies are held differently," said Twila. "Instead of laying them down and

stretching them out on a table — making them feel scared and vulnerable — we hold babies.

"We ask their parents or family to hold the baby upright, closely and safely, and then we give them their shot."

By doing it that way the babies are kept warm and experience a sense of immediate comfort.

For toddlers and adolescents a numbing cream can be used to help block the pain. Families can still hold their toddlers and be near the older kids to help reduce anxiety about the procedure.

The medical staff also relies on distractions such as toys that light up or make noises for the toddlers and an electronic tablet for the teens.

"Hopefully by doing these things, we've eased the anxiety and helped block the pain associated with shots."

Twila learned of the technique when she attended a pediatric conference. Those who work in pediatrics at the Ne-la-

Shing Clinic started using the techniques in April.

So far, the families who have come in with their children have been pleased with the Gentle Pledge techniques — especially those with babies.

"There have been times when people didn't get shots for their babies because they didn't want it to hurt them, so I'm hoping this helps reduce the fear of coming to the clinic," Twila said.

The pledge is very low cost, and the goal is to expand it to all districts.

"I am excited to offer this option," said Twila. "It is my goal to reduce the fear kids have about coming to the clinic, and I want them to feel like it is a safe place.

"The goal of my practice has always been to build a trusting relationship with the children and their parents, and by doing so, I hope that they will always be able to come to me with problems or concerns."

Mothers of Tradition Helps Women Live Healthy Lives

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Every Wednesday evening for the past two years, Kim Sam has been going to the Mille Lacs County Jail to meet with the female Band members who are behind bars.

Kim's work at the facility is focused on helping the women figure out ways to change their lives through a program called "Mothers of Tradition."

Mothers of Tradition was developed to help Native American women obtain the skills and knowledge they need to live healthy lives both traditionally and spiritually.

It was also created to increase the awareness of how intergenerational trauma has interrupted the culture, language, family ties and parenting practices of Native people. It was designed to help people learn how to apply the cultural teachings to bring healing to children, to relationships and to the community.

"There's so much uplifting for these women and I can see a desire for change as they learn about different teachings," said Kim, a prevention specialist for the Band's Behavioral Health Department.

"I have seen some successes and I have heard that the

women, even while they are still in jail, are doing well because of the teachings."

The sessions teach them about cultural practices and how to build relationships. They also focus on their self-image.

"We also focus on historical trauma because it's important to learn why their behaviors or actions might be continuing in this generation," Kim said.

Some of the topics covered include wellbriety and the importance of conscious change and thought processes.

One of the goals is to help women understand how important they are as first teachers and mothers in passing along the teachings of living healthy, balanced lives.

One of the things that Kim says is important is to realize is that, "just because someone stumbles or loses their way, it doesn't mean they are lost forever."

The women who attend the groups do so because they want to be there. And it attracts more than Native American women, it also draws others who want to learn how to improve their lives. The group attendance is fairly consistent while the women are incarcerated.

The visits to the jail began after Kim was asked by a few Elders and others about incorporating time there to help the women who might benefit from the Mothers of Tradition program.

"I'm really proud of the Mothers of Tradition group," she said. "Once, there was a conflict that happened outside of our group, and when they came into the circle they apologized to each other.

Circles are critical to the work Kim does because they provide the practices of the seven teachings.

"The stories in the teachings help people know that they can do better or they can learn to do something differently."

Besides the Mothers of Tradition program, Kim facilitates other programs including the Fathers of Tradition, Sons of Tradition for males ages 13–17, Daughters of Tradition I for females ages 8–12 and Daughters of Tradition II for females ages 13–17 years old.

Contact Kim at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419 to find out dates and meeting times for each group.



Mino Mijim — Good Food Project

Healthy native foods were on the menu April 29 at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum as Sean Sherman (aka The Sioux Chef) served a few dozen Band members a variety of local and indigenous foods, including turkey, wild rice, squash and fiddle heads.

The dinner was organized and hosted by Honor the Earth and the Community Support Services Department as part of the Band's Integrated Food Systems Program. Program staff are helping Band members start their own gardens, and they are implementing a "tribally-supported agriculture" food project. Individuals can purchase shares and receive healthy foods delivered to tribal offices.

See anishinaabefoodsovereignty.com for more on the project, or contact Kevin Pawlitschek at 612-532-1612.

Bazhiba'igewin — Band Youth Learn Tradition of Spearfishing

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

It's a cold night on the lake. You can see your breath as the chill goes into your bones. The fish must be gathered, though.

Spearing one fish at a time, following them with flashlights, they take what they can. Hesitant to go back to the landing, they make the journey to load up the night's catch.

They see the large group of people that sent them on their way, anxiously waiting their return. Upon arriving back at the dock, they hear the racial slurs, the hatred being thrust upon them. Anger, prejudice and misunderstanding fuel the atmosphere which divides two cultures.

It was a tough time in the 1980s and '90s when Anishinaabe Treaty Rights were under protest in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The strife continues to this day, the competition between inherent rights and state privileges.

Today, traditions are being passed on from one generation to another — from experienced mentors who recall an era when netting and spearing were deemed illegal, to young learners who have had little exposure to these once-common methods.

This spring, Band member Curt Kalk volunteered his time to help teach Mille Lacs Band youth about spearing walleye.

He started out by showing 14 young students in the Wii Du program how to fillet fish. Most of the youth hadn't done this or even seen it done before.

As Carmen Green pushed off from shore with Curt at the wheel, the boat motor came to life and they were off with Giniw Buckanaga.

Curt gave advice based on his vast knowledge from years of harvesting fish. "There's very few fish out tonight," he observed. "There must be a musky nearby."

He pointed toward shore, sharing that the fish like to lay their eggs on the rocks. "This is a very good spot!" he said with a smile. Listening purposefully, Giniw scanned the water patiently. Giniw takes part in the Wii Du Program, a youth program in the Mille Lacs Band Department of Labor. Tonight is his night to learn how to spear.

As the waves rocked the boat and the wind whistled, visibility was poor, but Giniw remained confident in getting his catch. The lights scanned to and fro, while the spears were held ready and steady.

"You look for the eyes to shine back at you," Curt instructed, while Giniw gazed out into the water.

As time progresses, more youth are taking part in cultural activities. The goal is not only about harvesting fish to eat. It

is about being part of a culture that has generations of history. And although gathering fish plays a role, it is part of a bigger plan — a lifestyle that was gifted to the Anishinaabe to live nice, purposeful lives. Mii iw. Miigwech



Giniw Buckanaga had his eyes peeled for ogaawag (walleyes).

Fish Hatchery Pilot Project a Success

Brett Larson Staff Writer

A million baby walleyes are swimming free in rearing ponds after a wildly successful pilot project conducted by the Mille Lacs Band DNR.

Last fall, Commissioner Susan Klapel was directed by a joint resolution from the Band Assembly and Chief Executive to develop a fish hatchery to preserve the Mille Lacs strain of walleye and potentially assist in the recovery of the walleye population, which has declined in recent years.

Susan wasted no time, assigning the job to wildlife biologist Kelly Applegate, aquatic biologist Chad Weiss and the Department's new fisheries biologist, Carl Klimah.

The team also wasted no time. They chose a site in a "top secret" location, equipped the building with the necessary power and plumbing, purchased used equipment from other Indian bands, and developed a plan to harvest eggs and milt from Mille Lacs walleyes.

All that was easier said than done, but jumping to the happy ending, it worked, and it was dirt cheap — about \$10,000, or a penny per walleye.

"This project is part of our planning for the future of the lakes within the 1837 Ceded Territory," said Susan. "Right now stocking might not be the answer, but we will be ready if it becomes necessary."

The eggs were gathered from April 14 through 20 with help from Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac spearfishers. The DNR crew set up stations at Cedar Creek and Father Hennepin to harvest the eggs of about 60 females.

The eggs were mixed with sperm and placed in 20 plastic jars, which were brought to the hatchery. Fresh water circulated through the jars, creating the perfect habitat for incubation.

The eggs began to hatch during the last week in April, and on Monday, May 2, the hatch began in earnest. As the tiny fish emerged, they floated to the top of the jars, where they rode the current into a trough, through a series of PVC pipes, to a holding tank.

Soon there were clouds of fry swimming in the tank — 100,000 to 200,000 within a few hours.

At that point, Carl and Chad netted the fry out, weighed them to estimate how many there were, and syphoned

them into collapsible plastic jugs to transport them to the rearing ponds.

A few days later, all 20 jugs were empty, and a million walleyes were getting accustomed to their new home.

The team will monitor the walleyes' development in the rearing ponds, and if enough of them develop into fingerlings, they will net them out or drain some of the water to gather them up and stock them in Namachers Lake in District III.

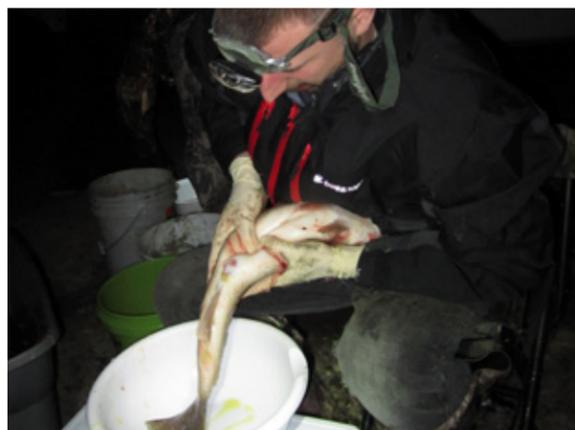
The Band has been restoring Namachers, where low water levels led to oxygen depletion and fish kills. Culverts have been replaced and a berm repaired to bring the lake back to its former level. Now all that's left is to restore the fish population.

The DNR is purchasing perch and bluegill fry from a hatchery to stock in the lake. Once they are established, they will serve as food for the walleyes.

If the Mille Lacs walleye population continues to decline, the option will be available to stock the lake using fish from Namachers or the rearing ponds.

The Minnesota DNR is also considering building a fish hatchery at Mille Lacs as part of an effort to improve management of the lake. The hatchery would be part of a proposed \$3.5 million facility, which may also include a fishing museum and hall of fame.

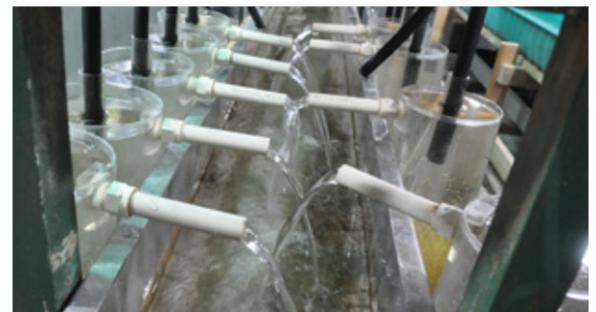
This spring the state DNR also harvested eggs from Mille Lacs walleyes, hatched them in St. Paul, and will return them to Mille Lacs as part of a study of reproductive success.



Step 1: Eggs and milt are removed from speared fish.



Step 2: Eggs and milt are mixed together.



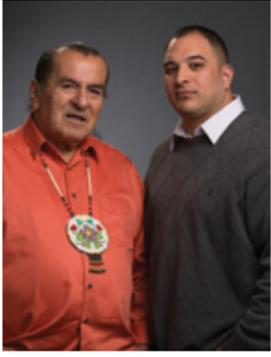
Step 3: Fry travel through a series of pipes to a holding tank.



Step 4: Fry are netted and weighed.



Step 5: Fry are syphoned into jugs and brought to rearing ponds on tribal land in District I.



Wayezhimind A'aw Anishinaabe Anishinaabe Being Deceived

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

Gaawiin onjida niwii-ni-dazhindanziin noongom i'iw wezhibii'amaang omaa. Ayaawag ingiw akiwenziyag naa gaye ingiw mindimoonyag gaa-pi-naazikawijig, geget owaniskwe'igoniwaa aanind a'aw Anishinaabe baandigadood omaa ishkoniganing bekaanak i'iw akeyaa ezhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe asemaaked.

I have a reason for addressing the topic I have chosen to write about in this article. There are some elders who have approached me saying that they are bothered by what some Anishinaabe are bringing into the reservation, those ceremonies that are not native to this area.

Odaa-wii-mikwendaanaawaa ingiw Anishinaabeg, gidayaamin omaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-asemaakeyang biinish da-ni-apenimoyang giniigaaniiminaang. Ishke waasa ishkweyaang onjikaamadagad i'iw gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-asemaakeyang naa gaye ge-ni-apenimoyang giniigaaniiminaang.

What people need to remember that here on the reservation we have been given those ceremonies through which we do our tobacco offerings and what we rely on for support or help in our future. These teachings come from way back and passed down from generation to generation instructing the manner or method through which we do our tobacco offerings and get our spiritual support in our future.

Ishke dash ingiw Anishinaabeg baandigadoojig i'iw anooj akeyaa ani-izhichigeyang asemaakeyang, odaa-wii-manaajitoonaawaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang omaa ishkoniganing. Gaawiin oda-wii-aanawendanzinaawaa gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid a'aw Anishinaabe endanakiid omaa Misi-zaaga'iganiing ezhiwiinjigaadeg.

For those that are bringing in ceremonies and ways to put tobacco that are not native to our region, they need to remember to be respectful to the ceremonies that are already in place here on the reservation. They should not view what we have been given as being inadequate to us who live here on the Mille Lacs reservation.

Gaawiin gaye indaanawendanziimin baandigadoowaad omaa ishkoniganing, mii eta-go omaa wii-ni-wiindamaageyaan, gaawiin i'iw akeyaa gii-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowizisiimin da-izhichigeyang i'iw akeyaa. Geget nigichi-apiitendaamin i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ondinamang i'iw bimaadiziwin ge-naadamaagoyang.

We are not considering what is being brought in as being inferior, I am only saying that we have not been taught to do those spiritual things that are not native to our area. We have a lot of respect and faith for those teachings, which will give us the support, and life we need.

Gaawiin gaye nigii-michi-giizhitoosiimin i'iw anooj akeyaa ani-asemaakeyaang. Mewinza ishkweyaang ingiw akiwenziyibaneg naa gaye ingiw mindimoonyibaneg gii-gikinoo'amaagewag i'iw akeyaa ge-izhitwaayang miinawaa i'iw akeyaa ge-izhichigeyang da-ni-asemaakeyang. Booch igo iwidi ishkweyaang a'aw Anishinaabe gii-shawendaagozigwen gii-pi-naazikaagowaad inow Manidoon ingiw akiwenziyibaneg naa mindimoonyibaneg gii-gikinoo'amawindwaa ge-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe omaa endanakiid ge-ni-izhichiged asemaaked.

We did not just create out of the blue those ceremonies that we have here today. Way back our old men and old ladies of the past taught us our ceremonies and the ways to do our tobacco offerings. I am sure somewhere way back the Manidoog took pity on us as a people and approached our old men and our old ladies giving them the teachings on how the people in this area should go about in offering up their tobacco.

Ishke dash ingiw anooj baandigadoojig omaa ishkoniganing bakaanadini akeyaa izhi-gikinoo'amaagewag ge-izhichiged asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke dash gaawiin omoonendanziinaawaa ogikendanziinaawaa ani-aanawenimaawaad inow Manidoon akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind a'aw Anishinaabe omaa endanakiid. Maagizhaa iwidi bakaan onjikaamadaginidog baandigadoowaad omaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amawind Anishinaabe bakaan endanakiid da-apenimod.

Those newcomers that are coming upon our reservation are bringing teachings and ceremonies that could be considered contradictory to what we have been originally given. They do not realize or know that they are saying to the Manidoog that what we were originally given is inadequate/inferior. More than likely what they are bringing in onto the reservation is the ceremonies and teachings that were given to Anishinaabe living in a different area to rely on.

Gaawiin gaye da-aanawendamaan i'iw Anishinaabe bakaan endanakiid ezhitwaad ezhichiged asemaaked, mii eta-go ekidoyaan, Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa nigii-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowizisiimin da-izhichigeyang. Mii i'iw ge-ni-ayaangwaamitooyang da-ni-bimiwidooyang niigaan a'aw Anishinaabe endanakiid omaa ishkoniganing gaa-izhi-miinigoowizid da-apenimod.

I am not saying that I consider these new teachings/ceremonies as being wrong, what I am saying is that we who live in this area were not given these teachings. We need to concentrate on focusing on what we have been given ceremony-wise that gives us spiritual support in our future.

Aanind gaye a'aw Anishinaabe mii-go ezhi-michi-giizhitood i'iw akeyaa ge-izhichiged Anishinaabe da-ni-asemaaked. Gaawiin omaa odoondinanziin omaa da-gii-gikinoo'amaagopan inow akiwenziyibanen naa mindimoonyibanen iwidi gaa-ayaaniin gaa-tanakiid. Nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe geget manezi biinjina dibishkoo-go gaawiin odapiitendanziin bimaadizid. Mii dash imaa apa'iwed anooj baa-izhichiged nanda-waabandang da-apiitenimigod dash inow owiij'anishinaabeman.

Some of our Anishinaabe have created out of the blue the ways and the manner in which we should put our tobacco. They did not get these teachings or knowledge from the old men and old ladies of the past in their home communities. Many of our Anishinaabe are lacking within and not having the self-confidence or self-worth. To make up for this deficiency they run around doing different things/ceremonies seeking the approval of their fellow Anishinaabe.

Ishke gaye niin endoodaagooyaan aaningodinong anooj igo ingoji babaa-izhaayaan ani-naadamawag a'aw Anishinaabe ani-asemaaked, niwii-ayaawigoog ingiw Anishinaabe nayaadamawagig da-ni-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa ani-izhichigeng ani-asemaakeng. Mii dash ezhi-wiindamawagwaa, gaawiin indaa-aanjitoosiin i'iw akeyaa ani-izhichigeyaan. Ingiw akiwenziyibaneg naa mindimoonyibaneg nigii-gikinoo'amaagoog ge-izhichigeyaan.

What also happens to me at times when I travel about in helping our Anishinaabe as they do their tobacco offering, the Anishinaabe that I am approaching to help in a particular ceremony will ask that I change how I do that particular ceremony. What I tell them is I cannot change the way I do a particular ceremony. The old men and old ladies of the past from our area taught me the teachings that I bring to the ceremony.

Ishke ani-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa izhiwebinigeyaan, nimaazhi-doodawaag miinawaa nimbaapinenimaag ingiw gaa-pi-gikinoo'amawijig. Booch da-bimiwidooyaan i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan. Oda-wii-ayaawaawaan awiya ge-ni-izhichigenid i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziwaad omaa endanakiwaad. Indaa-wii-manaaji'igoog, gaawiin inda-wii-nanaandodamaagosiig da-ni-aanjitooyaan i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagooyaan niin. Mii-go dibishkoo omaa ishkoniganing gaawiin da-wii-izhi-niigaanenimosiwig bakaan wenjiijig da-nanaandomaawaad omaa endanakiinjin da-aanjitoonid i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhi-gikinoo'amaagoowiziyang da-ni-izhichigeyang.

If I were to change how I do this ceremony I would be doing wrong and would be disrespectful toward those who gave me the teachings I have. I have to carry on in the way that I was taught. They need to have someone from their local area to do the ceremony in the way that they were taught in their particular community. These Anishinaabe need to treat me respectfully and not ask to change the way that I have been taught. The same goes for those newcomers that have come onto the reservation from different areas, they should not be so bold to ask the people living here to change how we have been taught when it comes to our ceremonies.

Ishke noongom a'aw gidanishinaabeminaan geget gidamaagizi. Mii-go apane nanda-waabandang ge-wenda-minokaagod imaa biinjina. Mii imaa nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe wayezhimind. Ishke nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogii-wanitoon gidinwewininaan. Mii-go maa bangii ani-ojibwemonid inow endazhimaanid inow asemaan echigaazonijin, mii-go imaa da-debwetawaawaad. Ishke dash wiin a'aw wenda-nitaa-ojibwemod, mii-go omaa ani-gikenimaad, gaawiin ogikendanziiwan ani-izhichigenid iniw genoodamaagenijin miinawaa ani-noondawaad ezhi-mamaazhigiizhwenid ani-ojibwemonid. Mii dash i'iw noongom wenji-ayaad a'aw Anishinaabe genoodamaaged debinaak ani-izhichiged. Gaawiin nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe ogikenindanziin ge-gii-izhi-aanawenimigopan gii-waabamigod gii-noondaagod iniw akiwenziyibanen naa

mindimooyeyibanen gaa-ayaanijin.

Today a lot of our Anishinaabe are pitiful; they are always looking for something to fulfill themselves on a spiritual level from within. Our people are vulnerable and are cheated in the process. A lot of our Anishinaabe have lost their language. They go to a ceremony and they hear the one conducting the ceremony haphazardly speaking Ojibwe for the tobacco getting deceived in thinking the speaker is doing a good job. For those that are fluent Ojibwe speakers and sit in on the ceremony, they will know that the one conducting the ceremony does not know what he is doing and they will hear him slaughter the language. That is why today there are Anishinaabe speaking doing a half-heartedly job. A lot of our Anishinaabe that I am speaking of do not realize how inadequate our old men and old ladies would have viewed them if they were there and hear them as they do the ceremony.

Mii i'iw noomaya gaa-tazhinjigaadeg miinawaa gemaa gaye gii-inaakonigeng ingiw wedewe'iganijig iniw Manidoo-dewe'iganan genawendamaagejig, mii ingiw ge-inaakonigejig awenen ge-biindigadoonijin imaa ishkoniganing i'iw akeyaa ge-izhi-asemaaked a'aw Anishinaabe. Ishke noongom nebowa a'aw Anishinaabe omaa baa-ayaa omaa anooj izhichiged miinawaa baa-wayezhimaad iniw Anishinaaben omaa endanakiinijin.

It was just recently discussed and maybe decided that our drum keepers that take care of the ceremonial drums on the reservation will screen and decide who can bring a particular ceremony onto the reservation. Today we have a lot of Anishinaabe that we view as doing crazy things when it comes to ceremonies and preying on the vulnerability of the people and deceiving them in the process.



Band Member Pursues Passion as Writer and Musician

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Growing up, Leah Lemm's plan was to become a chemical engineer after graduating from college. Math and science had always come naturally for her and she had been accepted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which is known as one of the best science and engineering colleges in the country.

But plans change. After her first semester, Leah decided she didn't like engineering and switched her major to economics because she liked how "economics helps explain the world in a rational sense."

Still, Leah, a Band member who grew up in Anoka and now lives in St. Paul, didn't want a career in finance either.

"What I really wanted was an office where I was surrounded by books with wooden walls so I could write and postulate," said Leah, who also minored in writing while in college.

Before she left Boston and after graduating from MIT in 2004, Leah went to the Berklee College of Music to study voice and music production engineering. It was then that she started writing music.

And that's where this part of Leah's story begins. Currently, she is enrolled in the Institute of American Indian Arts working towards her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Poetry. She's in the college's low residency program, which means she can continue to live in Minnesota with her husband and toddler son, but still attend the Santa Fe college.

"I wanted the MFA less for the professional development and more as a creative outlet," said Leah. "It gives me an excuse to write. I'm also using poetry to better my songwriting."

For Leah, one of the benefits of attending the Institute of American Indian Arts is that at least 50 percent of the students are Native Americans in the MFA program, which means she doesn't need to explain her background or feel like she's being asked to speak for an entire group of people — a wel-

come change from her undergraduate experience.

One of the challenges Leah has created for herself is to write a new song from scratch every week. Her songs can be found here: songdrink.wordpress.com.

"It's a practice in improving my songwriting and embracing artistry."

A fun fact is that while working on her undergraduate degree, Leah was a member of an a cappella group, the Chorallaries of MIT, because she liked to sing. She also did a lot of CD projects and used audio technology — which in some ways help set the stage for her work today. She also played the violin and was good enough to be a part of the all-state symphony orchestra in high school and the MIT Symphony Orchestra in college. After suffering a shoulder injury while playing rugby, Leah stopped playing the violin.

"Singing is my instrument, my voice is my instrument," said Leah, whose dad is William Premo.

In early April, Leah was one of the artists who participated in the National Native American Ten Minute Play Festival presented by New Native Theatre. She wrote a play that was performed, and she also sang during the event.

Leah, who is connected to the Ojibwe culture, is a Native artist, but not necessarily in a traditional sense.

"My strength is a combination of who I am. I am an artist and Native, and you're a native artist no matter what your art is."

Besides her passion about her art, Leah is also an advocate for mental health issues. She has struggled with Obses-



sive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) since she was a child. Her play was about a woman who has a baby and struggles with OCD.

"I like to be open about mental health to help people understand that it's more common than we think. Maybe someone out there with OCD will feel less alone."

Since the festival performance and debut of her play, Leah has also done a few other small gigs in the Twin Cities. "My dream is to find myself writing poetry and creating music on Lake Superior in a small cabin," she said.

Leah said she would also like a band so she can find a way to combine her music and poetry and somehow give back to the community through her work. She also spent a week as an Artist-in-Residence at the Anishinabe Academy in Minneapolis, teaching poetry and songwriting.

For now, though, she will focus on her writing, singing and finishing her degree program and then determine her next steps.

You can contact Leah at leahlemm@gmail.com.



The 2016 Blandin Community Leadership Program's spring cohort included the following Mille Lacs band attendees: Megan Ballinger, Lucas Best, Chandell Boyd, Daniel Boyd, Chilah Brown, Catherine Colsrud, Brandon Colsrud, Dustin Goslin, Bradley Harrington, Janie Miller, Kiana Morrison, Daniel Pawaush, Jamie Rancour, Wally Schmucker and Wanetta Thompson.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy June Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Mary Ann Ailport
 Donald Ray Anderson
 Randall Wayne Anderson
 Ronald Dale Anderson
 Shirley Ann Beach
 Arvina Marie Benjamin
 Sharon Lee Benjamin
 Rhonda Marie Bentley
 Shirley Jane Boyd
 David Bradley Jr.
 Rory Levine Bruneau
 Clifford Kenneth Churchill
 Sherry Elaine Colson
 Emma Compelube
 Simon Eugene Day Jr.
 Ellagene Diane Dorr
 Peter Jerome Dunkley
 Rosetta Marie Eagle
 Bruce Wayne Frye
 George Allen Garbow Jr.
 Kat Anne Garbow
 Melanie Raemel Garbow
 Marilyn Ann Gurneau
 Monica Louise Haglund
 Steven Jerome Hanks
 Bruce Duane Hansen
 Devona Lee Haskin
 Shirley Ann Hillstrom
 Dorothy Jean Hofstedt
 Robert Dwaine Kegg
 Connie Lou Kevan
 Marlowe James LaFave
 LeRoy Joseph Mager
 Robert Wayne Mayotte
 John Gene Morrow
 Barbara Jean Mulhall
 Dana Lou Nickaboine

Georgia Louise Nickaboine
 Joel Jay O'Brien
 Alof Andrew Olson Jr.
 Gordon Gail Parr
 Patricia Pindegayosh
 Daniel Wayne Quaderer
 Alan Duane Ray
 Charlene Ann Shingobe
 Charles Duane Shingobe
 Warren Skinaway
 Edward James St. John
 Pearl Anne St. John
 Dean Ray Staples
 Frances Staples
 Francine Wanda Staples
 Julie Ann Staples
 Elvis John Sutton
 Judy Ann Swanson
 Ann Marie Thalín
 Arlene Rene Weous
 De Etta Marie Weyaus
 Lorís Marie White
 Judy Jo Williams

Happy June Birthdays:

Happy 18th birthday to my daughter, **Leona Yellowhammer**, love Mom!
 • Happy birthday to Daughter Kate Davis from Mom and Dad.
 • Happy birthday, **Alizaya Jo Wagner** on 6/1 with love from, Gramma Tammy, Elias, TANK, Rico, Uncle Brandon, Auntie Chan, Jazmin, and Ahrianna.
 • Happy birthday **Tayaunna Boyd** on 6/1 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel,

Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy 14th birthday **Dante James** on 6/3 with love from mom, Selena, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul and Daymon. • Happy birthday **Roland Smith Jr.** on 6/4 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Sherry** on 6/9, love the Harrington Family!
 • Happy birthday **Bianca Minwaasinookwe** on 6/16, love, Baabiitaw, Dede, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn, Henry, Grannie Kim, Papa Kyle, Papa Brad, Auntie Val, Pie, Kev, Grandma Kim, Auntie, Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Missy, Guy, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, and Rory. • Happy birthday to our big bro, **Dano** on 6/16! Love your sisters and Faja. • Happy birthday **Roland Smith Sr.** on 6/18 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Candace** on 6/20 from Jacob. • Happy birthday **Candace** on 6/20 from Cyrell, Ernie, Richard, Rachel, Kelia, Railie, and Mom. • Happy birthday **Warren "Dad"** on 6/23, love your daughters, Tracy and Shelby. • Happy birthday **Kevin** on 6/23, love Mom, Pie, Grandma, Papa, Dad, Uncle Brad, Auntie Melissa, Braelyn, Payton, Eric, Waase, Wes, Bryn,

Bianca, Henry, Auntie, Randi, Uncle Bruce, Jayla, Lileah, Uncle Jay, Missy, Guy, Auntie Rachel, Waylon, Rory, Gram Karen, Auntie Tracy, Shelby, Max, Dean, Jacob, Jarvis, Miranda, Jarvis Jr., Jacob, Aiva, Mark, DeBreanna, Emery, Auntie Sharon, Wally, Melodie and Ravin. • Happy birthday **Gramma Tammy** on 6/24 with love from your grandbabies — Elias, TANK, Jazmin, Alizaya, Rico and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Mom** on 6/24 with love from Brandon and Chantel. • Happy 8th birthday to our **Yaya, Mariah Lynn** on 6/28! Love, Steff, Sam, Potbelly, and Daddy.
 • Happy birthday **Juni** on 6/28 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Big John** on 6/29 with love from Auntie Tammy, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, Rico, Brandon, Chantel, Jazmin, and Ahrianna. • Happy birthday **Ravin** on 6/30, love Auntie Tracy and the Harrington Family!
 • Happy birthday, Ravin on 6/30. Love, the Harrington Family!

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to my son, **Weylin Davis** on 5/2! Love, Dad.

Other Announcements:

Reminder: Make sure to keep your address up-to-date with the Enrollment Office. Call District I office at 320-532-7512. Members in outer districts may visit Randi Harrington in District II, Vanessa Gibbs in District III or the Urban Office. • The Institute of American Indian Arts is pleased to announce the graduation of **Millissa Michelle Kingbird** (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe), with an MFA in Creative Writing — Poetry. She received her degree during the commencement ceremonies in Santa Fe, NM on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 11 a.m. • In loving memory of **David Matrious** 6/23/15 taken from us too soon missed by your family. • In loving memory of **Scott Aubele** 6/15/95 we miss you and you are in our hearts — sadly missed by your mother and brother.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-8018**.
The deadline for the July issue is June 15.

Commissioner on Call

All Commissioners carry a phone and are reachable during the evening and weekends. Commissioners' cell phone numbers are provided below and will continue to be included in future newsletters.

Catherine Colsrud, <i>Commissioner of Administration</i>	320-292-0258
Michele Palomaki, <i>Assistant Commissioner of Administration</i>	320-630-7415
Percy Benjamin, <i>Commissioner of Community Development</i>	320-630-2496
Suzanne Wise, <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	320-630-9226
Sam Moose, <i>Commissioner of Health & Human Services</i>	320-630-2607
Susan Klapel, <i>Commissioner of Natural Resources</i>	320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

Circle of Strength and Healing; A follow up to the Roundtable Discussions 1-Day Conference – FREE

June 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 Grand Casino Hinckley

Second Annual Gii-Ishkonigewag Powwow

July 22–24
 New Powwow Grounds in Minisinaakwaang (East Lake) in District II

The 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

August 19–21
 Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds in District I. To learn more, follow "Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow" on Facebook.

RECURRING EVENTS

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds, 1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.

Ojibwe Language Tables

- District I Community Center
 Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Aazhoomog Community Center

- Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
- Hinckley Corporate Building
- Thursdays, 6 p.m.
- Division of Indian Work, 1001 East Lake St., Mpls.,
- Saturdays, 10 a.m.

Open Gym

Mondays – Thursdays, 5:30 – 9 p.m.
 District I Community Center

Drum Practice

Wednesdays, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
 District I Community Center

Cooking Class

June 2 and 16, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
 District I Community Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here?</p> <p>Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p> <p>Band Assembly meeting times and locations are subject to change.</p> <p>Due to scheduling conflicts, there is no District III community meeting in June.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>COH Outreach (Urban Area) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers</p> <p>Nay Ah Shing High School Graduation 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Veterans Coffee & Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Minneapolis American Indian Center</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxing Event 7 a.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p> <p>Kid Crafts: Corn Husk Dolls 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>
<p>5</p> <p><i>Inini: Man</i> <i>Ininiwag: Men</i></p> <p><i>Ikwe: Woman</i> <i>Ikweewag: Women</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Gwiiwizens: Boy</i> <i>Gwiiwizensag: Boys</i></p> <p><i>Ikwezens: Girl</i> <i>Ikwezensag: Girls</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Gathering 6 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Chi Minising Community Center</p> <p>Elder Abuse Conference All Day Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p>	<p>8</p> <p>DI Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center</p> <p>Honor Our Elders Powwow 1 p.m. DI Powwow Grounds</p> <p>Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>9</p> <p>COH Outreach 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. District II (East Lake) 1 – 4 p.m. District IIa (Isle)</p> <p>Women's Traditions 6 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Administrative Policy Board 10 a.m. Chiminising</p> <p>Band Assembly Minisinaakwaang ALU</p> <p>DIII Valley Fair Trip (see below)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ojibwe Bingo 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Oshkiniigikwe: Young woman</i> <i>Oshki-inini: Young man</i></p>
<p>12</p> <p><i>Minwendam: s/he is happy, has a good time</i> <i>Niminwendam: I am happy, having a good time</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>AmVets Post 53 Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs</p>	<p>14</p> <p>General Election (See page 4) 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog</p>	<p>15</p> <p>The Seventh Fire Screening 1, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. Grand Makwa Cinema (see p.9)</p> <p>Wisdom Steps Conference Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>16</p> <p>The Seventh Fire Screening (see p.9)</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>Wisdom Steps Conference Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p>WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament Grand National Golf Course</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Grand Celebration Powwow Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><i>Imbaabaa/indede: my father</i> <i>Gibaabaa/gidede: your father</i> <i>Obaabaayan/odedeyan: his/her father</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. DII Community Center</p>	<p>21</p> <p>COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Administrative Policy Board 10 a.m. DI Government Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing Band Assembly Chambers</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ojibwe Bingo 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>Circle of Strength and Healing (Follow up to the Roundtable Discussions. 1-day conference — FREE) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Birch Bark Basket Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>
<p>26</p> <p><i>Aaniin ezhwebak agwajing? How is it outside?</i> <i>Aabawaa: It is warm, mild weather</i> <i>Gizhaate: It is hot weather</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Dewe'igan: drum</i> <i>Niimi-iwe: S/he holds a dance</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. District I (Mille Lacs) Community Center</p> <p>Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Drum Practice 5:30 – 8 p.m. DI Community Center</p> <p>DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations</p> <p>DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake</p>	<p>DIII Valley Fair Trip Thursday June 9th. For info and to sign up with Jessica at Lake Lena center. Sign up early as you can.</p> <p>See page 14 for more June events.</p>	



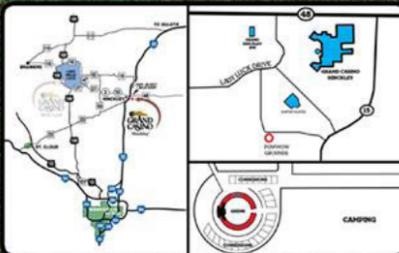
June 17, 18, & 19, 2016

INVITED DRUMS:
BLACK LODGE - WHITE SWAN WA.
YOUNG BEAR - MANDAREE ND.
SOUTHERN BOYZ - LAWTON OK.

Arena Staff 2016		Area Hotels
Master of Ceremonies Terry Fiddler - Prairie Island Edmund Nevaquaya - Arena Directors Sherwin Obey - MT Buck Spotted Tail - SD Judges Dino - Flandreau Gabe Derosiers - Lake of the Woods, OT	Local Host Little Otter - Mille Lacs Invited Drums: Black Lodge - White Swan, WA Young Bear - Mandaree, ND Southern Boyz - Lawton, OK Specials Pete Gahbow - Mille Lacs	DAYS INN 104 Grandblaine Court, Hinckley, MN 320-384-7751 TRAVEL LODGE 825 Fire Mountain Rd., Hinckley, MN 320-384-8112 RV PARK / CAMPGROUND 777 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 800-468-3517 GRAND NORTHERN INN 604 Weber Ave, Hinckley, MN - 800-468-3517 GRAND HINCKLEY INN 111 Lady Luck Drive, Hinckley, MN 55037 800-468-3517

Grand Casino Hinckley, MN
800-472-6321
 One hour north of the twin cities
grandcasino.com

Golf Tournament
WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament
 Grand National Golf Course
 Saturday, June 18, 2016
 4 Person Scramble
 8 a.m. Shotgun Start
 Men's, Women's and Elder's flights
 (Elder teams must include at least 3 players age 55 or older)
 Cost: \$500 per team (on site registration \$600)
 For details call 320-532-7486 or
 Grand National Golf Course at 320-384-7427



WEWIN Fundraiser Golf Tournament
 Sponsored by Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe




ANNUAL WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR INDIAN NATIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAT 2016
June 18

GRAND NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
 300 Lady Luck Drive,
 Hinckley, MN 55037

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 7:00am
SHOTGUN STARTS at 8:00am
 Men, Women and Elder Flights
 *Elder teams must include at least 3 players age 55 or older

Foursome:
 \$500 Advance
 \$600 On-Site

Individual
 \$150

Room Block Available

Additional information, please contact:
 Sonja Tanner, President
 OPOS Tours and Travel
 O. 612-425-0059
 C. 612-508-6438
 E. Sonja@opostours.com
 W. www.opostours.com

Nora Benjamin
 Mille Lacs Band
 Chief Executive Office
 O. 320-532-4181
 E. Nora.Benjamin@millelacsband.com
 Register Online at www.wewin04.org



All proceeds will support scholarships for Mille Lacs Band women to attend the 2016 WEWIN Conference



Ben Sam graduated from St. Scholastica. His cap said, "Educate the Indian, Save the World," as a comment on the old boarding-school motto "Kill the Indian, Save the Man." After his Facebook post drew a lot of attention, Ben said, "I don't wear these words for myself. I chose to coin this phrase and wear these letters for those who went before me and those who will hurt after me. Family, friends, distant ancestors, millions affected by a history of painful memories, I hope to move forward and change every life I can along the way. I love you all."

Reporters Wanted

The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the *Inaajimowin* newsletter, millelacsband.com, and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos, or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability.

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 Onamia, MN 56359
millelacsband.com



Kickboxing Event Features Band Members

Warriors Xtreme Muay Thai Kickboxers will hit the arena June 4 at the Grand Casino Hinckley Events and Convention Center. Antonio Dvorak and Nate Richardson will be featured, along with Mille Lacs Band members Matt Hatfield and Cayman Audie. Tickets are \$40 ringside and \$20 general admission. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

For more information call 320-385-0262 or email warriorsfp@yahoo.com.

Housing Issues

If you need assistance with an unanswered housing question, please contact Bonnie Matrious at 320-532-7841, and she will connect you with the appropriate Community Development staff member to answer your questions. Miigwech!

