LLBO Tribal Council, staff and Cass County Officials hold annual, end of year meeting at Northern Lights Casino.

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Chairman Faron Jackson Sr. and Secretary / Treasurer Leonard Fineday provide their December update to Band members.

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The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Dept. of Resource Management statistics for the 2022 wild rice season.

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Photos from this year’s District III Elder’s Christmas Party held at Cedar Lakes Casino Event Center in Cass Lake.

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From the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council
Leech Lake Tribal Council and Cass County Officials Hold Annual Meeting

By KAYLA DUOOS

WALKER – The Leech Lake Tribal Council held their yearly meeting with Cass County, Friday, December 9 at Northern Lights Casino.

The Tribal and county governments used the time to review departmental standings and goals for 2023 in the following departments: judiciary, enforcement, roads and trails, human services, environment, and legislative.

Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson, who led the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and stressed the importance of communication between the two governments.

“We’ve been doing these meetings for a few years now, and they’re really a powerful form of communication in making sure we keep these strong working relationships to make sure we’re meeting the needs of our overlapping communities,” said Jackson.

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

REPORTS

Department: Judiciary and Legal
2022 Status:
• Justice Center has not been used for juvenile court hearings since 2021 due to the pandemic.
• CD Assessment barriers continue with solutions being explored.
• Participating in JDAI Program together with focus on Shelter Care Placements.
• Statutory Expungement Process – Minn. Stat. § 609A
• Juvenile Diversion resumes.

2023 Goals:
• Continue Cass County Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Wellness Court.
• Continue to cooperate on new opportunities for use of the Judicial Center.
• Juvenile Justice Initiatives – Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative and Diversion.
• Continue Juvenile Diversion Updates.

Department: Law Enforcement
2022 Status:
• Law enforcement position openings continue with progress being made.
• E911 House Number replacement/addition progress.
• Existing Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement working well with Cass County.

2023 Goals:
• Continue E911 House Number replacement/addition progress.
• Restore meetings between Cass and LLBO Law Enforcement pending staff availability.
• Update Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement to increase public safety.
• Continue to cooperate on narcotics investigations.
• Conduct joint trainings on jail procedures, patrol procedures, and meet with legal counsel regarding new legislation.

Department: Roads and Trails
2022 Status:
• Partnering on TH 2 Steering Committee in Cass Lake.
• Partnering on LLBO safety plan updates.
• CSAH 60 Cooperative project to repair highway damage due to water main break.

2023 Goals:
• Collaborate on 2025 construction projects, currently exploring Cass Lake area projects on CSAH 21, 22, 206, 207 & CR 146, 147, 149, and 151.
• Work on partnership to develop innovative weed control and invasive species policy for pilot project along CSAH 13 (Onigum Road).
• Continue to work together in Bena with intersection improvements at CSAH 8 and TH 2 in 2023 and trail improvements in 2024.
• Continue to work together on a trail in Onigum.

Department: Human Services and Public Health
2022 Status:
• Support Preventative Services
• Support homelessness initiatives.
• Collaboration with COVID-19 vaccines.
• Spend Bush Grant Funds on juvenile homeless shelter furniture.
• Establish ongoing quarterly meetings for leadership in Child Protection.
• Build professional relationships while increasing coordination between the established Cass County Mental Health Crisis Response Team and the developing LLBO Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team.

2023 Goals:
• Support homelessness initiatives including those to assist juveniles and families addressing child protection issues.
• Establish ongoing monthly meetings between our two departments to strengthen our partnership in delivery of vast array of Human Services programs.
• Our Public Health Divisions will work together regarding a Preparedness Drill Spring 2023.
• Build professional relationships, increase coordination and collaboration between the established Cass County Mental Health Crisis Response Team and the developing LLBO Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team.
• Collaboration to support LLBO in their efforts to establish Tribal Adult Protection Services.

Department: Environment and Land Management
2022 Status:
• Continue collaboration on Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste at LLBO Cass Lake Transfer Station.
• Starry Stonewort hand-pulling/Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) and research partnership – Ongoing.
• Co-hosted Basic Aquatic Identification Workshop – July 2022.
• Leech Lake Restoration Act - Secretarial Land Transfer with Chippewa National Forest – Preparing legislative maps and documentation.

2023 Goals:
• Continued collaboration on Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste at LLBO Cass Lake Transfer Station.
• Continue efforts to keep locally generated funds in the community as Payment in Lieu of Taxes.
• Continue Fishery Stewardship efforts with mobile slaughter unit and Community Gardens with State Health Improvement Program (SHIP).
• Learn from each other on redistricting with 2020 Census results.
• Establish more elections and voting opportunities within the reservation boundary.
• Remain committed to current placement preferences regardless of changes to ICWA.
LLTC Alumn i Lori Martin-Kingbird Appointed to Governor Walz’s Young Women’s Cabinets

Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan Announce Appointments to the Young Women’s Cabinet.

ST PAUL – Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan today announced appointments to the Young Women’s Cabinet. During the past seven years, the Governor’s Office and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota have partnered to achieve equity in opportunities and improve the lives of young Black and Indigenous women, women of color, and gender-expansive people. The cabinet is composed of 32 young leaders across the state who come from communities that experience some of the greatest disparities in opportunity and outcomes.

“Serving on the Young Women’s Cabinet is a unique opportunity to make an impact on the lives of current and future Minnesotans,” said Governor Walz. “I am grateful for this diverse group of leaders and excited to see them pave the way for the next generation of Minnesotans to thrive.”

“Over the years, the Young Women’s Cabinet has done incredible work to engage communities across our state, and as co-chair of the initiative, I am excited to expand our impact,” said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. “Young women and gender-expansive people’s experiences are invaluable, and the stories and ideas they share are powerful tools for action. We are so grateful to these appointees for sharing their talent and leadership to continue to move our state forward.”

“Young women and gender-expansive people are at the forefront of movements for change in Minnesota and around the world. I am thrilled that the cabinet will continue leading in advocacy, grant-making, and narrative change for the future we all want to see,” said Gloria Perez, President and CEO of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. “Since 2016, the Young Women’s Cabinet has developed a legislative agenda, testified at the Capitol, and directed more than $3 million in grants to our state’s communities. We need their voices, ideas, and leadership in all spaces to create a Minnesota where all people have what they need to thrive.”

Young Women’s Cabinet:
- Rayaan Abdulkadir – Minneapolis, MN
- Sita Baker – Minneapolis, MN
- Monali Bhakta – Minneapolis, MN
- Kinzie Carlson – Owatonna, MN
- Achsah Dawson – Maple Grove, MN
- Reyna Day – St. Paul, MN
- Tam Chau Duong – Burnsville, MN
- Jennifer Galván-Bautista – Burnsville, MN
- Grace Halvorson – Moorhead, MN
- Trinity Hanif – St. Michael, MN
- Kayley Hernandez – Rochester, MN
- Sophie Hoiseth – Mankato, MN
- Scout Holding Eagle – Moorhead, MN
- Lanaya Hoysler Laurent – Woodbury, MN
- Iman Ibrahim – Eagan, MN
- Sabrina Kubisa Wena – St. Paul, MN
- Riss Leitzke – St. Paul, MN
- Madisen Lo – Maplewood, MN
- Stephany Lopez – Brooklyn Park, MN
- Solana Madison – Minneapolis, MN
- Lori Martin-Kingbird – Cass Lake, MN
- Nora Miller – Cold Spring, MN
- Mariah Mirabel Nelson – St. Louis Park, MN
- Gay Ka Mwee – St. Paul, MN
- Oluwatomi Ola – Rosemount, MN
- Oluwatomi Omiwade – Woodbury, MN
- Jessy Palmer – Orr, MN
- Richnetta Parker – Minneapolis, MN
- Itzayan Rocha-Coronado – Minneapolis, MN
- Amy Ruiz Plaza – Woodbury, MN
- Reauna Stiff – St. Louis Park, MN
- Amal Young – Bloomington, MN

About the Young Women’s Initiative
The Young Women’s Initiative of Minnesota (YW1 MN) is a partnership between the Governor’s Office, the Women’s Foundations that experience some of Minnesota, and the YWCA. The YW1 MN includes a cabinet, which is comprised of young women and gender-expansive youth aged 16-24, and an executive council, which is comprised of leaders from government, business, academia, philanthropy, and nonprofits.

YW1 MN centers the leadership and solutions of young women of color, American Indian young women, young women from Greater Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and young women with disabilities. The initiative brings together nonprofits, businesses, government, philanthropies, and young women to promote equitable systems that benefit all, grounded in the belief that when young Black, Indigenous, and women of color in Minnesota thrive, families and communities thrive. The YW1 MN’s statewide partnership and direct investments in young women and gender-expansive people are now being replicated across the nation through the National Philanthropic Collaborative of Young Women’s Initiatives.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are seeking qualified and diverse individuals who are passionate about using their knowledge, skills, and lived experiences to serve the state of Minnesota. A list of boards and commissions, including open positions, can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website.
Chairman’s Report

2022 Tribal Nations Summit, in which, is an increase of $2.9 billion from FY 2021. The $9.1 billion funding will be the most ever proposed by the White House in closing the gap in the level of needed funding for the Health Care of the Leech Lake Band members. Tribal leaders in Indian Country will be lobbying for the passage and approval in the increase of mandatory funding and “growth in funding over time” for I.H.S. as reported by President Biden.

- L.H.S. Drive Thru Pharmacy & Orthodontist – The Leech Lake RTC has been in direct consultation with Indian Health Service staff to provide a drive thru Pharmacy for the Elder’s, handicapped folks, and Leech Lake People. This proposed funding by President Biden may provide the resources for the drive thru Pharmacy. Also, we are strongly supporting the hire of an orthodontist to be able to provide braces for our children.

- Wellness Center – The Leech Lake RTC has been in discussions with the Minnesota Governor and his staff on the support of a Leech Lake Wellness Center. As we know, the Minnesota state government surplus now stands at $17.6 billion. One of the main visions for the Wellness Center is to combat the diabetes disease and provide healthy alternatives for the Leech Lakers. After further discussions, we are tentatively planning Satellite Stations in District I & II. I have spoken to Governor Walz personally about this project on three different occasions and will continue to do so.

- Land Base Returned – After 70 years, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe had finally prevailed in retaining 11,760 acres of land in the Chippewa National Forest. This particular land had been sold without permission of the land owners. Presently, the Leech Lake Band has identified another 4,000 plus acres that must be returned to Leech Lake. This track of 4,000 plus acres was transferred without the consent of Leech Lake. The Leech Lake RTC has contacted our Congressional leadership on this land matter.

- COVID-19 Financial Support – A recap of the financial support by the Biden administration for Indian Country. The 574 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. received a combined $20 billion in American Rescue Plan Act. Also noted, former President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, which provided $8 billion to tribes.

- ICWA – The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act has been challenged all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Brackeen v. Haaland (2022) is about the constitutionality of ICWA. The ICWA law aims to protect Native children from forced removal from their families, tribes, and culture and preserve Tribal sovereignty. On December 8, 2022, the Leech Lake Tribal Council had discussions on reforming and revamping the Leech Lake Advisory Group. Further discussions had been on reforming the structure and selection of membership on the Leech Lake Advisory Group because of these recent attacks on the ICWA law.

- Food Sovereignty – In the near future, a Leech Lake Delegation will be visiting the Lower Sioux’s Buffalo farm. The visit will be a two-fold purpose of the possibilities of purchasing Buffalo meat from the Lower Sioux. Also, we will have a tour of the Buffalo farm, see how the farm operates, the cost of operating a Buffalo farm, and the resources needed in operating a Buffalo farm. This would allow us to sell Buffalo meat at the Leech Lake Market and our restaurants that will provide us healthy food choices.

- Blood Quantum – The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe had a historical referendum vote in 2022 to eliminate blood quantum. The second vote was on the individual Band’s should be able to determine their own membership requirements. The historical starting point is to amend the Enrollment Ordinance criteria to include ‘all Federally recognized Chippewa blood.’ The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe has a history of amending the Election Ordinance whenever deemed necessary, with the last time being December 2021. This starting point will allow us to work in tandem with the MCT constitutional delegation committee to strengthen our enrollment process and procedures. This would be a huge step forward for Leech Lake on the way our community wants it, the way our families and relatives want it and we will not be leaving any grandchildren behind any longer.

- Red Cedar Assisted Living Center – On December 8, 2022 the Leech Lake Tribal Council had preliminary discussions and agreed to begin the planning process of how the assisted care facility can be re-opened. The Tribal Council is setting up a meeting with a native consultant, who specializes in assisted care facility management and operations. The significant importance for assisted living care for Leech Lake Elders is to keep members on their homelands so they do not have to go anywhere else for their care.

- Snowplowing – A friendly reminder about the snowplowing season. Leech Lake members will be plowed this season; the Elder’s, Handicap, Veterans will be first then our families. We are urging the families to move bicycles, canoes, barbeque equipment, etc. Post or notify the plow truck driver of areas not to plowed.

Safety note, please check the batteries in smoke detectors and changing the filter in the furnace will make it more energy efficient. Have a happy holiday season.

January

District III Elder Birthdays

From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

Leonard Headbird
Tina Headbird
Cheryl Hohl
Ramona Jackson
Joseph James
Gary Johnson
Derek Kingbird
Geneva Lawrence
Connie Lewis
Lance Lewis
Toby Losh
Tonya Losh
Daryl Lyons
Frances Lyons
Louise Masten
Julian Molash
Roger Monroe
Edward Morgan
Linda Morris

Paula Morris
Robert Morris
Hazel Nordmarken
Patrick Northbird
Margaret Papasodora
Avis Poupard
Theodora Redwing
Angela Reyes
Bryan Rock
Carol Blue
Bryan Sayers
Joan Scozzi
Thelma Smith
Anna Starr
Alice Town
LaVerne Wakanabo
Nancy White
Donald White

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

Secretary / Treasurer
Leonard Finiday

Governmental Activities
Secretary/Treasurer’s Summary

Greetings Leech Lake people! It is my honor to humbly submit this report to you regarding my activities as Secretary/Treasurer for the past month.

As I reported in the past, our work on the FY 2023 budget continues. Our Budget Team and our accounting staff have hosted public meetings in Duluth and the Twin Cities with several more planned out in the Districts of the Leech Lake Reservation. Please look out for these notices and we are still set for approval of the FY 2023 budget by December 31, 2022.

An external auditor for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Government has been selected through a Request for Proposal submission. Our Accounting and Legal staff are working on a contract so that our FY 2021 & FY 2022 audits can be completed by spring/summer of 2023. This is a good news and is where we expected to be in this process on our goal to bring the external audit schedule current.

In December, we issued a $500 payment to our Leech Lake Tribal Members. This distribution marked the first time where a distribution was done completely through the ‘Rapid Pay’ debit cards. While there were some hiccups, it went pretty smoothly. Moving forward this will be your card that payments from the Band will be issued on. Please hold onto these cards so that you are able to receive future payments when funds are issued, but if you lose a card they are easily replaced through a request to the company.

LLBO Diabetes Program Hosts Awareness Fair for National Diabetes Month

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – November is National Diabetes Awareness month, the Leech Lake Diabetes Program hosted their annual Awareness fair, Thursday, November 17 at the Facility center.

Attendees were able to get their blood pressure and blood sugar checked. Receive a foot exam alongside nail care at 8 different booths with information on diabetes prevention and management. The event also featured live music and gift bags for attendees.

According to the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), Native Americans (American Indians and Alaska Natives) have a greater chance of having diabetes than any other US racial group, making the prevention of diabetes and creating a care plan incredibly crucial for anyone currently affected by the disease.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Diabetes Program started with a federal grant awarded 20 years ago and has been serving the community ever since. They currently offer self-management education, insulin education and pump therapy. As well as a foot care clinic, nutrition education, and healing touch therapy.

To get more information on any of the services offered by the program, please call the Diabetes Center at, 218-335-4511.

In November, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was pleased to host the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Regional Tribal Operation Committee (RTOC) quarterly meeting at our Cedar Lakes Event Center. Attending the RTOC meeting were Tribal and EPA leaders from the Great Lakes Region including EPA Region 5 Administrator Deborah Shore. Our staff did a wonderful job in hosting and robust discussion on environmental concerns throughout Indian Country were the topics of conversation for the two-day event. Migwech to our Cedar Lakes event staff for the hard work that you do. Also thanks to LLBO Leadership and Staff for the hard work in making this event showcase our beautiful homelands and Reservation.

Finally, the recent elections have placed many new faces in leadership positions and I am excited for the upcoming legislative season to work on the many priorities of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The past month has held several meetings and events to ensure that Leech Lake is positioned well to move our legislative priorities forward.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you all. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me or my office. Chi Migwech!

Haaland vs Brackeen, Supreme Court Hears Arguments on ICWA

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments challenging the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act), November 9, 2022.

The arguments presented fall under the Haaland vs Brackeen case that has been ongoing since 2017. The case is set to determine whether or not ICWA is unconstitutional. The law needs 5 votes of support from the Supreme Court justices to remain as is.

The decision of this case will impact every Tribe within the United States.

CASE BACKGROUND

The Indian Child Welfare Act passed in 1978 prioritizes that Native American children remain with extended family/community members instead of being moved to homes off reservation. The law is a direct response to the disproportionate removal of Native children from their homes, families, communities and forced assimilation in the decades prior. Before ICWA, public and private agencies were removing 25 to 35 percent of Native American/Alaska Native children from their homes, and 85 percent of those children were placed in non-Native households.

Many of the arguments opposing ICWA say that law illegally discriminates against non-Native families based on race when placing Native children in homes.

This argument was the main focus of the Texas Brackeen v. Haaland case, which started the conversation around ICWA’s legal reach years prior. Plaintiffs Chad and Jennifer Brackeen, a couple from Texas, sued the Department of the Interior and former Secretary Ryan Zinke, challenging ICWA in 2017.

At the time, the couple were seeking adoption of a child who is eligible for membership in the Navajo and Cherokee nations. Their request was initially denied after Navajo Nation found a potential Native American home in New Mexico.

ICWA is widely supported by a number of stakeholders within and outside of Indian Country. At the lower court, 486 Tribal Nations, 59 Native organizations, 31 child welfare orgs, 26 states + DC, and 77 members of Congress have offered public support for ICWA.

The law is being challenged by seven individuals and three states, led by Texas. The plaintiffs contend the law requires state officials to put aside the traditional standard of doing what is best for the child, and they say it violates the Constitution’s promise of equal protection.

“ICWA operates as a unified scheme that places ‘Indian children’ in a disfavored position, depriving them of a placement decision based on their best interests, and instead requiring placements based on the child’s background,” the individual plaintiffs told the court in their filing.

Non-Indian adoptive parents end up “last in line to adopt an Indian child,” the filing said, behind a member of the child’s extended family, other members of the child’s tribe and other families “from any one of the other 573 Indian tribes, regardless of whether the tribe has any connection to the child.”

Louisiana and Indiana are also among the challengers. The law is being defended by the Biden administration and tribal leaders.

The four cases in the fight over the ICWA are consolidated under Haaland v. Brackeen.

IMPECDING DECISION

The Supreme Court is expected to release an official decision on the court case in 2023.

The earliest expected date regarding an official decision is in April, with the absolute latest date Tribal communities can expect to hear a decision is at the end of June, 2023. Currently, many states including Minnesota are keeping an eye on the case and having meetings to determine whether or not state legislation can keep ICWA in place, or add in other protective measures for Native children to not be removed from their home Tribes and culture.
Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School

Holiday Family Fun Day!

Tuesday, December 20th 2022
10:00-2:30

Come join your student for a ham dinner and activities!

Santa, free family photos, games, door prizes!

Bug O Nay Ge Shig School was recently notified that a video documentary produced by a group of Niigaane students has earned 1st place in the Elementary Documentary Division of the International Film Festival’s 18th annual My Hero Awards. The documentary titled, “Minwendaagwad Mino Mashkiki” (Good Medicine) was produced last Spring in conjunction with Kris Sorensen of In-Progress. A virtual honoring ceremony was held on December 10.
Gweyakmino Wiisinidaa!
Let’s eat the right foods!

Recipe of the Month by Chyrle LaDuke (Food Distribution), Josh Red Day (Leech Lake Diabetes Program)

Black bean and sweet potato quesadillas

Ingredients
(“Commodity Foods”)
- Cooking spray
- 1 medium sweet potato (cooked & cut into pieces)
- 1 cup black beans
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 ½ teaspoons paprika
- ½ large pepper (chili, green, red, etc.)
- 2 tablespoons sour cream, low-fat or reduced fat plain yogurt
- ½ small hot pepper, chopped (optional)
- 8 tortillas
- ½ cup baby spinach

Directions:
Saute onion and garlic using cooking spray until soft. Add sweet potato, black beans, spices, and peppers. Heat until warm. Spread potato mixture over tortilla, then top with baby spinach, cheese, and onion. Top with a second tortilla. Heat a pan on high heat and spray it with cooking spray. Brown quesadilla for about one minute on each side, until the inside is warm and the cheese is melted. Top with sour cream or yogurt. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition facts
Black beans are a low-calorie, nutrient-dense food, packed with disease-fighting antioxidants, they have anti-inflammatory properties, and are also a great source of fiber, iron, and protein. Calories 449, total fat 11g, saturated fat 3g, cholesterol 6mg, sodium 814mg, carbohydrates 73g, dietary fiber 9g, total sugars 0g, protein 15g, calcium 258mg, iron 6mg, potassium 577mg. (Ingredients with an asterisk are commodity foods.)

For more recipes and resources on this delicious recipe contact Chyrle or Josh Red Day at the Leech Lake Diabetes Clinic at 218-333-4511 or stop by.

Future Native Conservation Leaders Are Encouraged to Apply for the Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress

“It was amazing to meet people from other tribes and there’s so much to learn about culture.”

“I felt very safe. It helped me find who I was. It made me secure in my culture and cherish it.”

~ High School Students, 2022

Student attendee at the 2022 NYCALC.

The National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia is hosting the annual Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC), starting June 25 – June 30, 2023. The mission of NYCALC is to develop future Indigenous conservation leaders with skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change to better serve their schools and home communities. Students will explore culture, tradition, and science to answer a “big question” posed at the beginning of the week. Last year’s “big question” was, “How can Indigenous knowledge systems and western science collectively address climate change and other environmental issues?” Through addressing the “big question,” students will lead the congress to focus on major challenges in their communities. The students create themes based on their answers to the big question. These themes can emphasize the importance of language, elders, political involvement, traditional values, cultural preservation, economic sustainability, and environmental awareness.

Requirements for Indigenous youth groups interested in joining the Native Youth Congress should have between 3-5 students, be rising high school seniors (sophomores and juniors will be considered on a case-by-case basis) and be a part of a federally recognized Native American tribe or Native American based Indigenous group. Applications for this program can be found at NYCALC.org and will be accepted December 1 - February 28, 2023.
Senior Legal Line
A legal question and answer line for Seniors.

Dear Senior Legal Line,

My 88-year-old widowed father is in the hospital and will likely need Medical Assistance to help pay for his long term care costs in the future once he is leaves rehabilitation. He will be able to live at his home but will need help from a personal care assistant and homemaker services. He will privately pay for this for a little while with his excess assets, but his money will run out eventually. I have power of attorney and I’ve been told by my father’s social worker that he will need to go on Medical Assistance to help pay for his care. I’ve also heard that he cannot afford to pay back. I hope that this can help your father spend down his assets so that he can get MA to help him live in his home. I encourage everyone to seek advice about MA and paying for long term care as early as possible to avoid problems in the future.

Signed, Ronald

Dear Ronald,

The Elderly Waiver (“EW”) program provides home and community-based services for people who need the level of care provided in a nursing home but who choose to live in the community. In order to be eligible for an Elderly Waiver, a person must qualify for Medical Assistance.

As a single person, in order to be eligible for Medical Assistance, your father has to be asset and income eligible. I will only talk about asset eligibility in this article. Don’t rely on this article; talk with an elder law attorney to get more personalized advice, especially about income eligibility for Elderly Waiver, which can be complicated.

To be asset eligible, your father can only have $3,000 in countable assets. In your father’s case, the house is not counted as an asset. If a protected person lives there, the house is not counted. Your father is returning to the house after rehab, so he will live there and he is a protected person under the MA rules. His countable assets will have to be spent down.

Some assets will not be counted because they are exempt. Exempt assets include: (1) household goods and personal effects; (2) A motor vehicle with equity value of $4,500 or less, or that meets the MA standard of necessity; (3) Life insurance or funeral insurance policy, or revocable prepaid funeral plan, to a value of not more than $1,500, or funds up to $1,500 set aside for burial (CAUTION, life insurance policies that have a cash value (such as whole life policies) AND are not allocated for a funeral plan are assets subject to spenddown rules); (4) “Burial space items” such as a burial plot, casket, crypt, mausoleum, vault, urn, headstone, and the cost of opening and closing the grave; (5) Your homestead while your father is living in it, and for six months if he enters a nursing home. Repairs and maintenance are acceptable, but improvements should be avoided, especially if there are other people on the deed or remaindermen.

The timing of your father’s MA application is important. Once he submits his application for MA, his spenddown methods will be limited to paying for his cost of care and other approved costs. Since he knows he has excess assets, he should wait to apply for MA until he is close to his eligibility limit, perhaps a month or two before he reaches the limit. If it turns out that he was eligible before his application date, then the County can give retroactive MA coverage three months prior to the application.

Before applying to MA, your father can spend his money on anything for himself. He must be careful not to spend or gift the money to others, because of the MA lookback period regarding gifts. The MA lookback period is 5 years plus one month (the MA application month). In reviewing an MA application, the County looks back at this time period to see if your father gave away money or gifts to people. The County will add up those gifts to come up with a total value and divide it by the average cost of a month of nursing home care, approximately $8,123.00. This results in a number of months of ineligibility for MA. For example, if your father gave away an interest in real estate that was worth $30,000 by naming someone else on the deed, the gift penalty would be approximately 3.6 months of ineligibility, starting from the date of application for MA ($30,000 divided by $8,123=3.6 months).

I hope that this can help your father spend down his assets so that he can get MA to help him live in his home. I encourage everyone to seek advice about MA and paying for long term care as early as possible to avoid problems in the future.

This column is written by the Senior Citizens’ Law Project. It is not meant to give complete answers to individual questions. If you are 60 years of age or older and live within the Minnesota Arrowhead Region, you may contact us with questions for legal help by writing to:

Senior Citizens’ Law Project, Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota, 302 Ordean Bldg., Duluth, MN 55802. Please include a phone number and return address. To view previous articles, go to: www.lasnem.org.

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank feeds, nourishes, and connects people and communities across the seven counties and two tribal nations of north central Minnesota.

We are experts at sourcing and redistributing food and grocery products, which enables us to provide over five million meals each year. BUT WE CAN’T DO IT ALONE. Partnership is key to everything we do.

IT TAKES US all...
...to nourish, connect, and lead

WE INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT OUR IT TAKES US ALL CAMPAIGN.

DONATE NOW
donate.secondharvestncfb.com/ittakesusall

SECOND HARVEST NORTH CENTRAL FOOD BANK

We serve 7 counties in northeastern Minnesota and 2 reservations.

Manido-gizisoon • Little Spirit Moon

December 2022 | Debahjimon
**WILD RICE REPORT**

Leech Lake Division of Resource Management

**GREEN RICE SALES / DONATIONS**
Donated to Bug O Nay Ge Shig School and Grand Rapids

342 lbs

**CONCLUSION**
2022 marked the highest buying price ever paid for our community at 6$ per pound of green rice. We utilized the same wild rice buying plan that was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic response. This plan was efficient again in limiting congregating in large groups while waiting for a slip / ticket. There were no issues in the alternate payment system utilized and it is recommended we stick to this plan moving forward. Currently there is no update on the Take a Kid Ricing event.

**OVERALL TOTALS**
- Total green rice purchased: **73,106 lbs**
- Total amount spent: **$400,803.00**

**DAILY AVERAGES**
- Average amount of funds spent daily: **$16,032.00**
- Average daily pounds purchased: **2,924 lbs**
- Average money per sale: **$631.18**
- Average daily number of rice purchases: **25**
Cory White

Cory James White, 43, “Debwiigwoneyaash” which means “Feather Floating in the Wind” of the Loon Clan and from Deer River, MN, born December 24, 1978, in Minneapolis, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, November 18, 2022. A traditional wake will be held on Monday and Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Battle Point Community Center in Federal Dam, MN followed by a funeral on Wednesday, November 23, 10:00 a.m., at the Center. Giniw Giizhig will be his Spiritual Advisor. Pallbearers for Cory will be The Ojibwe Brave Team Members. Please bring food ahead of time.

Cory was preceded in death by his grandparents, and his father, Terrance “Chopper” White. Cory is survived by his fiancée, Jessie, Catie and Jay (whom he helped raise) and his grandson Jayden. Cory was the love of Roxanne’s life. They enjoyed the same movies, music, and TV shows. They clowned and joked with each other. They traveled and looked forward to their next summer adventure.

He is survived by his mother, Eva (Chopper), sister Josette (Michael) Staples, brothers Terrance (Crystal), Christopher (Andrea), Jacob, and Andrew Jackson, many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Cory enjoyed being in the woods, with his father. He learned from Chopper how to gather wood, how to hunt and fish, and how to live a traditional way of life. Cory would help get everyone’s cars “unstuck” in the woods. He would pick up a refrigerator for his weightlifting. He would go to powwows and meet up with his extended family. He loved to play poker and softball and to travel with his dad throughout the U.S. Chopper would say, “Get in the car, we’re leaving.” He last traveled to Bismarck with his mother to watch his “Ojibwe Brave” brothers play ball and to watch the powwow.

Cory attended Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school and Cass Lake Bena High School, where his football nickname was “Bowling Ball.” He worked at Leech Lake Housing and at Leech Lake Health Division as a driver.

Cory’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.

Kevin Locke

Kevin L. Locke age 65 of Duluth died on November 18, 2022. The son of Fred and Anna (nee; Lemieux) Marie Locke, Kevin was born Aug. 15, 1957 in Cass Lake, Minnesota. Kevin is preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Denise. He graduated from Cloquet High School in 1975 and continued his education in Brainerd, where he earned an associates degree in auto parts and service management. Kevin was a life-long learner about Ojibwe history and tradition. He earned degrees in Indigenous Leadership from Leech Lake Tribal College, and a degree in Museum Studies from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM.

He was a museum director at Leech Lake Reservation, worked at Conwed, and was a housekeeping supervisor at the Black Bear Casino Hotel. He thoroughly enjoyed the pow-wow trail, playing the drum, singing and of course, dancing. Kevin was light-hearted, intelligent, humorous and great at skating, swimming, and hunting.

He is survived by his children, Tara, Cory, Corrin, and Jackson; grandchildren, Tyler, Tre, Payton, Bella, Lucas, and Major; and siblings, David and Deborah.

Visitation starting at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22 until the service on Wednesday morning of Nov. 23 at the Onigum Center, 8825 Onigum Rd., Walker, MN 56484.

Christopher Sherman

Christopher Bear Sherman, age 44, began his journey to the spirit world on September 10, 2022 in Fargo, ND. Christopher was born and spent the early years of his childhood in St. Paul, MN and moved to Bena, MN as a pre-teen; he lived there for a majority of his life. He spent the last few remaining years of his life residing in Fargo, ND.

He had many hobbies some of which included: airbrush painting, collecting movies, and looking at the sky with his telescope. He loved to spend time with his family and friends playing cards and board games. He attended school at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School and was employed at Doyle’s Yellow Checker Cab, Inc. and his dream was to become a semi-truck driver.

Christopher is survived by his father David Smith, grandmother Shirley Young, brothers; Anthony Walfoort and Nicholas Sherman, sisters; Rachel Walfoort, Sarah Walfoort and Cassandra Lunde, special niece Chloe, special friend Lacey Culver and daughters Meeka and Becca Smith, numerous aunts, uncles nieces, nephews, cousins and beloved friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother Wanda Sherman, twin sons Michael and Derrick Sherman Davis and daughter Hannah Fairbanks.

Wake: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:00 pm at the Bena Community Center, Bena, MN. Funeral Service: Sunday, September 18, 2022 1:00 pm at the Bena Community Center, Bena, MN

Burial: George Johnson Memorial Cemetery, Winnie Dam, MN.

Pallbearers: Tyren Headbird, Dominic Roy, Brandon Mckenna, Michael Fasthorse Jason Bratton, Antonio Trujillo Jr., Jason Cash, and Justin Seelye, Alternate: Jeremy Gotchie


Darletta Tucker

Darletta Lynn Tucker, age 28 of Minneapolis, Minnesota Journeyed to the Spirit World on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at her home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was born on October 25, 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The daughter of Samuel Tucker Sr. and Mary Big Bear. At the age of 16, Darletta became a CNA, at the age of 22, Darletta drove school buses for the Chaska School District, and later she became a daycare teacher. Darletta’s natural caregiving instinct made these positions east for her.

Darletta was an admirable mother to her three children, whom she dedicated her life to. She loved to dance and sing, as a child and young adult, she danced alongside her family in the pow wow circle as a fancy shawl and jingle dress dancer. Darletta will be loved and missed by many.


On-line condolences can be directed to www.thechilsonfuneral.com

The Chilson Funeral Home in Winsted, Minnesota assisted the family with funeral arrangements.
LAWRENCE "LARRY" NORQUAY

Lawrence "Larry" Norquay, Sr., age 49, of Redby, MN, passed away on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, in Red Lake, MN.

Larry was born on February 11, 1973, in Red Lake, MN to Lawrence and Patricia (Jourdain) Morgan. He graduated from Bug O Nay Ge Shig School in Bena, MN. Larry was a hard worker and fought fires throughout the United States for the Forestry Service. He also worked at Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls. Above all, he was devoted to his children, and took pride in being a good father.

He will be lovingly remembered by his mother, Patricia Morgan; children: Misty Oakgrove, Alexandra "Ellie" Maxwell, Lawrence Norquay Jr. and Avery Norquay; two grandchildren: Anya and Azela Oakgrove; siblings: Frances "Kay" Norquay, Patrick Norquay, Gerald Norquay; very special brother, Terry Jourdain, who’s Larry’s dad called them "his boys"; aunts, Mary Gibbs; uncles: Joseph and Richard Jourdain; as well as other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Morgan; special aunt, Lucille Auginash; and numerous other family members and friends.

No services are planned at this time for Melvin.

Melvin’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.

Cynthia "Star" Taylor

Cynthia "Star" Morningstar Taylor, age 47, of The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, left this Earthly realm on Saturday, November 12, 2022. She was born on September 14, 1975, in Minneapolis, MN, the daughter of Elaine Taylor and Harold R. White, Jr.

Star loved cooking, beading, animals, playing cards, going to comedy shows, thrift ing, and spending time with family and friends. Above all else she loved her five children.

Star was an incredibly strong woman and her children are deeply comforted by the fact that she is now with the Creator and will rest in peace and light.

She is welcomed to the spirit world by her parents, Donald and Laverne; sisters, Dianna McKenzie and Donna Decker; brothers, Pete and Richard McKenzie and nephew Richard Lamorie.

She leaves behind her brothers, Steven Smith and Robert (Laurie) McKenzie; sisters, Linda and Connie McKenzie; sister-in-law, Patricia Prescott-McKenzie; nieces, Keri Decker, Gina Bice, Desiree Tucker, Bobbi Jo McKenzie, Tara McKenzie, Angie McKenzie, Twila Wilson, Paula Prentice, and Tina Heinrich; nephews, Robin Thompson, David Lamorie, Darrell Wilson, Jr., Charles Prentice, Jr. and Jay Hove and numerous great nieces and nephews and other relatives.

An overnight wake for Star will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29 and continue until her 1:00 p.m. service on Wednesday, November 30 all to be held at the Ball Club Community Center in Ball Club, MN. Jason Hart will be her Spiritual Advisor. Laying Marie to rest are Carter Barrett, Darrell Wilson, Jr., Charles Prentice, Jr., Donald Prentice, Tristan Wilson, and Christopher Wilson. Her honorary pallbearers are Bernie Smith, Donnie Sherman, Tammy Smith, Georgia Smith, Jim Smith, Glenn Smith and all her nieces and nephews. Interment will be in the St. Joseph’s Catholic Cemetery at Ball Club, MN immediately following her Wednesday service.

Marie’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.
LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Marilyn Jean Wind, Petitioner, And Colin James Rushman, Respondent

Case No. CV-22-110

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: An Emergency Order for Protection has been issued based on the Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection in this matter. You are hereby required to appear before the Judge of this Court on January 18th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in the Tribal Courtroom located at the Leech Lake Tribal Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota. If you fail to appear, judgment by default will be taken against you.

Pursuant to the Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection in this matter. You are hereby required to appear before the Judge of this Court on January 18th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in the Tribal Courtroom located at the Leech Lake Tribal Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota. If you fail to appear, judgment by default will be taken against you.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Michelle Doerr, Petitioner, And Eugene Stangel, Respondent

Case No. CV-22-121

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION AND HEARING TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: An Emergency Order for Protection has been issued based on the Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection in this matter. You are hereby required to appear before the Judge of this Court on January 18th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in the Tribal Courtroom located at the Leech Lake Tribal Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota. If you fail to appear, judgment by default will be taken against you.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Kelly R. Isham, Petitioner, v. LeRoy M. Pemberton Jr.,Respondent

Case No. CV-22-152

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Mona Marie Oothoudt, Petitioner, v. Craig A. Rico, Respondent

Case No. CV-22-153

NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION AND HEARING TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT: An Emergency Order for Protection has been issued based on the Affidavit and Petition for Order for Protection in this matter. You are hereby required to appear before the Judge of this Court on January 18th, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in the Tribal Courtroom located at the Leech Lake Tribal Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota. If you fail to appear, judgment by default will be taken against you.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of: Frieda Marie Oothoudt, v. LaVae Oothoudt, PO Box 1056, Cass Lake, MN 56484, and Stephen Howard, PO Box 1056, Cass Lake, MN 56633 were appointed to act as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Frieda Marie Oothoudt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Co-Personal Representatives 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: Ray Charles Oothoudt, DOB: 06/27/1943, Decedent

Case File No. CV-22-94

NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Ray Charles Oothoudt, died September 27, 2016. A hearing was held before the Honorable Paul W. Day, Chief Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 13th, day of July 2022 at 10:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by LaVae Oothoudt, surviving daughter of the decedent.

LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re: Estate of: Rainna LaVae Oothoudt, 8456 Old Leech Lake Tribal Court, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633 were appointed to act as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Frieda Marie Oothoudt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Emergency Probate Hearing held on July 13th, 2022, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, LaVae Oothoudt, 8456 Old Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633 were appointed to act as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Frieda Marie Oothoudt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Emergency Probate Hearing held on July 13th, 2022, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, LaVae Oothoudt, 8456 Old Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633 were appointed to act as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Frieda Marie Oothoudt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Co-Personal Representatives 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: Ray Charles Oothoudt, DOB: 06/27/1943, Decedent

Case File No. CV-22-94

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LEGAL NOTICE

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

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NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Co-Personal Representatives or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633 were appointed to act as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Frieda Marie Oothoudt, decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Co-Personal Representatives 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.
Dunn and Curtis Morris,
Parents

Court File No. CP-22-17

NOTICE
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a Child and Family Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support of Immediate Custody have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. An hearing has been scheduled for February 16, 2023 at 3:30 PM in the Leech Lake Tribal Court. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may adjudicate the Petition 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 Unknown Father, Parents

Court File No. CP-22-19

NOTICE
YOU ARE HEREBY notified that an Emergency Child Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. An admit/deny hearing has been scheduled for January 30, 2023 at 11:30 AM in the Leech Lake Tribal Court. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may grant the transfer of custody by default.
MNsure helped me find a plan that covers my prescriptions. Find free help at mnsure.org

### Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program

**Words and sentences list for October**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OJIBWEMOWIN</th>
<th>ZHAAGANAASHIIMOWIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wiisinidaa</td>
<td>Let’s eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibakade na?</td>
<td>Are you hungry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awenen bekaded?</td>
<td>Who is hungry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awegonen waa-miijijan noongom?</td>
<td>What do you want to eat today?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indaqa qaaye __________.</td>
<td>I would like__________ .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waawanoon</td>
<td>eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etiteqin</td>
<td>fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gigizhebaa-miijim</td>
<td>cereal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weweni! Gizhaagamide.</td>
<td>Careful! The drink is hot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ininamawishin zhiwiitaagan</td>
<td>Pass me the salt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ininamawishin qaa-wisaqang.</td>
<td>Pass me the pepper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gojipidan ozhazhaboo.</td>
<td>Try the oatmeal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nimazina’igan, daqa.</td>
<td>My bill, please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miiwech miiwegwech.</td>
<td>Thank you very much.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inqa-bi-izhaamin miinawaa ingoding.</td>
<td>We will come again sometime.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program
15353 Silver Eagle Drive, Bena MN 56626
Telephone: **218-665-3000**
Toll free: **1-800-265-5576**
www.bugonaygeshig.org

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

District I

Sandra Fairbanks  Dorothy Robinson  Darrell Wilson Sr.  Delores Fairbanks
Clement Nason Jr.  Bonita Cloud  Margaret Greenside  Myrna Whitebird
Donna Tibbetts  Milton Gotchie  Brian Howard  Johnny Fairbanks
Burton Alger Sr.  Howard Sherman  Douglas Harrison  Sandra Fairbanks
Joseph White Jr.  Joel Bebeau  Julie Johnson  Arlen Buckanaga
Cecelia Brard  William Bowstring  Helen Jackson  Clinton Nason Jr.

From the District I Office  Kyle, Amanda & Jenelle

District II

Kenneth Brown  Anthony Boswell  Ronald White
Mary Helling  Melodie White  Larry Robinson
Myrna Whitebird  Patricia Jackson  Larry Robinson
Mary Greene  Carol Jenkins  Bernad Rock

From the District II Office  Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle

District III*

Debra Adams  Ronald Hare  Russell Northbird
Yvonne Amundson  Jeffrey Harper  Vernon Northbird
James Baker  Douglas Harrison  Roberta Olson
Vernon Barness  Loren Howard  Lawrence Otto
Beverly Beaulieu  Lorie Howard  Jacqueline Pelletier
Carol Blue  Rosetta Howard  Teresa Persell
Sharon Brown  Teri Howard  Jerry Reyes
Arlen Buckanaga  Vikki Howard  Carol Rober
Robert Budreau  Patricia Jackson  Debbi Roberts
Myrna Whitebird  Carol Jenkins  Larry Robinson
Mary Greene  Cheryl Johnson  Bernad Rock

From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

*all coupons must be used within Birthday Month*
How to avoid spinning your wheels when shopping for a used car

Used cars have gotten more expensive during the pandemic. It pays to do some work up front, so you'll feel better driving out. In fact, start by researching the price of cars you're interested in. Then, before you shop for the car, shop for financing. Check with banks, credit unions, and finance companies — you don’t have to finance a car through the dealer.

When you think you’ve found the car you want:

- **Call the dealer.** Make sure the car is really on the lot and get the out-the-door price in writing, before you head to the dealership.

- **Get a vehicle history report and check the Buyer’s Guide.** The report will tell you that car’s history, and the Guide will tell you if it has a warranty or is being sold “as is.”

- **Discuss the out-the-door price first if you want to talk financing with the dealer.** That means the total price, before financing, including taxes and fees.

- **It’s ok to say no to add-ons, or at least ask the price.** Add-ons are extra things dealers offer along with the car, like extended warranties and service contracts. Make sure you know what they are, how much they cost, and how they’ll change your monthly payment.

- **Review the terms before you sign for the purchase and financing.** Make sure everything you agreed to is in writing. Spoken promises are hard to enforce.