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of industrialization. This modest plant, guided by the whims of Mother Nature, also played a decisive role in the defeat of a proposed deep-shaft mining operation. The plan to open a metallic-sulfide mine in an effort to tap into an estimated \$20 billion in metals, adjacent to this pristine and vulnerable landscape was defeated. Plans for the Crandon Mine began in the early 1970s. This 30-year controversy came to a dramatic end in 2003, as the Sokaogon took ownership of the assets of Exxon's Nicolet Minerals Company. Mining would surely have already occurred here, had this area not been recognized for its ancient wild rice bed and headwaters of the Wolf River Watershed. It is a place critical to the traditional subsistence activities surrounding the culture and religious beliefs of a people who have always remained stewards of the earth. No one knows the full impact of sulfide mining, and the use of cyanide for processing the ore, would have caused this area. Although the possibility of mining could re-surface again, our accountability to the land remains paramount. The harvest is a time for us to remember our ancestors, who passed their knowledge down to us. It helps renew the mind, the body and the spirit as an important part of cultural seasonal activities. It is meaningful be-

cause it is a time of transition from the old to the new. It is also a special time to give thanks to our Creator for this priceless gift of food. We honor Mother Earth called "Aki" in the Ojibway language, as well as the water, "NiBi," for providing us a place to gather the *ma-noomin*.

Holding onto the Land

The food that grows on the water is ground zero for this tiny Native American community and its compelling story of survival, which continues into the 21st century. Our Sokaogon ancestors held fast to this land, refusing to give it up during the fierce Battle of Mole Lake in 1806, resulting in the death of some 500 warriors. After Wisconsin gained its statehood in 1848, our ancestors stood firm against the threats of Zachary Taylor's 1850 Presidential Removal Order. This U.S. president attempted to have the Wisconsin Chippewa removed from their homeland and access to traditional rice beds, sugar maple orchards, traditional gathering and harvesting grounds all essential to survival. Our ancestors survived the U.S. government's endeavor in the early 1900s of removing the youth from their villages and homes and into government boarding schools. This final attempt at forcing them to relinquish their Ojibway tradi-

tions, language and culture had been designed to assimilate them into white society, as they were not yet recognized as American citizens. Our grandparents successfully petitioned the government following the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and finally gained permanent deed to this small piece of unspoiled land in Forest County, in 1937. Even as late as the 1980s, racism proliferated in northern Wisconsin, during the Anti-Indian Movement. For a brief time, attempts by specialized groups of individuals driven by racism and hostility, tried but failed to abolish the long-standing Chippewa treaty rights of harvesting fish each spring on ceded lands. At the beginning of the new millennium, Wisconsin's then acting governor denied our attempt at expanding pursuits of economic self-sufficiency, vital to our community's future. But as in the past, the stalwart Sokaogon shall remain steadfast, in concert with the timeless endurance of the wild rice. Wild rice will always link the past to the present for the people of the Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Ojibwe. It is a food that is used almost daily, and reigns as the centerpiece of our culture and our traditions. The harvest is truly a gift that we shall pass on to our children and our grandchildren. And remains a reminder of who we are and why we make this very special place our home.

Harlow announces run for Governor of Wisconsin

Jill Zagar

Bob Harlow, 25, is running under the Democratic party for governor. Harlow will face off against eight declared Democratic candidates. Harlow graduated in 2016 with a physics degree from Stanford University. His current full-time job is getting elected to governor.

Harlow states, "Most Wisconsinites want to see a strong future for Wisconsin. That's why I'm running. I want to secure that strong future. I think I'd be drawn to public service. Regardless ... because that's what I find meaningful is designing policies, designing a society where we're making progress. Especially right now where you have people in Madison who are only interested only working to get more money for their donors and are not working for people of Wisconsin. We need a big change. We need to really make changes to our electoral process and so that the people that are at the table in Madison are there because they want to represent their district, not because they're working ... donors. I see a failure in the Republican Party. I see all the Republican legislatures concerned about securing more money for their donors. Not investing in the people of Wisconsin. It will cost only 1/10 of the annual state budget to bring one gigabit fiber internet to every household in Wisconsin. And yet we can't bring ourselves to make the in-

vestment. We can bring ourselves to give \$3 billion to a Taiwanese company, but we can't make double that investment to give one gigabit of data to (every Wisconsinite). So, you see where Walker's priorities lie."

Harlow did not take

with the single payer system.

"Another priority will be a \$15 an hour minimum wage. And what that is, is a requirement that means any business needs to be a good enough business for Wisconsin; which means it can at least meet the basic requirement of sustaining somebody. Income, inflation adjusted, the minimum wage from the 60s would be \$20 an hour today. What that does is put more money into people's pockets. It makes a strong middle class, and creates a strong economy. And what we've done, is we have policies that are written by special interests to basically be very unfair to the people of Wisconsin, very unfair to the American people in the sense that the way our economy is working is putting tons of money into the rich and the powerful (most of the investors in these big companies) and forcing Americans to work in jobs that are not jobs that sometimes people like. They are also not paying very good wages. There is a simple fix to that. These companies like Target, Walmart; they can afford to pay \$15 an hour and if they can't, I'm sure there is some local employer that will come up who can. Because people will still be buying goods. The fact that the can get away with paying a starvation wage is just wrong."



Democratic candidate for Governor of Wisconsin, Bob Harlow, stopped at the Forest Republican office in Crandon recently to talk about his cam-

any political courses in college. He comes from a small business background in Barneveld, Wisconsin. His father ran a woodworking business, his mother a teacher and Harlow has a love of music. His first political exposure was on the Obama campaign.

Harlow continued, "I'll tell you my priorities as governor will be opening up BadgerCare for every Wisconsinite so that any Wisconsinite can choose, if they don't want their insurance money spent on some private insurance company's advertising bills, they just want their money spent on medical reimbursements and buy into BadgerCare." He strongly endorses a single payer healthcare system, on the federal level and denies any problems in Canada

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