

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEWS

A monthly update from the Leech Lake Behavioral Health Division. Includes health tips and employee profiles.

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## MAY RECAP

A summary of the weekly updates to Band Members for the month of April, posted every Friday on our social media.

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## MONTHLY REPORT

Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. provides a monthly report to Band members on the activities of the Chairmans office.

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## MINNESOTA REAL ID

Important information on the DHS enforcement of REAL ID requirements for flying domestically.

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## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, April Quarterly Meeting

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe held their Quarterly Meeting in person on Friday, April 11, at the Bena community center.

Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson opened the event by speaking about the Tribe's current stance on the Federal government's number of recent changes that have impacted Indian Country.

"There have been a lot of things happening that are concerning to us here on Leech Lake and throughout Indian country with the new administration that came on in January...we're in uncharted waters here...It's always been troublesome and problematic when we're a government divided. We should be looking at things in solidarity. We'll continue to make sure the federal government upholds their trust fiduciary responsibilities that's owed to tribes through treaties from ceding away millions and millions of acres. It's still a supreme law of the land that we're a government that must be engaged in a one-on-one dialogue."

Following Jackson's opening remarks, he delivered the Chairman's report. Highlights from the Chairman's report include; the acknowledgment and honoring of retiring state house representative Jamie Becker-Finn who spent their career supporting the Tribe, The passing of the resolution of MCT 32-15, that states those who hold Indian blood can be members of the Tribe. This enrollment criteria is currently being used to allow those who hold Red Lake blood to be able to enroll in Leech Lake as well, and congratulatory thanks to those who helped put on the first Minneapolis powwow for urban members.

Secretary-Treasurer, Lenny Fineday, followed the Chairman by reporting on the financial data from government operations.

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

For those who were 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 Chairmans and Secretary

Treasurers reports can be found in the February print of the DeBahJimon newspaper.

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

### QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARIES

#### Health Division

- Leech Lake Health Division is in the continued process of re-opening the Red Cedar Assisted Living facility. Encountered some outstanding issues related to the architectural drawings of the required 2018 Life Safety Codes. The architectural drawings need to be updated to reflect the current building layout and compliance with the requirements of the 2018 NFPA 100 and all other applicable building standards and codes. This a delay in the re-opening, with the good news, the Assisted Living will be opening in late summer or early fall of this year.
- The Opiates program also has requested to help individuals other than our Native Relatives, so that help will begin being provided.
- The Family Violence Prevention Program is working with Cass County for funding to start up our own DV court system.

#### Tribal Development

- The Wellness Center Groundbreaking is tentatively planned for May 2025.
- Planning continues for the development of a new wild rice plant near Cass Lake.
- The Land Department is Working on developing a trust land acquisition plan aimed to benefiting the community and ensuring sustainable land management practices. Efforts also continued on the Leech Lake Restoration project.
- Planning continues for the development of a Detox facility.
- Extended IRRRB grant, waiting on Explore MN if we were awarded a grant to build a museum/rest area/ by S. Lake Pow-wow grounds 4-5 million.
- Searching for funding for Bena LIC for game room, or youth building for children and teens.

- DPS: Animal Wellness Center Project. Design Phase. Close to Completion. Estimated Construction begins in Spring 2025.
- Bison Reintroduction: 300 300-acre farm discussion on gifting to LIBO to be used as the Bison Farm.
- \$900,00 grant for construction of multi-use trail from White Oak to Deer River.
- \$400,000 grant for design of trail and bridge across Popple River in S. Lake
- Revised license plate efforts continues. The initial design phase is done, and we are waiting for the 1st sample batch of plates to come in from the state.

#### Tribal Court

- 88 new cases filed in the court this quarter
- 270 hearings were conducted this quarter
- Associate Judge Rachel Weis began work on January 1, 2025. She was sworn in at the Quarterly Meeting on January 17, in S.Lake, MN.
- This quarter, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe signed a Resolution allowing the Court to enter into an Agreement with MN Department of Children, Youth and Families to receive reimbursement for some of the costs of court appointed attorneys and training for child protection and foster care cases on Leech Lake Reservation.
- The Court has attended several meetings with Cass County for the development of a DV Court.

#### DRM

- LLBO was awarded a Community Change Grant (CCG) for a Tribal Resilience Hub - new DRM. This is the first stage of a multi-stage campus, further funding is being identified
- In March, Planning and DRM worked together on and received a MPCA grant for \$500k for the curation facility. Staff are actively working to identify other funding sources and work with LL Staff on funding opportunities such as 105L and investments.
- An engineering contract (HDR Inc) was selected in late Jan and approved on a March 4" to address PFAS Bug O Nay Ge Shig. Progress has already started on the next phase of well infrastructure for engineering the water from the new wells to all school buildings. Over 2 million in funds for the scope of work were received late August for this second phase of work. This funding has been confirmed it is safe and available.
- A meeting between the Tribal Council and the City of Cass Lake is needed to discuss St. Regis and strategy. Mainly...

See *Quarterly Report* on Page 5 »

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US POSTAGE  
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## VOL XLI NO 9

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

### Leech Lake Tribal Council

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Chairman

Leonard Fineday,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Kyle Fairbanks, District I  
Representative

Steve White, District II  
Representative

Leon Staples Jr., District III  
Representative

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### Submissions

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

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### Deadlines

Jun. Issue.....5/30/25  
Jul. Issue.....6/27/25  
Aug. Issue.....7/25/25



# Leech Lake Behavioral Health News

via LL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## Foundation of Stability

by ANNY O'BRIEN  
LEECH LAKE  
HOLISTIC PRACTITIONER

The Root Chakra, also known as Muladhara, is the first of the seven main chakras in the body. Located at the base of the spine, it governs our sense of safety, security, and connection to the Earth. Just like the roots of a tree, this chakra grounds us and provides the foundation upon which all other aspects of our being are built. In Sanskrit Muladhara means "root support" Associated with the color red, and element Earth. The root chakra is associated with survival instincts, stability, security, and basic needs (food, shelter, safety). When we face a perceived threat — whether it's real or emotional — the body activates the fight-or-flight response, an ancient survival mechanism controlled by the sympathetic nervous system. It's the first chakra to respond when you feel unsafe or under threat. When the root chakra is out of balance, you may feel anxious, fearful, or disconnected from your body and surroundings. You can remain in this constant state of alertness, even when there's no actual danger. It may cause trust issues, hypervigilance, or a sense that "the world is unsafe."

May is Mental Health Awareness month, and the nervous system plays a huge roll in our state of mind. Imbalance in the root chakra can lead to struggles in thinking processes and create dis-ease within our being. We are hosting an Awareness walk on May 15, beginning at 10:00 am. Encouraging community connection and involvement. Rebalancing the root chakra involves reconnecting with your body and the Earth, and reinforcing feelings of safety and security. You can feel safe in your body, connected to nature, and confident in your ability to stand strong through life's ups and downs. By grounding yourself and working on healing the root chakra, you can regulate your nervous system and create a sense of internal safety, even when life feels chaotic. Here are a few examples of ways to root yourself. Variation of methods is completely natural and encouraged.

**1. Deep Diaphragmatic Breathing** – This type of belly

breathing activates the parasympathetic nervous system (rest-and-digest), calming your body almost instantly.

- Inhale for 4 seconds
- Hold for 4 seconds (optional)
- Exhale slowly for 6–8 seconds (The long exhale is the most important aspect.)
- Repeat for 2–5 minutes

## 2. Progressive Muscle Relaxation

– Tense and then release each muscle group in your body, starting from your feet and working up to your face. This helps release stored tension. (Limit if you have physical health discomfort issues.)

**3. Physical Grounding** – These practices help regulate the root chakra and calm your nervous system through connection with the Earth.

- Walk barefoot on grass, soil, or sand (earthing)
- Press your feet firmly into the floor while sitting or standing
- Hug a tree or lie on the ground

## 4. Mindfulness & Meditation

- Try body scans, visualizations, or guided meditations
- Focus on your breath, heartbeat, or the rise and fall of your chest
- Even 5 minutes a day can help shift your nervous system from survival mode to calm

**5. Smudging with traditional plants or aromatherapy** – essential oil scents like lavender, frankincense, chamomile, or cedarwood may be helpful.

## 6. Soothing Sounds & Music

- Listen to calming nature sounds (rain, ocean waves, birdsong)
- Singing or humming (especially low tones) stimulates the vagus nerve
- Soothing affirmations like: "I am safe. I am grounded. I am protected."

**7. Nutrition** – Eating grounding foods like root vegetables (carrots, beets, potatoes).

Your root chakra is the energetic anchor of your entire being. By nurturing it, you're creating a stable foundation for growth, healing, and spiritual connection. You can develop and foster a calm confidence that helps you face challenges without becoming overwhelmed. It's not

about avoiding fear — it's about feeling rooted enough to move through fear with presence and power.

## Eating to Nurture Your Root Chakra

by SHAWN MACGREGOR

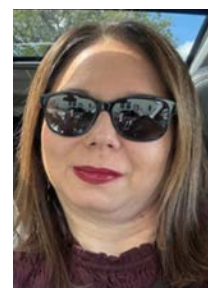
Each of the chakras has a diet specific to its function, and Muladhara, the Root Chakra, is no exception. Think of the roots as the foundation of a tree, holding it steady in the ground. Root vegetables, especially beets, sweet potatoes and carrots are key. You can include parsnips, rutabagas and onions. Red fruits and berries are vital to the root chakra as well, especially pomegranate, apples and strawberries. Because protein is a building block of our bodies,

the root chakra also calls for Salmon, red meat, (in moderation) and tofu, especially tempeh, as well as red beans and kidney beans—all of which are high in protein. All of these foods provide essential nutrients to the body, as well as natural sources of fiber, fructose, vitamins A and C, and a wide variety of antioxidants which help protect the body from free radicals, which are molecules that -to greatly simplify- can increase your risk of cancer. Spices that awaken the root chakra include turmeric, paprika and cloves. To nurture your Root Chakra, add cooked root foods and proteins to your diet but be mindful of preparation methods, as butter and rich sauces add calories and fat to these naturally healthful foods. Fortunately, fruits such as apples, pomegranates and red berries are delicious on their own; no additional flavoring needed. Drink plenty of water with these, and your Root Chakra can enjoy optimal health!

## Behavioral Health | Management Team



**Melissa George-Humphrey, MSW, LICSW**; is the Director of Gaa zagaskwaajimekaag Inaadiziwin – Leech Lake Behavioral Health. She descends from the Mississippi Band of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Melissa grew up in Cass Lake and graduated from Cass Lake-Bena high school in 1989. She received her B.A. from Hamline University in 1993 and her Masters in Clinical Social Work in 1997 from the University of Washington-Seattle. Melissa has been an independently licensed Mental Health Professional as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker/LICSW through the Minnesota Board of Social Work for the past 26 years. In June of 2019, Melissa became the Clinical Director for the Leech Lake Nation's Behavioral Health Program—Gaa zagaskwaajimekaag Inaadiziwin. In 2023 she was promoted to the Behavioral Health Division Director. Melissa is grateful to be in a service leadership role and is committed to engaging in meaningful change. Melissa and team aim to uphold the mission statement of Gaa zagaskwaajimekaag Inaadiziwin: Leech Lake Behavioral Health is committed to providing holistic services that honor and promote the well-being of Anishinaabe people.



My Name is **Tanya Vold**. I started working for the Leech Lake Band in December of 2021 for the Human Services Division. I joined Leech Lake Behavioral Health as their Operations Manager in August of 2023. I have 14 years of experience working in Victim Services/Crisis Response and Administration. I am an enrolled member of White Earth Nation; although I have learned that I have extended family in Leech Lake as well. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work in a field that supports the health and wellbeing of our communities. I look forward to being a Mental Health Practitioner on the Mobile Crisis Team as well! My hobbies include hitting new coffee shops, watching sports (hockey, Vikings football and Timberwolves basketball) and spending time with my family and friends.

## LEECH LAKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

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By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Communications team will release weekly updates to keep our Band Members updated on Tribal projects/ divisions and anything from the federal level that may impact us. You can find the weekly updates on the official Leech

Lake Band of Ojibwe or [www.LeechLakeNews.com](http://www.LeechLakeNews.com). We will provide monthly recaps of these updates in the paper.

Employees and Community members can submit news, events, and updates to be included in that week's Friday update every Monday. Updates can be sent to [news@llojibwe.net](mailto:news@llojibwe.net).

## MAY RECAP

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

#### Flag Ceremony, Washington –

On Monday, March 24, U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) hosted a Flag Ceremony with Tribal leaders from Tribal Nations across Minnesota in Washington, D.C. The ceremony sought to honor the flags of Tribal Nations and the Tribes' sovereignty, identity, and history.

Senator Smith will display the flags of the 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota at her offices in Washington, D.C. and St. Paul to recognize the government-to-government relationships with the Tribal Nations. This is the first time that a member of the Minnesota Congressional delegation has flown all 11 flags at once.

Secretary Treasurer Leonard Fineday attended the event on behalf of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and spoke about the historic significance of this gesture.

“This is the first time, as far as we know that all 11 flags from the Tribal Nations in Minnesota have been flown in a US Senator's office or in any member of the MN congressional delegations office,” said Fineday.

“It is our duty to honor our trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations and protect their inherent sovereignty,” said Senator Smith. “This Flag Ceremony demonstrates my commitment to working with Tribal Nations to ensure their self-governance and self-determination, and I am deeply honored that Tribal leaders in Minnesota trust me to be a representative for them in the federal government. I will proudly display all 11 flags in my offices.”

The 11 Tribes in Minnesota are Bois Forte Band, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prairie Island Indian Community, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, White Earth Nation, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, Red Lake Nation, and Upper Sioux

Community Pezihutazizi Oyate.

#### Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Impact Week, Washington –

Members of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) gathered this week in Washington, D.C. for the organization's annual Impact Week. The event ran from Monday to Thursday at the Residence Inn Washington, DC National Mall.

Secretary Treasurer Leonard Fineday attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Impact Week on behalf of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and met with members of Congress and the Administration on LLBO priorities, including food sovereignty with the USDA and the Tiwahe Initiative with the Department of Interior. Meetings with members of Congress also focused on the need to maintain Medicaid and IHS funding, the importance of our relationship with the EPA and environmental stewardship, and the obligation of the federal government regarding education for our people.

Established in 1996, the Minnesota Association of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) represents 35 tribal nations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan, advocating for nearly 140,000 American Indian individuals.

This year's Impact Week was particularly significant as Tribes face new challenges following the change in presidential administration. Since President Donald Trump assumed office, executive orders and other directives have introduced obstacles for Tribal Nations.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**Staffing Changes** – The RBC announced 3 new staffing changes on Thursday, April 11.

- **Project Administrator, Ben Benoit** – Benoit will be responsible for strategic planning, managing key objectives, overseeing and managing projects from inception to comple-

tion, and ensuring that they are delivered on time, within scope, and on budget.

- **Youth Program Manager, Leroy Staples-Fairbanks** – Staples-Fairbanks will be responsible for designing, implementing, and overseeing educational, recreational, and developmental programs for children and youth. This position involves working closely with young people, families, staff, volunteers, and community partners to provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment that fosters personal growth and positive youth development.
- **Director of Operations, Shannon Budde** – Budde will oversee administrative programs, fostering efficient program operations and advancing the Tiwahe Initiative's goals to reduce poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, and related social issues within the tribal community. This role bridges leadership, project management, and advocacy to provide holistic, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive services to the community.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 18

A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers. The meeting is available to watch in full on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “Videos.” Official meeting minutes can also be found on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “LL Tribal Council.”

Full Coverage of the RBC briefings can be found on page 3.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

**Phone Lines** – The Health Division phone lines are currently down as Paul Bunyan crews are digging to remove old landlines in preparation for the switch to internet-based phone service (VoIP).

Currently, the Health Division can only receive calls from within the LLBO organization—calls from outside are not coming through.

There is no timeline for when full service will be restored, but updates will be shared as soon as possible.

**Scam Alert** – The Band has been made aware of fraudulent advertisements circulating online that falsely claim Northern Lights Casino is offering a \$1500 bonus to Minnesota residents through a mobile app. These ads are NOT affiliated with Northern Lights Casino, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, or any of our official gaming operations.

Online gambling is not available at Northern Lights Casino or

# RBC BRIEFS • May 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, March 30 to April 30. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “Videos.” Official meeting minutes can also be found on [leechlakenews.com](http://leechlakenews.com) under “LL Tribal Council” and “Tribal Council Meeting Minutes.”

## BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

**1. April 17, 2025** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

### Presentations Given:

- **James Hughes / Tom Sorensen, Regional Native Public Defense** – Presented a request for additional funding to cover a board member from LLTC. The band would select a representative to fill this board slot. The band tabled this request until further funding is identified. A public notice about the board vacancy will go public and band members will be able to submit a letter of intent to fill the slot that the RBC will review and vote on.
- **Laurie Harper, Education** – Presented a grant extension update and reviewed federal changes to funding from the Trump Administration's budget cuts and plans to dismantle the Department of Education. Harper mentioned that MN Department of Education (MDE) has chosen not to remove DEI policies as required by the Trump Administration. This was a win for Tribal Education, however, Local Education Agency (LEA) will not require Tribal consultation moving forward. LLBO plans to fight this change as it undermines Tribal sovereignty. Tribal Council has asked affected Education departments to write up statements to be shared with State and Federal departments on how the new budget cuts and dismantling of the Education department will impact their work/students.
- **A resolution was updated and passed** that will have Leonard Staples covering the Secretary-Treasurer position for the RBC in any event that Leonard Fineday will be unable to fulfill his duties, as well as Steve White to act as vice-chairman in the event Faron Jackson Sr. is unable to fulfill his duties. This resolution is an update to a prior one that was already documented but had previous RBC members who are no longer serving listed as replacements. These resolutions are only in place for the band to have continuity in emergencies –and are not permanent appointments, and do not include pay raises or additional benefits.
- **A resolution was passed** that updated the local Indian council bylaws, the new change added two additional LICs for Bemidji/Prescott. The band currently has 19 LICs.

through any other official Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe gaming enterprise. If you see an ad claiming otherwise, it is a scam.

Do not click on suspicious ads or download unknown apps.

Official updates and promotions will only be shared on our verified pages.

If you spot one of these scam

ads, report it immediately and help us protect our community.

If any ad, post, or email is asking you to bet on poker, blackjack, or any slot-type machines on your computer or phone, it's a scam.

We are NOT affiliated with any websites, apps, or platforms that claim to offer these online gambling services.



# 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.

**Inaugural Leech Lake Twin Cities Pow wow** – On March 15, 2025 the Twin Cities Community had a traditional gathering at the new Minneapolis American Indian Center. The Pow wow had 600 attendees, 200 dancers, 3 host drums, 10 visiting drums, and a hand drum contest. The Leech Lake Twin Cities Princess is Layla Tucker and the Brave is Richard Johnson, Jr. A great many of the Leech Lake members in attendance had stated the pow wow was a good turnout, it was really great for the first annual Twin Cities community and a good feast. I want to say chi-mii-gwetch to the Leech Lake Powwow Committee, Twin Cities Office, the Twin Cities LIC, and the many volunteers that made the 1st Annual Leech Lake Twin Cities Powwow a huge success.

**Update on the Leech Lake Restoration Amendment Act of**



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

**2025** – On March 6, 2025 U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs had considered 25 bills before the committee. The committee had passed S. 622 will transfer additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Leech Lake's Senate Bill 622 was submitted to the full U.S. Senate. As more information is made available, we will keep the membership posted.

**U.S. Federal Funding Update** – President Trump's Executive Order's are downsizing key departments and agencies, like Indian Health Service, Education, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and other key services. The Indian Health Service received \$8.2 billion in funding this fiscal year, despite asking for nearly \$60 billion. Tribal officials say that any loss of facilities or employees, through firings or buyouts, will make a bad situation even worse. U.S. Senator Patty Murray from the State of Washington had stated, "Trump and Elon Musk are taking a wrecking ball to government with zero idea of what they are doing and zero concern for who gets hurt—and their reckless and illegal moves are already harming Tribes."

On February 27, 2025 111 members of Congress had signed a letter asking Trump to immediately stop harmful impacts to vital Tribal programs. The letter had stated, "Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with a unique legal and

political relationship to the United States. The inherent sovereignty of Tribes is recognized in the U.S. Constitution, in Treaties, and across many federal laws and policies, and it has been consistently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. These trust and treaty obligations in some cases predate both the establishment of all the agencies in question as well as the United States itself. Pursuant to those legal obligations, we must adequately fund and staff agencies that provide these essential services and pro-

grams, including at the BIA, BIE, and IHS." Last year, \$32.6 billion was approved by Congress to benefit Tribal communities across the U.S. for programs, including education, health care, law enforcement and more, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office.

**On April 14, 2025 Trump to Propose "Every Child Left Behind" Budget** – The extremely high cost of child care is making it impossible for families to make ends meet. Hundreds of thousands of families depend on Head Start for their child to have a place in an early education or preschool classroom. Eliminating Head Start to pay for tax cuts for billionaires would be an unrivaled and unthinkable betrayal of the middle class, working class, and vulnerable families who need help with the cost of living. Head Start has had broad, bipartisan support since it was created—this is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This gets to the very heart of who we are as a Nation.

Tribal funding is caught in the crossfire from the Trump Administration because of the political pledge to downsize the Federal government and the U.S. tax payers demanding tax relief. A great many of the U.S. tax payers see no benefit from the government departments and the program provided to the States and Tribal Nations. What are the next ques-



via CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

tions; If the Trump Administration is downsizing the government and saving tax payer dollars with the elimination of those jobs. Will Leech Lake's allocated funding dollars be included in the Self-Governance Compact and/or direct 638 contracts for Education, Health Care, Human Services, Public Safety, Roads, and other programs. If we can't understand the downsizing of the U.S. government and the loss of jobs that provide those direct services to Indian Nations. We better start asking for a direct appropriation, and we need to lobby Congress to appropriate our Treaty dollars directly to the Leech Lake Nation. We need to find an agreeable solution that the U.S. Congress, the President, and a process to receive appropriated funding because the President has the support to downsize these departments with the U.S. House and Senate.

**Leech Lake Medical Detox** – the Band has been planning a Medical Assisted Detox. This has been the last part of the continuum of care but is the first step in detoxifying the body of toxic and addictive substances before seeking recovery. Medical detoxification, or medical detox, is an essential first step in recovery. Withdrawal symptoms can be life-threatening when severe, medical detox is necessary.

Medical detoxification plays a similar role in recovery to a hospital emergency department in managing long-term medical conditions. Like an ER visit for an asthma attack, medical detox for recovery stabilizes an acute flare-up of a chronic disease. For most people seeking inpatient or residential recovery treatment, medical detoxification is the priority and occurs at the beginning of recovery, those who complete medical detox are more likely to stay in recovery and have longer stretches of sobriety.

## Indian Health Services News

– Indian Health Services has planned for April 28, 2025 to reopen the in-patient services with two (2) beds. In the future, IHS is planning to have a total of eight (8) beds for in-patient services.

**Safety note:** We are finally in the spring time. Be extra careful when burning leaves and old grass in your yards because the conditions can be dry. The powwow season is beginning for our family activities and traditional gatherings. Chairman Jackson, Sr. was the safety compliance representative for Xcel Energy before retirement. Please be safe and take care!



## “ QUARTERLY REPORT

*Continued from Front Page*

...the issue of zoning is a very concerning topic and one EPA is focused on. We need to work together to secure a zoning plan that protects the land base of St. Regis from becoming all industrial and thus lowering cleanup.

- Continue comments/letters to EPA R5 regarding St Regis FYR, institutional controls, etc. Submitted comments on the 7h 5-year (FYR) scoping review last quarter.
- Continued work on the Cass Lake Redevelopment Plan. Recent joint partner meetings (City of Cass Lake, LL Financial Services, Region 5 Development, Blandin Foundation, Cass Lake Housing and others) have identified a need for a collective project lead. Funding potentially has been identified for this. Awarded Govt to Govt funding (\$1 million) for this work.
- Working on Sugar Bush Camp in Mission Area. LL Tribal College is constructing the pavilion and stairs. Goal to have this built in time for '25 sugarbush. Working with other communities, such as S. Lake, to establish sugar bush community camp location there.
- DOE 534Kw solar project continues forward with a start in Spring '25.

### Twin Cities Office

- A number of health and safety issues around the office building are noted for repair/updates.
- On February 14, 2025 we partnered with Leech Lake TC LIC to hold a Valentine's Day Bingo with a dessert contest. Kids 5 and up were encouraged to play bingo too. Many families participated in this event with children. We saw lots of kids happy at this event. Tribal council supported us with district 3, district 2, secretary Treasurers office and chairman's office all donating to this event. AIM supported us by providing three to four staff to provide better safety and security of building and grounds. Volunteer lawyer network staff volunteered. They worked the registration desk and distributed bingo cards and raffle tickets. A light meal was provided. There were approximately 111 people in attendance.

- During this quarter, Emma Headbird was hired at the Leech Lake Twin Cities office as the Family Support Specialist in child welfare.
- Two Expungement clinics were offered during this quarter by Volunteer Lawyer Network. This monthly evening clinic occurs the 3d Wednesday of every month from 5-7pm. Seven people were seen this quarter.
- On February 25, we held a Winter Feast with traditional foods being served such as walleye, wild rice and berries. 55 were in attendance. A traditional prayer was offered. Supporting funds for food came from the American Swedish Institute. I was surprised to see how many different people we saw attend this event.
- During the month of February (25) 836,00 Target cards were received and distributed.
- Band members were invited to participate in Porkey's Sugar Bush camp on March 2, 2025 in Maple Plain. Camp has been going on for almost 50 years. Season
- ending at end of quarter.
- LL enrollment came down March 13 and March 14 to provide Tribal ID to band members. 77 people attended this event.
- We collaborated with the LLTC LIC to provide a St. Paddy's Day Bingo. Leech Lake Tribal Council and their assistants sent down raffle items in support of our event. We had approximately 75 people in attendance. I noticed that people brought in
- food to support the event on their own. Showing that they embrace ownership in the event and want to contribute to it. This shows support of the event. Great desserts, great costume contest and great raffle prizes! Lots of fun!
- The Leech Lake Twin Cities LIC along with L Staff worked to ensure we had a awesome 15 annual pow wow. This was a one day event held at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. LL Tribal Council representatives District 2, Steve White and District III, Leon Staples Jr. along with Secretary-Treasurer Fineday all did a welcome. Jerry Dearly was the emcee, he did an amazing job.

### LL Child Welfare

- In the last quarter, Leech Lake

child welfare administration has worked very closely with DCYF (Division of Children Youth and Families) in improving state relationships, finding applicable training for Leech Lake Child welfare employees, locating new funding sources and developing child welfare resources for Leech Lake families. As part of this process, Child Welfare received information from the state on a number of funding opportunities to obtain services on Leech Lake reservation and for families residing near the urban office in Minneapolis.

- The Urban office included the request to hire a foster care specialist to implement the process for creating and licensing foster homes in the urban office to address the lack of homes for Leech Lake foster children. Currently, some children must be placed in non-ICWA homes because it is difficult to find homes that contain Native-American parents who are not licensed.
- Child Welfare continues to work on our IV-E training plan which was not updated since 2018. Once this plan has been updated and approved by the state, we are eligible for reimbursement on many state-approved staff trainings. Historically, child welfare was not reimbursed for training because the plan was not in effect.
- Child Welfare continues working with the Leech Lake Legal Services and UMD on a new policy and procedure for child welfare operations. The old policy was outdated and does not contain many of the new processes implemented by Leech Lake Child Welfare for daily operations and also lacks revisions to new federal and state child welfare laws. The number of offices to house child welfare staff is grossly inadequate and to address these issues, we put a proposal together to repurpose and remodel four vacant transitional homes to house the intake/assessment and secondary case management divisions. The other two vacant homes will be utilized for two separate foster parent families that can serve as an immediate location for children who have been placed on 72-hour hold or to host children who cannot be placed with a relative.
- Identified and secured funding from the Tiwahe Initiative to

- hire a Mental Health Practitioner to serve children and families needing mental health care in addition to
- Providing mental health services to Child Welfare employees who may be facing work
- Related issues created from daily duties and responsibilities.

### Tribal Roads

- Townline Road project - began clearing for summer construction.
- Cass Lake Wellness Center Road - Being advertised for construction.

### Education

- Learned the State has not been providing the federally required tribal match in funding—this is being followed up on.
- Laurie Harper provided testimony on two senate bills for BIE consultation on EO for school choice:

“The American Indian education aid was established to ensure that the unique and culturally related needs of American Indian students is met. By removing the term: "and has concurred with" on line 1.15 of SF2285, from the full statement of "the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee for the school is aware of and has approved the carry forward and has concurred with the district's educational offerings extended to American Indian students under section 124D.78," sets the state of Minnesota back 50 years by rendering our voices silent. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is in opposition of SF2285.”

Tribal Nations already exercise school choice through the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (P.L. 102-97), which affirms our right to operate schools that reflect our cultures, languages, and community priorities. Of the 183 Bureau-funded schools, 128 are Tribally Controlled. However, previous discussions on school choice funding have not sufficiently distinguished between BIE-operated and Tribally Controlled Schools. Without careful planning and consultation, such programs risk diminishing the funding and stability of our existing education system.

- **Scholastic Books:** Native Voices Collection reached out about efforts to diversify children's books with an emphasis on their "Rising Voices" collection. They want to include positive representation of diverse protagonists including expending their effort to col-

- lection. TNEC offered several local writers' names to Scholastic. Scholastic's ask of TNEC was for suggestions for Native authors, illustrators and publishers and asked that TNEC share resources that TNEC chooses to share.
- This Quarter with Leech Lake Youth Council, Gaa-Niigaaniziwaad held one in-person meeting. Youth shared a few activities they would like to do, colleges they would like to visit, and identified community members who have skills they are interested in learning. Team building activities were conducted and all youth enjoyed their time.
- Gaa-Niigaaniziwaad Programming kicked off this quarter, starting with Financial Aid Info Nights. These events were geared towards HS seniors, juniors, and college freshman to learn about the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program and FAFSA. We hosted the FAIN at Bena Community Center, with a meal and partners from the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program and The College Place. We plan to host another session later this spring.
- In collaboration with the Bal Club LIC, our program co-hosted the Culture Nights held at the Bal Club Community Center. Activities included: Mishomis Book Review and coloring, Gigoonhken! and various activities. We started our series Hangouts events, with the first event held at Sugar Point! We are working to have these events at least twice a month in the various LL communities.
- During the month of December 2024, in coordination with the Leech Lake Tribal Police Strategic Planning Coordinator, our program was offered to find interested youth for the roles of Youth Emcee, Youth Arena Director, and Youth Spiritual Advisor. While we were able to secure youth for the Emcee and Arena Director roles, we were not able to find a Youth Spiritual Advisor. Stemming from this opportunity, the Leech Lake Headstart Powwow Committee reached out to us for assistance finding a Youth Arena Director for their Spring Powwow. We hope we continue to have these options for future Leech Lake Powwows.





PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

# BUG O NAY GE SHIG SCHOOL NEWS

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

▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students recently toured the Leech Lake Tribal College Campus. After a tour of the facilities and classrooms a lunch was provided.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig upperclassmen represented Leech Lake well in April at the 2025 Close Up Native Youth Summit in Washington D.C.! Between presenting on our community, touring, conferences, and crafting their Tribal Action Initiatives, students also made new friends from other Native Nations across the country.





2025 LEECH LAKE



MEMORIAL DAY

TRADITIONAL POW WOW

Memorial Day Weekend May 23, 24, 25

Veterans Memorial Grounds | Cass Lake, MN

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY REGISTRATION 6PM FRIDAY GRAND ENTRY 7PM

REGISTRATIONS SAT 12PM & 6PM SUN 12PM

SATURDAY GRAND ENTRIES 1PM & 7PM

SUNDAY GRAND ENTRY 1PM

SATURDAY FEAST 5PM SUNDAY FEAST 3PM

HOST DRUMS

Storm Crossing (St. Cloud, MN)

Eagle Ridge (3 Affiliated Tribes, Ft. Berthold, ND)

COMMITTEE SPECIALS

MENS FANCY BUSTLE (18+)

400 // 300 // 200

WOMENS FANCY SHAWL (18+)

400 // 300 // 200

TEEN BOYS FANCY (13-17)

300 // 200 // 100

TEEN GIRLS FANCY SHAWL (13-17)

300 // 200 // 100

FAMILY SPECIALS

SIBLING SIDESTEP SPECIAL

(TEEN BOYS & GIRLS 18 AND UNDER)

Sponsored by Royal Rock and Family

200 // 100 // 50

VIOLET HUMPHREY REYES MEMORIAL

(GOLDEN AGE OLD STYLE JINGLE)

Sponsored by the Humphrey Family

Feather + Star Quilt // Feather + Pendleton // Feather + Pendleton

HONORING OUR 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

(JINGLE DRESS)


Sponsored by the Mainville Family

300 + Quilt and Computer // 200 // 100

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: Rodney Johnson

Pow Wow Coordinator Cell: 218.407.7265 Office: 218.335.3637

rodney.johnson@llojibwe.net



Leech Lake

Maternal  
Child Health

We are Registered Nurses who provide support and education to IHS eligible pregnant women, and children up to the age of 3.

Services Offered

Prenatal Care Promotion • Infant/Child Education

Lactation Counseling • Child Growth & Development

Assessments Family Planning Assistance • Immunizations

Substance Use Support • Home Safety Assessments

Community Resources & Referrals

Phone: 218-335-4556 • Fax: 218-339-2511

Address: 420 Grant Utley Ave. NW Cass Lake, 56633


June

District III Elder Birthdays

Joseph Aitken  
Linda Aitken  
James Allen  
Betty Allen  
Gloria Beaulieu  
Shirley Beaulieu  
Jathon Bebeau  
Kenneth Bellanger  
Tracey Benjamin  
Timothy Boisvert  
Evelyn Brown

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

Sue Brown  
Anthony Budreau  
Melvin Burnette  
Annette Cloud  
Charles Dahle  
Carl Day  
Ramona Day  
Tony Donnell  
Muriell Ellis  
Holly Evans  
Aaron Fairbanks  
Ronald Finn  
Kathleen Frazer  
Michael Garbow  
Keith Garton



Barbara Haugen  
John Herrera  
Kenneth Hough  
Ernest Howard  
Evelyn Howard  
Nanette Howard  
Gerald Humphrey  
Michael Johnson  
Beverly Kamrowski  
Francis Kangas  
Matthew Kangas  
Verna King  
Carol Kingbird  
Gregory Kleebe  
Timothy Littlewolf

Linda Losh  
Sharon Lovelace  
Nina Martin  
Rhonda Michaud  
Edwin Monroe  
Tony Morris  
Janet Northbird  
Richard O'Brien  
Michael Olson  
Garr Pemberton  
Phyllis Pendleton  
Diane Pieri  
Dawn Purdy  
Sue Robinson  
Berton Rock  
Ernest Ryan  
Paul Smith  
Rosetta Smith

Carol Staples  
Connie Taylor  
Kathy Thompson  
Victor Thompson  
Kenneth Tibbetts  
Kevin Wakefield  
Carol White  
Claire White  
Peter White  
Phyllis White  
Rodney White  
Francis Wiggins  
Colleen William

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



# Obituaries

## Angelica Bryan



Angelica Renee Bryan, "Bells", 13 years young, unexpectedly journeyed to the spirit world on Sunday, April 20, 2025, after a fatal crash in Cohasset, MN. She was born on October 22, 2011, in Bemidji, MN, the beautiful daughter of Jeannie Wittner and Clinton Bryan.

Angelica left her mark everywhere she went and with everyone she crossed paths with. She was a funny young lady, always making everyone laugh. She was a big-hearted and empathetic person; she could read any mood and adjust to what you needed. Angelica was kind and thoughtful, making get well cards when someone needed one. She loved being outdoors, reading and going to the library for more books, listening to music, drawing, arts and crafts, being on the go, and going for walks. Above all else, Angelica loved spending time with family! She loved being an aunt, spending time with her nieces and nephews was always a welcomed idea. She enjoyed teasing her siblings, however, no one else could, Angelica was a fierce protector of family. She could turn a simple errand into a great adventure. Angelica was a fashionista and an animal lover who will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know and love her.

Those greeting Angelica in the spirit world are her aunt, Mary Gale; grandfathers, Douglas Day and Clinton Gale.

Those Angelica leaves behind to forever cherish her loving memory are her mom, Jeannie (Dwight) Wittner; dad, Clinton (Lisa) Bryan; brothers, Anthony Wittner, Scott Bryan, Alexander Wittner, Shawn Bryan; sisters, Viola Hoekman and MacKenzie Johnson; grandparents, Dorris Wittner, Jane and Darrel Bruce, Sandy and Don LeClere; close aunts, Leaha (Carter) Wittner and Cindy Gale; nephews, Phoenix Moore, Elijah Wittner, Darius Wittner-Thunderhawk; niece, Lagertha Bryan; close cousins, Tammy and

Jane White, Devery Allen, Antavia and Arialie Pendegayosh.

A two-night wake for Angelica will begin Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., and continue until her 10:00 a.m. funeral service on Saturday, April 26, 2025, all to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Angelica's Spiritual Advisors are Vincent Roy and Don LeClere. Those helping to lay Angelica to rest are Dwight Bellanger, Jr., Shawn Bryan, Scott Bryan, Alexander Wittner, Anthony Wittner, and Devery Allen. Honorary pallbearers are all of Angelica's family and friends. Interment will be at Ryan's Village in Bena, MN.

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

## Douglas Day Jr.



Douglas Charles Day Jr. entered the world on December 8, 1973 in Bemidji and into his parents arms on March 4, 2025.

In his younger years, Doug enjoyed dirt bikes and motorcycles. He also was a stock car driver. He enjoyed fixing and repairing cars. Doug worked at Cedar Lakes Casino as a cook. He enjoyed having a good time and meeting new people. It didn't matter where he went, he always made new friends.

Doug had a big heart and helped out everyone he could even if they were strangers. He was a very hard worker and loved being outdoors. He enjoyed playing pool and listening to music. Doug also helped raise many children and loved every one of them. He considered all of them as his own.

Those are greeting him in the spirit world are his father, Douglas Charles Day, Sr., his mother, Maxine (Maggie) Joyce Day, paternal grandparents, maternal grandparents and uncles, Melvin Dick, Joe Dick, Tony Dick and Arnie Dick.

Those left behind to mourn are his favorite auntie, Bonne DeWeaver and aunt, Elaine Gotchie, many other cousins and relatives, his life partner, Samantha Neisen and the children they are raising, Tyrell Losh, Jacob Budreau Jr., Laniah Budreau, Aurianna Budreau, Jai'Ceon White and Adrianna Howard-White. He also claimed Jeremy Ince as his brother-in-law and Marlyce Bellanger as his mother-in-law. He also leaves behind a long time friend, Dori Wittner and the children he helped raise, Jeannie Wittner, Leah Wittner, April Burnette, Steve White, Erica White, Steve O'Brien, Stephanie O'Brien, Ramona White, Carlos White, LaTerrance Castor and Joseph White.

Memorial Gathering will be at the Veteran's Building in Cass Lake from 4-6 pm on Monday, March 10, 2025.

## Elizabeth Thompson



Elizabeth Kristine Thompson "Lizzy" (Noodinookwe) "Women Of The Wind" Proud member of The Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe passed away on March 4, 2025 at the age of 49 at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, MN. Lizzy was born in Minneapolis, MN on July 21, 1975. She attended and graduated from Minneapolis Southwest High School and continued to college where she completed in 3 years. Lizzy loved spending time with family, friends, and her caregivers. Things she loved doing included babysitting, cleaning, listening to her music, and watching movies. Lizzy loved her cat named "Snowball". She was a very hard worker and took pride in maintaining a job. Lizzy has touched many people's hearts with her love, kindness and was always outspoken whether you "Liked it or Not". Our hearts are missing her and there is a sadness among us that cannot be replaced as we mourn the loss of Lizzy. "We live by faith not fear and are assured we will see her again."

Those that have gone before Lizzy are her parents; Ronald, and Marilyn Blue, grandmother; Sylvia Lieth, stepfather; John Wilke, sister; Patricia Phonseya, brother; William Thompson Sr. Joe Blue, niece; Marilyn Young, great nephew; Gustovi Phonseya, brothers-in-law Paul Phonseya, and Bernard Sanders Sr., Bennie Camacho, and numerous aunties and uncles.

Those left behind to cherish her memories are her brothers; Ronald Blue Jr. and Patrick Blue, sisters; Susan Daniels, Jacqueline Daniels, Kara Thompson, Rhonda Thompson, and Missie Camacho. A special thank you to her care takers, Tammy Paquette, Abdul, and Amani.

A one-day wake for Lizzy will be held Friday March 14, 2025, at the Gichitwaa Kateri church in Minneapolis, MN., beginning at 12:00 p.m. and continuing until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025. A second wake for Lizzy will be at the Veterans Memorial Center in Cass Lake, MN., beginning on Saturday March 15, 2025, starting at 2:00 p.m. and continuing until her service on Sunday March 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Officiating will be Pastor Dave Yates. Those helping to lay Lizzy to rest are Larwence Daniels, Noel Cortez, William Thompson Jr., Peter Phonseya, Ronald Sanders, Cordney Wade Lock Jr., Bernard Sanders Jr., and Sean Denny, honorary pallbearers will all her nieces and nephews.

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

## Jaziriah Cooper



Jaziriah Cooper began her journey to the spirit world on Sunday, March 23, 2025 in Bemidji, MN.

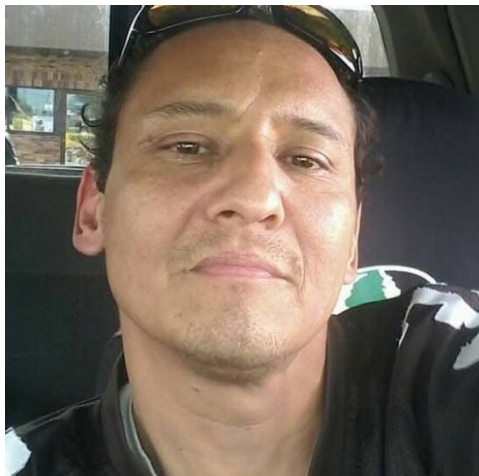
A traditional wake will begin at 4 PM on Friday, March 28, 2025 at the Prescott Community Center in Prescott and will continue until the service at 11 AM on Sunday, March 30, 2025 with Spiritual Leader Allen Hardy. Burial will be at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Cass Lake, MN.

A full obituary will be published shortly. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, MN.

## John Drouillard

John Eugene "Geedish" Drouillard, "Bangashinang" age 53 years old journeyed to the spirit world on Thursday, April 17, 2025, from Saint Lukes Hospital in Duluth, MN. He was born in Minneapolis, MN to





Laurie Carlson and Didla Drouillard. His father passed away at a young age and John was raised by his dad, Ronnie Brown.

John proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, a Desert Storm Ogitchidaa and worked for the Leech Lake Band as a Wildland Firefighter. He also served several rescue missions around the world. He loved his family, siblings, and children very much. He was an avid fan of music, fishing, ricing, netting, traditional dance, beading, gardening, and visiting friends. He was especially generous and kind to everyone he could help, often visiting homeless camps.

John will be deeply missed by his mother, Laurie; children, Tanner, Danielle, Tyrell, Lanaya, Jared, Johnnie, Christopher and Aleighcia; and those he considered as his own, Candace, Jasmine, and Leslie; siblings, Thomas, Ronnie, Elizabeth, Vera, Ray, Byron, Daniel, Harley, Mishiki-Benais Brown, Ahgahshee (Micheal) Michaud, and Sophia (Matt) Murphy; God Parents, Angie Headbird and John Carlson; special sisters, Gina Carlson, Shawn Pemberton, and Mary "Poopsie" Jenkins; several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other family.

John is proceeded in death by his fathers, Didla and Ronnie; sisters, Mary and Dawn Brown; brother, Donnie Brown; children, John Mark and Mahnomen, and other family and friends whom he missed tremendously.

A two-night wake for John will begin at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 19, 2025, and continue until his traditional service at 10:00 a.m., Monday, April 21, 2025, all to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. John's pallbearers are Tommy Brown, Charles Croaker, Martin Leblanc, Rusty Budreau, Kenny White, and Tanner John Stangel, with alternates Johnnie Drouillard and James Hicks. Honorary pallbearers are Jeff Sherman, Joe and JJ LeBlanc, Michael Michaud, Anthony Beaudreau, Cami Stangel, his children and his family. Special music by the Budreau Drum Group and soloist Grandma Joyce Graves. Interment will be in the Leech Lake Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Cass Lake, MN. Military Honors accorded by Leech Lake Veterans Memorial Honor Guard. Burial is an estimated time.

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

## Lisa Monroe



Lisa Monroe, born May 2, 1966, entered the Spirit World on March 11, 2025. Lisa was born in Minneapolis, MN to Valerian "Diggers" Monroe and Margaret "Wicky Leith" Monroe. Lisa grew up in South Minneapolis and had 2 children before she moved to Cass Lake when she was in her late 20's. There she met Derrick Harper and made a life and family with him for many years. Lisa was known and loved by many, she was a beloved Mother, Sister, daughter and much loved cousin and friend. Her caring nature led her to a fulfilling career as a Personal Care Assistant and she made many lifelong friends of her patients & their families.

Lisa had an artistic spirit and enjoyed drawing, Calligraphy and beading. She enjoyed watching crime shows and Soap Operas on TV and going to the Casino(s) for her weekly comps, lots of times winning (and knowing enough to leave). Many times you could find her at home playing cards & dice with family and friends while having a few beers. She mostly enjoyed playing with her grandchildren when they came over and she loved them all very dearly.

Lisa will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her three daughters, Blaze Casebolt, Channa Casebolt and Ashley Harper, her life partner Derrick Harper, son-in-laws Aaron Stoneburg, Duane Guilford, Tim Goodman, sisters Debbie Monroe, Vala Monroe, Stacy Monroe and Leslie Monroe, her beloved Grandchildren, Ziibi Guilford, Timiriana Goodman, Terrick Goodman and Binesi Stoneburg. Lisa has many cousins but there are a few special ones she was very close to, Wally Sargent Rea, Dallas Sargent and Baby Irene LaRoque as well as many other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends too numerous to list. She had a special nephew, Alan "Froggy" Monroe and some special friends, Theresa "Treefrog" Jourdain and Sharlene Harper.

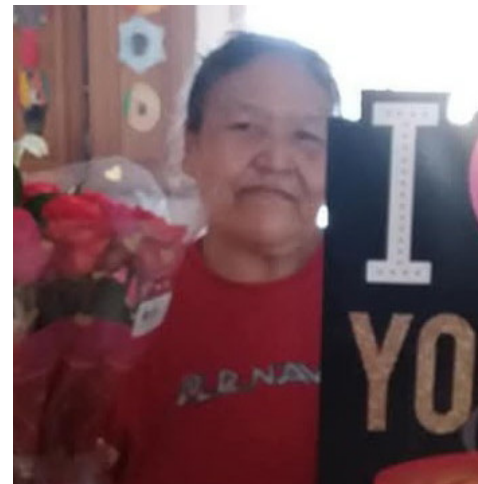
Those greeting Lisa in the Spirit World are her parents, Valerian and Margaret Monroe, her infant daughter Madison Harper, nieces Dawn Monroe, Jessica Monroe, nephew Marshall Skinaway, Aunts Maxine Leith, Nancy Fairbanks, Susie (Delores) Sargent, Sandra Chase, cousins Tom Fairbanks, Guy

Fairbanks, Tammy Fairbanks, Chris Roy, Robert Roy, special friends Debbie Harper, Tom and Stan Hare, Monica Johnson, Bonnie Earth and Joe Jones.

Services will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 1:00-8:00 PM at the White Earth Family Center office at 217 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, Cass Lake, MN.

Lisa's remains will remain with her family until she can be reunited with her infant daughter Madison Harper at a later date.

## Mary Rushman



Mary J. Rushman, age 61, of the Bear Clan, of Cass Lake, MN, began her journey to the spirit world on Thursday, March 6, 2025, in Fargo, ND.

Mary was born on July 26, 1963, in Cass Lake, MN to Izetta Garbow and Henry Rushman. She loved crossword puzzles to keep her mind sharp and liked to try her luck on the Caveman Keno and Pompeii machines at the casinos. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed watching international cooking shows as well as Darrman on Youtube and Vid Chronicles. Mary appreciated nature and enjoyed picking boughs and pinecones in her younger years. Mary enjoyed spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren who were the sunshine for her soul and medicine for her mind.

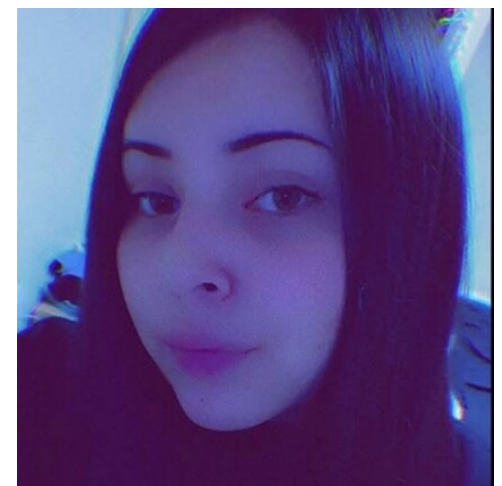
She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Marilyn (Allison) Wakonabo, Grace (Justin) Wakonabo, Henry (Lisa) Wakonabo, Jamie Wakonabo, Roger (Alisha) Wakonabo, Candace (Landon) Wakonabo, Lorena Wakonabo, LaVonne (Derek) Cloud, special granddaughter/ adopted daughter, Deeondra Diver; special grandson, Lawrence Krumrey III; siblings: Donna Johnson, Melvina Rushman, Roland Wilson, Robert "Moe" (Elsie) Rushman; 41 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, fur babies: Pebbles and Poopsi; as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

Those greeting Mary are her parents; daughter, Rosaland Rushman; grandchildren: Gustavi Loyal Phonseya, Baby King Wakonabo; siblings: Debra Rushman, Henry "Sonny" Rushman and a sibling in infancy; nephews: Delbert Rushman, Daniel Rushman; nieces: Regina Rushman, Cheyenne Rushman, Crystal Stickney; father of her children and

good friend, Hank Wakonabo; cousins: Dennis Dean Garbow, Carol Garbow, Melvin Durant, Louise Durant, Joyce Durant, Lenny Oberg; as well as other relatives.

A traditional wake will begin at 5PM on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at the Inger Community Center in Inger and continue until the service at 10AM on Monday, March 10, 2025 with Mike Needham as spiritual leader. Pallbearers will be: John Kingbird, Zach Rushman, Cody Rushman, Craig Cloud, Aaron Wilson, Landon Kingbird and alternates: Giizis Harrison and Robert White. Burial will be at the Inger Cemetery in Inger. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service.

## Mikayla Butcher



Mikayla Isis Butcher graced this earth on August 10, 2002, born in Bemidji, Minnesota, mothered by Miranda Butcher & father Jason Dunn. Mikayla made her journey home tragically on March 15, 2025.

Mikayla Butcher was a Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member with family ties in Cass Lake, Onigum & Old Agency She had tribal ties as far as Kansas. Mikayla attended Walker School from grade school to high school. Unforeseen events prevented her from graduating, but before her passing, she was working toward obtaining her diploma, all while working and helping take care of her nieces & nephews, who all loved her dearly, along with her older sister. Even though she was young and didn't have kids of her own, her love for her babies was nothing short of a mother's love. In her spare time, she loved doing art & crafts with her nieces & nephews, taking them to parks and attending their games. She loved going on nature walks & adventures & enjoyed beautiful sunsets at the lakeside. She enjoyed hanging with her friends she grew up with and was also an avid music consumer; she loved all types of it, but kept anxiety by sleepy hallow on repeat. Mikayla was a 'shy rez girl' but ask those closest to her they'll tell you her love was real for those she cared for. She would help anybody with anything, no questions asked. She was truly a beautiful and irreplaceable spirit that'll be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched.



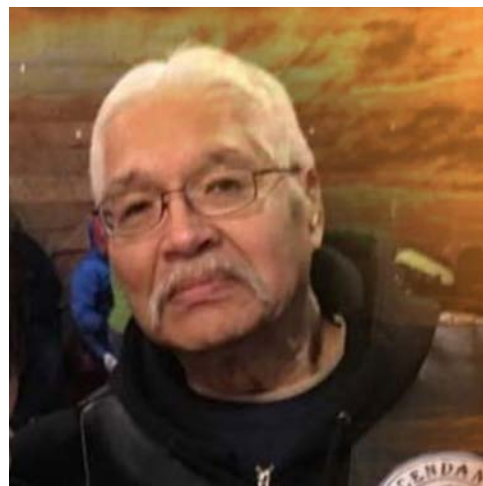
*Obituaries Continued.*

Mikayla was proceeded in death by her Grandmother Lorraine Butcher, Grandfather Daniel Masqua, Mother Miranda Butcher, Aunt Jolaine Bigbear, & her older sister Leticia Rodriguez, who she all missed dearly.

She leaves behind her siblings Delores "Lola" Rodriguez, her handsome Brother Luiz Delarosa, Sister Alexandra Butcher, Sister Tyra Dunn & Brother Tyrell Jackson, close Cousin Carol Mae, her nieces & nephews, who were her world and many close relatives and friends, and the Cloud family.

A wake will begin at 3 PM on Thursday, March 21, 2025 at the Onigum Community Center and continue until the service at 12 PM on Friday, March, 2025 with Reverend Bill Butcher. Active Pallbearers will be Luiz Delarosa, Jason Dunn, Kyle Butcher, Brawdy Sayers, Joseph Norton, Beau Agard, Tyrell Jackson and Areecio Brown. Honorary Pallbearers will be Alexis Agard, Adrianna White, Tyra Dunn, Tyarra Jackson, Kylie Dunn, Jaylee Dunn, Amanda Dunn, Kendra Cloud and Pernell Reese. Burial will be at the Episcopal Cemetery in Old Agency. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, MN.

## Myron Buffalo



**Myron Lee Buffalo** Minowekamig (Good Earth) September 12, 1951 ~ March 5, 2025 (age 73) Myron Lee Buffalo, Minowekamig (Good Earth).

Myron retired from Leech Lake Gaming in 2019 after more than 25 years. He worked in various positions and eventually ended up in the IT Department. He absolutely loved football. There was no talking to him on the days of football, namely the Minnesota Vikings. He was also a proud member of the A.I.M, American Indian Movement. In 1973 he was at the stand-off in Wounded Knee, South Dakota and shared some of his experiences with his wife. He was not willing to share with very many people so he takes many memories The Wounded Knee standoff with him. Myron loved pow wows and his favorite Drum groups were Northern Wind, Mato Pejuta and Dakota Hotain. He was also a member/founder of the Descendants Motorcycle Organization. Myron was a hand-

some man and loved his family. He was quiet and didn't express his feelings and emotions easily. He was kind hearted and loved by family.

Myron is survived by his wife, Earlene Robinson Buffalo, sons, Daniel Buffalo, of Sisseton, South Dakota, Fred Buffalo, Carnegie, Oklahoma and daughters, Aubrey Mendoza of Miles City, Montana and Eva Buffalo of Eureka, California, numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Sister, Carol Reffke of Kaukauna Wisconsin. Stepsons, John, Jim and Eric Devault.

Those welcoming Myron home will be his parents and brother.

## Patrick Northbird



**Patrick Dennis Northbird**, Chi-Moozinini (big moose man) of the Eagle Clan entered the Spirit World on April 9, 2025, from the Sanford Hospital, Bemidji, MN.

He was born in Cass Lake, MN, on January 19, 1953, to Louis and Adella (Stillday) Northbird.

He is survived by his wife, Chyrle of 51 years; son, Ricky LaDuke; daughter, Trista (Cedric Fairbanks) LaDuke; grandkids, Dedrick LaDuke, Amare LaDuke, Wambli McArthur, Briana LaDuke, TeKayLah LaDuke, Caesar Fairbanks, Czabrina Fairbanks; brother, Eugene Northbird, Sr.; sisters, Lois (Dolly) Northbird and Brenda Northbird; brothers-in-law, Alfred (Cindy) LaDuke and Terry (Marilyn) LaDuke; sisters-in-law, Tammi LaDuke and Marla LaDuke; and all of Cass Lake.

The greatest joys in his life were spending time with his grandkids and gambling with his wife and daughter at Cedar Lakes, "let's go get our coupons". He loved helping anyone in need, not only in his immediate family, but community members too. He was our silent hero, taking care of those things, we didn't know we needed. The family caretaker, and traditional man. He was an avid hunter and gather, supplying folks with his catch and bounty of wild rice. He also enjoyed many years as a main heavy equipment operator for Leech Lake most of his life. He received his high school diploma from Bemidji High School and his heavy equipment operator certificate from Staples Vo tech.

Those greeting him in the spirit world are his parents; Louis and Adella, brothers;

Gordon, Jerry, Louis (Acey), Wesley (George) Northbird, sisters; Melvina and Arlene Northbird, and mother-in-law, Iva LaDuke.

A wake for Patrick will begin on Saturday April 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., continuing until his traditional service on Monday April 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. all to be held at the Veterans Memorial Building, in Cass Lake, MN. His spiritual advisor will be Zach Earl and Ty Stately. Those helping to lay Patrick to rest are Dave Chase, Brian Finn, Robert Fisher, Marvin Hanson, Terry LaDuke, Bobby Early, Donald Armstong, Samuel Staples, and Dan Staples. Alternate pallbearers will be Alfred LaDuke and Mathew LaDuke, and his Mide family members. Special music will be Northbird family singers. Interment will be immediately following his service in the Northbird Family Cemetery, Cass Lake, MN.

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

## Patrick Northbird



**Ricky "Chi Noodin Inini"** which means "Big Wind Man" started his journey on March 2, 2025, in Deer River, MN. Ricky was born in Cass Lake MN., on June 16, 1959, to Samuel Goose Jr. and Caroline Goose (Monroe). He grew up in Battle Point, graduating from Northland Highschool in Remer, MN.

Ricky was a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. He was an Army Veteran and was employed with Leech Lake gaming for many years. Ricky and his brother Samuel Kevin Goose III were golden glove boxers with the Leech Lake boxing program and received numerous trophies and awards for his accomplishments. He was a guitar enthusiast and loved to play along with his favorite rock band. Ricky and his family members loved to challenge each other in marathon Yahtzee games! He also played tackle football until he was 42!

Those meeting Ricky in the spirit world are his parents, Samuel Goose Jr., and Caroline Goose, grandparents, sisters; Carol Goose, Patti Monroe, and Norma Monroe, brother; Samuel Kevin Goose III, and Terrance White.

Those left to cherish his memories are his daughter; Lacey Calver, Sisters; Eva Mangum, Mary Lou Reich, Iolanthe Goose,

and Loretta Monroe, grandchildren; Becca and Meeka Smith, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Ricky on March 7, 2025, at the Battle Point Community Center, in Battle Point, MN. starting at 1:00 p.m. His Spiritual Advisors will be Gary Charwood and Allen Hardy. Honorary urn bearers are Earl Machart, Ron Johnson, Tony Bozwell, Chris Reyes, Donald Geving, Alvin White, Ray Geving, and Adria n Reinoso. Along with all his family members and friends Ricky will be going home with family.

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

## Robert Bueno Sr.



**Robert Joseph Bueno Sr.** was reunited with Robert Bueno Jr. on the morning of March 23, 2025, at the age of 61. Rob was born on August 12, 1963, to beloved Joe and Anita Bueno.

Robert was a strong hearted, thoughtful, passionate, loving man. Recently Rob became a man of (GGC) Gitchimanidoo, God, Creator. In his search he found comfort. In changing he became wise, sacred, and an understanding man, that would pray for everyone in need or in tough times he would learn about.

Rob would reminisce about all those throughout his life; he sought forgiveness and to forgive. He loved his hats and his pairs of glasses and always had a chain on, preferably Cuban link. He loved every one of his kids, no matter how far. Father of 13 always kept them in his mind and his heart. He LOVED EACH ONE UNCONDITIONALLY!!

Those meeting Rob at the Golden Gates are Joe, Anita, Virginia, both grandparents, Michael, cousins Johnny and Amber, sons Migizi, and Rob Jr. and grandson baby Ricco.

Robert's memory will be forever cherished by sister, Annette; daughters, Christina, Ashley (Aaron), Selena, Natalie, and Teona; 3 honorary daughters, Jasmine, Mariah, and Aleyna; sons, Dallas, Levi and Arlen (Sage); grandchildren; Lillian, Jada, Aaron, Angelo, Donovan, Robert, Evelyn, Gustav; nieces, Amanda and Sophia; and nephew, Danny.

An overnight wake for Robert will begin



at 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 28, 2025, and continue until his 10:00 a.m. service, Saturday, March 29, 2025, all to be held at the Onigum Center in Onigum, MN. Father Bill Butcher will officiate. Those helping to lay Rob to rest: Leech Lake pallbearers are Arlen Bueno, Mike Washington, Mike West, Nick, Frimark, Devry Smith, and Luke Smith.

Fond du Lac pallbearers are Arlen Bueno, Aaron Castilleja, Paul Morales II, Cruz Whitebird, and Daniel McCarthy. Honorary pallbearers will be Vincent Raisch, and good friend Dallas.

Interment will be at Old Holy Cemetery in Cloquet, MN, leaving immediately following the service in Onigum.

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

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Spouses and Caregivers Welcome

# MN REAL ID

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its intent begin enforcement of REAL IDs for flying domestically on May 7, 2025. As required by the law, following the enforcement deadline, federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will be prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet these federal standards.

## WHAT IS REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act passed by Congress in 2005 following a 9/11 Commission recommendation, establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards, the cards began being issued in 2017 and have not been forcefully enacted since its inception until now. Security standards include incorporating anti-counterfeiting technology, preventing insider fraud, and using documentary evidence and record checks to ensure a person is who they claim to be.

A Real ID can also be used to enter certain federal buildings or military bases. It does not count as valid identification to cross into Mexico or Canada. Real ID is marked with a star in the top right corner. Minnesotans who already have an enhanced driver's license do not also need to obtain a Real ID to fly domestically or enter federal buildings or military bases.

In Minnesota, you must be a U.S. citizen and at least 16 years old to have an enhanced card.

The card allows you to cross the U.S. border to and from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean by land or sea, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. It is not a replacement for a passport for air travel.

Any person who fails to procure a Real ID by the enforcement deadline may experience delays or be barred from flying domestically. If you already have another form of TSA-approved identification like an up-to-date passport, you probably do not need a Real ID.

## HOW DO MINNESOTA RESIDENTS GET A REAL ID?

Residents can pre-apply for a Real ID online at any time, but they must go into a DMV office in person to obtain one. You cannot get a Real ID by phone, mail or online.

The fee for an enhanced card is \$15 in addition to the fee required for your driver's license or non-driver photo ID card transaction.

## WHAT ARE SOME REAL ID ALTERNATIVES?

### TSA-approved alternatives include:

- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Border crossing card
- An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation / Indian Tribe
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation worker identification credential
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

## WHAT DO I NEED TO GET A REAL ID?

Required documents to get a Real ID include one document that proves your full legal name, date of birth, and legal presence; proof of identity, like a current driver's license or passport; and a Social Security card or number. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must show certain federal immigration documents.

You will also need to bring two types of proof of Minnesota state residence - such as a utility bill or bank or mortgage statement. You will need a street address. A Post Office box address will not work.

Enhanced cards must be delivered to a U.S. address. Visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to find your closest office or call 651-201-7000. For more information on REAL ID, visit [www.dhs.gov/real-id](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id).

## REAL ID REQUIRED DOCUMENTS EXAMPLES

Beginning May 7, 2025, every air traveler 18 years of age or older will need a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license or ID, passport or passport card or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States or enter federal facilities.

ONE document proving identity, date of birth and legal U.S. presence

BIRTH CERTIFICATE


CERTIFIED

PASSPORT

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD

CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP

KNOW your Social Security number



TWO documents proving current Minnesota residency

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56633





# 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: 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 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.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

In Re: Estate of: Annette Cloud, DOB: 06/20/1953. Decedent

Court File No. CV-24-157

NOTICE  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Annette Cloud, died March 28, 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 6th, day of January, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Will, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Jennifer Cloud, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on January 6, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Jennifer R. Cloud, PO Box 162 Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Annette Cloud, 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: Henry William Rushman, DOB: 02/20/1959. Decedent

Court File No. CV-25-22

NOTICE  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent,

Henry William Rushman, died December 8, 2023. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rachel Weis, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 13th, day of March, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Selena Rushman, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on March 13, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Selena Rushman, 20564 Jenkins Rd. SE Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Henry William Rushman, 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: Kenneth Gene Lyons Sr., DOB: 06/04/1938. Decedent

Court File No. CV-24-162

NOTICE  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Henry William Rushman, died January 18, 2019. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rachel Weis, Associate Judge of the above-named

Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 10th, day of March, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Kevin J. Lyons Sr., surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on March 10, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Samuel J. Lyons, Duluth Bethel, 23 Mesaba Ave. Duluth, MN 55806, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Kenneth Gene Lyons 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.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

In Re: Estate of: Lewis Gilbert Bowstring, DOB: 01/25/1939. Decedent

Court File No. CV-25-33

NOTICE  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Lewis Gilbert Bowstring, died November 27, 2024. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rachel Weis, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 22nd, day of April, 2025 at

10:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Tami Jackson, surviving child of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on April 22, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Franklin Bowstring , 37112 County Road 39 Deer River, MN 56636, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Lewis Gilbert Bowstring, 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: Reba Cross and Michael Brown, Parents.

Court File No. CP-25-06

NOTICE  
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child/Family Protection Petition, Motion for Emergency Custody and Affidavit in Support of Emergency Custody have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parents. The next scheduled Court date has been set for May 5, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions, and/or copies of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice by way of publication because you are a party to this proceed-



INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

\$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS. THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by **June 30, 2025**. More details are available on the website.

Here’s what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or
- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate’s Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

You must act quickly.

The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

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Indian Trust Settlement  
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New York, NY 10150-5324

ing. If you fail to appear in these proceedings, the Court may proceed on behalf of the child(ren) by default.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Miranda Wilson and any man who may claim paternity, Parent(s).

Court File No. CP-22-04

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 children of the above-named parent(s). 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 July 10, 2025 at 1:30 PM. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may trans-

fer permanent custody of the children, by default, to the individual named in the Petition.

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 Review Hearing has been scheduled for May 21, 2025 at 1:30 PM. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration to respond to any questions and/or to obtain copies 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 Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Mariza Brown and any man who may claim paternity of minor child, A.W.

Court File No. CP-22-19

NOTICE  
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Petition to Suspend Parental Rights 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 April 16, 2025 at 1:30 PM. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may act in the best in-

terest of the Child.

LEGAL NOTICE  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Alicia Immonen and Cody Strandberg, parents of minor child LS, previously known as LT.

Court File No. CP-23-05

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 June 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may transfer permanent custody of the children to the individual(s) named in the petition by default.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Brandi Lee Brown, and any man who may be the father, Parents.

Court File No. CP-25-02

NOTICE  
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child/Family Protection Petition, Motion for Emergency Custody and Affidavit in Support of Emergency Custody have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parents. The next scheduled Court date has been set for February 10, 2025 at 2:00 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 by way of publication because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear in these proceedings, the Court may proceed on behalf of the children by default.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the welfare of the children of Anita Rose Dunn and Lucas Alan Woodward, Parents of the minor children: D.D. (DOB: 03/21/2009) and D.D. (DOB: 06/09/2010).

Court File No. CP-18-47

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 children of the above-named parents. Please Contact the Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any questions and/ or copies of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682. You are served this notice because you are a party to the proceedings. The next hearing in this matter is April 9, 2025 at 10:00 AM. If you fail to appear for this hearing, the Court may transfer permanent custody of the children.





**Nycklemoe & Ellig P.A.**  
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## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings

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

**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources**

**190 Sailstar Drive NW - Cass Lake, MN 56633**

**JOBS@LLOJIBWE.NET**

Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697

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

*Licensed Assisted Living Director ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-003*  
*Clinic Nurse Supervisor (Red Cedar Assisted Living) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-004*  
*Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-035*  
*Police Officer (Full time) (3) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-058*  
*Mental Health Professional (2) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-065*  
*CTSS Mental Health Practitioner (4) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-066*  
*Advanced Practice Provider (Tribal Clinics) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-102*  
*Bailiff (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-118*  
*Police Officer (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-137*  
*Accounts Receivable Team Leader ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-149*  
*Gekinwaa'amaaged (Teacher) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-173*  
*Associate Child Welfare/Family Wellness Attorney ~ Administration ~ \$41.00/hr or D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-200*  
*Staff Accountant II ~ Finance/Accounting ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-202*  
*Assessor (O.T.P) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-211*  
*Energy Grants Manager ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-213*  
*Diabetes Registered Dietitian ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-214*  
*Infant Toddler Teacher (Ball Club) ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-218*  
*Infant Toddler Teacher (Onigum) (3) ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-219*  
*Health & Safety Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) ~ Regulatory ~ \$16.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-221*  
*Lead Carpenter/Estimator (Community Services) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-224*  
*Billing Compliance Specialist (Child Welfare) ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-238*  
*Community Health Worker (Maternal Child Health) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-239*  
*Behavioral Health Case Manager ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 25-001*  
*Environmental Fellowship Attorney ~ Legal ~ \$44-\$52 /hr ~ Job Code: 25-008*  
*On Call Crisis Response Mental Health Professional (15) ~ Behavioral Health ~ \$20.00/OC, \$45.00/Act \$1000 bonus ~ Job Code: 25-011*  
*On Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (15) ~ Behavioral Health ~ \$20.00/OC, \$45.00/Act \$1000 bonus ~ Job Code: 25-012*  
*Land Use Administrator ~ DRM ~ \$20.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-016*  
*GIS Technician ~ DRM ~ \$20.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-017*  
*Holistic Health Practitioner I ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 25-027*  
*Pre School Teacher (Onigum) ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 25-028*  
*Case Manager (Child Welfare) ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 25-030*  
*Grants Budget Manager ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 25-035*  
*Driver (Part time - OTP) ~ A&D ~ \$18.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-037*  
*Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) Technician (Part time Seasonal) ~ DRM ~ \$20.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-038*  
*Cook (A.R.C) ~ A&D ~ \$18.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-040*  
*Lead Patients Benefits Coordinator ~ Health ~ \$22.00-\$23.23/hr ~ Job Code: 25-041*  
*Vehicle Operator (2) ~ Fleet Management ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-047*  
*Vehicle Operator (Part time) ~ Fleet Management ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-048*

**For a full list of employment opportunities with LLBO please visit:**

<https://www.llojibwe.org/jobs/llbojobs.html>



# Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders

## May Birthdays



### District I



Kelly Campbell  
Detra Lyons  
Delmor Best  
Carol Goggleye  
Barbara Kannas  
Bonnie Rautio  
Kimberly Egan

Lisa Jackson  
Francine Smith  
Sandra Charwood  
Rose Gotchie  
Melvina Sherman  
Lani Birt  
Kim Hanson

Candace White  
James Howard Sr.  
Katherine Gale  
Robert Fairbanks  
Michael Kirt  
Janet Grossman  
Leona Day

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Janelle



### District II

Joe Chase  
Donna White  
Bonita Strong-Desjarlais  
Terri Goggleye  
Tony Stangel

From the District II  
Office Steve, Terri, &  
Michelle



### District III\*



Robert Aitken  
Mark Allen  
Kerry Anderson  
Ramona Anderson  
Sheryl Babineau  
Lani Birt  
Leonard Budreau  
Dorthea Cloud  
Muriel Crawford  
Calvin Day  
Paul Day  
Norma Ducheneaux  
Ramona Dunn  
Audrey Emineth  
Cynthia Fairbanks  
Deanna Fairbanks  
Karen Fineday  
Linda Fisherman

Marti French  
Gordon Geving  
Emma Graham  
Lawrence Hardy  
Donnie Harrison  
Susan Headbird  
Patrick Jackson  
Darrell Johnson  
Orville Johnson  
Roberta Johnson  
Pauline Johnston  
Thomas Jones  
Bernadine Kangas  
Patricia Laudenback  
Douglas Liila  
Kathleen Lindahl  
Genevieve Lowry  
Clyde Morgan

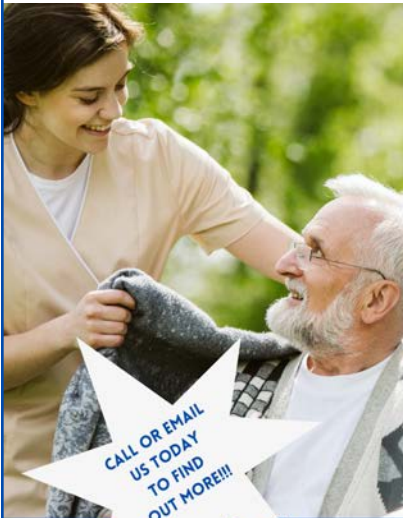
Herschel Ogema  
Yolanda Oxford  
Carol Parsons  
Bill Pell  
David Quincy  
John Rock, Jr  
Marcella Roy  
Carmen Roybal  
Ronald Russell  
Troy Smith  
Michael Staples  
Amberly Tesch  
Terri Veo  
John Whipple  
Deborah White-Huesers  
Edward Wilson  
Rebecca Windom  
Raymond Wittner

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

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

## Absolute PCA is Expanding

Absolute PCA is a homecare agency that is currently in the process of expanding to rural and underserved areas as well as reservations in Northern, MN. At Absolute PCA we consider all our employees and caregivers' family. Our office team is on call 5 days a week to make sure everyone is supported every step of the way. Absolute PCA's mission is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to remain independent in their homes, no matter where you are located or what services you need. Our services include: PCA, CFSS, ICLS, Homemaking, Respite, and Night Supervision.



# Absolute PCA

**HOMECARE**  
Agency

**YOUR LOCAL NURSE OWNED AGENCY**

Great Pay, Bonuses, and Benefits!!

**\*\*Accepting New Clients & Caregivers\*\***

Our Services

PCA • CFSS • Home Making • Respite • Night Supervision

CALL OR EMAIL  
US TODAY  
TO FIND  
OUT MORE!!!

Absolute PCA  
[www.absolutepca.org](http://www.absolutepca.org)  
218.301.0461  
[info@absolutepca.org](mailto:info@absolutepca.org)

Our mission is to provide a quality and creative approach to individual and community-based exercise programming to ultimately control and prevent diabetes in our community.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

**Mon-Fri 7:00 - 6:00 PM**

**Saturday 9:00 - 12:00pm**

### Services we offer

- Cardio, free weights and weight machines
- Orientation for new members
- Fitness assessments
- Personal exercise plans
- Blood pressure and blood sugar checks  
(pre and post exercise or as needed)
- Help obtaining Medical clearance (if needed)
- Group exercise classes
- Pool use at Northern Lights and Cedar Lakes Casino
- Bike Rental for the Migizi Trail

**PHONE (218) 335-2081 FAX (218) 335-6252**

**LOCATION 21 Grant Utley Avenue Cass Lake, MN 56633**





**CEDAR LAKES**  
CASINO • HOTEL



**Shingobee**  
ON THE BAY  
SPORTS BAR MARINA

# PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

1-844-554-2646





**HOOK, LINE AND WIN!**

**GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY: 7PM-10PM, JUNE 19**

7 LUCKY WINNERS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN A 2025 LUND 1650 REBEL XL SS BOAT AND SHORELAND'R TRAILER (VALUED AT \$26,155) OR THEIR SHARE OF OVER \$10,000 CASH.

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 14, 2025  
USE A FISHING ROD AND HOOK  
3 BOBBERS FOR A CHANCE TO CATCH UP TO \$1,500 CASH

Walker, MN  
northernlightscasino.com

Earn one entry for every point earned starting April 1, 2025.  
See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.



**INTO THE WILD**

**GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY-JUNE 18**

7PM-9:30PM: 6 LUCKY WINNERS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$1,200 CASH.

10PM: 1 LUCKY WINNER WILL DRIVE AWAY WITH A 2025 FOREST RIVER CHEROKEE GREY WOLF TRAVEL TRAILER (VALUED AT \$25,000).

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 14, 2025  
7 LUCKY WINNERS WILL CHOOSE A GAME PIECE TO WIN UP TO \$1,200

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

Earn one entry for every point earned starting April 1, 2025.  
Travel trailer shown might vary from actual giveaway.  
See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.



**RIDE FREE**  
IT'S IN THE CARDS

**GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY: 7PM-10PM, JUNE 26**

7 LUCKY WINNERS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN A 2025 INDIAN SPRINGFIELD DARK HORSE (VALUED AT \$26,000) OR THEIR SHARE OF \$4,500 CASH.

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 21, 2025  
WIN UP TO \$700 CASH  
PLAYING A HIGHER OR LOWER CARD GAME

Deer River, MN  
whiteoakcasino.com

Earn one entry for every point earned starting April 1, 2025.  
See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.



**RIVER OF STARS CABARET**

**CAST OFF CELEBRATION**

**MAY 10, 2025**

REGISTRATION AT 5:30PM • DARTS FLY AT 7PM • \$25 PER PERSON

**DART TOURNAMENT (\$500-ADDED)**

**LIVE BAND**

**FISHING-THEMED FUN**

Walker, MN  
northernlightscasino.com

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



**2025 Mother's Day**

**BUFFETS**

**CEDAR LAKES**  
CASINO • HOTEL  
Cass Lake, MN

**10AM-3PM EVENT CENTER**  
**\$29.95**  
\$10.95 CHILDREN UNDER 10

**10AM-3PM EVENT CENTER**  
**\$31.95**  
\$9.95 CHILDREN UNDER 10

**SUNDAY MAY 11**

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED  
1-844-554-2646 (8am-9:30pm) or  
ligcallcenter@leechlakegaming.com

Menu subject to change. Management reserves all rights.



**JOHN ANDERSON**  
ACOUSTIC SHOW

**JUNE 15**

Tickets starting at \$29

Walker, MN  
northernlightscasino.com



**TESLA**

**JULY 12**

Tickets starting at \$59

Walker, MN  
northernlightscasino.com



**JAKE OWEN**

**JULY 18**

Tickets starting at \$39

Walker, MN  
northernlightscasino.com

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

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

WHITE OAK CASINO  
Deer River, MN • whiteoakcasino.com

SHINGOBBE ON THE BAY  
Walker, MN • shingobeeonthebay.com