

DEBAHJIMON

Newspaper of the
**Leech Lake
Band of Ojibwe**

March 2020 | Vol. XXXVI No. 7

TRIBAL ELECTIONS NOTICE

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Primary Elections and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe General Elections have been postponed due to COVID-19. The newly scheduled dates are as follows:

PRIMARY ELECTION

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, August 18th, 2020

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe List of Essential Services

All LLBO sponsored events have been postponed until further notice. All LLBO buildings are closed to public access, but services will be available on a limited basis. **PAGE 6 ►**

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US POSTAGE
PAID
BEMIDJI, MN
PERMIT NO. 68

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

MN STATE AND CDC
PREVENTATIVE GUIDELINES

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE &
ASSISTANCE LIST

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LLBO Announces Stay at Home Order

CASS LAKE – On March 26, 2020 the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council made an emergency declaration requiring all reservation residents to shelter in place. The shelter in place order will take effect on Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59PM and remain in effect until April 10, 2020 at 11:59PM. This comes after Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued a similar order on March 25, 2020.

The temporary order directs all reservation residents to stay in their homes unless they are engaged in outdoor activities, employed in a critical or essential service or program, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, such as going to the hospital, pharmacy or grocery store.

Individuals should only leave their homes under very limited circumstances and when doing so, must adhere to social distancing measures approved by the CDC, including remaining at least six feet from others.

“Taking aggressive actions such as this, is necessary for the protection of our community” said Chairman Faron Jackson Sr., “While we know that we cannot stop COVID-19 from reaching our community, we are doing our best to slow and limit the spread of the virus. We are calling on our community to do their part and follow our guidance in order to protect their families, friends and neighbors. I know that this will be very hard, but just remember that this is temporary. This too shall pass. By coming together and doing our part we can save lives.”

The tribal order prohibits all businesses and operations from requiring workers to

leave their homes, unless those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations.

Additionally, all in-person gatherings of any number are prohibited except for members of a single household; and, limits travel to the minimum necessary to gather essential household and medical supplies or treatment or to commute to work if in-person work is necessary; and all commercial and government activities, except those necessary to sustain or protect life, of the Leech Lake Band are closed to the public.

The resolution also extends the duration of closure for non-essential LLBO government and commercial operations through May 1, 2020.

People may leave the house to perform limited, necessary purposes, and may engage in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, running, hunting, fishing, or any other recreational activity, consistent with remaining at least six feet from people from outside a person’s household.

Both the Executive Order issued by Governor Walz and the resolution enacted by the Band contain penalties for willful violations. This means that individuals who knowingly disregard the Executive Order or Tribal Resolution or who act with objective recklessness during the stay at home period will be subject to these penalties.

The intent of both the Executive Order and the Tribal Resolution is to protect the public’s health and welfare, not to issue these penalties. Please abide by the order and the resolution accordingly.

COVID-19 THREAT DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY BY TRIBAL COUNCIL

We are hereby declaring on March 12, 2020 the threat of the COVID-19 Virus as a public health emergency. Thereby acting in the best interest of the most vulnerable segments of our population; we declare that unnecessary travel be suspended, effective immediately, on resolution of the Tribal Council. This is applicable to all travel, including personal travel. This includes all tribal programs.

We are also recommending that all personnel that come back from high risk areas of travel be placed on administrative leave for up to 14 days. Anyone traveling after the date of the Tribal Council Resolution ratifying this declaration will need to use their own leave for the quarantine period.

Furthermore, in order to protect the health and general welfare of the people living on the Leech Lake Reservation, we strongly recommend that the general public postpone any visits from towns or cities that have known COVID 19 confirmed cases. This is temporary and will be in effect until which time it is deemed the travel ban is to be lifted.

Please practice all precautions necessary to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus. Practice good hygiene, limit contact in crowds, keep common surfaces clean and disinfected, limit your off-reservation travel, and please—wash your hands often throughout the day. Do not touch your face with unwashed hands. If you are sick—avoid close contact with others, cover your cough or sneeze with a disposable tissue or wear a facemask. If you begin to feel sick enough to go to the hospital, call ahead and let the hospital staff know so they can prepare. Miigwech.

Faron Jackson, Sr.
Tribal Chairman
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

VOL XXXVI NO 7

The *Debahjimon* is a free, monthly publication of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Leech Lake Tribal Council

- » Faron Jackson Sr., Chairman
- » Arthur "Archie" LaRose, Secretary-Treasurer
- » Robbie Howe, District I Representative
- » Steve White, District II Representative
- » LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III, District III Representative

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Kayla Duoos, Journalist
Anthony Belgarde, Graphic Design

Submissions

The submission of pictures, articles, announcements and letters is encouraged. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, length and libelous content. Submission does not guarantee publication.

The Editor reserves the right to reject any material submitted for publication.

Debahjimon

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Deadlines

Apr. Issue.....3/27/2020
May Issue.....4/24/2020
June Issue.....5/29/2020
July Issue.....6/26/2020



Photo and Article by Kayla Duoos

Those marching in Bemidji gather outside the Northwest Community Indian Development Center near Bemidji State University.

JUSTICE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Solidarity Walk for MMIW Held in Bemidji, February 14

BEMIDJI – The fourth annual Missing Murdered Indigenous Women's walk was held Friday February 14. The march which began at the Northwest Community Indian Development Center and continued to the Bemidji State Beaux Arts Ballroom, saw a record number of participants despite the frigid temperatures.

The walk was held simultaneously with several other marches across the country to raise awareness for the rising number of Indigenous Women who have been victims of violence and have gone missing without data or media representation.

Since the inaugural walk was held

in Bemidji four years ago, a number of changes both nationwide and federal have been made to help combat figures represented in a 2016 US Department of Justice study. In that study it was determined that Native Women disproportionately are higher recorded victims of homicide and violence than peers of differing races. Murder is the third leading cause of death amongst Native American Women, and one in three Native American Women will be victims of assault or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime.

New legislation and executive orders on the table include: a Minnesota MMIW Task force aimed at finding gaps within legis-

lation and law enforcement to help tackle the issue, the Federal MMIW Task force announced through an executive order by President Trump in November of 2019, the "BADGES Act" co-sponsored by Native American Congresswoman Deb Haaland which will streamline the hiring of law enforcement officers in Indian Country, and the Not Invisible Act of 2019, that was the first bill in history to be introduced by 4 tribally enrolled members of Congress. The "Not Invisible Act" is meant to establish an advisory committee on violent crime comprised of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and survivors to make recommendations to the Department of Interior and

Department of Justice.

Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson who was present at the rally following the march thanked organizers for the invite to attend, calling it an honor, before addressing the crowd on the power of showing up and acknowledgement of community issues.

"It's important that we acknowledge the challenges our women face. All of us here understand how important women are in our Anishinabe teachings. What they mean to all of us-the givers of life... There's a lot of power in this room today. You can feel the strength of the spiritual power as we gather with good hearts, and good feelings," said Jackson.

In preparation for the event, the planners of the Bemidji MMIW walk held several meetings for planning, as well as crafting nights dedicated to making signs, screen printing promotional items and creating red ribbon skirts for march participants.



Chairman Faron Jackson Sr.



Guest Speaker Billy Mills.

Photos and article by Kayla Duoos

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council presented guest speaker Billy Mills with a ribbon shirt following his speech at the State of the Band.

2020 LEECH LAKE STATE OF THE BAND ADDRESS

Minnesota State and Tribal Officials join LLBO Band Members and Employees to Celebrate the Event.

WALKER – The 2020 Leech Lake State of the Band Address was delivered by Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. on Friday, March 6 at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center.

More than 600 band members were in attendance alongside both state, tribal, and county officials. U.S. Senators Tina Smith, MN Attorney Keith Ellison and Governor Walz/Lieutenant Governor Flanagan all greeted the crowd remotely through video. Walz and Flanagan's message was one of gratitude for being able to work so closely with tribal nations.

"This past January we reached our one year milestone and were eager to continue building upon our government to government partnership...we're fully invested in deepening the partnership with Leech Lake and its members as we work collectively to advance the well-being of Native American people across the state," said Flanagan

Chairman Faron Jackson who gave the closing address covered a wide variety of initiatives that had been completed over the past year, including; the grand opening of Cedar Lakes casino, the installation of the homeless shelter in



Cedar Sense owner, Michael Vail, along with Leech Lake Youth Build gifted the Council a custom wood-burned American flag with the LLBO Seal.

District 3, the building acquisition in Minneapolis for expanding services, a new A&D building, the opening of the Red Cedar assisted living facilities, partnering with neighboring cities on MOU's and the opening of Minnesota's first Native American Veteran ceme-

tery. Jackson thanked the crowd for always assisting him in keeping an eye towards the future and expressed hopes to expand services regarding emergency shelters, and childcare in the future.

"As we make investments in our

community, we're always thinking of the generations to come. We're focusing seven generations ahead and what the young people are going to inherit. They have a right to inherit a good government and community structure. Our babies have a right to be born healthy and be given a promising future. Coming together to ensure this is what teamwork is all about—It's unity," said Jackson.

Gary Charwood served as Master of Ceremonies for the event and Guest Speakers for the were: MN Secretary of State Steve Simon, MN State Auditor Julie Blaha, MN District 5A Representative John Persell, and Native American Olympian Billy Mills.

Mike Smith provided a blessing and invocation for the event and the Leech Lake Honor Guard posted colors on stage. Also in attendance was the Nut-Hill Drum group who provided both the welcoming and flag song.

Following the speeches, lunch was served and door prizes were given to those in attendance.

MN Gov. and Legislative Leaders Outline States Response to Coronavirus

By Kayla Duoos

MINNEAPOLIS – The Walz and Flanagan administration, as well as other legislative leaders are taking the initiative to prepare the state for the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

In a number of executive orders, Governor Walz continued to encourage social distancing by shutting down local schools, closing public restaurants, moving bars to dine-in services and officially signing a “Stay Home Minnesota” Executive Order March 25th, 2020. Walz also signed approval for small business financial assistance during this time and a halt on all evictions during the outbreak.

As of March 30th, there are currently 576 confirmed cases in Minnesota, all throughout the state, and 10 deaths. MN’s administration is taking the matter seriously, and has continuously advocated for further testing kits and help from the Trump administration. Lieutenant Governor Flanagan has faced the impact of the coronavirus personally, announcing the loss of her brother Ron, March 23rd. Flanagan’s brother who had recently been diagnosed with cancer was the second coronavirus related death in Tennessee where he resided.

Flanagan described her brother as tough as nails and asked residents to take the matter seriously.

“Several weeks ago, Ron was diagnosed with cancer. His immune system was compro-

mised and he contracted COVID-19. He was put in a medically induced coma and placed on a ventilator. He fought it as hard as he could but it was simply too much for his body. THIS is why we must stay home. If you feel fine, that’s great. But please consider the possibility that you’re carrying the virus and don’t know it, and then you walk past the next Ron, my big brother, in public. COVID-19 now has a personal connection to me. Please do all you can to prevent one for you.” said Flanagan.

The state is currently short on testing supplies and has now limited testing to essential employees. The state is currently seeking a multi-million dollar budget increase, from the initial 27 million set aside to support virus investigation, outbreak monitoring, public information, statewide response coordination and lab analysis.

There are currently no travel advisories for domestic travel because of the coronavirus but the public will remain informed if any are to be initiated. Risk of catching the coronavirus for the general public is low, but for at-risk populations under certain circumstances the risk is quite a bit higher.

If you are a health professional evaluating a patient for suspected coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), please contact the Minnesota Department of Health immediately at 651-201-5414.



Covid-19 Coronavirus

How it spreads

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a

surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Symptoms

These symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure** (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses).

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Protect yourself

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

People at higher risk

- People aged 65 years and older.
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma.
- People who have serious heart conditions.
- People who are immunocompromised including **cancer treatment**.
- People with **severe obesity** or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as those with **diabetes, renal failure, or liver disease** might also be at risk.

The following services were deemed essential/non-essential in the Shelter in Place order issued by Governor Tim Walz on March 25, 2020

OPEN

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- State Legislature
- Food: Grocery Stores, Farmers Market, Food Banks, Convenience Stores, Bakeries, Take-Out and Delivery Restaurants
- Pharmacies
- Food Shelves
- Convenience Stores
- Liquor Stores
- Child Care Facilities
- News Organizations
- Gas Stations
- Funeral Homes
- Banks
- Hardware Stores
- Post offices

CLOSED

- Dine-in Restaurants
- Bars and Nightclubs
- Entertainment Venues
- Gyms and Fitness Studios
- Zoos
- Museums
- Arcades
- Playgrounds
- Bowling Alleys
- Movie Theaters
- Concert Halls
- Country Clubs
- Salons and Barber Shops
- Tattoo Parlors

**This is not a complete list of all closures.*

YOU CAN

- Go to the grocery store
- Go to medical appointments and the pharmacy
- Get take-out, delivery or drive through from nearby restaurants
- walk your dog, ride your bike, be in nature
- Pick up essentials for neighbors or loved ones in need of assistance

YOU SHOULD NOT

- Go to work unless providing an essential service
- Socialize or gather in groups
- Visit loved ones in the hospital or nursing home, except under limited circumstances.

CLOSED UNTIL MAY 1, 2020

Bars, restaurants, and other public accommodations.

MARCH 30 THROUGH MAY 4, 2020

Distance Learning period for students.



#StayHomeMN
March 27 - April 10

CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) COMMUNITY RESOURCE & ASSISTANCE LIST

MN UNEMPLOYMENT

if your employment has been affected by COVID-19, you can apply for unemployment benefits. Applicants eligible for unemployment benefits affected by coronavirus if: A health-care professional or health authority recommended or ordered them to avoid contact with others.

- They have been ordered not to come to their workplace due to an outbreak of a communicable disease.
- They have received notification from a school district, daycare, or other childcare provider that either classes are canceled or the applicant's ordinary childcare is unavailable, provided that the applicant made reasonable effort to obtain other childcare and requested time off or other accommodation from the employer and no reasonable accommodation was available.
- Governor Walz's executive order waives the nonpayable or "waiting" week to ensure applicants have access to unemployment benefits as quickly as possible.

While all applicants for unemployment benefits must actively seek suitable employment, Governor Walz's executive order stipulates that you may look for suitable work that does not pose a risk to your health or the health of others. If you have only been laid off temporarily, you can meet work search requirements by staying in contact with your current employer. Finally, Governor Walz's executive order waives the ordinary five-week benefit limitation for business owners who had previously elected coverage and have become unemployed as a result of COVID-19.

Please Call for Unemployment:

- Twin Cities area: 651-296-3644
- Greater Minnesota: 1-877-898-9090;
- TTY users: 1-866-814-1252

HOUSING

- MN Executive Order 20-14 signed by Governor Walz will suspend evictions and writs of recovery during the outbreak period.
- The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Finance Corporation will help those affected by the outbreak through the MCT special forbearance relief program

HOTLINES MN DEPT. OF HEALTH

- COVID-19 Health questions: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Schools and child care questions: 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

LOCAL HOTLINES

- Itasca County Public Health now offers an information phone line: 218-327-6784. Our Public Health team will answer and return calls Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LIMITED TESTING AVAILABLE AT

- Indian Health Services
- Sanford Clinics

DRIVE UP PHARMACY

- Indian Health Services, Cass Lake MN
- Thrift White Pharmacy, Walker MN
- Walgreens Pharmacy, Bemidji MN

RESERVATION AREA SCHOOLS Bugonaygeshig:

- Two meals a day (10 per week) will be provided to students via delivery every Tuesday, please contact the school at 1-800-265-5576 for more information.

Walker:

- The school district will be providing sack lunches for students on a "grab and go" basis. Please contact Marci in the superintendent's office to sign up for school lunch services.

Cass Lake Bena:

- CLB is offering school Lunches with pick up times at the following locations, please call 218-335-2203 and ask for Food Services for more information.

<i>Thunder in the Sky</i>	12PM
<i>Maingaan</i>	12:25PM
<i>Mission</i>	12:40PM
<i>Porcupine</i>	12:55PM
<i>Plantation</i>	1:05PM
<i>Norway Heights</i>	12PM
<i>Tract 34</i>	12:15PM
<i>Allen's Bay</i>	12:35PM
<i>Wejack</i>	12:45PM
<i>Tower Hill</i>	12PM
<i>Onigum</i>	12:40PM
<i>Stony Point</i>	12PM
<i>Pennington</i>	12:40PM
<i>Bena</i>	1:10PM
<i>Prescott</i>	12PM
<i>Fox Creek</i>	12PM
<i>Wilkinson</i>	12:35PM
<i>Oak Point</i>	1PM

Bemidji:

- Children enrolled in ISD 31 schools are eligible to receive free meals during the shutdown, please visit the school website to fill out the food home delivery form.

Deer River:

- As part of the school shut-down, "to-go" breakfast, lunch, and snack for students and children ages 18 and under, will be available at delivery sites within our school district boundaries at no charge for all students.

Delivery Sites: (These sites will have food available for pick-up between 9:30 am and 11:00 am).

- Ball Club Community Center
- Bena Community Center
- Bowstring Store
- Gosh Dam Place/Winnie Dam
- Inger Community Center
- King Elementary
- S. Lake Community Center

*Deer River Public Schools will be delivering student meals Thursday March 26 and Friday March 27 to all listed delivery sites.

CHILDCARE

- Cass Lake Bena Schools will be providing child care for any child between the ages of 5-12, who are children of medical personnel, essential county workers and children of school personnel. CLB childcare program will run from 7:45 am – 3:45 pm and located at the District Resource Center, ALC location. For further information please call the District Office at 218-335-2204 or the Boys & Girls Club at 218-335-4058.
- Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Schools Childcare will be provided for children 4-12 years old at WHA; hours of operation are 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday; please call 218-547-4206; breakfast and lunch are available during this free childcare as well, at no cost. Please call ahead of time so they can prepare to serve you. WHA identified list to provide care for: MnDOT Employees, National Guard, Water Treatment/Wastewater, Day-to-Day Operations for Gas and Electric Utilities, Food Distribution Workers, Public Works Employees, Solid Waste Management, Infectious and

Hazard Waste Management, Telecommunication Network Operations.

- Deer River Schools will provide childcare designed for school aged children K-age 12 on SCHEDULED school days from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm; all children attending will be offered breakfast, lunch and snack. Deer River Schools will hold daycare services at KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Please call 218-246-8860 so they can prioritize space and plan to provide day care services. They will support those families who are employed in healthcare, emergency services, and other areas critical to keeping our communities going.
- Bemidji Area Schools is providing daycare to all district children of parents who are considered critical care workers; ages are 12 years down to age 3. Please contact the Bemidji School district for more information.
- LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE: As of March 23, 2020, the Early Childhood Center has a childcare operating out of the Cass Lake AOB site; hours of operation are 7:30 am – 5 pm; age range is 0-5. Our focus will be Emergency Management Staff, Indian Health Service and Clinic; LLBO Human Services Essential Programs' Staff. Please call 218-335-8345.
- LLBO is reviewing the childcare services plans and continuing to update and revise it with the consideration that we may expand to 24 hour child care. We are also working with area home care providers and within our Child Care Licensing standards to provide the 24 hour and overnight childcare possibilities. This is an ever changing and dynamic situation and this will be updated as soon as possible.
- The full list of eligible workers for free childcare can be found at: School-Age Care for Children of Emergency Workers: Priority Categories of Workers on the Minnesota Department of Education Website.

LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bemidji:

- Bemidji Food Shelf is open Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m., due to the corona virus outbreak customers will no longer be allowed inside the Food Shelf. Customers will wait in their vehicles and volunteers or staff will bring out pre-packed boxes.

Cass Lake:

- The Cass Lake Area Food Shelf will now be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week from 10am to 2:45pm.
- The Food Shelf will be open to all people with the priority going to ELDERS, HANDICAPPED AND ILL INDIVIDUALS. Those people who are unable to get their food due to self-isolation or lack of transportation, please call 987-3000 to receive information on home delivery. (Limited home delivery is available.)

Walker:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday: Open from Noon to 3:00 p.m.
- 4th Tuesday of the month: Open from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Closed on the 5th Tuesday of the month

Deer River:

- Deer River Area Food Shelf will continue to provide food every Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. However, for the safety of the people we serve and our volunteers, the lobby area will not be open. Instead, a volunteer will be at the main door taking names and the number of people in each household. You may then wait in your car until your number comes up. A volunteer will place your items into a cart for you to collect at the exit door.

Updated Grocery Store Hours:

- Teals: 7am-8pm *7am to 8am hour is designated shopping time for elderly and immunocompromised patrons
- Target: 7am-9pm *9am-10am every Wednesday is designated shopping time for patrons who are elderly, pregnant or otherwise vulnerable.
- Walmart: 7am-8:30pm *6am-7am every Tuesday through April 28 will be designated shopping for customers 60 and older.
- Superone Foods: 7am-9pm *7am-8am shopping time is reserved for elderly, immunocompromised, healthcare staff, and first responders.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Essential Services

ELDERS HOTLINE

- Elders Hotline for COVID-19: [218-335-3003](tel:218-335-3003)

HOUSING AUTHORITY

- LLHA Administrative Office is Closed
- Emergency pager will be utilized for all emergency maintenance calls [218-759-6035](tel:218-759-6035)

FLEET

Public Transportation is suspended until further notice, maintaining and providing support to essential services and programs.

DRM

- Administrative building and public services closed, Exceptions:
- Wild Rice Sales– Thursdays ONLY (9AM-330P). Orders of 5 lbs or more: [218-335-7426](tel:218-335-7426) or <http://llwildrice.com>
- Licensing Agents– CLOSED (all 2019 fishing permits extended to July 1, 2020)
 - May 2– LLBO Citizens Angling Opener
 - May 9– Personal Netting Opener
- Conservation Officers– Patrolling as normal
- Environmental Incident Response and Regulatory Oversight– Continuing as normal

HUMAN SERVICES

- Opiate Treatment Program– OPEN M-F: 7AM-11AM, Transportation available
- Homeless Shelters– OPEN not accepting new clients at this time
 - Cass Lake Homeless Shelter [218-335-3607](tel:218-335-3607)
 - Bena Homeless Shelter [218-665-2250](tel:218-665-2250) or [218-513-6492](tel:218-513-6492) Jean Roper
- Child Welfare OPEN ([218-335-8270](tel:218-335-8270))
- Family Preservation OPEN
 - Gina Munnell [218-398-7625](tel:218-398-7625)
 - Maureen Peralta-Brown [218-308-5038](tel:218-308-5038)
- Behavioral Health– [218-335-3050](tel:218-335-3050)
 - Mobile Crisis Response Team, on-call only ([218-335-3021](tel:218-335-3021)), Leave voicemail, checked every 15 mins)
- Addiction & Dependencies– Crisis contact: Corey L. [605-838-6158](tel:605-838-6158)
- Recovery Center [218-335-6880](tel:218-335-6880)
- Tribal Assistance [218-335-3626](tel:218-335-3626)
 - Staff are working remotely
 - Check pickup will be arranged on a case by case basis
- Bimaaji Abinoojiiyeg– Emergencies Only
 - Darla Johnson [218-398-1695](tel:218-398-1695)
 - Valerie Cash [218-407-5766](tel:218-407-5766)
- Energy Assistance
 - Contact Connie Littlewolf [218-760-1688](tel:218-760-1688)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

(Public/Media Inquiries: [218-335-4483](tel:218-335-4483))

- Onsite at Incident Management Team HQ, maintaining all digital communications, media relations
- KOJB Radio– Continuing operations as normal with as much remote work as possible

- News– Operating remotely, regularly updating LLNews site and prepping Debahjimon for monthly publication.
- Events– all upcoming events cancelled until further notice

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Hiring and Application Intake has been temporarily halted.

HEALTH DIVISION

The following services continue to be available via phone or with limited services:

- Ball Club Clinic:
 - Available for telehealth & phone triage. Limited medication delivery also available. [218-246-2394](tel:218-246-2394)
 - Inger clinic patients are encouraged to call Ball Club clinic for their needs as well.
 - Medications from pharmacy are being delivered daily to Ball Club clinic and weekly to Inger clinic.
 - Patients may call from the parking lot for delivery to their car (preferred) or knock on the clinic door to pick-up.
- Bemidji Clinic:
 - Available for phone triage, medication pick-up and delivery only. [218-444-7186](tel:218-444-7186)
- Onigum & Bena Clinics:
 - Patients in these communities who normally have medications delivered to clinics may be eligible for medication delivery to their homes. Contact Stephanie Oothoudt at [218-335-4500](tel:218-335-4500) to arrange delivery.
- Diabetes Clinic:
 - Available for telehealth. [218-335-4511](tel:218-335-4511)
- Behavioral Health–Health Division:
 - Referrals for Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence and Suicide Prevention, Case management care services by phone, [218-335-7211](tel:218-335-7211) or email karen.anoka@llojibwe.net
 - Also Crisis Response advocate and liaison to appropriate help.
- CHR:
 - Available for essential appointments: Dialysis & cancer appointments. [218-335-4500](tel:218-335-4500)
- Elderly Nutrition Program:
 - Continued meal delivery (no congregate dining) [218-335-8314](tel:218-335-8314)
- Elder Services:
 - Avis Poupart [612-759-0787](tel:612-759-0787)
 - Transportation suspended, Limited commodity delivery
- Elderly Waiver:
 - Available by phone. [218-335-4531](tel:218-335-4531)
- Food Distribution:
 - Services available with social distancing in place. [218-335-2676](tel:218-335-2676) Phone orders only. Applications through door only. Will do intake over phone and issue food by passing through door.

- Home Health Care:
 - Essential prescription delivery. Essential cares: wound care, injections, labs, blood monitoring. [218-335-4500](tel:218-335-4500)
- Maternal Child Health:
 - Available for telehealth for existing and new patients. [218-407-2989](tel:218-407-2989)
- WIC:
 - Contact [218-335-8291](tel:218-335-8291) or [218-335-4546](tel:218-335-4546)
 - Available by phone for scheduling, phone interviews for services, curbside essential services.
 - Supplement program will be delivering, left at front door
- EMS Services:
 - Continuing as essential and critical with no change in service.

Assisted Living:

- We will be operating 24/7 for our residents but our building is closed to visitors and the general public.
- Contact [218-335-4500](tel:218-335-4500) and your call will be directed to Assisted Living staff.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- All LLBO Community Centers–CLOSED, exceptions made for official community food prep/distribution and funeral services
- All emergency operation will continue as requested. All regular work orders and cleaning will be put on hold. Cleaning supplies for essentially staffed programs will be delivered upon request.
- All services can be accessed through the main office.
 - Emma Brown [218-335-8318](tel:218-335-8318)
 - Marilyn Glass [218-888-2147](tel:218-888-2147)

DPW

- Vern Lyons, Director [218-760-7256](tel:218-760-7256)
- Karrie Wilson [218-407-3657](tel:218-407-3657)
- Community Services:
 - All emergency operations will remain accessible. All regular work orders will be put on hold.
 - All services can be accessed through the main office.
 - Dave Jones Work: [218-335-3785](tel:218-335-3785)

SOLID WASTE

- All garbage runs will continue on the regular schedule; Friday will be a makeup day if residence is missed during regular run.
- Call ahead to be picked up on Fridays.
- Cass Lake transfer site will maintain regular hours
 - Richard Jones [218-335-5289](tel:218-335-5289)
- Inger, Ball Club, Bena and Onigum Transfer sites will retain normal operating hours.

WELL & SEPTIC

- Emergencies only [218-335-3717](tel:218-335-3717)
- Bill Masten, Program Manager: [218-407-4281](tel:218-407-4281)

LEECH LAKE TRIBAL POLICE DEPT.

- Dispatch– Open 24/7
- Administration M-F 8-4:30, Limited in-person contact
- Crime Victims' Advocates (On-Call), Limited in-person contact
- DMV– Limited Hours, please call ahead: [218-760-2501](tel:218-760-2501)
- Animal Control/Pets for life, Limited in-person contact

GENERAL ELECTION BOARD

[218-335-7222](tel:218-335-7222) or [7219/7249](tel:7219/7249)

- Open 10am-2pm for phone inquiries only
- In person absentee voting will resume April 13 **(date subject to change)*

EDUCATION

- WIOA
 - Norma Jackson [218-368-3395](tel:218-368-3395)
- YouthBuild
 - Julie Nubbe-Gordon [218-368-2329](tel:218-368-2329)
 - Marilyn Budreau [218-214-3549](tel:218-214-3549)
 - Eric DeVault [218-368-0077](tel:218-368-0077)
- TERO
 - Marilyn Wind [218-214-1174](tel:218-214-1174)
 - Ben Moe [218-308-5076](tel:218-308-5076)
- MFIP/NEW
 - Dawn Jackson [218-760-5730](tel:218-760-5730)
 - Sharon Mainville [218-368-3340](tel:218-368-3340)
 - Cori Harper [218-831-1001](tel:218-831-1001)
- TEP
 - Tuffy Fisher [218-214-1835](tel:218-214-1835)
 - Carrie Bellanger [218-335-3555](tel:218-335-3555)
 - Kathy BlackWolf [612-860-4821](tel:612-860-4821)
 - Jeff Howard (Inger) [218-328-4946](tel:218-328-4946)
- Ed Admin
 - Laurie Harper [218-839-5821](tel:218-839-5821)
 - Dorothy Robinson [218-556-7590](tel:218-556-7590)

EHS/HS/Child Care– [218-335-8345](tel:218-335-8345)

- ECD Adm Pgm Super Tracey Rich
- ECD pgm Super Bethany Stangle
- Nutrition pgm Super Cree Fredrickson
- Transport Pgm Super Natalie Zobava
- Maintenance Pgm Supr Reuben St. Cyr
- AOB HS Class Isabella Rushmeier
- AOB HS Class Erika Kiley
- AOB Early HS Lead Mary Seelye
- AOB Early HS Cheryl Ballek
- Curriculum Melissa Week
- Curriculum Support Stormy Campbell
- Curriculum Emma Gillman
- Curriculum Support Amanda Sutton
- Kitchen Mackenzie Goodrich
- AOB Nutrition Lead Cree Headbird
- Maintenance Jeff Leecy

TRIBAL ROADS

- Office [218-335-8214](tel:218-335-8214)
- Shop [218-335-2598](tel:218-335-2598)

CHILD SUPPORT

- Contact [218-339-8600](tel:218-339-8600)
- Open Monday & Tuesday 8AM-2PM, Thursday 10AM-4PM



MN Higher Education Commissioner Revisits LLTC

By Kayla Duoos

CASS LAKE – Nearly one year after the officer of Higher Education Commissioner appointment was made by Governor Walz, incumbent Dennis Olson Jr. returned to the Leech Lake Tribal College once more to discuss educational attainment in Minnesota.

The scheduled stop is a part of the Minnesota's Office of Higher Education's "Forward Together" initiative. Forward Together which began in 2015 focuses on increasing post secondary credentials and attainment in MN underserved populations, namely minority populations. The initiative has a goal set to increase specifically tribal attainments to 6,100 by 2025. Native Americans currently hold the lowest percentage of population in the state holding degrees higher than a high school diploma at 28%.

The Forward Together initiative has made a number of stops throughout Minnesota including:

Moorhead, Mankato, and Minneapolis. Leech Lake's visit focused on prospects that can be cultivated and achievements gaps that can be addressed by the states Office of Higher Education. Commissioner Dennis Olson while speaking to the crowd of Leech Lake, Red Lake, White Earth, State and city officials let attendees know their office would return and that the information shared at the afternoon event would help benefit the states legislation long term.

"We know there's some incredible things going on in our tribal nations, within our tribal colleges, within our college partners in the region, with our K-12 schools. I want to help tell that story. I think there's plenty to learn from our communities," said Olson.

Tribal College President Ray Burns who was in attendance said he was grateful for having been given the opportunity to host such an influential meeting and emphasized the importance of state officials listening to students and staff in education.

"I think it's really important in Indian Country and in our neck of the woods that our voices get heard at the capital on what is important our communities and what attainment means in our communities," said Burns.

The educational stats presented at the meeting, while incomplete, showed a troubling pattern of less Native American students enrolling into higher education immediately after college. Higher education attainment affects a number of widespread issues such as higher income for families, public health community contributions by individuals, economic gains by city and federal investment in public institutions. While the information presented by the office of higher education isn't fully complete, the department hopes these listening sessions can begin to fill in the missing gaps.

You can read more about the Forward Together initiative on the office of Higher Education's website.

Chairman Jackson, Charwood Among Newly Appointed Members on MN Governor's Councils

By Kayla Duoos

ST. PAUL – Governor Tim Walz appointed two Leech Lake Band members to sit on advisory councils for the state.

Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson will sit on the Minnesota Governor's "Age-Friendly Minnesota" council and Tribal Court Bamenim Program Manager, Gary Charwood has been announced as chair-person of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, respectively.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is the supervisory board for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Title

II Juvenile Justice Program which prepares and administers state plans and award of grants.

While the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota, established by Executive Order 19-38, will coordinate state and private-sector partners' efforts to ensure Minnesota Elders are being heard and taken care of.

Jackson's term on the council will expire in 2022 and Charwood in 2024.

You can find more information regarding both appointments and councils on the mn.gov website.

District III Elder Birthdays

April

From the District III Office
LeRoy, Toni & Kari

Peggy Hunt
Randy Finn
Cherilyn Martin-Wade
George Goggeye
Evelyn Monroe
Crystal Goose
Brenda Northbird
Gary Hanson
Terrance O'Connor
Yvonne Hardy
Joann Ortle
Kay Jackson
Leslie Reese
Louise Jackson
Linda Reese
Anthony Jenkins
Franklin Robinson
Elaine Jenkins
Bryan Rock
Rose Johnson
Dawn Schubel
Maxine Johnston
Jo Ann Staples
Susan Jones
Eunice Taylor
Margaret Jordan
Clyde Tibbetts

Robert Adams Sr.
Theresa Jordan
Beverly Tonce
Robert Charwood
Theresa Kangas
Robert Whipple
Clifford Cloud
Jeffrey Kingbird
LeRoy Whitebird
Donna Day
Mary Lou Ladeaux
George Wind
Lawrence Day
Sidney LaRose
Elizabeth Drumbeater
Arlene Larson
Kerry Elmberg
James Littlewolf
Dale Fairbanks
Kenneth Harrison
Edward Fairbanks
Cecil Haugen
Judith Fairbanks
Earl Headbird
Karen Fineday
Caroline Hulet
Patrick Finn

ALL ELDERS ARE ENTITLED TO \$10 SLOT PLAY & \$10 MEAL COUPON THAT MUST BE USED WITHIN THE BIRTHDAY MONTH.

MCT Holds Latest Convention on Constitutional Reform



Update of the MN Chippewa Tribe Constitution Reform Convention of February 21 held at the Black Bear Casino, Carlton, MN

A Facilitation Committee was voted to be instituted. The job of Facilitation Committee is to work with the hosting reservation to make sure that the agenda for the next meeting is on track with overall goals and that meetings are consistent from month to month. Each monthly convention shall begin with business from the meetings

before that must be resolved and will be continued to be added until a resolution of full consensus by the Delegation takes place.

A Drafting Committee was voted to be instituted. The Drafting Committee's first item to draft is the Preamble. Taking all input of Preambles to date and making one of them using language and purpose from them.

The following motions were voted upon and have passed to be instituted:

1. A consensus voting system;

2. Various Committees, including Education, Survey, Finance, Drafting, and Facilitation;
3. Selecting representatives to the TEC;
4. An overall process for moving forward.

Next month's meeting will be hosted by Mille Lacs on March 27. The following items have been identified as agenda items:

1. Structure (At last month's meeting we voted on allocating three meetings to the issue of structure); members of the Delegation shall have an allotted amount of

time to make a presentation about how a future government shall look and what roles leaders and citizens shall have in detail.

2. Sandy Lake presentation - their history and the recent TEC resolution;
3. Vote to take place whether to allow Sandy Lake to be a voting member of the Constitutional Convention;
4. More discussion on Art XII; and
5. Committee Reports.

This update was compiled by Jason Decker and Sally Fineday.

NCAI Hosts The State of Tribal Nations Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Congress of American Indians met February 10 through 13 to host the state of Tribal nations as well as to hold their winter session.

The Tribal state of the nations keynote address which took place February 10, and was delivered by NCAI President Fawn Sharp, followed by a congressional response speech by Congresswoman Deb Haaland, who represents New Mexico's 1st district.

Sharps speech covered Tribal Nations responses to the Violence Against Women Act which deters Tribal justice in crimes committed on reservations, the Indian Child Welfare Act, climate change, and federal government accountability. Sharp assured those in attendance that the NCAI would be working together to tackle these issues in the upcoming year and closed her speech with a reminder of how powerful Native voices are.

“We are empowered when we make great effort and take great care to tell our stories of strife, resilience, agency, ingenuity, and prosperity to all those who will listen. We are strongest when we think and act as one regarding the things that matter most to all of us. When we join together, we are an unstoppable force capable of overcoming our greatest challenges and achieving our greatest and unimaginable



National Congress of American Indians

futures and aspirations,” said Sharp.

Haaland followed Sharps lead by focusing on a number of the same topics, namely the action taken to address missing, murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) in Tribal communities.

Haaland directly criticized Trump's recently appointed MMIW task force entitled “Operation Lady Justice” lack of funding, non-Indigenous leadership roles, and lack of tribal involvement. Trump's administration has made a small but fruitful effort in upping tribal representation on the task force by announcing a listening session tour for victims, crime victim advocates, at the summit following Haaland's remarks, but did not address the funding or tribal involvement moving forward.

“Recently the President signed an executive

order creating the Operation Lady Justice Task Force, a plan that is modeled after MY Not Invisible Act of 2019. Solving the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women is going to take a sustained, comprehensive effort between tribal, state, and federal governments,” said Haaland,

“I have concerns, because the task force does not include the voices of survivors or tribal leaders. It lacks concrete transparency and consultation requirements. If we are truly going to address this crisis we need the Administration to recognize the centuries of violence that Native people have endured, which won't be solved without concrete procedures and with only 1.5 million dollars.”

The NCAI will meet again at Agriculture Policy and Food Sovereignty Symposium Feb 25, 2020 and Mar 9, 2020 - Mar 13, 2020 to discuss the Tribal Interior Budget.

Leech Lake Tribal Police: COVID-19 Procedural Changes



In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), The Leech Lake Tribal Police Department has implemented some new protocols to help protect both the public and agency employees.

Agency employees will try to handle all non-emergency calls via telephone. Leech Lake dispatchers may ask more questions on the initial call-taking side to determine the status and forward to Officers. The Department is trying to ensure appropriate safety precautions are in place to limit exposure of COVID-19.

The Leech Lake Tribal Police Department will not change their response regarding in-progress calls for crime, violent crime, or situations where there is a risk to the public. These emergency responses will continue as normal.

It is important for the Leech Lake Tribal Police Department that we continue to provide the highest level of service to the public.

The Leech Lake Tribal Police Department wants to thank the public for their cooperation and understanding during this time.

MINNESOTA MMIW TASK FORCE VISITS BEMIDJI FOR COMMUNITY MEETING

BEMIDJI – Minnesota's MMIW task force made a stop in Bemidji, March 5 for a community listening session and meeting.

The task force headed by co-chairs Mary Kunish-Podein and Patina Park has met in two other Minnesotan communities including: St. Paul, and Hinckley since its inception last year.

The task forces meeting was well attended by state, city and tribal officials from around the area. Including the Governor's offices, office of Senator Tina Smith, the US attorney's office, Bemidji City Council and Tribal Council representatives from Leech Lake, Fond Du Lac, White Earth and Red Lake.

Each council representative was given a chance to speak before the task force, many sharing personal stories of how they have been directly impacted by the loss of loved ones to violence. Representing Leech Lake was District III Representative Leroy Staples Fairbanks who shared admiration for the task forces work, the women leading the legislative changes and his hopes for the future.

“This work is new to me about how we're doing this and where this work is going. I have an aunt out of Duluth, who has been missing for about three years. Her case is still unsolved and you can feel powerless when thinking about that, when you have no idea. So you're only left to pray and constantly contacting law enforcement to see what can be done. Sometimes there are no answers and when it comes to that—what can you do?” said Staples-Fairbanks.

“I'm really hopeful about the work this group is doing and I'm grateful that there is a group of people who pushed legislation to actually bring us to this point. There's so many powerful women in this room who are going to give us direction on where we need to go. I think it's good that women are speaking in front of this issue but also that

Photo and Article By Kayla Duoos



there are men here to listen to what the direction is going to be.”

Fairbanks personal story he shared, tragically was not the only one that concluded in a similar vein. During the meeting, which had a public comment portion many others came forward with similar stories, that later led into suggestions for the taskforce to take to the legislature once their final report is released.

To gain further insight on what it takes to compile community stories and data, the task force spent the afternoon meeting with Judge Marion Buller, from the Canadian National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The task force hoped to gain insight from Judge Buller from her time spent completing Canada's official MMIW report which was released last year. Canada's report contained valuable amounts of data that otherwise would have not been reported if not for the task force.

The task force then later heard from it's three subcommittees who cover public engagement, date, and structure. All committees are still in early working stages, but are eager to find ways to cover all of the layers to this issue. The taskforce will meet again June 8, 2020, with a location to be decided at a later date.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to leave a

public comment, online written and mail in comments will be open until April 26, 2020. All submitted comments, unless permission has been denied will be included in a report to the Minnesota Legislature in December 2020.

Comments can be emailed to MMIWTaskForce@wilder.org, paper forms can also be found online and given to staff from DPS or Wilder Research. You can also call 651-280-2661 and leave a voicemail with your comment.

Public commenters should be aware that the Task force is not staffed or trained to help victims process trauma or heal, and that the role of the Task force is not to investigate cases and victims. Public commenters who are looking for such help will be directed to external victim support resources.

For individuals who are looking for help, please check the following resources:

Leech Lake Police Department (218) 335-8277
 Leech Lake Behavioral Health (218) 335-7211
 Leech Lake Family Violence Prevention (218) 335-3560
 Leech Lake Women Services (218) 335-3560
 Day One – 1-866-223-1111
 Minnesota Crime Victim Support Line – 1-886-385-2699
 StrongHearts Native Helpline – 1-844762-8483



LLTC Lakers Host and Compete in Divisional Tournament in Cass Lake

8 Team Bracket in Male Division of Lakers First Hosted Tournament

By Kayla Duoos

CASS LAKE – The LLTC Lakers basketball team fought hard Saturday February 22, as the team competed and hosted their first ever division tournament.

The Lakers came in 5th of 8th teams in the male division, losing to the first ranked Red River Rebels Saturday afternoon after beating Lutheran Bible College 77-70 the night before. Red River went on to become the NIAC tournament champions. Fairbanks said despite the loss, he's proud of the team's accomplishments and is grateful for the teams opportunity to host such a prestigious event.

“This is the youngest team, I've ever had-age and experience wise. So I knew the beginning and mid part of the season would be a lot of learning and adjusting for the team. I am very proud of how all of them have embraced learning something new and their willingness to trust me in teaching,” said Fairbanks.

Even though the team is currently

sitting at 10-13 win-loss standing, their season is not over. Next up for the Lakers is the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) National Basketball Championship Tournament. The AIHEC tournament invites Native American basketball teams from all over the country to compete in a three day tournament. The Lakers have previously placed in the competition in years prior. Fairbanks believes the team has a good shot this year in placing once more and is already back in the gym with the team prepping for their next match up.

“We plan to train like its start of the season and get back to the basics-lifting, running, shooting and hopefully we'll be back in shape for this tournament. With the team we have I believe we can make a run at the D1 championship and it's a tough tournament. It's always been a tough tournament. We finished second two years ago, and placed third last year and hopefully we can get over the hump this year and take home the championship”

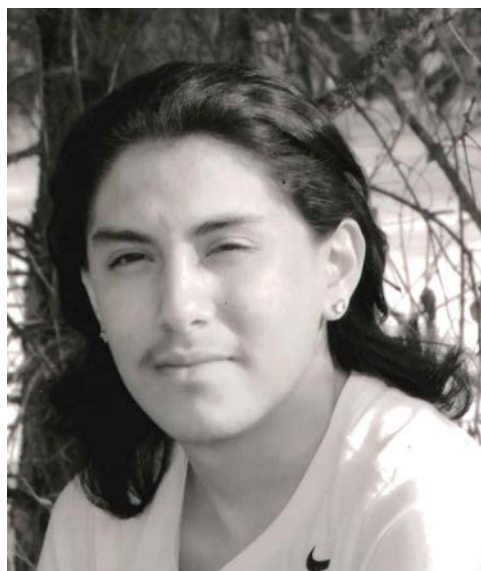
Editor's Note: Since the writing of this story, the AIHEC tournament has been canceled.



Obituaries



Lupe Rosillo



Lupe Rosillo, 20 years young, “Giiwaydin” which means “North Wind” of Cass Lake, Minnesota began his journey to the spirit world from Bemidji, MN on Monday, February 17, 2020. He was born in Winona, MN on January 22, 2000 to Melissa “Missy” Gale and Michael “Angel” Rosillo.

Lupe attended the Cass Lake/Bena and Trek North schools and graduated in 2018. He was a very good soccer player, helping Trek North win their first state trophy. Lupe was a very respectful, kind and gentle man. He loved all children and always took the time to play with them and make them feel special. He especially adored his niece Raynie Daze. Lupe loved to sing, and he enjoyed playing video games, having bon fires and just hanging out with his family and friends. He was well thought of and respected by all who knew him for his kind soul.

Family welcoming Lupe to the spirit world are his grandfathers, Michael Gale and Jesus Rosillo; great grandparents, Theresa and Charles Johnston; great-great grandma, Emma Bear and his aunt, Gloria Rosillo.

Those he leaves behind to cherish his memory are his wife, Deja Mattison of Bemidji; mother, Melissa “Missy” Padilla of Cass Lake; father, Michael “Angel” (Vivian) Rosillo of Mankato; sisters, Christina Elizondo of Willmer, Alexandra Gale of Cass Lake and

Felica Burger of Mankato; brother, Angel Rosillo of Cass Lake, Pastor Rosillo of St. Paul and Randy Burger of Mankato; grandmothers, Maxine Johnston of Cass Lake and Guadalupe H. Rosillo of Winebago; niece, Raynie Daze Gale; nephew, Chandler “Chan Man” Fairbanks; his best friends, Carlito Kingbird and Damian Benitez; good friends, Lauryn Jones, Dru and Jacob Brummitt; other relatives and many friends.

Lupe will arrive to the Facility Center in Cass Lake at 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 21. Wake services will begin at 6:00 p.m. and continue until his 10:00 a.m. traditional service on Saturday, February 22 all being held at the Facility Center in Cass Lake, MN. Jay Saros will be his Spiritual Advisor. Pallbearers for Lupe will be Angel Rosillo, Alexandra Gale, Pastor Rosillo, Will Breidfjord, Michael Cloud, Kirk Budd, Cesar Benitez, Damien Benitez, Dru Brummitt and Jacob Brummitt. His honorary pallbearers are Carlito Kingbird, Raven White, Mish Cloud, Winter Cloud, Sergio Gonzales, Mauricia Kingbird, Alex Wittner and Scott Wittner. Interment will be in the Pine Grove Cemetery at Cass Lake, MN following his Saturday services.

Lupe’s care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.northernpeace.com

Max Morrow Jr.



Max Eugene Morrow, Jr., age 61, of Saint Paul, Minnesota began his journey to the spirit world on Sunday, March 1, 2020 from

Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN.

Max was born in Cass Lake, MN on March 3, 1958 to Gladys Jane (Cloud) Morrow and Max Morrow, Sr. Max and his family lived in Grand Rapids for several years before moving to Denver, CO and eventually returning to Minneapolis, MN where they lived with his sister Teddie for a year before finding their own place in Little Earth. Max was a proud resident of Little Earth back then. He was a very hard worker. Max worked for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe at the firewood company in Bena and was in maintenance at the Palace, before starting at PPL Industries, where he worked for more than 20 years. Max was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan and was a supporter of the “Change Your Name” initiative for professional sports teams. He had a remarkable sense of humor and loved to make people laugh. Max enjoyed working on cars, going to powwows and browsing the internet for good deals. Like the rest of his family, Max loved cats; he thought of them as his babies. He loved listening to his soul music on KMOJ and later took a liking to rock music. His favorite song and the song that he and his wife called theirs was “Touched by a Rose” by Seal.

Family that Max is reunited with are his mom, Gladys (Cloud) Morrow; brothers, Reuben, Darrel and Gerald “Jerry” Morrow and Raymond “Doug” Cloud; aunts, Josephine Morgan and Maggie Garbow; uncles, David Morgan, Silas, Harrison, Mike and Ernest Cloud; nephew, Baby Croaker; cousins, Karin Morgan, Patricia and Gilbert Moose and Merrick Moose; his favorite fur baby, Lotus; and other family members.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife, Rebecca Henry-Morrow of St. Paul; daughter, Maxine White of Cass Lake; step sons, Gary and Brandon Henry-Gouge both of Grand Forks; step daughter, Brandi Henry-Gouge of Minneapolis; dad, Max Morrow, Sr. of Bemidji; very special sister, Theodora “Teddie” Redwing of Cass Lake; brothers, Joe Cloud and Ken Morrow; special auntie, Leona Shaugobay; aunt, Janice Morrow; uncle, Jack Morrow; nieces, Carlotta Redwing, Kari and Lisa Cloud; nephews, Matthew Wing, Eric Cloud, and Doug Cloud, Jr.; cousins, Dawn, Clyde, Kerry, David and Doreen; grandchildren, Wesley (Chelsea) Moe, Alexis and Deborah White, Morales and Nigoni Ikwe Poncelet; his fur babies, Cocoa and Alex; several more grandchildren and great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

An overnight wake for Max will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4 and continue until his 11:00 a.m. traditional service on Thursday, March 5 all to be held at the David

Morgan Community Center in Bena, MN. Pallbearers for Max are Clyde Morgan, Kerry Morgan, Ken Morrow, Joe Cloud, Emilio Ortega and Cliff Croaker. His honorary pallbearers are all his relatives and friends. At Max’s request, his cremated remains will remain with his wife.

Max’s care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.northernpeace.com

Timothy Jackson



Timothy “Slim” Gary Jackson, 45 years old, of Walker, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 from the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, North Dakota. He was born to Patty Jackson and Timothy St. John, Sr. on August 29, 1974 in Minneapolis, MN.

Tim grew up loving and playing the game of basketball; so much that he played on the Leech Lake Reservation League for years. He also enjoyed boxing when he was a teenager. After high school, Tim attended the Leech Lake Tribal College for Carpentry. Tim had various jobs at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker; he was a blackjack dealer and a cook; his specialty was making soups. His main hobbies were listening to music, watching the Minnesota teams, the Twins, the Timberwolves and every Sunday he

would go to his Auntie Berta's place to watch the Vikings game with her. He also liked watching the Price is Right and Wheel of Fortune. Tim loved raising hell, talking shit and spending time with people, especially with his kids and his grandson, Mason. He left us much too soon, we will miss him deeply.

Family that Tim is reunited with are his dad, Timothy St. John, Sr.; grandson, Watson Dominick Smith; nephews, Raymond Kraskey and Jaxon Whitebird; step dad, Cubby Smith; maternal grandparents, Fred and Rose Jackson; paternal grandparents, Celeste and Edward St. John, Sr.; and cousins, Laurie, Renae, Mike and DJ Jackson and Sheena Michaud.

He leaves behind his mother, Patty Jackson; sons, Angelo (Cheyenne Novak) Smith and Yahto Jackson; daughters, Naykota, Ashkii and Mitena Jackson; brother, Jeff Jackson; sisters, Tracy and Candice Jackson, Jolene Smith and Timberly St. John; grandson, Mason James Dvorak; his significant other, Lori Reyes, numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, other relatives and many friends.

The wake for Tim will begin at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, February 20 and continue until his 1:00 p.m. funeral service on Saturday, February 22 all to be held at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Fathers William Butcher and Matthew Cobb will officiate. Pallbearers for Tim will be Nate Jackson, Jeff Jackson, Norman Goggleye, Dave Drouillard, Boomer Jackson and Thomas Jackson. Alternate pallbearers are Ben White and Jesse Papsadora. His honorary pallbearers are all Tim's family and friends. Interment will be in the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery at Old Agency, MN following his services.

Tim's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.northernpeace.com

John Ross

John "Johnny" Burns Ross, Jr., age 44, Indian name "Moon Dog", of Fargo, North Dakota began his journey to the spirit world on February 27th, 2020 from Fargo, ND. He was born on July 16th, 1975 in Minneapolis, MN to Bernice (Johnson) and John Ross, Sr.

Johnny grew up and attended school in Minneapolis, graduating from South High School. He was a nomad of sorts, roaming to many different places. Johnny liked to fish and travel, making many friends wherever he went. His fun-loving spirit will be missed.



Family that Johnny is reunited with are his parents, Bernice and John Ross, Sr.; grandparents, Lillian (White) and Antoine Johnson; aunt, Frances Littlewolf and uncle, Steven Littlewolf.

He is survived by his sons, Sylas and Shaun Fineday both of Ponemah; sisters, Roxanne Johnson of Grand Forks and Deborah Modrow of Waconia; brothers, Gregory Johnson of Grand Forks, Rodney (Sandy White) Johnson of Federal Dam and Jason Ross of Fargo; grandchildren, Matayo Jourdain-Fineday and Daeson Fineday; aunts, Donna Day, Della Littlewolf, Cheryl Littlewolf and Verna King; uncles, Earl Johnson, Cedric (Annette), Timothy (Laura), Ronald (Jenny) and Brian (Kristy) Littlewolf, girlfriend, Bonnie White, mother of his children, Carene Fineday, several nieces, nephews, many relatives and a lot of friends.

An overnight wake for Johnny will begin at 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 13th and continue until his 10:00 a.m. funeral service on Saturday, March 14th all to be held at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Pastors Jim Lahn and Mick Moreno will officiate. Johnny's honorary pallbearers are his sons Sylas Fineday and Shaun Fineday and his siblings Rodney Johnson, Gregory Johnson, Jason Ross and Roxanne Johnson. Inurnment will be with his mother, Bernice, in the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery at Old Agency, MN.

Johnny's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at www.northernpeace.com

LLBO Resource Management issues guidance for 2020 Licensing, Wild Rice Sales

CASS LAKE – Due to the COVID 19 emergency declaration the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management is taking preventative measures to ensure we are not exposing our staff, constituents and permit vendors to unnecessary human interaction. To this end, RTC has passed a resolution that all 2019 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe fishing permits have been extended to July 1, 2020. This action has been taken to ensure that our people are ready to go for this year's Leech Lake fishing opener that is set for May 2nd, 2020. If 2019 permit is lost or missing, please use your LL Tribal ID as we ask people not to visit permit vendors during this emergency. All other regulations and provisions remain consistent with 2019 regulations.

Another measure is a change to the business hours for wild rice sales at LLDRM. We will be open on Thursdays from 9:00a -3:30p during the duration of the COVID – 19 emergency and sales will be limited to Leech Lake Band member only. This is the limit exposure of our staff and ensure we have necessary resources if this emergency continues.

Orders of more than 5 LBS we are requesting that people fill out an order form at <http://llwildrice.com/products/> including the amount of rice wanted and the time you expect to be at the LLDRM so our staff can have these orders prepared and further limit exposure.

For further information, please contact Chief Conservation Officer Jamie Mitchell (218) 368-4767 or Acting Director Ben Benoit (218) 513-1275.

Miigwech and be safe!

MAY 2ND
Leech Lake Citizen angling opener, no personal netting
MAY 9TH
all other Tribal enrollees & personal netting fishing opener

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Cass Lake, MN 56633



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

200 Sailstar Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218.335.3682 • 218.335.4418

Honorable Paul W. Day **Chief Judge of Tribal Court**
Honorable Amber Ahola **Associate Judge of Tribal Court**

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of: Katie Westrum and Joseph White, Sr., Parents

Court file No. CP-17-45

NOTICE

You are hereby notified that on February 12, 2020, a **PETITION TO TRANSFER PERMANENT LEGAL AND PHYSICAL CUSTODY** was filed in Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parent. Please contact the Leech Lake Tribal Court for future hearing dates on this matter. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear, the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of: Aleis R. Rodriguez, Parent, Parent

Court file No. CP-20-01

NOTICE

You are hereby notified that on February 12, 2020, an **EMERGENCY CHILD PROTECTION PETITION** was filed in Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parent. Please contact the Leech Lake Tribal Court for future hearing dates on this matter. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear, the Court may find you in default and enter an order.

2020 POW WOW SCHEDULE

**Memorial Day
Traditional Pow Wow**
May 22 - 24, 2020
Cass Lake, MN 56633

**Onigum 22nd
Annual Traditional Pow Wow**
July 24 - 26, 2020
Onigum, MN 56484

**Waa Wiye Gaa Mag 17th
Annual Traditional Pow Wow**
June 12 - 14, 2020
S. Lake, MN 56681

**Cha Cha Bah Ning 40th
Annual Traditional Pow Wow**
August 21 - 23, 2020
Inger, MN 56636

**Leech Lake Days
Traditional Pow Wow**
June 26 - 28, 2020
Cass Lake, MN 56633

**Labor Day
Traditional Pow Wow**
September 4 - 6, 2020
Cass Lake, MN 56633

**Mii Gwitch Mahnomen
Days 58th Annual Traditional
Pow Wow**
July 17 - 19, 2020
Ball Club, MN

**Battle Point
23rd Annual Traditional
Pow Wow**
September 18 - 20, 2020
Battle/Sugar Point, MN 56641

For more info call: 218-335-4483 or visit [facebook.com/llpowwows](https://www.facebook.com/llpowwows)

ON-SITE ABSENTEE VOTING FOR SENATE & FEDERAL ELECTIONS AT LLBO GOVERNMENT BUILDING

For the following dates, voters who live in the listed townships may vote early in the upcoming scheduled 2020 Elections.

OPEN 8:30AM - 4:30PM | M-F

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Government Building is an
absentee voting location for
the following precincts :

Bena
Cass Lake
Federal Dam
Gould Township
Ottertail Peninsula Township
Pike Bay Township
Sucker Lakes
Wilkinson Township
Winnie Portage Lakes

Presidential Nomination Primary |
March 3, 2020
**Absentee Voting : January 17 through
March 2, 2020**

State Primary | August 11, 2020
**Absentee Voting : June 26 through
August 10, 2020**

General Election | November 3, 2020
**Absentee Voting : September 18
through November 2, 2020**

Voter Pre - Registration is available
through October 16 for the
General Election.

DEBAHJIMON

Debahjimon can be found at the following locations:

District I
Ball Club Comm. Center
White Oak Casino
Cenex Station
Max Mart
Inger Comm. Center
Deer River School

District II
Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
Bena Community Center
Bena Store
Sugar Point Comm. Center
Kego Lake Comm. Center

District III
Cass Lake Rest Area
Che We Station
Leech Lake RTC

Tribal Justice Center
Facility Center
Dairy Queen
Cass Lake IHSe
Cass Lake Dental Clinic
Teals Grocery Store
Shell Station
Diabetes Clinic
Woman's Halfway House
White Earth Office
Child Welfare Office

Financial Services
Woman's Services
Opioid Clinic
Leech Lake DRM
MCT Headquarters
Cass Lake-Bena H.S.
Cedar Lakes Casino
Leech Lake Gaming
Junction Station
Leech Lake Tribal College
Men's Halfway House

Leech Lake Health Division
RBC Building
Tribal Development
Leech Lake Housing

Bemidji
Sanford Center Box Office
Tesoro Station
Bemidji Public Library
Social Services Building
Federal Building

LLBO Health Clinic
Bemidji State Univ. AIRC
Northwest OIC
Oshki Manidoo Center
Simonson's Station
Wal-Mart
Tesoro Station

The Debahjimon is a free, monthly publication.

Paul Bunyan Communications Expanding to Pennington and Strawberry Areas of Leech Lake Indian Reservation and Beltrami County

Cooperative will bring Broadband network to over 280 locations in the Pennington area in 2020 and 200 locations in Strawberry Area in 2021.



BEMIDJI – Paul Bunyan Communications is expanding its all-fiber optic network to parts of Southeast Beltrami County in the Pennington area this year and recently was awarded a Border to Border Broadband Grant from the state of Minnesota to expand its fiber optic services to the Strawberry area in 2021. To see if a location is included in either expansion project go to <https://paul-bunyan.net/gigazone/availability-map/>

As a result of the recently announced grant, the cooperative will begin expansion construction to the Strawberry area in the spring of 2021. This all fiber optic project will make advanced fiber-optic services available to over 200 locations. The project is estimated to cost \$581,600, with the State of Minnesota Border to Border grant contributing \$261,720 and Paul Bunyan Communications investing \$319,880.

“This is a big deal for those who live in the Pennington and Strawberry area. Access to quality broadband service is vital to so many different facets of life including health care, education, business, and recreation. I applaud Paul Bunyan Communications and all those involved to secure the necessary funding and continue to expand to provide this essential service to more of our tribal members. We will continue to work with Paul Bunyan to secure additional grant funding to bring broadband to other parts of the reservation that remain without access” said Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr.

“We are excited to continue our expansion efforts to provide access to broadband Internet speeds to those without it in our region. Our cooperative has a long history of expanding to underserved areas but it has become increasingly challenging to go it alone without grant support. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was instrumental in supporting our grant application to make this project a reality. These areas will not only get Broadband access, they will go from slow satellite or dial up Internet to speeds of up to a Gigabit per second and become part of one of the largest rural Gigabit networks in the country!” said Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/General Manager.

There are over 280 locations within the Pennington expansion planned for 2020 and those locations can sign up for services at any time. This is required in order to get the fiber optic network installed up to the location during construction and receive services once the work is completed. The cooperative expects to develop the expansion plans for the Strawberry area later this year. The Strawberry area expansion will start in the spring of 2021 and be completed by June 30, 2022.

“These projects impact people’s lives. High quality, high bandwidth internet services are critical to economic growth and new educational opportunities.” added Steve Howard, Paul Bunyan Communications Information Technology and Development Manager. “It is the local support demonstrated by the Leech Lake leadership that was essential in getting our plans selected in a highly competitive process.” said Howard.

“Lack of access to quality Internet service creates a lot of difficulties for students, businesses, and residents. I’m excited to see both of these projects move forward. All Minnesotans should be able to access fast, reliable internet service and the Border to Border Broadband Grant program is making a big difference in helping to do just that.” added State 5A Representative John Persell. “I salute the hard work of our elected officials who championed the Border to Border Broadband Grant Program including Rep. Ecklund, Rep. Sandstede, Senator Bakk, Rep. Persell, Senator Tomassoni, and Rep. Layman. I also want to thank the Office of Broadband Development that oversees the program. This is going to make a world of difference in so many ways to a lot of people right here in northern Minnesota!” said Johnson.

The Cooperative’s services will become available once the network is operational including GigaZone service options like unprecedented Broadband Internet speeds of up to 1000 Mbps – a Gigabit, digital and high definition TV services, and low cost unlimited local and long distance GigaZone voice service. There is no membership fee to join Paul Bunyan Communications, membership is included by subscribing to either local phone service or GigaZone Internet service.

LLTC Student of the Year 2019 Kwe Humphrey

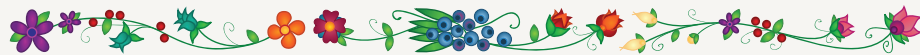


Kwe Humphrey has been selected as Leech Lake Tribal Colleges January Student of the Month. LLTC’s Student of the Month honorees are selected based on good grades and consistent attendance. Humphrey is a second year, Integrated Residential Builder student who is expected to graduate in Fall 2020. Humphrey chose to attend Leech Lake Tribal college because of the school’s cultural components. “I felt like I would fit in here and that I’d have a sense of representation being Ojibwe,” said Humphrey.



The Staff at KOJB 90.1 FM “The Eagle” would like to thank all of our listeners in the Leech Lake Area for all the support you have given us since our first broadcast on October 24, 2011. KOJB can be found on 90.1 FM, 105.3 FM Translator out of Bemidji and as of recently, Paul Bunyan TV Channel 959 and Paul Bunyan TV Fusion Channel 1059. Stay tuned at the top and bottom of every hour 7 days a week for the Eagle Forecast for the Leech Lake Area. Should our area have any emergencies & weather-related issues, KOJB will provide the latest updates possible for the listeners in the Leech Lake Area. With your continued support, KOJB will be broadcasting for many years to come. KOJB 90,1 FM “The Eagle” is owned and operated by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, miigwech!

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders March Birthdays



District I

Richard Armstrong
Linda Bebeau
Adeline Bowstring
Benjamin Bowstring
Eldon Bowstring
Joseph Bowstring
Marilyn Bowstring
Mike Brown
Margaret Bryan
Guy Cloud
Lawrence Gotchie
Sarah Jackson
Scott Jackson
Terry Oothoudt
Rose Robinson
Terrence Warner
Lorraine White
Theron Shotley

From the
District I Office
Robbie, Stephanie, &
Zagajiw

District II

Francis Humphrey
Walter Chase
Gerald Chase
Geraldine Gale
Esther Bogda
Deborah Tibbetts
Doreen Morgan

From the District II Office
Steve, Lindsey, &
Michelle



District III*

Elizabeth Aitken
Wanda Headbird
Terry Smith
Marcella Ardito
Burton Howard
Linda Staples
Lois Armstrong
Melvin Hunt
Joel Stokka
Gloria Beaudreau
Patrice Jones
James Tibbetts
David Beaulieu
Beverly Jordan
Ronald Wakanbo
Donna Beaulieu
Steven Kmett
Terrance White
Douglas Beaulieu
Sharon Kotla
Charlotte White
Edward Beaulieu
Faith Littlewolf
Debra White
Marlyce Bellanger
Raymond Lyons
Natalie Wickner
Dawn Benjamin
Marjorie McCree
James Wilson
Janice Bryan
Valerie Meneely

From the District III Office
LeRoy, Toni & Kari

**all coupons must be used
within Birthday Month**



Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Publishes Revised Election Dates

By Kayla Duoos

On March 24, 2020 the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) held a special meeting via conference call to discuss the March 31 primary elections. By a vote of 7-4 the TEC approved an amendment to the Election Ordinance postponing the 2020 elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new election dates will be: Primary Election- June 9, 2020 and General Election- August 18, 2020

As stated in the Tribal Executive Committee Resolution absentee ballots cast prior to the enactment of this amendment or ballots case between the date of enactment of this amendment and the primary election shall be counted in the primary election on June 9th, 2020.

The Election Boards should not send out anymore absentee ballots with the March 31st, 2020 primary date. They shall hold the request until the new ballots are printed with the correct primary date of June 9th, 2020. This will help eliminate the confusion of voters getting a ballot with the March 31st, 2020 primary date after March 31st, 2020.

The Reservation Election Board shall take reasonable steps to ensure that all election material including but not limited to absentee ballots at all times are kept in a secure location.

Election Boards members with questions are encouraged to call Gary Frazer, at (218)-766-0713.

REVISED ELECTION CALENDAR

4/15	Notice of Primary Election and Posting.	7/17	Notice of General Election
4/15	TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.	7/17	TEC provides ballots for General Election.
6/4	Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.	8/18	General Election (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
6/9	Primary (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)	8/19	General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election. Prior to 8:00 p.m.
6/10	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8:00 p.m.)	8/20	General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
6/11	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.	8/21	Deadline for Request for Recount.. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
6/12	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)	8/25	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for notice of Contest. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).
6/16	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).	8/26	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
6/17	Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.	9/4	Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.
6/26	Deadline for Decision on Contest 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).	9/8	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
6/29	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).	9/11	Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
7/2	Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.	9/15	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
7/6	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal	9/25	Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
7/16	Last Day for Decision on Appeal		Day following Decision of Appeal: Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Supports Governor Walz's Supplemental Budget

CASS LAKE – Minnesota Governor Tim Walz announced his supplementary budget yesterday in St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to making his budgetary request public, the Governor and his Administration conducted meaningful consultation with two (2) tribal nations affected by the budget request: the White Earth Nation and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. As part of the Governor's request in this off-budget year, he is seeking funding that would provide much needed relief to White Earth and Leech Lake for the alleged overpayment for the tribes' medicated assisted therapy (MAT) programs.

The Leech Lake Band administers a MAT program aimed at combating the opioid epidemic that has devastated its northern Minnesota Reservation community for several

years. In 2019, the Department of Human Services (DHS) claimed that both White Earth and Leech Lake were billing the State of Minnesota incorrectly for the MAT programs each tribe administered. DHS alleged that the billing error attributable to Leech Lake amounted to approximately \$14 million over a five year period spanning from 2014 to 2019. Since DHS made these allegations, Leech Lake officials have consistently asserted that the Band's MAT program, including all billing, was administered according to guidance and direction from DHS.

"We followed DHS guidance from the very beginning," said Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman of the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee. "From the outset, we have believed this is the State's issue to resolve and we are pleased that the Governor has taken the initiative to propose funding that would finalize this matter and hold the tribal stakeholders harmless."

The Leech Lake Band has had open lines of communication

with both DHS and the Governor's office during this time as the Band and the State continued to seek ways to resolve the matter in a way that respected tribal sovereignty and complied with applicable state and federal laws.

"We feel this measure in the Governor's supplementary budget resolves this particular matter and we urge the Minnesota Legislature to speedily enact this budget proposal, so DHS and the tribes can move forward together and continue to provide high quality services to our citizens that will help bring healing and wellness." Chairman Jackson concluded.

The Band will continue to work with the Governor's office, DHS and legislative officials to see this matter resolved in a manner that does not negatively impact the services the Band provides.

Media Contact: LLBO Government Relations, Leonard Fineday (218) 760-1712

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Requests Input from Student Families

BENA – The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School has released an open letter to families regarding the recently announced closure. Plans for distance learning, food delivery and childcare are outlined below.

All families are requested to contact Family Liaison, Petra Rodriguez at 218-665-3075 (school number), 218-398-5330 (cell) or petra.rodriguez@bugschool.k12.mn.us with answers to the following questions:

1. Do your students have reliable internet access?
2. Would you like a meal delivery service for your children throughout the school closure?
3. Are you employed in the healthcare industry or some other emergency response system and also the parent/guardian of a K-5 student at Bug O Nay Ge Shig?

Please share with members of the community.

The Full text is as follows:

Dear Bug O Nay Ge Shig Families,
It has been an interesting few days as COVID-19 has become a larger concern throughout our community. It seems the headlines and guidance we receive has been changing by the hour, which has made it hard to stay up to speed. As of this evening, we have plans taking shape, and I wanted to share some important information with our school community.

First, like all schools across the state, we will be initiating a temporary closure this week. We will have school Monday, but the closure will start on Tuesday, March 17th and run through at least Friday, March 28th. The decision to remain closed or reopen will be made at a later date, and it will obviously be based on the status of the virus. The safety and health of our students and staff will be the highest priority in any decision we make. The Bug O Nay Ge Shig School facility will be closed to everyone except some of our staff.

Second, as a school we are committed to three things during the span of our closure. We will continue to provide educa-

tional services for all of our students through a distance learning program, we will continue to provide a meal option for every one of our students, and we will offer childcare services for children whose parents/guardians are healthcare workers or work within an emergency response system (law enforcement, EMT, fire fighter, etc).

In order to follow through on those commitments, the school staff will use Tuesday and Wednesday as planning days to organize our distance learning system. Unlike many districts, we cannot rely on all of our households to have internet connections, so our distance learning will include learning packets that will be delivered to homes on an intermittent basis.

Students will also have daily access to their teachers via phone and/or email. We will also be organizing our food delivery plans, because we intend to provide two meals per day per student, for families who wish to take advantage of that option.

For a childcare program, we plan to coordinate with LLBO Headstart and Early Childhood programs to offer a childcare program for all students in grades K-5 whom we can verify are the children of healthcare providers or emergency response programs.

In order to effectively plan these major projects, we need some information from our families. Please consider your response to the following questions:

1. Do your students have reliable internet access?
2. Would you like a meal delivery service for your children throughout the school closure?
3. Are you employed in the healthcare industry or some other emergency response system and also the parent/guardian of a K-5 student at Bug O Nay Ge Shig?

It is really important that we get responses to these three questions from each of our households. Please call, text or email our Family Liaison, Petra Rodriguez, and share your

responses. If you text, email, or leave a voice message please be sure to identify who you are and which students are yours.

Petra can be reached at:
218-665-3075 (school number)
218-398-5330 (cell)
petra.rodriguez@bugschool.k12.mn.us

COVID-19 presents unique challenges for our school community, but I am optimistic that our dedicated staff and resilient families can navigate these challenges with patience, creativity, and genuine concern for each other. Please share responses to the questions listed above by 12:00pm (noon) on Tuesday afternoon, and then watch our website for more updates.

Miigwech!
Dan McKeon
Bug O Nay Ge Shig
School Director



Keep up to date with the latest news within the Leech Lake Reservation and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe at home or on your mobile device by visiting:
www.LeechLakeNews.com



Also be sure to visit and "like" us on facebook by visiting:
www.facebook.com/LeechLakeBandofOjibwe



Children's Winterfest 2020 is an event facilitated by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The event takes place across the three districts of the Leech Lake Reservation. This year's Winterfest locations were District I : Deer River High School / District II : Bug O Nay Ge Shig School / District III : Cass Lake - Bena High School. The event takes place over three days and is open to everyone. See you in 2021, miigwech!