

MARCH RECAP

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

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NATIVE REFEREES

The 2025 MN State High School Basketball Tournament featured the first all Native American 3-man Officiating Crew.

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MINNEAPOLIS POW WOW

A collection of photos from the 2025 Inaugural Minneapolis Pow Wow hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

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LLTC STUDENT OF THE YEAR

2024 American Indian College Fund LLTC Student of the Year. Honorees are selected based on grades and attendance.

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At National Conferences: Bemidji State Students Take Top Spot in Business Plan Competition; LLTC Team Takes Second Place in Knowledge Bowl

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – March was a big month for post-secondary student Conferences.

The American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) Student Conference

Students at Bemidji State University attended the American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) Student Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The BSU-AIBL team participated in the Business Plan Competition in the university division. The team won first place for their plan for "the Good Berry Company."

The winning team included students Justin Keezer from Waubun, MN; Dax Anderson from Red Lake, MN; Nathaniel McDonald from Bemidji, MN; Carter Eckblad from Bemidji, MN; Mia Wilke from Belcourt, ND; Joshua Briski, Jr. from Cass Lake, MN and Caitlyn Lueck from Cass Lake, MN. In addition to the team's main win, student Justin Keezer won a "secret award" for being "Most Positive and Upbeat."

The students were guided by mentor Robert "Bob" Tessier, a senior manager in hot beverages at Sodexo Supply Management, who was connected to them through AIBL and provided valuable support throughout the competition.

Associate Professor and Chair of the School of Business, Veronica Veaux, who accompanied the team to Vegas, said the team win was indicative of the students' hard work and commitment.



Bemidji State AIBL Students.

via BSU AIRC



Leech Lake Tribal College Students and Staff / Coaches.

via LLTC

positive recognition to our university. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the students for their remarkable achievement and ask for your recognition as well. This victory further underscores the excellence of our students in the field of business and entrepreneurship," said Veaux.

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium

A few states over, Leech Lake Tribal College sent 18 students to compete at this year's AIHEC conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. 18 Students from the college competed in a number of competitions include knowledge bowl, volleyball, hand games, archery, art, speech and chess.

The school's Knowledge Bowl team took home a 2nd place win. The winning team included students: Marissa Oothoudt (Captain), Mya Morgan, Deanne Cloud, Jeffery Vasquez, and Evening White Starr.

The knowledge bowl students were coached by Library Assistant Kendra Haugen and Arts & Humanities Instructor Elaine Fleming. Fleming, who spoke at the colleges Monday Drum ceremony, congratulated the students on their accomplishments and shared how much working alongside them positively impacted her.

"The students, they teach me about humility; they teach me to look forward to the future because of how

"This accomplishment is a testament to their hard work, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their win not only highlights their dedication and skill but also brings

knowledgeable they are, how passionate they are and how they shine. If you could go and see what happens at AIHEC—it's really awesome," said Fleming.

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Leech Lake Behavioral Health News

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

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via LL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Softening

by ANNY O'BRIEN
LEECH LAKE
HOLISTIC PRACTITIONER

Spring officially begun on March 20, it is also called the Spring Equinox marking the start of the astronomical spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the moment when the Sun's rays are directly overhead the equator leading to a relative equal day and night. Daylight will be equal to around twelve hours and extend to longer days moving forward. The rhythm of nature has restarted and with it, increased sunshine, thawing of Mother Earth, and increased activities within communities.

The Chakra of focus this month is the Sacral Chakra, located below the belly button, home to our sexual organs, and our sense of worthiness. "It is associated with the element of water and the vibrant color orange.

This energy assists in letting go, accepting change, and transformation in life. It is also a direct line to our creativity, intuition, and desire. The Sanskrit name Svadhisthana means "dwelling place of the Self", supporting the personal expansion and exploration of sexuality and creativity. It is called our own place because it is this chakra where human beings are settled in their minds, thoughts, and awareness."

Coincidentally to Svadhisthana, The Sacral Chakra, April happens to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Sacral Chakra can hold many wounds of trauma from our lives and comes in many forms. The affirmation "I am enough" for some is hardest to implement to seek wellness and healing for ourselves. It may be a struggle to let go of expectations of others, ways the world have conditioned inner dialog, causing us to seek perfection, ruminating of negative thoughts and false control in many aspects of life. If shaming ourselves into wellness worked, it certainly would have already. The critic in our heads can be harsh, judgmental and hurtful. Trauma can magnify this critic, and through speaking truth, one can change attitudes from a victim to a warrior. Sharing our pain with others, the phrase "secrets keep us sick" rings true and facing our discomfort is the beginning of healing.

"Sexual harassment and assault pose a significant problem in the

United States. From verbal to virtual to physical forms, millions of people in the United States experience sexual harassment and/or assault, especially those who are: female, low-income, a person of color, identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual, or live with a disability. Most women (81%) and many men (43%) in the survey reported experiencing sexual harassment and/or assault at www.nsvrc.org/statistics.

Challenging how we speak to ourselves is a difficult process but through consistency, redirecting, and affirmation engagement, we can change the narrative in our minds and how we view ourselves. Love, self-forgiveness and compassion are the solution! A way we can reaffirm self-love is by focusing on a the love we carry for others. For instance, the attitudes surrounding the young children in our lives, we want the world for them, to protect them, to love them fully, and want them to know they are and always have been enough! Why do we often spare ourselves that same perspective? It is time to show ourselves that same love and grace!

Who are we to deny Creator's miracle, the beating of our hearts, the air in our lungs, the precision which runs our body's systems. The completeness of Mother Earth is evident, the patterns and medicine of plants, the calming sound of rain and thunder, and the softness of the sand on my feet. All evidence of Creator's love for each of us. "Ask yourself 'can I change my perspective to shine acceptance and to give myself the love I give others?' To grow we have to get uncomfortable and that may also mean failing sometimes, it's not the fall that matters but how we continue to get back up and try again - and again! We can embrace this Spring as a new dawn, a clean slate to start over, to learn how to care and love ourselves. Therefore creating healing for our families and communities!

Foods to Support the Sacral Chakra

by SHAWN MACGREGOR

Spring is here and we are enjoying the longer, brighter days and walking on the earth instead of on ice and snow as the birds sing around us. It's time to lighten our diets, lighten our hearts, and enlighten our minds as we celebrate this season of renewal.

The Sacral Chakra is associated

with certain foods, the representative color is orange. These could be: oranges, carrots, mangoes, squash and sweet potatoes, etc. We can add apricots and cantaloupe to this list of foods, all high in Vitamin A and Beta Carotene, though oranges have their own form of Vitamin A (actually referred to as a Provitamin A called Beta Kryptoxanthin, a carotenoid converted to Vitamin A in the body) as well as Vitamin C. Our bodies need vitamin A for healthy eyesight, maintenance of mucus membranes, and vital functions of internal organs around and below the navel, (sacral area) such as the kidneys, bladder and for healthy reproductive organs in both men and women. Along with Vitamin C, Vitamin A helps

strengthen our immune system, making us less vulnerable to viruses that may circulate in the cool air of springtime.

Some studies suggest that foods high in Beta Carotenes may also protect us from certain cancers. Keep in mind, however, that it's important to get the recommended amount of both Vitamin A and Beta Carotene, as too much of a good thing can literally be a bad thing: taking too many of these vitamins as supplements in pill form can actually make a person more vulnerable to disorders and disease, particularly of the kidneys and bladder.

It is interesting to note that the sacral chakra, Svadhisthana, is intuitively tuned in to our connection to the earth and the sacred within ourselves. Choose some vibrant orange fruits and vegetables to boost your health while celebrating how their sunny color reminds us of the sun in springtime!

Behavioral Health | Psychiatric Medication Management Team



My name is **Marsha Kaehne**, I began my employment with the Leech Lake Band in 2013 serving as a primary care nurse practitioner at the Diabetes Clinic. For the past six years I have been providing care as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and currently provide mental health medication management at Leech Lake Behavioral health. My goal is to provide holistic care that supports health and wellbeing, self-worth, and empowerment to realize goals and dreams. I am married and have two children and five grandchildren. I love spending time with my family and being out in nature. My hobbies include weaving and spinning my own yarn to weave with.



My name is **Dulce (Dool seh) Cordova**. I joined Leech Lake Behavioral Health at the end of October 2024 as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Acting Medical Director. I am honored to be part of your mental health journey and look forward to assist you in reaching your goals. A little about me, I am from southern, rural, MN. I enjoy reading books when it isn't a requirement and visiting new places. I do not love winter or being cold, but the beautiful trees here make it more tolerable.

LEECH LAKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

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By KAYLA DUOOS

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

cial Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe or www.LeechLakeNews.com. We will provide monthly recaps of these updates in the paper.

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

MARCH RECAP

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Amendments Act presented to Senate Committee – The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs met 2/5/25 to vote on S.622, the Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Amendments Act of 2025. The bill was ordered to be reported without amendments favorably.

Key Details:

- Bill Name: S.622 - Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Amendments Act of 2025.
- Purpose: To restore 4,400 acres of land unlawfully taken from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe by finalizing the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act.

RBC Advocacy

- Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday met with U.S. Senator Tina Smith last Tuesday to discuss critical issues, including the S.622 bill. Fineday emphasized that the bill merely aims to correct the injustice of the federal government's previous illegal land transfer without the tribe's consent.
- Senator Smith voiced strong support for the legislation, reaffirming her commitment to ensuring its passage. Fineday and Smith also discussed the EPA's role in remediating the St. Regis Superfund Site in Cass Lake. In December 2024, the Leech Lake Band received a \$19.9M grant for constructing a new Division of Resource Management facility, and concerns were raised that recent federal executive orders could jeopardize the funding despite it already being appropriated by Congress.

District II Satellite Office Now Open – The District II Satellite Office is officially open as of March

3, 2025, offering a variety of important services to the community. The office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Available Services:

- LLBO Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Permits
- LLBO Housing Applications
- Energy Assistance Applications
- Notary Public Services
- Household Items for Those in Need
- Fresh Coffee
- Elder Services: Elder Haircut Services: Available the first Saturday of each month, from 11 AM to 3:30 PM.
- Elder's BINGO: Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. Location: Dave Morgan Community Center, Old Housing, Bena Drive

For more information or to schedule an appointment for elder haircuts, please call Terri at 218-407-4011.

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See **Friday Recap** on Page 7 »

RBC BRIEFS • April 2025



By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Business Committee (RBC) holds weekly briefings on Tuesdays, followed by RBC meetings on Thursdays.

All available council members, including scheduled presenters and LLBO division directors, attend RBC briefings. Agenda items are presented for discussion at the Tuesday briefings and then are voted on for passage at the Thursday meeting. Occasionally, due to time constraints, a combination briefing and conference will take place on the same day.

Two meetings were held within the last reporting month, March 1 to March 31. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on leechlakenews.com under "Videos." Official meeting minutes can also be found on leechlakenews.com under "LL Tribal Council" and "Tribal Council Meeting Minutes."

BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

1. March 4, 2025 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

Presentations Given:

- **Brandy Toft, DRM** – Presented a contract for PFAS well drilling by HDR. The winning contractors will oversee the PFAS well project for Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig. The agreement was approved unanimously.
- **Kyle Applebee, Accounting / Ryan Kingbird MIS** – Presented a renewal of contract to begin work with OnBase to replace executive and adobe for LLBO Staff. OnBase is a doc management system and is expected to begin implementation in August 2025. The renewal was approved unanimously.
- **Kyle Applebee, Accounting** – Presented the 2025 fiscal year budget. Public budget hearings will be announced soon. The budget was preliminarily approved but is expected to change with coming amendments.

2. March 20, 2025 A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers.

Presentations Given:

- **LLTC Board Charter Amendments** – This is the first of two rounds of amendments to the charter. The amendments have been under review for one year. Two of the amendments include refraining of RBC from day to day operations and a semi-annual meeting to take place.
- **Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Tribal Courts** – Presented an agreement to begin operating the Bamenim Anishinabeg probationary program. Agreement was approved, unanimously.
- **Amanda Conklin/Alden Fairbanks, IHS** – Presented an update on IHS project updates. First project was Septic testing for Arsenic in water wells. Mission community center tested above safe levels, while homes in the areas tested okay. Issue has been addressed, and if any homeowners have issues in the future with arsenic levels, can place an application in with public works for this to be fixed. Septics in the Stoney Point area have a 100% failure rate for high arsenic levels, this is believed to be due to closeness with lakes. Onigum area had a 79% failure rate for septic, this was believed to be due to vertical situation/ incorrect soils. Sugar point/Battle Point areas both had 90% failure rate also due to vertical situation/incorrect soils. IHS is planning to address these issues with a construction project that would correct sanitation issues in the previously mentioned communities. IHS currently has found a construction firm and is looking for funding. They plan to apply for grant funding in the next grant cycle.
- **Lee Turney, Early Childhood** – Presented a modification on the early childhood budget. The budget currently has additional money from federal funding that was unspent. Early Childhood wants to use the 2.2 million in additional funds to complete a renovation on the current headstart building. Construction would start in fall 2025 and headstart services would move to the Cass Lake Bena middle school during the time. Project was approved unanimously.
- **Lee Giffen, Construction Management** – Presented a construction contract to update the Battle Point community center kitchen to a commercial kitchen. The project contract was approved unanimously.
- **Tracy Howg, Homeless Service Program** – Presented a construction contract with Kraus Anderson to finish the Lyman Losh Community Center remodel. The project contract was approved unanimously. Secretary-Treasurer Leonard Fineday made the program aware that the construction company chosen has a longstanding history of legal issues with Tribes over construction projects.

Annual Report to the Indian People

via LLBO HEALTH DIVISION

As pursuant to Title I, Indian Health Service funds the Health Services through the Annual Funding Agreement, Leech Lake Health shall make an Annual Report to the Indian People in fulfillment of contractual requirements and report will provide and include the programs, functions, services and activities (PFSA) to be performed. This fiscal year has been involved in proactive planning and capacity building. The management of 55 programs, COVID grants and 99 staff.

TRIBAL CLINICS

The health division operates six (6) clinics, locations in Inger, Ball Club, Bena, Onigum, Bemidji and Cass Lake. All Tribal clinics offer primary care healthcare. The clinic providers maintain a long-term medical relationship with patients. The goal is to empower patients, families and communities to take charge of their own health. The health division has a provider at the Ball Club clinic for the past 23 years and this is the busiest clinic. The Onigum clinic is operational and providing medication distributions this year, the Nurse Practitioner is available one day per week until further notice.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING/PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The mission is to provide safe nursing care in a professional and culturally sensitive manner to all members of the Leech Lake Reservation who need such services, integrating all aspects of health care resources. Provided services include home health assessments, case management In-home skilled nursing care, medication management, comprehensive wound care, education, immunizations and screening, with the focus on the patient evaluation, prevention of illness, injury or disability and maintenance of health, medication management, wound care and advocating for patient right. Home health also monitors chronic conditions, monitors cognitive and physical decline, assist with recovery from surgery and coordinating services with other healthcare providers. Collaboration with other health programs include other health prevention programs. Home health care is about patients maintaining their health and independence at home. The Home Health Nursing nurses' visits include on a

monthly basis patient case loads of 15 to 28 patients a month.

DIABETES RESOURCE CENTER

(LLDC) specializes in treatment and management of people living with diabetes. The program educates the community on diabetes prevention, clinic appointments offered in Cass Lake, Bemidji, Ball Club, and Onigum. The promotion of positive health behaviors, glyce-mic goals and hypoglycemia. In addition, obesity and weight management, cardiovascular disease. Also offered is chronic kidney disease information, retinopathy, care for older adults, footcare and children and adolescents. The Diabetes clinic offers diabetes prevention and promoting health in the communities and population.

2024 Prevention activities

- Diabetes Self-management education
- Diabetes Medical visits
- Visits 850+
- Libre Readers and sensors

Community programming, events include: Outreach diabetes management days: Ball Club 1/03/24 & 1/7/24, Bena 1/10/24, Bemidji 1/18/24, Onigum 1/09/24, Inger 1/24/24. Outreach diabetes management days: Ball Club 4/3/24, 4/17/24, Bena 4/40/24, Bemidji 4/18/24, Onigum 4/9/24 and Inger 4/24/24. May Outreach diabetes management days: Ball Club 5/1/24, 5/15/24, Bena 5/8/24, Bemidji 5/16/24, Onigum 5/14/24 and Inger on 5/22/24. June Outreach diabetes management days: Ball Club 6/5/24, 6/18/24, Bena 6/12/24, Bemidji 6/20/24 and Inger 6/26/24. Outreach diabetes management days; Ball Club 11/06/24 & 11/20/24, Bena-11/13/24, Bemidji 11/21/24, Onigum 11/12/24 and Inger on 11/27/24. On 11/07/24 Elder Fall Festival, One Stop Diabetes class, Turkey Trot, Healthy Eating & Diabetes education post exercise programming, November Diabetes Trivia, Points for Health Promotion and Retinopathy screenings.

CHR PROGRAM

A medical transportation service, the monthly average is providing medical transportation to 80-90 clients on a monthly basis, 222 dialysis appointments, 110 medical appointments, medical deliveries, and cancer appointments and with repeat runs for dialysis clients. In improving skills and training, the Community Health Worker (CHW)

course was make available to have all CHR's become CHW's. Currently two CHR's are taking the course. One CHR will be completing the course in 2025. Transportation continues to be a major concern on Leech Lake. Many families require the use of an automobile, thus experiencing many challenges in long distance areas, seeking out medical transportation.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year basic life support ambulance service with advance life support (ALS) variances and in coordination with the 911 emergency system. Services provided are community event medical coverage, certified training center (First Responders), certified training center (First Aid/CPR. Presently, the Leech Lake Ambulance has MNICS WT meetings, LL EMS end of year services and averages 100 calls per month and seek reimbursement of loaded miles being billable. The lack of reimbursement i.e. Medicare/CMS leaves financial shortfalls in services. Current law does not allow Medicare to reimburse for care provided by EMS services unless the patient is transported to the hospital via ambulance and often times EMS responds to every call, regardless if someone needs a trip to emergency department or not. Overall, the Leech Lake Ambulance service/EMS is short staffed, underpaid and overworked. The saving grace for Leech Lake Ambulance is the IHS Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) Indian Health Service agreement with yearly base amount of funding. The Ambulance program is in dire need of replacement vehicles, the health grant writer is actively seeking funding for vehicle purchases.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SERVICES

Provide environments surveys, institutional environmental health, safe drinking water issues and sampling, i.e. Tribal School (PFAS) water issue, mold inspections, and injury prevention activities. Works closely with BIA, IHS, EPA, counties, and water sampling centers. Installations of smoke detectors to homes on the reservation. This program encompasses non-infrastructure services as related to air pollution prevention, quality air and mitigation. The goal is improved air quality, improved water quality and climate change. The prior Environmental Specialist

resigned his position in June, with the new Specialist coming in October 2024. Presently getting up to speed on numerous policies and procedures and outside agencies and that Environmental health services are available.

ADDICTIONS & DEPENDENCY

A&D with the AFA funds were used to supplement the administrative salaries by the past director, assistant, operations manager and budget/grants manager. Also used some of the funding to help support the Assessment Unit. Whether it is called substance use disorder (SUD), chemical Dependency, or addiction and dependency (A&D) disparities can be higher in the Native American population. This service will be utilizing the term as that our department is titled at Leech Lake. In just a six-month period, 282 Leech Lake relatives sought SUD treatment services via a Comprehensive Assessment. This is a tool that opens the door to services across the SUD Continuum of care. To help in arresting, interrupting or meeting people where they are in their recovery journey, with Leech Lake's Addiction and Dependencies department consisting of the following programs: Adolescent Out-Patient, Opiate Program, Women's Services, Family Violence Program, Men's Out-Patient, Wiidookodaaawag Coalition for Opioid Prevention and the Ahn-Ji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center acted as guides in the journey of our relatives, toward a healthier, holistic approach to sobriety. Staff development has been a building a strong, reliable, consistent, dedicated relative centered work force. Comprehensive Assessments are referred from a centralized location with the A&D department and as a indicated in opening, can see a referral number of 282 in a six-month time frame. Within Leech Lake Services, in the last quarter, 347 relatives were served in each of our 7 programs. Programs provide prevention efforts, in-takes, referrals, transportation, cultural resources, including activities and ceremonies, 1-on-1's, group sessions and advocacy. We want all relatives to have success where ever they may be in their recovery. Part of that consideration is Harm Reduction. We are one of the Tribes who has opted to get two Vending machines available within Leech Lake boundaries. It will be available with items for persons to get cost free from a pair of socks to Narcan. "Meeting people Where They Are". Although A&D is a challenge we strive to be team-oriented approach to the betterment of our relatives

lives in their struggles, to become happy, healthy and more whole individuals which builds a stronger Leech Lake Nation.

LEECH LAKE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Leech Lake Behavioral Health is comprised of 32 staff who provide services in the community, homes, schools, at the office and via tele-health. LLBH programs and services include:

1. Traditionally-based cultural advisory services
2. Traditional Healing Program
3. Energy-Based Services (Reiki services/classes)
4. Herbal/Natural Medicines (Classes and products)
5. Telehealth services
6. Mental Health Diagnostic Assessments (across the lifespan)
7. Outpatient Psychotherapy service (across the lifespan)
8. Psychiatric medication management services (across the lifespan)
9. Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS)
10. Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)
11. DC 0-3 Specialization & Early Childhood Mental Health Services (age 6)
12. Mental Health Crisis Response Team (across the lifespan)
13. Mental Health Targeted Case Management Services (across the lifespan)

2024 Service Data

LLBH has served the following number of community members each quarter.

1. +317 January – March 2024
2. +383 April – June 2024
3. +386 July – September 2024
4. +206 October 1, 2024 - November 8, 2024 (incomplete data, missing November 11-December 31, 2024)

Number of clinical sessions per quarter:

1. +1,382 January-March 2024
2. +1,198 April – June 2024
3. +1,065 July-September 2024
4. +571 October 1, 2024 – November 2024 FY ends 09/30/2024

Number of Energy-based sessions per quarter:

1. +124 Reiki Sessions January – March 2024
2. +150 Reiki Sessions April – June 2024
3. +89 Reiki Sessions September 2024
4. +92 October 1, 2024-November 8, 2024 Fiscal year ends 09/30/2024 ➤

All-Native Officiating Crew Makes Historic Debut at MN State Basketball Tournament

By KAYLA DUOOS

ST. PAUL – The first All Native American 3-man officiating crew debuted March 14 at this year's Minnesota's State High School League Basketball Tournament.

Each year, less than 100 officials are selected to referee at Minnesota's Highest Tournament out of a pool of 2000+ officials. Officials must be evaluated, go through background checks, have the proper certification, and, of course, have proof of experience.

Jonathan James White (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Phillip

Johnson (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe) and Dan Jourdain (Red Lake Band of Ojibwe) were selected to work as a team.

White and Johnson each put in extensive work to reach the state tournament level of officiating. White has been officiating junior high and mid-level basketball since high school and began certification for the high school level around 2020. Likewise, Johnson was refereeing youth basketball before he was certified to officiate high school hoops in 2017. Jourdain has eight years of experience at the prep level, and before that he was refereeing youth



and adult tournaments around the region, adding another roughly six years to his total experience.

Prior to the formulation of 3 person officiating, there had been several other Native American officials to make it to the State

Tournament. Ray Walker, & Michael Thomas. Other notable Native American officials in Minnesota include; Frank Bowstring (Leech Lake Ojibwe), Darryl Drouillard (Leech Lake Ojibwe) & Leech Lakes District 1

Representative Kyle Fairbanks (Leech Lake Ojibwe.)

The trio officiated Caledonia's 69-63 win over Sauk Centre in the Class AA girls basketball state tournament consolation bracket semifinals.

« For a subtotal of +4,215 clinical sessions provided as of November 8, 2024. A subtotal of +455 Energy-based service sessions were offered as far as November 8, 2024. (This does not include Traditional Cultural Advisement).

LLBH Highlights:

1. Listening to the Wisdom of our Elders-part 3 sponsored by Traditional Healing.
2. 4th Annual Gaa-Miskwaawaakikaag-Cass Lake Mental Health Awareness week.
3. Hosted the Minnesota American Indian Mental Health Conference- (The wisdom inside us.)
4. Sponsored weekly Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Class w/certified Instructor for staff wellness. Sponsored weekly Community-based Tai'Chih (reduce stress and increase joy) w/accredited teacher.
5. LLBH participated in county, state and federal consultation with Minnesota Tribes.
6. LLBH hired a full-time Reiki Master and continues to grow energy-based service programming.
7. LLBH provides natural medicines – natural herbal teas, ointments and salves are offered to the community. LLBH also provides herbal classes w/our Herbal practitioner.
8. LLBH hired a second full-time Psychiatric Medication Manager Nurse Practitioner, for the first time in history LLBH has two full-time psychiatric mental health practitioners to provide medication manage-

ment to the community.

9. LLBH hired a part-time Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services Practitioner.
10. LLBH hired second Crisis Response Behavioral Health Specialist and continues to Crisis Services. LLBH hired Trauma-Informed Clinical Team Lead Mental Health Professional. LLBH has been clinically training eight Mental Health Clinical trainees. So far in 2024, six of the eight have completed their training and passed their licensing exams to become independently licensed Mental Health Professionals by their respective Minnesota licensing boards. During a time of national mental health provider shortages, LLBH has been "growing our own" for Leech Lake.

LLBH strives to fulfill its mission statement by providing a holistic service array to better addresses the needs of the whole family, and the whole community. Miigwech for the opportunity to serve Leech Lake!

NUTRITION

With the Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) has limited services and include supplements to the elders and other medically needed individuals. Approximately 15 individuals are served monthly. Other programs offer healthy eating, and disease prevention from diabetes, obesity, weight-loss and other healthy lifestyles.

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Health Management continues to set and carry out policies, proce-

dures and goals along with the determinations of the health administrative team. The concept is to efficiently manage a variety of medical, nursing, home health, health clinics, health prevention and to enhance the provision of primary care services on the Leech Lake underserved rural communities. The administrative team involves planning, and monitoring of the Tribal care programs and services. We can make a difference in a meaningful impact by improving healthcare operations and systems.

ASSISTED LIVING (RED CEDAR ASSISTED LIVING RCAL)

RCAL is currently in the process of opening soon. Zellner Senior Health Consulting is engaged in the re-open of Red Cedar. The project kicked off with an on-site visit and met weekly for several weeks to review the action plan, next steps and to resolve any outstanding issues. The assisted living provisional license application was submitted to the MN Department of Health on June 14, 2024. The application was reviewed by an assisted living engineering team and returned on June 24, 2024 for issues related to architectural drawings and required Life Safety Codes. In short, a firewall protection in the ceilings will be required throughout the facility. On December 17, 2024, the State examiners reviewed and the State giving Health division the green light to proceed. The application will be resubmitted to MN Department of Health with an anticipated survey and tentative opening dates of 4-5 months. Thirty-three living (33) residents

with most of the resident service costs to be funded through applicable outside resources.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

Highlights

- Car Seat Program
- Nurse visits
- Home visits
- Birthing classes
- Maternity and Infant Loss support groups
- Miscarriage and Infant Lost group
- PBC available at health clinics
- Outreach booths
- Networking meetings
- MNsure navigator
- Support Group for Pregnancy & Infant Loss
- Yoga, Walk/Runs
- Breast Cancer Memorial Walk/Run
- Birthing 101 class
- Diabetes Awareness Health Fair
- Onigum Community Center Health Fair
- Bena Community Health Fair
- Inger Health Fair
- Onigum Open gym
- Ball Club Health Fair
- Ojibwe LaCrosse games
- Cedar Wipe Down ceremony
- Honoring Elder Wisdom
- Suicide Prevention Poster contest
- Suicide prevention services and trainings
- Talking Circle groups
- Back-to-School Wellness Week
- Elder's Fall Festival
- LL Elder Services Winter Break
- LL Healing Feast & Dance

- Sobriety Pow Wow
- Healing Hearts Support Group
- Onigum & Cass Lake Talking Circle Support Groups
- Medicare for Elders
- Wisdom Steps Annual conference
- Food Giveaways
- MCH Mother's Day gift bags
- Onigum Health Fair
- Collaborating with SHIP to offer nutrition
- Diabetes related education
- Memorial Walk-Run (Fitness)
- Plant and seed supplies
- One-Stop Diabetes Care collaboration with Indian Health Service
- Smoke Alarms distributions
- Bena Health Fair
- Outreach Diabetes management days
- Healthy eating and diabetes education post walking group

Future Priorities

- Continue to maximize 3rd party revenue
- Research a Financial Unit with the Waiver Programs & Services
- Continue to assist with Wellness Center with capacity building and development
- Open Red Cedar Assisted Living facility this summer or early fall
- Tribal Sponsorship
- Future health accreditation

Shortage

Shortage of registered nurses, LPN's, registered dietitians, Community health workers and emergency medical technicians (EMT & paramedics).



PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

BUG O NAY GE SHIG



SCHOOL NEWS

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

▲ The Bug O Nay Ge Shig Sugarbush Camp is in full swing near the school. Each classroom will have the opportunity to experience all phases of the process from identifying and tapping the maple trees to boiling down and processing the syrup. The finished syrup will be shared with community elders.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig 3rd graders enjoyed a visit from Claire Chase from Snap-Ed. They read and measured to make pumpkin smoothies.



▲ In preparation for March's "I Love to Read" week, the kindergarten through sixth grade students at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School competed to see who could make the best book mark. This year's winners are first place Tala G., second place Diana K. and Estaban R. D. (not pictured) and Malina W. tied for third place. The winners each received prizes and copies of their book-marks will be available to all students.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig Third Graders participated in a demonstration of how to make maple taps from sumac with John Parmeter.

« FRIDAY RECAP

Continued from Page 3

RBC Advocacy

- Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Fineday met with U.S. Senator Tina Smith last Tuesday to discuss critical issues, including the S.622 bill. Fineday emphasized that the bill merely aims to correct the injustice of the federal government's previous illegal land transfer without the tribe's consent.
- Senator Smith voiced strong support for the legislation, reaffirming her commitment to ensuring its passage. Fineday and Smith also discussed the EPA's role in remediating the St. Regis Superfund Site in Cass Lake. In December 2024, the Leech Lake Band received a \$19.9M grant for constructing a new Division of Resource Management facility, and concerns were raised that recent federal executive orders could jeopardize the funding despite it already being appropriated by Congress.

District II Satellite Office Now Open – The District II Satellite Office is officially open as of March 3, 2025, offering a variety of important services to the community. The office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Available Services:

- LLBO Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Permits
- LLBO Housing Applications
- Energy Assistance Applications
- Notary Public Services
- Household Items for Those in Need
- Fresh Coffee
- Elder Services: Elder Haircut Services: Available the first Saturday of each month, from 11 AM to 3:30 PM.
- Elder's BINGO: Held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. Location: Dave Morgan Community Center, Old Housing, Bena Drive

For more information or to schedule an appointment for elder haircuts, please call Terri at **218-407-4011**.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Bena Land Transfer Bill (HF1587) – The Bena Land Transfer Bill (HF1587), authored by Rep. Stephenson and co-authored by Rep. Bliss, is working its way through the legislative process. The Tribe is

also focusing efforts on getting the bill introduced in the Senate.

The bill aims to appropriate \$250,000 in fiscal year 2026 to condemn and transfer a parcel of state-owned land in Cass County to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The land, identified as surplus by the Department of Natural Resources, will be transferred for no cost to the Tribe once the condemnation process is completed.

The land, located in Section 27 of Township 145 North, Range 28 West, is no longer needed for natural resource purposes and has been identified as being better managed under Tribal ownership.

The bill in full can be found on the LeechLakeNews.com website or can be searched on www.revisor.mn.gov

Medically Assisted Detox Center – The Band is seeking a \$1.5 million appropriation from the state legislature for the construction of a medically assisted detox center. This facility would be connected to the Ahnjiibimaadiz Recovery Center (ARC), offering culturally competent care and bridging the gap in detox services in Northern Minnesota.

The band itself has committed 1.6 million to the project to begin clearing and demolishing the former palace casino site to prepare it for the new build.

Currently, no formal bill has been drafted for the funds. However, the Tribe is exploring other funding sources such as opioid settlement money and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) grants.

The facility once constructed will have a 16-bed detox facility, with 4 ADA-compliant rooms, and 2 gender-neutral accommodations. The center will be designed to support patients through their recovery with both medical and traditional healing practices.

This facility will prioritize Leech Lake Band members and descendants of enrolled band members but will be open to anyone needing addiction services.

Twin Cities Property Tax Exemption Bill (SF1579 & HF1126) – LLBO Secretary Treasurer Leonard Fineday testified in both the MN Senate and House Taxes Committees March 5th, in support of the Twin Cities Property Tax Exemption Bill. The bill seeks property tax exemption for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Twin Cities Office Building.

The building serves as a hub for government programs, including Child Welfare, Elder Advocates, Tribal Assistance, and more, and hosts community events. The prop-

erty taxes currently account for two-thirds of the building's operating costs, which significantly impacts the Band's ability to serve members who live off the reservation.

"The services offered by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe at the Twin Cities Office are the same as those offered by other governments that benefit from exempt property tax status. As the members of this committee know, one of the unavoidable costs of conducting government business is office space and the property needed for that office space. Tripling the cost for office space reduces the quality and quantity of services that governments are able to provide. In order to expand the government services available to Leech Lake Band members through our Twin Cities Office, it is necessary to limit the cost as much as possible," said Fineday.

The tax exemption would help reduce operational costs and improve service delivery for Band members in the Twin Cities.

Video of Fineday's Testimony in Full can be found on www.LeechLakeNews.com

IHS Lease Cancellation – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Statement on IHS Bemidji Area Office Lease Reports. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is aware of recent reports regarding the cancellation of a lease identified as the "Indian Health Service-Bemidji" located in Bemidji, MN. We have been in communication with IHS leadership to verify the facts surrounding this situation.

Based on information we have received, the reported lease cancellation is not connected to the main IHS Bemidji Area Office but rather to one of their other office locations in Bemidji. We have been assured that IHS leadership is aware of the reports, is actively working on a resolution, and does not anticipate any interruption in healthcare services for Leech Lake Band members as a result of this situation.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe remains committed to ensuring the well-being and access to healthcare services for all our community members. We will continue to monitor this matter closely and provide updates as needed. Leech Lake leadership remains steadfast in its commitment to holding the federal government accountable for its healthcare obligations. We will continue to advocate and lobby to not only protect these vital services but to expand and enhance healthcare resources for Band members now and into the future.

Department of Public Works

Phone Change – The Department of Public Works Division is streamlining its processes. We will be changing the way we handle applications for Community Services, Well & Septic, Sanitation, and Heavy Equipment. We will have one point person for application intake and answering the main phone line. The main extension has been changed and will include all programs in the building.

The main phone line for the Department of Public Works will now be **218-335-7296**.

Please use this line to contact the various programs for application services.

Court Updates – The Leech Lake Tribal Court is wanting to remind the public of the availability of Legal Kiosks here at the Tribal Justice Center and in 6 outlying communities.

These kiosks are open to the public, they are free to use, there are no eligibility requirements based on income, identity, demographic, or any other factor. While legal aid services may have eligibility criteria, the kiosks themselves are open to all.

Community members can apply for civil legal aid services, access legal resources, print documents (legal related) and even attend a Zoom hearing in any county in Minnesota. They must provide the Zoom ID and passcode and we'd be happy to assist anyone who needs to attend a hearing using these kiosks.

In addition to the 2 Kiosks located at the Tribal Justice Center, these six (6) outlying communities also host Legal Kiosks:

- Onigum Community Center
- Bena Community Center
- Ball Club Community Center
- Kego Lake Community Center
- S. Lake Community Center
- Inger Community Center

If anyone has questions/concerns regarding the kiosks, please give call the Tribal Court at **218-335-3682**.

Tribal Development

Economic Broadband Update – In December of 2022, The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was awarded a National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program grant in the amount of \$18.7 million and will enable construction of 153 miles of fiber optic cable to the Leech Lake outlying community centers; then, where permissible, construct a fixed wireless network by constructing a tower to supply broadband (internet) to homes of families who cannot afford the fiber optic service from their local internet service provider. By owning the fiber network, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will control its own broadband within its boundaries and better serve their citizen communities. Table 1 displays the fiber, existing and new towers.

In March of 2025, the project began its movement toward delivery of the entire project of fiber and fixed wireless officially with a contract between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Tribal Ready. Tribal Ready is a Native-owned and governed company dedicated to advancing Tribal sovereignty by empowering Native communities with access to broadband funding, strategic planning, essential resources, and, with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe specifically, project management consulting.

For questions, please contact Sally Fineday at **(218) 335-8200** or **(218) 368-1766**

FRIDAY MARCH, 21

A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers. The meeting is available to watch in full on www.LeechLakeNews.com under "Videos." Official meeting minutes can also be found on www.LeechLakeNews.com under "LL Tribal Council."

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

Attention:

LLBO releases weekly recaps every Friday on our Facebook page to keep our Band Members up to date on Tribal projects / divisions and anything from the federal level that may impact Band Members.

Employees and Community members can submit news, events, and updates to be included in the Friday Recap every Monday. Updates can be sent to news@llojibwe.net.

Follow us at:

www.facebook.com/LeechLakeBandOfOjibwe

Community Calendar:

www.leechlakenews.com/events





RYAN WHITE | LLTC

Leech Lake Tribal College 2024 Student of the Year, Mya Morgan.

LLTC Student of the Year

Mya Morgan


By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – Mya Morgan has been selected as American Indian College Fund Leech Lake Tribal Colleges 2024 Student Of the Year. LLTC’s AICF Student of the Year honorees are selected based on good grades and consistent attendance.

Morgan is a second-year student in the college's Liberal Education program who is expected to graduate in May 2025. Morgan chose to attend Leech Lake Tribal college

because of the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shigs Post Secondary Enrollment program. Morgan graduated early from Highschool thanks to the program and chose to finish out her remaining credits at LLTC. Morgan said the college had a super welcoming environment and that attending LLTC has been a fulfilling experience.

Following Graduation, Morgan plans to go to the University of Minnesota Duluth to study biochemistry. Morgan hopes to be a cardiologist one day.



Leech Lake
**Maternal
Child Health**

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

Services Offered

**Prenatal Care Promotion • Infant/Child Education
Lactation Counseling • Child Growth & Development
Assessments Family Planning Assistance • Immunizations
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Address: 420 Grant Utley Ave. NW Cass Lake, 56633

May


District III Elder Birthdays

Robert Aitken
Mark Allen
Kerry Anderson
Ramona Anderson
Sheryl Babineau
Lani Birt
Leonard Budreau
Dorthea Cloud

Muriel Crawford
Calvin Day
Paul Day
Norma Ducheneaux
Ramona Dunn
Audrey Emineth
Cynthia Fairbanks
Deanna Fairbanks
Karen Fineday
Linda Fisherman
Marti French
Gordon Geving
Emma Graham

Lawrence Hardy
Donnie Harrison
Susan Headbird
Patrick Jackson
Darrell Johnson
Orville Johnson
Roberta Johnson
Pauline Johnston
Thomas Jones
Bernadine Kangas
Patricia Laudenback
Douglas Liila
Kathleen Lindahl

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari



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

Genevieve Lowry
Clyde Morgan
Herschel Ogema
Yolanda Oxford
Carol Parsons
Bill Pell
David Quincy
John Rock, Jr
Marcella Roy
Carmen Roybal

Ronald Russell
Troy Smith
Michael Staples
Amberly Tesch
Terri Veo
John Whipple
Deborah White-Huesers
Edward Wilson
Rebecca Windom
Raymond Wittner

Obituaries

Andrew Schaaf



Andrew Joel Schaaf, age 46 of Ball Club Minnesota, after a long courageous battle with cancer, a true fighter, passed on Thursday February 13, 2025, at Essentia Health Deer River Minnesota. Andrew was born in Minneapolis MN on July 17, 1978, a loving father, son, brother, uncle and friend to many.

He is survived by his beloved three sons he cherished every day of their lives, Sequoia 15, Jayce 13, and Bryson 6. Andrew also leaves behind his mother Jeannie Schaaf, father Frank Schaaf, sisters Amber (Maynard) Schaaf, Betty Jane Schaaf, nephews Derek, Mayson, Daniel, Ambrose, Arnold, niece Ericka, special friends Leon, Angelo and Butch. He also leaves behind many relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his grandmother Susan Schaaf, grandfather Ambrose Schaaf, grandmother Barb Laverne, grandfather LaVerne, sister Brenda Schaaf, brother Troy Goodmen, many aunts and uncles and cousins.

The family has chosen to not have a visitation but instead will be having a celebration of life on Sunday, February 23 1:00pm-4pm at Vets Club, 12 1st Street NE, Deer River Mn.

Andrew was smart with a good work ethic at work as well as home. Determined, he went into the US Navy and he also obtained his bachelor's degree in business management but choose a different path. With his love of carpentry and being self-taught at many things and good at anything he did, Andrew worked many jobs in his life but was working for Hawk Construction at the time of his diagnosis.

Andrew, a dedicated single father to his three boys he loved so much. His priority was spending time with his family enjoying outdoor adventures such as going to the beach,

fishing & boating. He frequently took trips with his boys to Timberwolves, Vikings and Gopher games. Andrew took pride in his cars and loved fixing them up and maintaining them and liked attending car shows. Andrew was an amazing cook and loved taking over the kitchen trying new recipes and cooking for family gatherings. Through all the hospital trips, surgeries and treatments Andrew was able to keep his incredible sense of humor to the end.

Honorary Pallbearers Leon Demo, Angelo Omar, Derek Kingbird and Butch Fairbanks.

Edith Wilson



Edith Wilson was born on February 20, 1956, in Pike Bay Township, Minnesota. She passed away peacefully at home on February 3, 2025, in Ball Club, Minnesota.

Edith attended school in Deer River and went on to dedicate much of her life to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Leech Lake Gaming. Throughout her career, she touched and influenced many lives, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew her.

A prolific birchbark and beadwork artist, Edith was passionate about her craft and loved teaching others. She cherished the opportunity to help others learn and preserve the traditions of her art. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Edith found joy in spending time outdoors. One of her favorite times of the year was bough picking season, when she could connect with nature and share her experiences with others.

Edith lived her life one moment at a time and had a unique ability to turn even the simplest tasks into grand adventures. She found joy in sharing those adventures with her fam-

ily and friends, creating memories that will be cherished for years to come. Throughout her life, Edith faced heartbreaks and heartaches, but her strength and resilience kept her going for many years. While we will miss her dearly, we find comfort knowing that she is now at peace.

Edith was preceded in death by her parents, George and Margaret Wilson; her beloved daughter, Lindsey Wilson; her son, Wayne Keezer; her sister, Deborah Robinson; and her nephew, Jason "Barney" Robinson.

She is survived by her daughters, Danielle Keezer and Robyn Keezer; her brother, Jeffrey (Peggy) Wilson Sr.; her sister, Pamela (John) Thompson; her grandchildren, Michael Jr., Nicholas, James, Michaela, Conner, Chase, Kendra, Ethan, JoJo, Gus, Miles, Duran, Soloan, Serene, Sade, and Drake; as well as one great-grandchild. Edith is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jeanne Goose



Jeanne Louise Goose 59, of Walker, Minnesota, began her spirit journey on February 10, 2025, from her home with her loving family by her side. She was born to Bonita (Goose) and Roderick Warren on December 3, 1965.

Jeanne loved to be outside with the sun shining down on her. She enjoyed being outside fishing and cookouts, as well as picking balsam, and pinecones. She liked to go to POW WOW's, the casinos, playing cards or dice. She also enjoyed listening to music and having her family around her. She would always take in a good movie as well.

Those greeting Jeanne in the spirit world are her parents; Roderick and Bonita, stepfather; Daniel Bruce Sr., sisters; Debbie French, and Danette Bruce, brother; Kenny Goose, granddaughters; Vivan Staples, and Brianna Goose, special companion; Edward Bloomseth.

Those she leaves behind to cherish her memories are sons; Richard Tallman, and Anthony Goose, daughters; Vanessa Goose, Tiffany Goose, and Ramona Goose, brothers; Jeffrey Goose Sr., Roderick John Goose Sr., sister; Carrie Bruce, grandchildren; Landon Libby,

Kiera Fisher, Kaitlyn Fisher, Aviana Smith, Kayden Johnson, Quetzalli Rivera, Blissany Smith, and Amera White, great-grandchild; Russell Libby, special niece; Danita Bruce.

A wake for Jeanne will begin at 6:00 p.m., Saturday February 15, 2025, and continue until her 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday February 16, 2025, all to be held at the Onigum Center, Onigum Minnesota. Helping to lay Jeanne to rest are Richie Tallman, Landon Libby, Cory Hoffman, Curtis Hoffman, Levi Burris, and Jeffrey Goose Jr. Honorary pallbearers are Jeff Goose Sr., John Goose, Duwayne Jones, Betty Engan, Anna Goose, and Anthony Goose.

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

Joseph Fairbanks



Joseph John Fairbanks, age 74, began his journey to the spirit world on Sunday, February 9, 2025 in Cass Lake, MN.

Joseph was born on February 8, 1951 to James Fairbanks and Verna Hanson in Red Lake, MN. Joseph enjoyed pow-wows, beadwork, playing computer games – especially solitaire, watching football – especially the Vikings, going to the casino and the movies. He loved cracking jokes and jump-scaring people. He loved showering his wife with gifts and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joseph is survived by son: James (JC) Fairbanks; daughters: Melanie Jourdain, Tina Brown, Karina Dunn, Amber Dunn and Tina Headbird; step-sons: Donald and Jesse Headbird and Gary Keezer; special granddaughters: Hattie Keezer, Natalie Headbird, Rain Headbird, Diamond Whitefeather and Mia Dunn; special grandsons: Junior Dunn, Joshua Cross, James Robinson and Tyler Randberg Jr; nephews: Carl Fairbanks, Les Robinson, Joey Fairbanks, Gordon Fairbanks, Charlie Robinson, Dennis Robinson, Brian, Aaron and Andrew Fairbanks; and many other family and friends.

Those greeting him in the spirit world are his wife: Arlene Fairbanks; and sons: Lance Robinson, Myron Howard, Jeff Keezer, Pete Headbird and granddaughter, Seneca Keezer.

A Traditional Wake will begin at 6 PM on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at the Cass Lake Veteran's Center and will continue until the service at 1 PM on Monday, February 17, 2025 with Jay Sarows as spiritual leader. Active Pallbearers will be Joey Fairbanks, Andrew Robinson, Carl Fairbanks, Les Robinson, Gordon Fairbanks and Donald Headbird. Honorary Pallbearers will be his daughters, grandchildren, family and friends. Burial will be at Sugar Bush Cemetery in Cass Lake in the spring. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, MN.

Kerry Harper



Kerry "Sonny" Blaine Harper 59, of Walker MN., began his spirit journey on Sunday February 2, 2025, from the Essentia Medical Center in Fargo, ND. He was born to Marcella (Tanner) and John Harper on November 27, 1965, in Chicago IL.

Sonny grew up and went to school in Minneapolis MN. He was a computer technician and would buy and rebuild computers to sell to people.

He loved all board games, especially Scrabble. Kerry LOVED the Minnesota Vikings....He was their number one fan. At the end of each game, he would start planning the next games half time menu. Sonny was an accomplished grill chef, always coming up with new fun recipes. He was a food connoisseur.... except for canned corn, he wasn't a fan. He was quite the entrepreneur; he would hand out his private acquisitions business cards to pay people to drive him around or run errands for him.

Sonny truly enjoyed watching his kids grow up, he loved family time. Especially around the holidays spending time with his family.

Those greeting Sonny in the spirit world are his father; John Harper, stepfather; Sam Ardito, sisters; Kimberly Libby, Kelly Harper,

Evelyn Harper, and Theresa Harper.

Those left to cherish his memories are his mother; Marcella Ardito, sons; Jake Harper, and Calvin Harper, daughters; Alysha Colberg, Taylor Harper, and Elizabeth Harper, sisters; Michelle Manos, and Sammie Ardito Rivera, and many nieces and nephews.

The wake for Sonny will begin at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 6, 2025, and continue until his 11:00 a.m. traditional service on Friday, February 7, 2025, all to be held at the Onigum Center in Onigum, MN. Those helping to lay Sonny to rest are Dan Manos, Antonio Manos, John Harper, Ray Geving, and Pernell Reese. Honorary pallbearers are all who knew and loved him. Interment will be immediately following his service at the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery in Onigum, MN.

Sonny'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

Laurel Jackson



Laurel Jean (Pouge) Jackson passed away peacefully with her family by her side on March 3, 2025, from Abbot Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. She was born to Sever, and Edna (Lang) Enstad on April 22, 1956, in Bay City, Michigan. Laurel grew up a "North sider" in Minneapolis MN. and went to school there.

Upon completing her education Laurel went to work for Honeywell, where she worked for 25 years. In 1970, she met the love of her life, Faron Jackson Sr. They were married in 1978. They bought their first house in north Minneapolis, where they lived for 40 years. After Laurel retired, she moved to Onigum, MN. where she raised her family, as well as fostered numerous children over 30 years. Her and Faron adopted 5 of the children.

Laurel loved life and to live it to the fullest, she loved powwows, making regalia for her grandchildren, camping, fishing, the occasional trip to the casino and traveling. She enjoyed having a picnic at the Como Park Zoo with family, going to the state fair, and

shopping with Sandy at Discount 70. She REALLY loved to make big meals for her family. Especially the holidays. Christmas was her favorite. She loved decorating for it and having the family together! Family was VERY important to her!!

Laurel meant so much to so many she will truly be missed!

Those who have gone before her are her son; David "DJ" Jackson Sr. daughter; Theresa Jackson, her parents; Edna and Sever Enstad, mother and father -in -law; David and Edith Jackson, and special cousin; Mikey Lang. Those she leaves behind to cherish her memories are her loving husband; Faron Jackson Sr., sons; Walter, Faron Jr., Julian, James, and Niko Jackson, daughters; Maria, Maggie, Jada, Sage, Kaleah, and Aniyah Jackson, brothers; Eddie, Tim, and Terry Enstad, sisters; Kathy Culp, Joannie Shofner, and Sandy Houle, 28 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

A two-day wake for Laurel will begin on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. and continue until her Sunday, March 9, 2025, service at 11:00 a.m. to be held at the Onigum Center, Onigum, MN. those helping to lay Laurel to rest are, Isaiah Agard, Niko Jackson, Tyson Jackson, David Jackson Jr., Jordan Anderson-Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Beau Agard Jr., Vinny Brown-Jackson, Robert Henry Jr., Chaske Henry, Faron Jackson, Trusen Gordon, Javionte Jackson. And Sean Henry. Honorary pallbearers are Richard Jones, Bonita Desjarlais, Kerry Jackson, Ruby Lowry, and Bob (Jappy) and Maureen Headbird, along with all those who knew and loved her. Interment will be immediately following her service at the Onigum Catholic Cemetery, Onigum, MN.

Laurel'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.

Lucille Wakanabo



Lucille Marie Wakanabo, age 94, began her journey to the spirit world on Friday,

February 14, 2025 at her home in Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Lucille was born on February 10, 1931 to Sam and Mary Raisch, in Cass Lake, MN. She married Robert Wakanabo Sr and they had 4 children: Robert (Punk) Wakanabo Jr, Jennifer Wakanabo, Vern Wakanabo and Ronald Wakanabo. Her family lived in NE Minneapolis from 1957 to 1969. They then moved back to Cass Lake to stay from 1969 to 2025. She had numerous jobs on the Leech Lake Reservation, including Che-we, Elder Division, Advocate, and First Bingo Caller at Leech Lake Bingo. Lucille graduated from Leech Lake Tribal College. She enjoyed bowling and tournaments in Niagra Falls, Milwaukee, Seattle, Washinton DC, Last Vegas and St Louis. She was also in bowling leagues in Bemidji and Walker. Lucille was a well-respected elder from Leech Lake Reservation.

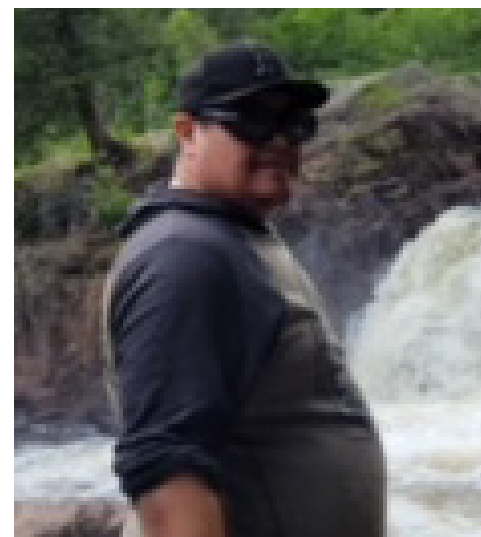
Lucille is survived by her children: Vern Wakanabo and Ronald Wakanabo; grandchildren: Kayla Leigh Wakanabo-Merrill (husband, Vince Merrill) and Nickena Buster Carlson; and great-grandchildren: Matic Wakanabo, Lillianna Staples, Lyle Staples, William Wakanabo and Tayla Wakanabo.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Sam and Mary Raisch; sisters: Florence, Patricia and Hazel; husband: Robert Wakanabo Sr; and children: Robert (Punk) Wakanabo Jr, Jennifer Wakanabo; and granddaughters: Breanna Leigh Wakanabo, who was killed by a school bus in 1985.

There will be a time of reviewal from 11 AM to 1 PM on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at St Peters Episcopal Church in Cass Lake, MN, followed by services with Reverend George Ross. Pallbearers will be Jay Riplinger, Mark Nelson, Vince Merrill, Lyle Staples, Marion Rodriguez, Bill Bellanger and Norman "Butch" Beer.

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

Michael Roybal



Michael Paul Roybal, born July 2, 1973 in Bemidji, MN, age 51, passed away in Park Rapids, MN on February 13, 2025.

Obituaries Continued on Page 13.



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

200 Sailstar Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218.335.3682 • 218.335.4418

Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene **Chief Judge of Tribal Court**
Honorable David Harrington **Deputy Judge of Tribal Court**
Honorable Michael Harrelson **Deputy Judge of Tribal Court**

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court
In Re: Estate of: Peter John Hunt, DOB: 11/23/1953 Decedent	In Re: Estate of: Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., DOB: 03/25/1935. Decedent.	In Re: Estate of: Annette Cloud, DOB: 06/20/1953. Decedent	In Re: Estate of: Henry William Rushman, DOB: 02/20/1959. Decedent	In Re: Estate of: Kenneth Gene Lyons Sr., DOB: 06/04/1938. Decedent	
Court File No. CV-24-122	Court File No. CV-24-136	Court File No. CV-24-157	Court File No. CV-25-22		
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Peter John Hunt, died September 12, 2024. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 4th, day of November, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Dwight Jones, surviving child of the decedent.	NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., died November 26, 2001. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 27th, day of January, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Candace Partridge-Gotchie, surviving spouse of the decedent.	NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Annette Cloud, died March 28, 2024. A hearing was held before the Honorable Megan Treuer, Deputy Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 6th, day of January, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Will, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Jennifer Cloud, surviving child of the decedent.	NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Henry William Rushman, died December 8, 2023. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rachel Weis, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 13th, day of March, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Selena Rushman, surviving child of the decedent.	NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Henry William Rushman, died January 18, 2019. A hearing was held before the Honorable Rachel Weis, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 10th, day of March, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Probate of Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Kevin J. Lyons Sr., surviving child of the decedent.	
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on September 12, 2024, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Dwight Jones, 927 Roosevelt Rd. SE Bemidji, MN 56601 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Peter John Hunt, decedent.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on January 27, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Candace Partridge-Gotchie, PO Box 463 Deer River, MN 56636, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Leo Anthony Gotchie Sr., decedent.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on January 6, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Jennifer R. Cloud, PO Box 162 Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Annette Cloud, decedent.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on March 13, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Selena Rushman, 20564 Jenkins Rd. SE Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Henry William Rushman, decedent.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on March 10, 2025, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Samuel J. Lyons, Duluth Bethel, 23 Mesaba Ave. Duluth, MN 55806, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Kenneth Gene Lyons Sr., decedent.	
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.	NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that all creditors having a claim against the estate are required to present the same to the Personal Representative or the Clerk of the Leech Lake Tribal Court within ninety days (90) days from the date of the first publication of the notice or claims will be barred.	

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Debahjimon can be found at the following locations:

District I
Ball Club Comm. Center
White Oak Casino
Cenex Station
Max Mart
Inger Comm. Center
Deer River School

District II
Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
Bena Community Center
Bena Store
Sugar Point Comm. Center
Kego Lake Comm. Center

District III
Che We Station
Leech Lake RTC
Tribal Justice Center

Facility Center
Dairy Queen
Elder Services
Cass Lake IHS
Cass Lake Dental Clinic
Leech Lake Market
Shell Station
Diabetes Clinic
Woman's Halfway House
White Earth Office
Child Welfare Office

Financial Services
Woman's Services
Opioid Clinic
Leech Lake DRM
MCT Headquarters
Cass Lake-Bena H.S.
Cedar Lakes Casino
Leech Lake Gaming
Junction Station
Leech Lake Tribal College
Men's Halfway House

Leech Lake Health Division
RBC Building
Tribal Development
Leech Lake Housing

Bemidji
Sanford Center Box Office
Tesoro Station
Bemidji Public Library
Social Services Building
Bemidji IHS Building

LLBO Health Clinic
Bemidji State Univ. AIRC
Northwest OIC
Oshki Manidoo Center
Simonson's Station
Tesoro Station

The Debahjimon is a free, monthly publication.

Obituaries Continued.

Survived by: Wife Calea Roybal, and children Rayna Roybal (Ignatius Vang), Dorian Tappo, Raige Tappo (SierraCronin), Robert Roybal, Sian-Rose Tappo (Andrew Lindner), Rylee Roybal (Michelle Anderson), Terry Fleming, Kale Fleming, Piper Fleming, Michael Roybal II, and granddaughter Calea Goggeye, his mother Marilyn Roybal and his many siblings he left behind.

Preceded by: Grandparents Robert & Louise Charwood, Albert Roybal (father), Rob Charwood (cousin), and Grand Baby "Little Gramps" Calvin Seth Lindner, along... with many other Family and Friends that he loved and cared for.

Visitation: Wednesday, February 19 at 12pm Service: Wednesday, February 19 at 1pm Inger Community Center.

Biography: We gather today to celebrate the man, the myth, the legend, Michael Paul Roybal. A cherished father, loving husband & best friend. Mike had many accomplishments throughout his life, but his greatest one is his family, which he was very proud of and loved by very much. He valued time with those he loved and cherished and was always protecting & doing what he could to help out when we needed it. Michael Paul Roybal graduated from Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School also where he worked & retired from as a safety director. He was also a hard worker with lots of ambition & achievements starting off with being a security guard @ Northern Lights Casino, Firefighter @ Cass Lake, MN, security supervisor @ The Palace, security manager/shift manager @ Cedar Lakes Casino also tactical training there as well.

Outside of work He really enjoyed time with family watching movies & collecting Star Wars, Gi joes, He man. Every Sunday he would watch football games with loved ones during the season & in the summer he loved being adventurous and just getting in the car & driving grabbing sweet treats along the way. Micheal was a joker in hard times to keep everyone's head up, making everyone laugh and see things in a positive way. We all love you dad and will forever be in our hearts. May the force be with you. Always.

Natasha Ocampo

Natasha "Tasha" Marie (Fineday) Ocampo, age 36, of the Migizi clan began her spiritual journey on Friday December 13, 2024 at her home.

Natasha was born to Dawn Fineday and Clarence "Koosh" Staples-Drouillard on March 2, 1988 in Bemidji, MN. Tasha grew up and attended school in Cass Lake, later moving to Duluth at age 14, and to the Twin Cities at age 17.

Over the years she enjoyed basketball, volleyball, swimming, listening to music, going to the casino, watching movies, playing bingo/cards with grandpa Louie and spending time with family and friends. Tasha had a great sense of humor, always joking and laughing! She had a nickname for everyone. On April 9, 2009, Natasha married the love of her life, Amador Ocampo-Zamora, in



Minneapolis and together made this their home to raise their sons.

Those Natasha joins again are her father, Clarence "Koosh" Staples-Drouillard. Aunts; Sheryl Fineday-Hill, Louella "Anna" Drouillard, Barbara "Punkin" Drouillard, Linda "Red" Staples. Uncles; Merrill Hill, John Fineday, Micheal "Juilo" Staples. Grandparents; Louis "Louie" Junco, Barbara J Fineday, Cecelia "Bone" Staples-Drouillard, and Gordon "Gabby" Headbird. Special Cousin, Charles "Chuck" Kingbird Sr and Special Friend, Heather "Hedder" Jean Casey.

Those left to cherish Tasha's memory are her husband, Amador Ocampo-Zamora and sons; Amador Ocampo-Fineday Jr, Julian Ocampo-Fineday, Jorge Ocampo-Fineday, and Adrian Ocampo-Fineday. Brothers; Donavin (Ashley) Fineday, Devin (Brenna) Fineday, Francisco Ocampo-Zamora, Alfredo Ocampo-Zamora, Hilario Ocampo-Zamora, Rodrigo Ocampo-Zamora, and Jesus Ocampo-Zamora. Sisters; Aleigha Fineday and Maria Guadalupe Ocampo-Zamora. Parents; Dawn Fineday, Salvadora Zamora and Jesus Ocampo. Aunts; Denise "Witch" Staples, Marilyn Wind, Diane Fineday, and Gloria Headbird. Uncles; Kenneth "John" Staples, Dennis "Helm" (Margaret) Staples Sr, Darryl "Duck" Drouillard, Burnham "Dauser" (Ramanda) Drouillard, Gordon "Gord" (Tuleah) Fineday, Robert "Rob" Fineday, Esau (Francisca) Ocampo-Diaz and special friend, Mary DeMonthier.

A wake will begin Saturday December 21, 2024 at 3PM, being held at the Mission Center and continue until burial on Sunday December 22, 2024 at 10AM. Burial will take place at the Fineday Family Burial Grounds in Pennington, MN with Spiritual Leader Melvin Goodman. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service (whisperingpinesnorth.com).

Steve Smith

Steven Douglas Smith was born on September 30, 1949, in Grand Rapids, MN. He passed away peacefully with family by his side on February 19, 2025, at St Luke's Hospital.



Steve belonged to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and enjoyed sharing memories of his time growing up in Ball Club, Minnesota. Steve spent most of his adult life in Duluth. He attended a tech school for civil engineering, and then worked for more than 20 years as a transportation specialist (Civil Engineering Tech) at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. His work there included assisting in the development of new highways. He had many friends at MnDOT and was very proud of the work he did, retiring in 2015. Steve was a very hard worker and also worked for the Duluth News Tribune for many years.

One of Steve's lifelong passions was wood-working, and he crafted many wonderful things over the years. He made numerous items for his daughters such as a unique square swimming pool, a teeter-totter that went up and down and back and forth, a swing set, bunk beds, and so much more. He also loved animals and cared for many dogs and cats over the years, with a special place in his heart for his beloved mastiff Gitchi. He enjoyed playing guitar and harmonica. He was also very skilled in the kitchen. He enjoyed making meals for his family and friends and was always on the hunt for the perfect chili recipe.

Steve was beloved by those who knew him. He had a rare gift in the ability to make others feel seen and loved, and he didn't just listen with his ears but with his heart. The world feels a little emptier without him, but his kindness and loving smile will live on in our hearts.

Steve was preceded in death by his mother Laverne Marie Smith (McKenzie) and grandparents Bernie and Virginia Smith who raised him, sisters Diane, Donna, Marie McKenzie and brothers Bob and Richard McKenzie, aunts Darlene Smith, Julia Sherman, Caroline Smith. Uncles Sam Smith, Bernie "Mangie" Smith Jr. He is survived by his sisters Linda and Connie McKenzie, daughters Sonja and Stephanie Smith, step-daughter Laura Blake, and many other family members and friends. Pall bears are Carter Barrett, Charles Prentice Jr, Bernie "Beanie" Smith III, Donald Sherman Sr, Donald Sherman Jr, Douglas Fairbanks.

Twila Wilson



Twila Ann Wison, "Manidoo-Ikwe" which means "Spirit Woman" of the Wolf Clan, age 47 of Minneapolis, NB started her Spirit Journey suddenly on February 7, 2025. She was born October 25, 1977 to Dianna McKenzie and Darrell Wilson Sr.

Twila grew up in Minnesota where she spent her childhood being a cheerleader, a model and making lasting memories with her family and friends. She grew up and lived a majority of her life in Minneapolis, MN. She attended South High and Augsburg College. She was such a beautiful person inside and out. When she walked into a room, she most definitely made an impact, not only by her beauty but with her love and compassion for others. She worked as a server/waitress and was a very successful at making you feel seen and heard. Her way with people was such an amazing gift.

She leaves behind in this world to cherish her memories her two sons Dontae Brewer and Mekhi Miranda, her grandson Sebastian Brewer. Her father Darrell Wilson Sr., brothers Darrell Wilson Jr., Charles Prentice Jr. Sisters Rikki White, Dawn Wilson and Paula Prentice. Many nephews and nieces, aunts, uncles and numerous cousins, family and friends. And special friend Willard Charging Crow.

Twila was preceded in death by her mother Dianna McKenzie, maternal grandparents Donald and Laverne McKenzie, paternal grandparents Darwin & Norma Wilson. Uncles Robert and Richard McKenzie. Aunts Donna Decker and Marie McKenzie, Cousin Richie Lamorie.

We will be having a Celebration of Life to share a meal and memories of our beloved Twila on Friday, February 28, 2025 1PM-5PM at Gitchitwaa Kateri Catholic Church at 3045 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407. There will be another Celebration of Life in Ball Club, MN area following the Celebration of Life in Minneapolis. Information will be shared through Social Media once arrangements have been finalized.



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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings

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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources

190 Sailstar Drive NW - Cass Lake, MN 56633

JOBS@LLOJIBWE.NET

Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697

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

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS CLOSE APRIL 4, 2025

Rover/Driver (Facilities Maintenance) ~ DPW ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-054

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Licensed Assisted Living Director ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-003
Clinic Nurse Supervisor (Red Cedar Assisted Living) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-004
Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-035
Police Officer (Full time) (3) ~ DPS ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-058
Mental Health Professional (2) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-065
CTSS Mental Health Practitioner (4) ~ Behavioral Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-066
Community Health Representative (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-088
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Attendant (4) (Part Time) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-089
Advanced Practice Provider (Tribal Clinics) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-102
Bailiff (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-118
Police Officer (Part time) ~ DPS ~ \$26.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-137
Accounts Receivable Team Leader ~ Finance ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-149
Gekinwaa'amaaged (Teacher) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-173
SNAP ED Educator ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-190
Associate Child Welfare/Family Wellness Attorney ~ Administration ~ \$41.00/hr or D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-200
Staff Accountant II ~ Finance/Accounting ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-202
Assessor (O.T.P) ~ A&D ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-211
Energy Grants Manager ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-213
Diabetes Registered Dietitian ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-214
Infant Toddler Teacher (Ball Club) ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-218
Infant Toddler Teacher (Ongium) (3) ~ Education ~ \$18.61/hr ~ Job Code: 24-219
Health & Safety Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) ~ Regulatory ~ \$16.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-221
Health & Safety Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) ~ Regulatory ~ \$17.50/hr ~ Job Code: 24-222
Lead Carpenter/Estimator (Community Services) ~ DPW ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-224
Watershed Specialist ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-228
Billing Compliance Specialist (Child Welfare) ~ Administration ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-238
Community Health Worker (Maternal Child Health) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 24-239
Behavioral Health Case Manager ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 25-001
Dispatcher (2) ~ DPS ~ \$22.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-003
Case Manager (Child Support) ~ Legal ~ \$18.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-005
Environmental Fellowship Attorney ~ Legal ~ \$44-\$52 /hr ~ Job Code: 25-008
On Call Crisis Response Mental Health Professional (15) ~ Behavioral Health ~ \$2000/OC, \$45.00/Act \$1000 bonus ~ Job Code: 25-011
On Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (15) ~ Behavioral Health ~ \$2000/OC, \$45.00/Act \$1000 bonus ~ Job Code: 25-012
Land Use Administrator ~ DRM ~ \$20.00/hr ~ Job Code: 25-016

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

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

Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders

April Birthdays

District I

Burton Wilson	Laura New-Barker	Kimberly Egan
Alan Carter	Donald Sherman Sr.	Lisa Jackson
Gayle Wilson	Wanda Gotchie	Francine Smith
Steven Bebeau	Darwin Wilson	Sandra Charwood
Tobias Shotley	George Donnell	Rose Gotchie
Simon Garbow Jr.	Robin Hron	Melvina Sherman
Jackie Sahr	Robert Washington	Lani Birt
Connie Nason	Hal Bowstring	Kim Hanson
Sharon Gwerder	Nancy Caverly	Candace White
Franklyn Sherman	Kelly Campbell	James Howard Sr.
Leslie Bowstring-Reece	Detra Lyons	Katherine Gale
Douglas Heyer Jr.	Delmor Best	Robert Fairbanks
Willa Howard	Carol Goggleye	Michael Kirt
Timothy Schultz	Barbara Kannas	Janet Grossman
Douglas Oothoudt	Bonnie Rautio	Leona Day

From the District I Office
Kyle, Amanda & Janelle

District II

Helen Tibbetts
Shirley Young
Patti Giffen
April Greene
Rayis Losh
Charles Campbell
Alvin White

From the
District II Office Steve,
Terri & Michelle



District III*

Robert Adams	Yvonne Hardy	Charles Lyons
Sandra Beaulieu	Kenneth Harrison	Cherilyn Martin-Wade
Roberta Berg	Ronald Harrison	Evelyn Monroe
Thomas Brown	Cecil Haugen	Susan Morris
Darrell Charwood	Earl Headbird	Patrick Newell
Robert Charwood	Robin Hron	Brenda Northbird
Arthur Chase	Caroline Hulett	Terrence O'Connor
Clifford Cloud	Steven Humphrey	Peter Paquette
Michael Command	Kay Jackson	Sherly Peters
Donna Day	Louise Jackson	Leslie Reese
Lawrence Day	Anthony Jenkins	Linda Reese
Scott Elliott	Rose Johnson	Franklin Robinson
Crystal Estey	Maxine Johnston	Bryan Rock
Edward Fairbanks	Susan Jones	Donald Saice
George Fineday	Margaret Jordan	Dawn Schubel
Karen Fineday	Therese Jordan	Ramona Silk
Patrick Finn	Jeffery Kingbird	Eunice Taylor
Randy Finn	Patricia Kluever-Holbrook	Clyde Tibbetts
George Goggleye	Mary Lou Ladeaux	Beverly Tonce
Lawrence Goggleye	Arlene Larson	George Wind
Gary Hanson	James Littlewolf	Deanna Younkun

From the District III Office Leon, Toni & Kari

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Saturday 9:00 -12:00pm

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

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

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

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 14, 2025

USE A FISHING ROD AND HOOK 3 BOBBERS FOR A CHANCE TO CATCH UP TO \$1,500 CASH



Walker, MN
northernlightscasino.com

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



160,000

INTO THE WILD

GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY-JUNE 18

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

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

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 14, 2025

7 LUCKY WINNERS WILL CHOOSE A GAME PIECE TO WIN UP TO \$1,200



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Cass Lake, MN
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\$68,200

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IT'S IN THE CARDS

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

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

7PM-10PM SATURDAYS, APRIL 5-JUNE 21, 2025

WIN UP TO \$700 CASH PLAYING A HIGHER OR LOWER CARD GAME



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APRIL 17

Earn 50 Players Club points and receive a complimentary ham.*



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*Maximum of one earned ham, while supplies last (\$20 Free Play will be given if supply runs out).
See Player's Club for rules and complete details. Subject to change. Management reserves all rights.



Easter

2025

BUFFETS

SUNDAY, APRIL 20



WALKER, MN
11AM-4PM
EVENT CENTER
\$32⁹⁵
\$10.00 CHILD UNDER 10



CEDAR LAKES
CASINO • HOTEL
CASS LAKE, MN
10AM-3PM
EVENT CENTER
\$29⁹⁵
\$9.95 CHILD UNDER 10



SPORTS BAR MARINA
WALKER, MN
10AM-3PM
\$18⁹⁵
\$8.95 CHILDREN UNDER 10

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