

## Election Special



**Special insert inside!** the Debahjimon Guide for the upcoming Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Primary Election. Providing voting information and essays from candidates seeking office for Chairperson and District III Representative.

**Vote April 2, 2024**

### LLBO DRM GRANT

The LLBO Division of Resource Management announces newly established Agwajjig Izhaadaa (Let's Get Outside) Grant.

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PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BEMIDJI, MN  
PERMIT NO. 68

## ZOONGI IDE IKWAWAAG *Strong Hearted Women Recovery Center*



Kayla Duoos | DEBAHJIMON

Ribbon Cutting at the new recovery center wing. **Pictured left to right:** A&D staff members Dorothea Cloud, Curtis Jackson and Melissa Bowstring along with Laurel Jackson, council members Leonard Fineday, Faron Jackson, LeRoy Fairbanks and Spiritual Advisor Mike Smith Sr.

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Zoongi-Ide Ikwewaag (Strong Hearted Women) recovery center is now open.

The women's recovery center resides in the left wing of the Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz(ARC) building. The Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz program, translated in Ojibwe to mean “change your way of life” is a recovery center located on the Reservation, owned and operated by the LLBO. The facility is a residential treatment program for individuals that have been diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder who want to live a life free of substance use.

The opening of the women's recovery center has been a long running goal for the program who celebrated the grand opening with a community celebration, Monday, February 5.

The celebration featured speeches from staff, RTC, and representatives from both Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar's offices followed by a group meal. Tribal

Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. who spoke at the event invited attendees to embrace empathy to those struggling with substance use disorder, and the importance of a recovery center housed on the reservation.

“Let's help one another, let's take care of each other, our lives are too short to live any other way. We want to see our people live to become elders and to become grandparents. The greatest resource we have when it comes to battling addiction is right here in this room—it's us. It's each other, it's our community,” said Jackson.

Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz is currently housed within the old Palace hotel and the site recently underwent 1.4 million in renovations previously to make the space usable for its program. The former hotel now has a RN office, group lunch area, commercial kitchen, participant living spaces, group counseling rooms, and staff offices.

For more information on the Ahnji-Be Mah-Diz program and intakes, call 218-335-6880.



via MN.GOV

Minnesota Sen. Mary Kunesch displays a mock-up of the new Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office special license plate. Kunesch was instrumental in creating the special plate.

## Groups Across the State Gather for MMIWR Day of Action

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – February 14 is the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

Events took place in various cities across the state from Bemidji, to Fargo-Moorhead, Mahanomen, Duluth and Minneapolis, where community members stepped out together to raise awareness for missing loved ones.

American Indian women and girls only make up 1% of Minnesota's population and are 8% of all murdered women and girls in Minnesota. According to a Wilder Research analysis of federal crime data, From 2012 to 2020, 54 Native women and girls were listed as missing in Minnesota each month.

A number of measures have been taken within the state and on the federal level to combat these figures.

In 2021, the state MMIR office opened, becoming the first such agency in the nation. In September, the office helped organize a search for Nevaeh Kingbird, who went missing on Oct. 22, 2021 and was last seen in...

See *MMIWR* on Page 9 »

## VOL XL NO 9

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

### Staff

Michael Chosa, Editor  
Kayla Duoos, Journalist  
Anthony Belgarde, Graphic Design

### 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

Apr. Issue.....3/29/2024  
May Issue.....4/26/2024  
Jun. Issue.....5/31/2024



## AGWAJING IZHAADAA



### Grant Application:

<http://llobo.link/aiGrantApp>

### Request for Proposals (RFP):

<http://llobo.link/aiRFP>

## New Outdoor Initiative Grant Announced by Leech Lake DRM

via LEECH LAKE NEWS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management is excited to announce the establishment of the Leech Lake Aqwajing Izhaadaa (Let's Get Outside) (AI) Grant.

This grant is designed to provide funding opportunities to promote outdoor initiatives, access to natural resources, and encourage outdoor cultural activities for the communities of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Sharing knowledge of the outdoors and creating space for others to learn is vital to the survival of our relationship to place. We carry an inherent knowledge in terms of the natural resources that surround our home on the Reservation. This grant allows opportunities for the community to be reacquainted with that knowledge in hopes of passing it

down for many generations to come.

This grant aims to help support our local community by providing opportunities to get Tribal members engaged in nature. Getting more people into the outdoors is crucial for the future stewardship of natural resources.

By connecting with nature, our Tribal community will better understand the urgent need to protect it and maintain it for future generations. Let's get outside!

Local Indian Councils, LLBO Programs and Community Businesses are encouraged to apply.

For questions, please call Lakota Ironboy, Environmental Justice Liaison at 505-448-6675 or email [lakota.ironboy@llojibwe.net](mailto:lakota.ironboy@llojibwe.net).

Application period will open March 15, 2024 and close on April 15, 2024. Applicants will be mailed an award determination letter on May 1, 2024.

## WOBLIHECA - Energy to Create New exhibit on display at Watermark Art Centers Miikinaan Gallery in Bemidji.

By KAYLA DUOOS

BEMIDJI – A new exhibit has opened at Bemidji's Watermark Art Center, Miikinaan gallery.

The Miikinaan gallery which is home to the center's Traditional art exhibits is hosting "Wobliheca – Energy to Create" with work by graphic artist Tosa Two Heart, February 14-May 10, 2024.

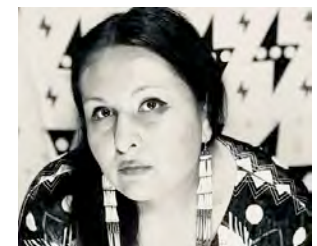
Tosa is an enrolled member in the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Tosa was born and raised in the Pine Ridge

Reservation. She is a local artist to He Sapa ( Rapid City, South Dakota). She has worked with various mediums and has won first-place awards multiple times in the Heard Museum Student Art Show as a high school student artist.

Tosa received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree from UCLA and completed her graduate studies at a private school in Massachusetts. A UCLA alum and a Bentley University Master of Business Administration graduate, she decid-

ed to pursue her lifelong fashion interests by opening an online shop in the summer of 2017. Her aesthetic is of Lakota traditional designs with bold colors and composition. Her fashion has been featured in various fashion shows throughout the years.

Her designs have been modeled in Native Max Magazine and the Hamiinat magazine. Tosa has participated in various local fashion shows, helped coordinate the Native POP Fashion Show for several years, and was honored to be invited by high-profile fashion designer Rebekah Jarvey to participate in the 2022 Honor Our Legacy Fashion Show. In 2023, Tosa was a fashion consultant for Wicoun, play by Larissa Fast Horse with Cornerstone Theatre.



via WATERMARK ART CENTER  
Tosa Two Heart, Textile Artist.

An artist's reception for the "Wobliheca – Energy to Create" exhibit will be held Saturday March, 2 at Watermark, 2-4pm, with an online fashion workshop led by Tosa taking place throughout the rest of March, online registration is now open on the Watermark website.

## Tribal Nations Education Committee Elects New Leadership Committee Seats New Chair and Vice-Chair

via TNEC

CASS LAKE – The Tribal Nations Education Committee (TNEC) elected Laurie Harper as its new Chair and Beth Tepper as its new Vice-Chair on January 17, 2024.

Chair Harper has served as the TNEC representative for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe since 2022 and was voted in during a special election to fill the recently vacated seat of Jennifer Murray, who served as Chairperson for four years representing the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Harper works as the Director of Education for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe providing leadership to its early childhood, Gaa-Niigaaniziwaad (youth leadership), and scholarship programs, as well workforce development. On a national level, Harper also serves as the current President of the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA).

Ms. Harper is excited to step into this important leadership role, stating that "It's an honor and a privilege to be able to serve all eleven tribal nations as the Tribal Nations Education committee chair. I thank those that have served in the role before me and I take the responsibility to heart, as our children and youth deserve the best possible outcome in a system that was not designed for us. I will continue to advocate for equity and access for our American

Indian students, in ways that have been deemed priority by our Tribal Nations."

Vice-Chair Tepper succeeds Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa representative Maria Burnett, who did not seek reelection. Tepper has represented the Twin Cities Metropolitan area on the committee since 2022 and is currently the Director of Achievement and Integration and the Director of Indian Education for Robbinsdale Area Schools. Prior to joining Robbinsdale, she spent eight years as the Director of Education and TNEC representative for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Ms. Tepper states, "I am excited to step into this leadership role for our tribal nations in Minnesota. I am also honored to give a voice to our metro area American Indian students and families who may need support with their educational needs."

Harper and Tepper join current committee secretary Billie Annette in the composition of the TNEC Executive Leadership Team. Ms. Annette has an expansive career serving Tribal members in the field of education and has worked for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) since 1986. She has served as the MCT appointed TNEC representative since 2007 and is looking forward to collaborating with both Laurie and Beth on improving educational opportunities for Native youth and families in Minnesota.

## Extension workshop on Emerald Ash Borer in Cass County

via ANNA STOCKSTAD | UMN  
218-726-6466  
stock523@umn.edu

HACKENSACK – University of Minnesota Extension will present a workshop on the implications of emerald ash borer (EAB) next month in Cass County.

The event will be held on March 22 from 9:30am - 3:30pm, at the Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center in Hackensack, MN. Registration is \$50 and a scholarship rate is available. Tribal members receive free registration for this event.

“Landowners need to be aware of the threat EAB poses not only on their land but to many thousands of acres of nearby forests,” said Eli Sagor, Extension forestry specialist. “Knowing that EAB is now established in the heart of northern Minnesota forests, woodland owners need to watch carefully for it and take action to slow the spread.”

Extension educators and DNR forest health professionals will present information for landowners followed by an outdoor walk to practice ash identification during the last hour of the event. Learn more and register at [z.umn.edu/CassEAB](http://z.umn.edu/CassEAB).



A tree damaged by emerald ash borer.

## RBC BRIEFS • March 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.

Four meetings were held within the last reporting month, January 23 to February 27. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “Videos.” Official meeting minutes can also be found on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “LL Tribal Council” and “Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.”

### BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

**1. February 8, 2024** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

#### Presentations Given:

- **Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Anishinabe Legal Services** – Presented updates to the MN Indian Preservation act. Changes include; returning of out of home placement costs to family members, and the allowing of courts to impose sanctions when appropriate

**2. February 20, 2024** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

#### Presentations Given:

- **Brandy Toft / Lakota Ironboy, DRM** – Presented a funding agreement with CNF for a sugarbush improvement project. The project will provide easier access to the sugarbush site.
- **Dorothy Robinson, Post Secondary Education** – Presented an amendment to raise scholarship grant amounts for students due to increasing school costs.

**3. February 22, 2024** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers. The meeting revolved around Resolution 2024-46 for community development initiatives, agenda items and resolution tabled for a future meeting.

**4. February 22, 2024 (2)** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers. A contract for Jacobson Law Group was presented, as well as the A-CVST-2024-LLBND-015 grant.

## Public Notice: Preliminary Approval of Proposed Cannabis Regulations by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

By MICHAEL CHOSA

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe’s Cannabis Regulatory Commission has announced the preliminary approval of a comprehensive set of proposed Cannabis Regulations this week. The regulations aim to establish a robust framework to govern cannabis-related business activities within the reservation, aligning closely with state laws to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The proposed regulations, developed pursuant to relevant chapters of the Act, outline several key objectives:

- **Health and Safety:** Prioritizing the well-being of individuals by mirroring state laws related to cannabis business activities.
- **Regulatory Alignment:** Ensuring that cannabis business practices within the reservation do not significantly deviate from established guidance priorities.
- **Framework Establishment:** Setting forth a clear set of rules for the licensing, operation, and management of cannabis businesses, as well as the employment practices within these establishments.
- **Applicability and**



**Enforcement:** The regulations apply to all individuals and entities involved in cannabis-related businesses within the reservation, ensuring consistent standards of conduct and compliance.

- **Sovereignty and Jurisdiction:** Reaffirming the Band’s sovereignty, the regulations emphasize that they are adopted as a matter of Band law, without conceding any jurisdiction to the state.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

In the spirit of community engagement and transparency, the Cannabis Regulatory Commission is opening a public comment period effective immediately. Community members, stakeholders, and interested parties are encouraged to review the proposed regulations and submit their feedback.

- **Comment Period Closure:** The public comment period

will close on March 18, 2024.

- **Consideration of Comments:** All comments received will be carefully considered by the Commission at their meeting scheduled for March 20, 2024.

### PARTICIPATION AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe values the input of its community members and stakeholders. To participate in the public comment period, please review the proposed regulations available at [http://llbo.link/canna\\_regs](http://llbo.link/canna_regs) and submit your comments to [comments@llojibwe.net](mailto:comments@llojibwe.net) with the subject “LLBO Cannabis Regulations” or deliver written comments to the Tribal Government building before 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024.

This is a pivotal moment for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as we seek to establish a responsible and community-focused approach to cannabis regulation. We look forward to engaging with our community members and stakeholders during this process and encourage everyone to share their insights and feedback.

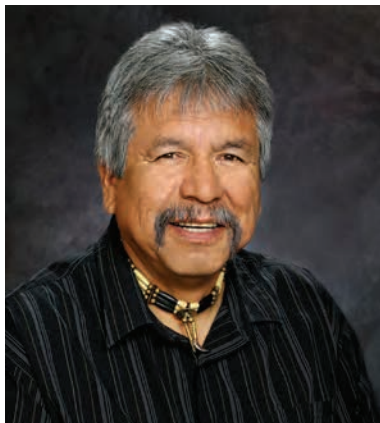
### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further details on the proposed regulations or the public comment process, please contact the Legal Department at 218-335-3673 or [legaldocumentreview@llojibwe.net](mailto:legaldocumentreview@llojibwe.net)

THE OFFICIAL RADIO STATION OF  
THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

**KOJB** 90.1 FM  
THE EAGLE  
LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

# 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 solid 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.

**LLBO Waiting on \$3.5 million EDA Funding** – In 2023, Leech Lake was awarded the Initiative Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000 dollars. The purpose of the grant was to support planning for a wild rice processing plant. The

Band has submitted a grant application to the Economic Development Administration for approximately \$3.5 million for a modern Wild Rice Processing Facility, blending tradition with efficiency, and the Band's ability to process their manoomin. The Leech Lake Tribal Development Division team has prioritized food sovereignty and cultivating tradition on their website. The webpage had further stated that preserving our heritage in the blueprint. Wild rice isn't just a crop—it's a symbol of our connection to the land and our ancestors. Witness the growth of a future where our traditions flourish, and the spirit of wild rice enriches the lives of LLBO, with gratitude for the support from the EDA. A *chii-gwetch* to the employees of the Tribal Development Division's dedication and hard work.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

**Chairman Jackson, Sr. Supports an Economic Stimulus Package** – As the Chairman, I will recommend to the RBC Tribal Council that we provide an economic stimulus package in the amount of \$1,500 dollars for Adults and \$500 dollars for people under 18 years of age to be transferred into their trust accounts. The first action out of the newly created \$40 million Tribal Reserve Fund must

be in the direct support of the Leech Lake People. In 2021, \$80 million was given to Leech Lake from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Tribal Governments. A great example, is what the Mille Lacs Band had did with their coronavirus recovery funds. As reported, the Mille Lacs Band set the majority of their coronavirus funds for the direct benefit of the people. The Mille Lacs Band members receive a monthly allocation of these funds. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stressed that a great many of our people are still suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic. We have high inflation, electric disconnect notices, propane for heat, families are dealing with the loss of loved ones as a result from the pandemic, and the outrageous cost of groceries.

**Addressing ICWA Out-of-Compliance Issues with MN Counties** – On February 20-21, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had attended the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council meeting. Chairman Jackson, Sr. has been advocating for training and meetings with the Minnesota County Agencies Social Services Departments. Those conversations began with Minnesota Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, who oversees the social services agencies. Leech Lake is advocating that the Minnesota Counties have training on the Indian Child Welfare Act out-of-compliance issues and the policy requirements under the federal law. For instance, please contact the Tribal Nation where the child is enrolled so the families can be properly notified and placed with family members. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had requested the sum-

mit at the MIAC meeting with Commissioner Harpstead. A tentative date for the ICWA Tribal/State Summit had been scheduled for March 12, 2024.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

**Leech Lake Woman's Recovery Center Grand Opening** – In 2020, the Leech Lake Band had a vision and given a strong message that we need a Women's Inpatient Healing and Recovery program. On February 5, 2024, a new wing, called *Zoongi-ide Ikwewaag*, or "Strong-hearted women" had a Grand Opening for the woman's residential treatment program and be a part of the *Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz* Recovery Center. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "We have been working on this project for a good three years, securing funding that included \$850,000 in federal funding. A special thank you to U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar for their tireless leadership and advocating for their constituency in Minnesota. We needed to secure the funding to complete the renovations to meet the requirements to operate a woman's treatment program. It's really an exciting moment for us on Leech Lake and celebrating the grand opening together with a ceremony and meal." Chairman Jackson, Sr. had further stated, "The greatest resource we have to battle these addictions is right here in this room, it's all of us, this is just the beginning. We can all make a difference



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

in our communities, we can all save some lives."

**Update on LLBO Reservation Restoration Act S. 616** – This congressional bill will amend the original restoration act and provide an additional 4,362 acres. This bill is addressing illegal secretarial transfers on Leech Lake and moving slowly through the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The position of Leech Lake has been the secretarial transfers were found to be illegal if transfer of land was made without sufficient consent by the owners. The BLM Surveyor had discovered the illegal secretarial transfers were more widespread than initially estimated. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated that we need a full accounting of the land records that relate to secretarial transfers.

Safety note, please check smoke detector batteries for proper working order. In keeping our elders safe, check walk ways and stairs that are free from clothes and toys will prevent slips and falls. Please change furnace filters on a monthly basis. Please be safe and take care!

## April

### District III Elder Birthdays

Robert Adams  
Sandra Beaulieu  
Roberta Berg  
Thomas Brown  
Robert Charwood  
Arthur Chase  
Clifford Cloud  
Michael Command  
Donna Day

### From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

Lawrence Day  
Scott Elliott  
Crystal Estey  
Dale Fairbanks  
Edward Fairbanks  
Judith Fairbanks  
George Fineday  
Karen Fineday  
Patrick Finn  
Randy Finn  
George Goggeley  
Lawrence Goggeley  
Gary Hanson



Yvonne Hardy  
Kenneth Harrison  
Ronald Harrison  
Cecil Haugen  
Earl Headbird  
Robin Hron  
Caroline Hulett  
Steven Humphrey  
Peggy Hunt  
Kay Jackson  
Louise Jackson  
Anthony Jenkins  
Rose Johnson  
Maxine Johnson  
Susan Jones  
Margaret Jordan  
Therese Jordan

Jeffery Kingbird  
Patricia Kluever-Holbrook  
Mary Lou Ladeaux  
Sidney LaRose  
Arlene Larson  
James Littlewolf  
Charles Lyons  
Cherilyn Martin-Wade  
Evelyn Monroe  
Susan Morris  
Patrick Newell  
Brenda Northbird  
Terrence O'Connor  
Peter Paquette  
Sherly Peters  
Leslie Reese  
Linda Reese

Franklin Robinson  
Bryan Rock  
John Rock  
Donald Saice  
Dawn Schubel  
Ramona Silk  
Eunice Taylor  
Clyde Tibbetts  
Beverly Tonce  
LeRoy Whitebird  
George Wind  
Deanna Younkinn

**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! It is my honor and privilege to provide you with this report regarding the activities undertaken in February 2024.

**FY 25 BUDGET &  
AUDIT UPDATE**

The Budget Committee provided a balanced preliminary budget to the RBC on February 8, 2024. The District Representatives have set public hearings for later in February and early March pursuant to the Budget Ordinance. Final adoption of the FY 25 Budget is scheduled for the April 2024 Quarterly RBC Meeting, again as contemplated in the Budget Ordinance. It is amazing to see the progress that has been made since July 2022, when we last started a Fiscal Year with no duly adopted budget in place. I am truly grateful to the Budget Committee and the Finance Department staff, along with our division directors, program managers and Band members for the time, effort and energy that has been put into making Budget Ordinance compliance a reality.

As reported last month, work on the FY 22 Audit continues. We are staying in regular contact with our auditors at REDW and will continue to prioritize audit completion until we are fully caught up.

**FOUR WALLS POLICY UPDATE**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") have been working on implementing the

Four Walls Policy on tribal and IHS facilities and services. Remember, this Policy requires reimbursable services to be provided within the "Four Walls" of a clinic. Implementing this policy as-is would have a major detrimental impact on Leech Lake's behavioral health, A&D and other health programs. Leech Lake leaders, along with leaders from other Minnesota tribes, have been working diligently with CMS to find a solution that would allow tribal health systems to deliver services without the disruption that implementing this policy would cause.

On January 31, 2024, CMS hosted a national call with tribal leaders where they formally announced their agreement with Leech Lake leadership and other Minnesota tribes regarding the interpretation of this policy. CMS formally announced they were working on proposed rulemaking to modify their current regulation in a way that would allow tribes like Leech Lake to continue to provide reimbursable services unabated. This is a substantial win for Leech Lake and we were thanked for our leadership role in this effort by other Minnesota tribes and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

We will continue to monitor this important issue, working closely with CMS as they develop the language of their new proposed regulation to be sure it fixes this issue going forward.

**MINNESOTA INDIAN GAMING  
ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

On February 6, 2024, I attended the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association meeting. At the meeting, tribal leaders agreed to make necessary changes to the MIGA Charter, and elected an Interim Chairman, Cole Miller, the newly-elected Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Community. We will meet again in March and adopt proposed revisions to the MIGA Charter.

**ELECTION UPDATE**

On February 9, 2024, the RBC met and certified each candidate that filed to run for the office of District III Committeeman and Chairman. A full list of the candidates and their essays is available. I encourage all Band members to exercise your right to vote in the Primary Election on April 2, 2024.

**COMMUNITY  
WELLNESS RECOVERY**

**NAVIGATORS UPDATE**

I am pleased to report that the new Leech Lake Community Wellness Recovery Navigators Program is up and running. We have two navigators and one manager working in this program that is aimed at assisting those struggling with addictions with necessary resources, including Narcan, referrals to A&D services, detox and recovery. This program is in its infancy here at Leech Lake, but is a tentpole in our strategic plan to combat the opioid and fentanyl epidemic that has been plaguing our community for far too long. By continuing to work together, we will see progress made.

**NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS UPDATE**

From February 11, 2024 to February 14, 2024, I attended the National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session. As Midwest Area Vice President, I presented an emergency resolution on behalf of the White Earth Nation regarding the White Earth Nation's attempts to regulate water resources within the boundaries of their Reservation. The resolution was unanimously approved by the NCAI Executive Committee.

**RESERVE FUND UPDATE**

On February 20, 2024, the RBC held a briefing where a resolution was presented to expend Reserve funds for the purchase of a hotel in Deer River, Minnesota. Other expenditures at the briefing were discussed, including a \$5 million infusion into our education endowment to support the increase in post-secondary scholarships. Due to an emergency, I was unable to attend the RBC meeting that followed on February 22, 2024, but a resolution was presented at that meeting that allocated these funds, plus funds for additional land purchase and supplemental funding for the construction of the wellness centers.

The meeting ended before the resolution could be finally voted on. I am in support of tabling or suspending consideration of these proposals until such time as a public meeting can be held and the merits of each expenditure is openly discussed and debated.

I will also work toward developing a process or procedure to ensure that expenditure of these Reserve Funds is done in a transparent and accountable manner going forward

so we do not run into this situation in the future. Before Reserve funds are expended, public input and consent needs to be obtained.

**STATE SMALL BUSINESS  
CREDIT INITIATIVE UPDATE**

The Leech Lake Band is moving forward with the creation of a Small Business Credit Initiative Program. This Program is being established with funds allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act and will foster economic development, provide financial support to small businesses, and create a positive impact on the community.

The Small Business Credit Initiative was started by the federal government around 2010 and focused on State governments. In the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, Congress expanded the Initiative to include tribal governments in addition to state governments.

Leech Lake's Program will offer flexible loans to on-Reservation and Band member owned businesses, ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000, both by guaranteeing loans or making companion or parallel loans.

The total funding amount for this Program is approximately \$2.1 million, with the idea that the loans provided from this initial allocation will establish a revolving loan fund that will sustain the Program for years to come, stimulating economic development and band member entrepreneurship. Please watch for upcoming information about the Program as we move forward with implementation.

This concludes my report for February 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at any time. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve each of you! *Chi-Miigwech.*



**Attention** All Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Members

Leech Lake Gaming invites you for an in-depth review of the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 on **April 18, 2024** at Northern Lights Casino Event Center beginning at **6pm**.

In order to attend you must be a Leech Lake Band member and present your valid tribal ID. The information shared at this review is confidential and proprietary to Leech Lake Gaming.



We look forward to seeing you at the Lights!

Northern Lights Event Center

**6PM | THURS | APR 18**



# Obituaries



## Alfred "Tig" Pemberton Sr.



Alfred "Tig" Raymond Pemberton Sr., "Giniw" means Golden Eagle of Mission MN, began his journey January 27, 2024.

He was born March 4, 1945, in Cass Lake, MN to Alfred Pemberton and Susan "Tombay" (Whitebird) Pemberton, of Mission, MN. Alfred grew up in Mission and lived in numerous places until he returned home in 1970. Alfred attended and graduated from Cass Lake School, entered into the United States Army, upon his return he married his wife Simone Sally Pemberton. He went on to attend Haskell College and Globe College. Alfred enjoyed many sports, recreational league with many local basketball players, he had a women's softball team called the Tig's Tornado's and later became a regular of the Minnesota Indian Golf Classic. Alfred later became the Secretary Treasurer of Leech Lake and then Chairman for about 22 years of his career, his passion was helping the community and families of Leech Lake. Alfred loved attending pow-wow's, especially the Mii-gwech Mahnomen days held in Ball Club, MN always enjoyed the pig roast. Alfred loved and enjoyed his grandchildren and great grandchildren, family gatherings, picnics and cookouts. Enjoyed watching his grandkids excel in sports.

He is welcomed home by his parents Alfred and Susan Pemberton, his two sisters Carol Kingbird and Bernice Pemberton, three of his children Roxanne, Ray and Rita Pemberton, a granddaughter Jordan Pemberton and many cousins and relatives.

Those he leaves behind to cherish his memory: his wife Sally Pemberton, daughters Rochelle (Joe) Pemberton, Rebecca (LeRoy) Fairbanks and 13 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Honorary Pallbearers are Nick Cook, Rocky Cook, John MacCarthy, Bob Ness, Henry Harper, Donnie Headbird, Robert Headbird, Joe Wind, LeRoy Fairbanks III, Ted Bogda, Darryl Drouillard as well as his imme-

diates friends and acquaintances.

Active Pallbearers will be Cody Wind, Kyle Pemberton, LeRoy Fairbanks IV, Dominic Fairbanks, Alternate will be Andrew Loewe and Jayden Pemberton.

A two-night wake will be held at the Mission Community Center starting on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 7:00 PM, with services held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 11:00 AM, with Reverend Bill Butcher presiding. A burial will take place at a later date and time.

## Bonita Armstrong



Bonita Jean Armstrong, age 57, of Cass Lake, Minnesota, passed away on Monday, February 19, 2024 at the Bemidji Sanford Hospital. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Thelma Goodwin (Jones) and David Reyes on February 14, 1967.

Bonita was a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. She lived in various places in Minnesota while growing up. Bonita graduated from the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in Cass Lake, Minnesota. She had many adventurous jobs traveling throughout the United States. When she returned to Minnesota, she enjoyed spending time with her family, especially taking walks with her grandchildren. She spent her evenings watching the stars and relaxing with her pets.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Jeanie Mitsch Jones; granddaughter Breyanah Wind; and parents Thelma Goodwin and David Reyes.

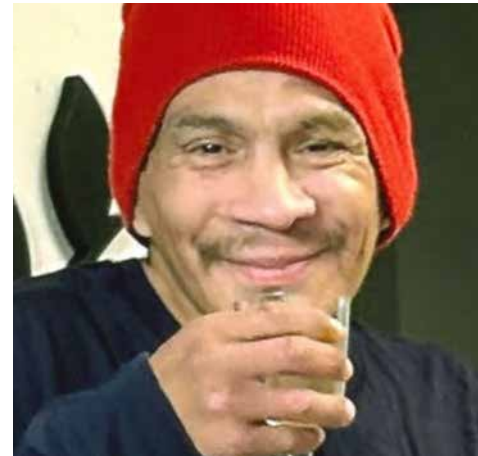
Bonita is survived by her children Richard, Anthony and Brittany; grandchildren Brenda, Bianca, Brittany, Camille. Mary and Brandon; siblings Karen Jones, Valerie Reyes, Wayne Pederson (Angie), Paula Reyes and Leah Reyes-Rambaum.

A Wake will begin on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 1:00 PM and continue until the funeral service at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 23, 2024 at the White Earth Family Center in downtown Cass Lake, Minnesota. with Father

George Ross. Active Pallbearers for Bonita will be Clifford Jones, Jimmy Jones, AJ Dvorak, Thomas Cloud, Frank Tuttle and Skip Norton. Honorary Pallbearers will be Pam Mitchell, Mindy Ruby, Susie Cloud, Alisa Goodshield, Karen Anoka, Melissa Dvorak and Julia LaRose. A private burial will be at a later date.

Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, Minnesota.

## Brandon "Bucco Man" Cloud



Brandon "Bucco man" Lee Cloud, age 48, journeyed to the spirit world on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, in Minneapolis, MN. He was born on March 14, 1975, in Minneapolis, the son of Diane Cloud.

Brandon was a very comical person with a good sense of humor. He "glowed" when he was around family. He was a very smart man, excelled in school, especially in creative writing and poetry, where he won awards for his work. Brandon was a very clean person, wise, and knew about life. He was not a people person, he kind of kept to himself. He never complained about how hard he had it in his life. He enjoyed going to the casino when he could, playing his twenty cent and forty cent games, where he would win. Brandon loved his only daughter, Mackenzie, with all his being, loved her more than anything in his life. She was his world.

Family greeting Brandon in the spirit world are his grandparents, Peter and Susan Cloud; uncles, Doug and Darwin Cloud; aunts, Bonita Cloud and Wanda Jackson; and dad, Charles Shingobee.

Those left behind to forever cherish Brandon's memory are his mom, Diane Cloud; daughter, Mackenzie Cloud-Johns; significant other, Marlena Johns; sisters, Dawn Shingobee, Leslie Cloud, Cindy Skinaway, Kimberly St. John, and Cameron Cloud; brother, Charles Shingobee, Jr.; aunts, Janice, Darlene, and Linda Cloud; nieces; nephews; and close cousins, Stacey Cloud, Susan Huerta, and Karen Cloud-Huerta.

A two-night wake for Brandon will start on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and continue until his traditional service on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., all to be held at the Facility Center in Cass Lake, MN. Brandon's Spiritual Advisor is Allen Hardy. Those helping to lay Brandon to rest are

Joey Hill, Tonz Rodriquez, Maurice Rodriquez, Bradley Cloud, Mark Cloud, and Ron Cloud. Honorary pallbearers are Deanna, Lauren, Rhonda, Charles, Lee, Kristen, Marlena, The Cass Lake Cloud Family, all Brandon's Family and Friends. Interment will be in the Oak Point Cemetery in Cass Lake, MN.

Brandon'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](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Floyd Johnson Sr.



Floyd Peter Johnson, Sr., "Mud-ji-Kee'-wis" meaning "Being with Power" of the Eagle Clan and Nevis, MN, started his journey at his home on January 9th, 2024. He was born on September 24th, 1941, to William and Eva (Hurd) Johnson in Onigum, MN. He attended school in Walker and relocated to Akeley with his family.

Floyd enlisted in the U.S Marines Corp in 1960 and served until 1964 when he was honorably discharged. Floyd attended college in Detroit Lakes where he obtained a degree in carpentry. He was a strong hardworking man, worked as a logger for 40 years alongside his father. It was well known that Floyd was a very competitive person; he was known as the "left-handed horseshoe player" and hardly lost a game. He played the spoons like no other person!

Floyd enjoyed going hunting, fishing, and ricing, he also enjoyed gambling too. But he really loved to go to pow wows! He was well known around the communities as a recognized traditional single hoop dancer. That's where he met his beautiful wife, Leona La Rose. They were married in 1968 for 46 years. After retiring from logging, he became a security person for Northern Lights Casino for 22 years. It was during his time at the casino that he danced with his family under the "big tent" at the Cajun Fest doing his hoop dance.

Floyd will be remembered as a kind, generous, and loving person. He loved his family very much, especially his grandchildren, he will be missed by all.

Those greeting Floyd in the spirit world are his parents, William and Eva Johnson; wife, Leona Johnson; daughter, Lorena Johnson, and numerous other family members.

Family Floyd leaves behind are his sons,

DEBAHJIMON

# Candidate Essays



PRIMARY ELECTION / APRIL 2024



*Vote April 2, 2024*

CHAIRPERSON | DISTRICT III REPRESENTATIVE

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

***Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in the Candidate Essays, located in this section, are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Debahjimon Newspaper, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe or any of its entities. Submissions from the candidates are presented as received. The guidelines for submission included stipulations that authors include no libelous or slanderous statements and refrain from attacking any other candidates.*

# Leech Lake Tribal Council Certifies Candidates for 2024 Election

BY MICHAEL CHOSA, Published on leechlakenews.com, February 9, 2024

At a special meeting on Friday, February 9, 2024 the Leech Lake Tribal Council certified candidates for the 2024 Tribal Elections. Following certification, a lottery was held for each race to determine the order in which candidates will appear on the ballot.

In the race for Chairperson, the following candidates were certified to run and will appear on the ballot in the following order:

- Branden Bowstring
- Calvin Howard
- Faron Jackson Sr. (Incumbent)
- Michael Reyes
- Tami Jackson
- Gerald White
- Dawn Litzau-Staples
- Terri Finn-Goggeye
- Walter "Frank" Reese
- Raymond "Skip" Lyons

In the race for District III Representative, the following candidates were certified and will appear on the ballot in the following order:

- Kari Fisherman
- Leon Staples Jr.
- Delmar Jones III
- Jennie Reyes
- John Johnson
- Donald "Mick" Finn
- Herschel Ogema
- Diane Osceola
- Peter "Big Pete" Jackson
- Glen "Tuffy" Fisher
- Kyle Fairbanks Sr.
- Julian Molash
- Thomas Brown

Certified candidates for the offices of Chairperson and District III Representative will appear on the Primary Election ballot on April 2, 2024. In these races, the top two vote getters in each contest will move forward to the General Election in June 2024. Should a candidate receive more than 50% of the vote during the Primary Election, that candidate will be declared the winner and no General Election for that position will be held.

Per the MCT Election Calendar, the LLBO Tribal Council will now submit the Notice of Certifications to the Tribal Executive Committee by February 12, 2024.

Any person who has filed a complete Notice of Candidacy can challenge the decision of the LLRTC by filing the appropriate documentation with the MN Chippewa Tribe. The MCT Tribal Election Court of Appeals will then convene and issue a decision on the certification or non-certification by February 22, 2024. Elected candidates will serve a four-year term beginning in July 2024 and ending in 2028.

CATHERINE J. CHAWERS, PRESIDENT  
FARON JACKSON, SR., VICE PRESIDENT

LIZABETH K. DROST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APRIL McCORMICK, SECRETARY  
LEONARD M. HIGDON, TREASURER



## The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

### PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

A Primary Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the LEECH LAKE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on April 2, 2024, to fill the following positions:

**ELECTION DATE:** April 2, 2024

#### POLLING PLACES:

##### DISTRICT I:

Ball Club – Community Center  
31627 County Rd. #39, Deer River, MN  
Inger – Community Center  
53736 County Rd. #146, Deer River, MN  
Squaw Lake – Community Center  
59979 County Rd. #4, S. Lake MN

##### DISTRICT II:

Bena – Community Center  
15032 Old Housing Drive, Bena, MN  
Smokey Point - Kego Lake Comm. Ctr.  
6159 Kego Lake Trail NE, Longville, MN  
Sugar Point – Community Center  
10051 Battle Pt. Dr., Federal Dam, MN

##### DISTRICT III:

Cass Lake – Dikinaagan Center, 16120 60th Ave NW, Cass Lake MN  
Mission – Community Center, 2126 Finch Lane, SE, Cass Lake MN  
Onigum – Community Center, 08825 County Rd #13, Walker MN  
Oak Point – Community Center, 5468 170th St NW, Cass Lake MN  
Cass River – Community Center, 1731 Scenic Hwy, SE, Pennington, MN

#### GENERAL RESERVATION ELECTION BOARD

Che we Building SE Corner  
P.O. Box 578  
115 6<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. E  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

\*\*\*ABSENTEE VOTING\*\*\*

##### BEMIDJI

Bemidji City Hall  
Chamber of Commerce  
317 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Bemidji, MN

##### \*DULUTH

Dr. Robert Powless  
Cultural Center  
212 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Duluth, MN

##### LEECH LAKE TWIN CITIES

Leech Lake Twin Cities Office  
2438 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN

**POLLS OPEN:** 8:00 a.m. **POLLS CLOSE:** 8:00 p.m.

#### CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRPERSON – 4 Year Term

Branden Bowstring  
Calvin Howard  
Faron Jackson Sr. - Incumbent  
Michael Reyes  
Tami Jackson  
Gerald White  
Dawn Litzau-Staples  
Terri Finn-Goggeye  
Walter "Frank" Reese  
Raymond "Skip" Lyons

#### CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT III COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Kari Fisherman  
Leon Staples Jr.  
Delmar Jones III  
Jennie Reyes  
John Johnson  
Donald "Mick" Finn  
Herschel Ogema  
Diane Osceola  
Peter "Big Pete" Jackson  
Glen "Tuffy" Fisher  
Kyle Fairbanks Sr.  
Julian Molash  
Thomas Brown

Attached is an excerpt from Election Ordinance revised December 11, 2023, which states the voting requirements.

Date: February 23, 2024

Elizabeth Drost, Executive Director



# 2024 Leech Lake Tribal Council Primary Election Information



**Primary Election Date :** Tuesday April 2, 2024  
Polls open from 8 AM until 8 PM

**General Election Date :** Tuesday June 11, 2024  
Polls open from 8 AM until 8 PM

## Absentee Voting Information

In order to receive an absentee ballot, voters can fill out an absentee ballot request card provided by a candidate or submit a written request to the Election Board. Written requests MUST contain the following information:

- Full Name
- Mailing Address
- Physical Address (if different)
- Date of Birth
- Voting District
  - A District must be declared on your request in order to receive an absentee ballot, failure to provide one will lead to significant delays
  - District cannot be changed without establishing residency (see "Establishing Residency" below)
  - Out of State voters who have not declared a district in a previous election shall declare a district to vote in
  - Out of State voters are not eligible to select a new district if they have chosen one previously without meeting the residency requirements outlined below

Voters can also cast an absentee ballot in person by visiting the Election Board office. Absentee voters must bring an acceptable ID when voting in person. Ballots are not permitted to leave the Election Board office. The only exception is if there is a voter that is unable to vote in person (handicapped, elder, etc.) Those voters are able to sign a form requesting assistance to vote and a minimum of two Election Board members will walk the ballot out and assist the voter.

## Acceptable Identification for Voters

\*Must have acceptable ID – No vouching

The forms of identification that may be used by a voter who appears at a polling place to vote on Election Day include:

- Official Valid Tribal Identification Card of Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; or
- A current and valid photo identification card issued by the State of Minnesota or the United States government; or
- Military ID; or
- US Passport or US Passport Card

## Establishing Residency

\*A voter must have resided within that district for at least (30) days immediately preceding the election.

The forms acceptable to establish residency:

- An original or copy of a current utility bill; or
- An original or copy of a current bank statement; or
- An original or copy of current government check; or
- An original or copy of current paycheck; or
- An original or copy of a current other government document that shows the voters name and current address.

## Leech Lake Election Board

### Physical Address:

SE Corner CheWe Building  
115 Sixth St. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 787, Cass Lake, MN 56633

**Phone:** (218) 335-7222

**Fax:** (218) 335-7248

**Toll free:** 1-877-577-7945

### Election Board Members:

Chair- Sharon Wilson

Clerk- Terri Boswell

Clerk- Patsy Gordon

Clerk- Jody Bellanger

Clerk- Claircy Gonzales

## Polling Sites

### DISTRICT I

Ball Club  
Community Center  
31627 County Rd #39  
Deer River, MN

Inger Community Center  
53736 County Rd #146  
Deer River, MN

S. Lake  
Community Center  
59979 County Rd #4  
S. Lake, MN

**DISTRICT II**  
Bena Community Center  
15032 Old Housing Drive  
Bena, MN

Smokey Point  
Kego Lake  
Community Center  
6159 Kego Lake Trail NE  
Longville, MN

Sugar Point  
Community Center  
10051 Battle Pt. Dr.  
Federal Dam, MN

**DISTRICT III**  
Cass Lake  
Dikinagan Center  
16120 60<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Cass Lake, MN

Mission  
Community Center  
2126 Finch Lane SE  
Cass Lake, MN

Oak Point  
Community Center  
05468 107<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Cass Lake, MN

Onigum  
Community Center  
8825 Co. Rd. #13  
Onigum, MN

Cass River  
Community Center  
1731 Scenic HWY SE  
Pennington, MN

**BEMIDJI**  
Bemidji City Hall  
Chamber of Commerce  
317 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Bemidji, MN

**DULUTH**  
Dr. Robert Powless  
Culture Center  
212 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Duluth, MN

**TWIN CITIES**  
Leech Lake  
Twin Cities Office  
2438 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN

**ABSENTEE VOTING  
GENERAL ELECTION  
BOARD**

Che We Building  
(SE Corner)  
P.O. Box 578  
115 6<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. E  
Cass Lake, MN

## APR 2

Primary Election (Polling  
Places open from 8 AM  
until 8 PM).

## APR 3

Reservation Election  
Board certifies results of  
Election prior to 8 PM.

## APR 4

Reservation Election  
Board publishes Primary  
Election results.

## APR 5

Deadline for Request for  
Recount.

## APR 9

4:30 PM deadline for  
Contest of Primary of  
Primary Election.

## APR 10

Deadline for Decision on  
Request for Recount and  
Results of Recount, if  
allowed.

## APR 19

Deadline for Decision on  
Contest

## APR 22

4:30 PM Deadline for  
Appeal to Court of  
Election Appeals.

## MAY 10

Notice of General  
Election.

## JUN 11

General Election (Polling  
Places open from 8 AM  
until 8 PM).

## JUN 12

Reservation Election  
Board certifies results of  
Election prior to 8 PM.

## JUN 13

Reservation Election  
Board publishes Election  
results.

# Branden Bowstring

*Chairperson Candidate*



Aaniin indinawemaganugidoog niizhoo migiziwug indigoo Branden Bowstring indizhinakaz chachabahning indoojibah migizi doodem.my name is Branden Bowstring and I am running for the tribal chairman position.

You may know me from my time as a powwow mc, or my stint as professional wrestler Arik Storm, my time as a head-start teacher, my time as class president at the best college little college in Minnesota the Leech Lake Tribal College. Or maybe you've heard me sing, I've been called the songbird of my generation by people who have heard me sing. Regardless of where you know me from

you know that I always work my hardest to do good and represent my family, my community and my tribe the best I can.

I am running this year because there needs to be a change in the way we conduct our business. With every election that comes and goes we are always promised the same thing we need to take care of our children, elders and culture. But time and time again these promises go broken. Our cries and pleas for help fall upon deaf ears. The personal attacks, the fear of retaliation if you speak your mind. These are only some of the reasons why politics have become so divisive and toxic.

For years our youth program has been almost nonexistent with budgetary constraints and lack of staff. We owe it to our youth to make sure that they have all the opportunities and access to resources that will help guide them down a path where they can succeed in this challenging new world. We keep hearing that there's just no money in the budget for these programs because we need to balance the budget first. That's all well and good if we had time but time is something we're not afforded. These runaways, these suicides, these overdoses, don't wait for budgets to get balanced. We need ACTION now! We need to set up a plan and infrastructure so that our children can succeed, so we can find the ones who slip through the cracks and be there for them. A strong nation is built from the ground up. The children are our future and we need them to be successful in everything that they do because they are the ones who will be making the decisions next.

Our elders should never have to worry about if they're going to eat that day or if their going to have enough money to cover rent and bills. They certainly should never be raising their grandchildren while they're adult children are

able to work. They should be enjoying their twilight years playing bingo or whatever they want to do. They should not be doing any of the above. Our elders worked their tails off to save what we have today. Because of our elders we still have our language and culture. We talk about our 7 teachings all the time but how can we live these teachings when we have elders living in squalor. We need more elder housing and assisted living facilities.

Our culture and language should be held in high regard. Our culture, language and land base is what makes us aanishinabe and separates us from other tribes. Some time ago we made ojibwe our official language of the tribe but none our tribal business is conducted in ojibwe. We need to get back to our ceremonial ways and reconnect with our land.

We know what we have to do to succeed as a tribe. We must be united in this fight for our future because no one person can fix the problematic situations we've found ourselves in. Not even five people on tribal council can fix these issues. It's going to take all of us as a tribe and people to tackle these issues. When you start to build a house you don't start with the roof. You start with a solid foundation. And our foundation is our tribal members. If our tribal members are successful then our tribe will be successful. My approach to leadership is and always will be that real leadership works best when it's lead by the people. Regardless of the outcome of this election cycle I want you to hold whoever gets in accountable for their decisions. If I win that's cool but what I really want to see is record voter turnout for this election. When the people lead the leaders will follow.

*Aho miigwech.*

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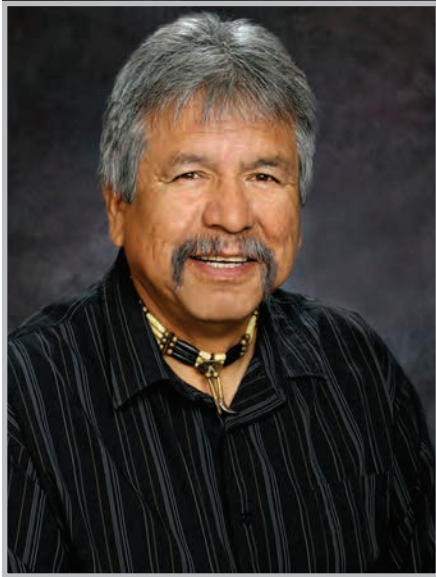
# Calvin Howard

*Chairperson Candidate*

**NO ESSAY / PHOTO SUBMITTED**

# Faron Jackson, Sr.

Chairperson Candidate (*incumbent*)



Boozhoo Honorable Leech Lakers, I am humbly asking for your support to continue the great work that we started together in 2016, 2020, and into 2024. We have experienced great success in rebuilding our Nation but more work needs to be done. As we continue the journey together, a great many challenges still face us. My campaign platform on where we started and the plan for the future as we move forward. I will be brief on proposing an Economic Stimulus Package, past accomplishments, our current state of affairs, and future planning.

**BACKGROUND:** Laurel and I have been married for 46 years, five children, five adopted children, 25 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and a licensed foster parent for over 31 years. I had attended Twin City Occupation Industry Center and Dunwoody Institute, retired from Xcel Energy after 31 years, worked at Honeywell for 7 years, serving as your Chairman for almost 8 years, and voted MCT TEC Vice-President.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS:** As we all know, its next to impossible to find support or positive outcomes without the help of other governmental entities. What have we gained by being friends with the Minnesota Governor, MN Legislature, the President of the U.S., and Congress. Here is why its so important to have established and grown those relationships will be explained in our success today and in future plans.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Since the 1800's, we had been told that the possibility of getting our land back wouldn't happen in our lifetimes. In 2020, Leech Lake's illegally taken land in the amount of 11,760 acres has been returned. In 2023, the MBL surveyor had identified another 4,362 acres that had an illegal secretarial transfer and U.S. Senator Smith had introduced bill S.F. 616. Our ancestors and elders had a vision to see our lands returned was not forgotten but we bravely told their stories. Below are priorities the people shared and the elected leaders responded:

- In 2017, opened the Shingobee on the Bay & Casino.
- In 2018, a new Community Center in Onigum.
- In 2018, a new \$12 million Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.
- In 2019, a new \$50 million Cedar Lakes Casino & Hotel.
- In 2020, LL was dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- In 2021, LL Market was created with the purchase of Teal's Market.
- In 2021, LL receives approximately \$80 million in Covid-19 funds.

- In 2022, S. Lake Community Center renovations completed.
- In 2022, Chairman & RBC approve a new minimum wage of \$15.00 dollars.
- In 2023, MN Governor's bonding bill of \$24 million for 3 LL Wellness Centers.
- In 2023, MN Governor approved \$35 million in aid for the 11 Tribes.
- In 2023, LL awarded \$18.7 million Broadband Grant.
- In 2023, MN Indian Scholarship program awarded \$6.3 million.
- In 2023, Anji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center awarded \$850,000 dollars.
- In 2024, Private Landowner returning 360 acres to LL ownership.
- In 2024, LL awarded \$1.5 million Tiwahe Project grant.
- In 2024, LL opens 20 bed Woman's Treatment Recovery Center.
- In 2024, LL was awarded \$3.5 million USDA grant for a wild rice plant.
- In 2024, LL RBC creates \$40 million Tribal Reserve Fund.

**ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE:** In 2021, we had received an infusion of \$80 million in federal funds through the Covid-19 Recovery Funds for Tribal Governments. These Covid-19 funds had been used to fund gaming & the administration for over 2-years. During that time, we had been able to save on not spending any of the LLBO General Funds. As of January 9, 2024, the RBC created by res. the \$40 million Tribal Reserve Fund. Why now, we have high inflation, electric disconnect notices, families can't find employment, and putting food on the table. We will recommend to the RBC for an Economic Stimulus Package in the amount of \$1,500 for Adults and \$500 for under 18 yrs in their trust account.

**FUTURE PROJECTS & PROPOSALS:** In a lifetime struggle for our grandchildren and kids, the debate to include a process for them to be enrolled. In 2015, we had passed MCT Resolution 32-15 states, "other Chippewa blood..." and re-approved in 2023. In 2023, the MCT, TEC had approved MCT Res. for implementation. In 2024, we will be introducing a LLBO Res. that shall implement MCT Res. 32-15 for Enrollment Eligibility. We must take a final stand on the idea of self-preservation by honoring our sovereignty and being an independent Nation that existed before the MCT or a Treaty. Here are other ideas that Leech Lakers expressed as being important:

- Treatment Programs that includes the circle of continuum care and located at Home.
- Food Sovereignty that continues the planning for a Buffalo Farm.
- LL Wellness Center funding for a bigger facility located in Cass Lake.
- Restore funding that was cut from the Youth Programs & Activities.
- Addressing the ICWA Law out-of-compliance with MN Commissioner & Counties.
- Supporting I.H.S. Plan for a Drive-thru Pharmacy & Lobbying for an Orthodontist.
- Presenting a proposal for local business purchases, i.e. White Oak Suites or Y Bottle Shop.
- Restore funding for other LLBO Divisions & Programs.
- Establishing a list of priorities to present to the MN Governor & U.S. Congressional leaders.

**CLOSING STATEMENT:** We have a solid track record of supporting the com-

munity gatherings, the LIC's, the Pow Wows, and the Band members activities. When the people spoke, the Chairman's vision of building a Nation that serves our people became the highest priority. We had walked a long journey together; we took on the Huber Logging Giant and won; we had fought for the ICWA Law in the U.S. Supreme Court and won; and we have the biggest challenge in front of us—moving forward the new priorities of the Leech Lake Nation. The seven Grandfather teachings will guide all of us as we work together. Support Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. with the honor of being your Chairman in 2024. **Mii-Gwetch!**

## Michael Reyes

*Chairperson Candidate*



Boozhoo, My name is Michael Reyes and I am running for the Leech Lake Chair position. I am the son of Mark and Jennie (Wind) Reyes.

I have lived on the Leech Lake Reservation my entire life, most of that time in Cass Lake and for a short period in Boy Lake. I have been married to my wife, Erin Reyes since 2016 and we have 5 children. We have lived in the Norway Heights neighborhood in Cass Lake since 2012.

In 2016, I ran for the chair position with one of my main motivators being the battle against the drug epidemic that plagues our communities. At that time, I was part of a team that travelled around our communities as well as surrounding communities presenting on drug education and drug prevention. The rapid drug crises has ripped apart our families and has threatened our tribe and communities. My goal has and always will be to make sure that we as a nation are educated and prepared to fight this battle for our people

I was only on the Cass Lake Fire Department for 3 years when I previously ran for Chair. During this time, I had 15 years of experience working with kids in different aspects, and 10 years working in Law Enforcement. During my campaign, I was told I needed more experience and more involvement within the community. Looking into other candidates, I had just as much or more experience as the rest of them. I have always been and always will be community-oriented whether I am running for a position or not

This time I am running I have done more to make change for our nation and people. I am elected official to the Pike Bay Board. I ran for the seat because people of Leech Lake voiced the concern of getting treated unfairly by the Law Enforcement that was employed by them. Me and others let the people decide and they voted to let the individual go. I was elected in 2022 to the Leech Lake Housing Board. Since I have been elected, we as a board have looked into home ownership more now than ever. We are trying to help build new homes for people to own. I will always push for what is best for our nation and always willing to put the work in.

My community, my nation, and my culture mean everything to me. I have volunteered my time and resources to help put together events and youth activities for many years. I am honored to run for Leech Lake Chair and if I am elected into office, I will put the needs of our nation and its members first. I will make sound, fair decisions based on research and knowledge. I will utilize resources and reach out to past leaders and neighboring tribes to gather information in order to make the best decisions possible for Leech Lake. I will do what it takes to not only help my Nation survive, but to thrive as individual members and as a reservation as a whole.

**VOTE MICHAEL REYES DECADES OF HARDWORK FIGHTING TO MAKE CHANGE**

## Tami Jackson

*Chairperson Candidate*



Aaniin, my name is Tami Jackson, I am from Cha Cha Bah Ning-Inger. My family—the Bowstring family are from Cha Cha Bah Ning. My parents are Lewis and Agnes Bowstring, I have three sisters Tina, Melissa, Christina and three brothers Lawrence, Frankling and Bradley. I have been blessed with three children and four grandchildren. I went to Deer River High school; I graduated in 1981. I attended Itasca Community college with an emphasis in Business Administration and accounting, graduate. I am currently pursuing two degrees at Leech Lake Tribal Community college in Indigenous Leadership and Business Management.

The reason I decided to seek the esteemed position of Chairpersonship for Leech Lake Reservation is, it is time for our reservation to elect another

woman for leadership. For the past 10 to 12 years, we have been under the leadership of men, our women have sat in the back of the room for far too long. No one in these esteemed positions have sought out our women for any direction, any guidance to assist in making wise decisions our reservation can use. Our women are the backbone of our families and our reservation. It is time to choose a new leader to lead our reservation forward. Often, we have heard we are moving in this direction or that direction, and yet, we have become stagnant in our reservation. Nothing achieved to fix our issues. We put up a new building here or there, and still it isn't in the right decision that was needed. We need to address issues that concerns our youth, our elders, our people in general, we need to make those issues a "guiding issue" within our leadership councils, our executive and administrative levels and especially in our communities. We need every one's input, so we can rebuild ourselves to better healthy citizens of this reservation.

We have the same issues we had 12 years ago, 20 years ago, the same social economic issues we had then, homelessness, drug and alcohol, over budgeting in some areas and underbudgeting in other areas, and in some cases no budgeting at all. We have all responded to the pandemic and extreme loss of our young ones with our drug and alcohol epidemics which we currently experience. These young ones were part of our 7th generation to our futures future. We need to focus on these many factors or we lose our directions. Now we have to look to the future with new innovative ideas to keep our generations in the future strong, the way those from our past did. We look to future with new ideas to generate funds to sustain our people and our reservation, like Cannabis, Gaming, grants so that each of these sustains our reservation. But before we can all move forward, we need to rebuild our infrastructure within our programs we have, so each and every one of these programs can get back to servicing our people, taking care of the needs of the people, to make each and every one healthy so we can live prosperous in health and a managed livable way.

The way I would do this is I plan to have an open-door policy along with an open-door communication dialogue between our communities and my leadership. I will have transparency and build a progressive responsible administrative office. I take policies and procedures very responsively and will always have an open dialogue between the citizens and myself for our reservation. I have always been employed within the constraints of our reservation, whether it was Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Gaming, and currently with Leech Lake Housing Authority. I may not have had the opportunity of "managing" a division, but I have managed very well in many of these departments I have been employed over the past years. I started work here on the reservation after college back in 1994. Youth Division, Head Start, Health Division, a brief employment service at the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. I have lived off the reservation and have lived in other states before then. I take leadership very responsibly and will continue to do so. I am dedicated to a progressive future for our reservation and understand the obstacles of technology, new responsive ideas are always a welcome for us to embrace and not shy away from the opportunity of learning. Learning new ideas and sharing those among us can only build us stronger. I look forward to your open dialogue don't hesitate to contact me and ask questions or just to openly speak with you. I have a very

open opinion on any topic you wish to talk with me about. I humbly ask for your support for the office of leadership of Chairwoman of Leech Lake Reservation. My telephone and email are provided below. **Chi Miigwech!**

Tami Jackson • [tami.jackson09@gmail.com](mailto:tami.jackson09@gmail.com) • 218-256-9757

## Gerald White

Chairperson Candidate



Boozhoo Niizhoogaaboindiizhinikaaz,  
Chi-aachabawning indoonjiba

Greetings, esteemed members of Gaa-zagashkwaajimekaag As I stand before you, I come with a vision rooted in our shared values, a vision that embraces progress, empowerment, and unity. Today, I am honored to present a part of my platform as I seek your support to serve as Tribal Chairman.

- 1. Ending Homelessness:** It is unacceptable that members of our community are without shelter. I pledge to implement comprehensive strategies to eradicate homelessness, providing support and resources to ensure every member has a place to call home.
- 2. Supporting Education:** Education is the cornerstone of empowerment. I am committed to enhancing educational opportunities for our youth, ensuring they have access to quality education that prepares them for success and preserves our cultural heritage.
- 3. Entrepreneurship:** I believe in fostering a culture of entrepreneurship within our community. By providing support, resources, and mentorship, we can empower tribal members to create and sustain businesses that contribute to our collective prosperity.
- 4. Enrollment of Tribal Members:** Every member of our tribe deserves recognition and support. I will work tirelessly to streamline enrollment processes, ensuring that all eligible individuals have access to their rightful membership benefits and resources.
- 5. Equity for Resources:** Whether living on or off the Leech Lake Reservation, every member should have equitable access to essential resources. I will advocate for fair distribution and allocation of resources to uplift all members of our community.
- 6. Elder Care:** Our elders are the custodians of our traditions and wisdom. I

am dedicated to enhancing elder care services, ensuring our elders receive the respect, support, and care they deserve.

**7. Early Childhood:** Investing in our youngest members is investing in our future. I will prioritize early childhood development programs and resources to give our children the best possible start in life.

**8. Environmental Issues and Treaty Rights:** Protecting our environment and upholding our treaty rights are paramount. I will champion environmental conservation efforts and defend our rights to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

In pursuing these goals, I am guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. I believe in the power of collaboration and dialogue, and I am committed to working alongside all members of our community to realize our shared vision of prosperity and wellbeing.

Together, we can build a brighter future for our tribe—one grounded in our culture, resilience, justice, and unity. With your support, I am confident that we can make meaningful progress and create lasting positive change for generations to come. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your dedication to our shared journey.

218-760-6109 • [geraldwhite995@gmail.com](mailto:geraldwhite995@gmail.com)

## Dawn Litzau-Staples

*Chairperson Candidate*



Boozhoo Nijj-Anishinaabedog,

I wanted to start my essay out giving thanks to those that have offered their support and kind words of encouragement. There's nothing easy about putting yourself up for observation and judgment, but with the strength of my family and those willing to be known by mine it makes it easier to stand up and share my beliefs with the people.

There has been deep thought put into my running for Chairwoman, not only by myself, but those around me. It's been discussed within my household for a number of years; based on the conversation topic of what our government should be, and could be. How an idea of

a better functioning tribal government could not just affect my immediate family positively, but every single person within the umbrella of our tribe. Expanding and implementing a plan for ourselves and for a better future. There has been a great deal of disempowerment within our history as Anishinaabe people, and more specifically Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe tribal members. Disempowerment supported by our struggle with generational trauma, disorganization, and lateral violence.

My goal as a candidate is to convince our people I am someone who can remedy all the scrutiny thrown upon our tribal council and uphold the integrity of our tribe. As someone who has worked with a variety of people in my lifetime as a military spouse and teacher for multiple different states and tribes; I will be an effective advocate for the visions of our indigenous peoples. I personally feel there has been a substantial amount of neglect when it comes to how we carry through with the needs of the average tribal member. Issues brought before the council should be studied and investigated so that council members have the best chance to come to an educated decision based on those topics. Budget allocation is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to fixing lifelong problems within the bounds of our borders. It leads to many needed discussions about who we are as a people and how we function as a whole.

The core issues we face today are deeply rooted in the functionality of who is seated at our tribal council's executive meetings. There have been great minds brought forward and sat in those positions, and I believe that there is a need for a Chairperson who can bring a great deal of rectitude to the table. Diplomacy is a key factor in getting ourselves back on track. Protecting our rights as tribal members and protecting our assets are one of the many issues I will be advocating for.

Creating programs and pushing them forward so our tribal members of all ages can feel supported in and out of their homes. Programs that tackle all the issues that have been brought to light. Small example; having a place for our youth and finding housing for our homeless.

I plan on fighting for these programs so one day future generations don't have to worry about their health of any kind. Having genuine food sovereignty, mental health support, transitional housing, access to modern fitness facilities for all Leech Lakers will enable our people to have a healthy mind, body and spirit. It is important to have a cultural focus and find ways to spearhead language revitalization also. I believe that taking a look at our intertribal relations and finding ways to trade innovative ideas is an amazing way to get a majority of these programs off the ground.

Of course these are subjects that need to be talked about and pursued by our tribal council together as a whole, this isn't just me alone who has these thoughts, but I want to make it my personal responsibility as a candidate to protect the aspirations of our community. This is no small feat so I hope you all join me in this journey to make change.

**Miigwech,**  
Dawn Litzau-Staples

# Terri Finn-Goggeleye

*Chairperson Candidate*



Members of our tribal community,

I, Terri Finn-Goggeleye stand before you today with a profound sense of responsibility as I begin my candidacy for the position of Chairperson. This is not merely a personal endeavor but a commitment to the welfare and prosperity of our Band. I believe that together, we can build a future that preserves our traditions while embracing progress.

As a life long resident of District 2, Bena, I am the oldest and only daughter of Ron and Henrietta Finn. I am a devoted sister to five brothers; Jay, Bryan, Todd, Jon and Pat. My family

consists of six children; Cory, Brook, Tate, Tara, Katie and Kellen Scott plus seven bonus children; Anayah, Avery, Raven, Ayana, Nina, Ayasha and Illiana. We would not be complete without my 28 grandchildren and soon to be four great-grandchildren!

Presently, I am Chairperson of the Leech Lake Housing Authority, Chairperson of the Bena Local Indian Council and a Board Member of the Cass Lake-Bena Schools. My commitment to Leech Lake is shown through my organization and volunteer experiences with community seasonal feasts, Toys for Tots, Treats for Tots, Community Spring Clean Up, Elder holiday parties, youth activities, Bena Sunday family bingo, summer family softball, and my latest adventure: Bena Fest!

Our people are woven together by a rich tapestry of history, culture, and shared experiences. As Chairperson, I will work tirelessly to foster an inclusive environment where each voice is heard, and every member feels valued. Our LIC's are essential in our communities. By attending regular LIC meetings and continue our "All LIC" meetings on a regular basis, your ideas and concerns will be shared and address with Leadership. Through allocating funding and other initiatives, such as the Tiwahe Fund, to our LIC's, the funding will be there for our 12 areas (FY25 addition – Prescott LIC) to continue hosting community events and programming for years to come.

Quarterly Meetings held in the evening would encourage band membership participation and keep the lines of communication open. Together, we can encourage feedback and ensure that our decision-making process is accessible by all communities. By keeping each other informed, we can make decisions collectively that affect Leech Lake.

As we navigate the challenges of the present and chart a course for the future, it is crucial that we have strong accessible leadership. In my time as Executive Director, I have been hands on with issues that have been presented to me as we work to solve them.

Economic empowerment is another key pillar of my vision. As the Gaming Industry is not the only band resource, I will work to create opportunities for sustainable economic growth within our Band. This includes supporting our current tribal businesses and exploring new ventures that will benefit current and future band members. Together, we can build a foundation for long-term success.

Furthermore, I am dedicated to preserving our cultural heritage. Our traditions and shared history define our identity. This includes investing in educational programs, cultural events, and resources that celebrate our people.

In conclusion, I am not just seeking your vote, I humbly ask for your trust as we begin this journey. Together, we can shape a future that honors our past, embraces our present, and paves the way for generations to come.

**Miigwech,**

Terri Finn-Goggeleye • Bena, Minnesota • **218-407-4011**

# Walter Reese

*Chairperson Candidate*



Statement from Walter "Frank" Reese

I have been advocating for constitutional reform since the summer of 1985 when the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) was attempting to give themselves full Executive, Legislative, and Judicial power. This power grab was proposed as "Amendment Three". Tribal members of the MCT pushed back upon this amendment as the TEC tried to express that too many of our children were being placed in white foster homes. The real reason for the amendment was to form an appellate court to farther oppress the rights of tribal members, also to legalize all the wrong doing of elected officials and their executive staffs. The push

back from tribal members of the six reservations of the MCT caused the TEC to withdraw the proposed amendment at a Special TEC meeting held at the Leech Lake Bingo Palace in Cass Lake in June of 1986. The Palace was filled with tribal member, wall to wall with many standing outside also. The TEC was shaken by the large number of tribal members in attendance. The TEC responded to the demands of the membership present by passing two resolutions, one to have a constitutional convention, starting that day and the other to have primary elections, starting with the next election. Both of these resolutions were later repealed at an unknown time and place.

The causation of our problems of the MCT, is its an illegal constitution. This document was framed by the federal government via the BIA.

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 was approved on June 18, 1934. Section 16 states, "Any Indian tribe, or tribes, residing on the same reservation, shall have the right to organize for its common welfare, and may adopt an appropriate constitution and bylaws". Not reservations of a state, (MCT).

Section 18 states, "It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior, within one year after the passage and approval of this Act, to call such an election".

Such an election was approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 22, 1936, and ratified by the MCT on June 20, 1936. Secretary Ickes approved and signed the Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa on July 20, 1936. The Secretary of Interior did not call for an election within the one year mandated requirement.

The Leech Lake constitution delegates have been framing a new treaty-based constitution which will serve us equally now and into the future. Those of us which have been on this delegation from the start are asking Leech Lake members to join us in the highly important process. We meet at the Pub 33 on every Tuesday at 9:00 am. Thanks, Short and to the Point Statement!

Elect Walter "Frank" Reese Chairman

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## *Raymond Lyons*

*Chairperson Candidate*

**NO ESSAY / PHOTO SUBMITTED**



## Kari Fisherman

*District III Representative Candidate*



Aaniin, my name is Kari Fisherman and I have been a lifelong resident of Leech Lake Reservation. My family consists of my daughter and my twin niece and nephew. I graduated from Cass Lake – Bena High School in 2003 and I graduated from Leech Lake Tribal College in 2022 with my A.A. degree in Indigenous Leadership. I am currently employed by Leech Lake as an Executive Assistant for our current District III Representative, LeRoy Fairbanks. I have been working in the Administration office for over 10 years in various positions, starting as a receptionist and working my way up.

I am humbly asking for your support in the upcoming elections for District III Representative. Throughout my time working in administration I have had the opportunity to talk to many band members about their struggles and have seen first-hand the barriers they face. I have been able to be relational and make numerous connections within our community. I feel that I have a great understanding of what our community needs and can be a great asset in having their voices heard and work towards getting their needs met.

Some topics that I believe need to continue being address our youth and elders, drug/chemical use, housing and child care. Our youth need more programs and services designed to meet their needs. We need to continue focusing on our elders and making sure their voices are heard and assisting them to the best of our abilities. We need to more inclusive in our elders and keeping them involved. Housing is a matter that needs to continue being addressed as our housing conditions have become a huge issue.

Miigwech for your time and consideration. I look forward to talking and getting to know more band members throughout this journey.

Kari Fisherman • **218-368-0116**

## Leon Staples, Jr.

*District III Representative Candidate*



Boozhoo relatives! I hope you are all doing well. My name is Leon Staples Jr, my parents are Deb and Leon. My grandparents on my mom's side are Robert (Punkin) Pemberton and Wanda Lee, my Grandparents on my dad's side were Leroy and Edna Staples. For about the first 12 years of my life I grew up in Mission then moved various places including Cass Lake (east end) for a few years then onto Allens Bay then in between these 3 places until I was about 17. I lived a good life growing up, for the most part we were poor but made the most of what we had. Currently I am back in the Mission area with my significant other Mariah Reyes. We moved

back to the Mission Area about 2 years ago with our 3 children Leon, Carter, and Sophia.

There are many issues that hold us back from our full potential as people and our reservation as a whole. Whether it be the drug epidemic, the lack of Culture and Language teachers, homelessness, lack of youth activities and programs, lack of healthy promotion (Native Americans have the lowest life expectancy of any other nationality), financial education, elder care, competitive wages, Fair policies for our casinos, we could go on about different issues we face every day. I say we come together and fix them together because they can not be done alone.

A new era of growth, care, and unity beckons. Our Reservation stands at a pivotal crossroads, one where the choices we make today will shape the world we leave for future generations. As your candidate, I am committed to leading us down a path of prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainability.

At the core of my campaign is a deep investment in the rich tapestry of our Reservation language and culture. By supporting local artists, cultural events, and language reclamation programs, we aim to celebrate and nurture our diverse heritage. This investment isn't just about preserving the past, it's about building a shared identity that propels us forward.

Our elders are the pillars of wisdom and experience in our society. It's time we give back to those who have given us so much. Enhanced elder care initiatives will ensure that our seniors live their golden years with dignity and joy. Concurrently, by investing in education and development programs for our youth, we're securing a bright future for our next generation of leaders.

The backbone of any thriving community is its workforce. My campaign focuses on creating more job opportunities, competitive pay, fostering entrepreneurship, and providing training programs that equip our workforce with the skills needed in today's dynamic job market. By doing so, we're not only boosting our economy but also ensuring that every member of our Reservation has a chance to succeed.

The challenges of drug abuse and homelessness in our community cannot be overlooked. Comprehensive strategies involving healthcare professionals, support groups, and rehabilitation programs will be implemented to tackle these issues head-on. Our goal is to offer a helping hand, not just a quick fix, creating long-term solutions for those struggling.

A healthy community is a happy community. Initiatives promoting regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, and mental health awareness are vital. Accessible community sports facilities, local farmers' markets, and mental health workshops are just the beginning of our journey towards a healthier lifestyle for all.

True change happens when everyone's voice is heard. My campaign encourages active community engagement through regular town hall meetings, media, and feedback channels. By working together, we can address local issues more effectively and build a community that truly reflects our collective aspirations.

Our environment is our most precious asset. We are dedicated to implementing sustainable practices, from reducing waste to promoting renewable energy sources. Protecting our natural surroundings ensures a cleaner, greener future for our children and the generations to come.

This campaign is about more than just one person or a set of policies. It's about us, our community, and our shared future. Together, let's build a stronger, healthier, and more united community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

In closing I would like to thank you all for taking the time to read this article. Let us come together so we can all be a part of the good to come for Leech Lake and be proud to be a Leech Laker! Aho!

### ***Miigwech***

Leon Staples Jr

## ***Delmar Jones III***

*District III Representative Candidate*



Our next District III Representative, Delmar Jones III has blazed a trail during his campaign with his Political Reform Platform. Delmar has changed the political environment with his series of Campaign Videos, Live Q&A Sessions, Direct Communication style and his fearless speaking truth to power. Delmar has not only promised real change, but is offering all of Leech Lake Liberation from our obsolete, repressive system of corrupted government.

### **Delmar has Promised:**

- A \$1 per hour Wage Increase for all Leech Lake Band Employees.
- To Revise Leech Lake Band and Leech Lake Gaming Policies to protect our Employees.
- Remove Wage and Salary Caps for our Long-Term Employees.
- Help create an Oversight Committee to hold the Tribal Council accountable.
- Introduce Tribal Council Term Limits on holding elected Office.
- Forever removing At-Will Employment from Leech Lake.

Delmar's Platform is not the usual political promises we hear every election cycle. Delmar does not begin every statement with an Ojibwe sentence to purely pander to the Traditional Element of our population. Delmar rejecting using those focus group approved, mass appeal key words, those empty promises designed to gain a fake emotional attachment with people only to get their vote has awoken thousands to the tricks and deceptions of politicians. Delmar has broken the mold with his intensive honest campaigning that immediately benefits all of Leech Lake and our surrounding Communities.

Delmar is not a politician, he is a working class stiff just like everyone else. Delmar is widely known for calling out mistreatment, fighting oppression, using his powerful voice to demand more and better treatment for all of us. Delmar is fearless in the face of threat and Delmar does not stop fighting for us. Delmar has proven his dedication to our Employees, he has shown his true colors fighting for our rights and he is risking everything to make Leech Lake a better place to work, live and raise our families. This is true leadership in action, a true man of the people.

Delmar is not only addressing this unholy tradition of abuse by the Tribal Council, he is dedicating half of his efforts to showing our Employees the appreciation and respect they so rightly deserve. The promises made by Delmar are actionable, impactful and achievable. These promises are not the generic promises other candidates are offering, Delmar has created a platform of real change. Imagine

waking up after an election and not worrying about your job. Imagine being able to stand up and question our Tribal Council without fear. Imagine making more money and how that will help you, your family, our communities and our future generations. Imagine having a Tribal Council that is monitored, evaluated and assigned tasks that work to better Leech Lake.

We can end this cycle of terror. This unholy tradition we accept as normal but, is anything but normal. We can change our system, we can change ourselves, together we can make our lives better. We have this power, the power comes from the people and we are the people. We are tired of our leaders lying, wasting money, firing our families, giving themselves pay raises while, the rest of us suffer. We are unhappy with our elected officials abusing us and abusing our system. It is time, we stand as one and make these changes.

"Del, has captured the hearts of our employees. They see how much he cares and how hard he fights for them." – **Senior Leech Lake Gaming Manager**

"The Big Guy is a bulldog, when he sets his mind to something he doesn't stop until he wins. We're lucky, he is a protector and not a predator." – **Former Leech Lake Secretary Treasurer**

"He is not afraid of the RTC, he will call them out on their\*\*\*\*. That is why, they try rip him down" – **Leech Lake Elder from Onigum**

"No, he fixed that stupid policy. He got us our meals at work back. I'll always support him." – **Leech Lake Gaming Employee**

"He changed the game, everyone was writing long announcements talking about everything. He popped up calling that out and told it like it is. His campaign is focused, it's good. It aims to fix the real problems everyone else is scared to talk about." – **Current Candidate for Chairperson**

"I've known him his whole life, he has a good sense of humor, but don't let that fool you. He is smart and uses his humor to get things done. You don't suspect it, he makes you laugh and then think." – **Former Supervisor of Delmar**

"I don't worry about him getting a big head when, he gets in. He is humble and honest. He helps everyone he can. A lot of people depend on him and trust him with their lives. I do." – **Northern lights Casino Employee**

Delmar is the person, Leech Lake needs right now. Delmar brings with him honor, honesty and can liberate us from this broken system. Delmar offers change, leadership and gives people the power to make their voices heard. It is a new era, a new world, we need fresh ideas, new approaches, we need one of us, to give us the ability to make the choices that effects all of us. Leech Lake Supports Delmar Jones III for District III Representative.

All of this can start when you vote Delmar Jones III – 03 4 03 on April 2, 2024.

**Committee to Elect – Delmar Jones III • Leech Lake District III Rep.**

## Jennie Reyes

*District III Representative Candidate*



Aaniin Leech Lake Members

I, Jennie (Wind) Reyes would like to serve as your next District III Representative. I will strive to be a voice for the members of District III (on and off reservation) through a leadership of Unity and Transparency. Will work to protect our Rights of Sovereignty and uphold our Treaty Rights for the sustainability of our Anishinaabe way of life.

The Leech Lake Reservation has been my home for 65 years. My husband Mark Reyes Sr. and I have raised 5 children and enjoyed being part of 34 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren lives.

My employer for almost 45 years has been the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

There are several important issues facing our membership such as housing, education, public safety and the drug epidemic, elders and youth services to name a few. We need to pursue a unified Tribal Government that is encouraging in all areas of these challenges.

I look forward to listening to each of you and sharing opinions. Can call me 218-556-8628, will try to get to your home if you want to sit and talk. I will also have a meal to come meet & greet and do some drawing for prizes.

**Mii gwech,**

Jennie (Wind) Reyes • District III Candidate

# John Johnson

*District III Representative Candidate*

## Asking for Support

John Johnson District #3 team member

To all Leech Lake Band Members,

I am writing this letter to humbly ask for your support for my campaign. I, John Johnson, am seeking candidacy for the position of District 3 Representative. I firmly believe that with your help, I can be an effective leader and bring about necessary change in our community.

I want to assure you that I am committed to representing the interests of all the residents of our beloved tribal nation. By supporting me, you are investing in a future of progress, heritable structures, and transparent governance. Each vote and each ounce of support counts significantly in achieving our collective goal of better governance. Please let us join hands for the welfare and progress of our Tribal Nation.

I have been working in Property Management for Eight years and while in property it has had great success in gaining control of our assets with the creation of my (Resolution #2018-023) fixed asset and equipment policy, and shipping and receiving. The tribal resolution fixed asset policy and standard operation procedure has brought more accountability to our government. This resolution was accepted in office of Self Governance to compliant with requirements outlined in 2CFR 2001.313. (Federal codes for grants and agreements). Property has started inventorying incoming orders for and accounting that all orders are received and processed in to the system as being received and then the orders get delivered by property management. Shipping has been successful in keeping track of orders and inventorying orders and scan in to system as received and accounted and is delivered to correct departments and programs. Shipping and receiving has been in operation since July 1, 2021, since the pandemic has happened and needed for control of outburst of Corvid.

I had maintained property during and after the pandemic and had worked with logistics within the incident management team that kept the Leech Lake Band operating during the pandemic in which property has had to change on various times to keep a smooth process with limited out reach.

I have taken part with our nation during pandemic times and while we were quite busy during the day time I had also found time to work in the Bug School board as Vice chair and had to make serious decision to keep our children protected and safe for our Tribal Nation. We had to make constant changes and had to make last minutes decisions while on the school board. We had great success during the pandemic. I feel we need more success stories from our gaming/businesses with proper working documents and upkeep of future market and financial projections.

***Migwetch for your support***

# Donald Finn

*District III Representative Candidate*

Boozhoo Leech Lakers:

My name is Donald "Mick" Finn and I am seeking another term as your District III Representative. My experience working for Leech Lake has been District III Representative from 2004-2008 and Secretary/Treasurer from 2011-2014. I tried to run in 2018 but ran into political stops both at the local level and MCT level; I won't elaborate in my platform intro as keeping a positive approach is important now that Leech Lake is moving forward.

While in my previous Tribal Council positions, I was involved in many positive, key endeavors for all of Leech Lake. Endeavors that included: Setting up the minor trust fund accounts, upholding ICWA issues in the best interest of our LL families, supporting increased Rule 25 services and treatment assistance (including helping graduates with jobs and housing), supporting hunting and fishing rights, purchasing land for the future of our tribe, protecting our rights to keep our hospital and dentist when BIA tried to close it, increasing fees on lake shore leases to non-Indians per year from the previous 10-year leases that were issued, negotiated with the federal government to get acreage back to the reservation, and renegotiated our loan with Northern Lights Casino to a more reasonable loan rate...to name a few significant matters I worked hard to support our people on. Having worked in the business area for over 50 years, I have gained successful negotiations skills that have directly benefitted our tribe. Other important areas I would continue to work hard for is retaining our language and culture, benefits for elders, veteran's services, youth programming, enrollment, health care, assisted living, transportation, child services, violence against women and children, education and post-secondary (including our Bug O Nay Ge Shig School and Tribal College), monitoring land leases, broadband, housing, gaming, economic development, etc.

In order to carry out the services in our programs, I would also push to support fair hiring policies. I believe in posting for positions and following the Indian Preference as outlined in our tribal policies, not issuing appointments. Also, promoting from within should always be considered.

Enough of my previous contributions, we must all remember success in a smooth tribal government is working together for the prosperity of all. Truly, I did not do all I have been involved with by myself, it took a council working together. Our nation has many needs and I would be honored to be a part of moving us forward together. There are difficult issues that are on the table that needs to be addressed and resolved before doing so; I have never been afraid to take difficult stands and feel I have the experience and track record to do so.

In closing, I will continue what I have done in the past if re-elected, which is helping take care of us all once again if given the opportunity. I would like to get back working on these issues and improve on them for all – fairly and

equally. I would return to incorporating an open door policy always, as well as, returning all phone calls made to me. Any person that wants to meet in person I will make time for, no extended waits on an appointment to do so. I would work from my office and not from my phone when not in important meetings away from the office for our people. In any event, I will work hard for all positive endeavors of any kind for the members of Leech Lake Reservation. If you would like to visit in person, please give me a call at **(218) 760-1570**.

Your support for electing me in the important position of District III representative is greatly appreciated.

**Miigwech,**  
Donald "Mick" Finn

## Herschel Ogema, Sr.

*District III Representative Candidate*



Aaniin family and friends, I, Herschel J. Ogema SR. will be a candidate for the Office of District 3 Representative.

I look forward to representing all District 3 Leech Lake Enrollees.

### EXPERIENCE:

I have lived and worked on our Rez for the past 30 plus years; line cook at the old Palace Casino Youth Worker YCDPP Program-Blackjack dealer/Supervisor, Palace Casino-Custodian at Facility Center-Home School Advocate/Boys Basketball coach-Bus driver, Bug O Nay Ge Shig School-Home School Advocate/

Bus Driver/Girls Basketball coach-Driver for Transportation Department-Activities Director, Men's Halfway House-Program Manager for Sports and Recreation Department-Presently I'm Dispatch/Supervisor for Leech Lake Transportation-

- 3 plus years as Councilman for the City of Cass Lake.
- 5 plus years to present as Mayor for the City of Cass Lake.
- 3 years as board member for Housing and Redevelopment Authority
- 2 plus years as Vice-President for Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Kept taxes down-low crime rate-got us through Covid-infrastructure-Habitat for Humanity is building 5 houses-Three businesses in town this year-Gymnastics, Laundry/Apartments-Car wash Cass Lake Days celebration was a success and looking forward to this summer's event in July. Auditor said the City is doing well.

### ISSUES:

Housing shortage-Homelessness-Alcohol/Drug Prevention-Establish a Training Center-Attract future businesses-Fiscal responsibility-Have a Open Door Policy that truly works-Pro-active with our Elders-Quarterly meetings with our schools-Continue our Partnership with the City of Cass Lake.

### PERSONAL:

Dad-Grandpa-Great Grandpa-Cancer Survivor-U.S. Army Veteran-Carol Muller, better half for 23 years-Cass Lake resident for 23 years-Athletics-enjoy reading and crossword puzzles.

- A Woman's body is hers and hers only.
- Common sense will take you where education cannot.
- Sovereignty is our innate right.

### Call:

**218-308-4912** to schedule a home visit or ask questions.

A forum to include Chilli/Frybread scheduled sometime soon TBA.

## Diane Osceola

*District III Representative Candidate*



Boozhoo Residents of District 3 and All My Relatives, Nii Wabegonequay (Diane Osceola) from Onigum, it is with mixed emotions that I announce my withdrawal from the candidacy for District 3 Representative. This decision has not been made lightly and comes after much reflection and prayer.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have shown support and encouragement. Your belief in me and your dedication to our community have meant the world to me.

As I step back from the race, I urge our council and our community to draw

strength from our shared values and teachings. Let us lean on the wisdom of our 7 Teachings to guide us towards unity and progress. Together, we have the power to enact the changes necessary for a brighter future. Remember, our strength lies in our unity. I truly believe we are stronger together.

To my fellow candidates, I extend my heartfelt wishes for success in your endeavors. May you continue to serve our community with passion and integrity.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported me along this journey. Your kindness and belief in me will always be cherished.

**Chii Miigech!!** Respectfully, Diane Osceola

## Pete Jackson

*District III Representative Candidate*



Boozhoo, means hello in Ojibwe. My name is Pete Jackson. I'm bear clan I'm running for District III. My mother is Ramona Jackson a very strong single parent of four kids. We've had some rough days. She never gave up raising us up right. I love her very much. She taught me to never give up when life gets hard. If you do have to start over get up and try harder and be stronger then you were before. Everybody needs help once in a while. There are so many programs to help people. Its hard to know what program to use or if the program can help if you can find one. When you do find a program that can help you have to call a million place's to get your paperwork

handed in. It takes months to hear if you are approved or not sometimes you do not hear back at all. We need to help our people connect to the right programs and get help with signing up for them. I like to help people as much as I can and try to add new idea's to make situations better for everybody.

The homeless need help the most there is nothing for them. We can give some free food to our homeless but its very hard to cook on a campfire. If the homeless look for work who's going to hire them. They have no way to make it back and fourth. Where are they going to go and get ready for the next day. The homeless shelter only let's them stay for 30 days and after that wait 30 days to go back to the shelter. Its crazy to think about but if you get hurt and

become disabled or get too old and become disabled or just, disabled. You can easily become homeless walking the streets freezing. We are watching our reservation starve and go backwards and get smaller. The people are window shopping watching the higher ups and appointed ones get fancy items cars, trucks, homes. We all voted for our leaders. It was to get us out of debt, think of new ways of helping the reservation on the path to success.

There are a lot of hard working people living on our reservation. Many have been working for twenty plus years, Hoping for a pay raise or a better title. Nope, they appoint someone with little to no experience to a high paying job. The experienced worker has to train the new appointed boss in their new job. Many people that have been mistreated and look passed find it easier to say little and do the bare minimum and collect a pay check. There is no incentive for working harder or making the reservation better.

The world is getting crazy. We need to be more self-sustainable. I have many idea's that can improve our reservation we shouldn't just rely on our Casino's. We need to make our own materials and businesses to produce items we can use and sell. My main focus would be small affordable homes to rent for our people, tourist or anyone, the more the better. We can apply for grants to improve our infrastructure on the reservation. We can Build a lot of communities with tiny houses to help house a lot of people in need. There are other grant/programs to help pay for deposits and rent if its needed. The reservation needs more family activites, there's nothing to do. The reservation needs attractions like a beach with trampolines, zip lines and swimming area's with pontoon rides. We could have a food vending street. We could grow our own fresh fruits and vegetables and healthy fed live stock. Our elders and people deserve fresh, healthy and cheaper food. In time we can create businesses that can produce our own materials. Windows, drywall, lumber, insulation, used car dealerships, towing, mechanic shops. We can train people for jobs we need on the reservation, and train people on the reservation and use the meeting rooms we already have. They shouldn't need to go to Los Vegas or far place's to get training they need. We have equipment that sits and should be used to help our reservation grow and succeed.

There needs to be a different way of thinking. We should want to see our people be better. We are all same we all want to not have to worry about where to stay for the night or how to pay our bills or how to make into town to go shopping and back home.

People who can't communicate think that everything is an argument and people who lack accountability and self awarness think that everything is an attack.

There are people that forget where they came from and think they did everything on there own. When really it took a village to put them where they are at. I believe there is power in numbers we can all succeed if we help each other. Nothing last forever but it could if we all work together. We are all in different boats we should all put our boats together and build a battleship.

# Glen Fisher, Jr.

*District III Representative Candidate*



Glen "Tuffy" Fisher, Jr. (Aagitchia-Nung)

Ahneen, I am Glen "Tuffy" Fisher, Jr., together we can the help to the District III communities with their crucial issues. We need housing, jobs, more youth activities, hiring Band members at the Public Safety and other Leech Lake Divisions and Programs, funding restored for the Elders Program and Temporary Employment Program, and strongly support a Relief Package. If elected District III Representative, I am here to work on achieving our priorities and not just another empty promise. We need to fight for an even distribution of the resources when District III is three (3) times larger

than District I and IL District III is expected to be successful with three times less than the financial resources to help the people. I want to make sure the needs of the People are addressed and that they have a voice to speak for them.

**Biography:** A father of six kids, three step kids, 35 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and raised as a loving father. A business owner for 33 years in construction as Tuff-Built and employed many Leech Lake Band members. A dedicated program manager for 6.5 years at the TEP program. My Ojibwe name is Aagitchia-Nung that means "A big star in the light." A night tech at the Half-way House for 1.5 years. Always been a hard worker and I will be for you too.

## **Critical Issues:**

1. Housing Issues has two fronts; lack of housing and homelessness.
2. Identify our Housing needs such as, homeless shelters, transitional and supportive housing, market rate that includes rentals apartments, and homeownership, etc.
3. Wrap around services need to be developed at the Homeless Shelter and other Housing markets that will benefit the Leech Lake Families.
4. Leech Lake Preference in all jobs will be enforced.
5. Jobs & Employment, if anyone is going to get the jobs building the housing we need, it should be us. Prepare for that, and jobs and in general, we need job training programs, and give our people the skills needed to find jobs and improve their lives.
6. Transportation system needs to be expanded to include rides to work and all day appointments.
7. Investing in our Youth, we have to start with our children, who are the future.
8. Relief Package-Leech Lake RBC had created \$40 million Tribal Reserved Fund that must help our people because those funds had been created by

the Covid-19 money.

9. Protecting our environment with land stewardship and employing Leech Lakers to guard the resources from over cutting, saving the last of the old growth, sportsman over fishing, water quality, guarding the wild rice, and getting our people into careers protecting the homeland.

10. In regard to Education overall, we need to promote, and support for the 7<sup>th</sup>

11. Champion against the pipeline to prison for our juvenile children and adults that our stuck in the Court and Social Service Systems because of our extreme poverty.

12. Advocate for relocating the Federal and State Indian liaison positions for the Tribal people in Northern Minnesota communities that they are paid to represent and provide those services.

## **Other Housing Opportunities:**

Why do we need more housing opportunities on the Leech Lake Reservation? The only housing built has been low income and tax credit housing. We all know that we have a homeless problem and huge housing shortage. We all know that we have multiple families living in a home, and this housing crisis keeps growing. Here is what I'm proposing with the different types of other housing developments that relates to supportive housing, home ownership, rental housing, transitional housing, and market rate housing in this platform. The Leech Lake People have children that need housing without income guideline rules, we have families that want home ownership, housing that will be for the homeless, handicap, and low-income with subsidies, and Leech Lake invests in these home types because we can set the policy and rules for the tenants without federal or state funding rules.

## **Housing Spectrum includes:**

- Emergency Shelter- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing- Affordable Rental
- Affordable Homeownership
- Market Rate Rental and Homeownership

## **Education, and Jobs Training, and Employment Creation:**

We need to develop an education, jobs and employment training programs that specifically address our concerns and for our employment market. We need to build a workforce that will build our future.

## **Relief Package:**

The RBC had published a \$40 million Tribal Reserve Fund that should help the people with an economic stimulus package. I am supporting the \$1,500 for adults and \$500 for children in their trust accounts.

Working together, we will build Leech Lake's future. We have a lot of issues that need to be identify and addressed so instead of trying to list them here, I will be campaigning at your home where we can personally identify those issues that are important to you and your family. I am seeking your support for the District III Representative.

"I GOT THIS" - a quote from Ed "Fresh" Fisher

# Kyle Fairbanks, Sr.

*District III Representative Candidate*



Boozhoo Leech Lake Nation. My name is Kyle Fairbanks Sr. After deep thought and conversations with my family I am pleased to announce that I will be declaring my candidacy for the upcoming 2024 elections to serve you, the Leech Lake Nation, as your District 3 Representative.

I currently reside on the Leech Lake Nation in the Cass Lake area. My parents are Linda Fairbanks (Budreau) and Rodney Beaulieu, my late Grandparents are Loretta Budreau (Jones) and Milton Budreau Sr.

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to those who are unfamiliar with me. I am an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. I am 34 years old. I grew up in South Minneapolis, in the Powderhorn/East Phillips Neighborhood.

Throughout my childhood I would spend my summers with my grandmother, Loretta Budreau, who was a big inspiration in my upbringing, and had a positive impact on my life. She resided in the Tract 33 community, in Cass Lake.

In 2008, I graduated from Minneapolis South High School. From there onto the journey into adulthood, my high school sweetheart (wife) and I relocated to the Scott County area in Southern Minnesota where I accepted a position at Mystic Lake Casino for the food and beverage department where I dedicated 15 years of service to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Through my dedication, hard work ethic, communication skills, and trust of my peers, I was able to achieve a leadership position that had a significant impact on me wanting to make a change and have that change be within my own Nations community.

In 2010 we welcomed our first child together. Since then, we have welcomed three more beautiful children into the world. Becoming a father has made me learn and understand the importance of family values and responsibility. It has molded me into the strong person I am today.

I want to hear from my fellow Leech Lakers what they would like the focus to be for our Nation if I have the great honor to represent us as D3 Rep. Please feel free to contact me via my cell phone (612) 462-5876 or email me at Kylefairbanks25@gmail.com so we can meet or discuss our Nation's future together. Let us make change together for all our future generations.

For now, I will share some of my focus areas with you:

Focus: to find ways to support the shared social and cultural relationships, values, and activities that Leech Lake citizens maintain.

Goal: listen to my fellow Leech Lakers about what they envision in these focus areas and implement programs that strive based on all our values. Supporting all age activities that my fellow Leech Lakers share with me and creating activities through programs. Understand each of us are unique as individuals and may have different social and cultural relationships and or other values and teachings but strive to work together as a whole.

Focus: accountability, first to ourselves, our family, our Nation, and as a leader. Goal: to hold myself accountable to the actions and decisions I make. Emphasize and advocate the importance of family accountability and support to each other because families are the strongest assets we have in a healthy Nation. I will lead by example by being transparent and accountable to our Nation and Citizens as a leader.

Focus: to create conditions in which citizens can meet their economic needs and support their families.

Goal: to create more small business opportunities for citizens. Investing in our people to build a stronger healthier Leech Lake. Hiring more Leech Lakers in key positions based on qualifications and or experience. Look at the wage structure and implement a fair percentage of increases for all positions over time to not hinder the overall budget. Analyze the current housing shortage, whether it be because of lack of funding, land, and or resources and implement a plan to expand housing so families have affordable options for living.

Focus: continue the excellent work of other Leech Lake leaders, Staff, and Leech Lake Members.

Goal: Execute long term plans. Revisit old plans and revise if needed. Strengthen policies and procedures to protect employees. Continue the fight for true sovereignty. Continue to implement separation of powers internally and externally from Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

In closing, I humbly ask my community for your support as I continue this campaign journey. I am taking on this journey for us as a community and for all our voices to be heard as one Nation. My campaign is not about me, it is about what you as a community would like to foresee happen with the future of our Leech Lake Band. I want to see our future thrive on accountability, transparency, and the overall wellbeing of all our people.



# Julian Molash

*District III Representative Candidate*



Boozhoo, my name is Julian Molash I am asking for your vote for the third district. I have lived in Cass lake with my wife Beverly since 1995. We have two beautiful daughters and three grandchildren. I work for the Leech lake Health division as clinic support and driver for the Amish food program, I am a member of the Leech Lake Honor Guard and Natural Resource Advisory Committee. I would be greatly honored to be your next representative.

What I would like to see is change to things we all need to know about, we have so much potential here as a sovereign nation right in the middle of others,

We can control our own destiny with constitution reform and economic development, We have the natural resources, what we need is more control over them, for example, the Forest service is planning to cut over 17,000 acres, that's a lot of money and resources, where does that go? WE get 5%, Leech lake fisheries take our fish spawn every year with help from the state of Mn. We get back 10%. It's our's we should get 95%.

The DNR tells us what we can hunt, who controls non Leech lakers hunting and fishing on the Leech lake reservation? Did you know that we can charge non Leech lakers to hunt and fish on the reservation? we don't, I want to make changes how things work

We can use that money for Development of many programs,  
The Agriculture farms Dept.  
Solar panel farms,  
More affordable housing,  
More help for our Elders so they don't have to pay so much Rent, More help for our children going to school

The way to make change is to listen to the people, To make a difference we need to give the people the chance with referendum votes,  
What we don't need is more promises that never happen,

My name is Julian Molash, I want your vote to help me make the changes, Together we can do it

[julian.molash@yahoo.com](mailto:julian.molash@yahoo.com) cell **218-760-3869** call me anytime

# Thomas Brown

*District III Representative Candidate*



Aaniin Boozhoo, My name is Thomas Brown,

Ronnie Brown was my father, and my family are from Bena, Minnesota. My great grandfather was Bijah Chase, my direct relatives are Chase and Wilson. My family would say if your last name was a color than we are related and we would all laugh because we have a lot of family.

I am running for District 3 Representative. I am not a politician and I plan to be working hands on, with boots on the ground to work closely with our community on the issues plaguing our reservation.

From the social issues to economical, including homelessness and the addictions that are killing our people. We need to secure a future for our younger generations and take better care of our elders.

I will not make any campaign promises to any individuals, but I do promise to work hard for our community as a whole, as one Tribal Nation. I feel it is also important to create a stronger working relationship with the other council members, local LICs, and all community members. It will take everyone's cooperation to move forward; this is a critical time for our reservation and a time for change; no one person can do these things alone.

I am up for this challenge.

**Miigwetch,**  
Tommy Brown.

Join us for the



# 2024 STATE of the BAND

## Friday, March 22

10:00 AM *until* 3:00 PM

Registration opens at 8:00 AM

**Northern Lights Casino**

Event Center | Walker, MN

State of the Band Address delivered by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. Please join us as we reflect on the previous year and take a look at what we can expect in the year 2024.

*Band Members are encouraged to attend.*



**CEDAR LAKES**  
CASINO · HOTEL

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024**  
CEDAR LAKES CASINO HOTEL AND EVENT CENTER CASS LAKE MINNESOTA

### SCHEDULE

PIPE CEREMONY AND FEAST **5PM** HAND DRUM CONTEST **6PM** ROUND DANCE **7PM**

### STAFF

**EMCEE**  
KEVEON KINGBIRD  
RED LAKE MN

**WHIPMAN**  
JEREMY CLARK  
BEMIDJI MN

**STICKMAN**  
JAMES CLOUD III  
PONEMAH MN

### CONTEST

**MEN SIDESTEP**  
100  
WINNER TAKE ALL

**HAND DRUM CONTEST**  
1ST 300 2ND 200 3RD 100  
1 - 3 MAN

**WOMEN SIDESTEP**  
100  
WINNER TAKE ALL

### INVITED SINGERS

JOE JOURDAIN  
ST. CLOUD MN

DAVE NORTHBIRD JR.  
CASS LAKE MN

MATT CARLEY  
PENNINGTON MN

DEZZY WAHOBIN MOSQUITO  
SASKATCHEWAN CA



MARK KINGBIRD SR.  
PONEMAH MN

**FIRST 20 REGISTERED SINGERS  
WILL RECEIVE HONORARIUM**

**Questions?** Contact: Rodney Johnson, Pow Wow Coordinator  
**Cell:** 218.407.7265 **Email:** rodney.johnson@llojibwe.net  
**VENDOR SPOTS ARE FILLED**

The Leech Lake Pow Wow Committee will not tolerate any drug or alcohol use while on property. Fighting or gang related activities such as displaying gang colors, bandanas, cap and other gang related attire to promote a negative atmosphere will not be allowed. Any violators will result in removal from the Pow Wow grounds by security and / or onsite law enforcement personnels. The Leech Lake Pow Wow Committee is not responsible for accidents, damages or stolen items.

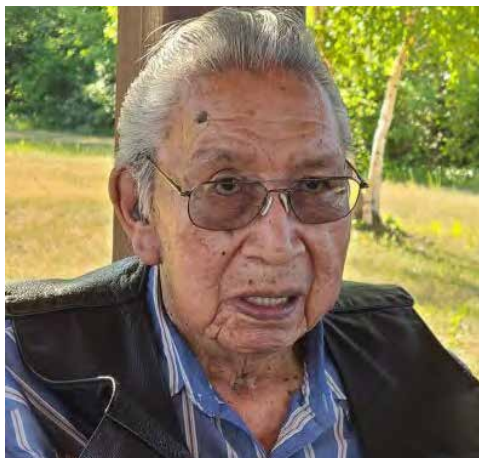
**NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR FIREARMS / WEAPONS ALLOWED**

Nick (Susan) Boylan, Lucas (Jenny) French, and Floyd Johnson, Jr.; daughters, Lorraine Johnson, Lisa (Van) Johnson, Loretta (Gary) Johnson, and Kim (Larry) McMahon; brothers, Orville Johnson, Ronald Johnson, and Kenneth Johnson; sister, Diana Blakely; 35 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

A two-day wake for Floyd will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, and continue until his 11:00 a.m. service on January 17, 2024, all to be held at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Floyd's Spiritual Advisor will be Melvin Goodman. Pallbearers for Floyd will be Mike West, Jage Hunt, Arlen Bueno, Lucas French, Ronald Hunt, Keith Howard, Mike Washington, and Vernon Howard. Honorary pallbearers are Orville Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Joe Lagoo, John Kramer, Gary Feig, Terry Bush, Kenneth Johnson, and Brad McMahon. Inurnment will be at a later date.

Floyd's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Ernest Ryan



Ernest Robert Ryan of the Eagle Clan and Cass Lake, MN started his journey Friday, January 12, 2024. He was born on June 3, 1943, to Willam and Lucy (White) Ryan in Bena, (Ryans Village) MN. He attended school in Bena and Cass Lake, MN.

Ernest joined the U.S. Army in 1961. After the Army, he came back and worked as a logger for 10 years. He went to work after logging as a maintenance person for the Facility Center for 20 years before becoming the maintenance supervisor for Leech Lake Gaming for 24 years.

Ernest loved to hunt and gamble in his younger years, as well as travel. He enjoyed watching his Church services on T.V out of Baton Rouge, LA. He also enjoyed family time and spending time with his pets.

Those greeting Ernest in the spirit world are his parents, William and Lucy Ryan; brother, Cecil Ryan; and sister, Elizabeth Drumbeater.

Family Ernest leaves behind are his wife, Sandra Ryan; sons, Michael (Fran) Frazer and Mark Watson; daughters, Barbara (David) Kruger and Susan Sayers; brother, James

Ryan; special nieces, Christine Cummings, Christie Conn, and Connie Headbird; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Ernest will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the White Earth Family Office (The Old Legion) in Cass Lake, MN.

Ernest's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Joyce Durant



Joyce 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, 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 Goggeley, 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 Goggeley,

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 Inger, MN.

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](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Leonard "Beboy" Losh



Leonard "Beboy" Charles Losh of Cass Lake, MN, started his journey on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, from Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji, MN. He was born on August 21, 1942, to Charles and Irene (Johnson) Losh in Bena, MN. He attended school in Bena and Federal Dam, MN.

Leonard joined the US Navy after graduating high school and proudly served for 4 years. Later in life he enjoyed dancing, going to the casino, fishing, tinkering in his garage, and spending time with family and friends. Leonard also LOVED 6-mile Lake Road.

Those greeting Leonard in the spirit world are his parents, Charles and Irene Losh; son, Darrin Losh; brother, Raymond Losh; sisters, Gloria (Losh) Wright and Leota "Micky" Lusky; grandson, Lorin Losh; aunts; and uncles.

Those left behind to cherish Leonard's loving memory are his wife, Marolyn Losh; son, Duane Losh; daughters, Linda Losh and Kelly (Brandon) Losh-Terrell; brothers, Lyman Losh, Melvin Losh, Robert (Peggy) Losh, and Rayis (Doreen) Losh; 14 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; and 5 great-great grandchildren.

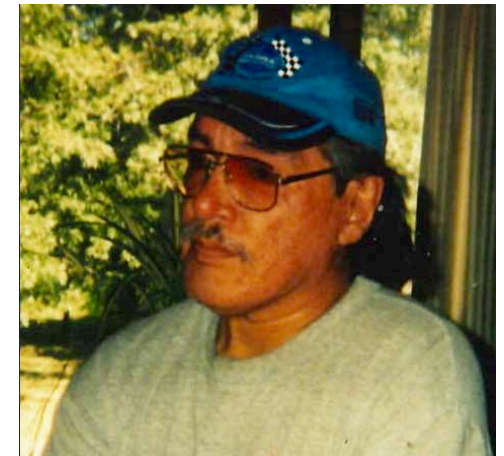
A visitation for Leonard will be at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, with the funeral service to follow at 11:00 a.m., all to be held at Northern Peace Funeral Home in Walker, MN. Father George Ross and Father Bill Butcher will officiate. Pallbearers are Austin Morris, Joshua Losh, Zach Ryan, Tyler Losh, Brandon "Bam-Bam" Terrell, and Charles "Chucky" Losh. Honorary pallbearers are Tessa Losh, Yasmine (Losh) Long, Jayda (Losh) Long, Zephyr (Losh) Ryan, Katie Gould, Naomi Gould, Lindsey (Losh) Frech, and Jinelle Losh. Interment will be at 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 19, 2024, at the Leech Lake Tribal Veterans Cemetery in Cass Lake, MN. Military honors at graveside will

be accorded by the Leech Lake Veterans Memorial Honor Guard.

Please join the family for a meal after the service at The Dave Morgan Community Center in Bena, MN.

Leonard's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family maybe left at <http://www.northernpeace.com>.

## Loren French



Loren Eugene French, "Migizi" which means "Bald Eagle" of the Bear Clan, age 65, journeyed to the spirit world on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, from the Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji, MN. He was born on April 28, 1958, the son of Florence (LaRose) and Raymond French in Park Rapids, MN.

Loren enjoyed ricing, bough picking, and mechanic work. He was always willing to help anybody anytime. He loved spending time with his grandsons, Trevor and Travis Tellstrom.

Those greeting Loren in the spirit world are his mom, Florence French; dad, Raymond French; stepdad, Anton Mountain; sister, Arlette Mountain; brothers, Arlen and Dave Mountain.

Those Loren leaves behind to forever cherish his memory are his life partner, Bonnie Morris; son, Lance (Leah) Summers; sisters, Antonette (Donald) Mountain, Valerie French Jensen, and Diane Mountain; brothers, Anthony "Tony" and Kevin Mountain; step kids, Angie Morris (Chris) and Joe Morris; grandchildren Avayah Badmoccisin, Redsky Badmoccisin, Eric Bevins, Elicia Bevins, Trevor Tellstrom and Travis Tellstrom Nathan Fairbanks; great-grandchildren; Ilyanoa Bevins, Ayziah Bevins, Ayana Badmoccisin, Elyziah Bevins, Jackson Bevins, Alaicla Fairbanks Angel Bevins, Zayne Bevins, Avayah Bevins and Zayne Bevins.

A two-day wake for Loren will begin on Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. and continue until his January 30, 2024, traditional service at 11:00 a.m., all to be held at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Loren's Spiritual Advisor is Melvin Goodman. Those helping to lay Loren to rest are Lucas French, Jason French, Steven French, Sr., Joe Morris, Jordan Troy, and Dave Eischens. Alternate pallbearers are Jage Hunt.



# Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

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

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Children of: Ronnie Burnette and Brandon Shaugobay, Parents.

Court File No. CP-10-21

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child/Family Protection Proceedings have been brought before the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear in these proceedings, the Court may proceed on behalf of the children by default.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: April Hurd, Terrance Sayers, Courtney Fisherman, Parents

Court File No. CP-24-04

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child/Family Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support of Immediate Custody have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear in these proceedings, the Court may proceed on behalf of the children by default.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: L.K.H., DOB: 12/23/2008. Patsy Fisher, Petitioner, And Luke Hanson, Respondent.

Case No. FA-22-67

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on June 6, 2022, a Petition for Guardianship of a Minor was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must file a response in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court on or before April 17th, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Review 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 the Guardianship of: H.M.M., Child, DOB: 10/14/2009. Kimberly J. White, Petitioner, And George Mitchell Jr., Respondent

Case No. FA-20-120

#### NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION. NOTICE OF HEARING. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on Jan-

uary 9, 2024, a Request for Permanent Guardianship was made with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on May 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship 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, 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 Re Estate of: John Dunn Jr., DOB: 09/09/1942, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-23-171

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, John Dunn Jr., died October 03, 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 15th, day of February, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Will, Determination of Heirs, and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Glen Fisher Jr., surviving step-son of the 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: C.C.B. Child, DOB: 03/01/2012. Macy L. Stangel, Petitioner, And Meagan R. Bowstring and Tony Z. Stangel, Respondents

Case No. FA-24-07

#### NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION. NOTICE OF HEARING. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on January 24, 2024, 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 June 12th, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. the date of the Review 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 Re the Custody of: A.L.C.L.A., Minor Child, DOB: 03/15/2015. LC Wesley Armstrong, Petitioner, v. Yvonne Armstrong, Matthew Armstrong, & Andrea Bushey, Respondents,

Case No. FA-23-107

#### NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION. NOTICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on November 7, 2023, a Petition for Custody and Parenting Time was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must file a response in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court on or before May 29th, 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 the Guardianship of: T.J.C., Child, DOB: 04/11/2009; J.A.L.C., Child, DOB: 04/27/2010; J.M.L.C., Child, DOB: 03/19/2012. Ronald J. LaRose, Petitioner, And Malerie LaRose & Jamie Chase, Respondents

Case No. FA-22-148

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on February 20, 2024, a Re-

quest 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 July 23rd, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship 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, 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 Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Mariza Brown and Unknown Father, Parents.

Court File No. CP-24-06

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child/Family Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support of Immediate Custody have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear in these proceedings, the Court may proceed on behalf of the children by default.

## « MMIWR

*Continued from Front Page*

...Bemidji. It was reportedly the largest search of its kind in the state.

This year, the office is working on a dashboard so the public can track case data, assembling an advisory committee and policies to oversee a reward fund. Lawmakers established the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag "they will be remembered forever" reward fund in the last legislative session to encourage people to come forward with tips about missing and murdered Indigenous community members.

One of the fundraising endeavors the office has taken for Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag, is the release of MN state special license plates. The license plate

which was unveiled February 14, features a red handprint, which symbolizes the voices that were not heard for generations, as well as a ribbon skirt representing resilience, survival, identity and connection to the earth. The new special plates will cost \$15.50 and require a minimum annual contribution of \$25.

"This special plate is a great way to honor our missing and murdered relatives every day," MMIR Director Juliet Rudie said. "It also demonstrates our commitment to community restorative justice with every mile we travel."

Money in the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Account, which currently has a balance of \$250,000, can be used to support community led searches, as well as pay for search equipment, media outreach, prevention programs and other activities. The reward account's advisory council also considers rewards for tips that lead to



an arrest or conviction in a legal case involving a missing Indigenous person or the return of the missing person.

To order license plates online or find an office to purchase them in-person, visit [drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov).

### *Obituaries Continued.*

Ronald Hunt and Vernon Howard Jr. Honorary pallbearers are all his family and friends as well as his Fire Fighting family. Interment will be in the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery in Onigum, MN.

Loren'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](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Mary Ann Goggleye



Mary Ann Cross Goggleye, age 88, began her journey to the spirit world on February 3, 2024. Mary Ann was born on March 13, 1935, to Lucy Goggleye and John Cross, in Onigum, MN. She was a proud citizen of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and was a Mississippi Band member, Marten clan, enrolled at the Leech Lake Reservation.

Mary grew-up in Oak Point on Leech Lake, and eventually moved to Minneapolis, MN. She lived there for decades until her move to Grand Forks, ND. During her time in Minneapolis, she worked in various fields taking care of people. In her free time, Mary Ann was known to laugh, tell stories, playing cribbage, bingo and visit the casino. (Mary Ann was known to be very lucky in money!) Mary Ann loved her family and people, and loved cook for them when they would visit

her home. She always welcomed anybody with open arms, and would speak "Indian" aka Ojibwe with them, her first language.

Mary Ann leaves behind her partner-Anthony Hayes, her children-Bonita Crimmins, Brenda Cross, and Sandra Mitchell. Other relatives Mary Ann is survived by are: her grandchildren-Jennifer Cross, Jessica Yellow, Crystal Swenson, and Nathaniel Hayes; her great-grandchildren: Jaiden Cross, Reilly Week, Trinity Week, Owen Johnson, Cyrus Taylor, Calvin Week, Quincy Johnson, Anthony Johnson, Peyton Jensen, Montgomery Swenson, Preston Jensen, Starrlyn Yellow, Cherish Locket, Heaven Locket, and her favorite-Mikinaak, aka Tristan Solberg. She is also leaving behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives, including but not limited to: Spenser White, John Boy Whipple, Richard Marson, Charlene Goggleye, and Connie Edberg.

Mary Ann is being welcomed in the spirit world by her daughter-Eleanor Cross, mother-Lucy Goggleye, her father-John Cross, and her siblings-Julia Cross, Raymond Cross, Doris Cross, Robert Cross, Salina Cross, and Paula Marson, her adopted sister-Josephine Dunn, nephews-Curtis Cross and Darrell Cross, maternal grandparents-Ida (King) Goggleye and Sam Goggleye, and her Paternal grandparents.

The traditional Ojibwe ceremony will begin on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Onigum Community Center, 8825 Onigum Road NW, Onigum, MN 56647, and the funeral will begin on Friday, February 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM, with Allen Hardy officiating.

It is Mary Ann's wish to be cremated, and her ashes spread across her loved ones' graves around the Leech Lake Reservation.

## Nathan "Nate" Jackson Sr.

Nathan "Nate" Daniel Jackson, Sr., of Cass Lake, MN began his journey on Saturday, January 20, 2024. He was born October 29, 1977, in Park Rapids, MN to Roger Monroe and Debra Jackson. Nate grew up in Deer River, MN until 6<sup>th</sup> grade when he moved to Onigum, MN.

Nate attended and graduated from



Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School where he enjoyed playing sports. After graduating high school, he went to Tech School and graduated with his Electrician license.

Nate enjoyed cruisin' around in his cool cars listening to loud music. Everyone would say, "you can hear him coming before you see him." He loved to wear his Jordans and ball caps. He enjoyed coloring with his sister in adult coloring books. He loved to hang out with his family and friends, as well as playing basketball. He loved his children and did everything for them.

Those greeting Nathan in the spirit world are his grandparents, Roseanne Jackson, Fred Jackson, Sr., and Isabelle Monroe; sister, Sheena Michaud; nephew, Taledray Michaud; cousins, Tim Jackson, Roseanne Jackson, Michael Jackson, and Randy Jackson.

Those Nate leaves behind to cherish his memory are his mom, Debra Jackson; sons, Nathan Jackson, Jr., Dominic Jackson, Zachary Jackson, and Keegan Jackson; daughter, McKenzie Jackson; brothers, David Michaud, Sr. and Christopher Michaud, Sr.; sisters, Stephanie Michaud and Jessica Michaud.

A two-day wake for Nathan will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024, and continue until his 11:00 a.m. service on Saturday, January 27, 2024, all to be held at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Nate's Spiritual Advisor will be Allen Hardy. Pallbearers for Nate will be David Michaud, Sr., Christopher Michaud, Sr.,

Charlie Jackson, Conan Jackson, Boomer Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Freddy Jackson, and Curtis Jackson. Honorary pallbearers will be Jessica Michaud, Stephanie Michaud, Kerry Jackson, Kelly Jackson, Christine Jackson, Cindy Jackson, Candice Jackson, and Patrick Jackson. Nate will be laid to rest at the Onigum Catholic Cemetery immediately follow his service.

Nathan's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Tammy Goggleye



Tammy Goggleye, Misko Benaise Equay 57 of St. Paul, MN, passed away February 8, 2024 St. Paul, MN.

Tammy was born April 8, 1966 in Cass Lake, MN to Russell & Linda Goggleye.

Tammy graduated from Deer River High School in 1984. Tammy moved to Minneapolis, and was employed by the State of MN. she loved to sew, cook and most of all being a mom and auntie.

Tammy is survived by her three daughters Rose, Daniele and Kathy. brothers Cheech and Jeremy (Danielle). Her Sister Rachel. one nephew Donovan, nieces Arianna, Lisa, Tamara, Winnie, Desiree, Tanaya and special great niece Malia Lynn. numerous Aunts, Uncles & Cousins.

# Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings

[www.llojibwe.org](http://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 CLOSE ON MARCH 8, 2024

*Community Health Representative Manager ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-051*  
*Building Worker (S. Lake) ~ DPW ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-052*  
*Building Worker (Onigum) ~ DPW ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-053*

### THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

*Clinic Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-002*  
*Licensed Assisted Living Director ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-003*  
*Clinic Nurse Supervisor (Red Cedar Assisted Living) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-004*  
*Pre School Teacher (2) ~ Education ~ \$18.16/hr ~ Job Code: 24-006*  
*Infant Toddler Teacher (Ball Club) ~ Education ~ \$18.16/hr ~ Job Code: 24-008*  
*RN Diabetes Educator (Part time) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-010*  
*Treatment Coordinator (A.R.C) (2) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-013*  
*Security Officer (A.R.C) (3) ~ A&D ~ \$18.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-015*  
*Chemical Dependency Counselor (A.R.C) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-016*  
*Kitchen Assistant (A.R.C) (2) ~ A&D ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-017*  
*Maintenance Technician (A.R.C) ~ A&D ~ \$16.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-018*  
*Grants/Budget Coordinator ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-020*  
*Security Officer (A.R.C) (Part time) ~ A&D ~ \$18.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-022*  
*Chemical Dependency Counselor (A.R.C) (Part time) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-023*  
*Wildland Fire Program Administration Assistant ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-024*  
*SACA & 40I Administrative Assistant ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-026*  
*Water Resources Technician II ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-027*  
*Environmental Deputy Director ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-028*  
*Archaeological Technician (2) ~ DRM ~ \$16.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-029*  
*Field Director ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-030*  
*Fuels Technician/Wildland Firefighter (8) ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-031*  
*Compactor Driver/Operator (Solid Waste) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-032*  
*Advanced Practice Provider (Diabetes Center) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-033*

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

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 190 Sailstar Dr.  
 Cass Lake, MN  
 56633

# Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders March Birthdays



## District I



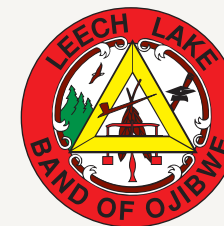
Margaret Bryan	Laurie Holden	Sarah Jackson
Nancy Raisch	Lawrence Gotchie Jr.	George Goggleye Jr.
Rose Robinson	Adeline Bowstring	Kathleen Theisen-Agan
Guy Cloud	Scott Johnson	Benjamin Bowstring
Marlene Fairbanks	Marilyn Bowstring	John Hodder
Richard Armstrong	Vicki Smith	Terry Oothoudt
Linda Bibeau	Vernon Howard Sr.	Eldon Bowstring

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle

## District II

Walter Chase	Esther Bogda
Gerald Chase	Deborah Tibbetts
Geraldine Chase	Doreen Morgan

From the District II Office  
 Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle



## District III\*



Elizabeth Aitken	Timothy Goose	Mary Reich
Marcella Ardito	David Hare	Elaine Saccoman
Gloria Beaudreau	Jessica Harrison	Leonard Sargent
David Beaulieu	Brian Haugen	Betty Sayers
Donna Beaulieu	Wanda Headbird	Boyd Schluter
Douglas Beaulieu	Burton Howard	Marlene Schulman
Marlyce Bellanger	Melvin Hunt	Bradley Senogles
Dawn Benjamin	Cindy Hurd	Emmett Sheehy
Ian Bonna	Patrice Jones	Iris Sherer
Joseph Bowstring	Beverly Jordan	John Smith
Janice Bryan	Steven Kmett	Kenneth Smith
Sharon Burnette	Sharon Kotla	Michael Smith
James Carpenter	Faith Littlewolf	Terry Smith
Amanda Cloud	Raymond Lyons	Leon Staples
Marlene Cloud	Eva Mangum	Linda Staples
Janice Cloud	Marjorie McCree	Joel Stokka
Donald Day	Barbara McLove	James Tibbetts
Gloria Dudley	Valeria Meneely	Ronald Wakanabo
Mark Evans	Franklin Michaud	Charlotte White
Dawn Farr	Wallace Morris	Debra White
Donald Finn	Max Morrow	Terrance White
Deborah Fisher	Karen Moses	Natalie Wickner
William Fisher	Lori Osterloh	James Wilson
Lila George	Alfred Pemberton	Alvin Wind
Mary Goggleye-Cross	Beverly Raish	William Windom
Thelma Goodwin		Emily Woodfield

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 March

### OJIBWEMOWIN

Gibakade na?

Eya'. Awegonesh maajiyang?

Waawanooon bakwezhiqanaq

miinawaa mishiiminaaboo.

Giwii-ayaan ina nawaj mishiiminaaboo? Do you want more apple juice?

Miinawaa na bakwezhiqanaq?

Eya'. Bangii eta go.

Minikwen qimishiiminaaboo.

Niminikwen onzaam mishiiminaaboo.

### ZHAAGANAASHIIMOWIN

Are you hungry?

Yes. What are we eating?

Eggs, toast, and apple juice.

Do you want more apple juice?

And more toast?

Yes. Just a little bit.

Drink your apple juice.

I drank too much apple juice.

### OJIBWE SOUND CHART

#### VOWELS

a  
aa  
e  
i  
ii  
o  
oo

#### OJIBWE SOUND

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

#### ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

about  
father  
way  
pin  
seen  
obey, book  
boat, boot

#### CONSANANTS

b  
ch  
d  
g  
h  
j  
k  
m  
n  
p  
s  
sh  
t  
w  
y  
z  
zh  
'

#### OJIBWE SOUND

bakwezhiqan (bread)  
gichi-oginiig (tomatoes)  
doodooshaboo (milk)  
gaag (porcupine)  
hay' (oops)  
maajaan (go)  
milkinaak (turtle)  
mamoon (take it)  
bine (partridge)  
baapiwag (they laugh)  
es (clam)  
waagosh (fox)  
anit (fish spear)  
waawaan (egg)  
babagiwayan (shirt)  
mooz (moose)  
niizh (two)  
ma'iingan (wolf)

#### ENGLISH EQUIVALENT

big  
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.

### Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program

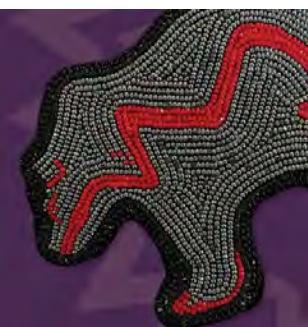
15353 Silver Eagle Drive, Bena MN 56626

Telephone: **218-665-3000**

Toll free: **1-800-265-5576**

[www.bugonaygeshig.org](http://www.bugonaygeshig.org)

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



4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**FUNDING OUR FUTURE LEADERS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING MARCH 28TH!**



All proceeds will go to the LLTC Endowment Fund



**Would you like to donate or support Funding our Future Leaders?**

If you would like to donated an item to the silent auction or Raffle the Please give them to Glenda Dailey at the front desk of Oak Hall

If you would like to **ship a donated item** to the silent auction or Raffle please send the items to:

**LLTC attn: Funding Our Future Leaders**

**6945 Little Wolf Road NW**

**Cass Lake, MN 56633**

**Have Questions or Concerns?**

Contact Ryan White at (218) 513-9476

or [ryan.white@lltc.edu](mailto:ryan.white@lltc.edu)

4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**FUNDING OUR FUTURE LEADERS**



**CEDAR LAKES**  
CASINO · HOTEL



**Shingobee**  
SPORTSBAR MARINA

# PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

1-844-554-2646



## PICK A DEERE ANY DEERE

IT'S OPEN SEASON - JOHN DEERE STYLE  
**SATURDAYS IN MARCH**

**7PM-10PM**  
Bag the correct John Deere and win up to \$1,000.  
(Code drawing held every 30 minutes)

**10:15PM, MARCH 30**  
One 2024 John Deere X758 lawn tractor w/mower deck and quick hitch front blade given away at each casino.  
(valued at over \$30,000)

\*Must be present to win. Earn 1 entry for every 10 points February 25-March 30, 2024. See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

## THE Great OUTDOORS POINT MARATHON

**EARN POINTS MARCH 3RD-APRIL 14, 2024**  
Be one of the Top 15 players and win your share of over \$34,000 in cash and great prizes.

PLACE	PRIZE	CASH	PLACE	PRIZE	CASH
1st	Stone Island 12 Burner Gas Grill	\$1,900	9th	Inlay 24' x 12' Ultra XTR Pool Set	\$400
2nd	The Stump-2 Shantone Hunting Blind	\$1,200	10th	Germin Ice Fishing Bundle	\$300
3rd	PDL 108 Pedal Sit-On-Top Kayak4TH	\$1,100	11th	Fishing Kayak	\$250
4th	Curved Sectional w/Fire Table	\$1,000	12th	NiJa Woodfire Oven	\$200
5th	Sigul Midland XL Camo	\$800	13th	Blackstone Gas Grill/Griddle Gear	\$150
6th	Pair of Jetson Electric Bikes	\$700	14th	Yeti Tundra 35 Cooler	\$100
7th	King Kamp Khan Palace Luxury Tent	\$600	15th	Lovvo 4K Night Vision Binoculars	\$50
8th	Murray Gas Riding Lawn Mower	\$500			

See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

## GREEN MACHINE KIOSK GAME

**SWIPE PLAY & WIN**

**WIN UP TO \$250 IN FREE PLAY!**  
ONE FREE SWIPE EVERY THURSDAY IN MARCH\*  
8AM-12AM

\*This promotion ends 3/31/24. See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

**LEND A HAND - GIVE A CAN IN MARCH**  
Donate nonperishable food items for \$5 Free Play, \$5 food offer (Shingobee) and one electronic entry for a \$500 Free Play drawing on April 1st.\*  
We encourage you to donate nonperishable food items as often as you like. One donation offer per day per person.

\*Winners do not need to be present to win \$500 Free Play drawing. See location for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

## SPRING INTO SUMMER

**START EARNING ENTRIES THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING: MARCH 19**  
(one entry only for every 10 points)

**DRAWINGS 6PM-10PM ON THE START OF SUMMER: JUNE 22**

**OVER \$4,000 IN PRIZES!**

- Montview 700C Bikes
- Razor Ground Force Elite Go-Karts
- Mr. Bar-B-Q Free Pit/Patio Heater
- Rave Big Easy Towable Tube
- Solstice Fishing Kayak
- Rave 3 Person Waterboggan
- Champion 3500 Watt Dual Fuel Generator
- Smoke Vertical Charcoal Smoker
- Dewalt String Trimmer & Blower Combo Kit

See location for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

## MARCH MADNEZZ MATCH IT

**TUESDAY-SATURDAY MARCH 19-23**

Madnezz will be in the air when we'll be matching Free Play amounts of March offers from other casinos (excluding LLG casinos).  
(one offer per day. Photocopies not accepted. Other casino offer will be kept)

## HOPPY EASTER

**MARCH 14 & 15**

**3PM-8PM**  
Hop on over and receive a complimentary ham after earning 30 Player's Club points, in one day.\*

\*See location for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO & HOTEL  
Walker, MN • northernlightscasino.com

CEDAR LAKES CASINO & HOTEL  
Cass Lake, MN • cedarlakescasino.com

WHITE OAK CASINO  
Deer River, MN • whiteoakcasino.com

SHINGOBBE ON THE BAY  
Walker, MN • shingobeeonthebay.com