

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

AUGUST 2016 | VOLUME 18 | NUMBER 08



GII-ISHKONIGEWAG POWWOW A NEW TRADITION

PAGE 7

A triathlon was one of the activities at the District II powwow on July 24.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
REPRESENTATIVE
SWORN IN

TRIBAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT
UPDATE

ELDER TO BE
HONORED AT
POWWOW

WALLEYE
HATCHERY
SUCCESS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE
BENJAMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin, Boozhoo! It was wonderful to see so many Band Members at the District II Powwow this weekend, at the beautiful new grounds! Congratulations and Miigwech to the Powwow Committee for the wonderful job they did; it was a beautiful, enjoyable weekend for all who attended. With the opening of Big Sandy Lodge and Resort as a Band property, exciting things are happening in District II.

This morning, I attended the swearing-in ceremony of Ed Minnema as Commissioner of Education. Ed spoke eloquently about the elders who taught him, such as Jim Clark and Larry Matrious. He shared some of his vision for Education, especially for Nay-Ah-Shing School. He is committed to making sure this school provides the very best education possible for our children and youth. Congratulations to Commissioner Minnema!

On July 12, I was honored to join Representative Blake in our swearing-in ceremony as Chief Executive and District 1 Representative. Congratulations as well to the School Board Members who were sworn-into office.

There are several principles that I've committed to working toward for Band Members over the next four years. Getting our Economic Justice initiative implemented will be my top priority. The Commissioners have been instructed to look at how Band government can right-size itself and decentralize services to the outlying districts, but that will not be enough to realize a savings that can be redistributed to our working Band Members. The only way this initiative will work is if we are successful in transitioning Band Members who are dependent on our programs into the workforce so they can take care of their families, rather than depending on Band programs. Sometimes that can involve tough choices, and require tough love from family members as well. We will continue implementing this agenda and I will report about this at the next State of the Band Address.

Another top priority is to continue working to stop the opiate crisis in our community and improve public safety. We have held multiple community meetings, hosted community conferences and will hold another conference in District I on August 3. This is another matter that requires partnership with families and tough love, but when family members get clean and are living healthy, sober lives, they will be grateful to their family for helping to save their lives.

Much of this month has been devoted to ensuring that we were adequately prepared for the termination of the law enforcement agreement with Mille Lacs County, and we were. There was significant work involved in preparation for this event, and our attorneys and police did a great job of making certain that Band Members would continue to receive service from Tribal Police. The most important thing to know is that our Tribal Police Officers still have the power and authority of Peace Officers to enforce laws under federal, Band and state law. The POST Board, which licenses Peace Officers in the State of Minnesota, has not revoked the licenses of our officers as the County requested.

In order to ensure we never have this problem again in the future, the Band Assembly and I agree that we must develop the communications infrastructure to ensure that we can serve as a stand-alone law enforcement agency without need of sharing communications systems with the county. We are also working toward entering into Joint Powers Agreements with other jurisdictions.

In contrast, by the time this edition makes it into your mailboxes, the Band will have held an historic signing ceremony at Aazhoomog between the Band government and the Pine County Board. Pine County has been an outstanding partner with the Band for many years, and our relationship has become a model of how a government-to-government relationship between an Indian tribe and a local government agency can be mutually



Commissioner of Education Ed Minnema was sworn in on August 25. See next month's *Inaajimowin* for an update on education.

beneficial for all citizens, Indian and non-Indian. During this ceremony we will sign a document that includes several principles we have agreed to uphold with one another, highlighting our intention to develop future agreements.

Finally, as the summer has progressed, I've noticed more and more activity and involvement of Band Members at every level of Band government and grassroots community events. Our second Circle of Healing and Strength Conference is coming up on August 3rd in District I, and Band Member involvement has been wonderful. As Band Members, you make all the difference in our success. I just want to say Miigwech to everyone for your commitment to improving our community!

Melanie Benjamin



Tern for the Better

The Mille Lacs Band DNR partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this summer to provide new nesting platforms for common terns. Contrary to their name, common terns are a threatened species in Minnesota with a small number of breeding areas. The Band has worked with the USFWS in past years to enhance the terns' breeding grounds on Hennepin Island. The reproduction rate on the island has been extremely poor, so the new platforms, repurposed pontoon boats, are designed to provide additional breeding areas at Mille Lacs to increase the population. One of the platforms can be seen in Vineland Bay just out from the District I Assisted Living Units. Hennepin and Spirit Islands make up the Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, which is the smallest in the nation.



School Board, District Rep, Chief Executive Sworn In

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

A late night storm moved the swearing-in ceremony and powwow for newly re-elected officials indoors on July 12. School Board Chair Kim Kegg and District I School Board Representative Semira Kimpson, who were re-elected to the Nay Ah Shing School Board, were the first to take the oath of office from Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. A group of family, friends and loved ones gathered at the Mille Lacs Courtroom to witness the event.

"I want to help make a difference in the school I graduated from," said Semira. Their commitment to the education of Mille Lacs Band Youth has been reinforced and acknowledged by their peers and community members. Meetings that sometimes lead late into the evening are common for these two and the three other board members.

Later on, at the District I Community Center, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin and District I Representative Sandra Blake were sworn into office after winning re-election earlier this year.

Obizaan spoke for our government and community, and he also gave a special recognition to the Mille Lacs Band Police during his invocation. "May they be watched over and effective in their duties," he proclaimed.

Secretary Treasurer Carol Beaulieu opened the session with a call to order for Chief Justice Rayna Churchill to conduct the swearing-in of Melanie and Sandra one by one.

Afterward, Melanie spoke first about her desire to have

more active Band members. "You may have a desire, deep down, to serve the Band," she said. "You have ideas about improving our community. My advice to you: Just do it!"

Melanie also talked about the revocation of the Law Enforcement Agreement (see page 4), reassuring that Tribal Police will still be active on the Reservation and that our neighbors of Northern Mille Lacs County will be more negatively affected due to the Mille Lacs County Board decision.

Referring to the U.S. government's M-Opinion reaffirming the continued existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation, Melanie said, "Since 1855, the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation has been in place... We have been here for 150 years and will be here 150 years from this day!" She ended with, "As I've said many times as Chief Executive: in 200 years, the politicians, the issues of the day and the problems will all be gone — but the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will still be here. We are here to stay, our Reservation is intact and we always will be here. If we do things right, our people will be speaking our language, practicing our traditions and putting on powwows like we are today."

Sandra, quiet in demeanor but experienced in effective leadership, passed on her gratitude to Melanie and to the community for believing in her to serve four more years as District I Representative.

These are the people we elected to lead us for the next four years. We have very dedicated member leaders who have

withstood the test of time and continue to have positive impact on our community. I urge all Band members to lend a helping hand to our government leaders.

They may have the title of a government official but we as a people hold a title which they serve: Mille Lacs Band Member. Let's do our individual part in aiding our Elected Officials in bettering our community. Miigwech.



School Board Members Semira Kimpson, left, and Kim Kegg, right, were sworn in by Chief Justice Rayna Churchill. Photo by Bradley Harrington.



National News Briefs

ICWA Challenge: The California Second District Court of Appeals ruled unanimously earlier this month that a 6-year-old Choctaw girl known as “Lexi” will be staying in Utah with her family. In the scathing 38-page decision, the three-judge panel ruled against foster parents Summer and Russell Page, citing their “self interest,” their pattern of interference with and resistance to Lexi’s visits with her extended family and their inability to facilitate an ongoing relationship with her siblings as reasons for the decision, which marks an important and high-profile victory in an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) challenge case.

Promising Platform: Democrats are poised to support Indian Country on sovereignty, health, justice and other issues as they hammer out their party’s 2016 national platform. The draft, which is up for final approval at the national convention in late July, includes a section on tribal sovereignty which reads in part: “We have a profound moral and legal responsibility to the Indian tribes — throughout our history we have failed to live up to that trust. That is why the Democratic Party will uphold, honor, and strengthen to the highest extent possible the United States’ fundamental trust and responsibility, grounded in the Constitution and treaties, to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.”

Keep the Pressure: The Obama administration has made progress on issues important to Native Americans, and the Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell encourages tribes to keep the pressure on Washington D.C. after a new president is sworn in. To date, the Obama administration has established the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which deals with key issues specific to tribes, as well as having settled dozens of lawsuits with tribes on issues like treaty obligations and water rights. This was an important speech made by a federal official spotlighting the major efforts being done to strengthen Native representation at the federal level, as well as to encourage long-term commitment to upholding Native American rights.

Tribal Justice Bill Approved: Last month, the Senate’s Committee on Indian Affairs passed a bill that could strengthen the ability of tribal courts to hold offenders accountable. The Tribal Youth and Community Protection Act gives tribes certainty and provides tribal law enforcement with the tools needed to police and prosecute every criminal in their community by reshaping the way crimes are prosecuted across Indian Country. It will give tribes the ability to arrest and prosecute non-citizens living on reservations for crimes involving drugs, to protect children and domestic abuse issues.

STOP Act: A bill to stop the export of tribal property and punish those who deal in stolen items was introduced in the Senate. The STOP Act, Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act, is a means to address the increasingly frequent sales of Native American artifacts overseas. This bill comes as a result of instances such as Navajo Nation sacred masks and an Acoma Pueblo shield being put up for sale in France. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) introduced the bill to respond to concerns raised by authorities in France. This is an important step in providing protection and legal measures to preserve Native property items.

Law Enforcement Agreement Revoked, Next Steps Considered

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Band members and employees showed up in force at the July 19 meeting of the Mille Lacs County Board to express their disapproval of the commissioners’ June 21 decision to revoke the County’s law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band.

After allowing testimony, the Board decided to hold a special meeting to consider a new agreement with the Band — but not until after the revocation went into effect July 22.

Although there was no scheduled public hearing on the agenda, a letter from Band member Megan Ballinger prompted Board Chair Roger Tellinghuisen to allow testimony.

Megan was the first to speak, scolding the Board for making the decision to revoke the agreement with no input from those most affected: the Indian and non-Indian residents of the north end of the county.

She referred to the Board agenda, which included a public hearing on a county ditch. “How could a ditch be more worthy of community input than our safety?” she asked.

“If anybody gets hurt, that’s on you guys,” she continued. “I urge you to get in the car, go up and meet with our elected officials. This isn’t just your life you’re messing with; you’re messing with my public safety... These tribal police officers, they know us, they know our family members, and they know our community. We can talk to them about anything... Enough is enough. You guys really should’ve asked our opinion on the matter before revoking the agreement.”

The Mille Lacs Messenger has accused the Board of violating the state’s Open Meeting Law by adding the resolution to the agenda at the last minute and revoking it without adequate public notice. Commissioner Phil Peterson said he was insulted by the suggestion that it was done at a “secret meeting.”

Others who testified were Tribal Police Investigator Russ Jude, Katie Draper, Shena Matrious, Shannon Nayquonabe, Cheryl Minx and Billie Jo Sarcia.

Katie said, “We all know that this is not about a law enforcement agreement. This is about people who have been wanting to do away with our reservation for decades.” She referred to the millions of dollars lost in the County’s lawsuit against the Band trying to prove that the reservation no longer existed. “Consider this. Revoke your resolution today. Respect us, and we will respect you,” she concluded.

Shena pointed out the irony that Sheriff Brent Lindgren requested a donation from the Band for a drug safety program while the County was attempting to deny the Tribal Police their

authority to enforce state law. “You are endangering our children by playing politics with our public safety,” she said.

Shannon said the County’s news release on the resolution was misleading and that taxes would go up for all county residents as a result of the Board’s decision. She added, “By revoking this agreement, you are placing all of your citizens, non-Indian or Indian, in jeopardy.”

Billie Jo told the Board the Band’s trust land residents have seen an increase in County law enforcement presence in recent days. “We never see deputies,” she said. “It feels like a hostile takeover, and it feels intentional. The county is trying to antagonize us, right on our 4,000 acres. That is not community policing.”

After the testimony, Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board could meet to reconsider its resolution terminating the agreement.

County Administrator Pat Oman told the board they could schedule an emergency meeting prior to the resolution taking effect July 22, but he recommended a special meeting, which would require three days’ public notice.

Commissioner Dave Oslin, whose district includes the Mille Lacs Reservation, spoke against the idea of a special meeting. He said the agreement had fallen apart before and been put back together, and that the Band had said it would not sit down with the County unless the County rescinded the resolution.

“The County Board made a decision, and I think at this point we need to stick with that agreement and see what happens,” he said. “If the majority of the board wants a special meeting, so be it... I haven’t heard one thing that wasn’t addressed by the county.”

Chairman Tellinghuisen called for a roll call vote on whether to hold a special meeting. Tellinghuisen, Peterson, Tim Wilhelm of rural Princeton and Genny Reynolds of Princeton voted in favor. Commissioner Oslin voted against.

Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati made one final request for the Board to rescind its resolution. Oman recommended against it, and the Board did not take action.

Commissioner Peterson said, “We are taking that first step by scheduling this meeting.”

Commissioner Tellinghuisen said, “It’s a small step, but a step maybe in the right direction.”

The Board scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, July 26, to discuss a new law enforcement agreement. For an update, see the Band’s website or next month’s *Inaajimowin*.

The County’s resolution revoking the agreement went into effect at midnight on July 22. For updates, see millelacsband.com or next month’s *Ojibwe Inaajimowin*.

Community meeting

The Tribal Police department held a community meeting at the District I Community Center on June 20 to inform Band members about what would happen in the absence of a law enforcement agreement with the County.

See page 8 for a story on the meeting.



Megan Ballinger’s letter to the Mille Lacs County Board convinced them to take public testimony on their decision to revoke the County’s law enforcement agreement with the Mille Lacs Band.



Commissioner Dave Oslin, who represents the Reservation area on the Mille Lacs County Board, voted against holding a special meeting to reconsider the County’s decision to revoke the law enforcement agreement.

District I Celebrates at Community Picnic

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

With the smell of burgers and brats on the grill, about 500 community members gathered at the Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds on July 6. Legislative staff, DOL crew members and local volunteers worked the event, which is aimed to bring the community together to have good Ojibwe fun.

"It's a good event to have," Sandy Blake expressed, "Seeing all of the community members out here, the kids playing — it gets better every year." There were 10 inflatable rides set up, including a bouncy house, rock climbing wall and a maze.

Max Blake gave some unwritten rules by saying, "It's a good time, but they don't let 300-pound-plus on the rides!"

Kenneth Mitchell II, who attended with his son Kenneth Mitchell III, said, "It's a great thing for the kids and community. And the food is good!"

After dinner came the Karaoke Contest, culminating in a head-to-head battle between Randy Sam with his rendition of

Don Williams' "I Believe in You" and Talon Billie performing Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues." In the end, Randy took the top prize with a little Sir Mix-A-lot.

Youth also sang karaoke with popular songs from Bruno Mars and Carly Rae Jepsen and led the crowd in a singalong with "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Drawings were held, and some of the winners included Coleman Weous, Deedee Weous and Roy Garbow. Tony Pike and Shirley Boyd each won the top prize: a 40-inch SmartTV.

To end the night, fireworks lit up the sky with Live Facebook Feed, a first for a MLB event.

Tony Pike had to run his TV over and toss it to Ramona in order for him to get his drone in the sky in time for the Live Feed.

At the end of the day, the kids had fun, families came together and Gayle got to get her groove on.



Circle of Healing and Strength



In response to Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's roundtable meetings on the opiate problem in the community, a Circle of Healing and Strength Conference was held at Grand Casino Hinckley on June 24. A second conference will be held Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Dr. Jeffrey Morgan talked about the nature of the brain disease of addiction, exposing myths about addiction and explaining how medical treatments work. He talked about the way genetics, stress, trauma, depression and abuse contribute to addiction.

Lois Schlutter, Ph.D., spoke on co-occurring disorders, including the "trifecta" of chemical dependency, mental illness and physical illness.

Tribal Police Officers Derrick Nauman and Russ Jude gave an update on drugs in the community;

Cecilia Fire Thunder, a motivational speaker from the Oglala Sioux Reservation, entertained and informed the large crowd

with a passionate and humorous speech. Cecilia said the keys to healing drug abuse are treating bodies as sacred, reviving native languages and traditions and dealing with the pain that leads to addiction.

Conference 2

A second Circle of Healing and Strength conference will take place Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The conference is intended for anyone seeking cultural knowledge, wanting to help, facing addiction or living in recovery.

Solutions to the drug problem will be discussed, along with ceremonies, Big Drum teachings and historical perspectives on family violence. CD counselors and youth will also share their insights.

Invited speakers include Obizaan, Amik, Waabishkibines, Dr. Migizi Sullivan and Brenda Child.

RSVP was requested by July 29, but walk-ins are also welcome. Breakfast and registration begin at 7:30 a.m. and the conference runs from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and lunch are provided.

For more information call 320-515-0824 or email Bradley E. Harrington at nzhike_awaasanang@yahoo.com or Christopher Gahbow at Christopher.gahbow@millelacsband.com.



Pictured with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin are conference planners Bradley Harrington and Maria Costello, and conference speakers Cecilia Fire Thunder, Lois Schlutter and Jeffrey Morgan.

State & Local News Briefs

Record Rains, Flash Floods: The Aazhoomog community in District III was nearly turned into an island during mid-July as torrential rainfall caused road washouts, bridge closures and flooded basements. The community center and clinic were closed after the downpour July 12 and 13 led to flooding of the St. Croix River and closure of the Hwy. 48 bridge to Danbury, Wisc. The only way in or out was Alma Razor Road, a gravel road that became soft with the rains, according to Commissioner of Community Development Percy Benjamin. "We didn't want residents going back and forth, so we kept buildings closed to keep people safe," said Percy. The Housing Department helped with wet basements and broken pumps, and the road crews fixed washed-out driveways. Residents of the Wise Owl area in District III were also trapped on an island in the floodwaters. Temporary closures on state highways 3, 27 and 65 also made travel between districts difficult. District II was not hit as hard, but DNR maintenance crews were called to remove fallen trees from yards, according to Executive Director Susan Klapel.

Casino Rumors: The operators of the Treasure Island Resort and Casino are moving to develop more than 100 acres near Lake Elmo, which media has speculated could be the site of a second major casino project. The tribe has no committed plans for the land and has downplayed speculations about a casino. However, local officials are still considering the casino a possibility. The Prairie Island Band's current reservation is near a nuclear plant, and they are looking for "safe lands for future generations."

Good Judgment: Gov. Mark Dayton has selected Fourth Judicial District Judge Anne McKeig, a descendant of White Earth Nation, as the next Supreme Court justice. She is the first American Indian jurist on the state's highest court, giving the state its first female majority since 1991. McKeig specializes in child protection and Indian welfare issues, and is following in the footsteps of former Judge Robert A. Blaeser, another White Earth member, to uphold the law with respect to tribal rights and native communities.

Text Alert System

The text alert system has been a great tool used to communicate with Band members and Mille Lacs Band employees. In the most recent example, we were able to send out texts to District III community members that the District III Community Center and clinic were closed due to the flooding waters nearby. We plan to continue this service, and you can still be added to the text alert. Currently there are many groups that you can chose to be added to, for instance: DI, DII, DIIa, DIII, Urban, and Elder.

If you would like to be added, it is of no cost to you (unless you pay for each text reply). All you need to do is call 320-562-7530 and asked to be added to this list. Within a few days you will receive a text asking you if you would like to be part of the text system. All you need to do is reply CONFIRM, and at any time if you do not want to receive texts, simply reply STOP.

Joe Nayquonabe to be Honored at District I Powwow

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Back in 1966, Joe Nayquonabe Sr., was one of the first Band veterans to be honored at the first Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow. Joe and Fred “Porky” Nickaboine were the first two into the arena, and they participated in the raising of the flag.

This year history will repeat itself in some ways when the 50th annual powwow convenes in Mille Lacs the weekend of August 19–21. Joe will once again be the first person into the arena for Grand Entry on that Friday night, and he will carry an eagle staff as he enters.

It will be an honor for Joe Sr., and it’s also something that he knows might never have happened if he hadn’t decided to make significant changes in his life.

“I felt honored then, but I will appreciate this time much more,” said Joe, who is now 71 years old.

Back then Joe was dealing with a lot of turmoil because the country, as a whole, was against the Vietnam War. There was a peace movement happening, and as the costs of war went up in both money and loss of lives, the anti-war sentiment grew stronger and decidedly against the U.S. involvement in the war.

Joe, who was barely out of his teenage years when he joined the Army, believed he was doing the right thing by serving his country. He thought that his fellow Americans would support him and others who were in the armed forces, but instead they responded with hatred towards the soldiers.

“There are a lot of Vietnam vets who have committed suicide or are in trouble and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from the war, and there’s still hate,” said Joe. “I was really messed up and my mind was in turmoil.”

Though he didn’t know it then, he came to learn that he also suffered from PTSD, and like other vets, it impacted his decisions and his choices.

Growing up

Like many children of his generation, Joe spent much of his early years with his grandparents, Peter and Maggie Nayquonabe, on the reservation in Mille Lacs. Though his parents were very responsible and he didn’t have to live with his Elders, he did because his grandparents needed a purpose. Joe had eight other siblings, but he was the only one who lived with his grandparents.

He was taught the importance of practicing Anishinaabe traditions. His first language was Ojibwe, and he went to many powwows and ceremonies.

When he was a first-grader, he went back to his parents, Joe and Harriett Nayquonabe, and not long after, his father passed away. Joe attended the Bureau of Indian Affairs school on the reservation from the first through the sixth grade. He went to school in Onamia beginning in the 7th grade and graduated from there.

“It was very different going to school with whites,” he said. “There were all Indians here on the Rez, but mostly whites at Onamia.”

“We were treated poorly and there was a lot of racism — especially toward the girls. They knew the guys could fight back so they didn’t pick on us as much.”

Joe said he was an average student, but believes he could have done better. His mom was an alcoholic, and he tried to help parent his younger siblings in his father’s absence.

He also dealt with feelings of inferiority going to school off the reservation.

“We didn’t have clothes as good as the other kids, and we lived in poverty,” he said. “Knowing you’re a welfare Indian didn’t help matters.”

Relocation and the next steps

After graduation, Joe moved to Milwaukee for two years. While there he attended welding school and worked as a weld-

er. Then, in 1965, he joined the Army.

“When I was around 8 years old, the Band was dedicating a monument — they were honoring vets — and I thought they looked so cool in their uniforms, so I wanted to join the military.”

He went to basic training and then went to Vietnam for a year. He was wounded in his back when he was hit by shrapnel and still suffers from his injuries yet today. Still, he completed his tour of duty.

When Joe returned to Mille Lacs, he worked a series of odd jobs in the area. He also drank a lot of alcohol then.

“Now I know I was suffering from PTSD, but then I just knew that alcohol helped me sleep,” he said. “I couldn’t sleep without it.”

In 1973 he married his wife of 43 years, Rita. For the next seven years he continued to drink even as the young couple began a family.

Getting past addiction

In 1980 Joe got sober. It wasn’t easy, but it was something he knew he needed to do.

“When I was 9 years old I was put on a drum,” he said. “Even when I was drinking, I was attending ceremonies, but I wasn’t connected. I did my duty, but I did not look at the purpose.”

He says his spirituality and having the courage to want to change helped him on his journey to sobriety. He also says he relied on the wisdom of his Elders. Still, he struggled.

“After sobering up there were three or four years of unhappiness, and I couldn’t understand why I was unhappy. I thought if I were sober I’d be happy.”

So, he talked to his Elders. They told him they had seen him attending dances, but they saw that he didn’t have a purpose. They saw him practice the rituals of offering tobacco, setting a plate or helping, but knew that he wasn’t doing it for the “why” but mostly going through the motions.

He listened to the Elders and made time to talk to them regularly, and soon he began to find his purpose and his happiness.

“My life has changed. It’s a lot better than it was, and I found happiness or close to it. I’m still working on it.”

Joe says without his spirituality he’d still be unhappy and lost.

“What they told me I had no reason not to listen. I had respect for them, and because I asked them I had to listen to what they were telling me. It carried more weight and more meaning.”

When he sobered up, Joe became a drumkeeper. Now he belongs on seven drums in Mille Lacs, White Earth and Lac Courte Oreilles.

“They ask you to replace someone on the drums and it’s an honor,” he said. “Some of the people I replaced — I was never as respectable as them. It was an honor.”

Moving forward

After Joe started sitting on drums and practicing other traditions with purpose and not out of obligation, the nightmares that had plagued him after the war stopped.

In 1988 he went back to school and graduated from St. Cloud State University with a degree in psychology. He minored



in chemical dependency because he wanted to be intentional in his efforts and desires to help others overcome addiction.

After graduating in 1992, he went to work for the Veteran’s Affairs Hospital in St. Cloud. He was also a chemical dependency counselor at the Four Winds treatment center. He then began working for the Band as a Chemical Dependency Counselor until he retired in 2013.

“If I see a young man struggling with dependency and they want help, they have to be ready when they come to me,” said Joe. “Every person I worked with was court-ordered to come to treatment; they didn’t come on their own.”

“When I started to do this work; it was focused on alcohol, and since then I’ve watched it turn to meth, prescription drugs and now heroin.”

To conquer these addictions that plague Indian Country, Joe believes that “we need to get back to the Indian ways and teachings.”

Joe, who is the father of six children — Pete, Joe, Jessi, Johanna, Nolan and Stanley — said he is a man who has changed for the better over the decades. His ideals and some of his opinions have changed for the better over the years.

Some of those changed views have helped him become a better man, husband, father, grandfather and teacher. He has also become a much-respected Elder.

He wants people to remember him as a caring person who went to school to try to help others.

“I want to be a helper to people, and I believe the Creator put me here to be a helper,” he said. “I was a good warrior.”

“I’ve made peace with that, and the creator has been good to me.”

These days Joe goes to every drum because he says they keep him alive. Without them, Joe said he believes he would have been dead already. Sometimes he has to choose which drum to attend because there are times they overlap, but he’s always there in spirit if not in person.

“Had I not sobered up I would have never have done this,” he said. “People look at me and wonder how I got here, and I tell them it’s through hard work and the Creator.”

Ge-Ishkonigewag Powwow

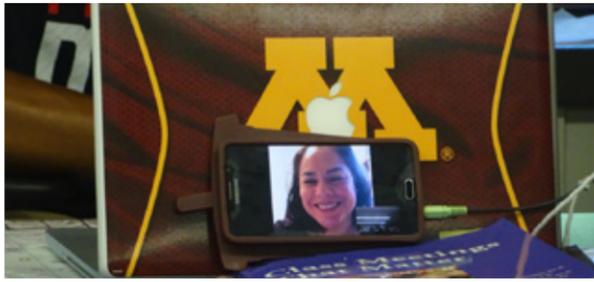
Chad Germann and Nicole Terrance Photographers

The new powwow grounds were spectacular and the weather cooperated — mostly — for the first powwow at the new facilities in Minisinaakwaang. Vendors, drummers and hundreds of dancers came from near and far for the festivities. Miigwech to the powwow committee and all who attended.



Ge-niigaanizijig Youth Leadership Program Going Strong

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer



Ge-niigaanizijig, a youth language and leadership program funded by a state grant, is going strong through July. On July 14 students participated in a conference call with Minnie Frias, Tribal Council Member for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Minnie shared the story of her time as Chairwoman of her tribe, how she was the youngest Chairperson, the struggles she endured leading up to her removal from office, and the dedication to her community to re-join the council after shady tribal legislation kept her out of office for 10 years.

Her perseverance was felt by the youth in attendance, which included special visitors from Minneapolis. Sacred Visions is a youth "Rights of Passage" group from South Minneapolis. They are in the same age group and have the same direction as Ge-niigaanizijig, so it looks as though the prophecy of the youth bringing us back to our roots is starting to come true.

When asked how to get youth to engage in tribal politics, Minnie made this recommendation: "Make sure there is an ac-

tive youth council. Provide many youth programs to teach about voting and politics. They think, today, that they just have to be good enough to work at the casino. Get them engaged in tribal council in younger years. When a tribal member gets educated and makes a better life, that is one less member we need to support and maybe they become involved to give back to their community."

She gave encouragement at the end of the call. "When you decide what you want for your future, go for it. Do what you are passionate about, and you will be successful."

Also on the agenda, Byron and Joseph held a leadership session including a "TedTalk" video and a writing of a cam-



paign speech. Meanwhile, Bagwajinini and Waabishkigaabaw gave Ojibwe Language instruction on VAI Verb Conjugations and how to create Locatives. The eyes were lighting up and the smiles were given freely with the teaching styles of these teachers. Keeping it upbeat and fun aided in the activation of the future leaders. Mii goma minik.

Law Enforcement Q & A

The Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department and Office of the Solicitor General held a community meeting at the District I Community Center on July 20 to discuss public safety concerns after Mille Lacs County's revocation of its law enforcement agreement with the Band.

Tribal Police Chief Jared Rosati said his team has been working around the clock to ensure a seamless transition when the revocation takes effect at midnight on July 22. The Department is putting together its own records management system and dispatch team and pursuing agreements with state agencies, the cities of Isle and Onamia, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Jared said, "We're looking at ways to make sure this never happens again. Public Law 280 says the state has jurisdiction, not the county. It only makes sense that we have that joint powers agreement with the state of Minnesota instead of the county. The biggest thing we want to accomplish is to become a free-standing, autonomous police department, so in the future if this joint powers agreement goes away we don't have 30 days to make all this happen."

He said the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board has initially determined not to get involved with the dispute between Mille Lacs County and the Band, meaning officers' licenses and law enforcement authority would remain intact.

In its resolution revoking the agreement, the County claimed that Mille Lacs Tribal Police would no longer be a law enforcement agency, but Jared assured members that the claim is false. "We were here before the agreement, and we'll be here after," he said.

The main differences are that Tribal officers will not be dispatched by the County, and it is up in the air which agency will investigate which crimes. Other than that, things will continue as normal.

Jared emphasized that Band members should still dial 911 in the event of an emergency. Tribal Police will monitor County Dispatch and will still be first on the scene in many cases.

There is also a new direct toll-free number for those who want to request Tribal Police service directly: 888-609-5006. The Department's main phone number — 320-532-3430 — can also be used. The non-emergency call center will be open 24/7, Jared said.

Following are the questions posed by community members and the answers given by Police Chief Jared Rosati and Solicitor General Todd R. Matha.

What if you live on fee land, not trust land? Tribal Police will respond to calls from trust land and Band-owned fee land.

What happens if someone is arrested? Tribal Police will arrest and detain. Mille Lacs County will do all of the transporting to the county jail.

Is the response time going to change? No.

Will ambulance service be affected? No.

Will the Band need to build its own jail? No. According to state law, the Sheriff has to receive prisoners.

What about retrocession from Public Law 280? The tribe could seek retrocession, but that would require the approval of the state government, which is a difficult proposition. In most cases, tribes retrocede to bring federal law enforcement to the reservation, but given the implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act at Mille Lacs in January of 2017, that federal presence will already be in place. Also, if you took the state out of the equation, the tribe would be responsible for incarceration, which would be extremely costly.

Would retrocession affect the Band's gaming compact with the State? No.

Is there anything in writing about the county's response time? Nothing specific. The County is planning to have two officers stationed in the area: one at Kathio, and a supervisor at Cove.

Could a person be charged in both state and tribal court? Things will function as they have before. The tribe has the ability to charge criminally in tribal court, but generally chooses not to. However, in the absence of an agreement, tribal officers will perform their duties under the authority of tribal law un-

less they are asked to assist by a state agency.

Has there been any progress in negotiations with Mille Lacs County? The Band met with County Attorney Joe Walsh and County Sheriff Brent Lindgren. The County's requests for changes to the law enforcement agreement will be shared on Tuesday.

How about Aitkin County? Negotiations toward reaching a law enforcement agreement with Aitkin County have been put on hold until this situation is resolved.

If a person is prosecuted under the Tribal Law and Order Act, would the County be able to challenge the reservation boundaries? Possibly, but that would put them in the unenviable position of aligning themselves with someone accused of a serious crime.

What happened at the Onamia City Council meeting? The meeting was for the Council to hear what the Band is offering in terms of a law enforcement agreement. The Council decided to send it to their attorney. These negotiations with the cities will continue even if a new agreement is reached with the County.

Will the 1837 Treaty code still be enforced? Yes, nothing has changed.

What parts of the agreement does the County object to? It's hard to know, because the revocation notice listed things that were not subsequently brought up by the County Attorney and County Sheriff.

Why has the County increased its patrolling of the Reservation? It was poor timing on the County's part. They were implementing a "Toward Zero Deaths" special saturation that had been scheduled in advance.

Will the Tribal Police still respond to calls from the Casino? Most definitely.

Will restraining orders be affected? No. They will still be recognized no matter what court they come from.

See page 4 for more on this story.

Grand Casino Hosting Community Festival During Bassmaster

Grand Casino Mille Lacs will be hosting a Mille Lacs Community Festival during the 2016 Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament happening September 15–18, 2016. The Community Festival, which will run September 17 and 18, will showcase local and regional vendors and highlight the businesses and community groups that make the Mille Lacs region a world-class fishing and vacation destination.

The Mille Lacs Community Festival will be held in the front parking lot of Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Saturday, September 17 from noon to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, September 18 from noon to 5 p.m. MLCV expects hundreds of vendors from around the state to participate.

“We’re so proud to be hosting this nationally-recognized tournament and showcasing Mille Lacs Lake,” said Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. “There are so many reasons to visit this region year-round, and we’re thrilled that the superb bass fishing is getting the attention that it deserves.”

The Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament is the finale of the Bassmaster Elite Series and will bring some of the best anglers in the country to fish Mille Lacs Lake. The tournament is a major spectator draw; past tournaments have brought anywhere from 15,000 to 30,000 visitors to the host region. The 2016 Elite Series comprises 10 tournaments in addition to the Classic Bracket event, an increase over the nine events of 2015.



“In addition to highlighting the incredible bass fishing that Mille Lacs Lake offers, visitors will be able to experience the wide-variety of resort and vacation destinations that exist around the lake,” Joe continued.

Local resort operators have collaborated to launch a website to showcase the region for visitors. Visitors can go to <http://fishmillelacs.com/> to explore lodging and entertainment options during the tournament.

“Hosting the Toyota® Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament is part of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures’ commitment

to be a strong community partner and grow the local economy,” Joe concluded. “Past events have seen millions of dollars spent on everything from equipment to lodging, meals and entertainment.”

An economic analysis of the impact from the Bassmaster tournament held in Orange, TX showed more than \$2 million in positive economic impact.

If you’re interested in becoming a vendor during the Mille Lacs Community Expo, please visit fishmillelacs.com and click on events to fill out an application.

Three Band Members are Fighting the Good Fight

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Matt Hatfield is proud of his accomplishments as a boxer, but his eyes light up even more when he talks about his younger brother, Cayman Audie.

“We were at the Danbury casino and they needed a fighter, so he just volunteered,” said Matt. “He never had training in his life, but he went in there and knocked the guy out in 14 seconds. That’s how he got into fighting.”

Matt had been a boxer as a youth, but seeing Cayman in the MMA ring made Matt want to give it a try. His first fight wasn’t quite as impressive as his brother’s. It took him all of 40 seconds to score a knockout.

June 4 was a busy day for Cayman. After celebrating his graduation from East Central High School, he fought at the Muay Thai Extreme Kickboxing event at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Matt was supposed to fight as well, but his opponent pulled out. Matt was in Cayman’s corner, though, to coach him and watch him come out victorious.

When they’re not training together, Cayman works on the grounds crew around Aazhoomog, and Matt works with the Niigaan youth program. He’s also been teaching some young Band members to box — giving back to the community that got him started in boxing.

“It gets them in shape, and I think it keeps them out of trouble,” said Matt. “We tell them not to use what they’re learning out of the ring.”

Matt, who graduated from Nay Ah Shing in 2008, started boxing when he was nine years old, imitating older guys he looked up to, like Weylin Davis and Tim Taggart.

He joined the Crossroads Boxing Club, where he was taught to fight by Harry Davis, Richard Martin, Ed St. John and others. He moved on to basketball in high school and thought his days in the ring might be behind him — until his brother’s MMA fight got him interested in trying something new.

The brothers don’t have a coach or trainer. They train each other. Matt shares his boxing expertise with Cayman, and Cayman helps Matt improve his wrestling and kicks.

Rueben St. John, who also fought at the June 4 kickboxing event, came to the sport from a different direction — literally

and figuratively.

Rueben was raised in Chiminising and got involved in Bobby Anderson’s Warriors Fitness Tae Kwon Do gym in Hinckley. Bobby, who is the fitness coordinator in Districts II and III, calls Rueben “my star pupil.”

When Bobby heard Rueben was getting back into fighting, and working with a different trainer, he said, “No, you’re gonna work with me.” Rueben cut 30 pounds in two months but hopes to lose another 50 to get back to his favorite weight class, 147 pounds.

Growing up, Rueben was a year-round athlete. “Football, baseball, softball, anything that involved running — I’d be out there,” he said.

Now he’s back in the ring after a few years off. The June 4 fight was his first since 2009. “It was a ‘rust-shaker’ fight,” he said. “I wasn’t ready, but I fought anyway, just to get back in the game.”

He also does a lot of self-training in addition to working with Bobby and Troy Hill, another Band member. He sometimes goes to St. Cloud or Superior, Wisc., for sparring.

Rueben also believes that sports can steer kids in the right direction. “Sports kept me out of trouble,” he said. “After I was done with practice or games, I was too tired to get in trouble.”

He also credits his grandparents David ‘Mosay’ Sam and Sharon Sam, as well as Beatrice Taylor, with teaching him right from wrong. Beatrice would say, “Boy, you behave out there. Don’t make your parents or grandparents mad.”

Rueben has always been a hard worker — in and out of the ring. He’s worked as a construction laborer since high school, and last year he graduated from the concrete apprenticeship training put together by the Band’s TERO director, Craig Hansen.

When he’s not working or fighting, Rueben spends time with his wife and three stepchildren.

Rueben describes his simple but exhausting life, smiling like he’s living the dream: “Work construction, then go train, and after dinner, go to sleep.”



Top: Cayman Audie came out victorious at a kickboxing match June 4 at Grand Casino Hinckley. **Middle:** Reuben St. John is back in the ring after taking a few years off. **Bottom:** Matt Hatfield works in the Niigaan program when he’s not training with his brother Cayman.

A Band Elder's Story about Her Journey of Live Organ Donation

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer



When Carol Hernandez learned that her younger brother Larry Johnson was in Stage 5 renal failure and needed a kidney donor, she immediately volunteered to give him one of hers.

"There was never a question of not doing it; the only question was how soon could it happen," said Carol,

a Band Elder who is a Wraparound Facilitator for Community Support Services.

"I did not need any time to think about it as it seemed like something that one would do for any family member in a health crisis," she said. "I immediately started researching renal failure and live kidney donation and contacted the Hennepin County Medical Center transplant team to notify them I would like to be considered."

Another sister, Band Elder Kitty Johnson, also agreed to be tested to be a donor. Both women began the initial testing to see if their blood types matched and to meet with Larry's healthcare team. They had meetings with a transplant coordinator, a nutritionist, surgeon, nephrologist, pharmacist and others.

The family learned what the benefits were getting a kidney from a person who is still living rather than someone who had passed away.

"We were also told that the waiting list for my brother's blood type was about six years," she said.

Kitty was eliminated as a potential donor after the blood screening, but Carol moved forward for additional testing and was approved as a donor. She was given her own medical team, and the surgery was scheduled for June 24.

A week before the surgery she had to undergo additional medical tests to make sure she was ready to donate. Larry also had to do the same.

Sadly, the tests revealed that there was something abnormal going on, and the surgeons made the call to postpone the surgery while they figured out what the abnormality was.

"Well, after that, it was one thing after another. My blood sugars were dropping and went down to 57. Then I developed a urinary tract infection, and before I finished the antibiotics I found myself in an ambulance with a fever of 105.1, rapid pulse, very low oxygen and a bad cough," Carol said.

"I had double pneumonia, congestive heart failure and 'something else,'" she said.

That something else turned out to be anaplasmosis — a tick-borne disease. She also had a virus, and that meant the antibiotics didn't work.

"With all of this, the transplant team had no choice but to eliminate me as a donor," she said. "I was heartbroken. The search for a live donor for my brother has started again."

Larry, who is also a Band Elder, called Carol his sister-angel and said on his Facebook page that "we are both very disappointed in this turn of events."

"Both of us accept that this happened for a reason, and we remain hopeful that a new donor will be found," he continued on his post.

Larry still considers Carol a rock star for her efforts and desire to help and is still encouraging people to get tested to see if they can help him or others by becoming a donor.

Though there are some Native Americans who believe that donating an organ is both a physical sacrifice as well as a spiritual one, it is a choice that each person must make for themselves, Carol said.

"Being Midewiwin I was told I'm not supposed to donate, but I don't think the Creator would punish me for helping my

family," Carol said.

It is estimated that there are more than 112,000 on the nation's organ transplant list. A disproportionate number of those are Native Americans, according to estimates.

Chronic kidney disease is a major health problem in Native American communities, and compared to the country's white population, Native American's are 2.8 times more likely to experience End Stage Renal Disease related to diabetes, according to 2010 U.S. Renal Data.

"I'm very disappointed that I wasn't able to help my younger brother," she said. "It's unknown why he has renal failure, and my donation could have saved his life or extended it, but we will never know now because I can't donate."

"I learned a lot through this process, and we have so many Band members in need of a kidney donation," said Carol. "I encourage anyone that is able to go through live donor testing to please consider it."

"Our Ne la Shing clinic has worked with the HCMC Transplant team and can provide education to anyone interested in learning about donation."

Larry, who says on his Facebook page that he is "looking for a super hero," is asking for Band members to consider sharing the message that donors are needed. His search is for people who are blood type O positive and might be willing to donate a kidney.

His team at the hospital's transplant office is revisiting the list to see if there are any other viable donors, but in the meantime Larry and his family would like others to consider getting tested. All testing and transplant costs are paid for by Larry's insurance.

For more information contact Eugenia Steffens, the Kidney Donor Coordinator at Hennepin County Medical Center at 612-873-7705. Those who are not a match for Larry can be considered to be a donor through the Paired Exchange Program.

Homeowners Receive Free Smoke Detector Installation

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

Thanks to a partnership between the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Emergency Management Department and the American Red Cross, Band members who own their own houses qualify to have free fire alarms installed in their homes.

To date, the Emergency Management Department has installed alarms in 48 homes of Band members across each district and the urban area.

"It's very important because it could be a lifesaver," said Paul Sam, who helped install alarms in seven homes in Minneapolis. Paul is a firefighter in Minneapolis and a Band member.

Those who live in Band-owned homes already have the integrated smoke alarm system in their homes, so

this offer is for those who own their homes, according to Monte Fronk, the Band's Coordinator of the Emergency Management Department.

Smoke detector installation takes about 20 minutes, and the homeowner will receive fire prevention materials. Smoke detectors for those who are hearing-impaired are available and can be requested from the Emergency Management Department.

"The smoke alarms have a five-year lifespan due to the chemical sensor breaking down and giving false alarms or chirping," Monte said.

Smoke detectors should be installed in every bedroom, out-

side of each sleeping area and on every level of your home. They should be tested monthly and replaced as needed.

"Families should know about smoke detectors, and should have an evacuation plan and a place to meet if there is a fire," said Paul, who has been a firefighter in Minneapolis for 15 years.

"I would strongly encourage everyone to get them because they are free and they are professionally installed."

To have alarms installed contact Monte via email or by phone at monte.fronk@millelacsband.com or 320-532-4181, ext. 2558 or on his cell at 320-362-0435.



Band Member and Minneapolis Firefighter Paul Sam and Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk installed smoke detectors in homes around the Twin Cities in June.

Duck White Shares Knowledge of Wiigwaas and Wiigob

Brett Larson Staff Writer

“My uncles told me before you cut into the tree you have to put your tobacco down and tell that tree that you’re going to take its skin.”

— Duck White

Donald “Duck” White has been gathering wiigwaas (birch bark) longer than many of us have been alive. He started at age 12 in his home on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward, Wisc.

This year Duck went to Wisconsin and gathered bark to use in classes at Pine Grove Leadership Academy, where he’ll start his tenth year teaching culture to the kids.

Duck, who is married to Band member Bonita White, also held a class this summer where he taught students how to make baskets and small canoes.

“They wanted it to last longer,” Duck said. “I told them, ‘Well, maybe next year we can have a couple sessions.’ They enjoyed going out and getting the bark, being out in the woods, learning what direction the grain of the bark should go, how to sew it.”

When Duck was a kid, his aunts, cousins and grandmother worked at Historyland, a tourist attraction that featured a traditional Anishinaabe village, along with a lumberjack camp.

He was taught how to gather wiigwaas from the Elders who worked there.

“Those old guys took me out and showed me how to do

it,” Duck recalled. “Since I was the smallest one, they put me on their shoulders with the knife because I could get up high.”

Duck helped to reconstruct the village, cutting wiigwaas to cover the wigwams and sewing it together with wiigob — the inner bark of the basswood tree.

“They showed me all the tricks to sewing bark on wigwams, helping out with the canoes and making different types of baskets,” said Duck.

He even learned to make traditional bark baskets used for boiling maple sap — the method used to make maple sugar before Indians had access to iron kettles.

“We had tours of that village constantly, busloads of people from the different countries and different parts of the United States,” Duck said. “It was interesting to see people who had birch in their countries but didn’t know what to do with it.”

Birch grows around the world, but only in North America did tribes learn how useful it could be. Birch bark canoes could be sunk in the lake in winter to preserve them, Duck said, and dry pieces could be made workable again by soaking them in water. Food was preserved underground in birch bark lockers. Birch bark scrolls were used to pass on traditional knowledge.

Duck still gathers bark each year, preferring a hot day in mid- to late-June. For most projects he likes the bark from trees that are about 10-inches in diameter, but for canoes or larger baskets, bigger trees are needed.

“You always try to find the smoothest bark without any knots or branches on it,” Duck said. “My uncles told me before you cut into the tree you have to put your tobacco down and tell that tree that you’re going to take its skin. You put a little slice in it, and if it pops, you know it’s ready. You can’t cut very far into the bark, maybe an eighth of an inch. Otherwise you’ll kill the tree. It’s a delicate tree.”



Top: Danielle Hughes was one of Duck’s students in a birch bark class at Pine Grove Leadership Academy this summer. Bottom: Duck White showed off some of his creations. “At powwows when we’re waiting to sing, I’ll work on baskets, but they all disappear by the end of the day,” he says.

Hatchery-Raised Walleyes Stocked in Namachers, Sullivan

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The DNR’s walleye hatchery pilot project hit another milestone in July, as thousands of fingerlings were stocked in Sullivan Lake in District I and Namachers Lake in District III.

Executive Director Susan Klapel got her feet wet and hands dirty a few times, but the bulk of the work was accomplished by her staff: biologists Carl Klimah, Chad Weiss and Jordan Williams, along with summer intern Jourdain Wedll.

During the spring spearing season, eggs and milt were harvested from Mille Lacs walleyes and hatched in a new facility in District I. Over a million fry were released in to the “giigoo (fish) ponds” (the old wastewater treatment ponds in District I).

By early July, the fry were large enough to catch in fyke nets, which are like a series of funnels that fish swim into but can’t escape.

The three-inch-long fingerlings were put into a holding tank on the shore of the giigoo ponds, where they were treated to make sure any invasive species would not be transferred with the fish.

From there they were put in another tank on the back of a DNR pickup and driven to Namachers and Sullivan. As of mid-July, about 4,400 fingerlings had been transferred to Namachers and another 10,000 to Sullivan.

Susan said the project has been welcomed by the Sullivan Lake association. She’s also excited to watch the rebirth of Namachers, which had been restored to create an environment more suitable to the survival of walleyes and panfish.

The lake is already full of minnows, which should serve as food to the fingerlings. The DNR has also found evidence that

crappies and bluegills are reproducing in the lake, which will provide more fodder for the voracious walleyes.

Susan points out that the male walleyes mature in four years and the females in five, so it will take at least that long to see if natural reproduction is occurring. “It’s cool to watch,” said Susan. “It’s like starting a whole new fishery from scratch.” Until then, the DNR will continue stocking the lake to build up the walleye population.

Namachers will not just be a recreational fishing lake but will also be a storehouse for the unique Mille Lacs strain of walleyes, in case climate change or other factors continue to affect the Mille Lacs walleye population.



Left: Thousands of walleye fingerlings have been trapped and transported to two lakes as part of a walleye rearing pilot project. Center: Executive Director Susan Klapel watched as Carl Klimah, Jordan Williams and Jourdain Wedll untangled the fyke net at the “giigoo ponds” in District I. Right: The long fyke net guides fish through a series of funnels until they are trapped.

Graduation Day

Arne Vainio, M.D. Guest Writer



We were at the graduation ceremony for the Harbor City International School in Duluth, Minnesota, and the commencement address was by Gaelynn Lea Tressler. She is the winner of the 2016 National Public Radio

Tiny Desk Concert series, and she knows about and exemplifies overcoming hardships and truly appreciating the things we take for granted.

She is beautiful and eloquent and she speaks from a position only she can speak from. She sings and she plays her violin from somewhere deep in her soul. She talked to the graduating high school seniors and she talked to our son and she reminded them to always enrich their own lives and to enrich the lives of others. She talked to them of pursuing their dreams and never giving up. She played her violin and she sang to them and the crowd was speechless and the auditorium was silent as her last notes were fading. You can watch an excerpt from her NPR Tiny Desk concert performance on YouTube by searching "Gaelynn Lea Someday." Please don't pass it up.

I was thinking about our son in this context when I was asked to be the keynote speaker for the University of Minnesota Medical School Native American graduates a few weeks ago. There were six graduates, and while it seems that is not very many, these are very important graduates. They are important to their families and important to their tribes and important to their communities.

Major life transitions should always carry ceremonies. There was a time when our people celebrated times of change and advancing to the next stage of life. Maybe some still do this, but it didn't happen for me. I don't really even know when I became a man. Was it the first time I drove a car? Was it the first time I crashed a car?

There are only a little over 300 members in the Association

of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) and six more will be welcome. I spoke to the graduates as a representative of AAIP and I spoke to them as a representative of the University of Minnesota Medical School. I spoke to them as a representative of the Seattle Indian Health Board and I spoke to them as a physician practicing on the Fond du Lac reservation.

I spoke to them as someone who came from and still remembers poverty.

These new physicians have already seen death and they've already seen new life. But only from the sidelines.

I had the graduates stand, and I gave them all asemaa (sacred tobacco) that I made from the inner bark of red willow. I told them how I made it, and I told them I stay up late at night making it because only then can I be alone with my thoughts. I told them I make it exactly the way I was taught and that the one who taught me told me a story as we were making it the first time:

He was a sniper in Vietnam and his job was to do as he was instructed. There was a woman in a village who was organizing people in a way that was not welcome. He watched her for a long time that morning from a great distance. Her children were playing in the dirt yard, and there were pigs and dogs and chickens running around. He watched her washing her face in a white enamel basin with a red stripe around the rim. She splashed the water on her face with both hands and she flipped her head back and her long black hair arched over her head with water flying from it, and that's when he pulled the trigger.

She died with her children around her. That was over forty years ago, and he hasn't slept since.

I always think of him and I think of her when I make my asemaa, and I think of them when I offer it and when I give it away. We give tobacco when we ask something important of someone or when we want answers or healing or if we wish to honor someone.

I had the graduates stand, and I walked through the assembled crowd and among their families, and I put asemaa into the hands of each of the graduates and I had them remain standing.

"I ask you in front of your families and your teachers and your Elders to take care of our communities. Take care of our babies and take care of our elders and our grandparents. Take care of our addicted and our imprisoned and those less fortunate. You have joined the most ethical and respected profession there is, and you need to honor that in your work, but you also need to honor it in your home and community life. Others will look up to you and look to you for guidance, and you need to have a pure heart to provide that guidance. This is a transition point, and this asemaa means you have left your old life behind. As you travel from this point forward, you will be the ones families will turn to and there will be a sacred and unspoken pact between you and those families. You need to honor that pact."

I was the first one to hold this brand new baby not so long ago. He has an uphill battle in front of him.

I put my thumbprint on his foot and I whispered into his ear...

"We need you to be strong. We need you to listen to your elders. We need you to learn our songs and our stories. We need you to be a healer. When that time comes, you come and talk to me.

I'll be waiting for you."

Arne Vainio, M.D. is an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is a family practice physician on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota. He can be contacted at a-vainio@hotmail.com.



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Band member graduates were honored at a graduation celebration hosted by the Higher Education Program on June 29 at Grand Casino Hinckley. Graduates and their families were treated to a lunch and inspired by comments from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Executive Director of Education Joycelyn Shingobe and Deputy Administrator Ed Minnema — who has since been confirmed as the new Commissioner of Education. Ed read a long list of graduates' names and presented certificates to those in attendance, and Higher Ed staff passed out an impressive array of door prizes. Among the celebrants were Wanetta Thompson and her daughter Kyras, and Ginger Weyaus and her family.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin

John P. Benjamin Waabishkigaabaw

Learning Ojibwe Lesson 6: Gaawin and Gego

Gaawin and Gego! No and Don't!

In English, if you want to tell someone not to do something, you use "Don't." In Ojibwemowin (the Ojibwe language), you use "Gego."

In English, you can be more specific by adding a verb: Don't run, Don't fight, etc. In Ojibwemowin, you add a verb plus a suffix: ken (pronounced like 'cane'): Gego _____ ken

Here is an example: Gego izhaaken! Don't go there! If you're speaking to a group, you say "Gego izhaakegon!" — "Don't 'y'all' go there!"

Here are a few more verbs to use with "gego."

English	Spoken to Individual	Spoken to Group
Don't do that!	Gego izhichigeken i'iw.	Gego izhichigekegon i'iw.
Don't run!	Gego bimibatoken.	Gego bimibatokegon.
Don't eat that!	Gego miiijken i'iw.	Gego miiijikegon i'iw.
Don't say it!	Gego ikidoken i'iw.	Gego ikidokegon i'iw.
Don't fight!	Gego miigaazoken.	Gego miigaazokegon.

To say you're not going to do something, you use the Ojibwe word for "no": gaawin! You also need to add a suffix to the verb: Gaawin _____ siin/ziin (Use ziin when it ends with m or n.)

English	1st Person (I)	2nd Person (you)	3rd Person (S/he)
Not going.	Gaawin nindizhaasiin.	Gaawin gidizhaasiin.	Gaawin izhaasiin.
Not hungry.	Gaawin nibakadesiin.	Gaawin gibakadesiin.	Gaawin bakadesiin.
Not tired.	Gaawin indayekozisiin.	Gaawin gidayekozisiin.	Gaawin ayekozisiin.
Don't know.	Gaawin ningikendanziin.	Gaawin gikendanziin.	Gaawin kendanziin.
Not working.	Gaawin indanokiisiin.	Gaawin gidanokiisiin.	Gaawin anokiisiin.

Now if you know "minwendan" means "like," you should be able to translate, "Gaawin niminwendanziin i'iw."

In last month's calendar, we made a mistake in transcribing Waabishkigaabaw's Ojibwe lesson. It said "**Niwii-pagiz dibikong.**" **Niwii-pagiz** means "**I want to go swim/I'm going to go swimming**" whereas "**dibikong**" means "**last night**". Remember "**ingii-**" means "**I was**" or "**I verbed**" so it should read "**Ingii-pagiz dibikong**" meaning "**I went swimming last night.**"

Veteran & Active Duty Family Flags

The Iskigamizigan Powwow Committee is currently seeking out Mille Lacs Band families that intend to honor a family Veteran and/or Active Duty Band members by flying their US Flag at the upcoming 50th Annual Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Traditional Powwow which is being held August 19–21, 2016!

Please note that the Flag raising will take place on Friday, August 19, 2016. All Flags will remain flying for the duration of the powwow and will be illuminated throughout Friday and Saturday nights. The lowering of the Flags will take place Sunday, August 21, 2016 prior to the Adult

exhibitions. We strongly encourage you and your family to listen for the MC to announce for your family to start gathering at your Veteran's Flag pole.

If your family intends on honor a veteran in your family during this time, please complete the form below. All completed forms can be returned to Allen Weyaus at email aweyaus@grcasinos.com or mail to Allen Weyaus Attention Powwow Committee, 43408 Oodena Dr., Onamia, Minnesota, 56359.

Deadline to confirm your intention is August 17, 2016!

Name of Veteran/Active Duty family member: _____

Rank: _____

Years of Service: _____

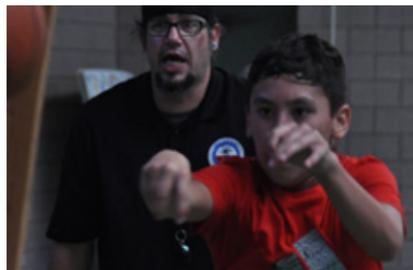
Military Service: _____

Military Operation(s): _____

Medals Awarded: _____

Who will be carrying in the Veteran's Flag (Name, Rank, Military Service): _____

Please provide your name and contact information: _____



Hoop Dreams

In June the Niigaan program held basketball camps in all three districts for students in grades 6–12. The kids had a great time and learned a lot from coaches Jim Russell of Central Lakes College, Larry McKenzie of Minneapolis North High School and Matt Bowen of UMD. They were assisted by Niigaan director Byron Ninham, Darrell Shingobe, Matt Roberson and other Band members and employees.

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy August Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Diane Marie Barstow
 Frances Jean Benjamin
 Wendy May Benjamin
 Clarence Roy Boyd
 Clayton Jay Boyd
 Debra Elaine Brooks
 Marlys Louise Bushey
 Myrna Joy Ceballos
 Karen Marie Clark
 John Dewey Colstrud III
 Geraldine DeFoe
 Edward Ernest Dunkley
 Roxanne Julie Emery
 Gary Dean Frye
 Dorinda Fay Garbow
 JoAnne Sue Garbow
 Samuel Garbow Jr.
 Barbara Maxine Goodman
 Diana Guizar
 Rosalie Noreen Hallaway
 Mary Jean Harpster
 Bradley Harrington
 Robert Martin Houle Jr.
 George Ben Jackson
 Patricia Clarise Jones
 Doris Kegg
 Lorraine Marian Keller

Joseph Franklin Knudtson
 Carol Elizabeth Kornkven
 Andy Mitchell
 Lynda Lou Mitchell
 Gerry Warden Mortenson
 Delia Ann Nayquonabe
 Margaret Rose Premo
 Linda Christine Quaderer
 Bruce Anthony Ray
 Terry Lee Ray
 Sharon Marie Rogers
 Kimberly Ann Sam
 Theresa Joy Schaaf
 William David Schaaf
 David Duane Shaugobay
 Bernadette Smith-Benjamin
 Daniel John Staples
 Connie Jean Taylor
 Janice Louise Taylor
 James Martin Thomas
 Richard Henry Thomas Jr.
 Sylvester W. Thomas Jr.
 Barbara Ellen Toth
 John Wayne Towle
 Michael Laverne Wade
 Alrick George Wadena Jr.
 Carmen Denise Weous
 Donna Jean Wind
 Eloise Betsy Wind
 Franklin John Woyak`

Happy August Birthdays:

Happy 8th birthday on 8/5 to my bird, **Adriana Benjamin!** From, Dad. • Happy birthday, **PJ** on 8/5! Love, the Harrington family.
 • Happy birthday, **Sharon** on 8/6! Love, the Harrington family.
 • Happy 50th birthday, **Janet Swierczek** on 8/9! • Happy birthday, **Mom & Dad** on 8/15! Love, Val. • Happy birthday, **Gram Kim & Papa Brad** on 8/15! Love, Pie and Kev. • Happy birthday, **Jay** on 8/16! Love, your brothers and sissys.
 • Happy birthday, **Gabbi** 8/20! Love, the Harrington family.
 • Happy birthday, **Mickey** on 8/20! Love, the Harrington family. • Happy birthday to my beautiful daughter **Shayla Livingston** on 8/23! Love, Mom.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy 7th Birthday to **CaddyBug** on 7/10. Love

always, Mommy, Gabe dad, Gramma T.T, Benny, Joshy, Lolo & Freddie. • Happy 10th Birthday to **Tammy Lynn** on 7/10. Love always, Dad, Danielle, Buzz, Benny, Joshy, CaddyBug, JerBear, Lolo & Freddie. • Happy 8th Birthday on to **Joshy** on 7/15. Love always, Mommy, Gabe dad, Gramma T.T, Benny, CaddyBug, Lolo & Freddie.

Other Announcements:

Thank you to friends and family who have sent their condolences, flowers and have helped with the tragic loss of my son, Louis Franklin St. John III. Thank you to Lee Staples and his helpers, who spoke for my son, and hosted a Feast in his honor on Thursday, 6/23. Also thanks to Scott from Shelley Funeral Chapel in Onamia for being courteous and supportive during this difficult time, and to Band departments and leaders for their help and support.

Miigwech, Dana Lou Nickaboine • I want to thank all for the help I was given during my move into my new home. The Workforce Team were great. They all worked so hard. The Housing Department was always attentive to any questions and worries I had, right away. We are so fortunate to have our Band provide us with so many services.
 A Chi Mi Gwech,
 Viola Hendren

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 **612-465-0653**.
The deadline for the September issue is August 15.

CIRCLE OF HEALING & STRENGTH

Anishinaabe Strong

A second conference in response to the Chief Executive's roundtables on the opiate problem will be held Aug. 3 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. For more on Anishinaabe Strong: Circle of Healing and Strength, see page 5, call 320-515-0824 or email Bradley E. Harrington at nazhike_awaasanang@yahoo.com or Christopher Gahbow at Christopher.gahbow@millelacsband.com.

Commissioners and Staff 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 Colstrud, <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
Sam Moose, <i>Commissioner of Health & Human Services</i>	320-630-2607
Ed Minnema, <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	320-630-0674
Susan Klapel, <i>DNR Executive Director</i>	320-362-1756

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Community Health Fairs

Mark your calendar! Community Health Fairs will be held on the following days: District III, Oct. 25; District II, Oct. 26; District I, Oct. 27; District IIa, Oct. 28. The theme this year is "Community Health Journey."

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

Elders Beading Group

Mondays, 5 – 8 p.m.
 District I Assisted Living Unit

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Band Assembly meetings begin at 10 a.m. Locations and times are subject to change.</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Manoomin: Wild rice</i> <i>Waabi-manoomin: White rice</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Bawa'iganaak: Rice knocker</i> <i>Gaandakii'igan: Push pole</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Circle of Health and Strength Conference Grand Casino Mille Lacs (see page 5)</p> <p>Cultural Awareness 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p>Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401 Also on August 17</p>	<p>4</p> <p>COH Outreach 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Urban Office</p> <p><i>Jiimaan: canoe</i> <i>Jiimaanike: Make a canoe</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>DII/DIIa Community Fun Day Velleyfair</p> <p>Veterans Coffee and Treats 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. American Indian Center</p> <p>Annual ALU Elder Rummage Sale 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. DI Assisted Living Unit</p> <p>CPR Class 1 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Kids Crafts: Bead a Ring 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p> <p>Mille Lacs Indian Museum's 56th B-Day Celebration 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>
<p>7</p> <p>DI Valleyfair Fun Day</p> <p><i>Gaandakii'ige: S/he poles a boat</i> <i>Ingaandakii'ige: I pole a boat</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Bawa'am: S/he knocks rice</i> <i>Imbawa'am: I knock rice</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Community Education Forum 5:30 p.m. Nay Ah Shing lower school and Pine Grove Academy (see page 16)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>DI Community Meeting DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center</p> <p>Elder Bingo 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401</p>	<p>11</p> <p>COH Outreach (DII) 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center</p> <p>COH Outreach (DIIa) 1– 4 p.m. DIIa (Isle) Community Center</p> <p>MCT Quarterly Meetings Fotrune Bay Casino</p>	<p>12</p> <p>MCT Quarterly Meetings Fotrune Bay Casino</p> <p><i>Manoominike: S/he rices, goes ricing, makes rice</i> <i>Nimanoominike: I rice, go ricing, make rice</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Mimigoshkam: S/he threshes rice</i> <i>Nimigoshkam: I thresh rice</i></p>
<p>14</p> <p><i>Nooshkaatoon: Winnow it (wild rice)</i> <i>Ninooshkaatoon: I winnow it</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Minopidan: Like the taste</i> <i>Niminopidaan: I like the taste</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>COH Outreach (DIII) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. DIII (Aazhoomog) Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing</p>	<p>17</p> <p>DIIa Legislative Meeting DIIa (Isle) Community Center</p> <p>DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley Event Center</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Nayahshing</p>	<p>19</p> <p>50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds</p> <p>DII Legislative Meeting 1 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center</p>	<p>20</p> <p>50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds</p>
<p>21</p> <p>50th Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds</p> <p>Fun Run 9 – 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Open House 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Zaaga'igan: Lake Agamiing: At the lake</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Minisinaakwaang</p>	<p>24</p> <p>DIIa Community Meeting 5 p.m. DIIa (Isle) Community Center</p> <p>Elder Bingo 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p>Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401</p>	<p>25</p> <p>DII Community Meeting 5 p.m. DII (East Lake) Community Center</p> <p>Urban Area Community Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church</p> <p>Band Assembly Chi Minising</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Ziibi: River</i> <i>Agaami-ziibi: Across the river</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop 12 – 4 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Ojibwe Moccasin Workshop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mille Lacs Indian Museum</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Gichigami: Sea, large lake, Lake Superior</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>Healthy Heart Class 12 – 1 p.m. DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center</p> <p>Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI (Mille Lacs) Community Center</p> <p>Band Assembly Meeting Aazhoomog</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Regalia Making Class Call 320-532-7401</p>	<p>Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.</p> <p>Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional Mille Lacs Band events</p> <p>Elder Supplement Adjustment The Elder Supplement has been increased to reflect the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Since this increase has not been added since 2015, Elders will notice that their July checks will include an additional payment of \$152 to cover the COLA increase for January 2015 to July 2016. Checks thereafter will show a 1.5 percent increase, or \$8.</p>		

Fundraiser for Melissa's Headstone

Bradley E. Harrington Guest Writer

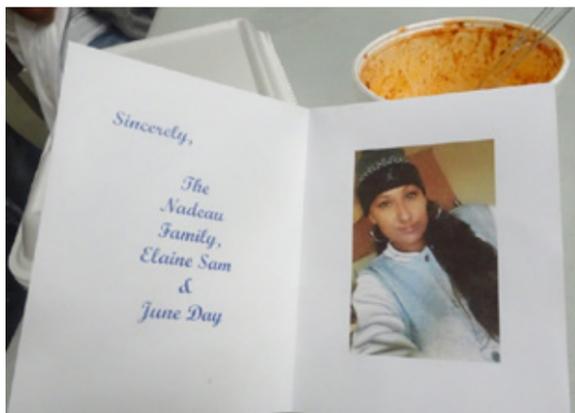
The line of people was constant on July 7 at the District I Community Center. Their faces were happy, yet the reason they all came together makes it special. The children of Melissa Cash, with the help of family and friends, were raising money to pay for their mother's headstone.

Melissa Cash unexpectedly passed away last year, which devastated the lives of her eight kids. With the trauma of losing a parent, her kids pulled through the year with her son, Eddie Nadeau, graduating from Nay Ah Shing and her daughter, Taylor Nadeau, being accepted into the Ge-niigaanizijig Leadership Program.

Feeling that something needed to be done for their mother, they decided that getting her a headstone would be a task they would do together. They made posters, designed shirts and organized the menu to ensure that the job they did together was purposeful and effective.

Indian tacos, frybread and chili, from Melissa's own recipe, were being served during the fundraiser. Melissa, known for her cooking, instilled into her children the drive to feed people, which they then used in their time of grief to have a positive impact on each other and their community.

They raised over \$3,000 toward the purchase of the headstone and would like to thank the volunteers and community for all the donations and support shown in their time of family dedication.



3rd Annual MLCV Family Golf Outing Registration Open

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures is pleased to host the 3rd Annual Family Golf Outing at Grand National Golf Club in Hinckley. This fun, multi-generational event includes a 9-hole scramble, contests and refreshments, and each registrant will receive a special gift bag.

Details:

- Saturday, September 10
- Shotgun start: 9 a.m.
- Registration is free; limited to the first 36 teams
- Teams must be comprised of two adults and two youth players

Prizes:

- Youth Skills Games
- Registration goodie bags
- Cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$400
- Youth "Closest-to-the-pin" contest!

To register your team, please contact Beth Gruber at 320-532-8810 or bgruber@mlcorporateventures.com.



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Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

During normal business hours: tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

Community Education Forum

A community education forum will be held on August 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Nay Ah Shing Abinooyiyag, with an Interactive TV link to Pine Grove Leadership Academy. The purpose of the forum is to discuss the community's vision for the Nay Ah Shing middle and upper schools. Meals will be provided at both locations.