Chairman’s Report for January-March 2009
Leech Lake Reservation

In the world of tribal government every quarter is busy and the last three months were no exception. We have set the goal of progressive tribal government. As always the administration looks forward to sharing the work being done to move us forward.

The primary focus this quarter was doing a lot of preparation work for the federal stimulus funding that is being released over the next couple of months. Most of this funding will be competitive so part of the preparation has been making sure that Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is known to all the politicians who will have input on those funding streams. In regard to that effort we have been lobbying at the State Capital and Washington D.C. to make sure we have good relationships with state and federal elected officials who are in on funding decisions. In that effort we have visited with Congressman Oberstar, Congressman Collin Peterson, Congressman Keith Ellison, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and State Representative John Persell, just to name a few.

One of our first lobbying successes was securing 15 million dollars for a new High School for the Bugonaygeshig School. We also make sure that our federal issues remain at the forefront of this new presidential administration and congress. Being politically visible and politically active on all fronts helps us protect our sovereignty and exercise our jurisdictions; this includes ensuring government to government relations.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Greeting Fellow Band Members of the Leech Lake Reservation:

First and foremost I would like to thank many of the Band members who have commented on how much you have enjoyed and appreciate reading my articles and reports. Some of the Band members have asked me who writes my reports, well I am pleased to tell you that I do all of my own writing. Writing is a skill that I acquired over the years as a former administrator and something that I enjoy doing. Unfortunately sometimes it’s difficult to find the time with all of the other duties associated with the office of Secretary Treasurer but I do try my best to keep all of our Band members as well informed as possible. As I have always said it is your Reservation and as Band members you have the right to know.

Cass Lake Superfund Site Part II: Where We Are Now
By Chris Haugene

Last fall the Debahjimon ran an article concerning the Superfund site that caught us up on what happened at the site on the south side of Cass Lake. It mentioned the responsible parties that ranged to everyone from Burlington Northern Rail Road to the former St. Regis Paper Co. and now International Paper Company. This second installment, of what is sure to be an ongoing series of updates, will cover where we are now regarding the feasibility study, ongoing five year site surveys, and why this is taking such a long time. Earlier this winter I put a call in to Tim Drexler (EPA Staffer who gave public presentation last November) and asked him if he would be willing to do a phone interview regarding the status of the site and where it stands as of the winter of 2009. Mr. Drexler called me back a few days later and spoke to me with Mick Hans who works for public relations within the EPA and the following phone interview ensued:

Question:
Gentlemen I was wondering if there have been any recent press releases regarding the Cass Lake Superfund site?

Aerial Photo showing Superfund Site Operations Area in yellow and surrounding areas.

Photo taken from EPA Site Activities Update

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Leech Lake Firefighting Program Hosts Annual Refresher Course

By Margaret Jordan

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, the Leech Lake Firefighting Program hosted the annual firefighter refresher course at Northern Lights Casino and Event Center. The instructors for this annual refresher course were Brad Estey, White Earth Reservation and Bruce Jourdain, Red Lake Reservation. MN Agency personnel that provided assistance throughout the day were Greg Peterson, FMO and Paul Maday, Fuels Specialist.

This year, twenty-one participants attended the session. In past years, Leech Lake Firefighters have attended the annual refresher course that is provided by the U.S. Forest Service and Minnesota DNR at various locations. This is one of the first steps for qualifying firefighters towards red card certification through the MN Agency, BIA. They are also required to pass annual physicals and the pack test, which consists of carrying a 45 pound pack on a 3 mile course within 45 minutes.

We are proud to state that our Leech Lake Fire Crew shows a great deal of professionalism when they are called on for fire details within the State of Minnesota and at the national level. Interdepartmental work with the Leech Lake Forestry Department and the Leech Lake Fish, Wildlife and Plant Resources Department and the MN Agency are ongoing throughout the year to work on prescribed burn planning and implementation within the exterior boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation. They also work on cooperative burn projects with other agencies or are on standby during the fire season in cooperation with the other Minnesota Reservations, the U.S. Forest Service, and the MnDNR.

Incidentally, it should be noted that during the past five (5) years wildfires are more intense and have destroyed more acres than ever before. Wild fires are caused by a variety of reasons; during extremely dry conditions lighting strikes can ignite a wildfire, while in some cases, arsonists have also set wild fires. Jamie Mitchell, Chief Conservation Officer is a certified Fire Investigator and has provided assistance to other reservations in North Dakota, California and during the past three years. Jamie also works closely with the BIA MN Agency on fire investigations for brush fires that have been set intentionally on our Reservation.

Recently, Duane Bebeau, Leech Lake Fire Coordinator was selected to attend the March 2009 session at the Prescribed Fire Training Center in Tallahassee, Florida. He will be participating in prescribed burn projects at various locations in Florida, Georgia and possibly Mississippi. Participants are also required to complete course work before the training.

James Tejohn and Terry O’Connor will be attending the annual helitack training in Little Falls during the first week in March. Steve Mortensen will be attending a refresher course as a Communications Technician during the first week in April.

This is a reminder to everyone that during extremely dry conditions, please be careful and watch for fire bans/restrictions that are set by the Leech Lake Reservation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota DNR.

We would like to thank the Leech Lake Accounting department in advance for their willingness and promptness get our travel checks to us, sometimes on very short notice, and for the Payroll Department for getting us our paychecks in a timely manner when we return from a fire detail. So thank you ladies!

The Chippewa National Forest has scheduled two prescribed burns to take place sometime during the next 2 weeks. The exact date will depend on snow melt and local weather conditions.

The two prescribed burns include approximately 1,594 acres near County Rd 8 and the Boy River. The second early spring season burn is approximately 565 acres and will occur in the Mud-Goose Wildlife Management Area south of Ball Club, MN. The Mud Goose wetland meadow prescribed burn is primarily done to benefit migratory waterfowl habitat. While fire crews are on location, columns of smoke may be visible from a long distance.

The Walker Ranger District averages 31 wildfires every year, most of which are human caused. The Boy River prescribed burns are planned to reduce the potential for unwanted wildfires by reducing hazardous fuel loads. In addition, these lowland meadow prescribed burns improve wildlife habitat for ring-necked duck, yellow tails and other waterfowl.

The Boy River prescribed burn is part of a unique 17-year partnership with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass County Land Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Minnesota DNR Forestry and Wildlife Divisions.

If you have any questions regarding the prescribed burns, please contact the Walker Ranger District at 218-547-1044.

At the end of March TEP had employed 647 employees since its inception reaching across the reservation to work in and employ Band members from local communities such as Bena, Ball Club, Inger, S-Lake, Sugar Point, Oak Point, Onigum, and Kego Lake. The local communities are receiving essential services such as shoveling and home weatherization for the elderly and handicapped, garbage removal, and the cutting, splitting, and delivering of wood at $60.00 a truck load. Mike Lemon, the TEP Director said that they are also looking to the Leech Lake Health Division and other local organizations for possible partnerships for the future. The Temporary Employment Program's phone number is 218-335-3555.
Leech Lake Band and Northwest Indian OIC
Join Forces
By Chris Haugene
The Red Road Home is a community program hosted out of the Northwest Indian Opportunities and Industrialization Center (OIC), located in Bemidji across from the John Glas Field House, that offers several services, one of which is for American Indian ex-offenders that are coming out of the Minnesota State Department of Corrections system and are trying to reenter society in a positive way.

Individuals being released after serving their sentence face numerous obstacles when they find themselves back in the ‘outside’ world, and with the help of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe the Northwest OIC offers services that help smooth the way for the reentry process.

On average, about eighty American Indian ex-offenders return to Cass and Beltrami Counties every year, and the major obstacles that they face are housing, employment, and transportation, as well as the pitfalls and triggers that could lead to behavioral backsliding, that could lead to more incarceration. In most cases these individuals on supervised release are mandated to find a job, a house, and figure out how to get there and back every day within a very short time of their return. Granted, Department of Corrections case management plans for parolees vary from person to person, but in the eyes of the previous scenario it isn’t hard to see why recidivism (repeat offender) statistics are so high right now in Minnesota and across the nation. With the help of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe the Northwest OIC is offering everything from employment placement, resume building, general computer skill enhancement training, and transportation and mock job interviews for individuals in the Red Road Home program.

These are just some of the services offered through OIC to American Indians who find themselves in this position. Something that sets OIC apart from similar programs is the spiritual aspect of the program. Larry Stillday is the spiritual advisor for OIC who offers his insight and guidance to program participants in a positive atmosphere, and I had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Stillday and ask him some questions regarding the program and the approach he takes to help reconnect program participants to their spiritual roots.

Question:
How do you approach someone who is trying to reenter society with respect to the program and the spiritual connection?

Answer:
There is goodness in these and all people already, which has been blurred by the fact that they have been incarcerated, which leads to a sort of subconscious ostracism of sorts. This lends itself to an absence of the spiritual aspect of our culture. Reinstating a sense of spiritual connectedness is important to progression as individuals, especially here. And what I do is give them a reference. I help them bring this aspect out of their lives again. The elders (when I was a younger man) talked to me about each person’s 4 seasons—which doesn’t necessarily match the environmental seasons or mean the seasons are separate; this means this is where they’re at in relation to the position of the circle of life. The circle is one of the most important things regarding spirituality because this is what was made by the creator—a big circle with many little circles within.

Question:
What’s the first thing you have to learn about the people coming through the program?

Answer:
Tone of voice and demeanor will tell me what season they are in, and this is where I begin. Then I go with the principals of the things we talk about. A lot of people are just going through the motions or mimicking what they see their relatives or elders doing when they see things like tobacco being offered, or participating in the sweat lodges or other ceremonies. They do these things without understanding the virtue or why they are good, and miss the entire essence of following this path. And once this understanding takes place you start validating the connectedness which correlates to having a purpose or belonging to something. I do sweat ceremonies too which will vary with these program participants as to where they are in their seasons. In the ceremonies things will reflect where they are at and I can begin to ‘move’ them (in a spiritual, progressive sense) because some of them will get stuck in a season and keep coming back around to this place where they are stuck without knowing how to move past it. I ask what is stopping them. The mentors I had brought me through this process so now I can recognize this process and figure out when the movement from season to season needs to happen.

When we have a new person come to the program I take them aside and listen to them and this tells a lot about them as to their seasons and as to where they are at in their life.

Question:
Why do we keep getting stuck in these places where progression seems to be just out of reach? Is it a comfort-zone sort of thing?

Answer:
Yes, it’s a comfort thing. That gives them an identity that connects them to that same point to keep coming back to. My elders used the power and energy of the circle to propel people beyond this point of comfort into a new area or position of the circle. When you move from there you hear the same thing but from a different perspective and this is where you start hooking into the innate knowledge or that connection to our ancient ties through the goodness of the person. This is the nurturing and nourishment of a wounded spirit, and you can’t move them before they are ready because this sets them up for failure in the end, and a returning to that place they keep coming back to. There’s a concept behind this plan the DOC has for parolees and this concept is rooted in the physical material world of getting a job, a house, and transportation, that has nothing to do with the connection I am trying to make with them. This tends to disconnect our people even more, rather than connecting them to something that helps them feel like they belong to something. After being conditioned for so long, it’s so hard for people to break away from the behavior they’ve learned from being inside. This is why I sit down with them and listen and try and see what season they are in. So I know where to begin. Then I can start the movement to the next season if they are ready to make that next change. My elders taught me this when I was young, so I know how to do this now. To bring this change and connectedness. Once you are connected you have a sense of belonging, a sense of purpose, a sense of who you are, and once you have those you start working on the skills with the support of the community.

We had a welcoming ceremony for these guys a couple weeks ago, and that’s something they don’t get. We said welcome home, and had their families there and had a feast—it was very nice. This goes beyond the thought (of the program) and goes right to the heart of the individual.

Question:
Can you talk a little bit about making mistakes?

Mistakes are a part of life. And in today’s society once you make a mistake, that’s
Chairman’s Report  Continued from Page 1

and consultations on issues that impact us.

As I reported last quarter, we identified 589 substandard homes and that does not even take into account the numbers of new homes needed. The numbers clearly show that housing is one of our most basic unmet needs. We need more homes as many families are double and tripling up. We have told our division directors and Housing authority we need to have plans ready with timelines to include this in our stimulus plans.

Last July we started an Economic Development Initiative with the U.S. Department of Justice, Treasury Department, and Oweesta. These partners will help us draft a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the reservation which is critical to the competitive process of getting projects funded. The last time we had an economic plan was in 2000. So the timing of this initiative with the federal stimulus funding places us in a good position to really maximize funding opportunities.

We also continue to deal with proposals for the Nelson Act Settlement, the high voltage Powerline and Enbridge pipeline that want to come across the reservation. We had a good turn out at the public meeting we held on the Enbridge pipeline. The talks continue on all these issues and we will continue to keep the band membership informed as things progress.

As promised the Elders department is ready with job positions posted. This department will provide comprehensive services for our elders. The new department will be under the Health Division and we will have a gathering scheduled to celebrate the department’s startup. We are also working on a Youth Service Providers Summit to develop a regional youth development strategy. Youth needs are critical for all of our reservations and is a primary focus of Leech Lake. We will take the lead in setting the goals needed to get youth services including recreation, employment and educational funding in place. We also want all regional youth to have opportunities.

We are still working in partnership with the Northern Minnesota Tribal Economic Development Commission (NMTEDC) made up of Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth reservations to hold a Native Nation Building Conference. The purpose is to look at ways to improve tribal government and understand the components critical to establishing a successful economy that will help us reduce our high unemployment and provide sustainable jobs as well as business opportunities for our band members.

As we all know health care needs to be improved and we have formed a Reservation Healthcare Workgroup to look at controlling our costs and improving services at our six clinics. This group will also meet with IHS about healthcare issues. I was recently in Washington to testify in front of a Senate Committee on healthcare talking about the health disparities in Indian Country and especially on Leech Lake.

Internally I want to remind our directors and program managers that we need to continue to improve communications. We have improved in this area, but we still have work to do. Many of our problems can be traced to a lack of communication, or miscommunications. I want to ensure that this area of concern is addressed.

Work is continuing on the Band Resource Guide, Radio Station, Debahjimon, and a new Band Website. All of this is to improve our information and communication systems to help keep our band membership informed of what is happening with their reservation, tribal government, and businesses.

I close on behalf of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the RBC. Chi Migwetch Anishinabeg

Arthur “Archie” LaRose
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROCEED BY DEFAULT

YOU (THE DEFENDANTS LISTED BELOW) ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe intends to proceed by default in the Leech Lake Tribal Courtroom located at the Facility Center, upper level, 16126 John Moose Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN, with regard to the alleged violation of the Leech Lake Traffic/Conservation Code, occurring within the boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation.

Violation of this summons is subject to proceedings for contempt of court pursuant to Tribal Code, Title 1, Part VI. The Court may find you in contempt for failure to appear at a court hearing or for failure to follow court orders.

Dated this 30th day of March 2009.

APPEARANCE DATE: April 14, 2009, at 2:00 PM

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<th>Defendant</th>
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<th>Charge and Date</th>
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<td>Kelly L. Anderson</td>
<td>TR-08-101</td>
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<td>Tracy L. Anderson</td>
<td>TR-08-123</td>
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<td>Sandra M. Armstrong</td>
<td>TR-08-100</td>
<td>Driving After Revocation/Suspension</td>
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<td>Darlene G. Bellanger</td>
<td>TR-08-115</td>
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<td>Cecelia M. Benaise</td>
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<td>Failure to Report an Accident involving Substantial property damage or human injury.</td>
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<td>Failure to Show Proof of Insurance Speeding in Excess of 10 mph Over the Limit</td>
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APPEARANCE DATE: April 17, 2009 at 9:00 AM

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APPEARANCE DATE: April 17, 2009 at 2:00 PM

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<td>Failure to Show Proof of Insurance</td>
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<td>Failure to remain at the scene of an Accident not resulting in injury</td>
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<td>Occurring On: 07/29/2008</td>
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<td>Mark L. Fairbanks</td>
<td>TR-08-077</td>
<td>Driving after Revocation</td>
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<td>No Insurance</td>
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<td>Occurring On: 06/26/2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon L. Dunn</td>
<td>TR-08-083</td>
<td>Driving After Revocation/Suspension Motor Vehicle Registration-Owner</td>
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<td>Failure to Show Proof of Insurance</td>
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<td>Jeffrey M. Jackson</td>
<td>TR-08-078</td>
<td>Failure to remain at the scene of an Accident not resulting in injury</td>
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LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
IN TRIBAL COURT

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

YOU (THE DEFENDANTS LISTED BELOW) ARE HEREBY ORDERED to appear before the Leech Lake Tribal Court and show cause why you should not be held in Contempts of Court for failure to pay court-ordered fines.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that pursuant to the Leech Lake Traffic Code, Chapter, Section 304 and the Leech Lake Conservation Code, Section 51.03(2):

1. If you are found in Contempt of Court, you may be subject to an additional penalty not to exceed $500.00, said penalty for contempt shall be in addition to any fines or other penalties previously assessed by this Court.

2. You may also be subject to one or more of the following enforcement actions without further notice:
   a. Report violation to the State of Minnesota for entry on defendant's driving record;
   b. Add the fine to the amount defendant must pay to renew or obtain Leech Lake vehicle registration or plates;
   c. Seize defendant’s vehicle registration plates;
   d. Seize the vehicle driven by defendant at the time of the violation;
   e. Suspend defendant’s fishing, hunting, trapping, ricing or other treaty rights within the boundaries and jurisdiction of the Leech Lake Band until defendant pays the fine in full.
   f. Garnish wages by the Leech Lake Band.

/s/ Joseph Plumer, Judge of Tribal Court
/s/ Korey Wahwassuck, Judge of Tribal Court.

APPEARANCE DATE:   April 17, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Defendant       Case No.

Rogers, Gordon, Jr.       CN-04-149

APPEARANCE DATE:   April 21, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Defendant       Case No.     Defendant       Case No.

Busse, Dennis Lee     TR-06-14     Isham, Tyrone Lee     TR-07-16
Durheim, Lawrence Joseph     TR-07-135     Morgan, Kerry Justin     TR-07-151
Fineday, Melissa Kay     TR-06-16     Roybal, Robert Elliot     TR-08-88
Goggleye, George James III     TR-08-24     White, Adrian William, Sr.     TR-07-181
Howard, Derek Alan     TR-07-229     White, Billy Joe     TR-05-91
Hveza, Matthew James     TR-07-22     White, Billy Joe     TR-00-236

APPEARANCE DATE:   May 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Defendant       Case No.     Defendant       Case No.

Adams, Robyn Jo     TR-08-112     Lyons, Mark Lindsey     TR-01-308
Charwood, Donald Earl     TR-03-655     Rabbit, Steven Wayne     TR-01-257
Isham, Debra Ann     TR-06-187     Smith, Belinda Lea     TR-02-468

APPEARANCE DATE:   May 22, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Defendant       Case No.

Rock, Royal S.       CN-07-14
Anson Beaulieu

Anson “Bo” Peter Beaulieu, Sr., 53, of Bemidji died Monday, March 23, 2009 at innovis Hospital in Fargo.

He was born on June 16, 1955, in Cass Lake, MN the son of George and Ida (Fairbanks) Beaulieu. He attended schools in the Bemidji area. He moved to Minneapolis in 1970 where he worked at various jobs. He married Kathy Hanson they later divorced. He moved back to the Bemidji area in 1981 where he worked as an automotive mechanic until an accident left him paralyzed in 1986. He enjoyed racing cars, going to Moondance Country Music Festival and hunting with the guys. He really loved the time he spent with his children and grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

He is survived by a son – Anson Beaulieu, Jr. of Bemidji, 3 daughters- Penny Lafriniere of Bagley, April Thompson of Bagley, Dawn Beaulieu of Cass Lake, 3 Brothers-Roy Beaulieu of Bemidji, David Beaulieu of Bemidji, Larry Beaulieu of Cass Lake, MN 3 Sisters-Margaret Hardy of Cass Lake, Shirley Beaulieu of Bemidji, Donna Beaulieu of Bemidji, numerous Grandchildren, Nieces and Nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers- Kenneth “Wing” Beaulieu, Sr. Robert Holstein, and nephew George Dennis Beaulieu.

Casketbearers were Glenn Sanders, Joshua Beaulieu, Robert Carlson, Roy Beaulieu, Cody Lafriniere, William Beaulieu with alternates Albert Luna, Paul Preston, Ken Beaulieu, Jr., Donahue Wittner, Glenn Morrison and Jody Lafriniere.

Duane Bedeau

Duane Steven Bedeau, 59, of Cass Lake, MN died Sunday, March 15, 2009 at the Cass Lake Indian Health Service.

Duane was born December 9, 1949 in Onigum, Minnesota to Daniel Ellis and Eliza Bedeau. He grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and graduated from South High School. He held various jobs until he enrolled in the Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake where he earned a degree in engineering. Following college he worked for the Leech Lake Housing Authority. Duane enjoyed many things in life. Hunting, fishing, riding, attending rodeo’s, and watching football and baseball games were some of his favorite pastimes. He also received enjoyment and satisfaction from cooking, and drawing and painting pictures. He never wanted to miss riding to Sturgis on his Harley-Davidson, and having cook-outs with family and friends. He liked to joke, and will be remembered as a tenderhearted man with a strong, and independent side. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Duane is survived by four sons; Talon Bedeau, Mark Cloud, Bradley Cloud, Mike Marchaud, four daughters; Lisa Marchaud, Stacey Cloud, Stephanie Cloud, Jodi Bedeau, 18 grandchildren, brother, Kenny Bedeau, sister, Charlotte White, and his best friend and companion Marilyn Drumbeater.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eliza Bedeau and Daniel Ellis, a sister, Linda Bedeau, and best friends; Steve Blake, “Poontie”, and Kevin Buckanaga.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 20, 2009 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cass Lake. Interment was at St. John’s Episcopal Cemetery in Onigum. Dennis Funeral Home of Cass Lake is handling funeral arrangements.

Ima Bobolink

Ima Mary Bobolink, 89, of Battle Point, Minnesota died Sunday, March 15, 2009 at Evergreen Terrace Nursing Home in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Ima was born December 30, 1919 in Battle Point, MN to Frank and Emma (Partial) White. She remained in Battle Point and Bena her whole life until two years ago when she became a resident at Evergreen Terrace. She was a devoted mother to her five children and husband William. She also did resort work, and cooking for the Elderly Nutrition Program. Ima enjoyed flower gardening, braiding rugs, and was always a big winner at Bingo. She had a quiet unassuming way about her, went through life with a smile on her face, and always thought of others first.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband William, two sisters; Evelyn Mitchell, Lucy Ryan, three brothers; William White, Clarence White, and Benjamin White.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 20, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. at the Sugar Point Community Center. Interment was at the Battle Point Cemetery. Dennis Funeral Home of Walker is handling funeral arrangements.

Lucy E. Donnell

Lucy E. Donnell, 75 of Deer River, MN, passed away on March 30, 2009 at her home.

Lucy was born in Bena, MN to Ernest and Margaret Lyons on February 18, 1934. She grew up in Bena, MN with a short time spent in Yampa, Colorado 1944-1945. Lucy worked as a Lab Technician at the Deer River Hospital before she married Leo Donnell. They were united in marriage on March 22, 1962 in Ball Club, MN. They raised their family in Deer River. Lucy was not only a homemaker and mother she owned and operated her own beauty
Elverna Finn

Elverna Lucille Finn “Ish Kwe Biik – Last Lady”, 81, of Cass Lake, MN died Friday, March 6, 2009 at the Havenwood Care Center in Bemidji.

Funeral Services were held Monday, March 9, 2009 at St. Charles’s Catholic Church in Cass Lake, MN with Father Anselm Thevarkunnel officiating. Interment following cremation, will be in the spring. Arrangements are with the Cease Family Funeral Home of Cass Lake.

She was born on November 27, 1927, in Cass Lake, MN, the daughter of Jacob and Josephine (Smith) Munnell. She was raised in Cass Lake, attending school there, and also in Flandreau, SD. She worked outside of the home occasionally, as a nurse’s aide at the Cass Lake PHS Hospital, and for the BIA in Bemidji, as a realty tech. She was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church in Cass Lake. She loved to go to rummage sales, read, and visit with her friends and family. Elverna was first and foremost a mother and grandmother. To her, everyone was special and worthy of love. Her caring for others, her compassion, and love of life was shown through her always having room in her house or at her table for those who needed shelter, or a good meal. She was “Mom” and “Gramma” to many besides her own family. She felt that if something was worth having, then it was worth sharing with others. She had a great sense of humor, that endeared her to those fortunate enough to spend some time conversing with her. Elverna’s life is embodied in two words “Caregiver” and “Mom.”


Preceded By: Father Ernest Lyons, Mother Margaret Lyons, Brother James “Speed” Lyons, Granddaughter Rachael Lyons, and Nephew James “Jim” Lyons

Caroline Monroe

Caroline Monroe, 76, began her journey on March 26, 2009 at her home in Battle Point, Minnesota.

Caroline was born March 26, 1933 to Evelyn White and John Ellis in Onigum, Minnesota. She lived in Battle Point most of her life. She loved pow-wows and playing bingo!! She enjoyed hunting, fishing, racing, and playing softball. She was well known for her biscuits and frybread.

Caroline is survived by her children: Loretta Monroe, Patricia Monroe, Marylou Reich, Iolanthe (Jerry) Wilson, Rick Goose, Eva (Steve) Mangum, Carol Goose, and Terrence “Chopper” White. Also surviving are her brothers and sisters; Shirley White, Gloria Mitchell, Emmylou Graham, Clarence Paper, Leonard Paper, Ronald Mitchell, Daniel Mitchell, and special brothers and sisters; Gloria (Duane) Budreau, Marion Bobolink, Maryanne Bobolink, Joanne (Don) Staples, and Bruce Bobolink, 35 grandchildren, 60 great grandchildren, and 3 great great grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, uncles aunts and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Samuel Goose, Jr., son, Samuel (Kevin) Goose III, daughter, Norma Smith, brothers: Donald Paper, William Paper, Myron Ellis, sisters; Lorraine Paper, Elizabeth Paper, Leona Paper, and 3 grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held April 1, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at the Battle Point Community Center. Interment was at the Battle Point Cemetery. Dennis Funeral Home of Walker is handling funeral arrangements.

Anton Mountain

Anton Mountain, 80, whose Ojibwe name is “Nizhoo Gaabaw” which means “Two Stand,” of Bemidji died Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Havenwood Care Center in Bemidji.

Funeral Services were held Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at the Veteran’s Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN with Rev. Harold Eaglebull, Rev. John Rock, and Lay-Pastor Ben Morris officiating. Arrangements are with the Cease Family Funeral Home of Cass Lake.

He was born on April 24, 1928, in Onigum, MN the son of John Mountain and Eva Hurd. He was raised and educated in Red Lake, MN. He began logging and working as a sawyer in a saw mill, he worked in the logging industry for over 20 years. He married Florence LaRose on April 10, 1978, in Walker, MN. She passed away on February 8, 2006. He enjoyed playing poker, especially with his good friend “Ole” Fairbanks. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by: his sons, Loren French of Cass Lake, MN, Tony Mountain of Hackensack, MN, Dave Mountain of Red Lake, MN Kevin Mountain of Ohio, Daughters, Diane Mountain of Redwood Falls, MN Valerie Jensen of Bemidji, Antonette (Michael) Troy of Bemidji, Brothers, Herb Mountain, Floyd Johnson, Orville Johnson, Penny Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Sister, Diane Blakely, Numerous Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Arlen Mountain, daughter Arlette Mountain, brother David Mountain, and sister Shirley Johnson.

Active Casketbearers were: Loren French, Tony Mountain, Kevin Mountain, Orville Johnson, Dave Mountain, and Jordan Troy.

Honorary Casketbearers will be: Lisa “Goofy” Johnson, Ralph “Bucky” Goodman, Floyd Johnson, Michael Troy, Floyd Johnson Jr., Jage Hunt, and “Ole” Fairbanks.

Sewell Tibbets

Sewell Sherwood “Sig” Tibbets, 77, of Cloquet died peacefully in his home Thursday, March 12, 2009 on the Fond du Lac Reservation surrounded by his family. Sewell had remained steadfast to the enjoyments of his life while he fought a courageous battle with cancer over the last several months. Sewell was born on January 11, 1932, the youngest of James and Nellie Tibbets’ nine children. He was raised in Ball Club, Minn. on the Leech Lake Reservation until attending Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota in 1946.

Following his graduation, Sewell enlisted in the Army and served from 1951 to 1954. He was a paratrooper with the 5th Regimental Combat Team and served in Korea. After combat Sewell returned to the Ball Club area before moving to the Fond du Lac Reservation where he worked at the former Indian hospital. He met his beloved wife, Doris “Dottie” Whitebird shortly thereafter. Sewell and Dottie spent the rest of their lives together. Sewell was employed by the Carlton County Highway Department for 25 years before his retirement in 1995. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping, rice, gardening, raising poultry, bingo, carving, cribbage, and his cat. Sewell’s friendly nature and warm heart will be deeply missed by many people.

Sewell was preceded in death by his wife, Doris; his parents; brothers, James, Franklin, Jesse, and Burnham; sisters, Della Barnes and Gladys Tibbetts; daughter, Marie Tibbetts; and step-son, Gerald Nowacinski.

He is survived by his children, Lee (Peggy Klinga) of Cloquet, Jeffrey (Sherry) of Barnum and Beth (Junior) Diver of Cloquet; step-children, Bunny (Kenneth) Jaakola, Abby (Earl Erkilla) Volkert and Maryanne (Donald) Erickson all of Cloquet; sisters, Nettie “Girly” Grauman and Delores (Conky) Lindberg both of Ball Club; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.
## Support Group Meetings

### Leech Lake Area Meetings

**SUNDAY**
- **7:00 PM - AA Basic Text Group**
  Calvary Free Church, Walker, MN
- **7:30 PM - AA-Cohasset Group**
  12x12
  (Closed No Smoking)
  Post Office-Cohasset, MN

**MONDAY**
- **9:30 AM - AA Monday Morning Meeting**
  Hope Lutheran Church, Walker, MN
- **5:30 PM - OverEaters Anonymous**
  Alano Club, Bemidji
  Contact Number: 444-2525
- **7:00 PM - Felon Support Group**
  People's Church, Bemidji
  Contact Rene P. 444-8240
- **7:00 PM - AA-Big Book**
  (Closed No-Smoking)
  Bethany Lutheran Church, Deer River, MN
- **7:00 PM - AA Meeting**
  Hope Lutheran Church, Walker, MN

**TUESDAY**
- **10:00 AM - Relapse Prevention Support Group**
  Eagle’s Landing-Ball Club, MN
  Contact Ed 335-8302
- **4:30-6:30 PM - Men/Women's Wellbriety Group**
  Opiate Annex, 110 Balsam Ave NW,
  Cass Lake, MN
- **7:00 PM - AA Meetings (OPEN)**
  AHNJI-BE-MAH-DIZ Halfway House
- **7:00 PM - Women’s Talking Circle**
  (Except 2nd Tues. each month)
  Onigum Community Ctr.

**WEDNESDAY**
- **11:00 AM - AA Meeting (Open)**
  AHNJI-BE-MAH-DIZ Halfway House,
  Cass Lake, MN
- **5:00 PM - Grief Support Group**
  (Conf. Rm next to DQ)
  Contact Eli H. 760-2116
- **6:30—7:30 PM - AA/NA (Open)**
  Opiate Annex, 110 Balsam Ave NW
  Contact Kathy 368-3171
- **7:00 PM - AA Meeting (Open)**
  (See below for Speaker./Feast info)
  Winnie Dam Community Center
- **8:00 PM - AA Meeting**
  (Open, No-Smoking)
  Lutheran Church, Boy River, MN
- **8:00 PM - Pine Manor Topic Group (Closed)**
  Pine Manor Treatment Center

**THURSDAY**
- **4:30 PM - Diabetes Support Grp**
  March 26th ONLY (may be ongoing)
  NCRH (Bmji) Education Conf Rm East
  Entrance
  Sue D. 333-5976
- **7:00 PM - AA Meeting (Open)**
  AHNJI-BE-MAH-DIZ Halfway House
- **7:00 PM - AA Walker 12x12 Study**
  Calvary Evangelical Free Church,
  Walker, MN
- **7:00 PM - AA LaPorte**
  Baptist Church, LaPorte

**FRIDAY**
- **3:30 PM - Relapse Prevention Support Group**
  LL Outpatient Bldg, 2nd Floor.

**SATURDAY**
- **9:00 AM - Onigum Step/Discussion**
  Onigum Community Center
- **12:00 Noon - Community Sweat**
  AHNJI-BE-MAH-DIZ Halfway House
- **8:00 PM - AA Speaker Meeting**
  Pine Manor Treatment Center, Nevis, MN
- **6:00 PM - Community Sweat**
  AHNJI-BE-MAH-DIZ Halfway House
- **7:00—8:00 PM - Overeaters Anonymous**
  Cass Lake HIS Modular Contact Greg
  209-3157
- **7:00 PM - Depression/Bi-Polar Support Grp**
  Cmnty Church Walker Contact Bev
  547-3905

(TBA) Monthly Sobriety Feast held the last Thursday of each month
(look for postings).
**First Wed. of each month AA Speaker Mtg./Potluck at Winnie Dam Community Center.**

**ATTENTION:** Anyone interested in Al-Anon or other AA/NA Mtgs. Contact Alano Club 125 Anne Street N.W. Bemidji, MN. Or call 218-444-2525 for days and times. They also provide Gambler’s Anonymous Mtgs @ 7:00pm Mon & Thurs. Adult Children of Alcoholics Support Groups @ 9:00am on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays.

**LL/OIC Continued from Page 4**

it. You’re ostracized, which is spreading because of our disconnectedness and this is spreading in turn. This creates a system of tension where one person feels it and this feeling ripples across and affects others in their family, society, organizational, or national system because we lost that sense of connection. Once you understand that, you understand your position and your responsibility in these places. We need to try and get back to that love based system that we once had instead of this fear based system, and that is what I’m trying to do here.

Northwest Opportunities and Industrialization Center’s address is: 1819 Bemidji Ave NW Suite 6 Bemidji MN, 56601. Phone # 218-759-2022.

Below is a letter of thank you from OIC’s Executive Director Jim Clark to the Leech Lake Band.

Dear Tribal Council,

I just wanted to give the Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council a public thank you for its willingness to invest in the Northwest Indian OIC’s Ex-Offender Re-integration program. We have been working hard since October 2008 to help American Indians return successfully to their communities from Minnesota correctional institutions. The Council’s donation of $12,500 has allowed us to add additional staffing to our programming with the added benefit of turning a part-time position into a full-time job for a member of the Leech Lake Band. While recidivism rates for American Indians still runs very high during their first 12-months out of prison, we are very pleased to report that, at this time, the vast majority of our clients who attend our program, and in particular, our spiritual programming, has successfully retained their supervised release status. Our partnership with the Leech Lake Reservation contributes to our hope that we can continue to achieve these positive results as our program develops.
Sec./Treas. Report Continued from Page 1

As an elected official I believe that it is my responsibility and that of all Tribal Council members to make sure that we keep the Band members well informed about the status, future and direction of the Leech Lake Reservation. The assets and resources of the Band belong to all Band members and each and every Band member has a right to know how these assets and resources are being managed. As I continuously stated in the past articles and reports “if you do things the right way then you should have nothing to hide and you should be fair, honest and open and provide the Band membership with whatever information they desire.” In an effort to continue this philosophy this is the focus of my report for this month, to provide you with a fair, honest and open assessment of the current status of the Leech Lake Reservation in terms of where we are at and if we are to be successful with what needs to be done in my professional opinion in order to achieve the success that I believe we all desire for our Reservation.

As I have continuously stated and stressed not only throughout my campaign but in previous reports there is an old cliche that states “if you keep doing the same things, then don’t be surprised when you keep getting the same results.” The point that I am continuously trying to stress is that as a tribe if we are to be successful then we must become more effective and efficient managers in how we do business and in how we manage the Tribe’s assets and resources. In short it must begin with doing the job that you are paid to do but this seems to be a challenge for many of our Division Directors, Program Directors, Managers and Administrators.

Somewhat sadly there appears to be a prevailing attitude and culture within the Leech Lake Reservation where employees seem think that they are owed a job and that they do not need to perform or do their job to the best of their ability. The result of such an attitude and culture is that it translates into lost opportunity, continued waste and mismanagement of our assets and resources and keeps the vast majority of our Band membership living in poverty. If as a Reservation we are to turn the corner and become economically successful this attitude and culture must change. However I am discovering that in many instances change and overcoming this attitude and culture comes hard.

As a Tribal Council we can set the agenda, establish goals and objectives, identify priorities and focus on the things that need to be accomplished in order for the Leech Lake Reservation to move forward and be successful. However this is not enough. As a Tribal Council we can not do it alone. As a Tribal Council providing the necessary leadership by itself is not enough. For the Leech Lake Reservation to be successful we must have a competent staff that can seize the opportunity and get the job that needs doing, done!

The Characterization that I would best use to provide you with an accurate analogy is that there are “tree shakers and jelly makers.” In other words someone must shake the tree to get the fruit to fall, (the Tribal Council) and someone must pick up the fruit and make the jelly, (the staff). In early February Chairman LaRose, District III Representative Whitebird and myself along with key members of our executive administration traveled to Washington D.C. where we met with several congressional leaders seeking funding for several of our basic infrastructure needs here on the Leech Lake Reservation.

Under the Obama administration’s economic stimulus plan for the first time in many, many years there will be several new funding opportunities available for Indian tribes. However in order to fully capture these opportunities, as a Tribe we must be able to act quickly in the development of quality grant applications and funding proposals. Once successful in obtaining the funding we must then equally as well be able to properly administer the grants and funding, achieve the goals and objectives that we specify in our grant applications and then provide the various funding sources with the appropriate program and financial reports in the time frames specified by the funding sources.

In this era of fiscal conservatism there are fewer and fewer opportunities available to obtain resources at all levels of government. My fear and concern is that if our staff and administration can not accomplish these tasks and meet the necessary time frames and requirements specified then it will be yet again just another lost opportunity in a long list of historical lost opportunities for the Leech Lake Reservation. As a tribe and a people this is something that we can not afford to let happen.

Despite the Tribal Council’s best efforts to put in place the necessary goals and objectives for the staff to include a financial plan that will move the Reservation into a more secure financial position, the value of such plans is not in the development, but in the execution. Unfortunately many of our managers and directors continue to struggle with properly managing their programs and services within the financial constraints of their budgets. The end result is that as a Tribal Council we continue to see various programs that are habitually overspent and not being properly managed financially.

I am not saying this to be overly critical of anyone individual or program, but rather I am simply attempting to provide you the Band members with a straightforward and honest assessment of some of the problems and issues that continue to plague us as a tribe. I have always believed that in order to properly fix a problem first you must properly identify the problem and then focus solely on the solutions that will eliminate the problem once and for all.

In an effort to address these issues, recently I met with the staff and administration of the Leech Lake Tribal College for the purpose of creating and developing a financial management and budgeting class for all of our Division Directors, Program Directors and other managers and administrators who have any administrative oversight with regard to the financial management of any Tribal programs or services. Once this class is established I have requested that the Tribal Council mandate that all of our program managers and administrators attend and participate in this training. In an effort to set a good example I myself as the Secretary Treasurer will also attend and participate in these classes and I will also encourage all of the other Tribal Council members to do so as well.

In a further effort to ensure greater financial accountability by our various administrators and managers I will also begin publishing the monthly financial statements of those programs and divisions that are historically and chronically overspent on a regular basis for all of our Band members to see. After all it is your money and resources that are being abused and mismanaged and you have every right to know this information.

Hopefully the end result of this training and the public disclosure of this information will lead to an overall improvement in the financial management of the Leech Lake Reservation.

An additional contributing factor to a lack of staff accountability is what I would characterize as a double standard created by the Tribal Council itself based upon who you are related to, who you are politically connected to, or who you are friends with. Now I can not openly criticize my colleagues on the Tribal Council without first saying that to a degree I am equally just as guilty as are the other Tribal Council members. The fact of the matter is that we all have our favorites for whatever reasons, which at times clouds our judgment.
Speaking openly and honestly if we are to truly be successful in the best interests of the Leech Lake Reservation as a whole, the Tribal Council itself must get out of the personnel business, discontinue the micro-management of various programs and services and begin the process of holding everyone to the same standards of accountability. The bottom line that as a Tribal Council we must apply in assessing each situation is simple, are you coming to work daily, on time and performing the duties and functions and the job that you are paid to do. If not then these individuals must be held to the same standards of accountability as everyone else regardless of who they are related to, friends with, or politically connected to. If you are getting a paycheck but not doing the job you are paid for then you are basically stealing from your own people and any Tribal Council member who attempts to protect these individuals is equally as guilty.

Over the years the Leech Lake Reservation has spent millions of dollars developing and implementing various personnel policies and procedures for some very, very good reasons. As a Tribal Council we must begin the process of following these policies and procedures regardless of personal relationships and everyone must be held to the same standards of performance and accountability. Presently the Leech Lake Reservation is very, very fortunate to have two excellent administrators in our Executive Director Rob Aitken, and Deputy Director Randy Finn, both of whom I might add are fair, honest, well educated and experienced. Part of their job is to deal with and handle the personnel issues of the Band. As a Tribal Council we must stay out of their way and let them do their jobs. We must discontinue the practice of allowing a handful of employees to circumvent the process, policies and procedures by running to the Tribal Council who in turn take up their cause and attempt to protect them.

By discontinuing this practice in my professional opinion will go along way to eliminating may of the problems and issues that continue to plague us and slow us down as a Tribal Council and in the process will bring greater accountability, performance and success to the Leech Lake Reservation as a whole. I will close my report by simply saying “it is the right thing to do for all of the people of the Leech Lake Reservation”.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Michael J. Bongo
Secretary Treasurer
Leech Lake Reservation
Superfund Site Part II  Continued From Page 1

Answer:
No

Question:
Why is BNSF and Int. Paper doing the leg work as far as the ecological/health risk assessment documentation as opposed to the EPA doing it?

Answer:
It’s an EPA philosophy which is also a legal stipulation. Corporations are given the chance to do this work themselves, sometimes they refuse and the EPA requires them to do the work through a unilateral administrative order, or EPA does the work when a refusal is issued by the company, and the company is responsible for any expense the EPA has incurred, plus some damages. If the work is done by the companies it is done under the purview of the EPA.

There is very aggressive oversight regarding this process. They (the responsible parties) have signed an administrative order on consent with the EPA to perform the ecological/health risk assessment, involved with MPCA and LLBO.

Question:
Is this feasibility study going to the EPA this spring sometime?

Answer:
An alternative screening technical memo sent to us on 2-23-09 is under review now, responses should come back to us on this by the end of February. Then this commentary will be forwarded to BNSF and Int. Paper Co. so they can then begin the feasibility report process. That report will be due to the EPA ninety days after it is released to the PRP’s (potentially responsible parties [Int. Paper Co. and BNSF Railroad]). We should be receiving the feasibility report back from the two PRP’s this summer in July or August.

The purpose of Feasibility is to come up with a range of possibilities regarding the ecological/health risk assessment and how to clean up the area, which will be reviewed by the EPA and make a recommendation in the form of a public hearing in Cass Lake.

Question:
Three five year site evaluations have been done since1995, is there another one scheduled for next year, and if so when?

Answer:
Yes. September 2010.

Question:
Did you release an updated update to the five year site evaluation done in 2005?

Answer:
NO.

Question:
Why not?

Answer:
Ground water issues have stalled the review report. The contaminant plume capture located in the area of the work-site (former operations area) itself and the southern area located a little east of the former Cass Lake city dump. There has been a lot of testing of these two areas by Int. Paper/BNSF, the EPA, and other “support agency partners.” It’s become a large enough project in itself that it is taking a long time to perform the ongoing investigations regarding the groundwater. It involves bringing heavy equipment into areas such as the fox creek watershed; we have to wait until it’s frozen so we can only do this in January and February, which we did last year (2008). The result of this work has been the need for additional on site work to acquire the needed information necessary to complete our research. More work is being done now (March 09) on-site around the old city dump (16 additional borings and 3 additional monitoring wells) site to acquire necessary data that will aid in data collection.

Additionally, there is a hatchery well investigation going on as well, which is distinct from the site monitoring. In the first phase of this monitoring project there will be 30 more borings and 4 new wells will come on line in the vicinity of the DRM building, planned for April of this year. This is all a result of the questions that arose from the 2005 5 year review. Then the PRP’s will be tasked with updating the computer model for the ground water, and will be able to address whether or not the capture of the pollution was or is adequate.

Question:
Can you give me an estimation of what the EPA will recommend as far as clean up? And if so, if the people don't agree with or like your recommendation, what recourse will the people have if they don't like the options presented to them?

Answer:
Can't give you an idea of our preferred option now; any pre-supposition would equate to us circumventing the process before it takes place, we simply can't offer a suggestion before the process is completed.

As far as public commentary goes; we will review all comments given to us by the people of Cass Lake and we have modified our interim record of decision here (final agency approach to the remedy of issues), which is what will take place after we receive the public commentary from the next public hearing. Ultimately, it will be an agency decision as to what we feel needs to be done regarding this Superfund site.

Press releases and site updates regarding the Cass Lake Superfund site can be found on the EPA's website: http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/stregis/

Or you can just Google: Cass Lake Superfund site and click on: St. Regis Paper Company Site | Region 5 Cleanup Sites | US EPA

Here you should be able to find press releases, fact sheets, presentations, technical documents, and legal agreements regarding the site and its history. There is a tentative date of November scheduled for the public hearing. The Debahjimon will post these events in the paper or on the LLBO website.
Dear Neighbors,

When session began in January, we knew our primary responsibility would be to pass a state budget that balances our staggering deficit. Since that first day, we have been laying the groundwork for this task; we got the final budget numbers from state economists in early March, we listened to the Senate’s budget proposal, and this week we heard the Governor’s new budget plan. We also held town meetings across the state. These meetings were attended by over 10,000 Minnesotans who came to share their ideas for how to best move our state forward. What I heard was make cuts where you need to - but make them fair, and raise revenue in a progressive fashion so as not to increase the burden on struggling Minnesotans. People also asked for a new way of doing business in our state so we can avoid the pain of budget deficits and cuts in coming years.

This week, the DFL Caucus in the House announced our budget framework. We worked hard to do what people asked us to do. We started by considering cuts only to resolve the deficit, but that approach would close hospitals, nursing homes, one or two state prisons, and decimate public education. By adding a delayed payment to schools and new revenue, we were able to reach a budget framework that protects Early Childhood, K-12 and higher education from any cuts, lowers the cuts to other state budgets, and brings more fairness and balance to our state. When the final plan is in place, it will include progressive revenue increases that will not increase the burden on those who can least afford it. Next week, we will unveil our county reform initiative that, if enacted, would actually lower property taxes and provide more options for local governments. It is also designed to utilize every dollar of the federal recovery package available to us.

I understand none of these cuts are painless, and I remain hopeful we can find a way to limit the cuts to health care even more. We have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks, and some decisions will be difficult ones. In many respects, this budget crisis gives our state the opportunity to change the way we do business. In other respects, this crisis changes the way we MUST do business. We need to ask ourselves these questions: what works, what doesn’t work, what is fair, what is not fair, and finally, for what are we willing to pay?

Warmest regards,

State Representative John Persell
529 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-5516

Last month Congress and President Obama approved a federal recovery bill in an effort to help stimulate the country’s struggling economy. Minnesota is expected to receive more than $4 billion from the federal government – much of which will be used for Medicaid payments, infrastructure projects, and education. The following is a list of key provisions in the bill that will directly benefit individuals:

Making Work Pay Tax Credit
Individuals earning less than $75,000 will receive a $400 tax credit. Couples earning less than $150,000 will receive an $800 tax credit. Roughly 2 million Minnesotans are eligible.

First-time Home buyer Tax Credit
First-time home buyers are eligible for an $8,000 tax credit for homes purchased between 12/31/08 and 11/30/09.

Child Tax Credit Expansion
The federal bill temporarily expands the existing child tax credit that provides a partially refundable federal income tax credit of up to $1,000 per child under 17.

Earned Income Tax Credit
A temporary increase in the ETIC (which primarily benefits low-wage working families with children) for 2009 and 2010 is provided, increasing to 45% the first $12,570 with three or more children.

Higher Education Tax Benefits
The HOPE credit is increased to $2,500 and extends the credit to all four years of college.

Higher Education Affordability
Pell Grant awards will be increased by $500 and other federal financial aid programs will be expanded.

Energy Efficiency Credit
Homeowners will receive tax credits up to $1,500 for home energy efficiency investments such as installing new furnaces, water heaters, and windows.

Health Insurance Subsidies for Laid Off Workers
Recently laid-off families earning less than $250,000 or individuals earning less than $125,000, may be eligible for a 65% subsidy for COBRA premiums over 9 months.

Unemployment Insurance Increase, Extension & Federal Tax Benefit
Roughly 330,000 Minnesotans will benefit from the unemployment insurance extension through next December.

Continued Next Column

U.S. Senate Tribal Leader Summit
By Chris Haugene

Washington DC – On Thursday March 5th Leech Lake Tribal Leaders met with the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for a fruitful day of discussion on a range of issues. Indian Health Care IHS was discussed and was mentioned in the DeBahjimon’s March issue as being slated for the Capital Improvements list for 2040, which might be a little long to wait since the facility is over sixty five years old and in desperate need of upgrading. Tribal land management was discussed as well as economic development and these two issues are sure to come into light in the recent future as Leech Lake is positioning itself with regard to finishing our Economic Development Initiative with the U.S. Department of Justice, Treasury Department, and Oweesta. These partners are helping us draft a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the reservation which is critical to the competitive process of getting projects funded at Leech Lake.
County, Davis get day in court
by Vivian Clark
Mille Lacs Messenger Staff Writer

Beginning with the defense, or appellant, each side is allotted 35 minutes to state their case and the justices ask questions of them. The appellant is allowed to keep about 5 minutes of their time for rebuttal of the prosecution, or respondent. The Minnesota Supreme Court grants review of roughly 12 percent of the 600 to 700 petitions of appeals it receives each year.

This year, David Davis of Aitkin was one of them. The highest court in Minnesota, consisting of seven justices, listened to oral arguments last week presented by attorneys Frank Bibeau, representing Davis, and Tara Ferguson Lopez, an assistant Mille Lacs County attorney, representing the state. The case: a speeding ticket.

The chambers were silent on the morning of March 4 as the parties awaited a chance to state their case before the court of last resort. The marshall of the court tapped the gavel, one, two, three times. “All rise. The honorable justices of the Supreme Court of the state of Minnesota ...” Seven justices appeared from doorways flanking the great desk. They took their seats on the leather-padded, high-backed chairs. The purpose of the hearing before the Supreme Court was to determine not the guilt or innocence of Davis, but whether or not the state should have jurisdiction.

David Davis, now 25 years old, was driving a car in Mille Lacs County on U.S. Hwy. 169 on Dec. 3, 2005. At about 9 a.m. He was stopped by a Mille Lacs Band tribal police officer for speeding. He was clocked at 60 mph in a 45 mph zone. Davis’ second violation on the same citation was that he did not have proof of insurance. The officer scheduled a court date and time for Davis to appear in Mille Lacs County District Court. From there, the case went to the Court of Appeals, which sided with Mille Lacs County. Davis appealed, and the Minnesota Supreme Court agreed to review the case.

Bibeau is a veteran arguing before the Supreme Court. He argued that the citation should have been routed through the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court. He said that while Davis is an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band, he is also a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Therefore, Davis has the right to have a citation obtained in the Mille Lacs Band area to be handled by the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court. A justice asked Bibeau if the MCT Constitution has its own traffic laws or ordinances, or if the Mille Lacs Band is required to abide by state law on public roadways such as Hwy. 169 regarding speed and insurance. Bibeau answered that Band members are entitled to abide by the ordinances and laws of the Mille Lacs Band and that those laws reflect those of the state in accordance with the mutual aid law enforcement agreement entered into with the county of Mille Lacs.

He also stated that while Band members are asked to have car insurance, not all of them can afford it. A justice asked if all tribes of the MCT share in the economic benefits of each other’s casinos. Bibeau said each tribe is considered separate from the MCT in that respect. Another justice said the state has a strong interest in regulating speed on public roadways. Davis is not a member of the Mille Lacs Band under the umbrella of the MCT. The justice said that Duro Fix and State v. Lara do not specifically address the distinction between a band and a tribe. Bibeau said this case is not a question of land and which band belongs to which land. He said all band members have the right to travel outside of their home reservation to hunt and gather.

A justice said the Supreme Court ruled in RMH that a member of one band is not a member of another band. “Are you asking us to overturn our decision?” Bibeau said he did not disagree that RMH should be disputed, but that would be a case for another day.

Ferguson Lopez, on her rookie appearance before the Supreme Court, argued that the citation belongs in the hands of the state. She said the county believes state law should be applied equally to all citizens on state land, and in this case, U.S. Hwy. 169. She stated that the Mille Lacs Band Reservation has been disestablished, and the only Indian Country in the county is land held in trust for the Mille Lacs Band. U.S. Hwy. 169 cannot be considered Indian Country. A justice asked Ferguson Lopez where exactly Davis was stopped and she did not know exactly except that the speeding offense occurred on U.S. Hwy 169. The law enforcement agreement between the Band and Mille Lacs County says civil regulatory violations that occur on trust land are allowed to be heard in tribal court except if the offense occurs on U.S. Hwy. 169, which is a fact in this case. “Those go to state court,” she said.

A justice said speeding and no proof of insurance are considered civil regulatory under Public Law 280, asking for clarification from Lopez. She said that in the opinion of the state, no insurance is a criminal misdemeanor, and speeding is a crime. “The Band itself limits the MCT Constitution when they see fit,” she said. Ferguson Lopez said Davis is a member of the Leech Lake Band, not a member of the Mille Lacs Band. He does not participate in the Mille Lacs Band per capita disbursements, nor does he have voting rights with the Mille Lacs Band or have any other benefits of a Mille Lacs Band member. Simply put, he is not a member of the Mille Lacs Band. “Our position is, you can’t have it both ways,” Ferguson Lopez said.

During the rebuttal Bibeau said no state has jurisdiction on any Indian on Indian land whether it is Arizona or Minnesota. The final word came from Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea, who asked Bibeau to clarify that his argument is that (Davis) is a member of the MCT but there are no MCT traffic ordinances or laws. “That is the basis of your argument?” “Yes,” Bibeau answered. Time was up and court was adjourned. The justices will prepare their opinions and have a ruling. It could be anywhere from 30 to 90 days.

Standing outside the courtroom Davis said he had been home schooled most of his life by his father Dale Greene. Greene works in the Leech Lake Legal department and has taught his children his beliefs. “I know what my rights are,” Davis said. He said he was driving in the area of Hwy. 169 between the Mille Lacs Band grocery store and the casino. “I was within the reservation.”

Legal sticking points:
Public Law 280: The state of Minnesota has criminal jurisdiction over Indians in Minnesota (except on Red Lake and Bois Forte reservations) but tribes have civil jurisdiction.

State of Minnesota v. RMH: The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the state has jurisdiction over “non-member Indians” - those who are within the boundaries of reservations that are not their home reservations.

Duro Fix: An act of Congress giving tribes jurisdiction over non-member Indians within the borders of reservations.

U.S. v. Lara: A Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the Duro Fix.

Davis’ argument, in part, is that State v. RMH is no longer “good law” after Duro Fix and U.S. v. Lara. Mille Lacs County argued, in part, that State v. RMH is still good law until the federal courts or state Supreme Court overturns it.
Notice of Public Meeting

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Dept of Public Works is conducting a Public Meeting to discuss and accept comments concerning the Water Tower & Water Treatment Facility to be located near County Rd 60, just east of Tooterville. Items to be discussed will include color scheme, logo options and any other concern the public might address.

A 15 day waiting period will commence after the Public Meeting to allow interested parties time to contact the LLBO Tribal Engineering Office.

Palace Casino
Wed. April 15th
7 PM

For More Info Contact
LLBO Engineering 335-8317

For more information regarding exhibits, donations, entertainment or to find out how you can help support the annual Health Fair please call Patty at (218) 335-4518 or patty.ryan@llojibwe.com