2024 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Election Update
Ten hopefuls file for Chairperson seat, Fourteen for District III Representative seat.

By MICHAEL CHOSA

CASS LAKE – The 2024 election cycle is in full swing at reservations belonging to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe with the close of the candidate filing period on January 22, 2024. The position of Chairperson and one of three District Committee persons on each member reservation will be decided this year.

On Leech Lake, the Chairperson position along with the District III Representative seat are set to be decided. At the close of filing it was revealed that ten hopefuls, including incumbent Chairman Faron Jackson Sr were seeking election to the post top in the tribal government. In the District III Representative race, fourteen band members signed up for the seat that will be vacated by Leroy Staples-Fairbanks III who announced in 2023 that he would not be seeking reelection in the 2024 election cycle.

With filing closed, the potential candidate pool will now be vetted against the eligibility criteria set forth in the MCT Election Ordinance.

Requirements include: being an enrolled member of the MCT and LLBO; residing on the reservation for twelve-months prior to the Primary Election date; being 21 years of age on or before the Primary Election date; and must never have been convicted of a felony of any kind or convicted of a lesser crime involving theft, misappropriation or embezzlement of money, funds, assets or property belonging to an Indian tribe or organization.

The Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee will hold a public certification meeting beginning at 9:00AM on February 9, 2024 at Cedar Lakes Casino Event Center in Cass Lake.

At this meeting, candidates will be determined eligible or ineligible to run for office. All eligible candidates will be certified and appear on the ballot for the April 2, 2024 Primary Election. Immediately following the certification, a lottery will be conducted for each race to set the order in which candidates will appear on the ballot.

Any candidate who captures more than 50% of eligible votes cast during the Primary Election on April 2 will be declared the winner. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes on Primary Election Day, The top two candidates for each position will face off in the General Election which will be held on June 11, 2024.

Tribal elections are of paramount importance to the Leech Lake Reservation, serving as a cornerstone of tribal governance and the preservation of Native American sovereignty. These elections provide tribal members with the chance to select leaders who will advocate for their interests, make critical decisions on tribal matters, and uphold cultural traditions.

The outcomes of these elections can have a profound impact on the direction and policies of the tribe, underscoring the significance of active participation from tribal members. Unity, respect for tribal traditions, and the pursuit of a better future for all are central themes in this electoral process.

Band members are encouraged to stay up to date on the latest election happenings by visiting our website at www.leechlakenews.com.

A list of certified candidates, the order they will appear on the ballot, a list of polling places, election board and absentee voting information will be posted in mid-February. Information on upcoming elections for Local Indian Councils, Leech Lake Housing Board and Bug O Nay Ge Shig School board will also be released in the next few months.

The March issue of Debahjimon will feature a special section focused on the 2024 Primary Election. All available information on the upcoming election will be compiled in this issue.

It will also feature written essays from all of the candidates who choose to participate detailing their backgrounds and campaign platforms.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES (2024)
• January 12 Opening of filing period for candidates
• January 22 Filing period closes
• February 9 Public Certification Meeting (Cedar Lakes Casino Event Center, Cass Lake)
• February 12 Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC
• February 15 Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.
• February 22 Deadline for Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals.
• February 23 Notice of Primary Election
• April 2 Primary Election (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
• June 11 General Election (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
The Treaty of Washington, commonly referred to as the 1855 Treaty, was signed on February 22, 1855 between the United States government and representatives of the Pillager & Lake Winnibigoshish and Mississippi bands of Ojibwe. This treaty established a reservation at Leech Lake for the Pillager & Lake Winnibigoshish bands and a reservation at Mille Lacs bands to the Mississippi bands. These reservations were established a full three years before Minnesota was admitted to the Union and recognized as a State in 1858. Much of the land in what would become Minnesota was acquired earlier through treaties with the Ojibwe in 1837 and 1854, and treaties with the Dakota in 1851. The United States wanted fur collections from the Ojibwe before the Europeans arrived. The U.S. Government was able to achieve this because they had already signed treaties with the Ojibwe, which gave the United States certain hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the ceded territory.

The Treaty Rights While both the 1837 and 1854 treaties included stipulations that the Ojibwe would retain their hunting and fishing rights in the ceded territory, the 1855 did not explicitly state this. This led to legal battles that are still being decided in court cases between band members and various county and state agencies. At issue, are the usufructuary rights of Ojibwe band Members to hunt, fish and gather in the territories ceded in the 1855 treaty. In a highly publicized decision, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed these rights for the Mille Lacs band in their 1999 decision, see quote below. Established in 2010, the 1855 Treaty Authority is leading the fight to have these rights legally recognized. The group includes members from the Ojibwe communities of East Lake, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Sandy Lake and White Earth. Twenty or so members meet monthly to work on strategies to force a legal decision on the matter and put the issue to rest once and for all. The most effective tactic to date, is public demonstrations of off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights through out the ceded territory.

These demonstrations have included setting net and harvesting wild rice. The participating tribal members hope to receive citations from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or county officials. The 1855 Treaty Authority then represents these Band members in state court, with the hope that a decision will be issued and the right to hunt, fish and gather returned.

The Anishinaabe-Ojibwe derive these rights from Gitchi Manidoo, the creator. These rights predate contact with the Europeans” says Bedonahkwaa, Dale Greene, 1855 Treaty Authority board member and enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, “The concept of land ownership was such a foreign idea to the Indians at that time. How can you own the land? Will you pick it up and bring it with you wherever you go?” He further states: “We maintained the right of occupancy, the right to exist off of our resources. The right to hunt, fish, gather and travel were unalienable to the Indians. The 1855 is important because it does not state that we are giving up any of these rights in the ceded territories. That’s the bottom line. We’ve already won, we are just waiting for the decision.” Another crucial factor in the interpretation of the 1855 treaty is what is known as the reserved rights doctrine, which holds that any rights that are not specifically addressed in a treaty are reserved to the tribe. In other words, treaties outline the specific rights that the tribes gave up, not those that they retained.

The courts have consistently interpreted treaties in this fashion, beginning with United States v. Winans (1905), in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a treaty is “not a grant of rights to the Indians, but a grant of rights from them.” Any right not explicitly extinguished by a treaty or a federal statute is considered to be “reserved” to the tribe.

“In 1837, the United States entered into a Treaty with several Bands of Chippewa Indians. Under terms of this Treaty, the Indians ceded land in present-day Wisconsin and Minnesota to the United States, and the United States guaranteed to the Indians certain hunting, fishing and gathering rights on the ceded land.

We must decide whether the Chippewa Indians retain these usufructuary rights today. The State of Minnesota argues that the Indians lost these rights through an Executive Order in 1850, and 1855 Treaty, and the admission of Minnesota into the Union in 1858.

After an examination of the historical record, we conclude that the Chippewa retain the usufructuary rights guaranteed to them under the 1837 Treaty".

-Justice Sandra Day O’Connor,
U.S. Supreme Court, 1999
The Newly Established Leech Lake Women’s Council Holds First Meeting at Cedar Lakes

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Women’s council held their first meeting January 11, 2024, at Cedar Lakes.

This first meeting focused on the history of a traditional women’s council, sharing ideas on ways to increase the presence of women in leadership roles within the reservation communities and gender disparities in the work place. Participants were able to attend the meeting both in person and on zoom.

Prior to colonization, when decisions needed to be made within a Tribe, women gathered to engage in discussion, to gain consensus on a decision or manner of addressing or resolving an issue. Once consensus was reached, the women informed the Chief of their decision.

The Chief was a spokesman and took direction from the Tribes various councils regarding decisions. The updated draft of the MCT constitution looks to restate this practice. A youth council was recently established and an active women council are expected to follow.

Further reading information regarding the Leech Lake Women council can be found on their official Facebook page. The next Women’s Council planning meeting will be Wednesday, January 31 at 5:00pm – 7:30pm at the Tribal College.

Tentative Women’s Council and Candidate Forum Schedule

- January 31, 2024 Women’s Council Location: LLTC 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- February 21, 2024 Women’s Council Location: TBD 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- March 6, 2024 Candidate Forum Location: TBD Evening
- March 13, 2024 Women’s Council Location: TBD 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- April 3, 2024 Women’s Council Location: TBD 5:00pm – 7:30pm

This schedule only covers up until the Primary Election in April.
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, October Quarterly Meeting

The Band recently held its Quarterly Meeting on January 5, the meeting was held at the Bena Community Center and broadcasted to Band Members online via livestream.

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE — The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe held their Quarterly Meeting in person Friday, January 5, at the Bena community center.

“We want to build a nation that is strong, and we want to get away from the thinking that we are a band. We are a nation. We are the Leech Lake Nation. We have to keep that in the forefront for how we plan to move together. We have to keep our ways of Traditional ways of life strong, and educate leaders while we expand our self determination,” said Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson Sr.

Jackson gave the events opening remarks and delivered the Chairman’s report. Highlights from the Chairman’s report include; an update on the secretarial land transfers which now includes “the Leech Lake restoration technical correction act” that includes additional land acres, developments on the IHS drive-thru pharmacy, the MCT constitution draft, and the announcement of awarded grant dollars to begin a Leech Lake Wild Rice finishing plant.

Secretary-Treasurer, Lenny Fineday, followed the Chairman by giving a report on the financial data from government operations. A meeting regarding gaming operations financials will be held February 8, 2024, an active Tribal ID will be required for entry. The Band is continuing to review best methods to privately distribute gaming financial information to Band Members, information will be shared once a decision has been reached. Contact your district representative if you have questions, comments or concerns about the change regarding gaming financials.

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

For those who were unable to attend in person, a livestream of the event is available on the official Leech Lake Vimeo and Facebook page. Full copies of the Chairmans and Secretary Treasurers reports can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this edition of the Debahjimon newspaper.

Quarterly Meetings are held every three months on a rotating schedule between each district on the reservation. The next Quarterly Meeting will be held in April 2024.

Quarterly Report Summaries

Duluth Office

• Held 3 Local Indian Council (LIC) meetings.

Twin Cities Office

• A number of health and safety issues around the office building are being addressed.
• A 2 day hand drum class was offered in the last reporting period. Participants were able to bring drums home after class.
• A halloween treat event was held at the TC office, 148 bags of candy were given out as well as 800 Hats and mittens.
• On November 28th, The TC office held a vaccine event for Covid and flu shots. $100 gift cards were given to those who received a Covid booster.

Hand sanitizers, wipes and hats/mittens.

• Office held CPR/First Aid and Narcan Training on November 8.

• The Duluth office now has an Elder Advocate to assist elders twice a month.

• The TC office partnered with the volunteer lawyer network to hold two expungement clinics during the reporting period.

• The TC office hosted an Elders Christmas event, December 5, 2023.

• The TC office offered 4 sewing classes within the reporting period and partnered with AIM healing medicine program to offer an applique class as well.

Education

• The 2024 objectives for the Education Administration include implementing and hiring staff for the Leech Lake Leadership program and Gaagiizisiwad.

• The PFAS issue at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig continues to be addressed but is facing delays due to incomplete audits for FY 2021,2022.

• The post-secondary education program has awarded 181 student awards this previous reporting period.

• Community Gardens will be open again April-September 2024. New developments for the gardens include classes on how to harvest/preserve the food.

Health

• “American Indian Food Sovereignty” state funding will develop hydroponic food growing operations. This will be connected to the current food distribution building which has been remodeled and expanded.

• LLBH has begun offering different levels of Reiki classes including master classes to all community members.

• LLBH now has salves, teas, sage, and asemaa available in the waiting room for community members.

Public Safety

• Bi-weekly meetings with Public Safety and other LLBO staff on addressing fentanyl overdoses. Identified community navigators and civil commitments as top priority areas.

• Pets for life clinic has purchased a mobile clinic that is in the process of being set up to be able to travel to communities and offer services. The pets for life veterinary center will break ground in spring 2024.

Housing

• Housing inspections conducted 337 unit inspections for substandard conditions in the LLHAA stock.

• The Modernization Department renovated 17 vacant homes and renovated 27 occupied units with health and safety updates during the reporting period.

Tribal Development

• The broadband committee continues to meet weekly to address two areas of the grant project.

• Sugar Point Community Center is getting a kitchen renovation and cemetery expansion.

• A 3.6 million dollar grant was awarded to build a Bena shelter.
Leech Lake Tribal Council and Cass County Hold Annual Meeting, Discuss Achievements and 2024 Goals

Tribal Chairman Faron Jackson expresses gratitude for 10 Years of effective partnership, emphasizing the power of truth and trust in community development.

By KAYLA DUOOS

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

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

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

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

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

REPORTS

Department: Judiciary and Legal

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

2024 Goals:
- Continue to cooperate on new opportunities for use of the judicial Center
- Continue to work in partnership on Juvenile Justice Initiatives – Continue to provide Juvenile Detention

Department: Law Enforcement

2023 Status:
- E911 House Number Replacement – Cass Lake and Onigum remain all other areas have been completed
- Meetings between staff continue with the addition of Records and Dispatch including the other 4 counties that share jurisdiction
- Narcotics investigations continue in collaboration and working well
- Offering joint training opportunities to all partners providing more options for all staff
- Meetings continue regarding our Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement and the impacts of new legislation

2024 Goals:
- Complete E911 House Number replacement/addition in the Cass Lake and Onigum areas
- Continue to build relationships and learn from all dispatch and records departments that share jurisdiction with LLBO
- Continue to build training opportunities with LLBO dispatch, records, patrol, and investigators
- Complete a cooperative memorandum of understanding to replace the existing Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement

Department: Roads and Trails

2023 Status:
- Partnering on US 2 Steering Committee
- Partnering on LLBO Safety Plan updates
- Worked together on Bena intersection improvements at CSAH 8 and US 2

2024 Goals:
- Collaborate on 2025 construction projects, currently exploring Cass Lake area projects on CSAH 21, 22, 206, 207 & CR 146, 147, 149, and 151.
- Work with LLBO Environmental Lands Department on 401 Clean Water Act process
- Partnership to develop noxious weed control program within Reservation on County Highways
- Work together on Bena Trail improvements on US 2.
- Continue to work together on identifying trail needs within the Reservation

Department: Health

2023 Status:
- Support Preventative Services
- Support homelessness initiatives
- Collaboration with COVID-19 and other vaccines
- Support spending Bush Grant Funds on juvenile homeless shelter furniture
- Establish ongoing quarterly meetings for leadership in Child Protection
- Build professional relationships while increasing coordination between the established Cass County Mental Health Crisis Response Team and the developing LLBO Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team

2024 Goals:
- Improve access and response time with Cass County Mobile Crisis Team for community members in crisis
- Support homelessness initiatives including those to assist Juveniles and families addressing child protection issues
- Establish ongoing monthly meetings to strengthen our partnership in delivery of vast array of Human Services programs
- Collaboration to support LLBO in their efforts to establish Tribal Adult Protection Services
- Collaboration on opioid crisis prevention and support initiatives for those currently impacted

Environment/Land Management

2023 Status:
- AIS infestations are trending down, attributed to joint efforts and partnerships in education, control and initiatives
- LLBO’s public demonstration of DASH during the Lab to Lakes event
- Continued collaboration on Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste at LLBO Cass Lake Transfer Station
- Leech Lake Restoration Act - Secretarial Land Transfer with Chippewa National Forest – Maps provided related to needed GIA Trail Agreements
- Regulated material inspections and abatement partnership ongoing

2024 Goals:
- Coordinate inter-governmental communication on permit applications and approvals – Share LIDAR Data
- Co-host Basic Aquatic Identification Workshop as done in 2022
- Coordinate on terrestrial invasive species control/prevention – Emerald Ash Borer
- Coordinate wetland application and violation review - Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) invitations
- Smart Salt Brine grant application to retrofit LLBO plows
- Semi-annual staff meeting

General and Legislative

2023 Status:
- Absentee voting at LLBO government center – ongoing
- Collaboration on legislative priorities to better understand impacts to those we both serve
- Collaboration on Opioid Settlement Funded projects continues
- Workforce Housing partnership continues with success

2024 Goals:
- County share of State share of Tribal/State tax agreements and Local Option Sales Tax – Continue efforts to keep locally generated funds in the community to be used on projects that benefit those we both serve
- Update our State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) Priorities to include opioid prevention and support for impacted individuals and families
- Build relationships between new staff.

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

FROM YOUR LEECH LAKE MARKET
Chairman’s Report

Chairman Faron Jackson Sr.

Governmental Activities
Chairman’s Summary

Monthly Report

Boozhoo, my relatives, friends, community members and all! The Leech Lake RBC Tribal Council is moving forward on an ambition agenda with Leech Lake priorities before the U.S. Congress. The Tribal Council members continue to work diligently in lobbying for unmet need dollars for the Leech Lake Band and its People. As we continue to move forward, here is some of the news being reported to the great Leech Lake Nation.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Awarded $1.5 million for Tiwahe Project – On January 21, 2024 Chairman Jackson, Sr. had been officially notified that Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was selected for the Tiwahe Program Social Services Demonstration Project. U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith had announced Leech Lake was selected for this innovative program that allows participating Tribal Nations to integrate certain services for their members and incorporate culturally-appropriate components. Leech Lake Band’s inclusion in the Tiwahe program and new grant will help improve the delivery of services for children and families while ensuring Chippewa traditions and values are incorporated into the programs. Senator Smith had stated that the Tiwahe program is a crucial part of fulfilling our trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations and Native communities. Chairman Jackson, Sr. wanted to commend Ms. Budde on her tireless work in proving that Leech Lake needed to be a part of this program.

Leech Lake had Received $80 million for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Tribal Governments – In 2021, Leech Lake had an infusion of $80 million in resources to fight the pandemic and support households and businesses in Indian Country struggling with its economic impact. On January 9, 2024 the Leech Lake RBC had passed a resolution to create a Tribal Reserve Fund with an initial fund amount of $40 million. These reserve funds had been derived from the savings of not spending any of the Leech Lake General Funds. The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Tribal Governments had been used to fund Leech Lake Gaming and the Tribal Administration for over 2-years. As we move forward, Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stressed that a great many of our people are still suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic. As of today, we have high inflation, electric disconnect notices, propane for heat, families looking for employment, families are dealing with the loss of loved ones as a result from the pandemic, and putting food on the table. As the Chairman, I will recommend to the RBC Tribal Council that we provide an economic stimulus package in the amount of $1,500 dollars for Adults and $500 dollars for people under 18 years of age to be transferred into their trust accounts.

Leech Lake Wellness Center Groundbreaking Slated for the Spring of 2024 – After years of the RBC members lobbying Minnesota Governor Walz, he and the MN Legislature had awarded Leech Lake $24 million for three (3) Wellness Centers in District I, II, and III. The District III Wellness Center will have the official groundbreaking this spring and the Wellness Centers in District I & II will follow shortly. The purpose of the wellness centers will be determined by the community needs that could include exercise areas, health programs, and community programming.

Leech Lake Enrollment Criteria still on the Table with the MCT, TEC – On January 11, 2024 the MCT, TEC had their quarterly meeting at the Fond Du Lac Lake Superior Band of Chippewa. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stressed the importance of addressing the enrollment criteria for our grand babies and the seventh generation. He further stated, “MCT Resolution 32-15 has been approved by the TEC in 2015, re-approved in 2023 and approved for implementation in 2023.” Chairman Jackson, Sr. has drafted a LLBO RBC Resolution to Implement the MCT Resolution 32-15 on MCT Indian Blood for Enrollment Eligibility. Chairman Jackson Sr. has made the statement over and over to the MCT, TEC members that this resolution is not an ending point to the question on enrollment but the beginning steps in a process that can run in tandem with MCT Constitution Delegation Committee while they continue their due diligence on re-drafting the MCT Constitution. The MCT People have spoken by an unofficial vote of allowing the individual Bands to decide their own enrollment criteria. Finally, Leech Lake is a sovereign and an independent Nation that exercised those rights before a treaty(s) was ever signed or the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe existed. Its time, we take a stand for our children, the people, and the seventh generation by accepting them as part of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and our Great Nation.

Food Sovereignty for Leech Lake – In 2023, a delegation of Leech Lake employees and Chairman Jackson, Sr. had visited and toured the Prairie Island Community Buffalo farm. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had the privilege of Prairie Island’s insight and sharing of information on how they started a buffalo farm. Prairie Island also had stated that they would open to a few seed buffalo for a Leech Lake farm. Presently, the USDA-DOI has a Tribal Buffalo Initiative. The USDA has also strengthened bison markets through a new Bison Purchasing Procurement Agreement and the Tribal - Self-Determination Demonstration Project. USDA had also strengthened value-added bison meat processing through the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council’s creation of a mobile buffalo processing trailer and the development of the first Indigenous Animals Meat Processing Grant. At one time, the buffalo had roamed the Leech Lake territory and were an important meat source in our diet. This new food market would create jobs and provide a much healthier food source in our every day diets. This spring, we will be providing a plan before the people to start a buffalo farm on the Leech Lake Nation.

AhnjiBeMahDiz Recovery Center for Woman Opens February 2, 2024 – In long awaited news, Leech Lake will have a 20 bed Adult Women’s program. They will have access to outpatient clinics, and continuing mental health and substance use disorder care. On site sweat lodge and access to community ceremonies. Chairman Jackson, Sr. has advocated for many years for the Woman’s Recovery Center. A Chi-Mii-Gwetch to the Leech Lake Administration and AhnjiBeMahBiz staff for their hard work.

Former U.S. Representative Rick Nolan had Appointed Chairman Jackson, Sr. to the Northern Pines Mental Health Board – In 2019, Chairman Jackson, Sr. had accepted the appointment because we needed a mental health center located near the southern part of Leech Lake. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had lobbied for a satellite office in Walker, MN. He can proudly report today; a Northern Pines Mental Health Satellite Center is open in Walker that will serve Leech Lake Band members. Mental health services offered are for adults, family, children, adolescents, couples, and group. The treatment type is person-centered, clinical treatment, peer counsellor, and practitioner.

Governor Walz had Appointed Chairman Jackson, Sr. to the Non-Attorney Commission on Judicial Selection – In 2024, this commission shall provide recommendations on the selection of candidates in judicial districts. For instance, when a county has a judicial officer retiring than the commission will do interviews and make recommendations on those candidates.

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council News – MIAC has reached out to Jodi Harpstead, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had reported that the Minnesota counties had not been following the Federal requirements under the ICWA law. Commissioner Harpstead had pledged that a follow-up meeting with the Tribes and county agencies that will address the concerns with the out of compliance questions and the Indian Child Welfare Act. In February, I will be able to report more information when the actual meeting is convened with the counties.

Safety note, the weather on the Leech Lake was bitterly cold but now it’s much warmer. In the past month, we had a lot of freeze ups. Please check your heating tape, the pipes in your risers, that none of your pipes are exposed to the cold, and finding ways to insulate those areas with snow or hay. Please be safe and take care!
Secretary Treasurer Monthly Report

Secretary / Treasurer Leonard Fineday

Governmental Activities
Secretary/Treasurer’s Summary

 secretory Treasurer’s Office

Monthly Report

Greetings Leech Lake Band members! It is my privilege and honor to provide you with this report for activities undertaken in January 2024, including a quarterly report for Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter one.

Enterprise Quarterly Report
On our enterprise side, for the first quarter of FY 24, Total Casino, Small Business and Gaming Administration revenue increased by 5.2% over last year, while the Total Cost of Goods decreased by 24.6% over last year. Total Payroll Expense increased by 2.35% over last year. Total Operating Expenses decreased by 3.37% over last year. The total Net Profit from Casino, Small Business and Gaming Administration for the first quarter of FY 24 increased by 21.28% over the same period last year.

Audit & FY25 Budget Update
Our Finance team and our auditors at REDW have completed the FY 21 audit, and it has been submitted to the federal clearinghouse. Work has immediately commenced on the FY 22 audit and the team is continuing to work diligently to ensure that gets completed as expeditiously as possible.

Work also continues for the FY 25 Budget. A preliminary budget will be presented to the RBC for initial approval in February as contemplated by the Budget Ordinance. Public meetings will then be held in the three Districts as well as in Duluth and Minneapolis. Final adoption of the FY 25 Budget should take place at the April Quarterly Meeting.

Association of Minnesota Counties Update
On January 2, 2024, Leech Lake leaders joined tribal leaders and county officials for a meeting at the Association of Minnesota Counties in St. Paul, MN, to discuss ways that tribes and counties can continue to work together. Items of discussion ranged from child protection and education to infrastructure and transportation issues. It was a good discussion, and I am thankful Cass County Commissioner Rick Haaland was present and that Grand Portage Chairman Bobby Dechampe helped organize the event. We will continue discussions with the counties and find paths forward for working together.

Reserve Fund Update
On January 9, 2024, the RBC met and approved the establishment of a Reserve Fund, allocating $40 million. This Reserve Fund was created from Fiscal Years 2020, 2021 and 2022 General Funds, as we were able to reallocate General Fund expenditures from those years utilizing the Revenue Loss formula provided in the American Rescue Plan Act’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. This recategorization of funds allowed us to place most of the gaming allocation and tax agreement dollars from those fiscal years into this Reserve Fund.

The Resolution enacted by the RBC requires that the Reserve Fund “shall be meticulously controlled,” and mandates that the RBC maintain “transparent and accountable management of the Fund, with regular reporting and oversight to ensure its use aligns with the Band’s best interest.” The establishment of this Fund is important and will help ensure the Band’s financial stability into the future.

Cannabis Update
The RBC and the Cannabis Taskforce continue to work on implementing the LLBO Cannabis Code enacted in August 2023. On January 9, 2024, the RBC approved the allocation of funds for the newly appointed Cannabis Regulatory Commission and an initial contribution for the Leech Lake Cannabis Company. The Regulatory Commission has begun its work on developing the regulatory structure pursuant to the Cannabis Code. The LL Cannabis Company is working on building plans. Interviews for the Board of Directors for the Company will take place in early February, with plans to host a Band member public meeting in early March to discuss in more detail the implementation plan for cannabis on Leech Lake.

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Update
On January 10 and 11, 2024, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe held its quarterly Tribal Executive Committee and Subcommittee meetings at the Fond du Lac Reservation. At the Legislative Subcommittee meeting, we discussed the financial operations of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, approved necessary personnel actions, and heard a presentation on the proposed updates to the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act. At the Tribal Executive Committee meeting, we approved resolutions, including one in support of the MIFPA revisions and one in support of amending the List Act to list each MCT Band separately. We also heard presentations from Sandy Lake Band and the Constitutional Reform delegation.

Tribal State Partnership Update
On January 16 and 17, 2024, I attended the kickoff meeting for the Tribal State Partnership grant with tribal and state leaders from each of the states who received funding from the grant (Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon and Alaska). It was a great first meeting and it was good to hear about the work that has already been accomplished. The statewide Minnesota team will be meeting in March at Northern Lights Casino to continue the initial work of implementing this grant.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS UPDATE
On January 23 and 24, 2024, I attended a retreat for the National Congress of American Indians Executive Committee. This retreat provided an opportunity for the incoming executive committee to face-to-face and to get to know one another better, as well as dive into important policy discussions. We talked at length about NCAI’s operations and strategy for upcoming two years. It was a very helpful event, and included some time with Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. I look forward to reporting back on the progress we are making to protect and advance sovereignty as we advocate for the benefit of all of Indian Country.

Land Transfer Update
Plans are underway to host a land transfer ceremony, commemorating the implementation of the Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Act. This transfer will include almost 12,000 acres of federal Forest Service land back to Leech Lake. The ceremony was originally planned for the end of 2023, but will now take place sometime in the Spring of 2024. We are working diligently to ensure this transfer takes place and some of our illegally taken land is rightfully restored.

As we work on implementing the existing law, we are still advocating for an amendment that would allow for the transfer of additional acreage that was identified as illegally taken. This past month, progress has been made in the Senate to move our amendment forward and we are hoping the Committee on Indian Affairs will mark up the bill soon.

This concludes my report for January 2024. As always, it is a privilege and honor to serve each of you. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. Chi mitwewch!
As part of their study of genotypes and DNA, Bug O Nay Ge Shig Biology students participated in two labs: one to determine their blood type and one to extract the DNA from strawberries.
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police

2023 Illegal Drug Statistics

via LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL POLICE

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

Approximate total of seized drugs in 2023

- Crystal Methamphetamine ............................................................ 49.6 grams
- Fentanyl............................................................................................. 66.99 grams
- Powder Cocaine.................................................................................. .28 grams
- Gabapentin Prescription Pills ............................................................ 131 pills
- Processed Marijuana ........................................................................... 1,791 grams

Twenty-Five (25) arrests were made for drug charges with thirteen (13) of those being adult males and twelve (12) being adult females.

Leech Lake Tribal Police Officers seized twenty-one (21) firearms, consisting of both handguns and long guns.

Officers responded to Fifty-Seven (57) overdoses consisting of both non-fatal and fatal. Forty-One (41) doses of Narcan were administered by Officers throughout the year.

The approximate street value of the above listed drugs is $51,543.

*Please note this is a rough estimate broken down to “Street Values” and that the prices on illegal drugs can fluctuate up or down on a daily basis depending on supply and demand in the local area.

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

Phone (218) 335-8277   Toll Free 888-622-9225   Fax (218) 335-8297
Leech Lake Tribal Police • 200 Sailstar Drive • PO Box 187 • Cass Lake, MN 56633

Healthy for you.
Helpful for all.

GET VACCINATED TO HELP SAVE LIVES

Sanford Health is partnering with your neighborhood pharmacy to provide easy access to important vaccines. Together, we are making it easier than ever for you to protect yourself and help prevent the spread of these diseases.

Visit helpfulforall.org to see a list of participating pharmacies.

Delivered by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. Please join us as we reflect on the past year and take a look at what we can expect in the year 2024.

03/22/24

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03/22/24
Obituaries

**Violet Reyes**

Violet Julia Reyes, the Matriarch of the Humphrey Family, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As an adult, Violet moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where she married Richard Reyes Sr., and had three children. Later she met Duane Holmes, and together they had five children. She worked as a tailor for many years, retiring in her seventies. The legacy she leaves is her Ojibwe floral beadwork. She acquired her skills from her mother and passed them on to her grandson Wayne. Violet lived for 95 years taking care of her family and all her loved ones. Her door was always open to those in need of a home cooked meal and a place to stay.

Violet is survived by her daughters, Nickie & Vicky; sons, Daniel, Jon, Jack & Scott Campbell; sisters, Esther Bogda and Avis Poupard; special companion, her dog, Jackson; grandchildren, Jessy, Kayla, Shileen, Leanne, Wayne, Jon Jr, Christopher, Russ, Josh, Brandon, and Anthony who called her, ‘Old School Grandma’.

Preceded in death by her sons, Richard Jr, Otto, and Wayne; parents, George & Mamie; brothers, Lawrence, Raymond, George Jr, Frank, Wallace and Wilbur; sisters, Dolly and Florence; the ‘Bugga’ Lawrence Jr.; and many other family members.

Those helping to lay Violet to rest are David Boe, Van Reyes, Christopher Reyes, Royal Rock, Richard Parker, and Jim Johnsen. Her services will be held at All Nations Indian Church, 1515 E 23rd St. Minneapolis, MN, with Pastor Richard Latterner officiating.

**Robert Matthews**

Robert Matthews, age 69. She was born on November 16, 1954, in Denver, CO. She made her way to the spirit world on Thursday, December 28, joining her mother Valentine (Briseno) and father Arthur Chase.

She will be remembered as a beautiful person who always had a smile on her face. Bobbie enjoyed playing the slot machines at the casino, people watching, and visiting family and friends. Bobbie loved to listen to music, walking in the rain, cooking amazing food, and taking her great-grandchildren to the park. Bobbie would always watch "Grey's Anatomy," "Law & Order," and "Lifetyle" movies on t.v.

**Fayleen Haugen**

Fayleen Frances Haugen (Frazier) ‘Mooka’am” meaning “Sunrise” or ‘Bungii-waabibaagiibito” meaning “Little White Running Horse” blessed the world with her presence on July 4, 1965, and she ran into her daughter’s arms in Heaven on December 27, 2023. The precious daughter of Lynda Smith. She was later adopted by Kathy and Carl Frazer, who taught her to be the strong woman that her children modeled themselves after.

Fayleen proudly graduated in 1983 from WHA, and later obtained her degree in early childhood from the LLTC. She was a loving, beautiful soul. She was blessed with Lynda, Jacinta, and James (Matthew) with her first love Jimmy Morrison, she later married Thomas Haugen, and was then blessed with Catherine, Jessica, Carles, and Tiffany completing her family. She later helped raise her other son, and children’s brother Michael. Fayleen loved her family with everything she had in her, when her grandchildren started arriving, they became her pride, and joy; all 20 of them. She spent many hours with her...
grandsons going bug hunting and teaching them about the great outdoors. Fayleen was a gifted writer; her poems were enough to bring tears to your eyes. She was a fierce protector in her family and wasn’t afraid to show that motherly attitude to anyone who messed with any of her babies. Later in her life she met Kris who she loved and built a life with on the shores of leech lake. When our family lost Lynda, she took up rock picking to be closer to her daughter; often spending many hours with loved ones finding special rocks that spoke to her beautiful soul. Sunrises were a special time, and she never failed to get a great picture of anything that had to do with nature. The 4th of July was always a special time, her family liked to throw her big birthday parties even though she pretended she didn’t want one. It was always said that the fireworks were going off to celebrate her special birth. Fayleen was the hardest worker in anything she did, cleaning cabins with her daughters for a few summers always proved to be a tiring time because of her immaculate attention to detail; but it was also spent laughing with her. She always had a story to share with someone. Later, after her children left the nest, Fayleen adopted her fur babies, Meanie and Yoda. Fayleen was the best teacher in the world, and raised wonderful children who model their good hearts after her, she took so much pride in how her children became such wonderful adults with her guidance. Our world will be so much dimmer without her bright soul, but we are better for having known her. We will miss our mommy, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, and friend very much. We love you mama Faye. From this day until we run into each other’s arms in eternity. Our family chain will link again one day. Until we meet again momma.

Fayleen is now being cared for by many people who walked ahead of her including her mother, Lynda Smith; daughter, Lynda Joan; grandma, Mizgnzin; grandson, Miskwaadesi; father, Jerome; first love, Jimmy Morris; grandson, Alice Michelle; uncle, David; brother, Aaron Wayne; auntie, Frieda; fur babies, Meanie and Yoda; numerous cousins; and friends.

Fayleen will be remembered every single day by those she leaves behind as her children, Jacinta, James, Catherine, Jessica, Carlee, Tiffani, and Michael; parents, Kathy and Carl; the loves of her life, grandchildren, George, Avianna, Jimmy, Landon, Milo, Leon, Lennie, Camilla, Cecily, Randy, Gracelyn, Danica, Lyra, Maia, Ian, Lucas, Marvin, Calvin, and Benny; her love, Kris Pele; siblings, Jill, Josh, Mary Jo, and Carl; father of her four youngest, Thomas; aunts, Theresa, Beverly, Muggs, Jean, uncles, Wayne, Terry, Robin, and Jerry; fur baby, Yo Yo; numerous cousins; and friends.

A two-night wake for Fayleen will start on Sunday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m. and will continue until her funeral service on Tuesday, January 2, at 11:00 a.m., all to be held at the Onigum Community Center. Pastor Matthew McWaters will officiate. Fayleen will be carried into eternity by George, Jimmy, Cecily, Kris, Michael, and Matthew, with Sam Reese, and Jason Silcox as her alternates. Honorary pallbearers are her parents, 7 babies, 20 grandchildren, Sam Reese, Jason Silcox, Jill Thompson, and the rest of her cousins she cherished so very much.

**June Kendall**

June Marie Kendall, “Mii-Gii-Zii-Quay” (Eagle Woman), age 74, of the “Mukwaa Doodeem” (Bear Clan) member of Boise Forte Band and of Bemidji, MN, journeyed to the spirit world on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji. She was born on August 26, 1949, in Ely, MN, the daughter of Doris (Columbus) and Wayne Mock, Sr.

June was a beloved mother, who loved crafting, in her younger years she taught classes in Macrame and other crafts. Her work was exceptional. June was an animal lover, who believed she was an abused animal in a previous life, that’s why she loved animals so much. She raised and raced Siberian Huskies as sled dogs. June worked as an administrative assistant in the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program at Cass Lake Indian Health Service and the DNR Fisheries in Walker, MN. June was very passionate about her work helping others and spent part of her career addressing violence against women and children, especially in the Native American Areas. She brought knowledge and culture to her coworkers, helping to teach them the Anishinabe cultures and ceremonies. She had an energy and effervescence that was infectious and made it difficult or impossible to not love her. June had a great laugh; she could be picked out of a crowd just by hearing her laugh. She made the best Indian Fry Bread. She enjoyed eating good food, playing Keno, spending time with friends, family, her cats, and the neighborhood dogs. June was a strong, courageous lady, battled her cancers bravely and never gave up. June will be remembered for her great sense of humor, smart, educational ways, and her will to help keep her Native American heritage taught to the next generations.

Those greeting June in the spirit world are her parents, Doris and Wayne Mock, Sr.; sister, Kay “Sara” Peterson; and granddaughter, Angela Gallik.

Those June leaves behind are her life partner, Elroy Lightfeather; son, Brian (Barb) Kendall; brothers, Ron Anderson, Gary Bishop, and Wayne Mock, Jr.; sisters, Cheryl (Wayne) Peterson, Margie (Mark) Matchey, and Diane (Jim) Bohn; aunt, Sandy Moats; granddaughters, Blair Kendall and Jordan McDonald; grandsons, Sean, Brett, and Christopher Kendall; 10 great-grandchildren; and loving cat, Sadie.

A memorial service for June is being planned for a later date. Spiritual Advisors for June are Bonnie Fairbanks Stangel and Frank Boshkabin. Inurnment will be in the Good Shepard Lutheran Church Cemetery in Mondovi, WI, next to her father Wayne Mock, Sr.

June’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.

**Janice Fairbanks**

Janice Lynn Fairbanks, age 49, of Bemidji, Minnesota, began her journey to the Spirit World on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at her residence. Janice was born on January 9, 1974 to Roy Beaulieu and Barbara Fairbanks.

She graduated from the Bug School in 1993 and worked at Sportsman Pizzeria and as a Personal Care Assistant. She worked at the Fairbanks Cafe in Red Lake for three years. The last few years she worked at Cedar Lakes Casino. She enjoyed raising her family and being a Great-Aunt to her nieces and nephews.

Janice is survived by her sons Brian Fairbanks, Aaron Fairbanks and Andrew Fairbanks; grandchildren Danielle Fairbanks, Mason Fairbanks and Maddy Fairbanks; brothers Carl Fairbanks Sr, Joey Fairbanks Sr and Gary Wind Sr; sisters Melody Hanners, Amanda Fairbanks and Toni Wind.

She was preceded in death by daughter Rhonda Fairbanks; sisters Rhonda Fairbanks and Brenda Wind; parents Barbara Fairbanks and Roy Beaulieu, paternal grandparents James & Verna (Hanson) Fairbanks, maternal grandparents George & Ida Beaulieu.

Wake will begin at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at the Mission Community Center in Cass Lake, Minnesota, and continue until the service at 1:00 PM on Thursday, January 11, 2024 with Father George Ross and Father Bill Butcher. Active Pallbearers will be Joseph Fairbanks, Carl Fairbanks, Bill Beaulieu, Aaron Fairbanks, Gordon Fairbanks and Donald Weise. Honorary Pallbearers will be nieces, nephews and other family members. Burial will be in the spring at Sugar Bush Cemetery.

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

**Leonard “Lennie” Oberg**

Leonard “Lennie” Francis Oberg, of the Bear Clan began his journey from his home in Minneapolis MN, on January 11, 2024. He was born on November 24, 1977, to Fran and Brenda (Durant) Oberg in Cass Lake, MN.

Lennie loved to spend time with his family and friends. He was ALWAYS willing to help someone in need no matter what the circumstances were.

Those greeting Lennie in the spirit world are his grandparents, Leslie Oberg Sr., Violet Oberg, Joyce Durant, and David Durant; mom, Brenda Oberg; aunts, Louise Durant, and Marilyn Garbow; Uncle, Melvin Durant; nephew, Dominic Oberg.

Those Lennie leaves behind are his best friend, Mandy Petz the mother of his son; dad Fran Oberg; son, Leonard Oberg, Jr.; brother, Les Oberg; sister, Maria Hyrkus-Paulley, and many other friends and family.

A one-day wake for Lennie will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 16, 2024, and continue until his 10:00 a.m. service on January 17, 2024, all to be held at the Mission Community Center in Cass Lake, MN. Lennie’s Spiritual Advisor will be Adrian Liberty. Those helping to lay Lennie to rest are Mike Durant, Jared Rabbit, Anthony Sherman, Melvin Durant Jr., and Gordon Kingbird. Honorary pallbearers are all of his family and friends. Interment will follow the service at the Inger Cemetery in Inger, MN.

Leonard’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 Re Estate of: Stanley Albert Chief Jr., DOB: 02/09/1943, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-23-135

NOTICE
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Stanley Albert Chief Jr., died September 9, 2023. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 20th, day of November, 2023 at 2:30 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Intestacy of Heirs, and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Stanley Jones, surviving son of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on November 20th, 2023, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Stanley Jones, 8573 Traders Bay Rd. NW Walker, MN 56484 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Stanley Albert Chief Jr., decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.

LEGAL NOTICE
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court


Case No. PA-22-67

NOTICE
OF LEGAL PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on June 6, 2022, a Petition for Guardianship of a Minor was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must file a response in the office of the Leech Lake Tribal Court on or before April 17th, 2024 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Review Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested in the Petition, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon in two consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(S)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court


Case No. PA-21-27

NOTICE
OF LEGAL PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on December 12, 2023, a Request for Permanent Guardianship was made with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on April 9th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon in two consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(S)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.

LEGAL NOTICE
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: H.A.D., Child, DOB: 09/22/2016. Barbara J. White, Petitioner, And Michelle Charwood & Nicholas White, Respondents,

Case No. FA-20-120

NOTICE
OF LEGAL PUBLICATION YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on January 9, 2024, a Request for Permanent Guardianship was made with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parent. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on April 9th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., the date of the Permanent Guardianship Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon in two consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(S)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.
The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is seeking bids for princess and brave crowns, Neckties, and Sashes needed for each community Pow Wow. Submit separate bids for each Royalty item listed below.

**BIDS ARE BEING SOUGHT FOR**
- **Leech Lake Memorial Powwow**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year
- **Leech Lake Days**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year
- **Leech Lake Sagasweie Powwow**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year
- **Miiwech Manoomin**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year
- **Onigum**
  - Princess and brave (Sr, Jr, and Tiny tot) Beaded Crowns with title and year, Beaded Neckties with title and year, and 6 Sashes with title, and year
- **Chachabahning**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year
- **Battle Point**
  - Princess and Brave Beaded Crown with title and year, Beaded Necktie with title and year, and 2 Sashes with title, and year

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SEALED BID**
- State bid amount, royalty item(s) that bid is being put in for and affix signature. Place document in envelope and seal.
- Name and address of the bidder must be shown in the upper left corner of the envelope.
- The phrase "SEALED BID ENCLOSED: POWWOW NAME" must be shown in the lower left corner of the envelope.
- Bids must be postmarked by February 29, 2024 or delivered in person to the Purchasing Office by 4:30 PM February 29, 2024.

**MAIL TO**
LLBO Pow Wow Coordinator
Attn: Rodney Johnson
190 Sailstar Dr NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Any questions relating to the royalty Items can be directed to the Pow Wow Coordinator at 218-335-3637. Questions related to the sealed bidding process can be directed to LLBO Purchasing at 218-335-8200. Miiwech!
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Summary of Job Openings

www.llojibwe.org | drop off or mail documents to:
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources
115 Sixth St. NW, Suite E - Cass Lake, MN 56633
Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697
Call 218-335-3698 or toll free 1-800-631-5521 for more info

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Mental Health Professional (4) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-008
CTSS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-010
ARMHS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-012
On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Professional (3) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-013
On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (5) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-014
Program Accountant (2) ~ Finance ~ Job Code: 23-015
Lead Nurse (A.R.C) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-035
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) (4) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-045
Billing Specialist ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-052
WIC & Nutrition Registered Dietitian (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-054
Maternal Child Health RN ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-059
Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-061
Registered Dietitian (Diabetes Program) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-063
Accounts Receivable Clerk I ~ Finance ~ Job Code: 23-099
Plumber (Facilities Maintenance) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-121
Maagiignit Center Manager ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-123
Accounts Receivable Team Leader ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-126
Internal Auditor ~ Internal Audit ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-127
Community Wellness & Recovery Navigator ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-136
Police Officer (2) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-145
Police Officer (Part time) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-146
RN Diabetes Educator ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-147
Family Skills Worker ~ Administration ~ $19.75/hr ~ Job Code: 23-150
Diabetes Registered Dietitian ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-152
Naagnamizid Gekinwaa’amaaged (Lead) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-154
Pre School Team Leader ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-155

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

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders
February Birthdays

District I

From the District I Office Kyle, Amanda & Jonellie

Doris Groce
Sherry Jenkins
Brenda Carter
Donald Charwood
Charles Morrison
Edward Howard Jr.
Scott Drumbeater Jr.
Wanda Bellanger
Ione Wydra
Douglas Stately
Julia Whitebird
Josephine Brown
Caroline Roy
Edith Wilson
Katherine Sheffield
Samuel Johnson Jr.

District II

Lawrence Seelye
From the District II Office
Carol Stangel
Steve, Lindsey, & Michelle

District III*

Roger Anderson
Brenda Kornezos
Brenda Carter
Joanne Bellanger
Pauline LaRose
Edward Howard Jr.
Clifford Benjamin
Kenneth Losh
Ione Wydra
Ruth Bongo
Fred Lovelace
Herbert Medina
Scott Drumbeater Jr.
Pamela Michaud
Douglas Stately
Timothy Moon
Carolyn Stately
Caroline Roy
Michael Murphy
Katherine Sheffield
Theresa Cash
Richard Robinson
Fred Lovelace
Maxine Charwood
Alan Ruppelius
Stacy Smith
Stanley Chief
Henry Rushman
Marlene Clausen
Bernie Smith
Ronald Cloud
Pamela Michaud
Cynthia Nichola
Tina Cloud
Timothy Moon
Tina Cloud
Michael Murphy
Robert Day
Richard Robinson
Theresa Cash
Tina Cloud
Alan Ruppelius
Maxine Charwood
Bernie Smith
Maxine Charwood
Henry Rushman

*all coupons must be used within Birthday Month*
Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program

Words and sentences list for February

OJIBWEMOWIN  ZHAAGANASHIIMOWIN

Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajiiing noongom?  How is the weather outside today?

mino-giihiqad  It is a nice day.
niiskaadad  It is bad weather.
mizhakwad  The sky is clear.
ningwakwad  It is cloudy.
zooqipon  It is snowing.
awan  It is foggy.
gimiwan  It is raining.
gichi-noodin  It is windy.
qisinaa  It is cold weather.
aabawaa  It is warm weather.
awanibiisaagam  It is rainy.
aaeseagaan  It is bright.
qizhaate  It is sunny.
waawaate  It is hot.
zaagaate  There are Northern Lights.
bikwe  The sun is shining.

Mino-giihiqad ina noongom?
Eya, mino-giihiqad noongom.
Gaawiiin mino-giihiqadinnoo noongom.

Zooqipon ina noongom?
Eya, zooqipon noongom.
Gaawiiin zooqiponnoo noongom.

Gisinaa na noongom?
Eya, gisinaa noongom.
Gaawiiin gisinaasinoon noongom.

Gizhaate na noongom?
Eya, gizhaate noongom.
Gaawiiin gizhaatesinoon noongom.

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

2024 LLBO POW WOW SCHEDULE

Maijiiziigwan Round Dance
March 9, 2024, Cass Lake, MN 56633

Memorial Day
Traditional Pow Wow
May 24 - 26, 2024
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Onigum 25th Annual
Traditional Pow Wow
July 26 - 28, 2024
Onigum, MN 56484

Waa Wiye Gaa Mag 20th
Annual Traditional Pow Wow
June 14 - 16, 2024
S. Lake, MN 56681

Cha Cha Bah Ning 43rd
Annual Traditional Pow Wow
August 23 - 25, 2024
Inger, MN 56636

5th Annual Leech Lake Days
Traditional Pow Wow
June 21 - 23, 2024
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Sagasweewe 3rd Annual
Traditional Pow Wow
September 6 - 8, 2024
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Mii Gwitch Mahnomen Days
61st Annual Traditional Pow Wow
July 19 - 21, 2024
Ball Club, MN 56636

Battle Point 26th Annual
Traditional Pow Wow
September 20 - 22, 2024
Battle/Sugar Point, MN 56641

For more info call: 218-335-4483 or visit facebook.com/llpowwows