November 2024

Volume XLI Number 5

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

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and LLBO Divisions collaborated on an event at the Facility Center in Cass Lake.

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## **2024 ELECTION RESULTS**

2024 Federal, State and Local Election results that impact LLBO and a recap of Indigenous candidates that won.

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**QUARTERLY REPORT**Leech Lake Tribal Council and Division Directors recently held the Band's Quarterly Meeting in Minneapolis.

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**2024 WILD RICE REPORT**The LLBO Division of Resource Management report on the 2024 Wild Rice Season for the Leech Lake Area.

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## The History of Native American Heritage Month



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

Lawrence, Kansas approves American Indian Day within the State.

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

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

President Reagan signs resolution designating November 23-30 American Indian Week. President George H.W. Bush approves resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month"

### By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE - November marks not only election season and Thanksgiving, but also Native American Heritage Month. A celebration of all things Indigenous.

Native American Heritage month has been a recurring monthly event in November since April 3, 1990 when former President HW Bush signed a resolution declaring November "Native American Heritage Month".

One of the earliest documented advocates of heritage month before it went to the government level, was a Seneca man named Dr. Arthur C. Parker who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y at the time. According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs historical recollection, Parker convinced the "Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the First Americans" which they did for a running of 3 years from 1912 to 1915. Across the country at the same time Reverend Red Fox James also known as Red Fox Skiukusha began a 4,000-mile trek on

horseback to Washington, D.C., to petition the United States for an "Indian Day." James also travelled state-to-state seeking support for U.S. citizenship to be extended to American Indians which did not happen until 9 years later in 1924. Later in 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association in Lawrence, Kansas formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day for the state.

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

Since that time as requested by Congress, Presidents have been making proclamations yearly honoring the achievements of the American Indians. The National Congress of American Indians says this "month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Native American Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

Lectures and events celebrating this historic month are currently happening throughout the reservation and neighboring cities. Check www.leechlakenews.com for more information.

## **VOL XLI NO 5**

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

## Leech Lake Tribal Council

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Leonard Fineday, Secretary-Treasurer

Kyle Fairbanks, District I Representative

Steve White, District II Representative

Leon Staples Jr., District III Representative

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#### **Submissions**

The submissions of pictures, articles, announcements and letters is encouraged. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, length and libelous content. Submission does not guarantee publication. The Editor reserves the right to reject any material submitted for publication.

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## **Deadlines**

Dec. Issue	11/29/2024
Jan. Issue	12/27/2024
Feb. Issue	



## **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Family Violence Prevention Program and Leech Lake Crime Victim Advocates collaborated to host an awareness event, on October 24, 2024.

The event was held at the Facility center, attendees were welcomed by a DJ, information booths, a cornhole tourney, and door prizes. Event Organizers said the event's goal was to create a safe and welcoming space for community members to get information and come together to see they're not alone.

The band has many resources for those seeking help, including legal advice, system advocacy, referrals, education, financial assistance, emergency transportation, emergency shelter, and one-on-one support.

October was first declared as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and be a voice for its victims. Domestic violence is



prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. Domestic Violence comes in many forms such as physical abuse, emotional or verbal abuse, sexual abuse, and financial abuse.

Native Americans experience significantly higher rates of domestic violence compared to the gen-



eral population. Statistics show that nearly 40% of Native American women will face domestic violence in their lifetime, often perpetrated by non-Native individuals, and are at least 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than other US women. Out of every 5 American Indians and Alaskan Natives, 4 have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. That's 84.3% of women and 81.6% who have been victims to violence.

Domestic violence incidents affect every person within a home and can have long-lasting negative



effects on children's emotional well-being, and social and academic functioning.

If you or someone you know is seeking help in regards to domestic violence, please contact one of the following organizations for assistance:

- Leech Lake Dispatch to speak to a crime victim advocate at 218-335-8277
- Minnesota Domestic Violence Hotline **866-223-111**
- National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or text "START" to 8878.

# President Biden Issues Apology for Abuse and Trauma of U.S. Governments Indian Boarding School System, First Sitting President to Do So

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – During a visit to Gila River Indian Community in Arizona on October 25, 2024, President Joe Biden issued a "long overdue" formal apology for the abuse and trauma inflicted by the federal government's Indian boarding school system.

President Biden's statement is the first public apology from a sitting U.S. president for deep and ongoing harm caused by federal boarding schools.

More than 900 Indigenous children died during what the president called "one of the most horrific chapters in American history."

The federal government developed the Indian boarding school system as the centerpiece of a nearly two-century-long policy of forced assimilation. Tens of thousands of Indigenous children were forcibly abducted from their families and sent to far-away boarding

schools where they were given English names, forced to cut their hair, and forbidden from speaking their languages. Many children were beaten, starved, and abused in these schools.

"For Indigenous peoples, they served as places of trauma and terror for more than 100 years. Tens of thousands of Indigenous children, as young as four years old were taken from their families and communities and forced into boarding schools run by the U.S. government and religious institutions," President Biden said.

"Nearly 1,000 documented Native child deaths, though the real number is likely to be much, much higher. Lost generations, culture, and language. Lost trust. It's horribly, horribly wrong. It's a sin on our soul." he continued.

soul," he continued.

"I formally apologize as president of the United States of America for what we did."

Under Bidens administration,

the Interior Department conducted an unprecedented three-year investigation into the boarding school system. In July, it released a final report documenting the vast scale of the system and shared survivor accounts that illustrate how students' traumatic experiences in Indian boarding schools—some of which operated into the 1960s—continue to harm them, their descendants, and their communities to this day.

"As president," Mr. Biden said, "I believe it is important that we do know there were generations of native children stolen, taken away to places they didn't know, with people they never met, who spoke a language they had never heard."

Native communities were silenced, "their children's laughter and play were gone," he continued. Indigenous children were "abused emotionally, physically and sexually abused, forced into hard labor, some put up for adoption without

the consent of their birth parents, some left for dead and in unmarked graves."

Children who did make it home, he said, were "wounded in body and spirit."

The Interior Department's report called for the U.S. government to formally apologize for its forced assimilation policies that harmed generations of Indigenous children, their families, and their communities. Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna) who heads the interior said the apology is a starting place for the federal government to make amends.

"Quite frankly, there is no excuse that this apology took 150 years to make," Mr. Biden said, after calling for a moment of silence to "remember those lost and the generations living with that trauma."

"Federal Indian Boarding School policy, and the pain it has caused, will always be a significant mark of shame," the president said. "A blot on American history."



## **Election Day 2024 Results**

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE - Election Day 2024 was historic in many ways.

The US saw 178 Native candidates on ballots in 24 states, which is a 44 percent increase in Native candidates from 2020, according to Advance Native Political Leadership

Also making history: Delaware State Sen. Sarah McBride as the first openly transgender member of the U.S. Congress, New Jersey Rep. Andy Kim, is set to become the first Korean American Senator, Angela Alsobrooks will now be Maryland's state's first Black female Senator. Lisa Blunt Rochester is the first Black person and first woman elected to represent Delaware in Congress, Julie Fedorchak is North Dakotas first woman in the House of Representatives, Bernie Moreno is Ohio's first Latino, and first person of color period, in the U.S. Senate, Kelly Ayotte is New Hampshire's first Republican female Governor, Julie Johnson will make history as the first openly LGBTQ+ member of Congress to represent the state of Texas, and North Carolina has elected their first Jewish governor in Josh Stein.

The Presidential seat and Senate were swept red though as Republicans took control of both following Tuesday's election. The House of Representatives however still remains up for grabs as several races have yet to be called.

For more election results visit, sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/ election-results.

## **ELECTIONS IMPACTING LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE**

#### Federal:

- President / Vice President -Donald J. Trump and JD Vance
- US Senator Amy Klobuchar

#### State:

- US District 8 Representative Pete Stauber
- State Senator District 45 -Ann Johnson Stewart

#### **County:**

- Mayor (Cass Lake) Jerry D Smith
- Mayor (Bemidji) Jorge Prince
- Mayor (Bena) Patrick M Rooney
- Mayor (Walker) Jerecho Worth
- County Commissioner District 2 – Robert Kangas
- County Commissioner District 3 – Rusty Lilyquist
- County Commissioner District 5 - Rick Haaland
- · Soil and Water Supervisor
- District 2 Ken LaPorte

   Soil and Water Supervisor District 3 – Katy Botz
- Soil and Water Supervisor District 4 – David L. Peterson

### Congratulations to the following candidates in Indian Country:

- Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk), US Representative, Kansas District 3
- Angel Charley (Laguna Pueblo and Diné), State Senate, New Mexico District 24
- · Patricia Roybal Caballero (Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian tribe and Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe), US Representative, New Mexico District 13
- Doreen Wonda Johnson (Diné), New Mexico House
- Derrick Lente (Sandia Pueblo), New Mexico House District 65
- Michelle Abeyta (Diné), New Mexico House District 69
- · Benny Shendo (Diné), New Mexico State Senate District 2

- Shannon Pinto (Diné), New Mexico State Senate District 3.
- Jarrod Lowery (Lumbee), North Carolina House of Representatives District 047
- Jayme Davis (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), North Dakota House District 9 Richard Marcellais (Turtle
- Mountain Band of Chippewa), North Dakota State Senate District 9
- Lisa Finley-DeVille (MHA Nation), North Dakota District 4A State Representative
- Collette Brown (Spirit Lake Nation), North Dakota House District 9
- Josh Brecheen (Choctaw), U.S. House of Representatives District 2
- Tom Cole (Chickasaw), U.S. House of Representatives District 4, Republican
- Scott Fetgatter (Choctaw), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 16
- Ken Luttrell (Cherokee), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 37
- John Pfeiffer (Cherokee), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 38
- Hurchel "Trey" Caldwell (Cherokee), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 63
- Mark Vancuren (Cherokee), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 74
- David Hardin, (Cherokee), Oklahoma House of Representatives District 86
- Sarah Gray (Cherokee), Tulsa County Board of Commissioners District 2
- Fawn Pedalino (Natchez-Kusso Tribe), South Carolina House of Representatives District 64
- Bryan Terry (Choctaw), Tennessee House of Representatives District 48

## **RBC BRIEFS · November 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

All available council members, including scheduled presenters and LLBO division directors, attend RBC briefings. 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 conference will take place on the same day.

Two meetings were held within the last reporting month, September 30 to November 1. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on leechlakenews.com under "Videos." Official meeting minutes can also be found on leechlakenews. com under "LL Tribal Council" and "Tribal Council Meeting Minutes."

### **BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS**

1. October 3, 2024 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

#### **Presentations Given:**

- Mike Michaud, Tara Wilson, and Gaming & Human **Resources** - Presented an early draft of the updated gaming HR employee policies. Discussion on this topic was tabled but will be implemented in January 2025.
- **Joy Devault, Human resources** Presented a resolution to have Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) covered by LLBO health insurance. Coverage was approved and will be implemented this year.
- **Ashley Harrison, TERO** Presented a resolution to get construction approved for a TERO administration building. The building will be located south of 371, across from the Cass Lake Bena High School.
- 2. October 24, 2024 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

#### **Presentations Given:**

- Frank Reese, Kathy Beaulieu-Sanders, Veterans Services -Presented the MDVA program for LLBO to take part in. The program will offer temporary or emergency housing for vet-
- Craig Tangren, DRM Presented the LLBO Water Standard Quality Act ordinance. The ordinance has undergone public community feedback, RBC, and state feedback. Water quality standards will be held to a higher quality than the general MN state ordinance.
- Kyle Applebee, Accounting Controller Presented the LLBO stimulus tax rebate. The rebate was passed, \$1000 per adult, \$500 per child into trust. The tax rebate distribution is expected to take place in December via the rapid cards, further information can be found on LLNews.com
- **Kyle Applebee, Accounting Controller Presented options** for the annual employee bonus. A 10% bonus was approved by RBC. Distribution is expected to place in November via the rapid cards.

## Chairman's Monthly 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. We are continuing to identify our critical needs. 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, we are all in this together, here is some of the news being reported to the great Leech Lake Nation.

Leech Lake Band Approves \$1,000 Tax Rebate – On December 5, 2024 the Leech Lake Tax Rebate will be on the Rapid Debit Visa. To qualify, recipients must be enrolled as of October 18, 2024, and must be 18 years of age by December 4, 2024. For those turning 18 on or after

December 5, 2024, \$500 will be deposited into the minor's trust account. For incarcerated Leech Lake Band members (in a prison/ DOC or BOP facility), who cannot receive funds through a Rapid Debit Visa, a check will be sent to your facility. This is the only exception. All other payments will be made via Rapid Debit Visa. Please note that a replacement of a card that's lost or not in your possession will only be available by contacting Rapid at 1-888-727-4314; no Rapid Debit Visa cards will be available through LLBO offices. Chairman Jackson, Sr. wanted to express the fortitude of the Bands members lobbying efforts in obtaining a larger tax rebate. The RBC Tribal Council had a full plate with the housing shortage, homelessness, economic development projects, and funding deficits for the Elders and Youth programs.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Leech Lake Band & USDA Forest Service Consultation and MOU Signed – On October 21, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had provided the welcome for the consultation meeting. A number of subjects had a great interest for the Leech Lake Band. The U.S. Forest Service had provided an update on the when the Enbridge Line 3 will be removed.

Supervisor Stansberry had stated that the administrative process had started and the EIS has also been ordered. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had expressed other concerns that related to Clear Cutting of the Forest, meaningful consultation on the 10-year Forestry Management Plan, and sharing the revenues that are generated through timber sales and tourism. The major development from the USDA Regional Forester Consultation was signing of the MOU. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Chairman Jackson, Sr. and Antoine Dixon, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service. The highlight of the MOU had stated, "1. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for cooperation between the Forest Service and the Band for natural resource management, economic development and employment, training and education, maintaining Ojibwe cultural lifeways, and regulatory jurisdiction on National Forest System (NFS) and trust lands within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation and the 1855 Ceded Territory."

MCT, TEC Legislative Sub-Committee Finalizing MCT Resolution 32-15 – On October 22, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had attended the MCT, TEC Legislative Sub-Committee to provide testimony. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "Enrollment had been a big issue when he served on the Twin Cities LIC. We need a starting point for our people, the children, and grandchildren. No one is saying this resolution is the fix all or the end product. We are aware the Leech Lake MCT Constitution Delegation Reform Committee for the

past 8 years has been working on the constitution and bylaws."

President Biden Issued Apology over Native American Boarding Schools – Chairman Jackson, Sr. had expressed the impact of the boarding schools and this being one of the saddest chapters in our history at many speaking engagements. Having the children taken from our families is a pain that cannot be described or the feelings that haunted our families for generations. A great many of our children never returned home or a part of them was lost forever, because of the U.S. Boarding School trauma. Today, we still find that the elders do not like to speak or share their stories on the experience of the boarding school era. Most recently, the U.S. government has been releasing official records, enrollment records, identifying boarding schools, and releasing information to the Tribes. On October 24, 2024 President Biden and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who has also visited the Tribes as a part of her "Road to Healing" tour aimed at giving survivors "the opportunity to share with the federal government their experiences in federal Indian Boarding schools for the first time." The Department of Interior had published the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report on May 2022. The DOI had release the Federal Indian Board School Initiative Investigative Report Vol. II on July 2024. These reports can be found online or the DOI website for easy access. Describing these two volumes, the Department's staff and contractors reviewed

approximately 103 million pages of U.S. Government records.

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign **Tribes** – On October 15, 2024 MAST had their fall meeting of the Tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, and Indiana. The mission statement of MAST is "To advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign nations of the Midwest." MAST Resolution #03-24, Tribal Legislative Policy Priorities for 2024, Whereas, Midwest Tribal leaders have developed several legislative policy priorities: 1. Full funding of the Indian Health Services in the Bemidji area; 2. Passage of a single Land into Trust fix: 3. Tribal Law Enforcement Parity; 4. Protection for wolves; 5. Opposition to extractive industries; and 6. Protection of water resources. This MAST Resolution will be provided to the President of United States, Senators, U.S. Representatives and staffers on the MAST position with their key priorities as reported by the Individual Tribes.

**Safety note:** As the fall weather is slowly creeping into colder nights. Furnace maintenance is a must after sitting all summer long. Changing the air filter will help with better air flow and protecting the furnace. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors need annual maintenance with new batteries. Some detectors have a red button on the back of detector to see if it actually works or a red light on the front of the detector that shows it's on. In keeping our elders safe, check walk ways and stairs that are free from clothes and toys will prevent slips and falls. Pay special attention to small dogs and cats can also be obstacles for our elders. Chairman Jackson, Sr. was the safety compliance representative for Xcel Energy before retirement. Please be safe and take care!

## December

District III Elder Birthdays

Debra Adams
Yvonne Amundson
James Baker
Vernon Barsness
Beverly Beaulieu
Carol Blue
Sharon Brown
Arlen Buckanaga
Robert Budreau
Leroy Campbell
Edward Chase
Valerie Chase

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

> Lloyde Dahl Rowa Donovan Loretta Duncanson Sherry Elmberg Delores Fairbanks Johnny Fairbanks Kathryn Fairbanks Priscilla Fairbanks Jennifer French Cynthia Gale Claircy Gonzales Coleen Gullickson Howard Hardy Ronald Hare Jeffrey Harper

Douglas Harrison Loren Howard Lorie Howard Rosetta Howard Teri Howard Vikki Howard Patricia Jackson Carol Jenkins Cheryl Johnson Nancy Johnson Annabel Kingbird Margery Kumalae Helen Lindemann Francis Littlewolf Roselie Lovelace Kim Lucero Jeffrey Lyons Deborah MacKinnon

Larry Madigan Betty McCormack Jerry Morgan Tracy Morrow James Nason Jay Nordmarken Russell Northbird Vernon Northbird Roberta Olson Lawrence Otto Jacqueline Peltier Teresa Persell Carol Rober Debbi Roberts Larry Robinson Bernard Rock Eugene Rock Lianne Ryan

Dewayne Smith
George Smith
John Smith
Samuel Smith
Alexander Stolitza
Victoria White
Nancy Whitebird
Gloria Wilson
Gregory Wright
Ricky Wuori
Todd Wuori

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 privilege to provide you with this monthly update regarding the activities undertaken throughout the month of October 2024. This report includes a quarterly financial update on the close out of the 2024 Fiscal Year, which ran from June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

## FY 2025 GOVERNMENT 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

For the twelve months ending June 30, 2024, the total revenue for the General Fund was \$30,926,034, reflecting an increase of \$828,424 over Fiscal Year 2023, for a year over year increase of 3.1%. Total General Fund expenditures through the same period were \$29,896,510, reflecting a \$958,293 decrease over the same period last year, for a year over year decrease in General Fund expenditures of 3.1%.

For the twelve months ending June 30, 2024, the total revenue for the Special Revenue Fund was \$98,699,260, reflecting an increase of \$11,271,816 over the same period last year, for a year over year increase of 12.9%. Total Special Revenue Fund expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 were \$88,056,393, reflecting a decrease of \$2,704,376 over the same period last year, for a year over year decrease in Special Revenue expenditures of 3.0%.

For the twelve months ending June 30, 2024, the total revenue for the Indirect Cost Pool was \$13,190,555, reflecting a decrease of \$1,077,641, for a year over year decrease of 7.6% for the same period last year. Total Indirect Cost

Pool expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024 were \$15,108,020, reflecting an increase of \$858,218 over the same period last year, for a year over year increase of 6.0% in Indirect Cost Pool expenditures.

Regarding the FY 24 budget performance: 83.94% of General Fund Direct Funding was expended through June 30, 2024, reflecting \$28,430,681 in actual General Fund Direct Funding expenditures. Through the same period, Special Revenue Direct Funding was slightly overspent, with 110.44% of the total FY 24 budgeted amount, reflecting \$3,623,687 in actual Special Revenue Direct Funding expenditures through the end of Fiscal Year 2024. Despite the slight overspending in the Special Revenue Direct Funding, I am pleased to report that overall Direct Funding for Fiscal Year 2024 came in under budget.

## FY 2025 ENTERPRISE 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

On our enterprise side, we finished Fiscal Year 2024 in a strong position. Net Revenue from all units increased by 6.9% over last year, while the Total Cost of Goods decreased by 6.8% over last year. Total Payroll Expense increased slightly by 1.2% over last year. Total Operating Expenses decreased slightly by 0.4% over last year. And the total Net Profit from all units of

enterprise activity for Fiscal Year 2024 increased by 85.6% over the same period last year.

### **AUDIT UPDATE**

On October 22, 2024, the Leech Lake Fiscal Year 2022 Audit was finalized and submitted to the federal clearinghouse. The RBC will be receiving an update on this audit as there was a finding related to the lack of inventory and internal controls within the Temporary Employment Program. Corrective action regarding this finding has already been implemented as the Finance Team has been restructured to ensure accurate asset inventories are completed, and there are quarterly meetings set with TEP and DPW management with tribal administrative leadership and me as Secretary/Treasurer to review ongoing operations for spending needs.

With the completion of the FY 22 Audit, we are now behind 1 year on our audit submissions. Work has already commenced on our FY 23 audit, with the auditors scheduled to complete onsite work in November. This audit should be completed by spring 2025, and work will immediately begin on the audit for FY 24. It is the goal and intention of the Finance team to have the FY 24 audit completed by fall/winter 2025 and to be completely caught up on audit submis-

sions by the time we enter due dates for the FY 25 Audit.

I am also pleased to report that the Leech Lake Gaming FY 2024 Audit was timely submitted to and accepted by the National Indian Gaming Commission on October 28, 2024.

### **GENERAL FINANCE UPDATE**

On October 24, 2024, the RBC met and approved a number of financial items of concern for employees and Band members. First, the RBC approved a 10% bonus for all employees of the LLBO government and gaming, across the board. This payment will be issued to employees in December and represents an increase from prior years to show appreciation for our dedicated and hardworking staff.

Second, the RBC approved a \$1,000.00 payment to Leech Lake Band members over 18, for Band members under the age of 18 on December 5, 2024, \$500.00 will be deposited into each child's Minor's Trust account. The \$1,000 payment to adult Band members will be issued on December 5, 2024.

This payment represents an increase from the original amount of \$250.00 per person by \$750.00 for adults and \$250.00 for minors. The RBC was able to accomplish this increased payment by working together and leveraging diverse

funding sources for large projects, including the Wellness Centers and the new Medically Assisted Detox Facility. This approach leaves General Fund dollars intact as we move forward with progress on our priority projects. As we expand the annual Tax Rebate for Band members, funds remain intact for discussion and Band member input on additional land acquisition, program expansion and early debt repayment.

One proposal I have been working on with our Finance Team is an early payoff of our loan from Bremer Bank for Shingobee (approximately \$2M remaining balance) and to make a significant prepayment on loan from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for Cedar Lakes of \$8M. This Ten Million Dollar early payoff would result in a long-term net gain for the Band of approximately \$7.7 Million in savings from interest payments. Our current payoff date for the Cedar Lakes loan is in 2036. If we made an \$8M prepayment, our payoff date would move up to 2033, saving us more than two years in monthly interest payments. More information on this proposal will be forthcoming soon.

Overall, I'm very pleased to report to the Band members that the Band's financial position remains strong. With much appreciation to our Finance Team, we have timely enacted budgets and have brought spending to sustainable levels. We have also increased revenue streams in economic diversification through exercising our Class II jurisdiction and our regulatory authority in the cannabis industry. Within the Tribal government, we have increased our selfgovernance funding though the Tiwahe Initiative and are currently expanding our capacity to generate third party billing revenue. These changes and increases allow us the long-term ability to allocate resources for the future, including increased funding for our elders and youth activities, among other priorities of the Band membership.



via SECRETARY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday was elected to serve as Treasurer for the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes in June 2024. He is pictured here with the MAST Executive Board and the members of the Oneida Nation Business Committee at the MAST Fall meeting.

#### OCTOBER 2024 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

October 2024 was busy with many meetings and events, including the Global Gaming Expo, the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Fall Meeting, the MCT Tribal Executive Committee...

See S/T Report on Page 7 >>











## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, October Quarterly Meeting

The Band recently held it's Quarterly Meeting on October 24, the meeting was held at the LLBO Twin Cities Office and broadcasted to Band Members online via livestream.

By KAYLA DUOOS

MINNEAPOLIS – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe held their Quarterly Meeting in person Friday, October 18, at the LLBO Twin Cities Office.

Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. gave the opening remarks followed by a financial report from Secretary-Treasurer, Lenny Fineday. The report featured financial data from both government and gaming operations.

Several resolutions concerning enrollment were passed at the meeting. These resolutions included new enrollments, ineligible enrollments, and transfers to and from the band. New employees hired in the past quarter were also introduced and welcomed at the meeting.

Last on the agenda were presentations from Division Directors in attendance on their activities over the past three months. For those unable to attend in person, a livestream of the event is available on the official Leech Lake Vimeo and Facebook page.

Quarterly Meetings are held every three months on a rotating schedule between each district on the reservation. The next Quarterly Meeting will be held in January 2025.

## QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARIES

### **Twin Cities Office**

• A number of health and safety issues around the office build-

ing are noted for repair/updates.

On July 10 and 11, the twin

 On July 10 and 11, the twin cities office partnered with St. Paul Indian Education and AIM to provide a doll clothes making class.

 396 tickets were provided for a youth Valley Fair trip. Partnerships with Volunteer

Partnerships with Volunteer Lawyer Network to hold monthly expungement clinics continue. Clinics take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 5-7pm.

 200 backpacks for back to school were distributed to community members.

 On September 14, the twin cities office partnered with Hennepin County to provide a fix-it-clinic. 154 items were fixed, which stopped 641lbs of land waste.

#### **Human Resources**

• HR is currently revising the General Administration Personnel Policies (GAPP)

### Behavioral Health

- LLBH hired its first FTE holistic health practioner. The practioner is available M-F for reiki services.
- On Sept. 9, LLBH sponsored "Listening to Wisdom of Elders" event. This is part 3 of this series.
- The Traditonal Cultural Advisor is providing services on a continuous basis, and is working on the mens gathering collective hearing event.

## **Public Safety**

- Public Safety staff is continuing to meet bi-weekly with other LLBO divisions to address fentanyl overdoses within the community.
- Community Wellness
   Navigators currently have handed out 297 boxes of nasal Narcan, 34 IM kits.

#### **TERO**

- The TERO ordinance is being updated and expected to be completed summer of 2025.
- The construction of a new TERO administration building has been approved by RBC.

## Housing

 Housing inspections conducted 373 unit inspections for substandard conditions in the LLHAA stock. The Modernization
 Department renovated 22
 vacant homes and renovated
 37 occupied units with health
 and safety updates during the
 reporting period.

## **Tribal Development**

- Planning continues on the wellness center. Drafts were drawn up and presented to local LICs in Kego, Cass Lake and Ball Club.
- Sugar Point will be moving forward with cultural heritage preservation plans. A memorial is being designed in honor of the last battle of Sugar Point.
   The memorial is expected to be up before winter 2024. Signage is currently up at the site.
- Animal Wellness Center Project to begin construction fall 2024.
- Bison Reintroduction, a site has been identified. Land clearing and fencing are the next steps.

#### **DRM**

- Clean water has been identified on the Bug-o-nay-ge-shig school grounds, plumbing and wells is the next step to restoring clean water. PFAS testing will take place again in spring 2025 to ensure this process of bringing in clean water was successful.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration ceremony to address the St. Regis superfund site was held September 19.
- Work continues on the Cass Lake Redevelopment plan to address brownfield sites.
   Funding has potentially been identified.





## **«** S/T REPORT

Continued from Page 5

...Quarterly Meeting, and the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention. I and the RBC also had many meetings with Band members, committees and agencies to advance the Band's position in a number of areas.

I'm pleased to report that on October 1, 2024, I accepted an appointment from Indian Health Service Director Dr. Roselyn Tso to serve on the IHS Direct Services Tribes Advisory Committee, joining leaders from IHS's nine regions to develop and enhance policy that serves the interests of Tribes who receive direct services from the Indian Health Service. I was put to work immediately on October 2, 2024 as I joined the interview panel for the new Bemidji Area IHS Director. This recommendation went to Dr. Tso, who will make a final recommendation to the US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra.

On October 5, 2024, I joined Chairman Faron Jackson at the Battle Point Community Center to commentate the 126th anniversary of the Battle of Sugar Point. The victory for the Pillagers in that conflict led to an increased forum for Leech Lake to address ongoing concerns with the federal government and resulted in a presidential pardon for all involved in January 1899. We honor the courage of those who have gone before us, including these warriors and what they accomplished on October 5 & 6 1898.

The LLBO has sponsored several Get Out the Vote events throughout October as well. We have had a voter registration drive, completed voter education, brought Tribal IDs to the Twin Cities region, and hosted a Get Out the Vote Rally on October 20, 2024 at Cedar Lakes. But what I am probably most pleased to report is that approximately 200 residents of Itasca, Cass and Beltrami Counties utilized the Band's one day early voting sites at Ball Club, Cedar Lakes and Mission, respectively. This is an encouraging result as we head into the regular General Election voting on November 5, 2024. As demonstrated above in the discussion on the Battle of Sugar Point, ensuring our voices are heard at the State and Federal levels is crucial. If you haven't already done so yet, please vote by November 5, 2024!

On October 21, 2024, the RBC consulted with the US Forest Service regarding the Chippewa National Forest. We continued to press our position that the Forest



via SECRETARY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday joined Chairman Faron Jackson and other current and former Minnesota Tribal leaders in a panel discussion on Minnesota's approach to Tribal State Relations at the NCAI Annual Convention.



via SECRETARY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday joined Chairman Faron Jackson in addressing the gathering at the Battle of Sugar Point Commemorative Feast at the Battle Point Community Center.

Service must allow the Band to have shared decision-making authority with the Forest Service as it relates to managing the Chippewa National Forest, particularly with regard to planned logging. While the conversation remains ongoing, we continue to work with our Congressional delegation for expanded authority within the reauthorization of the Farm Bill to allow Leech Lake to manage the Forest pursuant to a contract similar to a 638 contract.

On October 30, 2024, I was able to meet with Congresswoman Betty McCollum regarding moving our

secretarial transfers amendment legislation through Congress during the lame duck session after the election in November. As a memof the ber Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman McCollum can add our bill language to must-pass omnibus spending legislation. We will further meet on this issue throughout November and work diligently to get this legislation through Congress. Getting this legislation through Congress by their December adjournment remains a monumental task, but we will work hard to get it done. A reminder: this legislation will

return an additional 4,400 acres of Chippewa National Forest land back to the Leech Lake Band.

Throughout the month of October, I met several times with other Tribal leaders, MN Dept of Human Services leadership and staff from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) regarding the implementation of the Four Walls policy. We are still waiting for more answers from CMS regarding their position that all clients of our Substance Use Disorder programs and Behavioral Health programs must have their services prescribed by a physician. We continue to strongly advocate that CMS allow us to continue to operate our programs as we have for more than 30 years. In the meantime, we are partnering with MNDHS and IHS to develop contingency plans moving forward.

There have also been several developments on the Constitutional Reform front. On October 18, 2024, the RBC adopted a resolution that clarifies the intent of the Leech Lake Band to accept Red Lake Nation blood in blood quantum calculation for purposes of enrollment in the Leech Lake Band. This change is in alignment with wording and plain meaning of the current Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, but has never been implemented.

While we move forward within the bounds of the current document, we are also strongly supporting additional changes via the



via SECRETARY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday spoke with Minnesota Governor and Vice-Presidential candidate Tim Walz about ongoing state and federal issues during a stop before the NCAI Annual Convention.

Constitutional Amendment process. While the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is in transition with a new Executive Director onboarding in the next couple months, I want to assure all Band members that I remain committed to constitutional reform to change our broken governing system into one that reflects who we are as Anishinaabe people.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to serve all Leech Lake Band members in this capacity. It is an honor and a privilege. *Chi Miigwech!* 



PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

## **BUG O NAY GE SHIG**



## SCHOOL NEWS

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



▲ Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School students attended the Leech Lake Youth Forum on 10/15 at Cass Lake-Bena HS. They are shown in a session called "Why Treaties Matter". They also had sessions on Drugs and Recovery and a performance by "Tall Paul".





▲ Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig Middle and High School students recently participated in a display called "We are Water with more than 10 interactive displays. It took place at the Leech Lake Tribal College Library.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig's 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed a field trip to Grand Rapids to see a Children's Theater Production of "Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" recently.



▲ Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig's Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade and Niiganne K-2 took a trip to Fuller Farms in Bemidji! Students were able to enjoy a picnic lunch, hayride, feeding goats, play in corn pit and went on a story book walk! A great way to welcome dagwaagin!



▲ Several Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students are grabbing the opportunity to learn about Robotics at the Cass Lake High School this year. Robotics is one of the after-school activities that are now open to Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students, due to a new system of cooperation between the two schools. The Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students have been learning about the program from Cass Lake coach, Jesse Frost, and his students. They were invited to participate with the Cass Lake students in the recent Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference hosted by Bemidji High School on October 25-26. During the conference the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig students helped both the boys' and girls' teams. The boys' team won second place on Friday and first place on Saturday.





▲ The senior class at Bug O Nay Ge Shig recently went to Fort Ripley to tour the campus. While there, they also picked sage to be used at the

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## 2024 WILD RICE REPORT

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

Rice purchased over a span of 29 days at Cass Lake DRM 10 days at White Oak

## 8,170 lbs ......in green rice donations / sales

Supplied to: Deer River School, Bug O Nay Ge Shig School, Walker School, Mdewakanton Sioux, Cass Lake-Bena Curiosity Center, Lac Vieux Desert Band, Leech Lake Early Childhood, Tobacco SHIP Program, 1854 Treaty, Authority, Fond Du Lac CC, J. Harper Instruction, and Gaa-Niigaaniziwaad.

Total green rice purchased 142,439 lbs

Total amount spent \$1,086,810.00

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Average daily number of rice purchases DRM **56** White Oak **260** 

Average Daily Pounds purchased DRM **4,1664.41 lbs** White Oak **2,161.3 lbs** 

Average Daily Spending DRM **\$32,259.26** White Oak

White Oak **\$15,129.10** 

Average purchase per sale DRM **\$576.77** W

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White Oak **\$579.66** 

2024 marked another high buying price for our community at 6\$ per pound of green rice. We utilized the same wild rice buying plan that was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic response. This plan was efficient again in limiting congregating in large groups while waiting for a slip / ticket. There were no issues in the alternate payment system utilized and it is recommended we continue with this plan moving forward. Take a Kid Ricing was held Tuesday, August 27.



DEBAUTION





# Obituaries &

## Anthony Grauman



Anthony S. Grauman, 38, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, October 19, 2024 in St. Cloud. Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024 at the Ball Club Community Center. A rosary will be said at 4:00 p.m. followed by a time of sharing.

Anthony was born on September 23, 1986 in Deer River to Sharon Grauman and David Villeneuve. He attended Deer River Schools and graduated from the Grand Rapids Christian Academy. Anthony obtained his Millwright Degree from Mesabi Technical College. He was employed in manufacturing in the St. Cloud area.

Anthony will be remembered for his love of the outdoors and family but most of all the love he had for his children.

He is survived by his children, Landon, Jackson, Brantley and Destiny all at home; mother, Sharon Grauman of Ball Club; father, David (Jodi) Villeneuve of Ball Club; siblings, Meagan and Josh Bowstring; Tyler Villeneuve, Caleb (Raylene) Villeneuve, Max Villeneuve, David (Brookelyn) Villeneuve; grandparents, Francis "Mose" (Jeanne) Grauman; Lavonne Villeneuve; close friend, Robyn Johnson; and nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his significant other, Larissa Smith; and grandparents, Mary Grauman, Max Villeneuve, Ralph Ostendorf and Ila Harthan.

## Edwin Monroe

Edwin Joesph Monroe, 67, of Cass Like, Minnesota began his journey on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from Fair Oaks Lodge Wadena, Minnesota. He was born the son of Isabelle (Monroe) and Marvin Turney on



June 1, 1957, in Cass Lake, MN.

Edwin was raised in Onigum, MN. He went to school in Walker, MN. After graduation Ed worked for the Casino as a cook and Security guard. Following that he worked as a laborer for the Leech Lake tribe.

Ed Loved to hunt, bead, and was a very talented artist. He also liked his cars and his clothes; he always liked to look good. He enjoyed nature drives, going to the casino, and cook outs. He will be remembered as a kind caring and loving man, he would give the shirt off his back to anyone that needed it. Those greeting Edwin are his parents, Isabelle Monroe and Marvin Turney; siblings, Adeline, Bernice, Harold, Calvin, Roger, Darlene, Clyde, Kenneth, and Linda.

Those left to cherish his memory are his brothers, Lee (Patti) Turney, Russell (Linda) Turney, Ronald (Joan) Turney; sisters, Phyllis (Earl) Yingling, Ruth Wright, Evelyn Monroe, and Elaine (Sam) Saccoman. A celebration of life will begin at 12:00

A celebration of life will begin at 12:00 p.m. and continue until his 1:00 p.m. service Wednesday, November 6, 2024 all to be held at the Onigum Community Center, Onigum, MN. Father Bill Butcher will officiate. Urn bearer will be Bill Pell. Inurnment will be immediately following the service at St. John's Episcopal Cemetery, Onigum MN.

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

## Gary White

Gary Eugene White, "mashkawaa-giizhig" meaning "Strong Sky", age 69, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his home on Sunday, October 27, 2024, in Onigum. He was born on August 20, 1955, in Cass Lake, MN, the son of Shirley (Ellis)



and Lyman White, Sr.

Gary worked at DRM Fish and Wildlife from 1984 until his passing, leaving him just shy of 40 years of doing what he loved for a living. He did everything from start to finish, from netting to hatching and stocking white-fish. Gary also hatched walleye and helped stocked local lakes. In his younger years he enjoyed little league baseball, park board football, high school football, and Golden Gloves Boxing for Native American Indian Center in Minneapolis. Gary moved back to Onigum where he met his wife Deb K. He played softball for the Onigum Nighthawks. Gary loved being outdoors, ricing, hunting, netting, and ATVing. He served on the Natural Resource Indian Committee, served as an electrician for LLBO, and he was a Leech Lake Wildland Fire Fighter for many years. Gary obtained his boiler's license for DRM. He liked to prank his family and his co-workers. Above all else, he loved spending time with his grandson, who he was so proud of, especially enjoyed watching him box. Gary was very close with his devoted son-in-law, who took him to all his appointments and never left his side. Gary will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those greeting Gary in death are his wife, Debra Kay White; grandson, Baby William Bowstring IV; parents, Shirley and Lyman, Sr.; sister, Debra Isham; grandparents, John and Frances Ellis and Jenny and Harry Smith; aunts, Delores Wakefield, Leota Whitebird, Dolly White, Carol Goose, Joanne Losh; uncles, Randy, Marvin, John, and Donald White, Delbert and Myron Ellis, Earl Wright, Harry, Kenny, Roger, Lavern "Cubby", and Chebeeb "Willy" Smith; niece; and nephews.

Those that Gary leaves behind to forever cherish his loving memory are his daughter, Alicia (William "Bill") Bowstring; grandson, Cai Bowstring; brother, Lyman White, Jr.; sisters, Vicki White, Carol White, Marilyn Harrison; mother-in-law, Marcy Buck; special niece, Ashley Harrison; special nephew, Bradley White; uncles, Joe Joe White, Frank (Linda) Reese; brother-in-law, Curtis Isham; sisters-in-law, Cindy Morris, Bonnie Amundson; special friend, Sarah Waybenais; his cat, "Guy"; numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation for Gary will begin at 6:00 p.m., Friday, November 1, 2024, at the

Onigum Community Center, and will continue Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Walker Area Community Center, with a Celebration of Life to follow at 11:00 a.m. Father Matthew Cobb will officiate. Gary's honorary urn bearers are Bill Pell, Chuck Bobolink, Ben Cameron, Sr., John Finn, Russ Turney, Randy White, Jr., all his family, friends, and co-workers.

Gary'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.

## Judy Ryan



Judy Ann Sanders Ryan,79, enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Bear Clan, born on December 12, 1944, left this world and traveled to the Spirit World on Saturday afternoon on October 5, 2024. Judy slipped quietly away with the family nearby. She joins her parents, Walter Sanders and Josephine Bongo Sanders, brothers; Walter Sanders Jr., Lonnie Dale Sanders, Lew Vern Sanders, and her beloved husband, Roman Alan Jr., and son Roman Alan Ryan III.

Judy is survived by her sisters; Doris June (James) Eaglin, Lynnette Lee Sanders, Barbara Jo Sanders, Yvonne Marie (LC) Armstrong, daughters; Lori Ann Ryan, Jacqueline Ann Ryan, and Ria Ryan, grandchildren; Timothy, Terry, Johnny, Laci, and Sean Ryan, Christina, Raheem, many great-grandchildren and great-greatgrandchildren. As well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

After growing up on Leech Lake, Judy attended Haskell Indian Nations University and worked at the Red Lake hospital clinic as a Dental Assistant before beginning her family. She later graduated from Metro State University with a degree in Psychology and worked in social service agencies until retirement.

Judy loved children and could be found baking Christmas cookies surrounded by both biological and foster children. She looked forward to the brilliant colors of fall, gathering wildflowers and growing plants both inside and outside her home.

Judy's service will be held Friday October 11, 2024, visitation will be at 11:00 a.m. with service at 12:00 p.m. at Calvary Church in Walker, MN. Pastor Mark Wiman will offici-

ate. Those helping to lay Judy rest are Timmy Ryan, Johnny Ryan, Sean Ryan, Raheem Ryan, Roosevelt Stewart, and Wesley Armstrong. Honorary pallbearers are all who knew and loved her. Interment will be immediately following the service at Evergreen Cemetery in Walker, MN.

Judy's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolence for the family maybe left at www.northernpeace.com.

## Phyllis Wade



Phyllis Renee Wade, September 13, 1964 ~ September 23, 2024 (age 60). Survived by her dad Michael Wade Sr, siblings Calvin Howard, Lori Wade, Michael Wade Jr, Christine Leith. And her many nieces and nephews, Calea, Kathy, Do, Sonny, Myra & Keith, Sammy, Dawn & Louie, Mary Crystal, Debowance, Dezzy & AJ, Shania, Dathen, Andrew, Denaya, Deslin, along with her many grand-nieces/nephews. Whom she loved very much.

Phyllis graduated from Intermountain High School 1983, and received her Associate of Applied Science and completed the Surgical Technician Program from High Tech Insitute in 2006. She was a surgical technician with plans of becoming a surgeon. Her plans changed when she was diagnosed with diabetes, which took a toll on her body. During her life, she held many jobs living most of her life in Minneapolis/ St. Paul. It wasn't until later in life she decided to move up north to be with family. Having no children herself, she treated every one of her nieces and nephews as her own. If Phyllis wasn't at white oak, she would be home chillin' with her nieces & great nieces/nephews. She was loved her job, and always had a good time with coworkers at White Oak.

## Seneca Bermodes

Seneca Rose Bermodes "Gitigaane Ikwe", meaning "Garden Woman" of the Bear Clan, began her journey to the spirit world on Monday October 14, 2024 from the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND. She



was born the daughter of Tanya (Day) and Jeffery Keezer on October 22, 1995, in Minneapolis Mn.

Seneca enjoyed visiting with her family and friends as often as she could. She also enjoyed going to Pow Wow's and dancing at them. She was a good cook and enjoyed making her grandma's recipes.

Those greeting Seneca to the spirit world are her parents, Jeffery and Tayna Keezer, children; Ahrwen and Nadine Bermodes, grandma; Gladys Fairbanks, Neice; Lafe Hilton, brother; Jeffery Keezer Jr. uncles; Lance Robinson and Pete Headbird.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memories are her husband; Odawa Bermodes, son; Tyler Randberg Jr. sisters; Hattie (Joshua) Keezer and Anevay (Nathan) Keezer.

The wake for Seneca will begin at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday October 17, 2024, and continue until her 10:00 a.m. traditional service on Friday October 18, 2024 all to be held at the Prescott Community Center, Prescott MN. Naabekwa Liberty will be her spiritual advisor. Helping to lay Seneca to rest will be Odie Bermodes, Nathon Erickson, Julian Koslowski, Gary Keezer, Darian Staples, Angelo Rodriguez, Tyler Randberg SR., Lordez Deegan, and Dale Goggleye. Honorary pallbearers are Hattie Keezer, Anevay Keezer, Tyler Randberg Jr., and all those that knew and loved her.

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

## Shawn McMurrin

Shawn "Murph" Phillip McMurrin passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji, MN. Shawn was born November 23, 1973, in Cass Lake, MN, to Annie McMurrin and Terry Day.

Shawn grew up in Walker and was a WHA Graduate, class of 1992. He enjoyed playing hockey at the skating rink, playing baseball, and football in his early years in school. He was a big Minnesota Vikings fan and looked forward to watching the game with his cousin and best friend Jason. After high school



Shawn attended culinary school at NTC in Detroit Lakes. He loved to cook! Shawn worked at Northern Lights Casino for many years. He loved his job so much as a blackjack dealer, it did not even seem like work for him. He enjoyed meeting and getting to know his customers and made a lot of long-term friends. His greatest love of all was being a father and it was demonstrated by the love he had for his three daughters. "Murph" was known for his big smile and his sense of humor he shared with everyone he met, and he will be remembered for it and missed dearly.

Shawn is proceeded in death by his father, Terry Day; grandparents, Joe and Alice Day and Larry and Norma McMurrin; special aunt, Debra Tibbetts; cousin, Brian Northbird; and many other family members.

Shawn is survived by his mother, Annie; sister, Stacey; three daughters, Heidi (Michael), Cassandra (Nick), and Sadie; grandson, Michael Jr.; niece, Kiara; aunts, Susan and Laura; his longtime companion, Rana; and many more family and friends.

Please join the family for a Celebration of Shawn's Life on Saturday, November 2 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the White Earth Center (The Old Legion) in Cass Lake, MN.

Shawn'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.

## Terrence Belgarde

Terrence Tracy Belgarde, "Aamiikoonce", age 49, began his journey to the spirit world on Friday, October 4, 2024 peacefully in his sleep at his residence in Akeley, Minnesota.

Terrence was born on March 7, 1975 to Clarence and Doris (Jackson) Belgarde in Cass Lake, Minnesota. He grew up on Chase Lake Road in Deer River and graduated from Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school in 1993. He loved spending time with his grandkids and loved his puppies – Pepper, Pablo, Sophie and cat Kiki. He loved watching football, cooking for his loved ones and everyone knew the Vikings was his favorite team! He was an avid gamer and could be found on his PlayStation on his days off and he was an amazing artist with many displays around



the Leech Lake Reservation. He loved to keep everything around him clean and tidy. He was currently employed at the Northern Lights Casino as a shift manager. He grew up spending his adult life working for Leech Lake Gaming. He loved to sing karaoke (he had an amazing voice), dance and just make people feel loved and make them laugh (even without trying to) in general. He had the craziest knowledge of movies and had to share in the great detail what it was "truly about" if you were ever lucky enough to chill with him and watch one.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his children Jade, Kohl, Madison, Lylian, Tessa and Patrick; his parents Doris and Clarence (Nat); his siblings Linda (Brad), Joe, Craig, Rosanne (Patrick), Tanya and Bryan; His "twin" and P.I.C. Darla Jean; Melissa; his stepchildren Danielle, Breanna and Christian; his beautiful grandchildren Callen, Koda, Casey, James, Irie and Daisy; many loving nieces and nephews, so so many cousins and to name a few of his very best friends from the teen years to the present – David, Eduardo, Matt and Donnie Jr; and last, but not least, his beloved pets (he probably would have wanted them listed first!).

He will be welcomed into the spirit world by his maternal grandparents James Sr. & Ida Jackson; paternal grandparents Joe & Mary Belgarde; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; his special friend Jolynn; one of his best friends Vern; and his fur baby Chloe.

A wake will begin at sundown on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at the Mission Community Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota, and continue until the service at 10 AM on Friday, October 11, 2024 with burial in Inger. Active Pallbearers will be Kohl Belgarde, Joe Belgarde, Eduardo Roybal, Brad Feldt and Bryan Belgarde. Honorary Pallbearers will be A.J. Belgarde, Iain Belgarde, David Cronin, Patrick Goggleye, Ayden Belille, Xavier Belille, Jonathan Wakonabo Jr. and Raymond Belgarde.

You will be greatly missed, TerBear. Your memory will live on in so many hearts. You leave a great legacy behind and we will never forget you. May the Force be with you, always.

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



## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

200 Sailstar Dr. NW Cass Lake, MN 56633 218.335.3682 • 218.335.4418 Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene Chief Judge of Tribal Court Honorable David Harrington Deputy Judge of Tribal Court Honorable Michael Harrelson Deputy Judge of Tribal Court

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re: Estate of: Delores Benais Fineday, DOB: 05/22/1945 Decedent

Court File No. CV-24-100

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS AND CREDITORSIT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Delores Benais Fineday, died March 11, 2024. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge of the abovenamed Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 9th, day of September, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Will, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Myron L. Fineday, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on September 9th, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Beverly Whitebird, PO Box 959, Cass Lake, MN 56633 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Elizabeth Whitebird, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or 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 Re: Estate of: Elizabeth Ann Whitebird, DOB: 08/29/1939 Decedent

Court File No. CV-24-94

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Elizabeth Ann Whitebird, died May 7, 2014. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge of the abovenamed Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 9th, day of September, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Beverly Whitebird, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on September 9th, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Beverly Whitebird, PO Box 959, Cass Lake, MN 56633 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Elizabeth Whitebird, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or 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 Re the Marriage of:

Stephanie C. White, Petitioner, vs., James L. White, Respondent.

Case No. FA-24-98

### NOTICE

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

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

#### LEGAL NOTICE

## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re Estate of: Linda Jane Butcher, DOB: 08/13/1951.Decedent.

Court File No. CV-24-05

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Linda Jane Butcher, died December 29, 2022. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Chief 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 7th, day of August, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs, and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Sarah J. Whitebird, surviving daughter of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on August 7, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal, Court, Sarah Whitebird, 8144 Onigum Rd. NW Walker, MN 56484, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Linda Jane Butcher, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN 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 Re Estate of: Gloria Jean Whitebird Mellado, DOB: 01/25/1944, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-24-53

## NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent. Gloria Jean Whitebird Mellado, died June 2, 2021. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Chief 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 17th, day of July, 2024 at

3:00 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs, and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Karen L. Mellado, surviving daughter of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on July 17, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal, Court, Karen Mellado, PO Box 1102 Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Gloria Jean Whitebird Mellado, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-EN 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 Welfare of the Child of: Carla Gale (deceased) and Curtis Morris, Parents of minor child G.M.

Court File No. CP-17-11

## NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody has been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child 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. The next hearing in this matter is on

December 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may transfer permanent custody of the child named in the petition by default.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

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

In Re the Custody of: M.M.W., Minor Child, DOB: 03/21/2014.Cory & Brittany Hoffman, Petitioners, And Allen & Kristen Stockwell, Respondents.

Case No. FA-24-90

## NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTI-FIED that on August 7th, 2024, a Petition for Custody and Parenting Time was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parents. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must file a response in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court on or before January 29th, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Initial hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in a default judgment being entered against you, the respondents, at that time for the relief requested in the Petition, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice 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.









via LLBO DRM

Anishinaabe Youth Culture Skills Camp had a fantastic event! Among some of the activities and knowledge the youth had the opportunity to experience were harvesting ducks and how to process a harvested deer. The event was held October 17 through 20, 2024 at Pigeon Dam on Lake Winnie.



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401(K) EMPLOYER MATCHING



PERSONAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR



PAID TIME OFF



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FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP

QUESTIONS: JOBS@LLOJIBWE.NET FIND OUR JOB SUMMARY AND JOB APPLICATION HERE:



HTTPS://LLOJIBWE.ORG/JOBS/ LLBOJOBS.HTML



## Diabetes Awareness Health Fair

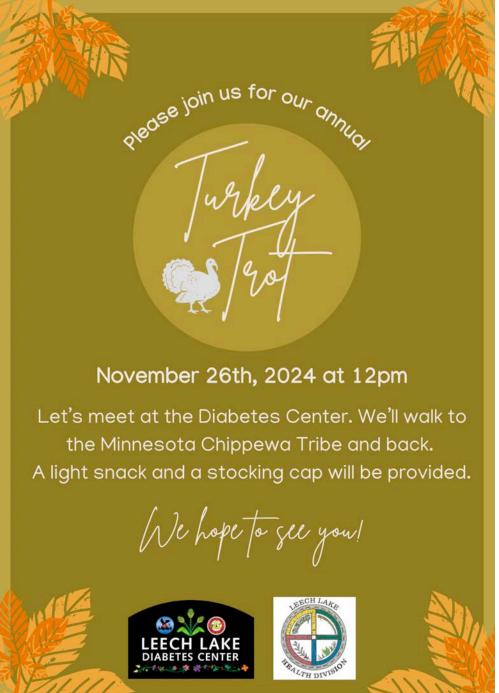
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

10AM - 3PM

Cedar Lakes Casino Event Center
Breakfast & Lunch provided
Grand Prizes
Tribal & IHS Booths



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## **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings**

www.llojibwe.org | drop off, mail or e-mail documents to:

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources 190 Sailstar Drive NW - Cass Lake, MN 56633 JOBS@LLOJIBWE.NET

Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697

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

### THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

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 Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-035 Naagaanizid Gekinwaa'amaaged (Lead) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-044 Police Officer (Full time) (3) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-058 Mental Health Professional (2) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-065 CTSS Mental Health Practitioner (4) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-066 Community Health Representative (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-088 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Attendant (4) (Part Time) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-089 Domestic Violence Officer ~ DPS ~ \$30.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-092 Case Manager (Duluth) ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-096 Advanced Practice Provider (Tribal Clinics) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-102 Bailiff (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-118 Driver/Operator (Heavy Equipment) ~ DPW ~ \$20.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-133 Police Officer (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-137

Accounts Receivable Team Leader ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-149 MnTRECC Statewide Quality Coach ~ Education ~ \$26.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-169 Gekinwaa'amaaged (Teacher) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-173 Investigator ~ Regulatory ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-178 Driver/Operator (Tribal Roads) ~ DPW ~ \$20.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-181

Fisheries Biologist ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-182

*Tribal Planner/Developer* ~ *Tribal Development* ~ *D.O.Q* ~ *Job Code*: 24-183 Driver (ENP) (2) ~ Health ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-189 SNAP ED Educator ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-190

Surveillance Operator (Northern Lights Casino) (2) ~ Regulatory ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-196 Family Support Specialist (Child Welfare) ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-199 Associate Child Welfare/Family Wellness Attorney ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-200

Rover/Driver (Facility Maintenance) (2) ~ DPW ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-201 Staff Accountant II ~ Finance/Accounting ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-202

Case Manager (Urban Office) ~ Administration ~ D.O.O ~ Iob Code: 24-204 Government Lease Administrator ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-206

*Crime Victim Advocate* ~ *DPS* ~ \$24.34/hr ~ *Job Code*: 24-210 Assessor (O.T.P) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-211

Emergency Preparedness Liaison ~ Health~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-212 Energy Grants Manager ~ DRM~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-213

Diabetes Registered Dietitian ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-214 Fisheries Specialist ~ DRM ~ \$18.00-\$22.00/hr ~ Job Code: 24-215

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

# Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders November Birthdays

## District I

Charles Grauman Ralph Schaaf Lisa Nason Mabel Roy Candace Gotchie Gary Charwood Sr. Darlene Autio

John Beaulieu Lucille White Shannon White Bradley Bowstring Sr. Sandra Armstrong William Evers Jr Simon Jackson

Loravne Harper June Drift Donna Cloud Stuart Smith Selma Jackson Gerald Bowstring John Charwood

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle



## District II

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

From the District II Office Steve, Stephanie & Michelle



## District III\*



Bonnie Beaulieu Sharon Bebeau-Cavitt John Bedeau William Bedeau Willis Burnette Evelyn Campbell Sheryl Charwood Janet Cloud Eleanor Craven George Donnell Dean Elmberg Anita Fahlstrom Kenneth Fahlstrom Donald Fairbanks John Fairbanks Jerome Finn Glen Fisher Mary Goggleye Russell Goggleye

Charles Hanson Kerry Harper Shari Headbird Peter Hunt Debra Jackson Kenneth Johnson Marlene Johnson Karen Jones Connie Littlewolf Roselyn Loeken Andrea Lyons Darlene Monroe Cynthia Morris Peter Morris Terrence Morris Eugen Northbird Suzanne Northbird Steven O'Brien Clayton Oothoudt

Ethelyn Peacock Joseph Plumer Richard Raish Robert Randall Walter Reese Winona Richardson Jeffrey Riewer Mary Rober James Śamuelson Jeffrey Sande Ángela Sayers Linda TeJohn Lana Tucker Kerri Wakefield Carol White Lyman White Mary White Timothy White Robin Windom

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

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



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## PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

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