January 2024 Volume XL Number 7



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

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY Leech Lake Tribal College recently held

Leech Lake Tribal College recently hel their Annual fundraiser apart of Minnesota's Give to the Max Day.

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New Minnesota Flag

The newly redesigned Minnesota State Flag has been finalized and will debut on May 1, 2024 apart of MN Statehood Day.

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TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT

The White House recently hosted the 3rd Annual Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, DC.

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2023 WILD RICE REPORT The LLBO Division of Resource

Managements report on the 2023 Wild Rice Season for the Leech Lake area.

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US POSTAGE
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BEMIDJI, MN
ERMIT NO. 68

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to Address Critical Issues with Tiwahe Initiative Funding

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe recently received notification that it has been awarded a substantial grant as part of the Tiwahe Initiative expansion, led by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This pivotal funding is set to address a wide array of pressing challenges faced by the community, underscoring the tribe's unwavering commitment to uplifting its members and preserving its rich cultural heritage. The tribe is expected to receive \$500,000 in the first year and \$1 million in each subsequent year for the duration of the program.

From Gathering Insights to Taking Action

The journey began in July 2023 when the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was selected to participate in the Tiwahe Incubator Program. This initial \$100,000 award was strategically reinvested across all 17 communities within the reservation to organize social and cultural events. These gatherings serve a dual purpose – bolstering community involvement and collecting invaluable input regarding community service requirements.

These events emphasize the significance of inter-departmental collaboration, recognizing the varied needs of all age groups, from youth to elders. LLBO staff have been working closely with each Local Indian Council to ensure meaningful engagement within each community.

Key Activities and Outcomes

The Tiwahe Initiative is the driving force behind a series of initiatives that aim to reshape the Leech Lake community:

Tiwahe Steering Committee: A key cornerstone of the plan, this committee consists of key stakeholders representing various departments. Its role is to spearhead data-driven decision-making processes, drive organizational transformations, engage with the community, and safeguard the confidentiality of tribal data. The increased community engagement is expected to empower individuals, strengthen community bonds, and enhance participation.

Knowledgeable, Empowered, and Economically Secure: Leech Lake aims to broaden educational horizons, offering opportunities like vocational training, life skills coaching, financial literacy sessions, homeownership seminars, job search strategies, and





leadership development workshops across all communities. The primary objective is to enhance educational access, impart essential life planning skills, boost financial understanding, and reduce homelessness.

Culturally and Spiritually Connected/ Stewards of Natural Resources: The tribe is committed to safeguarding its cultural heritage and natural resources. Plans include the establishment of a Cultural Department to assist programs in embedding cultural elements within their frameworks and a dedicated language department to revitalize the Ojibwe language. These initiatives aim to foster a stronger sense of identity among community members, enhance community engagement, deepen understanding of traditional values, medicines, and foods, and fortify the preservation of indigenous knowledge and sacred sites.

Coordinated Service Delivery Model: Investment in staff capacity and professional development is a top priority. LLBO aims to pinpoint areas requiring quality improvement, technological advancements, and training to address communication barriers. The goal is to integrate services, offering culturally supportive and coordinated wrap-around services with flexibility to meet individual needs.

Participation in Communities: A client tracking management system will be introduced to facilitate collaboration and communication among Leech Lake's service programs. This system will streamline intake processes and enhance accessibility for community members. Additionally, plans are underway to establish a Wellness Center in Cass Lake, designed to promote community engagement in sports and cultural activities.

Encourage Healthy Lifestyles: The tribe aims to rejuvenate and integrate Ojibwe culture, history, language, and traditional activi-

ties into youth and social services initiatives. These efforts seek to promote physical wellbeing, mental and behavioral wellness, alcohol and substance-free lifestyles, access to health services, and the availability of traditional and fresh foods. Support for staff wellbeing is also on the agenda to prevent burnout and maintain the delivery of compassionate services.

Safe And Equitable Justice and Social Welfare Systems: Plans involve hiring attorneys and an additional judge to address child welfare cases and expand wellness courts. The tribe seeks to create cultural alternatives to incarceration, reduce criminal incidents, and enhance avenues for support, advocacy, and reentry.

Safe Nurturing Relationships and Connected Families: Additional staff members will be hired to increase support to Leech Lake foster families and families involved in child welfare. Intensive wraparound and follow-up services are planned to build resilient families.

A Collective Effort for a Brighter Future

As the Tiwahe Initiative takes shape, community members are invited to actively engage, collaborate, and contribute to the collective mission of building a stronger, healthier, and more resilient Leech Lake community.

While the challenges are substantial, the dedication of tribal leaders, community partners, and the support of the Tiwahe Initiative funding offer promise for a thriving and culturally vibrant Leech Lake Reservation.

The road ahead is one of collaboration, resilience, and cultural preservation, and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is poised to meet these challenges head-on for the betterment of its community and generations to come.

About the Tiwahe Initiative

The term "Tiwahe" originates from the Lakota language, embodying the concept of family and highlighting the intricate interdependence among all living entities. It also underscores an individual's duty to safeguard not only their kin but also the community and the natural world.

The Tiwahe Program builds communities of hope by cultivating culture and connection. Tiwahe fosters systemic change in the delivery of services to children and families through the integration of Tribal practices, customs, values and traditions. Tiwahe is made up of several components, which work together to protect and promote the development of prosperous and resilient Tribal communities.

Learn more at: https://www.bia.gov/tiwahe

VOL XL NO 7

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

Leech Lake Tribal Council

Faron Jackson Sr., Chairman

Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer

Kyle Fairbanks, District I Representative

Steve White, District II Representative

LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III, District III Representative

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Submissions

The submissions 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.

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Deadlines

Feb. Issue......1/26/2024 Mar. Issue.....2/23/2024 Apr. Issue......3/29/2024





via LEECH LAKE GAMING

Leech Lake Gaming CEO Michael Michaud presents Leech Lake Tribal College President Helen Montgomery with the Leech Lake Gaming Donation in Cass Lake.

Give to the Max Day Receives \$20,000 Donation from Leech Lake Gaming

via LEECH LAKE GAMING

CASS LAKE - On Thursday, November 16, 2023, Leech Lake Gaming donated \$20,000 to the 15th Annual Give to the Max Day. Leech Lake Gaming CEO Michael Michaud stated, "We are proud to continually participate in this great yearly fund-

raising event and to know that we help make a difference".

This year's event raised \$34,200,792! Give to the Max, which is in its 15th successful year, is a day when Minnesotans raise money to support nonprofits, schools and organizations through donations. The 2023 theme was

"Where's Wayne: A Marvelous Meeting of Relatives" which is an Indigenous twist on Where's Waldo and hosted a whirlwind tour show casing Indigenous innovation.

The Leech Lake Gaming Administration oversees four gaming facilities that are owned and operated by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.



District III Elder's Christmas **Party**

via DISTRICT III OFFICE



Eldest Elder (Men) Boyd Schulter, 88 years old.



Eldest Elder (Women) Lucille Wakanabo, 92 years old.



Ugly Sweater Winner (Men) Donald Fairbanks Sr.



Ugly Sweater Winner (Women) Marlene Schulman.



via MARRCH.ORG

MARRCH President Amy Dellwo (left) and MARRCH Executive Director Brian Zirbes (right) alongside Awardee Curtis Jackson (center).

LLBO Band Member Among Three MARRCH Award Recipients in State

ST. PAUL – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Band Member Curtis Jackson received a prestigious award at the MARRCH (Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health) Conference held in St. Paul, October 30 to November 1, 2023.

He was one of three people in the state to receive the President's award. He is currently the Interim Program Manager at the Ahn-Ji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center (ARC), one of the founding members of Sober Squad, and does speaking engagements throughout the area, talking about his sobriety journey.

The highest accomplishment he is most proud of is to be a father to his children. In Curt's words "Family is where life begins, and love never ends."

Congratulations to Curt in receiving this honor.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT : SEEKING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SERVE ON BOARD OF JUSTICE

LLBO is seeking community members to serve on Board of Justice. The goal of this board is to ensure a Tribal wide collaborative response to the drug epidemic. This is being done through a traditional lens by communication, sharing of resources, identifying, and solving problems consistently to help strengthen the health and wellness of our

Leech Lake Nation.

We're taking a multidisciplinary team approach with our board consisting of members from the courts, legal, law enforcement, tribal development, health division, emergency management, and addiction & dependency. Having community input is imperative and will help us as we move forward with our efforts. Our meetings

occur biweekly on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

Please submit letters of interest to Strategic Planning Coordinator, Earl Robinson, by email earl.robinson@llpolice.org or by mail at 200 Sailstar Dr, Cass Lake, MN 56633. The board will review submitted letters and will make selections. For more information call 218-838-0971

RBC BRIEFS · January 2024









By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Business Committee (RBC) holds weekly briefings on Tuesdays, followed by RBC meetings on Thursdays.

RBC briefings are attended by all available council members alongside scheduled presenters and LLBO division directors. Agenda items are presented for discussion at the Tuesday briefings and then are voted on for passage at the Thursday meeting. Occasionally, due to time constraints, a combination briefing and meeting will take place on the same day.

One meeting was held within the last reporting month, November 22 to December 26. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on *leechlakenews.com* under "Videos." Official meeting minutes can also be found on *leechlakenews.com* under "LL Tribal Council" and "Tribal Council Meeting Minutes."

BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

1. Tuesday, December 19, 2023 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

Presentations Given:

- Laurie Harper, Education and Youth Council Founding members presented final resolution for approval to establish "Gaa-Niigaaniziwaad, The Ones Who Lead" youth council. The council had their first public gathering prior to the RBC briefing where they held discussions on bylaws, and goals they had for their council.
- Cassandra Tapio, A&D Presented the Leech Lake Savings
 Lives amendment and funded contracts for the program. A&D
 plans to host further community events surrounding education
 in the future.
- Michael Michaud, Gaming presented an updated 401k policy and 2% match from the band. The matching 2% will be added to the current 4% match; these additional changes for gaming will now match the RBC government standards of 401k policy.



Chairman's Report



CHAIRMAN FARON JACKSON SR.

Governmental Activities Chairman's Summary

Monthly Report

Boozhoo, my relatives, friends, community members and all! The Leech Lake RBC Tribal Council is moving forward on a focused agenda with Leech Lake priorities before the U.S. Congress. The Tribal Council members continue to work diligently in lobbying for unmet need dollars for the Leech Lake Band and its People. As we continue to move forward, here is some of the news being reported to the great Leech Lake Nation.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Awarded \$439,188 -December 21, 2023 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had been notified that Leech Lake Public Safety was awarded aid by the State of Minnesota and Governor Walz. Governor Walz signed \$300 million into law for cities, counties, and Tribes to meet their unique public safety, fire, or emergency needs. The local public safety aid can be used for, but is not limited to training programs, community engagement, personnel or equipment costs, office wellness, mental health crisis response, and victim services. Chairman Jackson had stated, "These one-time funds will greatly help with equipment purchases and our public safety needs."



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Lake Onigum Community Christmas Party -On December 10, 2023 Chairman Jackson, Sr. and his wife Laurel had a special treat for the children at the Christmas Party in Onigum. A call was placed to the Onigum Community Center because Mr. and Ms. Santa Jackson had been spotted arriving with Rudolph. The party had included gifts for the children, drawings, great food, visiting with old friends, and good holiday time for the children. Ms. Jackson had cheffed up Turkey, mashed potatoes, and the best baked beans. Chairman Jackson, Sr. wanted to thank the community for the potluck dishes and making the x-mas party special for the children.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Leech Lake S. Lake Pre New Years Celebration – On December 23, 2023 the S. Lake Community and LIC had their annual celebration. The LIC and community had a potluck, drawings, music, bingo, candy walk, crafts for kids, ugly sweater contest, and special visit

from Santa Jackson, Sr. Gary Charwood had stated, "This was the most attended celebration with over 126 people enjoying the holiday festivities with the S. Lake community and elders." The children had games for prizes and made their own Christmas stockings. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had been requested by the LIC to be Santa for the children. The S. Lake children were not bashful in stating how good they been this year and concerned how Santa will get to their home without any snow on the ground.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Chairman Jackson, Sr. and wife Laurel Receive RSV Vaccination from I.H.S. - On December 21, 2023 Chairman Jackson, Sr. and his wife Laurel had been vaccinated for RSV. Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common virus that affects the lungs. RSV season starts in the fall and peaks in the winter in most regions of the U.S. The CDC is recommending vaccinations for infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV and need hospitalization. If you are age 60 or older, a vaccine is available to protect you from severe RSV. Talk to your healthcare provider (I.H.S.) to see if it's right for you. If you are pregnant, you can get an RSV vaccine between 32-36 weeks of pregnancy to protect your infant after birth, or a preventive antibody can be given to your baby after birth. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had taken the RSV vaccination because of the severity of the flu season and the new strains of Covid-19. Cass Lake I.H.S. has other vaccines for Covid-19, the flu, RSV, and Shingles that are free for the Leech Lake Band members.

President Biden Pardons Marijuana Use Nationwide - On December 22, 2023, President Joe Biden announced Friday he's issuing a federal pardon to every American who has used marijuana in the past, including those who were never arrested or prosecuted. The sweeping pardon applies to all U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents in possession of marijuana for their personal use and those convicted of similar federal crimes. The implications of Biden's pardon promise to have significant implications, as criminal records for marijuana use and possession have imposed barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities. However, the pardons do not apply to people who violated state law, and anyone who wants to receive proof of a pardon will have to apply through the Department of Justice.

Chairman Jackson, Sr. Attends MCT, TEC Special **Meeting** – On December 11, 2023 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had attended the MCT, TEC meeting at St. Paul, MN. The MCT, TEC had removed the Enrollment Ordinance changes that would have added a section on MCT children that had been adopted but not enrolled. The MCT, TEC had a presentation from Anita Fineday and Aaron Bailey had did a presentation on the changes with the Department of Children & Families. A new department will be developed for Minnesota Native American programs and have a new commissioner. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had commented on how important the Minnesota programs for Native Americans be under one umbrella. We had past Minnesota problems, Commissioner Harpstead had been notified that the counties were out of compliance with the ICWA law. We must keep the lines of communication open with this new department and addressing how the counties are held accountable for not following ICWA and depriving our families and the children their rights under this law. The MCT TEC had approved the Election Calendar.

Safety note, the weather on the Leech Lake has been unpredictably warm. The highways can be dangerous with black ice and morning frost. Check the weather updates on Minnesota 511 Travel Report. Please check the batteries on the smoke detectors, check furnace filters for better heating efficiency and limit furnace overheating. Please be safe and take care!

February

District III Elder Birthdays

From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

Roger Anderson

Joanne Bellanger Clifford Benjamin Ruth Bongo Mary Burnette Leon Butcher Theresa Cash Maxine Charwood Stanley Chief Marlene Clausen Ronald Cloud Tina Cloud Steven Day Roberta Decker Diana Eason Carol Fairbanks Georgianna Feigum Sally Fineday Sharon Finn Wallis Humphrey Bruce Johnson Cheryl Johnson Ronald Johnson James Jones Tara Jones Elizabeth Kingbird Brenda Kornezos Pauline LaRose Kenneth Losh Fred Lovelace Herbert Medina Pamela Michaud Timothy Moon Michael Murphy Tracy O'Brien Richard Robinson Alan Ruppelius Henry Rushman Bernie Smith Stacy Smith Keith St. Cyr Karen Staples Kenneth Staples Ramona Staples James Starr Jacquelyn Tibbetts Lois Tibbetts Delcie Tonce Lucille Wakanabo Flora White Beverly Whitebird Ruth Wind

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

Secretary Treasurer Monthly Report



SECRETARY / TREASURER LEONARD FINEDAY

Governmental Activities Secretary/Treasurer's Summary

Monthly Report

Greetings Leech Lake Band members! I hope that you all had a happy holiday season and enjoyed the company of loved ones. It is my privilege to report to you the activities undertaken in December 2023.

AUDIT UPDATE

Our finance team continues to work diligently with our external auditors to get us caught up on our audits. We are very close to completing our external audit for FY 21, which ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. We anticipate this audit being completed in the first week of January 2024. Once the FY 21 audit is complete, work will immediately commence on the audit for FY 22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). Even though we are behind in our audit schedule and are working diligently to get caught up, it is important to remember that the time period we are dealing with was at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when there were numerous federal and state monies that came into the tribal government for the required response to the pandemic. We want to ensure that each dollar is appropriately accounted for in accordance with the various requirements from the appropriate agencies.

CENTER FOR INDIAN

COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT

On December 1, 2023, I attended the last meeting of 2023 for the Center for Indian Country Development Leadership Council. We discussed upcoming data tools the Center will be unveiling in order to assist Tribal governments across the country with decision making, including the Native Community Data Profile tool that was released on December 13, 2023. Please check with the Center's website for more information on this and other work the Center has accomplished in 2023.

TIWAHE INITIATIVE

On December 1, 2023, Leech Lake leaders had a call with Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs regarding the Tiwahe Initiative. We were informed that Leech Lake was selected as one of two tribes to join the Initiative, which will mean the first substantial increase in our Self Governance base funding for the first time since the 1990s. The funding for the first year is \$500,000.00 and the second year—and every year thereafter—is \$1,000,000.00. The Initiative focuses on human services, public safety and justice programming to work together to protect and promote healthy and resilient tribal families and communities. We are very excited about Leech Lake's inclusion in this Initiative and look forward to working together to develop effective solutions that will assist our communities and families. Staff have been working closely with Local Indian Councils to develop plans for how this Initiative can best serve Leech Lake. Please watch for further updates and announcements as we move forward with implementing this new Initiative.

WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL **NATIONS SUMMIT**

On December 6 and 7, 2023, I was able to represent the Leech Lake Band at the White House Tribal Nations Summit in Washington, D.C. At the summit, we heard from various federal departments and agencies regarding tribal priorities. We also were able to have several direct conversations with cabinet officials regarding our individual tribal priorities and how to strengthen the relationship between the federal government and Tribal governments. I was able to attend sessions with the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of



Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday meets with US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg at the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 7, 2023. Fineday discussed the need for increased funding for tribal transit operations.

Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency. It was a jammed packed couple of days, but many good conversations were had and many Leech Lake issues were elevated, including the need to adequately clean up the Superfund site, the need for additional housing (including middle income housing) on the reservation, and the need for increased infrastructure and transportation.

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

On December 11, 2023, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe held a special Tribal Executive Committee meeting regarding the upcoming 2024 MCT Election. The TEC approved minor updates to the Election Ordinance and the 2024 Election calendar. Filing for the open RBC positions will begin on January 12, 2024 and continue until January 22, 2024. Please watch for additional updates for upcoming deadlines.

On December 21, 2023, I had a call with the team conducting the forensic audit for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. They reported adequate and timely progress was being made on the audit, with appropriate responses so far to the document requests they have made to management. They still anticipate a target completion date of March 2024 for their final report, with a presentation to the TEC in April 2024.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE UPDATE

On December 15, 2023, Leech Lake leaders and staff met with Representative Zach Stevenson, Chair of the House Commerce Committee. The meeting centered on the upcoming 2024 Minnesota legislative session with topics ranging from sports betting to cannabis to broadband. We also discussed the Leech Lake Cannabis Regulatory Act and where tribes are at in the negotiation of cannabis compacts with the State. The meeting was productive and we look forward to positive results in the upcoming

SUPERFUND UPDATE

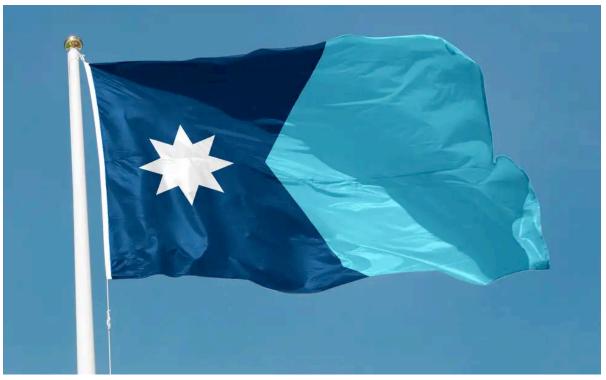
On December 19, 2023, the RBC approved an agreement with Hydrogeologic, Inc to provide technical assistance and support regarding the St. Regis Superfund Site. Hydrogeologic, Inc.'s work will focus on providing updated remedial alternatives for Operable Units 1 and 2 that more adequately reflect the clean up standards required by tribal law than the alternatives currently under consideration by the EPA. This work will commence very soon so that the updated alternatives can be provided to the EPA while they are still in the remedial selection process for OUs 1 and 2. Overall, work on getting the entire

site cleaned up to an appropriate standard is an arduous task, but I am thankful for the diligent work of the Environmental and DRM teams for the progress made the last several months.

TRIBAL STATE PARTNERSHIP

Throughout the month of December, I have had many meetings with stakeholders in the Minnesota Judicial Branch, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and other tribes regarding the upcoming Tribal State Partnership grant that the Judicial Branch obtained from the federal government. Under the Partnership, state and tribal stakeholders in Minnesota will work collaboratively to effectuate positive outcomes for indigenous families involved in the justice system. This work has long been one of my passions, and I am thankful for the opportunity to continue in a leadership role. The Tribal State Partnership is still in its infancy stage and work is picking up where the Children's Justice Initiative ICWA Subcommittee left off. Please continue to watch for further updates on our progress.

This concludes my report for December, 2023. As always, it is a privilege and honor to serve each of you. I wish a safe, healthy and prosperous 2024 to all! Chi miigwech!



via STATE EMBLEMS REDESIGN COMMISSION

The new Minnesota State flag features an abstract and simplified shape of the Minnesota borders in a dark blue along with an eight-point star and a lighter shade of blue representing the significance of the many bodies of water to the state.

Minnesota Set to Debut New State Flag in May

By KAYLA DUOOS

"Dare I say anything that's not a Native person being forced off their land is a flag upgrade," said Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, on social media.

Flanagans excitement is over the recently approved State flag, one that more accurately represents

"every Minnesotan," said Flanagan.

The new flag, approved by the State Emblems Redesign Commission on December 19, shows a white Northern star over a dark blue backdrop in the "abstract shape" of Minnesota, beside a lighter blue that's meant to symbolize "the significance of water to our

state," according to the commis-

sion's notes.

The previous design of the Minnesota state flag has long been criticized for depicting a shirtless Native American person on horseback, seemingly being displaced from his land by a white settler. The Minnesota state legislature passed a bill to redesign the flag in May 2023.

The commission chose from over 2,000 submissions from the public, before narrowing it down.

The new design was done by Minnesota resident Andrew Prekker. Prekker said in a statement that he hopes the new flag can properly represent the state's diverse populations.

"That every Minnesotan of every background —including the Indigenous communities and tribal nations who've been historically excluded— can look up at our flag with pride and honor, and see themselves within it," Prekker said.

The new flag, and the state seal will debut May 11, 2024 which is Minnesota's Statehood Day.





New Initiative Aims to Enhance Financial Access for Native American Communities

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – The White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) is taking critical steps to improve access to capital across Indian Country.

WHCNAA is launching an online clearinghouse that will serve as a searchable repository for an up-to-date list of all federal funding opportunities, including grants and loans, available to Tribal Nations and Native businesses.

The WHCNAA and the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs created a central database that will ensure that Tribes are able to easily navigate and access the financial opportunities provided across the federal government. The version of the website that can be found today (www.bia.gov/atc) has over 500 federal funding programs and will serve as an initial version, with the goal of soliciting feedback to continually improve user experience.

"Indigénous communities have long faced barriers to gaining access to federal resources. Through the White House Council on Native American Affairs, we want to make sure that we're not just delivering more resources for Indian Country, but that they are getting to Indian Country," said Secretary Deb Haaland, who serves as co-chair of the WHCNAA. "The Administration's Access to Capital Initiative is playing an important role in ensuring funding opportunities are available to Tribes to help revitalize Indigenous communities."

The Council is also announcing a new draft Request for Information (RFI) as part of the Access to Capital Initiative that is aimed at assessing the current status of Tribal Nation's funding needs, barriers to obtaining federal and non-federal funds, and priority areas of need.

The WHCNAA will hold Tribal consultations and listening sessions starting in January 2024 to hear from Tribal leaders and experts on the RFI. Once completed, this data call will help the WHCNAA gauge the awareness, accessibility and utilization of federal sources of funding by Tribal Nations for areas of housing, education, healthcare, social services, food and agriculture, justice, economic development, and infrastructure.

Increasing access to capital across Indian Country has been a central focus of the Biden-Harris administration.

USDA Unveils Initiatives to Empower Indigenous Youth in Agriculture and Careers at 2023 Summit

A comprehensive approach includes educational programs, scholarships and partnerships to foster food sovereignty, traditional wisdom and career opportunities.

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – At the 2023 White House Tribal Youth Summit, the U.S. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) presented new resources they'll be launching to inspire Native American youth to explore Indigenous foodways and knowledge and highlight career paths at USDA and beyond.

"USDA is reimagining how we support Indigenous agriculture and tribal communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This includes reaching out to the next generation with educational opportunities both formal and informal."

These efforts are part of USDA's commitment to empowering tribal self-determination and bringing Indigenous perspectives into agriculture, food, and nutrition. Among their new programs include post-secondary funding, Native youth summer programs, and funding to several organizations to begin providing traditional foods in schools.

NEW USDA ACTIONS

"Sovereignty Gardens"
 Children's Educational
 Animated Series. This series of
 short educational shows will
 help build excitement and
 pride with children about
 using Indigenous knowledge
 in gardening, food sovereignty,
 traditional foods, and healthy
 eating habits. "Sovereignty

- Gardens" uses animation and puppetry to follow Stompy the buffalo and his friend Bran through a series of learning adventures, which include cameos by Indigenous and scientific leaders. USDA Office of Tribal Relations entered into a cooperative agreement with Dr. Lee Francis (Pueblo of Laguna) (Indigi-Nerd/Native Realities) to create this animated series.
- Indigenous Foods Foraging and Cooking Videos for Northeast and Southeast Regions. The Office of Tribal Relations Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative partnered with the North American Traditional **Indigenous Food Systems** (NATIFS) to produce a series of videos on Indigenous foods foraging and cooking for the Northeast and Southeast regions to complement USDA's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (commonly referred to as "commodities") food packages. Last year, USDA released videos for the Midwest, Mountain Plains, and Southwest regions. Next year videos will be produced for Alaska and Hawaii.
- Indigenous Knowledge Research Track Winners. USDA's Office of Tribal Relations, in partnership with

- the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), announces the first students selected for the newly launched AISES research track celebrating the intersection of Indigenous knowledge (IK) and western science and engineering. Selected students will carry out research projects studying topics such as ethnobotany, mental health, and traditional medicine. This year's cohort will be the first in a three-year series.
- New Four-Year Tuition Coverage for Tribal Scholars Program. The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program provides full tuition, fees, books, a housing stipend, and paid workforce training to any interested and eligible student pursuing degrees in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines at a tribal college or university (TCU). Eligible applicants include graduating high school seniors, full-time students currently enrolled at a 1994 land-grant tribal college or university, or recent TČU associate degree graduates. For FY 2024, 27 scholarship slots are available at: Agriculture Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Farm Production and Conservation, Forest Service, National
- Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The application deadline is December 1, 2023. Visit the USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program or email 1994@usda.gov for further information.
- New Forest Corps National Service Opportunity for Native Youth. AmeriCorps and U.S. Forest Service launched Forest Corps - a five-year \$15 million agreement, and the first major interagency partnership under President Biden's American Climate Corps. Beginning Summer 2024, this program will engage 80 young adults, ages 18-26, in wildland fire prevention, reforestation, and other natural and cultural resource management projects to support the U.S. Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy and Reforestation Strategy. Native youth will be recruited for Forest Corps in key locations to support cultural resource management projects. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps/Forest Corps members will receive a compensation package equivalent to \$15 an hour, including lodging, transportation, clothing, a living allowance, health benefit, and more. Members will receive

- extensive training, hands-onexperience, and leadership skills for future careers in natural resource management, forest health, and climate resilience at the U.S Forest Service or other organizations.
- USDA Expands Access to Traditional Indigenous Foods in Schools. Soon, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will open applications on Grants.gov for the Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition **Programs Cooperative** Agreement. FNS will award a total of \$2 million in grants to four organizations – either led by or partnering with an Indigenous organization or tribe – to provide regionally focused training and technical assistance to school nutrition professionals. The training and technical assistance will focus on school food procurement, preparation, and crediting of traditional Indigenous foods. Funds may be used to support the use of traditional Indigenous foods in school lunch, school breakfast, summer meals, meals and snacks served to children after school, and culturally relevant nutrition education for students. Each of the cooperative agreements will be awarded in four different regions of the country to maximize the number of tribes being served.

These actions are part of USDA's efforts to better serve tribal governments, citizens, and organizations and build a more diverse pipeline into public service and the agricultural sector, to learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Biden-Harris Administration Empowers Tribal Nations at 3rd Annual Summit: Unveiling Historic Progress for Indigenous Sovereignty

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – The 3rd Annual White House Tribal Nations Summit took place December 6 and 7. The summit hosted by the Biden-Harris Administration is a show of their commitment to strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships.

Tribal leaders in attendance had the chance to speak with the President, Vice President, eleven Cabinet members, and additional Senior Administration officials. Historically, federal policies attacked Native people's rights to self-governance and caused lasting economic damage. Biden said the actions at the summit were "key steps" that would help usher in a new era of tribal sovereignty. "A new era grounded in dignity and respect that recognizes your fundamental rights to govern and grow on your own terms," he said.

During the Summit, the Biden-Harris Administration also released a comprehensive 2023 Progress Report for Tribal Nations, which outlines historic progress the Administration has made over the past year to deliver on the President's commitment to supporting Indian Country and address the top concerns of Tribal communities. In addition to highlighting previous work, more than 190 agreements were announced following the first day of the summit that will allow tribes to manage federal lands, waters and natural resources and a new study to help better interpret and tell the history of Native Americans, particularly during periods of federal reform.

If you're interested in learning more about the Tribal Nations summit, full videos of the summit can be found on the White Houses Youtube page and a summary report of the 2023 progress report is available at *whitehouse.gov*

Actions taken in 2023 to address Tribal concerns

 The Federal Government signed more than 190 costewardship or co-management agreements, which allow Tribal Nations to collaborate with the Federal Government to manage the federal lands, waters, and resources that are most important to them. The announcements include the first ever co-stewardship agreement with the Department of Commerce (DOC), more than 70 co-stewardship agreements with the Department of the Interior (DOI), and over 120 new co-stewardship and co-management agreements with the Department of Agriculture (USDA), which also tripled its investment in these agreements to over \$68 million.

See **Tribal Summit** on Page 9 >>



PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

BUG O NAY GE SHIG



15353 Silver Eagle Drive, Bena, MN 56626 | Phone: 218-665-3000 Toll Free: 1-800-265-5576 | www.bugonaygeshig.org





▲ The Bug O Nay Ge Shig students enjoyed some holiday events in their last afternoon before vacation, including making gifts for family, games, and treats.



▲ Third grade students at Bug O Nay Ge Shig enjoyed a hands-on math lesson that involved building bridges and discovering how many pennies they would hold.



▲ The Bug O Nay Ge Shig Boys Basketball Team started their season with a nail biter against Circle of Life Academy. After an amazing comeback in the 2nd half, they lost to COLA by a score of 50-49.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig students enjoyed performances by the Sampson Brothers, world renowned hoop dancers who mixed contemporary and traditional art, music and storytelling.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig School recently chose the students who will be the ambassadors for the school during the upcoming year. The contest was held at the school pow-wow and involved grades, behavior, attendance and citizenship, in addition to their dancing skills. The Senior Princess is Aneesha G. and the Senior Brave is Bryson R. The Junior Princess is Raelyn J.

"TRIBAL SUMMIT

Continued from Page 7

- Department of Energy (DOE) and DOI will announce a Secretarial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes a collaborative framework to manage Rattlesnake Mountain or "Laliik," located within the Hanford nuclear site in Washington.
- MOUs to Support Clean Energy Transitions for the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation. DOE will announce two new MOUs signed by DOE, DOI, USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, and the Departments of Education, Transportation, and Labor that create structured support for the Hopi Tribe and amends the existing Navajo Nation MOU with Federal agencies to help both Tribes and their communities transition to clean energy.
- Tribal Consultation and Treaty Rights Training for All Federal Employees. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and DOI will preview a trailer of the 2024 launch of training for all federal employees that will educate the federal workforce on the unique obligations and best practices for respecting Tribal treaty and reserved rights when engaging in Tribal consultation.
- Sacred Sites Best Practice
 Guide. DOI will announce that
 the White House Council on
 Native American Affairs
 (WHCNAA) has completed a
 Best Practices Guide for Tribal
 and Native Hawaiian Sacred
 Sites, which provides best practices, procedures, and guidance for the management,
 treatment, and protection of
 sacred sites, identifies barriers
 to federal protection of sacred
 sites, and recommendations to
 remedy those barriers.
- National Park Service Study on Indian Reorganization Act Period. DOI will announce that the National Park Service is initiating a new Theme Study that will help tell the story of the Indian Reorganization Period (1934– 1950). This study will provide a national historic context and a list of properties for possible future National Historic Landmarks. This builds on the Federal Indian Boarding



via BIA.GOV President Biden, Government Officials and Tribal leaders gathered at the 3rd Annual White House Tribal Nations Summit, forging a path towards stronger Nation-to-Nation relationships and progress for Indigenous communities

School Initiative and other efforts by DOI to ensure that Native American history is part of American History.

- New Work to Restore Tribal Bison Herds and Support Tribal Food Sovereignty. USDA will announce that the World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and other buffalo focused non-profit organizations are joining its Public-Private Partnership with DOI, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, and Native Americans in Philanthropy to work on Tribal Bison expansion and conservation. USDA is also announcing its first Indigenous Animals Meat Processing Grant for processing indigenous animals, including Bison.
- Final Fee-to-Trust Land Acquisitions Rules. DOI will announce the publication of its final rule amending the process that governs fee-totrust land (or "land into trust") process for Tribal Nations to expand their land bases by transferring land title to the United States to be held in trust for the benefit of an individual Indian or Tribe, including in Alaska. This process is crucial for Tribal economic development and Tribal sovereignty, and helps right the wrongs of past federal policies such as allotment, which removed millions of acres of

land from Tribal ownership and federal protection. DOI's final rule creates a more efficient, less cumbersome, and less expensive fee-to-trust process, including for conservation purposes.

- Final Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Rule. DOI will announce final revisions of its NAGPRA regulations that provide a systematic process for returning human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Organizations. The regulatory changes streamline the requirements for museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify human remains and cultural items in their collections.
- Plan to Update the Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program Rules. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will announce plans to publish in 2024 a final rule to strengthen the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program—a Program synonymous with homeownership in Indian Country. HUD's proposed rule aims to modernize the program and provide more homeownership opportunities in Indian Country by codifying

program requirements, introducing greater certainty into the program to attract more lenders, and authorizing HUD to establish a minimum level of lending on trust land.

- Federal Emergency Management Agency Debuts Improvements to Tribal Nations' Access to Resources Before, During, and After Disasters. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will announce it is working to update policies that will improve FEMA's ability to assist Tribal Nations recovering from disasters and expand a culturally competent FEMA workforce by increasing Tribal participation in shaping the Public Assistance programs, hiring more staff from Indian Country, and developing FEMA staff trainings.
- Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse Launch. DOI and WHCNAA will launch a website that provides a searchable database of all federal funding opportunities, including grants and loans, available to Tribal Nations and Native businesses.
- Request for Information on Tribal Funding Needs. DOI and WHCNAA will announce a draft Request for Information that, once finalized, will-for the first timehelp the Federal Government estimate the additional funding that Tribal Nations require to meet their communities' needs. The Request for Information will also seek information on barriers that Tribal Nations currently face in accessing federal resources. WHCNAA will take the draft directly to Tribal consultation in January 2024.
- Buy Indian Act Implementation. HHS and DOI will announce that significant percentages of their FY 2023 agency procurement spending on contracts and services went to Native-owned or controlled businesses under the Buy Indian Act. Indian Health Service (IHS) will announce it awarded \$444 million (30.6%), HHS will announce that it awarded \$1.5 billion (3.8%) overall, DOI's Indian Affairs Bureaus will announce they awarded \$626 million (74.6%), and DOI overall will announce it awarded over \$1.4 billion (16.9%) to Native-owned and controlled

- businesses, with over \$1.0 billion awarded to Native-owned and controlled small businesses (18.1% of eligible small business dollars).
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Initiative on Native Children and Families. HHS will announce a series of actions and accomplishments that reflect a renewed focus on supporting Native Children and Families. This work includes streamlining Tribal applications for federal child care assistance; doubling the Tribal set aside funding for the Maternal Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program; a new training on cross-cultural understanding for early childhood researchers; progress on the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline partnership with IHS; a new obstetric readiness in emergencies manual developed by IHS; and progress piloting maternity care coordinators through IHS.
- Strategy for Tribes to Access Strategic National Stockpile. HHS will announce a forthcoming strategy for best practices on how IHS, Tribal Nations, and Urban Indian Organizations can access the lifesaving Federal repository of drugs and medical supplies to support Native communities, prevent supply shortages, and reduce health disparities.
- Proposed Updates to Adoption and Foster Care Data (AFCARS) Collection Rules to Better Understand Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Implementation. HHS will announce a proposed rule updating AFCARS data collection. AFCARS data is used in research and federal policy planning to reduce entry into and improve outcomes of children in foster care. The additional data HHS proposes collecting is relevant for understanding implementation of ICWA at the state level.
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
 Launches New VAWA
 Reimbursement Program.
 DOJ's Office of Violence
 Against Women will announce
 its Notice of Reimbursement
 Opportunity for Tribes to submit expenses to DOJ for reimbursement that they incurred
 exercising expanded criminal
 jurisdiction over non-Indians
 under the 2022 Reauthorization
 of The Violence Against
 Women Act (VAWA).

JAN

January 12, 2023 LLBO Early Childhood hosts Aagimosedaa Snowshoe event in Cass Lake, MN.

January 14, 2023

held in Sugar Point and broadcast online via livestream.

LLBO Quarterly Meeting

February 22, 2023 Treaty Signing, which lead to the formation of the Leech Lake and Mille Lacs Reservations.

February 2023

February 2023

National Archives in

Washington, DC being

1855 Treaty Documents

The LLBO Ahnji-Be-Mah-

Federal Funding for renova-

LLBO Delegation visits the

allowed to view the original

that established Leech Lake.

Diz Recovery Center

secures \$850,000 in

February 24, 2023 hosts their Annual School Pow Wow in Bena, MN.

MAR FEB

March 2, 2023

The LLBO Tribal Council and Beltrami County Board of Commissioners hold an inaugural meeting with plans for future annual meetings.

March 3, 2023

The Annual Maajiiziigwan Round Dance was held at Cedar Lakes Casino Event Center in Cass Lake.

March 4, 2023

The 2023 Kid's Perch Jerk Winnie Resort in Bena.

March 2023

LLBO was awarded funding for a new Cultural and Tourism Center in S. Lake,

March 2023

Human Resources

Division

Construction of the LLBO Wild Rice Access Improvement Project is completed in partnership with the Ottertail Powerline Mitigation Fund and the MNDNR.

APR

April 6, 2023

Bug O Nay Ge Shig School hosts their Inaugural School Round Dance in Bena, MN.

April 7, 2023

LLBO Quarterly Meeting held at the Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake and broadcast online via livestream.

April 21, 2023

LLTC hosts it's inaugural Ojibwe Language, Art and Tradition Competitions at Bemidji, MN.

April 21, 2023

The 2023 LLBO State of the Band Address was held at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center in Walker, MN and broadcast online via livestream.

April 24, 2023 LLBO Health Division holds the 2023 April Healing Walk in Cass Lake, MN.

April 25, 2023

LLBO Health Division hosts Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN.

April 28, 2023The LLBO DRM holds the Annual Earth Day Celebration at the Boys & Girls Club in Cass Lake, MN.

MAY

May 5, 2023

LLBO hosts Fentanyl Response Public Meeting to tackle local opioid crisis.

May 6, 2023

The 16th Annual Spirit Run takes place in S. Lake at the S. Lake Community Center. The run made stops in Ball Club, Bena, Kego Lake and Walker, ending in Cass Lake at the Veteran's Memorial Grounds on May 7.

May 12, 2023

LLBO Behavioral Health holds the 3rd Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk takes place in Cass Lake,

May 19, 2023 The LLBO DRM held it's Annual Tree and Shrub Giveaway in Cass Lake at the DRM building via drive through.

May 21, 2023

Northern Lights Casino **Event Center hosts the** 2023 LLTC Graduation Ceremony in Walker, MN.

May 25, 2023

Leech Lake Head Start holds it's annual Early Childhood Pow Wow at the Veteran's Memorial Grounds in Cass Lake, MN.

May 26, 2023

The Annual Memorial Day Pow Wow was held at the in Cass Lake, MN.

JUN

June 12, 2023

The Bemidji LLBO Health Clinic held its Grand Opening in Bemidji, MN.

June 14, 2023

Anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in Bryan v. Itasca, which helped spur the rapid growth of the Indian gaming industry in the U.S.

June 16, 2023 The Annual Waa Wi Ye Gaa Maag S. Lake Community Pow Wow takes place in S. Lake, MN.

June 16, 2023

LLBO Hosts the 46th Annual Intertribal Timber Council Symposium at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center in Walker, MN.

June 17, 2023

Leech Lake Gaming hosts the Inaugural Bena Fest Music Festival in Bena, MN.

June 18, 2023 The 50th Anniversary of Herbst vs MCT. which the result of helped reaffirm and establish LLBO hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

June 20, 2023

The 5th Annual Leech Lake Days Celebration was held at the Veteran's Memorial Grounds in Cass Lake. Among the many events were a Community Clean-Up Day and the annual Contest Pow Wow.

June 21, 2023

LLBO Education Division hosts an honorary feast for post-secondary graduates among LLBO Band Members in Deer River at Morse Town Hall.

June 24, 2023

The LLBO Addictions and Dependency Program along with other LLBO Divisions hosted the 7th Generation Youth Substance Use Disorder Summit at the Northern Lights Casino Event Center in Walker, MN.

July 4, 2023

Fireworks and Community Celebrations take place across the Leech Lake Reservation.

July 6, 2023

LLBO Council Members and Leech Lake Gaming Officials celebrated a grand unveiling of the first Class II Gaming machines to be installed in Leech Lake at the Big Winnie Bar in Bena, MN.

July 7, 2023

LLBO Quarterly Meeting held in Minneapolis and broadcast online via livestream.

July 12, 2023

District 1 hosts an honorary dinner for 2023 Graduates at the Ball Club Community Center.

July 14, 2023

The Annual Milgwech Mahnomen Days Pow Wow takes place in Ball Club, MN.

July 18, 2023

LLBO along with Cass Lake HIS brings the Walking Shield Clinic back to Leech Lake providing free health care services at the Cass Lake High School.

July 21, 2023

The LLBO Employee Appreciation Picnic was held at Norway Beach in Cass Lake, MN.

July 21, 2023

The Annual Onigum Traditional Pow Wow was held in Onigum, MN.

July 27, 2023

District 3 hosts their Elder's at a special picnic at the Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN.

July 28, 2023

LLBO drafts the first Cannabis Regulatory Act in preparation for legal recreational cannabis use in Minnesota.

AUG

August 11, 2023

The LLBO Emergency brates its 4 year anniversary celebration in Cass Lake,

August 15, 2023

Youth from all three Districts in Leech Lake take part in the Annual Valleyfair Youth

August 16, 2023 The LLBO DRM held its Annual Ma'iingan in the Moonlight youth field trip to the wolf and bear center in Ely, MN.

August 23, 2023

LLBO DRM opens limited reservation rice beds. kicking off the 2023 ricing sea-

August 25, 2023

The Annual Cha Cha Bah Ning Pow Wow takes place in Inger, MN.

August 28, 2023 District 1, 2 and 3 hold the Annual Backpack Giveaway event for Leech Lake youth.

August 30, 2023

The LLBO DRM invites youth out for their Annual Take a Kid Ricing event in Ball Club, MN.

August 31, 2023

LLBO RBC approves the Cannabis Regulatory Act drafted first in July, allowing adult-use recreational cannabis businesses to operate on our tribal lands.

September 7, 2023

Lake Twin Cities Picnic in Richfield, MN.

September 8, 2023

The Annual Sagasweiwe Pow Wow begins at the in Cass Lake, MN.

September 15, 2023

The Annual Battle Point Pow Wow is held at the Battle Point Pow Wow Grounds near Federal Dam,

September 23, 2023

The 4th Annual Unity Day Celebration takes place at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN.

September 26, 2023

LLBO hosts a community discussion forum regarding newly implemented Class II Gaming machines around reservation businesses.

September 27, 2023

Important dates in 2023 for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan visit Leech Lake and tour state lakeshore land along lake Winnibigoshish and the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School

October 5, 2023

Anniversary of the Battle of Sugar Point.

October 13, 2023

LLBO Early Childhood hosts the 5th Annual Nandagikendan event at the head start in Cass Lake,

October 19, 2023

LLBO DRM holds their 2nd Annual Anishinaabe Culture Skills Camp for youth at Pigeon Dam on Lake Winnie, MN.

October 20, 2023

LLBO Quarterly Meeting held in Ball Club and broadcast online via livestream.

October 23, 2023

The 2nd Annual Men's Gathering takes place at Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN.

October 31, 2023

LLBO holds Treats for Tots events for Leech Lake youth across four sites, Walker, Cass Lake, Deer River and Bena.

November 2, 2023

Cass Lake IHS holds a vaccination event providing all vaccinations to HIS eligible patients at the HIS Clinic in . Cass Lake, MN.

November 11, 2023

The Annual Honoring Our Veterans Pow Wow was held at the Northern Lights Casino.

November 14, 2023
The Leech Lake Diabetes Center hosts the 2023 Diabetes Expo at their offices in Cass Lake, MN.

November 16, 2023

LLTC celebrates the yearly Give to the Max Day hosting a series of online auctions and donation drives.

November 17, 2023

LLBO holds the annual turkey and wild rice distribution for Band Members across the three districts and urban offices.

November 24, 2023

The Annual Holiday Contest Pow Wow takes place at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

November 28, 2023

The LLBO Health Division hosts the Leech Lake Community Healing Feast & Club in Cass Lake, MN.

Lake Tribal Council

December 13, 2023

The Annual District 3 Elder's Christmas Party was held at the Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake,

December 16, 2023

The Leech Lake Youth Council Gathering is held at the Bena Community Center in Bena, MN.

December 20, 2023 LLBO holds the Annual Toys for Tots Program supplying area families with gifts for the Holiday Season.

December 30, 2023

LLBO Public Safety along with other LLBO Divisions hosts the Inaugural LLBO Sobriety Pow Wow at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School in Bena, MN.



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YEAR IN REV

2023 WILD RICE REPORT

LLBO DRM | 15756 State 371 | Cass Lake, MN | 56633

Rice purchased over a span of 21 days at Cass Lake DRM 15 days at White Oak

291 lbsin green rice donations

Donated to Deer River School, Bug O Nay Ge Shig School and Curiosity Center for Cultural Classes

Total green rice purchased 240,248 lbs

Total amount spent **\$1,210,719.00**

Average daily number of rice purchases 47

2023 marked another high buying price for our community at 6\$ per pound of green rice. We utilized the same wild rice buying plan that was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic response. This plan was efficient again in limiting congregating in large groups while waiting for a slip / ticket. There were no issues in the alternate payment system utilized and it is recommended we continue with this plan moving forward. Currently there is no update on Take a Kid Ricing.



DEBAJEIJIMON





ELECTION CALENDAR 2024

REGULAR ELECTION

JANUARY 12	8:00 am - Opening period for filing for office
JANUARY 22	Close of filing period
FEBRUARY 12	Deadline for notice of Certifications to TEC
FEBRUARY 15	Deadline for appointment of Election Boards
FEBRUARY 22	Deadline for Decision of certification or non- certification by Tribal Court of Appeals
FEBRUARY 24	Notice of Primary Election and posting
MARCH 29	Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum
APRIL 2	Primary Election (Polling places open at 8:00 am until 8:00 pm)
APRIL 6	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results (Prior to 8:00 pm)
APRIL 4	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results
APRIL 5	Deadline to post Regular Election Notice without Primary
APRIL 9	4:30 pm - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe)
APRIL 10 Results, if Allowed or 8 th or 9 th If earlier request	Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed
APRIL 19	Deadline for Decision on Contest
APRIL 22 or within 3 days of decision on contest	4:30 pm - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals (Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering decision)
APRIL 29 at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date	Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals
MAY 1 hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal	Last day for Hearing on Appeal
MAY 11 10 days from hearing on appeal	Last day for Decision on Appeal
MAY 12	Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal)
MAY 12	TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal)
JUNE 11	General Election (Polling places open from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm)

NOTICE



The Leech Lake Tribal College Board of Trustees is seeking applications from interested Leech Lake Band members to fill two (2) vacancies.

Criteria for the positions (can be combined)

Must live within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation

Any individual interested may pick up an application and a list of qualifications at:

Leech Lake Tribal College
6945 Little Wolf Road NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Or you may email Sadie Cooper at sadie.cooper@lltc.edu

Closing date is 21 days from publishing date

Public Notice: LLBO Seeking Band Members for Board of Directors

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) is excited to announce an opportunity for band members to serve on the Board of Directors for Leech Lake Cannabis Company, LLC. We are actively seeking dedicated individuals who meet the following requirements:

- · Age 21 or older
- · Demonstrated business experience or background
- · Not a member of officer of Tribal Council
- Not a judge or employee of Leech Lake Tribal Court

Full position description available upon request.

Selection Process:

A total of five (5) applicants will be selected to serve on the Board of Directors. The selection process will be based on a thorough review of applications, interviews, and consideration of qualifications, as well as a commitment to the values and goals of Leech Lake Cannabis Company, LLC.

We encourage all eligible band members to consider applying for this unique opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of the Leech Lake Cannabis Company, LLC. Your expertise and dedication can play a vital role in shaping the future of our community.

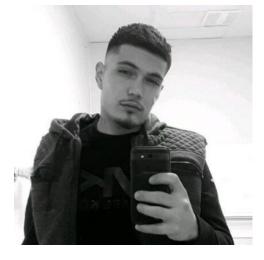
If interested, please submit a letter of interest by Monday, January 15, 2024 at 4:30 PM to:



Terri Goggleye, Executive Director Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe 190 Sailstar Dr NW Cass Lake, MN 56633



Tyler Wind



lyler Migizi Wind, age 26, of Bemidji, MN began his spiritual journey on Sunday, November 26, 2023, at his home in Bemidji. He was born on December 3, 1996, in Bemidji, MN, the son of Matthew Boswell and Angela

Tyler was the best father who always worked hard and provided for his family. He loved not only his children, but also his niece and nephew that he and Alyssa took in never picking favorites. He treated all the kids as though they were his own and provided for them. He enjoyed his time with them, often dancing and laughing. Tyler was always a positive person and the life of the party. He picked everyone up and took care of them, often putting them before himself. He was a true man with true beliefs. Tyler was passionate about all his family members including his aunties and uncles and had a great love for all. He liked working on cars and fixing things that came his way. When it came to providing for his family, Tyler would work overtime and was very proud of his credit score, owning his own car and the successful direction that he and Alyssa were headed. One of the only rewards he would treat himself to was haircuts once a week. The whole family was proud of Tyler, especially his mother in-law Lisa who took Tyler under her wing and helped him through some difficult times. Tyler, his love, and his beautiful personality will be missed by all his family and friends.

The family that Tyler joins again are his mother; Angela Wind, grandparents; Ronald Wind, Sr. and Judy Triska, little brother; Teric Wind and an infant son that he's meeting for the first time and other relatives.

Those he leaves behind to cherish his memory are his father; Matthew Boswell of Bemidji, wife; Alyssa Hill of Bemidji, his girls; Aliyana, Kaeli, Annalea, Kaylani and Armani Wind, also one on the way, siblings; Khyra

Boswell of Minneapolis, Tailyn (Brandon) Wind and Tericho Wind both of Bemidji, mother in-law; Lisa (Andy Johnson) Drift of Bemidji, sister in-law; Tiffany (Jay Burns) Hill of Bemidji, brother in-law; Gordon Hill of Minneapolis, and father in-law; Tom Hill of White Earth, aunties; Crystal (TK Wind) and Leslie Graves, uncles; Ronald (Diana) Wind, Sr. and Tony (Deana McDaniel) Wind, other relatives and many friends.

A wake for Tyler will begin at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, and will continue until the traditional service at 10:00 a.m., Monday, December 4th, 2023, all held at the Mission Community Center in Cass Lake. Spiritual advisor will be Melvin Goodman. Active pallbearers will be Kyle Wind, Austin Swanholm, Shane Swanholm, James Jones, David Jackson, and Miguel Kangas. Honorary pallbearers will be Tony Wind, Ron Wind, Jr., Crystal Wind, Tom Hill, Gordon Hill, TK Wind, Terico Wind, Keifer Graves and Jay

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

Myron Drummond



yron Eugene Drummond, 89, of Cass \mathbf{IVI} Lake, MN, died Sunday, December 3, 2023, at the Sanford Bemidji Medical Center in Bemidji, MN.

Memorial Services will be held 1:00pm, Monday, December 18, 2023, at the Bena Community Center in Bena, MN, with Vincent Roy officiating. Visitation will be held two hours before the service, starting at 11:00am, Monday, December 18, 2023. Arrangements are with the Cease Family Funeral Home of Bemidji.

He was born on October 27, 1934, in Onigum, MN, the son of Thomas and Erma (Beaulieu) Drumbeater. He was raised in

Bena, and later attended the Flandreau Indian School. At the age of 16 he moved to Chicago. Using woodworking and upholstery skills he learned in school, he started a career and eventually became a master upholsterer. In the early 1970's he moved to Minneapolis, MN. He worked for Erickson's Upholstery for over 25 years, and at DJ Upholstery for 15 years. While living in the Cities, he enjoyed venturing up north every weekend in his Mustang to visit his Bena Boys. From 1981 until 2005 he resided in Columbia Heights, MN, before retiring to Cass Lake, MN. His favorite places to eat were Poncho and Lefty's, La Casita, and Mad, Mad Mexican. He enjoyed driving around the country in his custom van during vacation time. He also enjoyed pow-wows, watching the news, attending car shows, boat shows, and home and garden shows. He liked to attend NHRA Drag Races at Brainerd International Raceway, and Golden Gloves boxing matches always with his son riding along in the Mustang. Myron had one grandchild. She was his namesake Myra. He loved her dearly and adored every minute he spent with her.

He is survived by: Son, Gary (Jennifer) Granddaughter, Drummond, Drumbeater, Special Friends, Corrie and Kameryn, Numerous nieces, nephews, and close family friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Kenneth Drumbeater, Leonard Cartier, sisters Eldora "Jen" Schulz, Clarice Seelye, and Joyce Lyons.

Honorary Pallbearers will be: Del Mathews, Frank Humphrey, Rocky Tibbetts, J.J. Tibbetts, Leon Demo, Craig Seelye, Ronald Ahlman, Jeffrey Anderson, and All the Original Bena Boyz.

and respectful. She was easy to talk to, with excellent listening ears and problem-solving ideas. She always wanted to uplift others and did whatever she could to make their day better. Joyce's favorite show was "Shameless". She was a home body, enjoying binge watching shows. Joyce liked going to pow wows and babysitting for family. Those greeting Joyce in the spirit world are her dad, Melvin Durant, Sr.; auntie, Brenda Oberg; uncle, Henry "Sonny"

Rushman; and niece, Kadence Durant. Family that Joyce leaves behind to forever cherish her memories are her mom, Angela Carrier; son, Tocha Nelson, Jr.; daughters, Violet Wilson, K-den Nelson, Kyra Durant; brothers, Melvin (Jessie) Durant, Jr., Murice Goggleye, Derrick Carrier, Angelo (Delaney) Smith, Gage Smith, Mike Durant; sisters, Chelsea (Tocha) Nelson, Jennifer Durant;

grandparents, Regina and James Wilson; and auntie, Annabell (Gordon) Kingbird. An overnight wake for Joyce will begin at

4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023, and continue until her traditional service at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 29, 2023, all to be held at the Mission Community Center in Mission, MN. Joyce's Spiritual Advisor is Adrian Liberty. Those helping to lay Joyce to rest are Melvin Durant, Jr., Murice Goggleye, Mike Durant, Angelo Smith, James Wilson, Gordon Kingbird, with alternates Derrick Carrier and Gage Smith. Honorary pallbearers are all Joyce's Family and Friends. Interment will be in the Inger Cemetery in

Joyce'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.

Joyce Durant



oyce Marie Durant, age 32, of the Bear Clan and Bemidji, MN, unexpectedly journeyed to the spirit world on Thursday, December 21, 2023, from Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji, MN. She was born on February 15, 1991, in Bemidji, the daughter of Angela Carrier and Melvin Durant, Sr.

Joyce loved her kids, her cats, and family gatherings. She never said no to anyone who needed help, even times when she should have. Joyce was fun to be around, very caring,

Henry Rushman



Henry William Rushman "Golden Eagle Soars" 64 of Cass Lake Minnesota, Journeyed to the spirit world on Friday December 8th, 2023, from St Mary's hospital in Duluth, Mn. He was born to Henry and Izzetta (Garbow) Rushman on February 20th, 1959. In Cass Lake, MN.

Henry loved to reminisce about the way he grew up. He was a self-taught mechanic and worked all his life doing that. He loved to listen to oldies country music, especially

Jonny Cash. He was a strong man that overcame many things in his life. In his spare time, he loved to pick boughs. He looked intimidating, but he was a big teddy bear with a huge heart. He always welcomed the family with open arms!

He loved to eat blueberries and Indian tacos. But above all he loved his children, whether you were biological, or a child he knew and loved you were his child.

He is welcomed into the spirit world by his parents Henry and Izzetta; sister Debi Rushman; special niece Cheyenne Rushman, Regina Rushman; special cousins Melvin Durant Sr. and Dennis Dean; uncle Gob Garbow; nephews Daniel Rushman, Delbert Rushman; Brother -in-law Ernie Johnson.

He leaves behind his significant other Connie Madigan; sons Melvin Rushman, Daunte Rushman, Devaughn Rushman, Devin (Marissa) Rushman, Harvey Rushman, Sonny Rushman, and Junior Rushman; daughters Selena Rushman Jazmin (Peter) Rushman; brothers Moe (Elsie) Rushman Roland Willson; sisters Donna Johnson Mary Wakonabo, and Melvina Rushman; grandson, Roman Rushman; and fur baby Sparky.

A one day wake for Henry will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 12th, 2023 and continue until his Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 a.m. service all to be held at the Mission Center in Cass Lake, MN, Henrys Spiritual advisor will be Naabek Liberty. Those helping to lay Henry to rest Devin Robinson, Daunte Rushman, Rob Rushman Jr., Derrick Borntrager, Aaron Wilson, John Kingbird, and Cody Rushman, Sonny Rushman, Roger Wakonnabo, and Mikey Allen. Honorary pallbearers are all those who knew and loved him. Burial will be immediately following the services at the Inger cemetery in Inger Mn.

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

Charles "Punkin" Hanks, Jr.



Charles "Punkin" Hanks Jr., age 83, of White Earth, MN, died on Monday, December 4, 2023, at Moorhead Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Moorhead, MN.

Charles Louis Jr. was born February 1,

1940, in White Earth, MN, the son of Charles Louis Sr. and Margaret (Ahbedaush) Hanks. He grew up in the White Earth area where he attended school. Following high school, Punkin entered the workforce and began as a lumberjack in Grand Portage. He traveled all over the country working a wide variety of jobs. Over the years, Punkin worked for Hellgrin Brothers, Peterson Truck Farm, as a ride operator for the carnival, driving truck for the sugar beet campaign, building houses in addition to many others. After several years he returned to the White Earth Reservation to put down roots. At age 35, he quit drinking and smoking and became a single parent of two children. Punkin became a traditional and spiritual man and a huge advocate against drinking among his native people, especially the youth. He furthered his education with carpentry classes at the Detroit Lakes Vo-Tech. An unfortunate on the job injury prohibited him from continuing a life of manual labor and he turned his work to helping through the church and the youth. He spoke to the youth at many schools and substance abuse programs and started a Talking Circle in Waubun for the youth. He taught them respect, beading, gardening, and maple syruping. Punkin was the Chairman for the Johnson O'Malley program for two years and the Chairman for the White Earth Community Council for 18+ years. He became very involved with St. Columba Episcopal Church in White Earth serving as both Jr. and Sr. Warden, lay minister, helping with readings and leading wake services until they were able to get a full time Priest. Punkin learned to sing Ojibwe from his elders, and he's been singing for over 50 years. He was part of the group, "The Ojibwe Singers", who sang at many events like funerals, wake services, graduations, and Christmas songs at the casino. Their group traveled all over singing and were honored to sing at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Punkin was also honored to be featured in two books, Honoring Elders: Aging, Authority, and Ojibwe Religion, and Ojibwe Singers, written by Michael McNally.

In his younger years, he played football, basketball, and enjoyed berry picking and fishing. In more recent years, he liked playing cards, word search puzzles, watching old westerns and WWE on television and attending pow wows. Above all, Punkin loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Throughout his many travels, he met many people and always parted ways as friends. He will be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to have known him, but his spirit will live on in their hearts.

Punkin is survived by a daughter, Brenda (Tim) Antell of Mahnomen and their children: Courtney (Joshua), B, Drake, Kaitlan, Jordan (Brianna) and Dradan; and grandchildren: Elijah, Elias, Ethan, Drake Jr., John, Azalea, one arriving in 2024, Alexis, Peyton, Mackenzie, Karen, Michael, Joshua Jr., and Manny; a son, Charles Louis III of White Earth and his children: Scott, Shayleigh, Devon, Miya, Meya, Alisea, Conner, Chasity, Sophie, Sonnoma, Sheldon, Charlie, Ciara, Bunny, Alawna, Betty, Bella, Jimmy and PatPat; and grandchildren: Scott "Junebug" Jr.,

Aalaya, Jeremiah, Michael, Violet, Mathew, Nishiime, King, Braxten, Gracelynn, Esperenza, Khaleesi and Arlo.

In addition, Punkin is survived by two sisters, Ethel (Bob) Davey of Finley, ND, and Marilyn Teiken of Mahnomen; two brothers, Richard "Wayne" (Susan) Hanks of White Earth and LeRoy "Walleye" Hanks of Waubun and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded by his parents; six brothers: Julius "Rat", Ronald "Duck", Robert "Otis", Dallas "Kiddo", Elvis "Beaver", and John "Gook"; three sisters: Marge Bellanger, Goldie Hanks and Laverne Hanks.

Blessed be the memory of Charles "Punkin" Hanks Jr.. Visitation was held from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at St. Columba Episcopal Church in White Earth, MN, with a Prayer Service led by the Ojibwe Hymn Singers beginning at 7:00 pm. A Funeral Service was held at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at St. Columba. Burial was in St. Columba Episcopal Cemetery, White Earth.

Please feel free to sign the guestbook, send condolences and view other opportunities which may be available on the website.

Arrangements entrusted to Anderson Family Funeral Home of Mahnomen. www. andersonfamilyfh.com.

Dorothy Oakes



Dorothy Daphne Oakes, 102, of Cass Lake, MN died Thursday, November 30, 2023 at the Havenwood Care Center in Bemidji.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00am, Thursday, December 7, 2023, at the Landmark Baptist Church in Cass Lake, MN. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at the Chippewa Bible Cemetery in Oak Point, Cass Lake, MN under the direction of the Cease Family Funeral Home in Bemidii.

Dorothy was born September 14, 1921 in the village of Cass Lake, MN, the daughter of George and Pearl (Tucker) Donnell. She was raised and educated in the Cass Lake area and attended Cass Lake High School. She served as a nursing assistant at Ah-Gwah-Ching while a high school student. During WWII she was a "Rosie the Rivetor," riveting and welding ships in the Portland, OR Shipyard. She married Frank Oakes in

Waukegan, Wisconsin on May 16, 1955. They lived in Racine, WI, for a time where she was a bus driver for many years, and worked for Ostor small appliances. Her family moved back to Cass Lake in the 1960's and she and Frank built a home. She attended the Bemidji Vo-Tech, without being late or missing a single day, earning a degree in Accounting at the age of 51. She worked as an Accountant for the Leech Lake Reservation in Cass Lake. She enjoyed traveling extensively, golf, gardening, and was an animal lover, even going so far as to feed a bear who lived near her home.

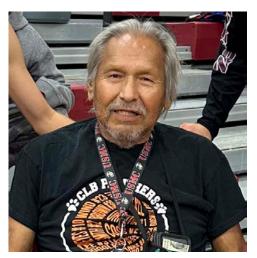
She is survived by: Her daughter, Marie Raine, 5 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild. Numerous Nieces and Nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, brothers Richard Donnell, George Donnell, sisters Jean Donnell Ketchum, and Judy Fairbanks Gorman.

Active Casketbearers will be: Jim Glidden, Family Friend, Casey Crooker, Great Nephew Alexander Sharp, Great Grandson, Edward Fairbanks, Nephew, Steven Langston Donnel, Nephew, Michael Hawkins, Grandson.

The family would like to thank the Staff of the Havenwood Care Center, and Sanford Hospice and Home Care for the loving care they gave to Dorothy.

Matthew "Matt" Hunt



Matthew "Matt" Curtis Hunt, "Waawaatay" meaning "Fire Burning", of the Bear Clan and Onigum, MN, age 72, passed away on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND. He was born June 10, 1951, in Cass Lake, MN, the son of Phyllis Louise (Chief) and James Joseph Hunt, Sr.

Matt was wise beyond his years, knowledgeable in numerous areas, and always teaching. He was always helping people out in any way he could. He was the keeper of the "Onigum Highway", keeping the road plowed. In his younger years, Matt played in bowling leagues and softball leagues, where he was well known for his batting. Matt was also well known in the chemical dependency treatment facilities around the state for his work...

Obituaries Continued on Page 17.



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 Re Estate of: Stanley Albert Chief Jr., DOB: 02/09/1943, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-23-135

NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the abovenamed decedent, Stanley Albert Chief Jr., died September 9, 2023. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene. Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 20th, day of November, 2023 at 2:30 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs, and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Stanley Jones, surviving son of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on November 20th. 2023, in Leech Lake Tribal, Court. Stanley Jones, 8573 Traders Bay Rd. NW Walker, MN 56484 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Stanley Albert Chief Jr., decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court

within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: P.J.T.W., Child, DOB: 09/22/2016. Barbara J. White, And Michelle Petitioner, Charwood & Nicholas White, Respondents,

Case No. FA-21-27

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NO-TICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on December 12, 2023, a Request for Permanent Guardianship was made 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 appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on April 9th, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Min-

Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon 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 concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: H.A.D., Child, DOB: 02/20/2012. Mary S. Cloud, Petitioner, And Melissa Dvorak, Thomas Cloud Jr., & Arthur Tallman, Respondents.

Case No. FA-18-110

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NO-TICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on December 12, 2023, a Request for Permanent Guardianship was made 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 appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on April 9th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Min-

Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon 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 concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: L.M.C., Child, DOB: 12/11/2021. Derek Frazer, Petitioner, And Mallori Y.R. Fisherman & Rasheem Coleman, Respondents.

Case No. FA-23-108

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NO-TICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on November 29, 2023, a Petition for Appointment of Guardian (Minor) 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 appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 7th, 2024 at 10:30 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 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 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 concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Oilbwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: V.L., Child, DOB: 08/15/2009. Shanelle Bowstring, Petitioners, And Starr Lanham & Valarian Kingbird, Respondents,

Case No. FA-23-85

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NO-TICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on October 18th, 2023, a Petition for Appointment of Guardian (Minor) 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 appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on February 22, 2024 at 10:00 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 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 via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon 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 concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Cordelia R. White, and OBO, minor child, J.L.R., DOB: 11/19/2021, Petitioner, And James Conrad Robinson, Respondent,

Case No. CV-23-157

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPON-

An Emergency Ex Parte 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 PRO-

SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS MAKES THE FOLLOWING RE-**QUIREMENTS APPLY TO THIS** ACTION UNLESS THEY ARE MODIFIED BY THE COURT OR THE PROCEEDING DISMISSED:

1) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT COMMIT ACTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AGAINST THE PETI-TIONER.

2) RESPONDENT MUST NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH PETITIONER WHETHER IN PER-SON, WITH OR THROUGH OTH-ER PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, LETTER, OR ANY OTHER WAY.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUB-JECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT.

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 IHS Cass Lake Dental Clinic Leech Lake Market 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 Bemidji IHS Building

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

The Debahjimon is a free, monthly publication.

Obituaries Continued.

...as a counselor. He coached youth baseball teams in Onigum and took his team to tournaments. He loved hunting, fishing, and setting net, it kept him busy and out of trouble. Matt enjoyed playing slots early in the morning at the casino where he was a well-known "usual". He liked to play and talk about the weekly football boards, watch hunting shows, football, and was a Minnesota Vikings fan. He was a big fan of the Cass Lake-Bena Boys Basketball Team and travelled to most of their games to cheer them on. Matt was an independent, relentless, and good-natured teasing man. Matt was a well known and loved man who loved everyone, especially his large family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Family that Matt is reunited with are his parents, Phyllis and James Hunt, Sr.; brothers, Roland, Ronald, Ernest, Eli, Spencer, and James Hunt, Jr.; sisters, Donna, Brenda, Alice, Helen, Louella, Janice, and Peggy Hunt, and Judy Littlewolf; daughter, Michelle Hunt; son, Michael Fox; nieces, Lisa Dakota and Nettla Hunt; nephews, Russell Tucker, Richard "Dicky Doo" Littlewolf, Jr., Roland Hunt, Jr., and Duane Hanks, Jr.

Those Matt leaves behind to forever cherish his loving memory are his life partner, Ruth Wright; sons, Eric (Emily) Alger, Paul (Leila) Jourdain, Tim St. Clair; brother, Melvin (Joy) Hunt; special nieces, Cindy Jackson-Kingbird and Brenda Bedausky Best; special nephew, Rome Bedausky; grandchildren, Camryn, Cordell, and Casey Hunt, Veronica and Jeremee St. Clair,

Brenda, Osmond, and Owen Hunt, Donald "Willy" Headbird, Jr., Felix Webster-Fox, Ty, Sydney, and Payton Alger; numerous other family members and friends.

An overnight wake for Matt will begin on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Onigum Community Center and will continue until the funeral service at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, December 28, 2023, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Onigum. Reverend William "Bill" Butcher will officiate. Those helping to lay Matt to rest are Eric Alger, Ed St. John, Gary Johnson, Lee Turney, Paul Jourdain, Joe Wright, and alternate Dennis Smith, Sr. Honorary pallbearers are Todd Wilson, Mel Hunt, Faron Jackson, Don Wright, Jr., Dorothea Cloud, Dedric Jackson, Kingsly Whitebird, Gabriel Kingbird, TrayVaughn Lee, and Kaydin Lee. Interment will follow services in the St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Onigum, MN.

Matt'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.

Hal Bowstring

al Edward Bowstring obituary Hal Edward Bowstring, Ozhaawashkozibineshinh which means Blue Thunderbird at the age of 65 passed away with his family by his side on Tuesday December 12th, 2023 at St Mary's Hospital in Duluth Minnesota. Hal was born in Cass Lake Minnesota on April 28th 1958 to Evelyn Howard.

Hal was raised in Inger Minnesota and



attended Deer River High School. Hal enlisted in the United States Army, after his service, he completed Leech Lake vocational training and obtained his boiler operator license. Hal then relocated to the St Paul area and started working at Shriners Children's Hospital. After 2 years he then began his long employment of 30+ years at 3M in St Paul, where he retired as an engineer in the fall of 2023. Hal then came back home to enjoy his retirement with his family. Throughout his life Hal always enjoyed seasonal practices of harvesting wild rice and picking boughs. Hal enjoyed traveling to watch his children and grandchildren play at sporting events and offering his fatherly advice. You could often find him watching most any sports on TV but his favorite was cheering on his hometown teams the

Minnesota Vikings and Twins. Hal loved listening to powwow music and making crazy Tik toks with his girls. He was always there to help a friend in need and welcomed a good visiting session.

Hal is survived by his wife of 42 years Elizabeth "Betty" Schwochert, step-daughter Betty Jane Schaaf, step-son Barry Schwochert, son Devin Bowstring, daughters Alyssa Pedersen, Mariana Bowstring, Antavia Bowstring and Constance Bowstring. Grandchildren Ericka Schaaf, Taja Miller, Barry Schwochert Jr, Brady Schwochert, Aiden Bowstring, Evelyn Bowstring, Aurora Bowstring, Ava Tibbets, Kinsley Tibbetts, Mason Erickson, Galaxy Powell, Chaska Pedersen, Journey Pederson, Shai Pedersen. Brothers Marvin, Ben, William and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Hal is proceeded in death by his mother Evelyn Howard, brother Elmer Bowstring, brother Frank Bowstring, daughter Justine Bowstring.

Hals care has been entrusted to Carroll Funeral Home of Deer River Minnesota a memorial service will be again with a wake starting at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday December 16th, 2023 and funeral service at 10:00 a.m. December 17th, 2023 with all services to be held at the Inger Community Center in Inger Minnesota.

Spiritual advisor will be Allen Hardy. Those helping to lay Hal to rest will be Frank Bowstring, Brad bowstring, Bobby Lynaugh, Matt Bowstring, Jimbo Howard, and Bert Algers. Honorary pallbearers Francis Garbow, Tony Goodwill, Tombug Howard, Jerry Naislen & Marlen and his many other buddies.

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This program is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAging as part of a financial assistance award to USAging totaling \$74,999,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official view of, nor an endorsement by, USAging, ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings

www.llojibwe.org | drop off or mail documents to: **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources** 115 Sixth St. NW, Suite E - Cass Lake, MN 56633

Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697

Call 218-335-3698 or toll free 1-800-631-5521 for more info

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Mental Health Professional (4) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-008 CTSS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-010 Mental Health Clinical Trainee (4) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-011
ARMHS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-012
On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Professional (3) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-013
On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (5) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-014

On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (\$) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-014
Program Accountant (2) ~ Finance ~ Job Code: 23-015
Lead Nurse (A.R.C) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-035
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Attendant (4) (Part Time) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-044
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) (4) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-045
Billing Specialist ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-052
WIC & Nutrition Registered Dietician (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-054
Maternal Child Health RN ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-059
Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-061
Registered Dietitian (Diabetes's Program) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-063
Accounts Receivable Clerk I ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-099
Plumber (Facilities Maintenance) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-121
Magiitin Center Manager ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-123

Plumber (Facilities Maintenance) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-121
Maajiigin Center Manager ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-123
Accounts Receivable Team Leader ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-126
Internal Auditor ~ Internal Audit ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-127
Community Wellness & Recovery Navigator ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-136
Accounting Clerk ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-138
Case Manager (Urban Office) ~ Child Welfare ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-141
Police Officer (2) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-144
Narcotics Investigator ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-145
Police Officer (Part time) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-146
RN Diabetes Educator ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-147
Family Skills Worker ~ Administration ~ \$19.75/hr ~ Job Code: 23-150
Diabetes Registered Dietitian ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-152

For a full list of employment opportunities with LLBO please visit: https://www.llojibwe.org/jobs/llbojobs.html

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Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders January Birthdays

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From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle

District II

James Campbell Walter "Butch" Chase Bonnie Fairbanks-Stangel

From the District II Office Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle



🗫 District III* 🚁 🏰

Leroy Aitkin Dorothy Beaushene Kenneth Bedeau Robert Bedeau Darlene Bellanger Lareatha Bradford Elizabeth Brown Larry Bryan Marcella Buck Lillian Burnette Lisa Cariveau Deborah Chase Leona Cloud Mary Cloud Joseph Day Priscilla Day Anita Demarr Alice Donovan Marie Duncan Ernie Dunn Bonita Earth John Fairbanks

Brian Funk Stuart Gale Sylvia Gale Isabelle Gilman Robert Goggleye Alisa Goodshield Jeffrey Goose Leonard Headbird Tina Headbird Chervl Holk Ramona Jackson Joseph James Gary Johnson Derek Kingbird Geneva Lawrence Connie Lewis Lance Lewis Toby Losh Tonya Losh Daryl Lyons Frances Lyons Louise Masten

Julian Molash Roger Monroe Edward Morgan Linda Morris Paula Morris **Robert Morris** Hazel Nordmarken Patrick Northbird Margaret Papasodora Avis Poupart Theodora Redwing Angela Reyes Bryon Rock Carol Blue **Bryon Sayers** Joan Scorza Thelma Smith Anna Starr Alice Town LaVerne Wakanabo Nancy White Donald White

From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

all coupons must be used within Birthday Month



Niigaane Ojibwe Language **Immersion Program**

Words and sentences list for January

OJIBWEMOWIN

ZHAAGANAASHIIMOWIN

much snow.

Wii-noondamaan aadizookaan When I want to hear a legend, I nimishoomis indizhaa. go see my grandfather. Minwendam ina aadizooked? Does he like to tell stories? Eya', aapiji. Yes, very much. Aaniin apii ayaadizookeng? When are stories told? Biboong apii ayaadizookeng? In winter is when stories are told. Awegonen maanad? What do you give him? I give him tobacco. Asemaan nimiinaa. Gaawiin noongom biboong This winter there is not aapiji qoonikaasinoon. Gaawiin qaye qisinaasinoon aapiji mashi. It's not too cold yet. Daga aadizooken. Please, tell a legend.

> Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program 15353 Silver Eagle Drive, Bena MN 56626 Telephone: 218-665-3000 Toll free: 1-800-265-5576 www.bugonaygeshig.org

> > Developed by Camille Naslund, Ed.D., Niigaane Program Director / Teacher

OJIBWE SOUND CHART

OJIBWE SOUND
asemaa (tobacco)
omaa (here)
esiban (raccoon)
bine (partridge)
niiwin (four)
opin (potato)
oodenaa (town)

CONSANANTS OJIBWE SOUND

b bakwezhigan (bread) ch gichi-oginiig (tomatoes d doodooshaboo (milk) g gaag (porcupine) h hay' (oops) j maajaan (go) k mikinaak (turtle) m mamoon (take it) n bine (partridge) p baapiwag (they laugh) s es (clam) sh waagosh (fox) t anit (fish spear) w waawaan (egg) y babagiwayan (shirt) m mooz (moose) niizh (two) ' ma'iingan (wolf)		•
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k mikinaak (turtle) m mamoon (take it) n bine (partridge) p baapiwag (they laugh) s es (clam) sh waagosh (fox) t anit (fish spear) w waawaan (egg) y babagiwayan (shirt) z mooz (moose) sh niizh (two)	g	gaag (porcupine)
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t anit (fish spear) w waawaan (egg) y babagiwayan (shirt) z mooz (moose) zh niizh (two)	S	es (clam)
w waawaan (egg) y babagiwayan (shirt) z mooz (moose) zh niizh (two)	sh	waagosh (fox)
y babagiwayan (shirt) z mooz (moose) zh niizh (two)	t	anit (fish spear)
z mooz (moose) zh niizh (two)	w	waawaan (egg)
zh niizh (two)	у	babagiwayan (shirt)
()	z	mooz (moose)
ma'iingan (wolf)	zh	niizh (two)
	,	ma'iingan (wolf)

ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

about
father
way
pin
seen
obey, book
boat, boot

	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT
	big
s)	chin
)	dog
	go
	hi
	jello()
	kite
	milk
	name
	pig
	sun
	bush
	time
	woman
	yell
	zebra
	measure
	oh – oh (glottal stop)

Notes:

The English letters and sounds of f, l, q, r, u, v, and x are not part of the Ojibwe alphabet.

The Ojibwe alphabet contains the additional double-letter symbols of aa, ch, ii, oo, sh, and zh.

The glottal stop, which is represented by an apostrophe, is a sound made by a release of air from your throat, similar to when someone punches you in the stomach.

January is National Radon Action Month



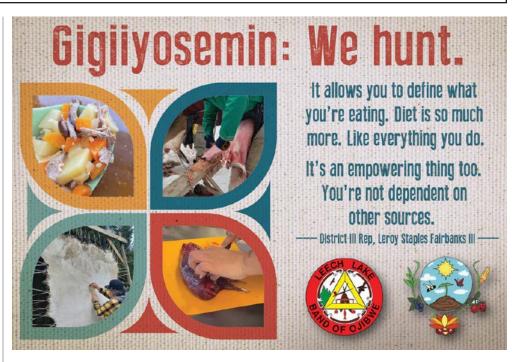
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can enter your home through cracks in the foundation. Just like air, radon is invisible and has no odor. Radon could be in your home, and you would never suspect it. Radon is a health concern because it is a carcinogen and causes lung cancer. Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. for people who don't smoke and is responsible for an estimated 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year. There is no known safe level of radon.

People spend more time indoors now than in the past, so long-term exposure to radon has become more of an issue. Many of us live in houses that are well sealed from the outdoor air. This can lead to high levels of radon in our homes. It doesn't matter what type of home you live in; any home could possibly have a radon issue.

Homes on the Leech Lake Reservation range from low to high levels of radon. To date, we have assisted almost 400 Leech Lake community members in making sure their homes are safe by testing for and reducing radon levels. Testing is the only way to determine radon levels in your home.

Protect your Family - Prevent Lung cancer - Test your Home.

Contact: Radon Technician at 218-335-3716 or DRM Air Quality Specialist at 218-335-7441



Akawe Anishinaabe Wanjigen! Eat Traditional Foods. Is an initiative to bring food sovereignty efforts to the forefront by highlighting Indigenous Foods. Through our efforts we hope to encourage the consumption of traditional foods and spark curiosity. Or even serve as a reminder that this is the time for gathering, hunting, fishing, procuring our traditional foods.

Please visit www.facebook.com/llboSNAPEd for more information and to view community highlights throughout this endeavor! Mitgwech.



CEDAR AKES



PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

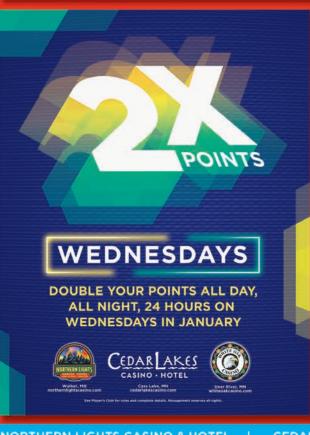
1-844-554-2646















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SHINGOBEE ON THE BAY