

FOREST SERVICE MOU

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the U.S. Forest Service renew partnership in safeguarding Chippewa National Forest.

Page 2

QUARTERLY REPORT

Leech Lake Tribal Council and Division Directors recently held the Band's Quarterly Meeting in S. Lake.

Page 6

LLBO FIREFIGHTERS

LLBO Tribal members and firefighters joined other Tribal Nations to help combat the California wildfires.

Page 7

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the events and important dates that occurred in the year 2024 for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

Page 20



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Pictured L to R: Bush Foundation Grant Officer Mattie Harper DeCarlo, White Earth Education Representative Vince Olson and LLBO Education Director Laurie Harper.

Our Stories Deserve to be Told

Leech Lake and White Earth Nations collaborate with Bush Foundation to develop Native History Curriculum in Minnesota schools.

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – Education Director Laurie Harper, on behalf of The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe of Ojibwe, announced, on January 7, a collaboration with the White Earth Nation and Bush Foundation to begin work on developing a Tribal History curriculum for the state.

In 2023, bill S3019 “Native Histories and Cultures Education Act of 2023” was signed into law. The bill focuses on requiring accurate, thorough education about Native people in Minnesota. Developing textbooks, maps, and gathering stories is what the \$7.7 million Bush Foundation grant award will help fund.

Involving Tribal youth in this effort—is a goal Harper has in moving forward.

“The history that is being taught in our classrooms—is from one point of view. A settler, colonial point of view. Our students deserve to help decide what they want other students in the state to know about their history and where we come from.



LLBO Secretary / Treasurer Leonard Fineday speaks at an event announcing the curriculum in Cass Lake.

Our students having that power is a huge moment. They’ll be able to learn about their own culture while contributing to this project. This is not going to be a small feat, often times it’s going to be us going out of the way to make sure our stories are told, but it will be worth it,” said Harper.

LLBO and White Earth Nation are beginning their approach to the project by strength-

ening Tribal and State relations and taking leadership roles in gathering data by harnessing the power of both Tribe’s education offices. Vince Olson a drum keeper, and designated spokesperson for the White Earth Education department said preservation is a large goal of the project.

“Our stories are sitting around the table when we visit – when we go to dinner. It’s important to take advantage of things around us to preserve these stories for our families and our future. We need to make it easy and accessible for teachers to be able to disseminate this information to our students, it’s important. We need to be able to provide teachers with all the resources we can. It’s not only important for our students but for non-native students as well. If our neighbors don’t understand who we are—we don’t get treated any different,” said Olson.

The Bush Foundation which plans to work directly with both Tribes in the development process said there is great potential for the state to become a Nationwide leader in education through this policy.

“We believe that investing in Native Nations and Native communities is one of the highest impact things we can do,” said Bush Foundation Grantmaking officer, Mattie Harper DeCarlo.

For more information on the “Native Histories and Cultures Education Act of 2023” visit www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3019/all-info.

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VOL XLI NO 6

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

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Kyle Fairbanks, District I
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Steve White, District II
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Leon Staples Jr., 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.

DEBAHJIMON

190 Sailstar Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

news@llojibwe.net

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

Deadlines

Mar. Issue.....2/28/2025
Apr. Issue.....3/28/2025
May Issue.....4/25/25



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LLBO members harvest manoomin on Mud Lake, located on the Leech Lake River which falls within the boundaries of the Chippewa National Forest. The photo was taken during the LLBO DRM "Take a Kid Ricing" annual event.

LLBO and U.S. Forest Service Renew Previous Partnership to Safeguard Chippewa Natl. Forest

The newly established agreement renews recently expired 2019 Partnership between U.S. Forest Service and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to Protect Cultural and Natural Resources

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The U.S. Forest Service and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe signed a new memorandum of understanding for co-stewardship of the Chippewa National Forest.

The October 21 signing builds on an expired 2019 agreement and formalizes the consultation process

for forest management decisions.

Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. said co-stewardship strengthens and supports the band's goals for environmental protection, economic growth, and preserving the tribe's way of life.

"Our ongoing partnership with the U.S. Forest Service reflects the deep connection the Leech Lake

Band has with the land," said Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. "Together, we are committed to preserving our natural resources and cultural heritage, ensuring that our forests and waters remain healthy and abundant for future generations. Co-stewardship strengthens and supports the Band's goals for environmental protection, eco-

omic growth, and, the preservation of our way of life. We look forward to continuing this important work, hand in hand, for the benefit of our people and the land we call home," Jackson said.

Today, about 90% of the reservation lies within forest boundaries while 45% of the forest lies within the reservation.

LLBO Tribal Council and Cass County Hold Annual Meeting in Cass Lake

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Tribal Council held their yearly meeting with Cass County, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at Cedar Lakes Casino.

The Tribal and city government used the time to review departmental standings and goals for 2024 in the following departments; judiciary, law enforcement, roads and trails, human services, environment, and legislative.

Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson who attended the meeting said he stayed thankful for the MOU between the two governments all 10 years it's been active—as it's only increased the effectiveness of the two entities.

“The possibilities are unlimited, everything we have here starts with truth and trust. This collective has brought more members to the table who have good ideas to face the hard challenges that affect our communities,” said Jackson.

The following reports have been provided by the featured LLBO and Cass County departments.

REPORTS

Department: Judiciary and Legal

- 2023 Status:**
- Justice Center has not been used for juvenile court hearings since 2021 due to the pandemic these hearings are now mostly by ZOOM
 - Expanded working relationship and cooperation regarding Tribal Child Protection cases
 - Wellness Court fees have been reduced or eliminated

2024 Goals:

- Continue Cass County Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Wellness Court
- Continue to cooperate on new opportunities for use of the Judicial Center
- Continue to work in partnership on Juvenile Justice Initiatives – Continue to provide Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative and Diversion Updates
- Continue to collaborate on development of Civil Commitment Code and Services
- Collaborate with the development of Leech Lake Probation

Department: Law Enforcement

2023 Status:



LLBO Tribal Council and Cass County. Kayla Duoos | DEBAHJIMON

- E911 House Number Replacement – Cass Lake and Onigum remain all other areas have been completed
- Meetings between staff continue with the addition of Records and Dispatch including the other 4 counties that share jurisdiction
- Narcotics investigations continue in collaboration and working well
- Offering joint training opportunities to all partners providing more options for all staff
- Meetings continue regarding our Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement and the impacts of new legislation

2024 Goals:

- Complete E911 House Number replacement/addition in the Cass Lake and Onigum areas
- Continue to build relationships and learn from all dispatch and records departments that share jurisdiction with LLBO
- Continue to build training opportunities with LLBO dispatch, records, patrol, and investigators
- Complete a cooperative memorandum of understanding to replace the existing Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement

Department: Roads and Trails

2023 Status:

- Partnering on US 2 Steering Committee
- Partnering on LLBO Safety Plan updates
- Worked together on Bena intersection improvements at CSAH 8 and US 2

2024 Goals:

- Collaborate on 2025 construction projects, currently exploring Cass Lake area projects on CSAH 21, 22, 206, 207 & CR 146, 147, 149, and 151.
- Work with LLBO Environmental Lands

Department on 401 Clean Water Act process

- Partnership to develop noxious weed control program within Reservation on County Highways
- Work together on Bena Trail improvements on US 2.
- Continue to work together on identifying trail needs within the Reservation

Human Services and Public Health

2023 Status:

- Support Preventative Services
- Support homelessness initiatives
- Collaboration with COVID-19 and other vaccines
- Support spending Bush Grant Funds on juvenile homeless shelter furniture
- Establish ongoing quarterly meetings for leadership in Child Protection
- Build professional relationships while increasing coordination between the established Cass County Mental Health Crisis Response Team and the developing LLBO Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team

2024 Goals:

- Improve access and response time with Cass County Mobile Crisis Team for community members in crisis
- Support homelessness initiatives including those to assist Juveniles and families addressing child protection issues
- Establish ongoing monthly meetings to strengthen our partnership in delivery of vast array of Human Services programs
- Collaboration to support LLBO in their efforts to establish Tribal Adult Protection Services
- Collaborate on opioid crisis prevention and support initiatives for those currently impacted

See LLBO / CASS on Page 13 >>

RBC BRIEFS • February 2025



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.

One meeting was held within the last reporting month, January 1 to January 31. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on leechlakeneews.com under “Videos.” Official meeting minutes can also be found on leechlakeneews.com under “LL Tribal Council” and “Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.”

BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

1. January 16, 2025 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

Presentations Given:

- Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Tribal Court** – Presented the resolution 2025-43 Elder and vulnerable adult protection code. The protection code, which has been in the works for several years, was passed unanimously. It allows the courts to investigate reports and ensure the protection of elders and vulnerable adults.
- Following the investigation, services that may include a conservatorship or guardian appointment will be provided. The second part of the code allows the courts to investigate and further handle maltreatment findings.
- Donovan Staples, Planning** – Presented an idea he gave to all LICs regarding the potential moving and distribution of RBC salaries to LIC members. If enacted this idea would be included in the updated constitution. Constitutional reform is still ongoing.
- Reuben St. Cyr, Housing** – Presented a study that housing wants to conduct on homeless and displaced band members across the reservation. The data is to be shared with The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as this will help the Tribe get funding to address these issues.
- Michael Pegarsch, Tribal Development** – Presented a broadband construction agreement that will help keep the redesign of the community centers moving forward. This agreement includes fiber being added to the ground.
- Eric Devault, Public Works** – Presented a grant from the state of Minnesota for \$30,000 for the upkeep of roads.



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.

Governor Walz Announces \$112 Million In Federal Funds to Keep Minnesota Homes Warm this Winter – On November 14, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. wanted to announce a public service message that \$112 million federal funds had been awarded to the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program, admin-

istered by the MDC. Funding will provide energy assistance to income-eligible Minnesota homeowners and renters to help keep their homes warm this winter. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "The Leech Lake Energy Assistance Program is critical in the cold winter months. The high heating bills and increased electric costs can become unaffordable for many of our families. The LLEAP is essential to helping our families stay warm. The additional federal funding is greatly appreciated for the Leech Lake Nation and Indian Country." If you have any questions about eligibility or about the Leech Lake Energy Assistance Program. Call (218) 335-3783 or toll-free at (866) 864-8668 to inquire about crisis help and emergency heating system repair or replacement.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Awarded Circle of Excellence – On November 12, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had accepted the Circle of Excellence Award from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. The working relationship between Leech Lake and the MN DHS has improved over the past two years. We have recently completed important work on a five-year umbrella contract with DHS. Leech Lake and DHS have been meeting in a consultation process to improve relations and create a better understanding of the human services needs with a new way forward. DHS Commissioner Harpstead had stated that her office is energized by its new partnerships with Leech Lake. Together, we created DHS's first five-year umbrella contract with a Tribal Nation. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "We know things that we deal with together can be kind of challenging at times, but we always prevail.



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

We've come to understanding how we can work through these impasses. We always need to keep the families in mind, especially, the programs and services that must address the social environment in our communities." Leech Lake is the first Tribal Nation in Minnesota to sign the five-year umbrella contract.

MCT, TEC Special Meeting – Announced on November 19, 2024, Chairman Jackson, Sr. will be attending the MCT, TEC Special Meeting at Hinckley on December 12, 2024. The purpose of the MCT, TEC Special Meeting will be the introduction of the new executive director and discussion on the enrollment amendment. Chairman Jackson, Sr. has stated for the record many times, "Leech Lake is an independent sovereign Nation that signed treaty(s) with United States. We have the inherent authority to exercise self-determination and determine our own Tribal membership criteria."

Leech Lake Duluth Fall Feast '24 – On November 16, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had attended the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Duluth Fall Feast. The fall feast was planned by the Duluth Local Indian Council and community members. The event had a nice turnout of elders and Leech Lake members. A delicious meal was prepared for the attendees and the notable Oreo frybread. Gale's son had provided a wonderful hand drum song after the blessing. It was time to relax and visit past acquaintances, friends, and family. The Leech Lake Duluth Fall Feast has really grown over the years to a packed house. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "Duluth LIC members and community members did an outstanding job and Chi-Mii-Gwetch for the invite."

It's Vaccinations Time – Indian Health Services is providing the COVID-19 booster for the new strains. The flu shot vaccination is also available for the seasonal influenza. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) had stated, "Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from preventable diseases. The vaccines you receive are safe. Vaccines may be required at work, school, for travel or more activities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases

can have serious complications or even lead to later illness. Help protect yourself and other people you love by staying up to date on recommended vaccinations." Chairman Jackson and the First Lady received their Covid-19 and Flu shots last month. Vaccines can save lives. Please bundle up and dress warm when you go outside. Lots of elder's get pneumonia. Please take care of your health.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, RBC Tribal Council has been working with the Cass Lake I.H.S. Administration for years in fixing the Purchased and Referred Care Program. The Purchased and Referred Care Program is intended to provide specialty and emergency care for the Leech Lake Band patients when the services are unavailable at the Cass Lake I.H.S. Hospital, but bureaucratic issues and system underfunding undermine its effectiveness, leaving hundreds of our people with unexpected medical debt when it fails to pay the bills. In many cases, the report found, the problems stem from major issues within an I.H.S. program that refers patients to outside providers for medical care and then often doesn't pay the bill—leaving patients on the hook for debts that should not be their responsibility. After patients are sent to collections, »



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

February

District III Elder Birthdays

Roger Anderson
Joanne Bellanger
Clifford Benjamin
Ruth Bongo
Mary Burnette
Leon Butcher
Theresa Cash

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

Maxine Charwood
Stanley Chief
Marlene Clausen
Ronald Cloud
Tina Cloud
Steven Day
Roberta Decker
Diana Eason
Carol Fairbanks
Georgianna Feigum

Sally Fineday
Sharon Finn
Wallis Humphrey
Bruce Johnson
Cheryl Johnson
Ronald Johnson
James Jones
Tara Jones
Elizabeth Kingbird
Brenda Kornezos
Pauline LaRose
Kenneth Losh
Fred Lovelace
Herbert Medina

Pamela Michaud
Timothy Moon
Michael Murphy
Tracy O'Brien
Richard Robinson
Alan Ruppelius
Henry Rushman
Bernie Smith
Stacy Smith
Keith St. Cyr
Karen Staples
Kenneth Staples
Ramona Staples
James Starr

Jacquelyn Tibbetts
Lois Tibbetts
Delcie Tonce
Lucille Wakanabo
Flora White
Beverly Whitebird
Ruth Wind

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

« the analysis notes, many are unaware they are carrying medical debt until it shows up on their credit report.

U.S. Vice President Harris Announces Final Rule Removing Medical Debt from All Credit Reports on January 7, 2025. U.S. Vice President Harris announced a final rule by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to remove medical debt from consumer credit reports. This rule will reduce the burden of medical debt and ensure that patients are not denied access to credit for home mortgages, car loans, or small business loans due to unpaid medical bills. More than 100 million Americans struggle with medical debt. Medical debt is the largest source of debt, \$49 billion in collections, making up a larger proportion of debt tradelines than credit cards, utilities, and auto loans. "No one should be denied economic opportunity because they got sick or experienced a medical emergency. That is why President Biden and I cancelled over \$1 billion in medical debt and cracking down on predatory debt collection tactics," said Vice President Harris.

The U.S. Congress Senate & House of Representatives Bills S. 3797 & H.R. 7516 – Purchases and Referred Care Improvement Act of 2024 is placed on the Union Calendar. The Bills will amend the

Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with provision of purchased/referred care services. This act may be cited as the Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act of 2024. Updating authorities—Not later than 180 days of the enactment of this subsection and in consultation with Indian Tribes, the Secretary shall update applicable provisions of and exhibits to the Indian Health Manual, contracts with providers, and other relevant documents and administrative authorities to incorporate the provisions of this section. Chairman Jackson, Sr. – The Cass Lake Indian Health Service Purchased and Referred Care for life-threatening health care or referrals to see a specialist for chronic diseases has been on the Tribal Council's radar for some time. The Indian Health Service, a federally operated health care provider, was created in 1955 to help fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to the Leech Lake Nation – legal and moral obligations to protect health care, which the Supreme Court affirmed. Another great concern of the Leech Lake People is the payer of last resort, meaning patients must exhaust all other options for payment before I.H.S. will cover services. U.S. President Biden has approved a rule that will reduce the burden of medical debt. The U.S.

Congress has S. 3797 and H.R. 7516 have bills that will address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with a provision of purchased/referred care services. The Leech Lake RBC Tribal Council has lobbied and continues to educate the U.S. Congress on its Treaty obligations and the level of needed funding for the Leech Lake People's Health Care. We are seeing great movement by government leaders and attention by the press for Indian Health Care as it relates to one of our trust responsibilities.

Safety note: As the winter weather is moving into colder days. Furnace maintenance is a must for maximum air flow and energy efficiency. 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. Removing the snow and ice will prevent slips and falls. Chairman Jackson, Sr. was the safety compliance representative for Xcel Energy before retirement. Please be safe and take care! *Mii-Gwetch.*

Northland Foundation Awards \$32,500 to Grantees in Support of Native Language, Traditional Activities, and Cultural Teachings

By KAYLA DUOOS

BEMIDJI – The Northland Foundation is providing \$32,500 in Maada'ookiing grants to 10 community members to strengthen Native culture.

Maada'ookiing ("the distribution" in Ojibwe) is a Native American-led program of the Northland Foundation. Grant funding up to \$5,000 is offered three times per year to Tribal citizens, descendants, or those who have kinship ties or affiliation to Native American communities within the foundation's geographic region. Maada'ookiing grants are considered and approved by the Maada'ookiing Advisory Board.

"This group of grantees is all about creating opportunities to engage in traditional practices, activities, and language learning. At the same time, they are nourishing cultural and community connections in beautiful ways," stated Cayla Bellanger DeGroat, Program Officer at the Northland Foundation. "It is also a delight to have grantees who come from communities all across the region," she added, "The advisory board and foundation truly appreciate supporting the good work that is happening in many sites."

The next deadline to apply for a Maada'ookiing grant, for spring funding, is February 15, 2025. Find information about the program and the application on the Northland Foundation's website under Grant Funding.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- **Cassandra Losh**, Deer River: \$2,500
 - » To hold classes teaching traditional Ojibwe floral art on various mediums in District 1 of the Leech Lake Reservation.
- **Chantel Novak**, Cass Lake: \$2,500

- » To hold a multi-day class teaching native youth beadwork in District 1 of the Leech Lake Reservation.
- **Sharon Nordrum**, Laporte: \$5,000
 - » To support a series of gatherings at Leech Lake District I to play Snow Snakes, a traditional Ojibwe wintertime game.
- **Danielle Fairbanks**, Duluth: \$2,500
 - » To hold classes for the Duluth Native American community to learn about traditional moccasin construction and design.
- **Emma Carlson**, Grand Portage: \$5,000
 - » To provide supplies and space for Grand Portage elders to gather and create sewing projects.
- **David Wise**, Sawyer: \$5,000
 - » To support a series of classes about harvesting, processing, and utilizing bison.
- **Jessica Bobrowski**, Deer River: \$2,500
 - » To support a series of classes that bring community members together with native artists in Itasca County.
- **John Daniel**, Redby: \$2,500
 - » To support documenting and sharing audio and video Ojibwe language speakers in the region.
- **Victoria McMillen**, Cloquet: \$2,500
 - » To support gatherings where community members can create cultural items and learn about leatherworking on Fond du Lac Reservation.
- **John McMillen**, Cloquet: \$2,500
 - » To support community gatherings where men and boys can create drumsticks and learn drum teachings at Fond du Lac Reservation.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police 2024 Illegal Drug Statistics

In 2023 Leech Lake Tribal Police Officers continued to work with the community to stop illegal drugs from coming to the Reservation. Below is an approximate number of drugs that were seized throughout the year by Officers.

Approximate total of seized drugs in 2023

Crystal Methamphetamine	229.02 grams
Fentanyl	147.62 grams
Powder Cocaine	27.76 grams
Gabapentin Prescription Pills	23.5 pills
Processed Marijuana	651.79 grams

Fourteen (14) arrests were made for drug charges with six (6) of those being adult males and eight (8) being adult females.

Leech Lake Tribal Police Officers seized five (5) firearms throughout the year.

Officers responded to thirty-one (31) overdoses consisting of both non-fatal and fatal.

The approximate street value of the above listed drugs is **\$45,747**. **Please note this is a rough estimate broken down to "Street Values" and that the prices on illegal drugs can fluctuate up or down on a daily basis depending on supply and demand in the local area.*

If anyone has information related to the sales or possession of illegal drugs within the Leech Lake Reservation, please contact the Leech Lake Tribal Police Department Narcotic Investigator(s) at **(218) 335-7118**, or via tips@llpolice.org.

Phone (218) 335-8277 **Toll Free** 888-622-9225 **Fax** (218) 335-8297

Leech Lake Tribal Police • 200 Sailstar Drive • PO Box 187 • Cass Lake, MN 56633



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, January Quarterly Meeting

The Band recently held its Quarterly Meeting on January 17, the meeting was held at the S. Lake Community Center and broadcasted to Band Members online via livestream.

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe held their Quarterly Meeting in person Friday, January 17, 2025 at the S. Lake Community Center.

Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. gave the event's opening remarks and delivered the Chairman's report. Highlights from the Chairman's report and his goals for his upcoming term include; a wish to sign similar MOUs with Itasca and Beltrami County that have been signed with Cass County, addressing concerns with the IHS purchase and referred care (PRC) program. RBC has met with the IHS regional field director about community concerns as well as sending letters to the President and Congress about the lack of funding. Lastly, an update on the former palace casino/hotel, a portion of the building will be demolished to develop a medical-assisted detox center.

Jackson also promised to keep the Band updated on the new presidential administration's actions that will impact Tribal nations. Lenny Fineday, secretary-treasurer, who followed the chairman with a financial report echoed reassurance to band members that they will not let the band be affected

"We don't know what's going to happen but I want to assure every single band member that this Tribal Council is not going to sit back and just let cuts happen or let bad things happen to Indian Country. We are going to be out there advocating, letting our voice be heard, letting our position be known in the halls of Congress, with the new administration, and within inter-Tribal organizations as



LLBO Tribal Council.

Kayla Duoos | DEBAHJIMON

well," said Fineday.

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

For those unable to attend in person, a livestream of the event is available on the official Leech Lake Vimeo and Facebook page. Full copies of the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer reports can be found in the DeBahJimon newspaper.

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

QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARIES

Duluth Office

- Housing assistance for Duluth area band members is a need.
- Acquire an Elder Advocate, as many are in need.

- Bus passes are wanted to help Band members get to and from work/medical appointments.
- The annual fall feast was held on November 16th, 2025.
- Held 3 LIC meetings in the reporting period.

Twin Cities Office

- Several health and safety issues around the office building are noted for repair/updates.
- 32 emergency gas cards were distributed during the reporting period.
- 700 hats and mittens were picked up for distribution, items were handed out during the Halloween candy event. Additional hats and mittens are now located in the foyer area for anyone who stops by.
- The Twin Cities office hosted their 3rd quarterly band meeting in the reporting period, 80 band members were in attendance.
- A 30-passenger bus was

bought for the Twin Cities office to able to expand Band Member programming options and offerings.

- A Halloween bingo event was held, Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson, Secretary Treasurer Lenny Fineday, KOJB radio station all provided donations to make the event possible.
- A Weekly onsite housing resource personnel from NEXA is now available to help reduce barriers for people with disabilities and disabling conditions to help them find/keep housing.
- Thanksgiving distribution was held on November 22nd, 2024, 600 gift cards and bags of wild rice were distributed to band members. Elder advocates also distributed 100 gift cards to Elders and disabled band members.
- The Elder Christmas party was held December 9th, 2024, 80 elders were in attendance.
- 107 families signed up for Toys for Tots.

Child Welfare

- Additional funding is currently being sought, and two grant proposals were submitted. Additional funding will cover housing costs, clothing, and cultural and traditional teachings for staff and parents.
- A foster care specialist position will be added to urban offices to implement the process of licensing foster homes in the urban area, as there is currently a lack of placements for children.
- Partnering with UMD and Leech Lake Legal Services on a new policy and procedure for child welfare operations.

Behavioral Health

- LLBH Holistic Health practitioners provided a total of 186 reiki sessions to the Leech Lake community within the reporting period. Classes and Sessions are currently so popular that LLBH is looking to add an additional holistic health practitioner in the next quarter.
- LLBH held reiki training classes on December 11 and 12.
- LLBH made several herb-based products that were available to the community this past quarter including 23 tea blends, 9 different kinds of salves, and 64 essential rollers.
- LLBH sponsored the 3rd annual Leech Lake Men's gathering and traditional healing at Cedar Lakes. The event was

well attended.

- LLBH has begun publishing a monthly newsletter to highlight programs, staff and articles focused on community wellness.

Tribal Roads

- Plans for the Cass Lake Wellness Center parking lot have been finalized

Tribal Court

- 82 court cases were filed in the reporting period
- 235 hearings were held in the reporting period.
- In October, the council passed a resolution appointing the Appellate judges for the next 3 years. Those appointed; were Chief Justice BJ Jones, Associate judges: Philomena Kebec, and Michael Harralson, and alternative justices: Lenor Scheffler Blaser and George Soule.
- Rachel Weis has been hired as an associate judge, she begins work on January 2, 2025.

DRM

- DRM has secured a contract with USDA for wild rice. Rice that is purchased by USDA will be used in their food distribution to Tribes.
- DRM has received a 20 million dollar grant from the EPA for the construction of a new DRM building.
- DRM is in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage for the new wild rice finishing plant located on Nary Road.
- Work continues on brownfield sites.
- Addressing several multiple water violations, including major water quality breaches from Boswell and Deer River septage pond.
- The Onigum powwow grounds and campground expansion project has been finished
- The Tribal Historic Preservation office assisted with a burial disturbance in Blackduck that took place in August 2024.
- The Tribal Historic Preservation office is currently looking at ways to bring home human remains that are housed at Hamline university.
- Health
- Red Cedar Assisted Living Center will reopen in May 2025 with 33 beds available.
- Food Sovereignty will be starting a new program, an agriculture department. Distribution will expand into maple syrup, wild rice, and bison.

Leech Lake Firefighters Join Tribal Crews From Across the Nation to Assist in Battling California Wildfires

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – Leech Lake Tribal members helped combat the recent wildfires in California.

The series of several fires that burned across the northern half of the Golden State reached <95% containment the last week of January, after having killed at least 29 people, destroyed more than 15,000 structures, and put more than 80,000 people under evacuation orders.

12 firefighters from Leech Lakes Gichigami firefighting module became one of several teams traveling cross country to offer support with containment. Several other tribal nations sent crews including; the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Yurok Tribe from California, the Klamath Tribes in Oregon, the Navajo Nation, and Montana's Blackfeet Nation.

Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr., stated, "I just wanted to thank all of our firefighters from Leech Lake who went out to help the State of California with their

wildfires. We all realize that this is an extremely hard and dangerous job. Leaving your families to help people in need, shows a commitment to protecting the citizens of California, our forest, and animals. Risking your life as a first responder shows dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to your job. I am very proud of all our firefighters. A job well done. I thank our creator for bringing all of our firefighters back home safely, aho."

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe thanks the following members of the Gichigami firefighting module: Names/Band from left to right:

- Charles Oothoudt-Leech Lake
- Jamal Baird-Mille Lacs
- Eli Staples-Mille Lacs
- Marvin Staples-Mille Lacs
- Steve Mortensen-Leech Lake
- Robert "BJ" Gotchie-Leech Lake
- Alvin "Roman" Brown-Leech Lake
- Dion Oothoudt-Leech Lake
- Melvin Woods Sr.-Leech Lake
- Jordan Robinson-Leech Lake
- Benjamin Cameron Jr.-Leech Lake
- Marcus Smith-Fond du Lac

Chippewa National Forest to Thin Red Pines, Burn, and Reseed Native Plants on Leech Lake Reservation

By KAYLA DUOOS

BLACKDUCK – The Chippewa National Forest is seeking public comment on proposed timber harvest, prescribed fire and planting on 2,866 acres in the Blackduck Ranger District.

The activity is part of an Upper Mississippi – Ten Section Unique Biological Area Habitat Improvement Project within the boundary of the Leech Lake Reservation and includes areas along the Mississippi River between Lake Winnibigoshish and Cass Lake.

The project is meant to improve vegetative conditions to improve landscape resilience according to a 2024 agreement between the forest and the tribe. Forests diverse in

composition, structure and age may be more resilient and provide more diverse wildlife habitat conditions.

The forest plans to commercially thin about 269 acres of red pine plantations before burning roughly 1,500 acres to help restore native plant communities. Planting and seeding would also be done where needed.

Comments must be submitted by Jan. 25. They should be emailed to douglas.putt@usda.gov in a common file format with the subject line "UBA Project- Public Comment." Include your name, address, phone number and the title of the project with your comments.

Comments can also be mailed to the Blackduck Ranger District Office, Attn: Douglas Putt, or submitted by fax to 218-835-3132.

March

District III Elder Birthdays

From the District III
Office LeRoy,
Toni & Kari

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

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

LEECH LAKE MARKET

OPEN MON - SUN 7AM UNTIL 9PM

MIIGWECH
MIIGWECH
MIIGWECH
MIIGWECH

FROM YOUR LEECH LAKE MARKET



via SMITHSONIAN NATL. PORTRAIT GALLERY

Zitkala-Ša in 1898. Photograph by Joseph Turner Keiley. Image courtesy of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

Zitkala-Ša, Native American Activist, Author, and Composer, to be Honored on U.S. Quarter

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – A Native American Rights Activist will be honored on a new US Mint quarter.

Zitkala-Ša, "Red Bird," Gertrude Simmons Bonnin: an activist, author, and composer who fought for citizenship and sovereignty for Native Americans will be honored on a quarter as part of the American Women Quarters Program.

The American Women's Quarters Program celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States with new quarters released by the U.S. Mint in partnership with the Smithsonian Museum.

Portraits of Zitkala-Ša from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and National Museum of American History were consulted for the design of the coin with the intent to (re)focus attention on giving her a rightful place in American women's history. The words "Author, Activist,

Composer" were included in the design to amplify her role as a teacher, musician, and writer, and to consider the social and intellectual connections that fostered her success.

Zitkala-Ša (Bonnin) joined the Society of American Indians in 1907 and became co-editor of the American Indian Magazine.

Through her leadership in the Society of American Indians and respect across Indigenous communities, she influenced Congress towards the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. She also co-founded

the National Council of American Indians to advance voting rights, healthcare, legal status, and land rights, and she started the Indian Welfare Committee within the General Federation of Women's Clubs, expanding the recognition of the rights of Indigenous women more broadly in U.S. society.

In Late October 2024, the quarter featuring Zitkala-Ša was released into circulation.



Native American Women Take Pride in Their Military Service

By DAVE VERGUN via DOD NEWS

WASHINGTON – Native American women, like their male counterparts, share a proud tradition of military service.

During the Revolutionary War, Tyonajanegan, an Oneida, fought on the side of the United States with her husband during the Battle of Oriskany, Aug. 6, 1777, in New York. She died in 1824 at the age of 84.

The first active-duty Native American women were four Sioux nuns, serving as Army nurses during the Spanish-American War, in 1898. One of them died in Cuba from an illness and was buried with military honors.

During World War I, 14 Native American women were in the Army Nurse Corps.

Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture, a Mohawk from Ontario, Canada, graduated from nursing school in New York in 1914 and found work there. In April 1917, when the United States entered the war, she volunteered for the Army Nurse Corps.

In February 1918, she sailed to France where she treated wounded soldiers in the hospital and on the battlefield. After the war, she moved back to her reservation in Canada and continued her nursing practice there. In April 1996, she died at age 106.

About 800 Native American women served in uniform during World War II. Thousands of others who were civilians worked in factories on the home front producing arms for the war effort.

Marge Pascale, an Ojibwe, joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Corps, or WAAC, in 1943. "One thing about the service, you get two pair of shoes and you get a bed and you get to eat," she said, having experienced poverty.

Margie Williams, a Lakota Sioux, said during World War II, "It is with much pride that the Indian woman dons the uniform of her country to aid in settling the turmoil."

Ola Rexroat, an Oglala-Lakota, was the only Native American woman to serve in the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II. She flew AT-6 and PT-19 airplanes and towed targets for aerial gunners.

Following the war, Rexroat became an air traffic controller for the newly formed Air Force, making it a career. She also saw service during the Korean War.

Marine Corps Pvt. Minnie Spotted-Wolf enlisted in July 1943,

becoming the first female Native American to join that service. In 1980, 60 Native American women were serving in the Alaska National Guard as Scouts, patrolling the west coast of Alaska. Terri Ann Hagen, an Army National Guard medic, was killed in 1994 while fighting a fire on Storm King Mountain in Colorado.

Many Native American women served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, a Hopi, was killed in Iraq, March 23, 2003, when her convoy was ambushed. She was the first Native American female soldier

killed in action on foreign soil.

S-Peak, near Phoenix, Arizona, was renamed Piestewa Peak in her honor.

Today, Pfc. Jennifer Ruth Knowshisgun, an intelligence analyst at the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, from the northern Cheyenne and Crow Nations, said that her two years in the Army has helped her to develop leadership skills.

"The Army has given me more responsibilities," said Knowshisgun, speaking at Fort Hood, Texas, now named Fort Cavazos, Nov. 20, 2015. "I'm still a private, but I've gotten the chance to help out by getting the new soldiers situated into our unit."



via DEFENSE.GOV

Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture, a Mohawk from Ontario, Canada, is shown in her U.S. Army nursing uniform during World War I.



via DEFENSE.GOV

Native American members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps stand at attention during World War II.



via DEFENSE.GOV

Marine Corps Pvt. Minnie Spotted-Wolf is pictured in 1943.



via DEFENSE.GOV

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Trinity Sells, holds a protection arrow passed down from her ancestors during a National Native American Heritage Month ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, at Newport News, Va., Nov. 14, 2018. The arrow is said to offer protection from evil spirits entering their soul or household.

New Bipartisan Bill Empowers Tribal Nations to Combat Drug Trafficking and Protect Sovereignty

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON— A new bill has been introduced to the US Senate floor focused on combating trafficking in Tribal communities.

The bill titled “Protection for Reservation Occupants against Trafficking and Evasive Communications Today (PROTECT) Act” is to combat drug trafficking in tribal communities.

The PROTECT Act would expand the Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) program to allow tribal nations to prosecute non-Native offenders for drug crimes and gun crimes in furtherance of STCJ-covered crimes. The PROTECT Act would also allow tribal courts to execute warrants for electronic material to better combat drug traffickers and other criminals.

The bill has bipartisan support and is sponsored by U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.).

“For years, Tribal leaders in Minnesota have raised the alarm that drug traffickers are exploiting complex legal jurisdiction on Tribal land, making Native communities some of the most harmed by the opioid and fentanyl epidemics,” said Senator Smith. “The PROTECT Act would help Tribes fight back against these drug traffickers. This proposal is bipartisan and common sense, and it respects and upholds Tribes’ inherent sovereignty and right to protect their people.”

“As deadly drugs like fentanyl and opioids flow across our open southern border, states like Montana are bearing the burden. Drug traffickers continue to exploit

our tribal communities, so I’m proud to lead this bipartisan legislation to protect our Native American tribes and keep our communities safe, both in Montana and across the country,” said Senator Daines.

For decades, drug traffickers have exploited the complexity of the criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country, which has contributed to American Indians and Alaska Natives being two and a half times more likely to become victims of violent crime and more likely to die of an overdose than other demographic groups.

The PROTECT Act would expand the STCJ program to allow tribal nations to prosecute non-Native offenders for drug crimes and gun crimes committed in furtherance of drug trafficking and other STCJ crimes. It would also grant tribal courts parity with state courts to execute warrants for electronic material and allow offenders prosecuted under STCJ to be incarcerated through the Bureau of Prisons Tribal Prisoner Program.

For more information on the PROTECT act visit www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/9310?s=1&r=1

PROTECT Act

U.S. Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Tina Smith (D-MN)



The opioid and fentanyl epidemic has touched every community in the United States, but nowhere is this crisis more acute than in Indian Country. For decades, drug traffickers have exploited the complexity of criminal jurisdiction in Indian Country, which has contributed to American Indians and Alaska Natives being:

- 2½ times more likely to become victims of violent crime than other demographic groups
- More likely to die of an overdose than any other demographic group.

Complex criminal jurisdiction inhibits law enforcement response and causes many cases to go unprosecuted because unlike states and municipalities, Tribal Nations are not allowed to prosecute offenders for many drug crimes that occur on reservations. Tribal Nations need more authority to fight back against this crisis and defend their Nations.

The Protection for Reservation Occupants against Trafficking and Evasive Communications Today (PROTECT) Act would expand the successful Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) program to allow participating Tribal Nations to prosecute non-Native offenders for drug crimes and gun crimes committed in furtherance of drug trafficking and other STCJ crimes. More than 30 Tribal Nations currently use the Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction to prosecute non-Native perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, stalking, and more. This highly successful program empowers Tribes to fight back against those who seek to exploit complex criminal jurisdiction and upholds Tribal sovereignty.

The PROTECT Act would also grant Tribal courts parity with state courts to execute warrants for electronic material and allow offenders prosecuted under Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction to be incarcerated through the Bureau of Prisons Tribal Prisoner Program. Each of these reforms are essential to stopping drug traffickers from exploiting Tribal lands and communities.

President Biden Grants Clemency for Leonard Peltier, 120 Tribal Leaders Petitioned Citing Justice and Human Rights

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON— After nearly 50 years of incarceration, Leonard Peltier has been granted clemency.

Joe Biden, in one of his final acts as president, commuted the life sentence of Native American rights activist Leonard Peltier, who was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents, on June 26, 1975, in a shooting on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He was sentenced to two consecutive terms of life imprisonment and has been imprisoned since 1976.

The U.S. Parole Commission in July 2024, denied Peltier's last bid for release, which left his fate in the hands of Biden. Peltier has long maintained his innocence, and his commutation has drawn opposition from members of law enforcement.

Peltier, who is now 80 years old, has been imprisoned for almost five decades. He has been in declining health in recent years from diabetes, hypertension, partial blindness from a stroke, and bouts of Covid. The White House said the commutation

would allow Peltier to serve the remainder of his sentence at home, “but will not pardon him for his underlying crimes.”

In a public statement, Peltier expressed relief at being granted clemency.

“It’s finally over — I’m going home,” Peltier said. “I want to show the world I’m a good person with a good heart. I want to help the people, just like my grandmother taught me.” Peltier’s attorney also praised the outgoing president.

“President Biden took an enormous step toward healing and reconciliation with the Native American people in this country,” said the attorney, Kevin Sharp. “It took nearly 50 years to acknowledge the injustice of Leonard Peltier’s conviction and continued incarceration, but with the President’s act of mercy Leonard can finally return to his reservation and live out his remaining days.”

The push for Peltier to be released has been an uphill battle, going back several decades, human rights and faith leaders, including Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama, and Nobel Peace Prize recipients such as Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu,



via GETTY IMAGES

Protests outside the White House urge President Joe Biden to grant Leonard Peltier clemency, September 2023.

have backed Peltier’s release. Most recently, 120 Native Leaders across the country pleaded with former President Joe Biden to grant clemency to Peltier.

“Mr. President, we honor your demonstrated commitment to Indian Country. You have stood with us many times – both in the White House and in the U.S. Senate,” reads their letter. “Our standing in the world as a champion of freedom, justice, and human rights cannot be maintained in a system that allows Leonard Peltier to die in prison”

Notable signees of the letter include; 2 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe RBC members, Chairman Faron Jackson sr., Secretary Treasurer Leonard Fineday, former RBC member LeRoy Staples-Fairbanks, Nick Tilsen, founder and CEO of NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led advocacy group; Mark Macarro, president of the National Congress of American Indians and Deborah Parker, executive director of the Native American Boarding School Coalition.

Activists with the American Indian Movement have lobbied for

Peltier’s release since he was first imprisoned. AIM members, alongside the advocacy organization NDN Collective, walked from Minneapolis to DC as recently as 2022 to bring awareness to Peltier’s case and his bid for clemency.

His conviction and sentence also inspired international support ranging from the human rights group Amnesty International to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. That advocacy increased in recent years as Peltier’s health has worsened after spending more than half of his life behind bars.

“He’s of old age and in poor health and he poses little threat to society. If there was ever a case that merited compassionate release, Leonard Peltier’s is it,” U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) remarked from the floor of the U.S. Senate last month. “This is exactly what that awesome power is for. To right a historic wrong. And if not that, then just to show mercy and let an old man die with his family.”

Schatz was one of more than two dozen members of Congress who wrote to Biden and urged him to “rectify this grave injustice that has long troubled human rights advocates and Native Peoples.” The letter was signed by several prominent Minnesota Democrats including U.S. Sen. Tina Smith and U.S. Representatives Ilhan Omar and Betty McCollum.

The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration is searching for the following individuals.

If your name is on this list, please call our Trust Beneficiary Call Center at

1-888-678-6836 to claim / update your Individual Indian Money Account

(IIM Account). Hours of Operation: **(M-F) 9:00am-4:30pm (Mountain Time)**

Closed Sat/Sun. All calls/inquiries are to be directed to the number listed above.

In addition, Please use the following link to search by name only or other tribal

locations: www.doi.gov/ost/search-unclaimed-accounts

You may also visit our website for more information concerning IIM accounts at:

www.doi.gov/ost/iim-accounts

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME

ABRAHAM, ADRIAN
ADAMS, CAERON
ADAMS, DARRYL
ADAMS DARRYL
ADAMS, MARIBEL
ADAMS, MARIELLA
ADKINS, AUBREY
ALDRIDGE, AMELIA
ALLEN, DEVIN
ALLEN, JORREL
ALLEN JR, JAMES
ANDERSON, ARCHIE
ANDERSON, JAMES
ANDERSON, ALEXIS
ANDERSON, CHRISTIAN
ANOKA, BRIAN
ANOKA, NINGOZIS
ANOKA BRITO, CREE
ARMSTRONG, EZEKIEL
ARMSTRONG, MALAKAI
AXDAHL, MARY
BABCOCK, RYAN
BADMOCCASIN, LEAH
BAKER, LAUREL
BAKER, JAMES
BAK, DIANA
BARKLEY, DAVID
BARKLEY, EARL
BARKLEY, TIFFANY
BARKLEY, MELISSA
BARNES, SHARON
BEAUDREAU, DESTINEE
BEAULIEU, ALYSSA
BEAULIEU, EDWARD
BEAULIEU, LEIGHANN
BEAULIEU, SAMUEL
BEBEAU, BRETT
BEDEAU, ORLA
BEDEAU, WILLIAM
BEEBE, SANDRA
BEHL, ERVIN
BELLANGER, KENNETH
BELLANGER, ANGELITO
BELLECOURT, LENNY
BENDORF, DELAINE
BENJAMIN, CLIFFORD
BENOIT, ERAINE
BERG, ROBERTA
BERTHELSEN, JEROLYNN
BEVINS, DENISE
BEYL, ERVIN
BIGBEAR, BRAXTON
BIRD, DAEZHA
BISMARCK, MICHAEL
BIXBY, TRACY
BJERK, SHERRI
BLAKELY, LADELIA
BLAKELY, MARVIN
BLUE, SILAS
BOE, JOSHUA
BONGO, ARIANNA
BOWERS, MARY
BOWSTRING, GABRIEL
BOWSTRING, WINTER
BOWSTRING, SADIE

BOWSTRING, SAVANNAH
BRADLEY, THORPE
BRADLEY, MCKAYLA
BRADSHAW/LYONS, RUBY
BRAMEN, ALEXANDER
BRAVEHEART, THERESA
BRIEN, JAYDE
BRISKI, JOSHUA
BROWN, JULIUS
BROWN, BETHANY
BROWN, ALAUNIE
BROWN, DAMON
BROWN, CATHERINE
BROWN, JUSTICE
BROWN, LEVI
BROWN, SUE
BROWN, CURTIS
BROWN, KEVIN
BROWN, DENNIS
BROWN, WALTER
BROWN, HADRIAN
BROWN, ANGELINA
BROWN, ADRIAN
BROWN, ADIDAS
BROWN, DELPHINE
BROWN, LOIS KATHRYN
BROWN, AARON
BROWN, DOMINIC
BROWN, MEMPHIS
BROWN, SCOTTY
BROWN SEELYE, MYNA
BRUCE, VICTORIA
BRUCE, ALYSSA
BRUERS, LAILA
BRYAN, AYDEN
BRYAN, ALIANA
BRYAN, JACKSON
BRYAN, LARRY
BRYAN, ANGELICA
BRYAN PETERSON,
TESLIYAH
BRYANT MUNNELL,
GLORIA
BUCK, ROGER
BUCK, LAURA
BUCK, RHONDA
BUCKANAGA, CURTIS
BUDREAU, RICHARD
BUDREAU, KENNETH
BUDREAU, KENNETH
BUDREAU, JACOB
BUFFALO, MYRON
BUFFALO, RICHARD
BURGDORF, DAKOTA
BURNETT, CHRISTOPHER
BURNETT, MARY
BURNETTE, MONTGOMERY
BURNETTE, KIM
BURNETTE, IRENE
BURNETTE, DAVID
BURNETTE, LILLIAN
BURNS, SONNY
BURRIS, TERESA
BURRIS, WANDA

BUSH, AMANDA
BUSH, JOSEPH
BUSSIERE, JOSHUA
BRADSHAW/LYONS, RUBY
BUTCHER, MIKAYLA
BUTCHER, ALAJIA
BUTCHER, NAOMI
BUTCHER, KYLE
BUTCHER, AMANDA
BUTCHER, LEON
BUTCHER, RHONDA
BUTCHER JR, RICHARD
BZDOK, RICHARD
CAMERON, NANCY
CAMONA, KEITH
CAMPBELL, DARLA
CAMPBELL, GLENN
CAPITAINE, ALEJANDRO
CARDON, OLIVIA
CARDON, ANNASTACIA
CARLSON, MYSTIC
CARMONA, JOSEPH
CARMONA, ALEAHA
CASH, JOSEPH
CASH, STEVEN
CHAMBERS, CHRISTOPHER
CHAPMAN, LYNNE
CHARETTE, SIMON
CHARETTE, LAURENCIA
CHARETTE III, LAURENCE
CHARWOOD, MONICA
CHARWOOD, JACOB
CHARWOOD, WADE
CHARWOOD, JAMES
CHASE, DAWNETTA
CHASE, PAYTON
CHASE, JESSE
CHRISTENSEN, ANNA
CISNEROS, EDMOND
CLARK, TAMMI
CLARK, TOMI
CLARK, EDWARD
CLOUD, SHEILA
CLOUD, KEVIN
CLOUD, STEPHANIE
CLOUD, DARWIN
CLOUD, KENNETH
CLOUD, DOUGLAS
CLOUD, LEIGH
CLOUD, GLEN
CLOUD, NEVAEH
CLOUD, NICHIME
CLOUD, CLIFF
CLOUD, KENNETH
CLOUD, MADELINE
CLOUD, BRENDEN
CLOUD, DERRIK
CLOUD, DESIRAE
CLOUD, DONOVAN
CLOUSER, NICOLE
COCHRANE, MARVIN
COLE, AVA
COTTRELL, BABY
CRAWFORD, TRAVION
CRIMMINS, BONITA
CROSS, KAYDENCE

CRUZ JR, LUIS F
CULLUM, KEVIN
CULLUM, DAVID
CULLUM, PATRICK
CULLUM, JEFFRY
CULLUM, ROBYN
CULLUM, DONALD
CULLUM, JANIE
CULLUM, JONATHAN
CUNNINGHAM, RICHARD
CUTBANK, NORMAN
CUTBANK, SUZANNE
DAHL, BRAYDEN
DAHL, KRISALYN
DAHL, EMILY
DAHL, MARIAH
DAHL, CARLIYAH
DAHMAN, NICOLE
DAHMAN, JORDAN
DALEY, JACK EUGENE
DAMANN, BERNADINE
DANDREA, JOSEPHINE
DANIEL, DAVID
DANIELS, BROOKLYN
DARCY, PATRICIA
DAUPHINAIS, TANIS
DAUPHINAIS, WADE
DAVIS, GARY
DAVIS, SAGE
DAY, STEPHANIE LY
DAY, BRIAN
DAY, DONALD
DAY, CHONEY
DEEGAN, DEVYN
DEERING, REGINA
DEERING, DONALD
DEERING, ROLAND, DALE
DEFILLIPPIS, MICKELA
DENASHA, IRENE
DENASHA, ASHLYNN
DEVAULT, CORA
DEVAULT, OLIVER
DEVAULT, AMELIA
DEVAULT, PHOEBE
DEVAULT, PERSEVAL
DEVAULT, ZHAAWINI
DICK, PRESTON
DICK, JENNY
DODGEN, O
DONKIN, JAMES
DOWNWIND, DAVID
DRIFT, DANIELL
DROUILLARD, TYRELL
DRUMBEATER, THOMAS
DUNCAN, CIERRA
DUNCAN, MARIE
DUNN, BEATRICE
DURANT, ROBERT
DURANT, ANDREW
DURANT, AMBER
DURANT JR, ROGER
DURANT SAILOR, LOREN
EASON, IZAILYA
ECKMAN, STUART
EGAN, JERRED

ELLIS, JOSHUA T JAC
ELLIS, SHELDON D JA
ENGELKE, BEVERLY
ENGEN, CURTIS
ENGLAND, RALPH
ENGLAND, FESTUS
ENO, ELMER
ERICKSON, WILLIAM
ESQUIVEL, DOLLY
FAIRBANKS, BREANNA
FAIRBANKS, BRODY
FAIRBANKS, EVAN
FAIRBANKS, KAYNE
FAIRBANKS, ALLI
FAIRBANKS, BRIAN
FAIRBANKS, ROGER
FAIRBANKS, TOREY
FAIRBANKS, VICTOR
FAIRBANKS, NOAH
FAIRBANKS, CLINTON
FAIRBANKS, ANNIE
FAIRBANKS, AMY
FAIRBANKS, JENNALEE
FAIRBANKS, LYNAL
FAIRBANKS, WILLIAM
FAIRBANKS, MARY
FAIRBANKS, CAMERON
FAIRBANKS, JORDEN
FAIRBANKS, JERON
FAIRBANKS, WILLIAM
FAIRBANKS, DALE
FEDYN, TARRAH
FICK, TAMARA
FINEDAY, AMI
FINEDAY, SAMANTHA
FINEDAY, LEONARD
FINEDAY, DAVID
FINEDAY, JOSEPH
FINEDAY, CIARA
FINEDAY, REBEKAH
FINEDAY, MARY
FINEDAY, JACOB
FINEDAY, SARAH
FINEDAY JR, DUANE
FINEDAY SINGLETON,
AMADEA
FINN, HAROLD
FISHER, KIERA
FISHER, GLEN
FISHER, DUANE
FISHER JONES, AVERY
FISHER JONES, XAVIER
FLORES, PEDRO
FLORES, LARRY
FLOWERS, DANAESHA
FOREST, EMIL
FORST, EMIL
FOWLER, JALEN
FOWLER, ADRIK
FRAZER FAIRBANKS, KEN-
DALL
FREICHEL, JULIE
FRENCH, LOREN
FROST, EMIL
FUNK, BRIAN
GALE, MITCHELL
GALE, ALEXANDER
GALE, DYLAN
GALE, ALISSA
GALE MARTINEZ, BIANCA
GALVAN, RAYMOND
GARROW, CHARLES
GARROW, JEREMY
GARROW, SHEILA
GARROW, LEON
GARROW, WILLIAM
GARZA, ANISA
GERVAIS, CHAMPAGNE
GEVING, DEVIN
GEVING, DONALD
GEVING, SADIE
GOGGLEEYE, BRAYDEN
GOGGLEEYE, KENYON
GOGGLEEYE, KENTON
GOGGLEEYE, KIARA
GOGGLEEYE, CRYSTAL ROSE

GOGGLEEYE, CIANA
GOGGLEEYE, LISA
GOGGLEEYE, ROBERT
GOGGLEEYE, IZABELLA
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HANSON, JOHN
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HARDING, PATRICIA
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HARDY LANHAM, ANTHONY
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HARPER, LAURIE
HARRISON, ABBIGALE
HARRISON, PIERCE
HARRISON, RIKKI
HARRISON, DOUGLAS
HARRISON, LUCILE
HARRISON, VEDA
HARRISON, VEDA
HARRISON, RONALD LEE
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HEADBIRD, RANDOLPH
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HEADBIRD, WENELL BREN-
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JOHNSON, FLOYD
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JOHNSON, MELVIN
JOHNSON, MICHAEL
JOHNSON, MYA
JONES, NINGOZIS
JONES, THOMAS
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JONES, TYRA
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 LINDLEY, LARRY
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 LITTLEWOLF, BRITTANY
 LITTLEWOLF, BRIAN
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 LOPEZ LAROQUE, AALYNNA
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 LORENTZEN, LEISHA
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 NUSMAN, JOSHUA
 NUSMAN, TRUE
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 O SHEA, AVERY
 O SHEA, EMMALEE
 OGEMA BELLANGER, ARNIE
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 PAPER, WILLIAM
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 PAQUETTE, DAVID
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 PARENT, RENAYTA
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 PARKHURST REED, BARBARA
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 PASLEY, TERESA
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 REYES, GABRIEL
 REYES, SANTOS
 REYNOLDS, MAYNARD
 RHINEHART, SUMMER
 RICHARDS, CHLOE
 RICHARDSON, RANDALL
 RIDLEY III, ROBERT
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 ROBINSON, IDA
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 WITTNER, CODY
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 WRIGHT, ADRIANNA
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BUG O NAY GE SHIG



SCHOOL NEWS

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Bug O Nay Ge Shig's 3rd graders enjoyed listening and watching John Parmeter slice venison to smoke on the rack outside.



▲ At the recent Bug O Nay Ge Shig School Powwow, these ambassadors were chosen to represent the school at pow wows and events for the next year. Pictured left to right: Cecil J., Sr. Brave; Lorelea A., Sr. Princess; Elijah J., Jr. Brave; and Josephine E., Jr. Princess.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig School proudly hosted the Leech Lake Honor Guard at their Opening Ceremony on Veteran's Day. The Honor Guard stood at attention while the drummers sang the Flag Song and Veteran's Song. After the ceremony there was a breakfast for the Honor Guard and veterans at the school.



◀ A group of Bug O Nay Ge Shig High School students had the opportunity to learn trapping techniques from Gerald White, an elder from Cha Cha Baaning. They set traps on Thursday afternoon and then checked their traps on Friday morning. They had trapped six muskrats and were then taught how to skin and prepare them.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig's Seasonal Activities class gathered dogwood / red willow for making arrows. They made homemade glue from pine pitch and used turkey feathers to make the fletchings then they secured the arrowheads using deer sinew.

Tribal Nations Face Uncertainty as Federal Funding Freeze Creates Confusion Despite Court Orders

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – Within the first month of his presidency, Donald Trump issued several executive orders that impacted Indian country.

One of the most immediate impacts we have seen in Tribal offices has been with the funding freeze memo. The Trump administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo freezing all Federal Grant and Loan programs on January 28, 2025.

The memo directs reviews by every agency to "align federal spending and action with the will of the American people as expressed through President Trump's priorities." The memo by acting director of OMB, Matthew Vaeth, also stated, "The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve."

The memo was later rescinded, but federal agencies have continued to suspend funding, despite multiple court orders blocking the federal freeze.

LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE OFFICIAL STATEMENT

"The details of what this means for funding that is already authorized is unclear at this time. We have received limited correspon-

dence from federal agencies regarding what this will mean for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. We are attempting to communicate with as many federal agencies as we can to receive clarification but there are a lot of unknowns right now.

We recommend that all programs with federal funding remain in contact with their funding agency for further guidance. This is all of the information that we have at the moment but will update everyone as we learn more. All programs should continue operations as normal until more information is made available."

FAQ

In implementing President Trump's Executive Orders, OMB issued guidance requesting that agencies temporarily pause, to the extent permitted by law, grant, loan or federal financial assistance programs that are implicated by the President's Executive Orders.

Any program not implicated by the President's Executive Orders is not subject to the pause.

The Executive Orders listed in the guidance are:

- Protecting the American People Against Invasion
- Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid
- Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements
- Unleashing American Energy
- Ending Radical and Wasteful

Government DEI Programs and Preferencing

- Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- Enforcing the Hyde Amendment
- Any program that provides direct benefits to individuals is not subject to the pause.

The guidance establishes a process for agencies to work with OMB to determine quickly whether any program is inconsistent with the President's Executive Orders. A pause could be as short as a day. OMB has worked with agencies and has already approved many programs to continue even before the pause has gone into effect. Any payment required by law to be paid will be paid without interruption or delay.

Q: Is this a freeze on all Federal financial assistance?

A: No, the pause does not apply across the board. It is expressly limited to programs, projects, and activities implicated by the President's Executive Orders, such as ending DEI, the green new deal, and funding nongovernmental organizations that undermine the national interest.

Q: Is this a freeze on benefits to Americans like SNAP or student loans?

A: No, any program that provides direct benefits to Americans is explicitly excluded from the pause

and exempted from this review process. In addition to Social Security and Medicare, already explicitly excluded in the guidance, mandatory programs like Medicaid and SNAP will continue without pause.

Funds for small businesses, farmers, Pell grants, Head Start, rental assistance, and other similar programs will not be paused. If agencies are concerned that these programs may implicate the President's Executive Orders, should consult OMB to begin to unwind these objectionable policies without a pause in the payments.

Q: Is the pause of federal financial assistance an impoundment?

A: No, it is not an impoundment under the Impoundment Control Act. It is a temporary pause to give agencies time to ensure that financial assistance conforms to the policies set out in the President's Executive Orders, to the extent permitted by law.

Temporary pauses are a necessary part of program implementation that have been ordered by past presidents to ensure that programs are being executed and funds spent by a new President's policies and do not constitute impoundments.

Q: Why was this pause necessary?

A: To act as faithful stewards of taxpayer money, new administrations must review federal programs to ensure that they are being executed by the law and the new President's policies.

« LLBO / CASS

Continued from Page 3

Environment/Land Management

2023 Status:

- AIS infestations are trending down, attributed to joint efforts and partnerships in education, control and initiatives
- LLBO's public demonstration of DASH during the Lab to Lakes event
- Continued collaboration on Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste at LLBO Cass Lake Transfer Station
- Leech Lake Restoration Act - Secretarial Land Transfer with Chippewa National Forest - Maps provided related to needed GIA Trail Agreements
- Regulated material inspections and abatement partnership - Ongoing

2024 Goals:

- Coordinate inter-governmental communication on permit applications and approvals - Share LIDAR Data
- Co-host a Basic Aquatic Identification Workshop as done in 2022
- Review the Solid Waste Agreement from Aug. 1, 2004 - update if necessary.
- Coordinate on terrestrial invasive species control/prevention - Emerald Ash Borer
- Coordinate wetland application and violation review - Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) invitations
- Smart Salt Brine grant application to retrofit LLBO plows
- Semi-annual staff meeting

General and Legislative

2023 Status:

- Absentee voting at LLBO government center - ongoing collaboration on legislative priorities to better understand impacts to those we both serve
- Collaboration on Opioid Settlement Funded projects continues
- Workforce Housing partnership continues with success

2024 Goals:

- County share of State share of Tribal/State tax agreements and Local Option Sales Tax - Continue efforts to keep locally generated funds in the community to be used on projects that benefit those we both serve
- Update our State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) Priorities to include opioid prevention and support for impacted individuals and families
- Build relationships between new staff.

**Giwewebanaabiimin:
We Fish**

**LEECH LAKE
BAND OF OJIBWE**

Akawe Anishinaabewanjigen

Attention:

Beginning in this month, LLBO will begin releasing weekly updates on our Facebook page to keep our Band Members up to date on Tribal projects / divisions and anything from the federal level that may impact Band Members.

Employees and Community members can begin submitting news, events, updates to be included in the week's update every Monday. Updates can be sent to news@llojibwe.net.

Follow us at:

[www.facebook.com/
LeechLakeBandOfOjibwe](http://www.facebook.com/LeechLakeBandOfOjibwe)

Community Calendar:

www.leechlakenews.com/events



Obituaries

Alvah Alger



Alvy was born October 5th, 1934 in Cass Lake, Minnesota and passed away on October 21 at his home in Deer River, surrounded by his family.

Alvy was the first child of Gerald and Frelove (Mohawk) Alger. He grew up primarily in the Cass Lake and Schley Minnesota area, with stints in California and Kansas as the family followed work. Times were tough and the Algers' never had a lot of money. Alvy learned to work hard to help earn money for the family, which eventually grew to 13 siblings.

Alvy worked a wide variety of jobs over the years- logging, running a sawmill and firewood operation, working in a machine shop, ricing, blacktopping and installing septic systems, running a commercial concrete forming crew, doing building construction with his brother Duane, and working at the Northern Lights Casino in his later years- a job that he truly enjoyed as he was an admitted "people person", and he got to meet and visit with a lot of folks. It was during his time there that people gave him the nickname, "The Voice" upon hearing his melodic, resonant voice doing announcements. Most of them didn't realize that Alvy had performed as a lead singer and guitarist in "Country Swing" bands when he was younger.

Alvy worked at the Casino until he was 85 years old, only leaving then when the country was shut down due to Covid.

Alvy married Faye Partridge in 1955, and they had 4 children together- Alvah Jr., Burton, Shelley, and Sherry. While Alvy and Faye's marriage ended in divorce in 1964, they remained on friendly terms for the rest of their lives.

Alvy married Geneva Ludwig in 1966,

bringing Ginny's daughter Delarie into the Alger family as well. After raising their own children, Alvy and Ginny opened their home to foster children, eventually taking in brothers Kenny Budreau and Garret White- who they raised as their own sons. Alvy and Ginny celebrated 50 years of marriage before her passing in 2017.

Alvy could often be heard saying, "family is everything", and nothing gave him more joy than having a gathering of family and friends to share an evening with.

Alvy never turned away anyone in need, and his couch was often occupied by someone that had nowhere else to go.

Alvy was an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe of Wisconsin, and he was very proud of his native ancestry.

Alvy was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Faye, his wife Geneva, brothers Don, infant brother Vernon, Duane, Keith, Ronald, Knute, Willy, Emmett, and sisters Geraldine and Donna, and a grandson, Christopher. He is survived by sisters Lenora, Margaret, and Rosie, his children Alvy Jr (Velma), Burton (Laurie), Shelley (Wade), Sherry (Lance), Delarie (Don), Kenny, and Garret. 20 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his, "best and oldest friend", Salvador Calderon, who he met in Kansas as a teen and remained lifelong friends with.

It is difficult to sum up the life of a someone with such a big personality and wealth of experiences as Alvy in a few paragraphs. We are all going to miss his wit, humor, heart, and joy for life. In his memory, stop in and have coffee and a good visit with someone- just like Alvy would.

We were able to celebrate Alvy's 90th birthday on October 5 at the Ball Club Community Center. Over 100 family and friends came out to celebrate with him, and it warmed his heart so much to have everyone there. We are choosing to honor him in this as a celebration of life, one that he was able to attend himself. The family will have a private burial at a later date.

Florence Bowstring Parker

Florence Grace Bowstring Parker, born October 4, 1945 in Cass Lake, MN, died November 25, 2024 in Bigfork, MN.

She enjoyed spending time with family and friends for birthdays or just to get together playing cards, bingo, going to the casino. She also had a knack for making quilts, braiding rugs, and was an exceptional housekeeper who kept her home immaculate. She really enjoyed the seasonal activi-



ties too when she was able, bough picking, ricing, resort work always a busy lady.

She worked for the Leech Lake Elderly Nutrition Program for 32 years retiring in 2020.

Preceded in death by an infant daughter Valerie Kaye Bowstring, daughter Laura Howard, her husband Lawrence "Jack" Parker, a granddaughter Jaclyn Grace Howard and her father Joseph Bowstring, her mother Grace Goggleye Bowstring, a brother Earl Bowstring, grandfather Sam Goggleye

Those she leaves behind are her Daughters Arlene Parker (Jeff), Iris Parker and her son Curtis Bowstring (Karen). Brother's Lewis Bowstring, Bruce Bowstring Sr (Carmen) Marvin Bowstring (Dolores), Eldon Bowstring. Sister's Josephine Brown, Rose Smith (Donald) and Adeline/Dolly Bowstring. Her grandchildren, Jimmy Howard, Val Howard, Chelsea Moe (Wes), Rosella Headbird (Jordan), and Aaron, her great grandchildren and many niece's and nephew's.

Gary Hanson



Gary Wayne Hanson, age 67, "Be maa Gmaazh" meaning "High Soaring Eagle" began his journey on Monday, November 25, 2024, at Abbott Northwestern in

Minneapolis, MN. He was born on April 19, 1957, in Cass Lake, MN, the son of Adrienne and Harry Hanson.

Gary was retired after over 30 years in the E.M.S. service spent mostly at IHS in Cass Lake. He was a Bigfork High School and UMD graduate. Gary was a very calm and quiet person which made him great at his job. He loved golfing! He also loved reading books and playing board games. He was known to give everyone nick names. Gary loved a good Brandy.

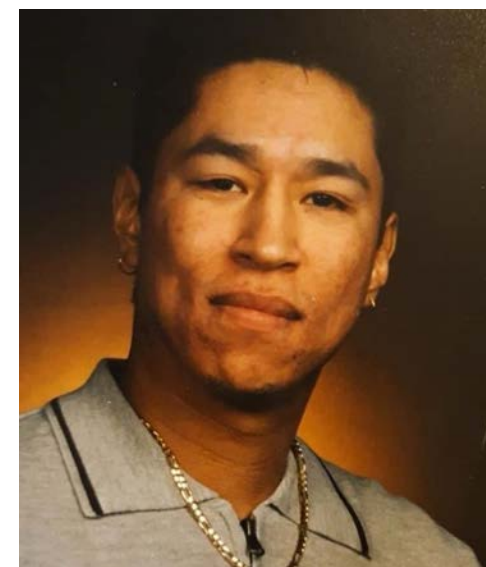
Gary leaves behind his sisters, Estelle "Julie" Marotta, Carmen Hanson, and Marcella (Scott) Johnston; aunts, Muriel Crawford and Marilyn Roybal; many nieces and nephews; great nieces and nephews.

Greeting Gary into the spirit world are his parents, Adrienne and Harry; sister, Kristen Elizabeth; grandparents, Louise and Robert Charwood grandfather, Mike Goggleye; his love, Christina Guimaraes; along with their unborn baby; uncles, Robert Charwood and Darrell Charwood; aunt, Arlene Sweedman; great aunt, Elizabeth Goggleye-Norcross.

An overnight wake for Gary will begin on Tuesday, December 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. and continue until his traditional service on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., all to be held at the Squaw Lake Community Center, with Father George Ross officiating and Gary Charwood as Gary's Spiritual Advisor. Those helping to lay Gary to rest are Ken Litzau, Christopher Marotta, Sebastian Marotta, Theodore Marotta, Phillip Budreau, and Anthony Hanson. Honorary pallbearers are Cree Marotta, Muriel Crawford, Marilyn Roybal, Dawn Staples, Kerri Rousu, and Elizabeth Hanson. Inurnment will be at a later date in the Round Lake Cemetery.

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.

J.D. Bluewolf Jr.



J.D. Bluewolf Jr., age 57 of Fridley, Minnesota Journeyed to the Spirit World on November 12, 2024 at his residence in Fridley, Minnesota. He was born on March 6, 1967 the son of Jim Day Sr. and Cynthia Atkin.

J.D. was a member of Leech Lake. He was employed as a manager in the food industry.

Survived by his daughter: Bailey; son: C.J. "Curtis"; nephew: Dan Olson; niece: Brooke Kirk; mother of his children: Amanda Rhyn; father: Jim Day and his brother: Christopher Thompson

A wake will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2024 beginning at 5:00 P.M. at the Upper Midwest American Indian Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Chilson Funeral Home assisted the family with funeral arrangements. On-line condolences can be directed to www.chilson-funeralhome.com

Jerrold Jenkins



Jerrold "Jerry" Alan Jenkins passed peacefully Monday November 25 at St. Ann's Residence in Duluth, MN after a 3 year battle with cancer. Jerry was born July 14th, 1963 in Chicago, IL. the 3rd child of Robert "Bob" Jenkins Sr & Nancy (Brown) Jenkins. He grew up and went to school in the Deer River, MN area (Inger). He completed a stint in the US Army and following discharge married Rosalind (Sam). They had one son, Davin Jenkins. He lived and worked in Kansas City area for a period in the 1990s before returning to Duluth. After his return, he was an over the road truck driver and also hauled grain from western MN & ND to Duluth. He is survived by children Jerrald Jenkins of Minneapolis, Odessa Jenkins, and Davin Jenkins, both of Duluth, stepchildren Amy & Andrea Miller, mother Nancy Dudley of Duluth, brother Bob Jenkins Jr of Duluth, Mike Jenkins of Duluth and several grandchildren, nephews and neices. Jerry was preceded in death by his wife Rosalind, infant son Desmond, Jerrald, Odessa & Desmond's mother Cheryl DeFoe, grandson Jaybez Bellanger, father Bob Jenkins Sr, sister Beverly Jean Jenkins, maternal grandmother Ruth "Dolly" (Command) Johnson & step grandfather James "Jimmy" Johnson, paternal grandmother Jane "Jenny" (Fairbanks) Jenkins. At his request, there will no services. His ashes will be scattered at a later date, per his instructions. Cremation services

provided by Affordable Creamation & Burial of Duluth, MN.

Joe Day



Joe Day, 79 of Bemidji passed away suddenly on Monday November 25th at his home.

Joseph Benjamin Day was born January 4, 1945, at the Cass Lake Indian Hospital to Joseph and Alice (Bruce) Day. Joe and his family lived in the native village of Onigum on the Leech Lake Reservation until he was 5 years old. The Day family moved into the nearby city of Walker, MN to be closer to school and work. He spent years with his many cousins playing ball, fishing, hunting, and just hanging out. His extended family is still close knit.

After graduating from Walker High school in 1963, Joe enrolled at Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, KS to become a machinist. After leaving Haskell two years later, Joe enlisted in the United States Navy to support our troops during the Vietnam War. He served as a Machinist Mate on the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier. While serving his 5 years in the Navy he sailed around the World several times over. This is where he was exposed to asbestos that would slow him down later in life.

Upon leaving the Navy, Joe came back to MN where he reconnected with Sherry Haase. The two married on January 17, 1970 at the home of Sherry's parents in Ida Grove, IA. The couple made their way to Santa Clara, Calif where Joe had a job waiting at Coherent Technologies as a Quality Control Engineer working on their laser program. Three kids and 8 years later, Joe and Sherry moved back to Bemidji, MN where he worked for the MN Chippewa Tribe and Leech Lake Reservation. Joe served on the Bemidji School Board and as liaison between Native Tribes and the Department of National Resources. He served as the executive director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council where he helped establish a place for 11 Tribal Nations and urban Indian communities to educate and advocate for their culture and self-governance. Former Governor Rudy Perpich declared Tuesday, January 30, 1990, to be "Joe Day" Day in the State of Minnesota for "Service on the Governor's Task force on High level

Radioactive Waste Depository; the Governor's Task Force on Open Enrollment; the Chancellor's Council on Cultural Diversity, Minnesota State University System; the Special Education Advisory Council, State Board of Education; the Multi-Culture, Gender -Fair Task Force State Board of Education; and the Indian Advisory Councils for the University of Minnesota at Morris, Bemidji State University, and Bemidji Technical College." In February 2002, then President William J Clinton selected Joe to be part of the United States Great Lakes Fisheries Council to help protect and manage The Great Lakes from a Native perspective.

Joe's last job was working at the MN Department of Corrections to bring Native culture into the prison system in the correct way and to raise cultural awareness for prison officials and inmates. He retired in 2008.

Joe loved his kids Dax, Danielle, and Nicole so much and with Sherry instilled pride in who they are and a sense of service for community. However, his pride and joy were his two grandchildren, Joseph and Emma two special spirits that needed guidance. Joe was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and a grandfather like presence for the many who needed him.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Alice (Bruce) Day; sisters, Josephine, Marlene, Carol, Maxine, and Betty; brothers, Clifford and Terry; plus numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, and nieces.

Joe is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Sherry; son, Dax Day; daughters, Danielle Day and Nicole Day-Lyons; grandson, Joseph Day; and granddaughter, Emma Day all of Bemidji, MN.

A Celebration of Joe's Life will be held at 12:00 p.m., Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the Onigum Community Center.

Joe'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.

Lewis Bowstring

Lewis Gilbert Bowstring aka Johnny Bowstring, born January 25, 1939 at home in Inger, MN to Joseph and Grace Bowstring. died peacefully at his home in Bowstring, Minnesota on November 27, 2024 surrounded by family.

Lewis enjoyed spending time with family and friends for birthdays or just to get together, going out to eat, playing cribbage, picnics, attending pow wows, and going to the casino. He was an avid Twins fan and also enjoyed watching the Minnesota Vikings. Lewis was an athlete his whole life and enjoyed playing baseball, softball, golf into his 80's and was very competitive in tournament play in these sports. He loved being outdoors enjoying hunting and fishing with his sons, grandsons, many friends and took pride in teaching his sons and grandsons those skills. He grew up and lived his life on Bowstring Lake and river gathering, buying and selling wild rice to many.

Lewis worked for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Behavioral Health Division for 43 years and enjoyed socializing with his co-



workers and the many people he met as part of his workday.

Preceded in death by an infant daughter Juanita Faye Bowstring, son Lewis William Bowstring, his father Joseph Bowstring, mother Grace Goggleye Bowstring, a brother Earl Bowstring, sister Florence Parker, and grandfather Sam Goggleye.

Lewis was married for 26 years to Agnes Guinn Bowstring and leaves behind his daughters Tina Benoit (James), Tami Jackson, Melissa Bowstring, Christina Bowstring, and sons Lawrence Bowstring (Kim), Franklin Bowstring (Trudy) and Bradley Bowstring (Amber). Brother's Bruce Bowstring Sr (Carmen) Marvin Bowstring (Dolores), Eldon Bowstring. Sister's Josephine Brown, Rose Smith (Donald) and Adeline/Dolly Bowstring. His grandchildren, James Benoit, Benjamin Benoit, Philip Benoit, Steven Smith, Carrie Berchard, Rebecca Williams, LeeLanee DeVault, David DeVault Jr., Nicholas DeVault, Robert Bowstring, Megan Bowstring, Joshua Bowstring, Franklin Bowstring, Maddison Bowstring, Jenna Oshie, Beth Quaderer, Jillian Quaderer, Dillon Gardner, Brittany Gardner, Bradley Bowstring, Brooke Bowstring, Branden Bowstring, Belinda Bowstring, Matthew Bowstring, Amber Bowstring, John Bowstring, Ryan Isham, Daniel Isham, Jacob Isham, Kristina Isham, Christian Anderson and his many great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Michael Staples

Michael "Julio" Allen Staples, 65, of Cass Lake began his journey on November 21, 2024, from Cass Lake IHS in Cass Lake MN. Julio was born on May 22, 1959, to Burnham Wilson and Cecelia (Staples) Drouillard in Cass Lake MN.

Julio grew up in Bemidji MN. He attended school there as well. While going to school in Bemidji he enjoyed playing basketball and hockey. After finishing high school, he moved to Cass Lake MN, and lived the rest of his life there. He enjoyed playing softball, horseshoes and pool while in Cass Lake.



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 PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT 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 above-named 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 GIVEN 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 PERSONS 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 above-named 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 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 GIVEN 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 the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Lillian R. Rushman and Jerome D. Roy, Parents.

Court File No. CP-24-16

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 of the above-named parents. A Pretrial on the Petition has been scheduled for

January 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM and a Trial on the Petition has been scheduled for February 19, 2025 at 1:30 PM. 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 child by default.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: A.J.M., Child, DOB: 11/10/2020. Cristine Lussier, Petitioner, and Ava Stone(Deceased) & any man that may claim paternity, Respondents,

Case No. FA-24-128

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on October 25, 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 February 5, 2025 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 De-BahJiMon in two consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(5)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re: Estate of: Peter John Hunt, DOB: 11/23/1953 Decedent

Court File No. CV-24-122

NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Peter John Hunt, died September 12, 2024. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy 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 4th, day of November, 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 Dwight Jones, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on September 12, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Dwight Jones, 927 Roosevelt Rd. SE Bemidji, MN 56601 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Peter John Hunt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN 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 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 NOTIFIED 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 De-BahJiMon in two consecutive is-

sues (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: Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., DOB: 03/25/1935. Decedent.

Court File No. CV-24-136

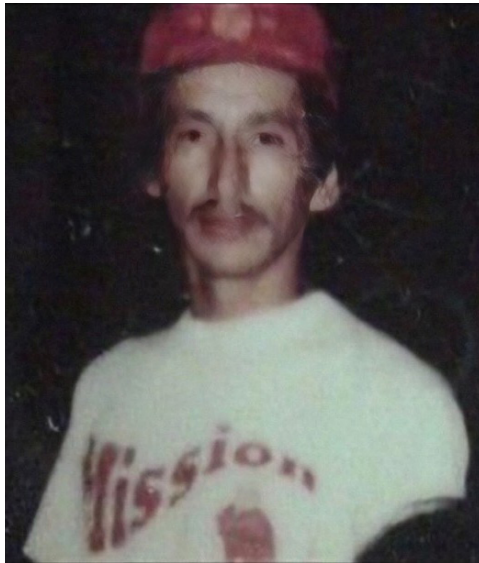
NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., died November 26, 2001. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy 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 27th, day of January, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Candace Partridge-Gotchie, surviving spouse of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on January 27, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Candace Partridge-Gotchie, PO Box 463 Deer River, MN 56636, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN 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.

Obituaries Continued.



Julio also enjoyed trips to the casino and watching his Minnesota Vikings and Wild. He truly loved spending time with the family. He would take his grand nieces and nephews to the races every Sunday in the summer.

Those greeting Michael are his mom Cecelia, dad Burham; brother Clarence (Koosh) Staples; sisters Linda (Red) Staples, Louella (Anna) Drouillard, Barbara (Pumpkin) Drouillard; uncles Charles Staples Jr. Samuel Staples Sr. Richard Staples and Patrick Staples; Aunts Betty Staples Delores Morrow, Catherine Adams, Roberta Wind (Staples) Naomi Countryman, and Barbara Staples.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are son Michael Allen Headbird; brothers Kenneth (John) Staples Sr. Dennis (Helm) (Margaret) Staples Sr. Darryl (Duck) (Claudette) Drouillard, Burnham (Dauser) (Ramanda) Drouillard; sister Denise Staples; special grand-niece Arayah (Little Princess) and grandnephews Kenneth (Niswe) and Adrick (Johnny).

The wake for Julio will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday November 24, 2024, and continue until his 1 p.m. service on Tuesday November 26, 2024, all to be held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cass Lake MN. Helping to lay Mike to rest will be Corey Drouillard, Richard Budreau Jr., Kenneth Staples Jr., Jacob Morris, Ryan Staples Sr., Dennis Staples Jr. Cheyenne Budreau, Nicholas Budreau Sr. and Adrian Staples Sr. Honorary pallbearers are all of his nieces and nephews. The internment will be at the Fairbanks family cemetery.

Michael'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.

Ramona Staples

Ramona Lynn Staples, "Ishkode Ikwe," age 60, began her journey to the spirit world on Friday, December 6, 2024 in Cass Lake, MN.

Mona was born on February 23, 1964, in Minneapolis, MN to Leroy and Edna (Sayers) Staples. She grew up in Minneapolis, Red Lake and Bemidji, graduating from Bug O Nay Ge



Shig School in Cass Lake. She also lived in Ball Club and Cass Lake. Mona was a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member and worked for Leech Lake Gaming for several years. Most recently, she was a caretaker for family. She loved helping others when she could. She loved to dance, cook and play at the casino, spending most of her time with her sister, Carol – laughing, smoking joints and talking shit (as we all know). Mona has numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as well as extended family whom she loved very much and helped in any way possible.

Mona is survived by her children, Danielle 'Manidookwe', Kevin Dupuis Jr and Jarred Sr 'Ogijii-giizhi-gweb' and Shawntay Pemberton; grandchildren Adrian, Iatic, Mason, Ariana, Neveah, Natalie, Jarred Jr and Jeremiah Pemberton; siblings Carol, Donna (Gary), LeRoy Jr, Leon Sr and Arlene (Ricky); and extra special nieces Nicole (George) and Dacia Staples.

Those meeting her in the spirit world are dad LeRoy Staples Sr, mom Edna Staples, brother Ronald Staples Sr, aunt Margaret Sayers, little brother John Staples along with many other loved ones.

A wake will begin at 5 PM on Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN and continue until the service at 11 AM on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 with Spiritual Leader Allen Hardy. Active Pallbearers will be Rick Haaland, Leon Staples, Damon Staples, Shawn Staples Sr, Nicholas Staples and Adrian Iatic. Alternates will be Allen Isham Jr, David Staples, Jonathan Staples, Brady Fairbanks and Mason Pemberton. Honorary Pallbearers will be LeRoy Staples Jr, Leon Staples Sr, Donna Staples, Carol Staples, Arlene Staples, Curt Isham Jr, Donovan Staples, Allen Isham Sr, Trent and Jojo Michaud, Ronnie Staples Jr, Simone Fairbanks, Ariana Pemberton and all grandkids. Burial will be at the Fairbanks Family Cemetery. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, MN.

Matt Frazer

James Matthew Aaron Frazer (Matt) Ningoson "My boy" forever 37, came into this world on September 27, 1987 in Bemidji,



MN, and ran into his mother's open arms in the star world on the December 1, 2024 from Cass Lake, MN. The beloved son of Fayleen Haugen and James Morrison.

James decided early on that he would rather be called by his middle name of Matt, and it stuck with him for the rest of his life. Matt was raised in a house full of girls. He was the only boy with 6 sisters surrounding him until our brother Michael joined us; but it only taught him to be respectful, kind, and loving. He spent many hours in his early years exploring the woods and collecting cards with his cousin Leroy. Together they had many adventures, but their biggest bond will always be Star Wars, and The Lord of the Rings. Leroy, and Matt were the best Jedi masters, and their wisdom was like Gandalf the gray; always passing on words of encouragement to those that needed them. His smile never failed to light up a room. Matt attended Cass Lake high school, where he met many of his lifelong friends, and earned his G.E.D later on. Education was always important to him, motivated by our oldest sister Lynda Joan, he attended and graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the Leech Lake Tribal college. Using his degree, he started a career with the Leech Lake DRM as a GIS database manager; he mapped out many parts of the Leech Lake reservation that he grew up on, and his map printing skills were unmatched by anyone! His maps were his pride and joy when it came to work. He was a player in the LAND BACK movement with the reservation, and his pride in being a part of that was amazing to see. Matt was a social butterfly, making friends wherever he was. His humor, and his wit made him easy to get along with, and if Matt teased you that means he liked you. In his adult years, every summer he would take over as the security supervisor for the Onigum pow wow often flirting with all the older ladies at the stands, who in turn would sneak him a free pop. Matt was an avid outdoorsman, and his Indigenous... ..culture was important to him; he spent many ricing seasons bringing in such large quantities of wild rice; sometimes he would share with his sisters if he wasn't feeling too stingy after all that hard work to process it, but he always made

sure his grandma Kathy got a few pounds. It's been said that Matt was the greatest, and biggest Vikings fan in all of Minnesota. He learned to love the team by spending many hours watching them play with his grandpa Carl. He was always going to games, collecting their merchandise, and wearing jerseys. He was such a big fan that his first tattoo was the Vikings logo. We think his greatest moment was being able to witness the Minneapolis Miracle game in person. He enjoyed so many other things; disc golf with the bros, firework wars, traveling to different locations, cooking, and writing stories; his favorite pastimes included raising hell with his many nieces and nephews, and teasing all his aunts. Matt was a proud Leech Laker, and home will always be Onigum, MN.

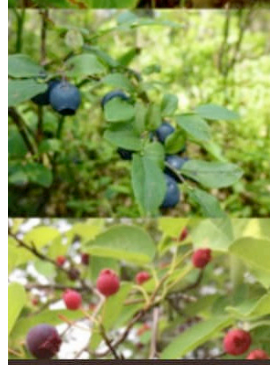
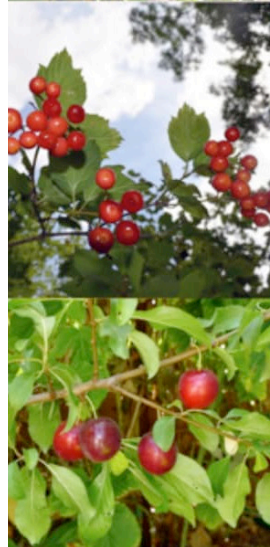
Above everything else, his greatest loves in this life were his three children, Leon, Lennie, and Camilla. His dedication to the three gifts he received will always be present even when he can't be here physically. Matt tried his hardest to be the best father, and he helped raise three wonderful, smart, beautiful children who took on all of his best qualities. We will spend our lifetimes reminding them of how much they really meant to their father.

Matt was the light of our lives, our brother, our father, our grandson, our nephew, our uncle, our cousin, and our friend. Though we must be on separate journeys; we will carry the wisdom, and the love he taught us until we reach the end of the trail. We will meet again. There will never be another Matt Frazer in this world; and for that we are lucky to have known and loved such an amazing man.

Matt is now being cared for in the star world by those who journeyed on before him; by those he missed the most in this life; mother, Fayleen; father, James; sister, Lynda; nephew, Miskwaadesi; brother and fellow Jedi master, Leroy; brothers, Dave, Grant, and Russell; grandma, Muzzin; numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Those Matt left to cherish every memory are his children, Leon, Lennie, and Camilla; siblings, Jacinta Morrison, Catherine Haugen, Michael Morrison, Jessica Carter, Carlee Cagle, and Tiffanni Haugen; grandparents, Kathy and Carl; partner, Rhonda Butcher; friend and mother of his first two babies, Johanna Jackson; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and lifelong friends. A two-night wake for Matt will begin at 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 6, 2024, and continue until his funeral service at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 8, 2024, all to be held at the Onigum Community Center with Pastor Mark Widman officiating. Those who will carry Matt into eternity will be Micheal Washington, A.J. Belgarde, Jeffery Brown, Sr., Michael Morrison, Kenny Morrison, Eric Alger, Dave Bismarck, Alexis Rea. Honorary Pallbearers include his siblings, his nephews, Randy Roberts, George Wittner, Maureen, and Johnny, Jonny Geezh, Tammi Belgarde, Annie Johnson, Richard Butcher, his friends at the LL DRM, and all his cousins, bro's, and all his best friends.

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



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management

Orchard Starter Kit Giveaway

Leech Lake Band members can receive three fruiting shrubs and the necessary materials to grow in their yard. If you wish to participate, please fill out the form from the VR Code below, know that you will get three of your first choice species if they are available; if not, you will get your second or third choice.

You will receive your trees in the order in which you complete this form. As trees become available, you will be informed and required to pick them up at the DRM. Educational materials will also be available for successful planting. Twin Cities & Duluth members encouraged to apply and will be brought to your community for pick up! One Kit available per household.

Questions? Please contact Jacob Grandia at 218-335-7435 or Jacob.Grandia@llojibwe.net



Giveaway begins in 2025! The cutoff is in September each year for 4 years. Signup today to reserve your trees and kit!

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FIND OUR JOB SUMMARY AND JOB APPLICATION HERE:

[HTTPS://LLOJIBWE.ORG/JOBS/LLBOJOBS.HTML](https://llojibwe.org/jobs/llbojobs.html)

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders

December Birthdays

District I

Sandra Fairbanks	Dorothy Robinson	Darrell Wilson Sr.
Delilah Jackson	Bonita Cloud	Margaret Greenside
Donna Tibbetts	Milton Gotchie	Brian Howard
Burton Alger Sr.	Howard Sherman	Douglas Harrison
Joseph White Jr.	Joel Bebeau	Julie Johnson
Cecelia Braford	William Bowstring	Helen Jackson

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle

District II

Kenneth Brown	Anthony Boswell
Mary Helling	Melodie White
Myrna Whitebird	Ronald White
Mary Greene	



From the District II Office Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle

District III*

Debra Adams	Ronald Hare	James Nason
Yvonne Amundson	Jeffrey Harper	Jay Nordmarken
James Baker	Douglas Harrison	Russell Northbird
Vernon Barsness	Loren Howard	Vernon Northbird
Beverly Beaulieu	Lorie Howard	Roberta Olson
Carol Blue	Rosetta Howard	Lawrence Otto
Sharon Brown	Teri Howard	Jacqueline Peltier
Arlen Buckanaga	Vikki Howard	Teresa Persell
Robert Budreau	Patricia Jackson	Carol Rober
Leroy Campbell	Carol Jenkins	Debbi Roberts
Edward Chase	Cheryl Johnson	Larry Robinson
Valerie Chase	Nancy Johnson	Bernard Rock
Lloyde Dahl	Annabel Kingbird	Eugene Rock
Rowa Donovan	Margery Kumalae	Lianne Ryan
Loretta Duncanson	Helen Lindemann	Dewayne Smith
Sherry Elmberg	Francis Littlewolf	George Smith
Delores Fairbanks	Roselie Lovelace	John Smith
Johnny Fairbanks	Kim Lucero	Samuel Smith
Kathryn Fairbanks	Jeffrey Lyons	Alexander Stolitza
Priscilla Fairbanks	Deborah MacKinnon	Victoria White
Jennifer French	Larry Madigan	Nancy Whitebird
Cynthia Gale	Betty McCormack	Gloria Wilson
Claircy Gonzales	Jerry Morgan	Gregory Wright
Coleen Gullickson	Tracy Morrow	Ricky Wuori
Howard Hardy		Todd Wuori

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

all coupons must be used within Birthday Month

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders

January Birthdays

District I

Corrine Nason
 Karen Bowstring
 Lorna Urrutia
 Andrea Price
 Marilyn Joyce Roybal
 Frances Nason
 Kevin Fairbanks Sr.
 Louis Bowstring
 Marilyn Wilson
 Francis Grauman
 Judith Margaret

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle

District II

James Campbell
 Walter "Butch" Chase
 Bonnie Fairbanks-Stangel

From the District II Office Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle



District III*

Leroy Aitkin	Brian Funk	Julian Molash
Dorothy Beaushene	Stuart Gale	Roger Monroe
Kenneth Bedeau	Sylvia Gale	Edward Morgan
Robert Bedeau	Isabelle Gilman	Linda Morris
Darlene Bellanger	Robert Gogleye	Paula Morris
Lareatha Bradford	Alisa Goodshield	Robert Morris
Elizabeth Brown	Jeffrey Goose	Hazel Nordmarken
Larry Bryan	Leonard Headbird	Patrick Northbird
Marcella Buck	Tina Headbird	Margaret Papasodora
Lillian Burnette	Cheryl Holk	Avis Poupart
Lisa Cariveau	Ramona Jackson	Theodora Redwing
Deborah Chase	Joseph James	Angela Reyes
Leona Cloud	Gary Johnson	Bryon Rock
Mary Cloud	Derek Kingbird	Carol Blue
Joseph Day	Geneva Lawrence	Bryon Sayers
Priscilla Day	Connie Lewis	Joan Scorza
Anita Demarr	Lance Lewis	Thelma Smith
Alice Donovan	Toby Losh	Anna Starr
Marie Duncan	Tonya Losh	Alice Town
Ernie Dunn	Daryl Lyons	LaVerne Wakanabo
Bonita Earth	Frances Lyons	Nancy White
John Fairbanks	Louise Masten	Donald White

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

all coupons must be used within Birthday Month

2024 Year in Review

A look back at important dates and occurrences in 2024 for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

January 5, 2024

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

January 11, 2024

LLBO makes announcement for the 2024 Tribal Elections.

January 17, 2024

LLBO and Cass County hold yearly meeting to discuss 2024 Goals.

January 23, 2024

LLBO releases the list of candidates running in the 2024 Tribal Election.

February 5, 2024

Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz holds Grand Opening of Zoongi-Ide Ikwe Women's West Wing Recovery Center at the Old Palace Location in Cass Lake, MN.

February 9, 2024

Certification of the 2024 Tribal Election candidates takes place at Cedar Lakes Casino and Event Center.

February 22, 2024

Anniversary of the 1855 Treaty Signing, which led to the formation of the Leech Lake and Mille Lacs Reservations.

February 26, 2024

LLBO approves proposed Cannabis Regulations aimed to establish a robust framework to govern cannabis-related business activities within the reservation.

February 28, 2024

LLBO DRM announces Agwajiing Izhaadaa (Let's Get Outside) Movement Grant to promote outdoor initiatives, access to natural resources, and encourage outdoor cultural activities for the communities of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

March 22, 2024

The 2024 State of the Band Address was held at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

April 2, 2024

2024 Primary Election takes place in Leech Lake and LLBO Election Board certifies Primary Election Results for Chairperson and District III Representative candidates.

April 5, 2024

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

April 7, 2024

Wiidookodaadiwag hosts the Mookaam Anangoog Rising Stars Fashion, Art and Talent Show at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

April 9, 2024

LLBO Health Division hosts the Onigum Health Fair at the Onigum Community Center.

April 22, 2024

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

April 23, 2024

LLBO Health Division hosts their Annual Health Fair at Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN.

May 1, 2024

LLBO hosts a community meeting for band members to discuss the latest developments regarding the Bands cannabis business initiatives.

May 7, 2024

The LLBO DRM held its Annual Tree and Shrub Giveaway in Cass Lake at the DRM building via drive through.

May 9, 2024

LLBO Behavioral Health holds the 4th Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk takes place in Cass Lake, MN.

May 11, 2024

Northern Lights Casino Event Center hosts the 2024 LLTC Graduation Ceremony in Walker, MN.

May 16, 2024

Leech Lake Head Start holds its annual Early Childhood Pow Wow at the Onigum Community Center.

May 23, 2024

Leech Lake Diabetes Fitness Center holds the 31st Annual Memorial Walk / Run in Cass Lake, MN.

May 24, 2024

KOJB Radio hosts the Inaugural KOJB Anishinaabe Arts & Music Fest at Cedar Lakes Casino and Event Center.

June, 2024

LLBO announces Phase 1 plans to renovate pow wow grounds across the reservation.

June 3, 2024

LLBO hosts the American Indian Mental Health Conference at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

June 6, 2024

Following MN legalization of recreational marijuana, LLBO ventures into Cannabis industry with Grand Opening of the "Sweetest Grass Dispensary" in Walker, MN.

June 11, 2024

2024 General Election takes place in Leech Lake and LLBO Election Board certifies General Election Results for Chairperson and District III Representative candidates.

June 7, 2024

LLTC hosts 2024 Pride Event at the Tribal College in Cass Lake, MN.

June 14, 2024

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

June 15, 2024

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

June 18, 2024

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

June 19, 2024

The 6th Annual Leech Lake Days Celebration was held at the Veteran's Memorial Grounds in Cass Lake. Among the many events were a Community Clean-Up Day and the annual Contest Pow Wow.

June 19, 2024

LLBO Education Division hosts an honorary feast for post-secondary graduates among LLBO Band Members at the Cedar Lakes Event Center.

June 28, 2024

Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center holds the 4th Annual Wecoverly Walk in Cass Lake, MN.

June 28, 2024

District III Office hosts an Appreciation Event for outgoing District III Representative LeRoy Staples Fairbanks at the Cedar Lakes Event Center.

July 1, 2024

LLBO swears in newly elected District III Representative Leon Staples Jr. and re-elected Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. at the Inauguration and Quarterly Meeting held at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

July 4, 2024

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

July 17, 2024

LLBO celebrates the return of land pursuant of the Leech Lake Reservation Land Restoration Act with an event held at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School.

August, 2024

LLBO DRM opens limited reservation rice beds, kicking off the 2024 ricing season.

August 15, 2024

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

August 16, 2024

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

August 21, 2024

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

August 27, 2024

District III hosts their Elder's at the Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN for the Annual D3 Summer Picnic.

September 12, 2024

LLBO Twin Cities office holds the Annual Leech Lake Twin Cities Picnic in Richfield, MN.

September 19, 2024

LLBO hosts 40 Years of Advocacy: addressing the ongoing impact of the St. Regis Superfund Site community meeting in Cass Lake, MN.

October, 2024

LLBO hosts a series of Get out the Votes Early Voting and Rally Events leading up to the 2024 Federal and State Election Day.

October 5, 2024

Anniversary of the Battle of Sugar Point.

October 17, 2024

LLBO DRM holds their 3rd Annual Anishinaabe Culture Skills Camp for youth at Pigeon Dam on Lake Winnie, MN.

October 18, 2024

LLBO Quarterly Meeting held in Minneapolis at the LLBO Twin Cities Office and broadcast online via livestream.

October 22, 2024

The 3rd Annual Men's Gathering takes place at Cedar Lakes Event Center in Cass Lake, MN.

October 24, 2024

LLBO Crime Victim Advocates and Family Violence Prevention Program host the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Community Event in Cass Lake, MN.

October 31, 2024

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

November 19, 2024

The Leech Lake Diabetes Center hosts the 2024 Diabetes Expo at Cedar Lakes Event Center.

November 20, 2024

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

November 21, 2024

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

November 25, 2024

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

December, 2024

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

December 11, 2024

The Annual District III Elder's Christmas Party was held at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker, MN.

December 30, 2024

LLBO Public Safety along with other LLBO Divisions hosts the 2nd Annual LLBO Sobriety Pow Wow at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School in Bena, MN.

