DEBAHUNGON Newspaper of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

November 2020 | Vol. XXXVII No. 5

Heritage Month

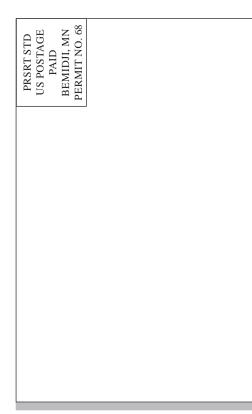
Learn the history of Native American Heritage Month and how it came to be. Page 2

Historic Elections

November Elections prove to be huge for Native American Candidates across U.S. Page 3

Line 3 Protests

Those opposed to the approval of Line 3 permits gathered in protest outside of Governor's Mansion. Page 5



MN COVID UPDATE: NOVEMBER

By Kayla Duoos

MINNEAPOLIS - Governor Walz has implemented new restrictions as the latest wave of COVID-19 cases surge.

The past months spark in cases has put Minnesota above the 30 deaths a day mark for the first time in the pandemic. The alarming trend started November 6th and has continued through the 12. The seven-day hospital admissions trend also rose to a pandemic record. About 1,300 people are in Minnesota hospitals now because of COVID-19, with nearly 300 needing intensive care, according to Health Department data.

The Minnesota Department of Health says the state's total number of confirmed coronavirus cases is now at 201,795. Of them, nearly 159,467 no longer require isolation.

The state's death toll is now at 2,793 with 1,921 of those deaths involving cases in longterm care (LTC) facilities. Health officials say approximately 3,253,880 Minnesotans have been tested for the virus so far including 2679 on the reservation.

The new restrictions Walz has implemented are aimed to target young adults aged 18-35, who are often asymptomatic carriers of the virus and are among the primary spreaders in the state.

Starting Friday, November 13, no bars or restaurants can be open for dine in after 10 PM, but they can reopen after 4 AM. No dining establishment may exceed 50% capacity nor 150 persons at a time no matter if their maximum capacity is north of 300. Unless the bar only has counter service, all other counter service from bars will be closed for seating and service in all establishments. In-counter service patrons will have to mask-up while waiting in line and while they are standing, and may only remove the mask while at their table.

Under the new restrictions, restaurants and bars will still be allowed to offer takeout and



delivery service after 10 PM, but the new rules will ban sitting at the bar and activities that involve standing - such as pool, darts, and dancing - because they encourage patrons to gather closely together.

As for the social gathering restrictions, also starting on Friday, Nov. 13, there will be a 10-person limit on indoor and outdoor gatherings. Many social gatherings are limited to just the members of the household. Capacities on weddings, funerals, and similar events have been changed as well, with a cap of 50 people as of Nov. 27 that will be limited to 25 people as of Dec. 11, and which cannot continue past 10 PM. This will allow for a phase-in period as many events have already been planned.

The state is also recommending that indoor gatherings be limited to three households, which would affect big family Thanksgiving dinners.

If you are experiencing symptoms or have been exposed, please call the Cass Lake IHS COVID hotline at 335-3426 or 335-3427 Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If you are experiencing shortness of breath, please contact the Emergency Department at 335-3327 or dial 911.

LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE COVID-19 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

The Online Application for a new **COVID-19 Economic Assistance** Payment is now open, Applications will close on December 14, 2020.

This **\$250.00** payment is being distributed in lieu of the normal tax rebate.

Online application link / Mailable form application provided along with more information on PAGE 4 >

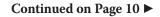


Biden & Harris Outline Plans Working with **Tribal Nations**

By Kayla Duoos

MINNESOTA - After a stressful week of counting ballots, president-elect and vicepresident elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have been declared winners in the 2020 election. Neither are too shy about getting to work.

The new administration, who will be sworn in on January 20, 2021, has already released their plans for working alongside Indian Country. The outline which can be found on Joe Biden's campaign website, outlines 8 essential goals their administration has for upholding the US trust responsibility and bringing Tribal Nations into the fold.



and Science in Rochester, N.Y at

History of Native American Heritage Month 2020

VOL XXXVII NO 5

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

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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 190 Sailstar Dr. NW Cass Lake, MN 56633

Ph: (218) 335-8200 Fax: (218) 335-8309

Deadlines

Dec. Issue	11/27/2020
Jan. Issue	12/18/2020
Feb. Issue	1/29/2021



By Kayla Duoos

CASS LAKE - November marks not only election season and Thanksgiving, but also Native American Heritage Month. A celebration of all things Indigenous. Native American Heritage month has been a recurring monthly event in November since April 3, 1990 when former President HW Bush signed a resolution declaring November "Native American Heritage Month".

In a change up from last year, President Trump declared November as National Native American Heritage Month. In 2019, the president chose to instead recognize November as "National American History and Founders Month", a move that upset many across Indian country.

On November 1, 2020 Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan marked the start of the month with an official proclamation recognizing Tribal Communities. Stating in the proclamation that "during Native American Heritage Month, the State of Minnesota honors the vibrant and diverse Native American cultures that form part of Minnesota today. We renew our commitment to our governmentto government relationships, and promote appreciation, tolerance, reconciliation, understanding, friendship, and continued partnerships among all Minnesotans and the Native Peoples of this land."

One of the earliest documented advocates of heritage month before it went to the government level, was a Seneca man named Dr. Arthur C. Parker who was the director of the Museum of Arts

the time. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs historical recollection, Parker convinced the "Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the First Americans" which they did for a running of 3 years from 1912 to 1915. Across the country at the same time Reverend Red Fox James also known as Red Fox Skiukusha began a 4,000-mile trek on horseback to Washington, D.C., to petition the United States for an "Indian Day." James also travelled state-to-state seeking support for U.S. citizenship to be extended to American Indians which did not happen until 9 years later in 1924. Later in 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association in Lawrence, Kansas formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day for the state.

The American Indian Association president at the time Reverend Sherman Coolidge, an Arapaho Minister also issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as US citizens. Following Kansas's lead several states followed suit in 1919 by declaring days in early September honoring America's first people. Once heritage month reached the government level it was first presented as a day of observance, then a week in 1986 due to prompts from Congress. Both law and proclamations passed by Congress recognized American Indians as the first inhabitants of the lands as well as made mentions of their contributions to United States.

Since that time as requested by



Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan.

Congress, Presidents have been tune time to educate the general making proclamations yearly public about tribes, to raise a gen-

honoring the achievements of the American Indians. The National Congress of American Indians says this "month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of

" **During Native American** Heritage Month, the State of Minnesota honors the vibrant and diverse Native American cultures that form part of Minnesota today. "

MN Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan

Native people. Native American throughout the reservation and Heritage Month is also an opporneighboring cities.

Timeline of events leading up to Native American Heritage Month as it is today:

915

the State.

Lawrence, Kansas

approves American

Indian Day within

Dr. Parker and Boy scouts of America set aside day in Honor of the first Americans.



Several States follow suit with Kansas declaring days in early September honoring America's first people.



All Native Americans born in the U.S. are granted citizenship.



President Reagan signs resolution designating November 23-30 American Indian Week.

1990

eral awareness

about the unique

challenges

Native people

have faced both

historically and

in the present,

and the ways in

which tribal citi-

zens have worked

to conquer these

Celebration

events are cur-

rently happening

challenges."

President George H.W. **Bush** approves resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month."

Election 2020: Record Native American Candidates, Voters

By Kayla Duoos

CASS LAKE – This November's election saw a record number of Native Americans walk away with House, Senate and local City Council seats.

Thirteen Natives from eight states were vying for 11 U.S. House seats Tuesday. Six won their races, meaning the next U.S. House will have a record number of voting Native members.

Among the familiar faces in Indian Country who will be returning to office: Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna and Jemez Pueblo, and Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk, Reps. Tom Cole, Chickasaw, and Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee, also won their reelection bids.

Joining them will be Republican Yvette Herrell, Cherokee, in New Mexico, and Native Hawaiian Kaiali'i "Kai" Kahele, a Democrat. Kahele's win gives Hawaii its second Native Hawaiian in Congress since statehood.

Many states also saw the influence of the Native vote in rural and urban areas across the country. Indian country based votes ended up being a large deciding factor in many swing states, including Arizona, Michigan, Montana and Wisconsin. Despite being labeled as something else by the media, Democratic President-elect Joe Biden, took time to acknowledge Indian Country's historic wins and help in his election.

Congratulations to our following brothers and sisters in Indian Country:

Minnesota Candidates: House & Senate

- Heather Keeler, Yankton Sioux, MN House, District 4A
- Jamie Becker-Finn, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe descent, MN House, District 42B
- Mary Kunesh-Podein, Standing Rock Sioux descent, MN Senate, District 41

Local Elections

- Elizabeth "Lyz" Jaakola, Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cloquet City Council
- Audrey Thayer, White Earth Nation, Bemidji City Council, Ward 1

Nationwide

- Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna
 and Jemez Pueblo
- Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk
- Rep. Tom Cole, Chickasaw
- Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Cherokee
- Rep. Yvette Herrell, Cherokee
- Rep. Kaiali'i "Kai" Kahele,
- Native Hawaiian



Pictured: Audrey Thayer, one of the many Native Candidates to win election, will become the first Indigenous woman to sit on the Bemidji City Council.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Releases COVID-19 Guidelines for Upcoming Holiday Season

Enjoy Thanksgiving activities and take steps to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19.

WASHINGTON – The CDC has released new public health recommendations for celebrating Thanksgiving and Black Friday amidst the pandemic.

In-person gatherings pose their own varying levels of risk and those risk factors should be evaluated before attending.

Community levels of COVID-19 – Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, as well as where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Family and friends should consider the number and rate of COVID-19 cases in their community and in the community where they plan to celebrate when considering whether to host or attend a holiday celebration.

The location of the gathering -

Indoor gatherings generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings with poor ventilation pose more risk than those with good ventilation, such as those with open windows or doors.

The duration of the gathering – Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings. The number of people at the gathering - Gatherings with more people pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people. CDC does not have a limit or recommend a specific number of attendees for gatherings. The size of a holiday gathering should be determined based on the ability to reduce or limit contact between attendees, the risk of spread between attendees, and state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

The locations attendees are traveling from – Gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees who live in the same area. Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, or where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.

The behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering – Gatherings with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than gatherings with attendees who are engaging in these preventative behaviors.

The behaviors of attendees during the gathering – Gatherings with more preventive measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing, in place pose less risk than gatherings where fewer or no preventive measures are being implemented.

If you participated in higher risk activities or think that you may have been exposed during your Thanksgiving celebration, take extra precautions for 14 days after the event to protect others, such as staying home as much as possible, avoid individuals who are more susceptible to infection or getting tested.

If you are notified that you were a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, stay home for 14 days from the last time you had contact with that person. Monitor for symptoms of coronavirus. Get infor-

mation about COVID-19 testing if you feel sick.

Thanksgiving Activities by risk level as per CDC Guidelines

Thanksgiving is a time when many families travel long distances to celebrate together. Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you must travel, be informed of the risks involved.

Lower risk activities

- Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household.
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family.
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday.
- Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home.

Moderate risk activities

- Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community.
- Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cookouts.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing.
- Attending a small outdoor sports events with safety precautions in place.

Higher risk activities

- Going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving.
- Participating or being a spectator at a crowded race.
- Attending crowded parades.
 Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors.
- Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household.





Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Emergency Relief Assistance to Tribal Members Verification of Need Form

Program Eligibility Requirements:

- 1. Must be an enrolled LLBO Tribal member.
- 2. Must be enrolled with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as of 10/23/20.
- 3. Must demonstrate a need for assistance by checking at least one box on the Economic Impact Directly Related to COVID-19 Pandemic below.*
- 4. Individual must sign and return this Form on or before 12/14/20 to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Emergency Relief Assistance, 190 Sailstar Dr NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633

Eligible Tribal members 18 and over may receive a one-time payment of \$250.00.

First Name:	Middle:	Last :	DOB:				
			Email:				
Physical Address:_							
City:			ip:				
Mailing Address:	Same as Physical Address	(must be able to receiv	e mail at address provided)				
Address:							
City:			iip:				
Economic Impact Directly Related to COVID-19 Pandemic (check all that apply)							
Furloughed o	r Terminated from Employment		Personal Protective Equipment and				

Unemployed at start of pandemic	Cleaning Supplies
Increased Health Care Expenses	Member Owned Business closed or run at diminished capacity
 Increased Child Care Expenses Increased Grocery and/or Food Delivery Expenses 	 Quarantine Costs Other: Explain, Use back of page if necessary.
 Expenses related to Home-Schooling Expenses related to working remotely 	

Disclaimer: In submitting this application, I declare and certify that the information and documentation is true and correct regarding the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. I further agree to assist the LLBO in seeking any further necessary verification of the submitted information upon reasonable request. Contact information submitted on this form will be updated in the Tribal Enrollment database.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date:

APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES DECEMBER 14, 2020 11:59 PM CT

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe COVID-19 Stimulus Payment Program Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the program?

All enrolled members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe who are enrolled with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as of October 23, 2020. Qualified applicants must also have experienced an economic impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and check at least one box in the "Economic Impact" section of the application. This payment is to take the place of the Tax Rebate payment. *Enrolled members younger than 18 years of age will have amount added to Minor's Trust, no application is necessary for these individuals.*

How do I apply?

Online Applications will be available at: https://hipaa.jotform. com/203085537890158 Online applications will open on November 9, 2020 and will close on December 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Paper Applications can be downloaded from http://www.llojibwe.org/covid-19.html *Paper Applications will open on November 23, 2020 and must be postmarked by December 14,* 2020.

How do I submit my application?

All band members are encouraged to use the on-line application whenever possible. Paper applications and the drop off box for these forms are located outside the Tribal Assistance Office at the Dairy Queen building. Applications can also be mailed to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Emergency Relief Assistance, 190 Sailstar Dr NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633. Paper submissions will only be accepted via the drop box or the U.S. Postal Services.

When will I receive my payment?

Payments will be mailed on December 4, 2020 for all applications submitted with no errors and received by 11:59 pm Thursday, December 3, 2020. Please allow at least two weeks from the date of submission after December 4, 2020 before inquiring on the status of your application. Paper applications may take longer.

How will I receive my payment?

All checks will be processed and mailed directly to band members using the information provided on the application, *it is important the applicant is able to receive mail at the mailing address provided, please ensure information is updated with the U.S. Postal Service. There will be no in person pickup allowed.*

How much will I receive?

Each approved applicant will receive a one-time payment of \$250.00

What if I do not know my enrollment number?

Your correct enrollment number is required in order to process your application. If an incorrect number is used, your application will be rejected and a staff member will call or email you at number/email address provided on the application.

In order to obtain your enrollment number, your social security number and other information will be required. Please contact one of the following numbers: >218-335-3626

>218-335-3643 >218-335-3601

The online application is not working for me, what do l do? If the online application is giving you an error or won't allow you to submit, please call 218-335-3643.



Hundreds of protesters gathered outside of the Governor's Mansion in protest of Line 3, November 12, 2020. Photo Credit | Unicorn Riot

Line 3 Permit Approvals Spark Protests Outside MN Governor's Mansion

By Kayla Duoos

MINNEAPOLIS - Tribal and community members alike began protesting outside the Governor's mansion Thursday November 12, following Minnesota regulators approval for permits for Enbridge Energy's Line 3 Pipeline replacement.

The approval by the regulators, gives the company a go ahead to begin work this month. The change is a vast 360 to a year ago when Governor Walz publicly said that projects like Line 3 "don't just need a building permit to go forward, they also need a social permit."

The quote which is being used in the nonprofit group, MN350's official statement against the pipeline, highlights the Governor's lack of action taken through the weekend.

"It's clear now that Gov. Walz's wish for Line 3 to have 'a social permit' was all talk and no action," said Andy Pearson, MN350's Midwest Tar Sands Coordinator. "This is a deeply unpopular pipeline that is a disaster for our climate, and it will be fought every step of the way. The climate justice movement will still stop the pipeline, but the governor has made that unnecessarily harder."

Pearson painted the regulators approval of Line 3 permits as out of line with Minnesota values and cited the recent presidential election. "President Trump spent four years angling to protect the profits of Big Oil rather than protecting our planet," Pearson said. "Minnesota loudly rejected that kind of destructive leadership. The governor had all the legal tools he needed to stop this environmentally catastrophic pipeline. Why would he instead give Trump a parting gift like this in the last days of his term?"

Enbridge says replacing the pipeline will allow it to move oil more safely while creating thousands of jobs. Minnesota's segment is the only one not yet updated, and has been publicly denounced by Tribal Leadership in the state.

Challenges of Distance Learning, Zoom Meetings offered to Parents/Guardians through LLBO

CASS LAKE – Distance learning has been a huge adjustment for many families across the reservation and the Band is offering a weekly zoom parent meeting for guardians to discuss these challenges.

The meetings moderated by Jessica Devault and Jeremy Gotchie feature group discussions on group selected topics, and useful tips for parents. Past topics include tech tips, scheduling advice and cultural connections.

Devault said the creation of the group was due to recognition of a growing need for support among guardians as this school year has been more difficult than most.

"Jeremy and I saw that there was a need within the community and reservation. We work closely with the school districts that overlap our reservation and could see that a lot of our members chose to do distance learning but that there were breakdowns that were happening. We wanted to help bridge those gaps and help our families succeed."

The group meets every other Wednesday on zoom, If you or anyone you know would like to join, you can contact jessica.devault@ llojibwe.net or jessicadevault14@gmail. com or reach out on Facebook messenger.

LLTC REMOVED FROM PROBATIONARY STATUS

CASS LAKE - The Leech Lake Tribal College has now been removed from it's probationary status by the MN Higher Learning Commision.

The Higher Learning Commission is the regional accrediting agency charged by the Department of Education to regulate the standards for institutions of higher

education. In a press release published November 12, the commission stated the college's sanction had been removed on the basis of the "institution's ability to demonstrate it now meets HLC's Criteria for accreditation. The college was initially placed on probation in June 2017, and probation was extended in November 2019.

EE(

Tribal College President Raymond Burns released an official statement on the college's accreditation status, thanking those involved in the change.

"Thanks to the hard work of the faculty and staff of the Leech Lake Tribal College, the Higher Learning Commission has removed LLTC from Probation on its accreditation status. The college was placed on probation

Ľ ecem Debra Adams Yvonne Amunds James Baker Vernon Barsnes **Beverly Beaulier** Carol Blue Sharon Brown Arlen Buckanaga Robert Budreau Leroy Campbell Edward Chase Valerie Chase Llloyde Dahl Rowa Donovar Loretta Duncanse

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in 2017 due to issues in governance, strategic planning and assessment and program review. During the intervening three years the Board, staff and faculty worked diligently to address the issues that the Higher Learning Commission had identified.

After a focused visit from a team con-

sisting of other higher education professionals, the college was deemed to have met all criteria required for accreditation and was removed from probation during the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees meeting that took place November 5 and 6.

Again, I would like to praise the work of the Board, the faculty and the staff of the college for their work in putting the LLTC back on the path where it can live up to its mission to provide "quality higher education grounding in Anishinaabe values".

If you have questions about LLTC or you'd like to tour the college, you can visit them at 45 Little Wolf Rd NW, Cass Lake, MN from 8am-4:30pm or call (218) 335-4200.

District III Elder Birthdays From the District III Office				
December		LeRoy, Toni & Kari		
Debra Adams	Jewel Finn	Helen Lindemann	Teresa Northbird-	
Yvonne Amundson	Jennifer French	Fancis Littlewolf	Persell	
James Baker	Cynthia Gale	Roselie Lovelace	Jerry Reyes	
Vernon Barsness	Claircy Gonzales	Kim Lucero	Carol Rober	
Beverly Beaulieu	Coleen Gullickson	Jeffrey Lyons	Debbi Roberts	
Carol Blue	Howard Hardy	Deborah MacKinnon	Larry Robinson	
Sharon Brown	Ronald Hare	Larry Madigan	Bernard Rock	
Arlen Buckanaga	Jeffrey Harper	Arthur Mainville	Eugene Rock	
Robert Budreau	Douglas Harrison	Betty McCormack	Lianne Ryan	
Leroy Campbell	Loren Howard	Jerry Morgan	Dewayne Smith	
Edward Chase	Lorie Howard	Ernestine Morgan-	George Smith	
Valerie Chase	Rosetta Howard	Johnson	John Smith	
Llloyde Dahl	Teri Howard	Tracey Morrow	Samuel Smith	
Rowa Donovan	Vikki Howard	James Nason	Alexander Stolitza	
Loretta Duncanson	Wallace Humphrey	Jay Nordmarken	Wallace Storbakken	
Cheryl Dunn	Patricia Jackson	Russell Northbird	Victoria White	
Sherry Elmberg	Carol Jenkins	Vernon Northbird	Nancy Whitebird	
Delores Fairbanks	Cheryl Johnson	Roberta Olson	Gloria Wilson	
Johnny Fairbanks	Nancy Johnson	Lawrence Otto	Gregory Wright	
Kathryn Fairbanks	Annabel Kingbird	Jacqueline Peltier	Ricky Wuori	
Priscilla Fairbanks	Margery Kumalae	Barbara Perleberg	Todd Wuori	

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



Grace Howard



Grace Ann Howard, 59 of Minneapolis, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world on Sunday, September 20, 2020 from the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN.

Grace was born on June 30th, 1961 in Cass Lake, MN to Beverly (Burnette) and Leo Allen. She was a natural caretaker and was always willing to help anybody just because. Grace was an excellent mother but an even better grandmother. She was a positive person and always tried to see the best in everyone. Grace loved to laugh and tried to bring out the best of other people. She was strong and resilient in life, always able to "get back up". Grace had a heart of gold and will forever be missed by many.

She is welcomed to the spirit world by her parents, Beverly and Leo Allen; grandma, Alice Burnette; ex-husband, Sterling Howard; brother, Everett Allen and cousins, Charlotte Voas, Sharon Drumbeater and Alex Bellanger and other family members.

Those she leaves behind are her children Brandon Howard of Minneapolis and Sterling (George Matthews) Howard of Mound; sisters, Laura Vizenor and Terri Allen; seven grandchildren that she loved Mystic Lake Casino as well as listening to

dearly; aunt, Gladys Sandland; cousins, Juanita and Daniel Mitchell and Brett Thorsen, many nieces, nephews, numerous relatives and many friends.

An overnight wake for Grace will begin at 7:00 p.m., Friday, September 25th and continue until her 10:00 a.m. traditional service on Saturday, September 26th all being held at the Prescott Community Center, Cass Lake, MN. Nabek will be her Spiritual Advisor. Pallbearers are Brandon Howard, Malik Matthews, Daniel Mitchell, Brett Thorsen, George Matthews and Logan Allen. Her honorary pallbearers are all her family and friends. Interment will be in Boy Lake Cemetery at Boy Lake, MN immediately following her service.

Grace'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

Kimberly (Windom) Garcia



Kimberly Lee (Windom) Garcia, age 46, of Minneapolis, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020 from Minneapolis, MN.

Kim was born in Minneapolis, MN on April 14, 1974 to Anna Windom and John Dorr. Kim was a very social person, visiting with everyone she could. She enjoyed going to music and watching TV on her phone. Kim also liked playing games on her phone, but she really liked to eat, especially rotisserie chicken. She will be deeply missed by many.

Family that Kim is reunited with are her father, John Dorr; grandma, Christina Dorr; her auntie, Georgia Windom and numerous other relatives.

She leaves behind her daughters, Rosa and Isabel Adan-Garcia; mother, Anna Windom; brother, Robin (Rebecca) Windom, Sr., nieces, nephews, many more family members and her friends,

An overnight wake will begin at 3:00 p.m., Monday, September 28th and continue until her 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Tuesday, September 29th all to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Her honorary pallbearers are all her family and friends. Interment will be in the Mission Cemetery at Cass Lake/Mission, MN immediately following her Tuesday service.

Kimberly'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





Melissa Lee Tiessen, 19 years young, journeyed to the spirit world on Thursday, September 17th, 2020 from the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND.

She was born in Bemidji, MN on March 23rd, 2001 to Shelly Hanson and Chancey Tiessen. Melissa grew up in Bena and Prescott and would have graduated from the Cass Lake/Bena High School this year. She enjoyed writing, drawing, photography and listening to her music. Melissa liked hanging out and cruising around in her Ranger with her family and friends. She also loved spending time with her siblings and her special Aunty Bug. Melissa was loved terribly by all the people who came into her life.

Family that welcome Melissa to the spirit world are her grandma, Marilyn Hanson; uncles, Gary Hanson, Jr. and Thomas Chase; special friend, Monica Salas and many other family members.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memory are her grandpa, Gary Hanson, Sr.; parents, Shelly Hanson and Chancey Tiessen; biological father, David James Jones; brothers, Braylon and Brayden Tiessen and Tyler Oehler; sisters, Angel Tiessen, Marilyn Joy Hanson II and Leslie Hanson; aunties, Kathleen (Todd) Hanson and Crystal (Gil) Hanson; nieces, Aubri and Aliyah Gotchie and Anora Moses-Nabors; nephew, Roderick Moses-Nabors; cousins, Kayla and Caleb "Bro" Duoos; her significant other, Shane Oehler, lifelong friend, Dakota Moses; many aunties and uncles, numerous relatives and too many friends to list.

An overnight wake for Melissa will begin at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, September 24th and continue until her 11:00 a.m. traditional service on Friday, September 25th all to be held at the Bena Community Center in Bena, MN. Helping to lay Melissa to rest are Shane Oehler, Dustin Chase, Randy Hanson, Nicholas Jones, Jr., Daunte Curry, Ronny Joe Staples, Jr., Andrew Oehler and Quint Ironnecklace. The alternate pallbearer is Antonio Hanson. Her honorary pallbearers are all her family and friends. Interment will be in the Lakeview Cemetery at Bena, MN.

Melissa'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

Tristan Cloud



Tristan Roger Cloud, 26 years young, passed away on October 1st, 2020 in Cass Lake, Minnesota. He was born on December 8th, 1993 in Minneapolis, MN to Valerie (Pacheco) and Roger Cloud.

Tristan loved playing basketball for the Cass Lake/Bena Panthers, where he played in the

State Tournament twice. He also played football and later tried MMA. Tristan loved to travel and see new things; his inquisitive nature took him to several places on solo adventures "just to see". His whole family wants him to be remembered as a loving son, brother, uncle and cousin. Tristan was thoughtful, kind, a deep thinker and very protective. He spoke with a passion about many different topics he studied, as he was an avid researcher. There wasn't anything he wouldn't try at least once. Tristan's bravery and courage were always admired and his love between him and his mother and siblings could never be replicated.

Tristan is welcomed to the spirit world by many of his ancestors.

Those he leaves behind are his mother and stepfather, Valerie (Richard) Robinson of Cass Lake; father, Roger Cloud of Red Lake; twin brother, Dominic Cloud; brother, Daniel Pacheco; sisters, Miranda Pacheco and Marena Cloud; nieces, Dulce and Estrella Cadena; nephew, Christian Orozco; cousins, Mika, Juanita, Carmen, Mary Pacheco and Anthony Quinn, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services for Tristan will be held on Tuesday, October 6th, 2020 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. at the Prescott Community Center, Cass Lake, MN. Teresa Nelson will officiate. Pallbearers will be Christian Orozco, Dominic Cloud, Daniel Pacheco, David Northbird, Jr., Trent Barthorpe and Val Pacheco. His honorary pallbearers are Richard Robinson and all his family and friends. At the family's request, Tristan's cremains will remain with them.

Tristan'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 "Painter" Fisherman

John "Painter" Edward Fisherman, age 59, of Cass Lake, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world from the Cass Lake IHS Hospital on Friday, October 23rd, 2020.

John was born on August 16th, 1961 in Cass Lake, MN, the son of Donald and Nancy (Whitebird) Fisherman. He grew up and attended school in Cass Lake. After school, John enlisted in the United States Army in 1979. John was stationed in Korea for a year and was honorably discharged in 1986. John also worked at Evergreen and as a PCA. He enjoyed going to the casino and traveling around with his special friend, Teresa Kangus. John enjoyed his daily walks to pickup the daily newspaper, the mail and to check on the 50 Cents Crew, stopping to

visit all his friends along the way. He was well liked by everyone and would enjoy a drink with his friends, now and then. John thought the world of his nephew Adrian "Boogie" Smith and would spend time with him as often as he could. John will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Family that John is reunited with are his father, Donald Fisherman; sister, Lisa Fisherman; brothers, Donald "Skel" Fisherman and Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird; grandparents, Sarah and William Whitebird; Uncle, Everett Whitebird, Sr.; nephew, Darian Fisherman, Sr. and many more relatives.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his mother, Nancy Whitebird of Cass Lake; sisters, Linda Fisherman of Cass Lake and Pearl Battle of Minneapolis; brothers, Scott (Simone) Whitebird, Sr. of Cass Lake and Lloyd Fisherman of Sugar Point; special nephew, Adrian "Boogie" Smith; special friend, Teresa Kangus, numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends.

The wake for John will begin at 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 26th and continue until his 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Wednesday, October 28th all to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Father Matthew Cobb will officiate. Pallbearers for John will be Scott Whitebird, Jr., Eric Fairbanks, Darian Fisherman, Jr., Donald Wind, Kyle Spiegelberg and Daryl Fisherman. His honorary pallbearers are Walter Gross, LeRoy "Puff" Whitebird, Jr., Derek Harper, Jim Littlewolf, Gary Johnson, Connie Littlewolf, Teresa Kangus, Robert "Jappy" Headbird, Adrian Smith and the 50 Cents Crew. Interment will be in the Prince of Peace Cemetery at Cass Lake, MN immediately following his Wednesday services.

John'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

Darlene Fairbanks



Darlene Jo (Wahweotten) Fairbanks, 80, Iinwahkwe', of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Thunder Clan, and Ball Club, Minnesota journeyed to the spirit world on Saturday, October 10, 2020 peacefully from her home with her family and in-home hospice care. She was born in Holton, KS on July 3rd, 1940, the daughter of Evelyn (Fitzimmons) and Joseph Wahweotten.

Darlene was cherished and loved by family and her community. She will be greatly missed. Her greatest passions in life were her family, grandchildren and great grandchildren and the family of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Early Headstart Program. She loved and served many throughout her employment with LLBO Early Headstart Program and her six-year supervisory position at the Bug School Childcare; in all 25 years of caring for precious children. Darlene enjoyed attending pow-wows, family events, and going to the casino. She took much pride and joy in the many Headstart graduation ceremonies throughout the years. One of her greatest accomplishments, along with the rest of the staff, was the preservation of the Anishinab'ek language, their culture, song and dance. The many teachings of culture and language were and are incorporated in everyday life of the many children she so loved and cherished.

Gi-zaagi'in....Giga-waabamin Menawaa.

Family that welcome Darlene to the spirit world are her husband, Charles E. Fairbanks; mother, "Shonote" Evelyn M. Wahweotten; father, "Wabansi" Joseph B. Wahweotten; sisters, Carol Robinson and Juanita Wahweotten; brother, "Weezo" Gary Wahweotten and grandparents, Floyd and Ruth Elizabeth (Wahwassuck) Fitzimmons.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memory are her daughters, Sherry S. Schaaf of AZ, Rhonda M. Schaaf of MN and Brenda J. Schaaf of MN; son, Randall L. Schaaf of MN; 17 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and her friends.

An overnight wake for Darlene will begin at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 15th and continue until her 10:00 a.m. traditional services on Friday, October 16th all to be held at the Ball Club Community Center in Ball Club, MN. Waa-maajaa'iwed is Steve Jackson. Helping to lay Darlene to rest are Jeremy M. Schaaf, Israel J. White, Christopher Schaaf, Elijah B. Matrious, Nichalos C. Beaulieu and Brandon L. Schaaf. Alternate pallbearer is Wade Monroe. Her honorary pallbearers are Randall L. Schaaf and the Staff of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Early Headstart Program. Interment will be in the Olivet Cemetery at Deer River, MN immediately following her Friday services.

Darlene'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

Marilyn Losh



Marilyn C. Losh, age 60, of Federal Dam passed away on October 27, 2020 at her home in Sugar Point. She was born on October 12, 1960 the daughter of Benny and Rose Mary White.



LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of **Ojibwe in Tribal Court**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of Carla Gotchie

Court File No. CP-19-08

NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on October 20, 2020, a Suspension of Parental Rights was filed in Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. The next hearing date is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 10:30 am. Please contact the Court for a copy of the Petition at (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order against you.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of **Ojibwe in Tribal Court**

In the Matter of: Shannon M. Fairbanks, Petitioner, And Timothy Jones, Respondent,

Case No. CV-20-85

NOTICE

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RE-SPONDENT, An Emergency Order for Protection has been issued based on the Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection in this matter. If you fail to respondent to this petition, judgement by default will be taken against you.

NOTICE OF RESTRAINING PROVISIONS SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS MAKES THE FOLLOWING REQUIRE-MENTS APPLY TO THIS AC-TION UNLESS THEY ARE MODIFIED BY THE COURT OR THE PROCEEDING DIS-MISSED:

1) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT COMMIT ACTS OF DOMES-TIC ABUSE AGAINST THE PETITIONER. 2) RESPONDENT MUST NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT

WITH PETITIONER WHETH-ER IN PERSON, WITH OR THROUGH OTHER PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, LETTER, OR ANY OTHER WAY

200 Sailstar Dr. NW

Cass Lake, MN 56633

218.335.3682 • 218.335.4418

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANC-TIONS BY THE COURT.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of **Ojibwe in Tribal Court**

In Re the Marriage of: Bradley W. Senogles, Petitioner, vs, Francine L. Senogles, aka, Francine L. Jackson, Respondent.

Case No. FA-20-19

NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the petitioner above has filed a legal action against you, Francine Senogles, asking for Dissolution of Marriage and other relief. Unless you file a response or otherwise file your answer in this case in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court, 190 Sailstar Drive NW Cass Lake, MN 56633, Tribal Justice Center, a Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage and other relief may be granted as requested for by the petitioner.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

You are served with this notice via publication in the DeBahJi-Mon in two consecutive issues because you are a party to this proceeding. If you have questions, you may contact the Leech Lake Tribal Court at the above address or by telephone at 218-335-3682.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of **Ojibwe in Tribal Court**

In Re the Custody of: V.R., Minor Child, DOB: 07/25/2016; V.R. Minor Child, DOB: 02/20/2018. Joshua E. Wind, Petitioner, And Winona Redday, Respondent.

NOTICE

that on June 24, 2020, a Petition for Custody and Parenting Time was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must file a response in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court on or before February 25th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., the date of the Initial hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court. Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota, Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in a default judgment being entered against you, the respondents, at that time for the relief requested in the Petition, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner. You are served with this notice

Honorable Paul W. Day Chief Judge of Tribal Court

Honorable Amber Ahola Associate Judge of Tribal Court

via legal publication in the De-BahJiMon in two consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, Title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(5)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination

PUBLIC SURVEY: COVID-19 COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Leech Lake Incident Management Team, in collaboration with Tribal Development and Health Divisions, have come up with a survey which seek public input to help assess the community impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We also seek input from the whole community on the many recommended mitigation strategies being used to slow the spread of COVID-19.

concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of **Ojibwe in Tribal Court**

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Heather Te-John and Neil LaDuke, parents.

Court File No. CP-19-19

NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that on October 10, 2019, an Emergency Child/Family Protection Petition was filed in Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for the next hearing date and time. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may find you in default and enter an order against you.

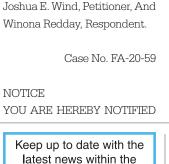


Community members can fill out the survey at: https:// arcg.is/1z8KyL or scan the QR code above with your tablet or smartphone.



Visit WWW.LLOJIBWE.ORG/NEWS/NEWS.HTML





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

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders November Birthdays



District I

Burton Alger Sr. Ioel Bebeau William Bowstring Bonita Cloud Sandra Fairbanks Norman Goggleye Margaret Greenside Brian Howard Helen Jackson **Delores** Lindberg Clement Nason Jr. Dorothy Robinson Gary Roy Howard Sherman Donna Tibbetts Joseph White Jr. Donald White Darrell Wilson Sr.

From the District | Office Robbie, Stephanie, & Zagajiiw

District II

Bruce Bobolink Clarice Rockboy-White James Samuelson Franklin Bowstring Winona Richardson

From the District II Office Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle

Rodney Allen Bonnie Beaulieu Sharon Bebeau-Cavitt John Bedeau William Bedeau Willis Burnette Evelyn Campbell Sheryl Charwood Janet Cloud Eleanor Craven **Richard Cutbank** George Donnell Dean Elmberg Anita Fahlstrom Kenneth Fahlstrom Donald Fairbanks, Sr. John Fairbanks Jerome Finn Glen Fisher Mary Goggleye Russell Goggleye Charles Hanson Kerry Harper Melanie Harper Jimmie Harrison Shari Headbird Peter Hunt Debra Jackson Kenneth Johnson Marlene Johnson Karen Jones Connie Littlewolf

> From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari *all coupons must be used within Birthday Month*

District III*

Roselyn Loeken

Vincent Lowry

Andrea Lyons

Darlene Monroe

Cynthia Morris

Peter Morris

Terrence Morris

Eugene Northbird

Suzanne Northbird

Steven O'Brien

Clayton Oothoudt

Ethelyn Peacock

Joseph Plumer Richard Raish

Robert Randall

Walter Reese

Winona Richardson

Jeffrey Riewer

Mary Rober

Kathleen Roy

James Samuelson

Jeffrey Sande

Angela Sayers

Rowa Sherer

Linda TeJohn

Lana Tucker

Kerri Wakefield Carol White

Lyman White

Mary White

Timothy White

Robin Windom



Obituaries Continued

Marilyn was a good woman who loved her family dearly. She worked in the surveillance department of Leech Lake Gaming at each of the three casinos for 20+ years. She helped to raise four of her grandchildren and had a very close bond with her grandson, Bitty. Marilyn enjoyed going to the casino, playing bingo scratchies, reading Danielle Steele novels, watching the cooking channels and was famous for making some awesome Frybread. She expected anyone who wanted her frybread had to ask her directly to make it for them, which she always did. She loved cooking at each of her grandchildren's birthdays and during holiday gatherings.

Family that Marilyn reunites with are her maternal grandparents, Della and Walter Losh; paternal grandparents, Emma and Frank White; father, Benjamin "Benny" White; brothers, Kenny, Douglas, Timothy, Douglas F. White and Richard Losh.

Family she leaves behind to cherish her memory are her lifelong partner, Anthony (Boz) Boswell; sons, Brad, Aaron (Brenda) and Joshua Losh; daughters Toni (Ted) Losh, Teri Lynn (Joshua) Boswell, Danielle (Dale) Boswell, Nikki (Miles) Boswell, Paris Nacazio and Leah White; mother, Rose Mary Losh; brothers, Allen White and Ronnie (Rita) White; and her sister, Diane Smith.



AT HOME COVID-19 TEST KITS

Minnesota is proud to offer at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms. This saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost, whether or not you have insurance.

Order a test kit online:

https://www.health.state.mn.us/.../coro.../testsites/athome.html

▶ Biden, Harris Tribal Plans Continued

Biden & Harris Outline Plans Working with Tribal Nations

These goals include: Strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship

- Immediately reinstate the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference and leverage the White House Council on Native American Affairs, which the Obama-Biden Administration created. Biden will build on the Obama-Biden Administration's record by ensuring tribal nations have a strong voice and role in the federal government.
- Nominate judges who understand federal Indian law, respect tribal sovereignty, and will uphold both our treaties and the U.S Constitution.
- Ensure fulfillment of federal trust and treaty obligations including by working to address chronic underfunding of unmet federal obligations to Indian Country. Biden will launch a budget task force under the White House Council on Native American Affairs and Office and Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with tribes, that seeks to understand chronic funding shortfalls and deliver recommendations to fully fund the federal government's trust and treaty obligations. This work will include reviewing the ability to make Indian Country funding advanced or mandatory, instead of discretionary to provide tribes with the certainty and predictability they need.
- Biden will immediately reinstate the Executive Departments and Agencies Consultation mandate that was in place throughout the Obama-Biden Administration and hold agencies accountable for

agencies accountable for meeting consultation obligations. Biden will ensure that tribal consultations adopt best practices consistent with principles reflected in the RESPECT Act, including requiring substantive engagement with tribes, ensuring that consultation policies are consistent across federal agencies and encouraging independent agencies to establish them as well.

Provide reliable, affordable, quality health care and address health disparities

- Increase and ensure stable funding for the Indian Health Service.Biden has called for dramatically increasing funding for IHS and making that funding mandatory.
- Ensure access to health coverage. Under the Obama-Biden Administration, the Affordable Care Act made permanent the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), the cornerstone legal authority for the provision of health care to Native Americans. Biden will build on Obamacare, providing a new public health insurance option like Medicare and ensure the individuals who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their state's inaction are automatically enrolled on to the public option, at no cost to the individual. Biden will also protect Medicaid from Trump's proposals to drastically cut it and weaken it through work requirements. And he'll protect Medicare and lower the eligibility age to 60.
- Lead a decisive public health response to COVID-19.
 Biden knows how to mount an effective crisis response and elevate the voices of scientists, public health experts, and first responders because he has done it before. He knows how critical it is to partner with tribal nations and elevate the voices of tribal public health experts. As President, he will ensure

wide availability of free testing and eliminate cost barriers to preventative care and treatment for COVID-19 ensuring Native Americans are not left behind. Biden will also provide IHS, tribal health authorities, and urban Indian organizations guaranteed access to the Strategic National Stockpile and provide tribes access to federal grants that help public health facilities surge capacity and response timelines. Expand the pipeline of health care providers in tribal communities. The IHS does not have enough doctors or nurses to provide necessary care for Native Americans. Biden will expand the reach of the Indian Health Service Programs designed to provide scholarships and practical experience to individuals willing to work in highdemand areas, while training health professionals that reflect the culture of their community.

- In addition, Biden will invest a more than \$70 billion investment in Tribal Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, and other Minority Serving Institutions, including in graduate health programs, invest in new jobs for community health workers, engage in a national strategy to recruit, retain and empower nursing professionals, and take additional steps to expand the pipeline of rural health care providers.
- Deploy telehealth throughout Indian Country. Many Native Americans lack access to health care because of the remote, rural locations where they live where the nearest emergency room can be hours away. Biden will provide funding to health care facilities serving rural areas and in tribal communities to encourage the use of telemedicine and ensure that providers are properly trained to provide quality care via telemedicine. Reauthorize and expand the Special Diabetes Program for

Indians. Native Americans are more likely to have diabetes than any other race. Since the Special Diabetes Program for Indians was established, diabetes-related kidney failure among Native Americans has fallen by more than half.

Restore tribal lands, address climate change, and safeguard natural and cultural resources

· Make it easier to place land into trust. The U.S. Supreme Court's Carcieri decision made fulfilling that responsibility harder by restricting the federal government's ability to put land into trust. The Obama-Biden Administration developed a framework to support this, which was used by the Department of Justice to defend the process of taking land into trust. But the Trump Administration has callously reversed the Obama-Biden policies, and abandoned our nation's treaty obligations to tribal nations. Biden will call on Congress to enact a clean Carcieri fix to make it easier to place land into trust. And, he will end Trump's reversal of the Obama-Biden policy that affirmed that Alaska Native tribes are rightfully able to place land into trust.

- As President, Biden will work to uphold the United States' promises to tribes by defending federally-recognized tribal homelands and will support efforts to protect and secure reservation boundaries. Biden stands with tribes, not against them. Biden will uphold leasing and right-of-way regulations that strengthen tribal sovereignty and ensure tribal consent on tribal lands. He will create a more robust and meaningful consultation process that is consistent
- across all federal agencies.
 Biden will take immediate steps to reverse the Trump administration's assaults on America's natural treasures, including by reversing Trump's attacks on the Arctic National Wildlife

Refuge, Bears Ears, and Grand Staircase-Escalante. On Day 1, Biden will also begin building on the Obama-Biden Administration's historic conservation efforts by issuing an executive order to conserve 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030, focusing on the most ecologically important lands and waters.

Ensure Native communities are safer and tackle the crisis of violence against Native women, children, and the elderly

- Reaffirm tribal sovereignty to support women and children and hold offenders accountable. The Obama-Biden Administration passed the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) of 2010, strengthening tribal selfdetermination in criminal justice and empowering tribal authorities to better keep their people safe. As President, Biden will reauthorize key parts of this bill that have expired, such as funding support for tribal justice systems and tribal use of federal Bureau of Prisons beds. He also will work with tribal leaders to find long term solutions to address the Supreme Court's decision in Oliphant v Suquamish that has prevented tribes from prosecuting non-Indian offenders who commit crimes against Indians on Indian lands.
- Biden will reaffirm tribal sovereignty and expand the crimes for which tribes can exercise special criminal jurisdiction, including sexual assault, stalking, child violence, and trafficking, through signing into law VAWA 2019. This law will also create a pilot project to help address Alaska's unique challenges in addressing violence against women.
 Biden will direct the
- Biden will direct the Department of Justice to produce crime reports for Indian Country and provide the annual reports required by the Tribal Law and Order Act. Biden will also expand

enrollment for all tribal law enforcement agencies to participate in the Tribal Access Program, a Department of Justice initiative to provide Native American police with access to national crime information databases and tackle the data gaps fueling the epidemic of missing and murdered Native women and girls outlined under Savanna's Act.

Expand economic opportunity and community development in Native communities

- Biden will make a historic \$2 trillion investment in modern, sustainable, accessible infrastructure to create millions of jobs and deliver an equitable clean energy future. Biden will ensure investments in the clean energy economy reach tribal lands, including by setting a goal that disadvantaged communities — including Tribal communities receive 40% of overall benefits.
- Ensure clean, safe drinking water and water infrastructure in Indian Country and all communities. Biden will work to ensure adequate, resilient water infrastructure in Indian Country, by making investments in new infrastructure, repair of water pipelines and sewer systems, replacement of lead service pipes, upgrade of treatment plants, and integration of efficiency and water quality monitoring technologies.
- Biden will spur the construction of 1.5 million homes and public housing units in areas where affordable housing is in short supply, including by funding the Indian Housing Block Grant. He will also work with Congress to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self **Determination Act** (NAHASDA), which authorized the Indian Housing Block Grant and Title VI Loan Guarantee program, which enables Tribes to raise

private capital to invest in affordable housing.Help families buy their first

- homes and build wealth by creating a new refundable, advanceable tax credit of up to \$15,000. Provide Section 8 housing vouchers to every eligible family so that no one has to pay more than 30% of their income for rental housing, and work with Congress to enact a new renter's tax credit, designed to reduce rent and utilities to 30% of income for low-income individuals and families who may make too much money to qualify for a Section 8 voucher but still struggle to pay their rent. • Expand housing benefits for first-responders, public school educators, and other
- first-responders, public school educators, and other public and national service workers who commit to living in persistently impoverished communities or who work in neighborhoods with low affordable housing stock. Read Biden's full housing plan at joebiden.com/housing.
- Provide Native-owned small businesses and other small businesses with an ambitious "restart package" to survive the current crisis and come out the other side strong.
- Strengthen implementation of the Buy Indian Act within the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to increase procurement opportunities for Native owned businesses.
- Employ the resources of the federal government to protect Native artisans. Arts and crafts are a big economic driver for Indian Country, but too many businesses devalue the livelihood of Native American artists by selling fake Native American art. Biden will call on the U.S. Department of Justice to bring more prosecutions under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, a federal truth-in-advertising law that prohibits the marketing and sale of products that are inaccurately marketed as an Indian product or

Native-produced.

- Increasing funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant. This will help fund tribal efforts to expand affordable housing, improve infrastructure, and increase economic opportunities for lowincome individuals and communities.
- Clean up and protect local economies from the impacts of resource extraction. Biden will create more than 250,000 good jobs with a choice to join a union to plug these oil and gas wells and to restore and reclaim abandoned coal, hardrock, and uranium mines.

Invest in education and youth engagement

- Invest in public schools, including BIE schools. Biden will triple funding for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which provides resources for schools to support low income students, and fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the federal program designed to support children with disabilities.
- Invest in improving public school buildings, including public schools operated by Indian tribes and by the BIE.
 Biden's infrastructure plan includes a \$100 billion investment in our nation's public schools. The plan includes a set-aside for tribes and will ensure that critical infrastructure needs at tribal schools will be prioritized in this effort.
- Promote Native history and culture in schools. Native students have better academic outcomes when their school's curriculum includes their tribal language and culture. Biden will increase resources to support incorporation of Native history and culture in public-school curricula, including BIE schools. Biden will protect funding for the Johnson-O'Malley Program, helping localities meet specific needs of their students through

programs ranging from cultural preservation to dropout prevention.

- Învest in Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). As President, Biden will take steps to rectify the funding disparities faced by Tribal Colleges so that the United States can benefit from their unique strengths through new new funding for TCUs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Minority-serving Institutions (MSIs) to build research incubators, high tech labs and facilities, and digital infrastructure.
- Increase college completion by making college affordable for Native students. Biden will make four-year Tribal Colleges and Universities and public colleges and universities tuition-free for all students whose family incomes are below \$125,000.
 Biden will immediately can-
- cel \$10,000 of federal student loan debt during COVID-19, and forgive all undergraduate tuition-related federal student debt from two- and four-year public colleges, and including Tribal Colleges and Universities, for debt-holders earning up to \$125,000. He will also forgive loan payments for individuals making \$25,000 or less per year; cap loan payments at 5% of discretionary income for those making more; fix the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program; and forgive \$10,000 of undergraduate or graduate student debt for every year of national or community service, up to five years.

Meet obligations to and commemorate Native veterans

• He will also ensure that the Office of Tribal Government Relations is fully staffed and funded and that health care and benefits specific to Native Americans are properly administered. And, Biden will evaluate the existing agreements between the VA and Indian Health Services (IHS) to make sure that Native veterans are receiving the world-class health care they deserve and that their particular needs are being met.

- Biden will work with Congress to continue to drive down veteran homelessness by permanently authorizing the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, which provides critical funding for wraparound services for those facing homelessness.
- Expand the Native American Direct Loan Program, which allows eligible veterans and their families to apply their VA home loan guarantee to federal trust land, to facilitate home ownership and improvements.
- Demonstrate respect for Native communities by changing military naming conventions that label enemy-held territory as "Indian Country" and codenames enemy combatants after historic indigenous and tribal figures.

Ensure Native Americans can exercise their right to vote

- Lead the way to restore the Voting Rights Act by enacting the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020 and support the Native American Voting Rights Act.
- Appoint leaders to the Justice Department who will challenge every law designed to suppress the Native vote.
- Establish a first-of-its kind Native American Voting Rights Task Force, ensuring equal access to voter registration and polling sites. It will formulate recommendations to combat the devastating effects of Shelby County v. Holder and state actions to restrict Native American voting access, such as states' failure to accept tribal identification cards as a valid form of voter identification.

If you want to find more information on the Biden/Harris administration's plans for working with Tribal Nations, go to *https://joebiden.com/tribalnations*.

