

Obituaries	P. 2
Precinct Caucuses: Basic Information	p. 17
Tribal Judge Fineday Issues Order	p. 18
Certification of Leech Lake Candidates	p. 18

A Publication of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

## Your Caucus Attendance is Crucial to Ensure that Leech Lake Candidate Irene Folstrom Receives DFL Endorsement

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Needs Irene Folstrom in Senate Seat

By Patsy Gordon

Leech Lake Band member, Irene Folstrom, is currently running for Minnesota Senate District 4. It is crucial for Leech Lake Band members to show up at your precinct caucus to vote for Folstrom to ensure that she receives the DFL endorsement. **DFL endorsement for Folstrom means that she will move on to the General Election, which will be of great benefit to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Nation.**

Just in the past few weeks alone, the young wife and mother has already put in countless hours campaigning and has proven her commitment and shown her sincerity when it comes to campaigning and ultimately winning this senate seat. With your vote, she can do it! Folstrom officially announced her decision to run on January 17, 2006. Her campaign tour took her through District 4 from Pequot Lakes, Pine River, Walker, Cass Lake, Bemidji and back to Cass Lake again at the High School where she ended her tour with a feast while discussing issues and concerns along



*Irene Folstrom*

the way.

It cannot be stressed enough of the dire need for all Leech Lake Band member voters to turn out at your local precinct caucus location on **March 7, 2006 and vote for Irene** to ensure the DFL endorsement for her. Your support is of extreme importance for Folstrom to win! Minnesota Native Americans and Indian tribes will greatly benefit from having Folstrom as their next Senator representing us in St. Paul! Currently, there are no Native Americans in the Minnesota State Legislature. Folstrom would be the first Native American woman to serve in the Minnesota State Legislature.

The precinct caucus locations are on page 16 of this issue. All you have to do is show up at that location, say you want to be a delegate, and then vote for Folstrom on the straw poll ballot. Anyone can be a delegate. So mark the date on your calendars and make it a priority to attend. Everything you need to do will be explained to you at the time of the caucus also. The more people who do this, the better our chances are of ultimately sending (Folstrom) a Band member to St. Paul.

Because of the high voter turn out on the Leech Lake Reservation in 2004, we now have a higher delegate

Continued on page 16

**SEE THE TEXT OF THE  
LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE  
"STATE OF THE BAND" ADDRESS IN ITS  
ENTIRETY ON PAGES 8-12.**

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## Birdena WhiteFeather

"Wah-wah-tay (Northern Lights)"

Birdena Lynn WhiteFeather, 31, of Cass Lake, MN, died Saturday, January 28, 2006 as the result of a car accident near Cass Lake.



Birdie was born on August 26, 1974 in Bemidji, MN to Irene Marie Mitchell and Leland Joseph WhiteFeather, Sr. She was raised in Cass Lake and attended Cass Lake High School. She is fondly remembered as someone who loved to laugh, was always in a good mood, and was "like a big kid!" She enjoyed the outdoors, picking cedar boughs and making wreaths; cooking and baking, (especially fry bread); snowmobiling, ATV's and sledding. She was a jingle dress dancer and liked to attend and participate in powwows. She loved to spend time with her kids and other family members and was always quick to help others in the time of need. Some of her favorites included roses, the color blue, and guard dogs. She will be missed.

She is survived by her children, Jonathon WhiteFeather, Ashley Stone, Mika Stone, Tyrone WhiteFeather, and DeShawn Rushman; mother, Irene Mitchell; father, Leland WhiteFeather, Sr.; sister, Jolene WhiteFeather; brothers, Steve WhiteFeather, Timothy WhiteFeather, and Leland WhiteFeather, Jr.; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Georgianna WhiteFeather; and

her grandparents, Lucy and Thomas Mitchell and Isaac and Josephine WhiteFeather.

A traditional wake began on January 31, 2006 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cass Lake and continued until the time of services. Funeral services were held at the Veteran's Building on February 2, 2006, with Anna Gibbs as Spiritual Advisor. Interment is in Boy River Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Thomas-Dennis Funeral Home of Cass Lake and Walker.

## Betty Whitebird

Betty Lee Whitebird, 44, of Cass Lake, died on Feb. 7, 2006 at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo, ND.



Funeral Services were held on Feb. 11, 2006 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN with Revs. Harold Eaglebull and John Rock officiating. A wake began on the preceding Thursday afternoon at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake and continued until the time of the funeral. Interment will be in the spring under the direction of the Cease Family Funeral Home of Cass Lake.

She was born March 13, 1961 in Cass Lake, MN the daughter of Leroy and Elizabeth Whitebird. She was raised and educated in Cass Lake. Betty liked to play Bingo, board games, listen to music (John Fogarty), cook and spend time with her family. She also enjoyed her dog "Cuddles". She was a tough young woman who will always be remembered for her strong

personality and beautiful spirit.

She is survived by her mother - Elizabeth Whitebird of Cass Lake; daughters - Kayla Wakanabo of Cass Lake and Leda Guernsey of Cass Lake; 2 grandchildren - Drisauna Swanson and Matic Wakanabo of Cass Lake; brothers - Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird and Leroy "Puff" Whitebird both of Cass Lake; sisters - Shirley ("Big" Stan) Whitebird, Beverly (Ed) Whitebird, and Arlene (Al) Whitebird all of Cass Lake; and many nieces and nephews and family and friends.

She was preceded in death by father - Leroy Whitebird, Sr., sons - William and Matthew Whitebird and brothers - Darwin and David Whitebird.

Active Casket bearers were Richard Littlewolf, Kyle Whitebird, Gary Johnson, Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird, Vince Lowry and Kevin Goose with alternate Ed Dalton.

Honorary Casket bearers were Shirley Dunn, Kelly Robinson, Connie Littlewolf, Janice Hunt, Lucille Wakanabo, Louise "Muppet" McKennet and John "Paint" Fisherman.

## Dennis Dean Garbow, Jr.

Dennis Dean Garbow, Jr. age 43 of Deer River, Minnesota died on January 28, 2006 at Cass Lake, Minnesota as the result of a car accident. He was born on May 20, 1962 in Cass Lake.

Dennis worked at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen, Mn and also at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker. He enjoyed being around his family and friends, cutting boughs in the fall, biking, wood carving and going to pow-wows.

He is survived by his dad, Dennis Garbow, Sr., of Inger, Mn., his mother, Ina Omeha, of Minneapolis; 2 sisters, Carol Smith and Laura Jubera, both of Minneapolis; one brother, Jason Robinson of Cass Lake; two special nieces, April and Crystal Webster of Inger.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Carol Garbow, paternal grandparents, Lillian and William Garbow, and maternal grandparents.

A wake began on February 1, 2006 at the Inger Community Center in Inger and continued until the time of the funeral on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, also held at the Inger Community Center in Inger.

Burial is at the Inger Cemetery in Inger, Minnesota.

## Charles Bongo

"Gay Bee Oob Bin Dun"

Charles Bongo, 66, died in Leesburg, Florida on February 3, 2006, as a result of diabetes and heart problems.

Bongo is a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and was born in Cass Lake, Minnesota. He graduated from high school in Grand Rapids, Minnesota after which he joined the Navy in 1959. After he was discharged, he moved to Little Falls, Mn and worked for Minnesota Power and Light, until he retired from there in 1986.

In 1998, Bongo moved to Leesburg, Florida. His love for golf led him to a job as a course ranger and in the cart barn at "The Plantation" in Leesburg. In 2004, even after having his right leg amputated below the knee, Bongo took a solo three-

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George Goggeye, Jr., Chairman  
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Lyman Losh, District II  
Donald "Mick" Finn, District III

Patsy Gordon, Managing Editor & Graphic Designer

E-mail: [patsy@llojibwe.com](mailto:patsy@llojibwe.com)

Phone: (218) 335-8225 • Fax: (218) 335-8309

April deadline for articles in March 20, 2006.

**Charles Bongo** - continued

month car trip and followed the pow-wow circuit. Eventually his left leg was amputated also, but he continued to work and play golf using his prosthesis.

Bongo requested that half of his ashes be scattered in the atmosphere by Eternal Ascent, a company that releases ashes via helium-filled balloon. The other half of his ashes will be returned to the Leech Lake Reservation in the spring for a traditional Indian ceremony.

Bongo is survived by his daughters, Julie Opatz of Crystal River, Florida, Karla Plante, Little Falls, Mn., Kristine Bongo, Minnetonka, Mn; 2 sisters, Jan Salazar, Albuquerque, NM and Karen Mellott, Beverly Hills CA; and three grand children.

Beyers Funeral Home in Leesburg handled the arrangements.

**Susan Brown Bismark**

Susan Brown Bismark, 95, of Walker, MN died on February 14, 2006 at the Woodcrest Health Care Center in Walker, MN.

Funeral Services were held on February 18, 2006 at the Cease Family Funeral Home in Cass Lake, MN with Rev. Robert Kelly officiating. A visitation was on February 17, 2006 at the Cease Family Funeral Home of Cass Lake, and one hour before the services at the funeral home.

She was born on August 14, 1910 in White Earth, MN, the daughter of Julius and Pauline (Aitken) Brown. She enjoyed visiting in her native Ojibwe language. She loved picking blueberries. She led a simple life and loved to laugh.

She is survived by her son, Charles Brown; daughters, Winni Lindbom and Becky Miller; 13 grandchildren, and 24 Great-Grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, sons; Silas Brown, Frank Bismark; husband Frank Bismark, brothers; David Brown, William Brown, Charles Brown; sister Ida Brown Woods; and Grandson Jake Blue.

Honorary Casketbearers were the staff from the Woodrest Care Center in Walker which included Rhonda Stone, Eileen Little, Rachael Klaers, Vickie Hurlburt, Bonnie Peterson, Raymond Day, Harriet Strom and Brenda Peterson. Active casketbearers were her grandsons.

**Lucille Ruth Raish**

Lucille Ruth Raish, 67 of Cass Lake, MN died on February 20, 2006 at Cass Lake PHS Hospital in Cass Lake, MN.

Funeral Services were held on February 24, 2006 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cass Lake with Rev. Harold Eaglebull and Rev. John Rock officiating. A wake began on the preceding Wednesday at 4pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake and continued until the time of service on Friday. Interment at the Prince of Peace Cemetery in Cass Lake was handled under the direction of the Cease Family Funeral Home of Cass Lake.

She was born February 14, 1939 in Cass Lake the daughter of Charles and Sarah (Jones) Headbird. She married Peter Raish, Sr. December 2, 1963. She was raised, educated and lived her whole life in Cass Lake. She worked for the Leech Lake Reservation Head Start program as a bus driver. She was one of the first employees when the Head Start program started in 1965. She had to retire in 1985 due to health problems. She enjoyed playing bingo, visiting all her friends and family. But most of all she loved being with her family. Her greatest joy in her life were her 2 grandchildren, whom she cherished with all her heart. She will be remembered as a very loving and caring person, and someone who always put others needs before her own.

She is survived by her husband Peter Raish, Sr. of Cass Lake; daughter, Bev Raish of Cass Lake; son, Peter Raish, Jr. of Cass Lake; grandchildren, James Raish of Cass Lake and Cheyenne Raish of New Brunfels, Texas; sister: Joyce Hanson of Cass Lake; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her 2 daughters Evelyn and Pamela Raish, her parents, Charles and Sarah Headbird, 15 brothers and sisters and numerous relatives.

Honorary Casketbearers were Oras Smith, Jody Bellanger, Donna



To: Our Mother on her 62<sup>nd</sup> Birthday:  
Rita "Smitty" Buck  
~Mother~

There are women who are full of love, there is nothing greater than a mother who is from God above. She was always there for us when no one else seemed to care, holding us and loving us because she always wanted to make sure we were treated fair. Always sticking up for us and encouraging us when no one else would; wiping our tears away and showing us how love feels. We were always sure our Mother's love was, oh so real.

When God created Mothers, he made them in a very special way. Oh how we all wish Mom was here today! We all look forward to the day when God calls us home, so we can see our Mother smiling and sitting next to God's throne.

When we go before the throne of Grace, we will be praising and thanking our Father for the smiles that he and Mother brought upon our face.

But while we're still here we must endure, so that we finish the race, letting our light shine so we can bring a smile upon our Savior and Mother's face.

Happy Birthday, Mom!

Love, Dad, Rhonda (Billy), Richard, Roger, ('Lil' Bug), Chey, Raquel, Rickay, Shania, Nessa, Nick, 'Lil' Rich, and 'Lil' Chey. We all miss you!

Love is the flower of life, and blossoms unexpectedly and with law, and must be plucked where it is found, and enjoyed for the brief hour of its duration.

Truly loved, Your Family

Murray, Nancy Whitebird, Hannah Rock and Lisa Hill.

Active Casketbearers were Jess Headbird, Donnie Headbird, Gordon Headbird, Robert Headbird, Jr., Marvin Hanson, Richard Butcher, Jr. and alternate Frank Raish, Jr.

**In Loving Memory of Genevieve A. Egan (Jenkins)**

August 26, 1937  
– March 4, 2005

We knew little that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone, For part of us went with you the day God called you home. You left us beautiful memories. Your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, But as God calls us one by one, our chain will link again. We miss you Mom and Grandma! Family and Friends

Please join us for a memorial dinner for Gen at the Winnie Dam Community Center on March 4, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

## Leech Lake Reservation Honor Guard & American Legion Post 2001 to Sponsor Leech Lake Area Native American High School Junior Boys for the 2006 Boys State Convention



The Leech Lake Honor Guard & American Legion Post 2001 officially authorized the sponsorship and participation in the 2006 Annual Minnesota American Legion Boys State Program. The American Legion of Minnesota has conducted the Boys State Program for the past 57 years. The 58<sup>th</sup> annual convention will be held on the St. John's University campus, Collegetown, MN from June 11-17, 2006.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

Notices have been sent to seven area Local Indian Education Committees, Indian Education Directors and high schools administrators from Blackduck, Bemidji, Bug O Nay Ge Shig, Cass Lake, Deer River, Northland Community Remer-Longville and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, inviting them to nominate Native American high school juniors for the Boys State Program. The school's LIEC will play a major role in nominating eligible boys from their respective schools.

The Native American High School juniors will be selected by the Leech Lake Honor Guard and American Legion Post 2001 to attend the program. Criteria for selection include the potential or demonstrated

leadership qualities, ability to get along with others, mental alertness, exceptional personality & character, honest & thrifty, a positive attitude toward leadership training and demonstrated quality classroom and community accomplishments.

The nominations deadline is March 31. Selections will be made on April 15 and will be sent to the State by May 1, 2006. The Post may consider sending more than two boys depending on the number and quality of nominations received.

Commander Ken Perrault said, "The LL Post is very proud to sponsor this elite program that will provide Native American youths with leadership potential, a great opportunity to receive excellent training and exposure in government & community leadership with nearly 400 high school juniors state-wide. The Post strongly urges support from the community, parents and Indian Education offices in all the surrounding communities."

Leech Lake Honor Guard and American Legion Post 2001 is the official Legion Post of the Leech Lake reservation. Members are primarily Leech Lake tribal members and other tribal Military Veterans who reside on/near the Leech Lake reservation. The Post was granted official Legion status in 2001 and has a formal membership of nearly 100 members. The Honor Guard of Leech Lake has been providing Honor Guard services for, and/on behalf of the Leech Lake Community for over 25 years.

This year's Boys State Program chairperson, for the Post 2001 is Roger T. Aitken, LL Honor Guard & Legion Member from Walker, MN. For questions or comments, please contact Roger at: 218.547.2501 or [rtaitken@paulbunyan.net](mailto:rtaitken@paulbunyan.net). Information taken from the American Legion website contributed to this article.



## Looking for a hot career? It's Wildland Firefighting!

A unique program at Itasca Community College  
in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.  
Graduates from our program are working nationwide.



For more information about this program,  
call Instructor Marty Christensen  
at 218-327-4580 or 1-800-996-6422.

Find us on the web at [www.itascacc.edu](http://www.itascacc.edu).

**A grant from the Enbridge Energy Company is available  
to help Leech Lake Band Members enrolled  
in the Wildland Firefighting Program.**

For more information, contact Ann Vidovic, Itasca Community  
College Student Support Services, 218-327-4167 v/TTY.

## Leech Lake Tribal College's Student of the Year

The Leech Lake Tribal College would like to acknowledge and congratulate our Student of the Year, William Badboy. The award is donated each year by the American Indian College Fund. An anonymous staff member nominated William for the award and it was a unanimous decision. William is a wonderful and talented person, who met the following criteria:



## Leech Lake Tribal College's Spirit of Sovereignty Foundation Award



The Leech Lake Tribal College would like to congratulate and acknowledge Michael Bunker, our recipient for the Spirit of Sovereignty Scholarship. Michael started in the spring of 2005 and is in good standing to graduate in the spring of 2007 and is receiving this scholarship because he has met the following criteria:

- Full time status
- Student should have demonstrated community service and volunteer work
- Student must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- At two-year colleges, student must not have received a previous associate's degree. At four year colleges, student must not have received a bachelor's degree
- Recipient should be American Indian or Alaska Native
- Close relatives of those serving on the selection committee are ineligible for the award.

- Must take part in extra-curricular activities as it relates to involvement of the American Indian Programs in the school
- Have Volunteer/Community work as it relates to the community
- Potential for future interaction and support Indian communities
- Be a member of a recognized Tribe

William started attending LLTC in the spring of 2004 and will be graduating this year. We are very proud of you Bill, keep up the good work.

## Walker Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Month - January 2006



Trey Stewart



- Q: When and why did you first start coming to the Boys & Girls Club? What drew you here?  
 A: In April 2005, I saw an ad in the school paper and it sounded like fun.  
 Q: What do you do there currently? What have you done in the past? What would you like to do in the future?  
 A: Play ping pong, dodge ball, get a pool table.  
 Q: How much time do you spend at the B&G Club on an average per week?  
 A: Usually I'm there five days a week, from about 3:20 to 5:30.  
 Q: How did you spend that time before you got involved with the B&G Club?  
 A: Go home, do homework, play Playstation.  
 Q: How has coming to the B&G Club changed your life, attitude or views?  
 A: I'm not bored all the time.  
 Q: What's your favorite part about the B&G Club?  
 A: Quiet time; I like the quiet!  
 Q: How old are you? What grade in school?  
 A: 12 – sixth grade  
 Q: What are your future plans after high school? What would you go to college? What's your career choice?  
 A: I'd like to play in the NFL. I'll go to college at BSU or U of M.  
 Q: How do your parents feel about your involvement in B&G Club?  
 A: They're glad because it gets me out of the house.  
 Q: What other hobbies/activities/sports do you enjoy? Any other honors or awards?  
 A: Football, basketball, biking in the summer. Presidential award for physical fitness.  
 Q: Are many of your friends involved with the B&G Club? How do your friends feel about the B&G Club?  
 A: No, they all live too far away and don't like to ride the late bus. They think it's dumb, but they haven't been here!  
 Q: What would you say to someone who hasn't checked out the B&G Club yet?  
 A: You should just come.  
 Q: Do you feel the B&G Club is a good thing for the Leech Lake area youth? Why?  
 A: Yes. It keeps kids off the street.  
 Q: How do you feel about being selected as Youth of the Month? Were you surprised?  
 A: Yeah! I was surprised! But it's a good surprise.  
 Q: If you could wave a magic wand, what changes would you make in the Cass Lake area?  
 A: A new hockey rink, an arcade, and four football fields. An NFL practice field right in Walker.  
 Q: Do you see yourself staying involved with B&G Club after high school? How?  
 A: I'd like to be in B&G Club in high school, but probably not after because I'll be busy with college and the NFL.



The Leech Lake Honor Guard presented the flags at the Native American Heritage Night at the Timberwolves Target Center game on February 15, 2006.

## Interested in Becoming a Licensed Child Care Provider?

Leech Lake Child Care Services is focusing this month on outreach in the communities within and surrounding the Leech Lake Reservation. Here are some benefits to becoming a licensed child care provider.

A Licensed Provider Can:

- Be a part of the exciting process of helping children grow and learn.
- Receive information on trainings, events and policy / business development.
- Earn income while being at home with your own children.
- Have access to the Child Care Food Program.
- Care for as many or as few children as you want. (within guidelines)
- Be your own boss—set your own hours.
- Claim tax deductions for the business use of your home.
- Receive referrals from our agency when parents are looking for child care.
- Have access to professional support and networking with other licensed providers.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ESTIMATED FIGURE FOR:

### LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER ESTIMATED INCOME

LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS ARE ELIGIBLE  
FOR THE CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM

**WEEKLY**—4 kids @ \$2.50 x 45 hours = \$450  
**MONTHLY**—4 kids @ \$2.50 x 180 hours = \$1,800  
**YEARLY**—4 kids @ \$2.50 x 2160 hours = \$21,600  
 (CCFP yearly reimbursement = \$3,000)  
 YEARLY TOTAL = \$24,600

**WEEKLY**—6 kids @ \$2.50 x 45 hours = \$675  
**MONTHLY**—6 kids @ \$2.50 x 180 hours = \$2,700  
**YEARLY**—6 kids @ \$2.50 x 2160 hours = \$32,400  
 (CCFP yearly reimbursement = \$5,300)  
 YEARLY TOTAL = \$37,700

**WEEKLY**—8 kids @ \$2.50 x 45 hours = \$900  
**MONTHLY**—8 kids @ \$2.50 x 180 hours = \$3,600  
**YEARLY**—8 kids @ \$2.50 x 2160 hours = \$43,200  
 (CCFP yearly reimbursement = \$7,000)  
 YEARLY TOTAL = \$50,200

\*\*AN AVERAGE FULL-TIME JOB AT A WAGE OF \$7.00 / HOUR  
BRINGS AN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$14,560.00\*\*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER OR KNOW SOME ONE WHO IS INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT BOBBIE CASTILLO, OUTREACH COORDINATOR FOR MORE INFORMATION AT LEECH LAKE CHILD CARE SERVICES AT 218-335-8249 OR 1-800-551-0969.

## Region 2 Arts Council Grant Application Deadline

for Arts Project Grant

Applications are available for the R2AC Arts Project grant. **Please note that this grant opportunity has a deadline of March 14, 2006.**

**R2AC Arts Project Grants** may be requested to help non-profit organizations in our five county (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen) area. Funding may be requested to help your organization create or produce an arts event such as a workshop, a play, an exhibit or a performance. Funds may also be requested for developmental assistance for your arts organization, or to help bring a touring arts performance or exhibition into your community. Artists-in-residence projects for schools are also eligible. Maximum request limit of \$1,250 applies.

Any non-profit, tax-exempt organization that has received 501(c)3 status from the IRS may apply. Any group that does not have 501(c)3 status, but is formed for a non-profit purpose, may apply through a fiscal agent. School and units of government may apply without a fiscal agent. This program is supported through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature.

**To request an application form**, write or call Terri Widman at the Region 2 Arts Council, 426 Bemidji Avenue, Bemidji, MN 56601, 751-5447 or toll free at 1-800-275-5447 or email [r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net). You may also access applications and guidelines for this grant through our website [www.r2arts.org](http://www.r2arts.org). Staff assistance is available to all applicants to discuss ideas, select artists, or to assist in completing the application form.

White Earth Community Council/  
Leech Lake Area  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday - March 6th at 5:00 pm  
MCT Building on Highway 371 south  
of Cass Lake, MN.  
Special Guest, White Earth Tribal  
Council  
Dinner will be served.



Yvonne Wilson

## Yvonne Wilson Among Semifinalists for MN Teacher of the Year

Yvonne Wilson, who is a Leech Lake Band member, and a teacher at North Elementary School north of Deer River, Mn., has been selected as one of 27 semi-finalists for Minnesota's Teacher of the Year award. Wilson was selected as one of 119 candidates from across the state.

Ten finalists will be selected from the group of 27 semi-finalists near the end of March. The new Teacher of the Year will be announced on May 7, 2006 at a banquet to be held at the Northland Inn Conference Center in Brooklyn Park, MN.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe wishes Yvonne the best of luck!

## LEECH LAKE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM

24 hour crisis hotline:  
1-877-766-0977

Office hours:  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Toll free office number:

1-800-442-3912  
218-335-8065

Confidential, free, safe



**Elect Irene Folstrom  
for Senate**



## Medicare Mashkiki Deba'igaadesinok Epiitendaagwak Ge-gikendaman 2005 - 2006

Waadookaagejig Leech Lake Tribal Health

Gaagiigidowin 1-800-282-3389

### Gekendaagwakin

- Niibowa gegoo gii-aanjigaade imaa Medicare ezhinikaadeg, memindage gaa-inaakonigaadeg noomaya Manidoo-giizisoonasing 2003, Medicare Modernization Act ezhinikaadeg.
- Mii o'ow aanjigaadeg: nawaj gidaa-naanaagadawendaan inagakeyaa waa-mamooyan wiidookaagewin.
- Nawaj wenipanad daa-diba'igaade mashkiki (Medicare Part D). Da-maajiitaamagad o'ow Gichi-manidoo-giizisong maadagin zod, 2006.
- Giga-miinigoo nawaj gikino'o'amaadiwinan imaa mazina'igaansing Medicare and You 2006 ezhinikaadeg wii-miigiwegaadeg Binaakwe-giizisong 2005.
- Mii gaawin memwech ji-dibendaagoziyan. Gishpin dash waa-ayaawad zhooniyaa, gidaa-inaakonige giishpin wii-tibendaagoziyan.
- Giishpin dibendaagoziyan o'ow apii, gidaa-gikendaa inagakeyaa waa-aanjigaadeg inagakeyaa wedaapinaman gimashkikim.
- Ningodwaaso-giizis gidaa-naanaagadawendaan giishpin wii-toodaman o'ow. Maajiitaamagad Gashkadino-giizis midaasogonagizid ashi naanan, 2005 baanimaa ishkwataamagad Zaagibagaa-giizisong midaasogonagizid ashi naanan, 2006.
- Nawaj zhooniyaa giga-diba'ige giishpin dibendaagozisiwan dabwaa-giizhiitaamagak.
- Giishpin de-ayaawaasiwad zhooniyaa da-diba'igeyan, gidaa-wiidookaagoo. Gemaa gidaa-gagwejimaa Social Security Administration ezhinikaadeg.

### Giishpin Dibendaagoziyan Imaa Medicare Mashkiki Deba'igaadesinok (Part D):

- Giga-diba'ige nisimidana ashi niizhwaaswaabik endaso-giizis.
- Giga-diba'ige niizhwaakwaabik ashi aabaita endaso-biboon.
- Giga-diba'ige awashiime niizhwaakwaabik ashi aabita endaso-biboon da-naadamaageyan.
- Giishpin diba'igaadeg awashiime yo'ow idash nawaj bangii midaaswaakwaabik naaning, gidaa-diba'aan gakina.
- Mii eta go diba'igeyan bangii awashiime yo'ow.
- Giga-wiidookaagoo giishpin diba'amaagooyan yo'ow minik: midaaswaakwaabik miinawaa debendaman bangii midaaswaakwaabik niizhing miinawaa debendaman bangii

### Mii Yo'ow Waa-izhichigeyan

- Agindan gakina gegoo miinawaa inaakonigen giishpin waa-tibendaagoziyan.
- Giishpin wii-tibendaagoziyan, gidaa-inaakonige dino wiidookaagewin waa-ayaaman.

#### Mii Yo'ow Ge-izhichigeyan Da-gikendaman Nawaj

- Agindan mazina'igaans Medicare and You 2005 ezhinikaadeg.
- Ganawaabandan Medicare and You 2006 Akinaa gegoo da-ozhibii'igaade imaa.
- Gikendan waa-ayaamagak Binaakwe-giizisong.
- Mawadishiwen omaa [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).
- Izhaan mawanji'iding endaayan.
- Gidaa-gagwedwe da-bi-mawadishiwed awiia enanokiid omaa.
- Gidaa-wiidookaage gaye giin.

Bi-gaagiigidon **Senior LinkAge Line®** at **1-800-333-2433** giishpin wii-kagwedweyan gegoo gemaa giishpin wii-wiidookaageyan.

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

#### In Tribal Court

115 Sixth Street NW, Suite 3  
Child Protection  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

Dawnita Selena Budreau-Mendoza, Child,  
DOB: 12/16/1997;  
Sierra Elizabeth Budreau-Mendoza, Child,  
DOB: 09/24/1999; and  
Vanessa Rose Amaya-Mendoza, Child,  
DOB: 05/30/2002.

Samuel Goose and Patricia Gale,  
Petitioners.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**CASE NO. CP-06-05-GD**

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the above-referenced Child(ren):

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an Initial Hearing in the above-entitled matter has been rescheduled from Monday, February 27, 2006, at 11:00 a.m., to Monday, April 24, 2006, at 1:00 p.m., in the Leech Lake Tribal Courtroom, Facility Center, upper level, in Cass Lake, Minnesota. The hearing will be before the Honorable Judge Fineday. You are required to appear at the above time and place for the hearing.

Dated: February 17, 2006.

/s/ Patricia L. Pizzala  
Clerk of Court

## CANCER NEWS FROM JOHN HOPKINS

1. No plastic containers in microwave.
2. No water bottles in freezer.
3. No plastic wrap in microwave.

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters. This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dioxin chemicals cause cancer, especially breast cancer.

Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

Recently, Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us. He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave

using plastic containers.

This applies to food that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body. Instead, he recommends using glass, Corning Ware or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else.

Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc. He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons. Also, he pointed out that Saran wrap is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous dioxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food. Cover food with a paper towel instead.



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Chairman, George Goggleye, Jr., delivered his annual "State of the Band" Address to a room packed audience on February 3, 2006 at the Leech Lake Bingo and Palace Casino, in Cass Lake, Minnesota.

The following is the entire text of his address.

"Good Morning!

Thank You Dad for the prayer and thank you mom for being there.

I want to begin by thanking the Creator for the wonderful life I am allowed to live as one of His children. I also need to thank the Employees of the Leech Lake Band for all they have done in this past year.

We have come a long way in a short time; the measure of progress is not what we do as individuals but what we accomplish as a Team. Therefore I want to say a special thanks to Tribal Council Members Wilson, Losh and Finn, Executive Director Fineday. Also Division Directors Vicki Howard, Eli Hunt, Burton Howard, Robert Whipple, Richard Robinson, Jr., Steve Kleeberger, Gloria Dudley and Fred Smith. Without each of you the progress that we have made would not have been possible. Thank You! Miigwech!!

This year we have so many positives to share with you all that this State of the Band will be about the Goals achieved by the Divisions. As you will recall the focus of the 2005 Address was about the Band's financial state of affairs.

Today our financial picture is not as bad as it once was. In fact, as a direct result of our current restructure plan, the Band has formed a Finance Division. The Finance Division consists of the Safety, Property and Accounting Departments, which enhance the Band's ability to monitor its internal assets.

The current Financial State of the Band is much better now than it was when this administration took office in July of 2004. We began the year 2005 with a budget deficit of \$6.3 million dollars in the Band's General Fund. We ended the year with a deficit of only \$3.6 million dollars.

The almost \$3 million dollar reduction of the deficit in one year was a direct result of the dedication and diligence displayed by our current administration and Budget team in working with the Band's different divisions in order to reduce spending but at the same time maintaining a high standard of quality services to our Band members. Recently, our Band's Administration and Budget team members have introduced a Deficit Reduction Plan in order to eliminate the Band's budget deficit by 2010.

While the news I am sharing with you all this morning is very encouraging, it is imperative that we stay the course of fiscal responsibility and accountability. We will accomplish this through strict compliance with the Band's budget ordinance and continued scrutiny of our spending.

Also, we must not continue our dependency on Gaming revenue as a sole source to subsidize our band operations. We must diversify our economic capabilities. Accordingly, the Band has made an effort to seek additional resources to supplement our current operations including starting our own check cashing corporation, making plans to build two new convenience stores, and applying for more grants and seeking other sources of revenue such as third party billing in our Health and Human Services divisions.

Also under the Finance Division, our Safety Officer and the Property Manager continue to make progress in their respective areas of expertise, from ensuring that all Band employees have a safe environment to work in, to the complete inventory of all the Band's buildings and property.

Another division that was created as a result of our reorganization is the Business Division, headed up by John Herrera. This division was established in an effort to bring to Leech Lake badly needed Economic Development and economic diversity. One of the first actions by Mr. Herrera was to identify four Convenience stores within the Reservation boundaries that had not had their income included in the Tax Agreement proceeds from the state of Minnesota. These four stores alone will be responsible for a projected increase of \$100,000.00 for the four quarters of the calendar year 2006. Mr. Herrera further identified 12 new Liquor establishments that were added to the list for calculated tax rebates at a projected amount of \$50,000.00.

Continued research into the Tax Agreements should lead to an increase of hundreds of thousands of dollars of new income in 2006 and in the coming years. The Band has missed the boat on nearly ten years of additional revenues as a result



not looking into these Tax agreements. Not only will this administration never repeat that mistake, but we intend to continue to increase those revenues.

Also, The Che We store has for the first time in many years turned a profit. It was a small amount but it was a profit. The business has undergone a major overhaul from a management, inventory, staffing and marketing perspective. The Band will be expanding our convenience store operations by adding two new locations by the spring of 2006. This project is being funded by a very generous grant of \$1 million dollars from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Business Council.

The two new convenience stores will be located near the Northern Lights and White Oak Casino locations. The strategy for these two new businesses will be to "provide the customer with efficient low cost gasoline combined with fast and friendly service." These endeavors will help keep our tribal economy strong and will also provide nine new jobs.

The Che We Office Supply has also experienced a year of growth and change. Profitability returned due to new pricing strategies and more aggressive sales support. Product lines have increased and will continue to do so over the coming year. The Office Supply Company has moved to its new location in the Che We Complex, providing more direct public access in order to further increase sales and profits.

The new Leech Lake Cash Express has been operational now since October 2005. Leech Lake is one of the few tribes in the nation to operate their own check cashing services within their own casinos. This business has produced a consistent stream of revenue for the Band (which continues to grow everyday.) Also, this business has created 22 new jobs including 2 new management positions held by Leech Lake Band members. This business has the potential to expand into other areas of gaming and non-gaming activities.

Shingobee Island is another project the Business Division has taken on. Basic construction took place at the site in order to improve and protect the property. Plans for further construction are underway in order to complete the building

# LEECH LAKE

## "STATE OF THE

in preparation for a proposed restaurant and marina. A number of potential restaurant franchises are interested in the property. The site is targeted for completion sometime in 2006 depending on financing and ongoing negotiations.

The Leech Lake Wild Rice Plant was closed this winter as a result of years of substantial losses sustained by the Band. A cautious evaluation on principles of strict cost control and the possibility of outsourcing need to be considered in future operations.

Does this mean we will not be buying Wild Rice? No it does not. The Band will continue to buy Green Rice from its constituency. The price for Green Rice will be dependent on the availability of the crop.

The Business Division also continues its review of the current debt structure in anticipation of an overall finance strategy for future projects, such as a Wellness Center, or Hospital/ Extended Care facility for our aging population. These projects, though very expensive, are a real possibility.

A major goal of the Tribal Council and Business Division will be to strengthen our overall Economic Development Capabilities by adopting a resolution earmarking 10% of net gaming proceeds to be invested into business development and to invest New Revenue Sharing proceeds into the same.

The Leech Lake Gaming Division has been the sole economic engine for a number of years. The Government side of the Band's tribal operations has historically relied heavily on Gaming revenues. That was very apparent during Fiscal years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 when the allocation to the Government side exceeded Gaming revenues by millions of dollars. But, since July of 2004 the District Representatives and I have committed to taking no more than a \$10.5 million dollar allocation from Gaming, which is millions of dollars less than what had been taken from Gaming in previous years. As clearly reflected in our audits, this reduction in allocation has helped to stabilize our finances and has allowed the gaming division to invest capitol to enhance their operations. Other accomplishments by the Gaming administrators and staff would



# THE BAND OF OJIBWE

## THE BAND'S ADDRESS

include:

- Helped complete a \$6 million dollar turnaround from a \$4 million dollar deficit to a positive \$2 million dollar increase in equity.
- Increased annual revenues by 6.17%.
- Combined with the Government to save over \$800,000.00 in the Medical Insurance Plan.
- Moved two years ahead of schedule on an integrated technology system.
- Completed Revision of Personnel Policies.
- Graduated the 110<sup>th</sup> person to their GED.

Though some of these accomplishments may seem small in stature they are tremendous confidence builders for the individuals who have worked hard to achieve those goals. The Gaming Division is a key component in our efforts to achieve ongoing Financial Stability. The following are the Gaming Division's six Strategic goals.

- **Products and Services:** to provide products and services that our guests want.
- **Employees:** to provide the trained workforce
- **Technology:** to provide integrated technology system that meets the needs of our internal and external guests.
- **Facilities:** to provide facilities that enhance the guest experience.
- **Revenue/Profitability:** to provide realistic revenue and profitability based upon conditions of the internal and external environments.
- **Marketing:** to provide a marketing plan that reflects the seasonal changes and designed to identify a return on investment.

The Human Resource Division has also been instrumental to the overall reorganization and restructure of the Band's Divisions. The Human Resources component has always been key to any organization's success or failure. That principle clearly applies to the operations

of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. With nearly 2000 employees, the Human Resource staff of the Government, Gaming, Tribal College and Bug O Nay Ge Shig school are tasked with a multitude of issues regarding employees and their benefits. This is a daunting responsibility, however, our Human Resources staff have been up to the task.

Some of the Human Resource Division accomplishments are.

- The cost of unemployment insurance to our reimbursable account has decreased to 25%. This is attributed to the attention to detail when employment separation occurs.
- A core list of training functions has been identified for employees of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The primary focus of this list will be on organizational training.
- The selection process changed to ensure immediate staffing of vacancies.
- Job descriptions changed to a more general format for the organization. They have initiated a more uniform and consistent hiring process.

The Division of Resource Management and our Legal Division have worked side by side in many aspects. An important task worked on in the last year was the appeal of the New Management Plan for the Chippewa National Forest. Although these appeals were not successful, the staff members of the two divisions continue their effort to identify other ways in which the Band can ensure treaty rights are protected and adhered to. For example, a plan to harvest a significant amount of timber in the Onigum area was stopped as a result of appealing and negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service. The settlement of the Band's appeal resulted in no timber being harvested.

A major accomplishment has been the development of the Leech Lake Land Use Ordinance (LUO). This action is a powerful step in asserting the Sovereign rights of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe by regulating land use within the boundaries of the reservation. The Band now has the authority to regulate Land use and

will be able to take an affirmative role in determining how land development will be carried out on the Reservation. The Band's Legal Department has actively advocated on behalf of the Band to ensure acceptance of the Band's authority by local, state and federal units of government.

Transferring land from Fee to Trust is an ongoing process. While the Band has not had any transfers of land into Trust status in recent years, meetings continue to be held with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss Fee to Trust applications and also to discuss the BIA's trust responsibility regarding the approval of our Fee to Trust applications.

The Band's Attorneys participated in the negotiations for amendments to the Tribal/State Agreement on Indian Child Welfare. This ongoing process involves meetings with Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services. The amendments currently being worked on will clarify and strengthen the provisions of the agreement to help ensure Tribal members' and the Band's rights are respected.

Another major accomplishment has been the implementation of the Mandatory Registration of Predatory Offenders Resolution. This Resolution was vital in ensuring the safety of tribal and community members living within the boundaries of the reservation. It is vital to all residents who reside in the surrounding communities on or near the Leech Lake Reservation to have a uniform mandatory predatory offender registration statute to assist law enforcement in identifying possible suspects in homicide, criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping cases. This resolution will ensure public notification concerning where level 3 offenders will be residing in the community. In order to better serve and protect all Leech Lake Reservation communities, all Minnesota Chippewa Tribal members who reside within the Leech Lake Reservation boundaries and who would normally be subject to Minnesota's mandatory predatory offender registration statutes if they lived off the reservation will now be required to register with the State of Minnesota and further required to comply completely with Minnesota Statutes 243.166 and 243.167.

The professionalism and competence demonstrated by the Department of Public Works has been a source of pride for the Band. I would like to share with you just some of the accomplishments:

- The completion of the one-mile of 8-inch water line to connect the White Oak Casino to the Deer River water system.

- Completion of a one-mile sewer line connecting ten duplex units to the Northern Lights Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Contract with I.H.S. to provide water well drilling on the White Earth Reservation. Our department has also been given a verbal commitment by Red Lake to do some well driving on their reservation in 2006.
- Completed Earthwork for phase II of the Tribal College Construction project.
- Completed road reconstruction and excavation of 13 sub-basements for the Housing Authority.
- Paved the frontage Road in Cass Lake in cooperation with the City.

The Public Works Department Supervisor will also be serving as our Liaison in our effort to work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation on a Government-to-Government basis addressing the improvement of roadways that are maintained by the State on the Leech Lake Reservation. A Memorandum of Understanding was also implemented which currently exists between the Leech Lake Reservation and the State of Minnesota.

The Band, this past year has further emphasized education as a top priority. We have a unique system in place that focuses on the development of self-esteem in our children from early childhood all the way to those who participate in a college education. The benefits of self-esteem that come from knowing who you are as a native person are immeasurable. If you have a strong sense of self, you tend to make more healthy decisions in life. Education partners include our [Early Childhood/ Head Start programs](#), [The Bug O Nay Ge Shig School](#) and our [Leech Lake Tribal College](#).

We have been very fortunate to have an Early Childhood Program Director who has been committed to ensuring that our children will be given the opportunity to be successful through a well-developed curriculum. I often say that we have the best Early Childhood Program in the Country. I firmly believe that to be true. It is because of the dedicated staff in that program that we are one of 2 or 3 programs in the country that had zero (0) non-compliance findings on the Federal Review in March 2005.

Also, funding in the amount of \$241,000 was secured for the new Onigum Early Childhood facility and we will begin construction on that project in the Spring of 2006. Two new classrooms will be

## State of the Band Address

Continued from Page 9

added and two new buses have been purchased. I am a product of the Head Start Program, and to see these buses on the road each day helps me realize just how far we have come. I still remember getting into my mom's old rambler wagon to go to school. That's what buses were back in my Head Start days. Today they bus tomorrow's leaders to a place that can provide them with the best possible opportunity to be successful early in their young innocent lives. When you see these buses on the road or a driver filling their bus with gas at one of our stations, thank them for what they are doing. They are underpaid and overworked, but you don't hear them complain because they are committed to our children. I salute those of you who have stayed the course and believe in what you are doing.

Our K-12 Bug O Nay Ge Shig School has accomplished much over the last year as well.

- The student population increased to 302 students this year resulting in the creation of new 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade sections.
- Our Bug O Nay Ge Shig students have won the State Drum and Dance Competition two years in a row and with that they have won the right to host the Competition in May of 2006.
- The Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion classroom successfully completed its first year, and is now in its second year of providing all subject matter taught in our Ojibwe language, again bringing our school into the national spotlight. Immersion teaching is a method that utilizes our own language to teach our children everything they will need to be successful people. The language is not the subject, it is the vehicle that is used to teach. Learning the language is an added benefit. National studies have shown that immersion language programs consistently show academic results above the

norm for Native students as well as language and culture revitalization in the communities that embrace it. Niigaane has proved this: they have met or surpassed all required state and federal education standards while teaching traditional knowledge in a contemporary setting. Early Childhood/Headstart would do well to steer their graduates to Niigaane.

These few highlights demonstrate the fine efforts being forth at the school. Clearly, the staff and faculty at Bug O Nay Ge Shig deserve commendation for their unstinting dedication to their students.

The Leech Lake Tribal College continues to be a shining light in our community by providing quality education to students from all across the reservation and state. The construction of the new tribal college is a huge accomplishment and the result of a lot of hard work by a very talented staff. The first of the two tribal college buildings has been completed, with construction on the second building well under way. Also, the Tribal College was granted a 4 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to enhance the college's Science and Technology Curriculum and to Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum. The Tribal College will also begin a wireless project in partnership with IBM, and the College will soon have the ability to conduct Internet Classes

The Leech Lake Health Division had a great many accomplishments this year as well. The Public Health Nursing program was able to retain their Home Care Nursing team with no turnover of staff. This highly skilled team of nurses are able to serve an average of 80 adults and elders in the comfort and convenience of their own homes. The division's nurses are able to attend excellent training to enhance and hone their skills, which also enables them to obtain their Continuing Education Credits to retain licensure. The health division is able to provide maternal child health care at the NEST. There they have one Family Nurse Practitioner and two RN's who are able to do growth and developmental screenings. Also, a nurse practitioner serves prenatal and post-partum clients regularly at the Nest. Just this year they were able to install central air conditioning in the clinic side of the Nest. Increased lighting outside the building was also added.

The maternal child health program had a great many accomplishments this year as well including increasing

the number of women who requested a DOULA (birth coach) for the delivery of their babies. I am proud to say that the DOULA program is becoming very well known, which is a direct result of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the fine staff at the Maternal Child health program. Another important accomplishment is that this program has been able to assist many of their prenatal patients who use substances to get into a treatment program where they can take their children. This program has also expanded services to the Nest to offer more clinics during the week, and they now also have an alternate site for prenatal and well children to get their health care along with being able to access other services offered at the Nest, all in one convenient stop. Although the numbers are still too high, this fine program has helped to reduce the rate of infant mortality on our Reservation.

Joel Stokka's program has seen a great many accomplishments this year such as:

- Increasing clinical support for patient and therapist interaction.
- Completion of the Telemedicine State Grant budget modifications for grant spend down.
- Repairing video equipment at all the sites and trained in an all new staff.
- Developed a new referral system to increase program awareness and encounters.
- Identified and developed a partnership for new telemedicine services as well as identified new revenue opportunities for telemedicine encounters.

Our community clinic program was able to improve access to health care services on our reservation and surrounding communities and they were able to expand and develop community based health services.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff at the Leech Lake Fitness center, for providing a vital service to the diabetic community as well as being able to provide direction for community members who go to the fitness center to exercise.

Some of the Leech Lake Community Health Representative program accomplishments for 2005 are as follows:

- Established policies and procedures for our CHR

transportation program. Developed the Eyeglasses and denture program for our elderly and diabetic clientele.

- Established client priorities; Elderly, Diabetic/Dialysis, Chemo and all others in this order.
- Established collaboration with the Leech Lake Nursing program

The Leech Lake Nutrition Program ran a successful annual health fair this year while providing nutrition trainings for various community programs. I am proud to announce that the MAC/NAPs program participation tripled.

Our EMS ambulance service continues to provide high quality service to our community. This vital service responded to a total of 1,145 requests for emergency medical services this past year. Our ambulance service received a clean bill of health after being inspected by the State of Minnesota EMSRB for their bi-annual licensing. Also this program was awarded a \$44,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Health for equipment. I also, want to make a special gesture of appreciation for the five members of our ambulance program who provided excellent care, use of skills and professionalism in a mutual aid request to the Red Lake Nation during their time of crisis and tragedy on March 21, 2005. Also, 2 members of our fine staff responded to Hurricane Katrina by providing assistance in the aftermath of that tragedy.

In the area of our behavioral health program some of their many highlights are as follows: they helped launch a Native Youth Crisis Hotline. They erected a suicide prevention Billboard with art work by a student at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, which is located near the Bingo Palace Drive and HWY 2 junction. They initiated an Elders Advisory Council for guidance in program planning. They either sponsored or co-sponsored 3 community gatherings to provide education about suicide prevention and to highlight local helping resources available. They also sponsored workshops on bullying, alcohol abuse, and humor which was presented by Don Burnstick. All in all thank you all so much for breathing life into our communities.

I want to thank our WIC program for providing our community with a stable consistent staff. Also for steadily increasing the number of community members served. Thank you all so much.

And I am proud to report regarding our diabetes program the

following information: This program was fully staffed with nursing personnel and a certified diabetes educator. A Diabetes Basics class was implemented in the Ball Club community. And the Diabetes program was allowed to allocate funds from the federal grant to renovate the LLDCEP office into a future clinical site.

In the area of family services they are able to implement strategic long term plans.

- They licensed over 30 foster homes.
- They collaborated on the Children's initiative involving the Health, Education, Human Services, Bug-o-Nay-Ge-Shig, and Headstart programs.
- They were able to hire a second staff member to work with families regarding truancy issues.
- In the area of Tribal Court, the Family services staff has concentrated on bringing more cases from county court into tribal court.

Our Family Services provide a tremendous service to our community and they rarely get their due appreciation, but, today I would sincerely like to give them my heartfelt appreciation for all that they do.

The Leech Lake alcohol and drug program provides comprehensive services that assist band members to receive chemical dependency treatment services. And in recognition of the Outpatient Treatment Services, the rates have been doubled for a much needed increase in revenue. This increase will allow them to expand services in order to serve more band members. Also, the program applied for and received a grant for Juveniles in the Legal System who are experiencing substance abuse related problems. The grant from the Juvenile Justice Department will fund services that will provide assessment and case management for the adolescents. They have also applied for a grant regarding Woman's Services to the Chemical Health Division, State of Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services, to provide services that will assist pregnant women and or women with dependent children so they can complete the program. This grant will also involve more family oriented programs, such as parenting classes and other ancillary services to assist families.

Also our Minneapolis office was able to hire a licensed drug and alcohol counselor, and clinical supervisor and case managers. They will offer psychological counseling along with drug and alcohol counseling and they will be able to offer alcohol and drug assessments.

Now I would like to discuss an area

that affects most tribal members that live within our Reservation boundaries, and that area is housing. Our Leech Lake Housing Authority is working towards developing and implementing a comprehensive service plan to improve the current housing conditions within the service area of the Band. The Housing authority staff, which is overseen by an elected Board of Commissioners, administers a multitude of programs in addition to seeking resources to enhance tribal housing stock and rehabilitation services to existing homes. The Housing Authority currently have over 100 employees to carry out the goals and objectives to improve the living conditions of our Band members within the service area. The Housing authority is currently in the midst of a new development project consisting of 25 single family homes and a community center that is funded by tax credit financing and is located 5 miles south of Cass Lake. These homes are stick built construction utilizing labor from within the Reservation and will be occupied by Fall of 2007. Within the last four years the Housing Authority has constructed 50 stick built homes utilizing our own labor force. Not only have we provided homes for our people but jobs as well. The Housing Authority also offers support services with their Housing Services Program, which provides tenant/home ownership education and advocacy and a Collections Department to assist renters and homeowners with repayment plans. Both programs assist an average of 1,000 housing constituents per year in support services. I would like to thank the entire Housing Authority staff and say Job well done!

Our planning department has been very busy this year indeed. These are the following some of the grants that they have received in the past year:

1. HUD ICDBG Grant Awarded (Bean Community Center) - \$500,000
2. Healthier MN Community Clinic Fund Awarded (Bena Community Center/Satellite Clinic) - \$100,000
3. USDA Rural Development Grant Awarded (Bena Community Center Construction) - \$75,000
4. Blandin Foundation Grant Awarded (Bena Community Center/Youth Center) - \$200,000
5. Institute of Museum and Library Services Basic Grant Awarded - \$5,000
6. Institute of Museum and Library Services Professional Service Grant Awarded - \$3,000

7. HUD ICDBG Grant Awarded (Facility Center Rehabilitation) - \$500,000
8. Predevelopment Planning for Wellness Center – Ongoing
9. Predevelopment Planning for Bena Community Center – Ongoing
10. Assisted numerous LLBO Divisions secure grant awards

Our Purchasing Department has been a vital resource for our Band's tribal operations. For the calendar year 2005 Purchasing has processed/issued the following:

- 6,149 Purchase Orders totaling approximately \$4,923,090.03
- 81 Professional Service Contracts totaling \$610,168.71

The Mission is to ensure integrity, economy, efficiency and accountability; to provide quality service through effective teamwork; to fulfill the purchasing needs of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in a professional, responsive and timely manner and in accordance with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Procurement Policies and applicable Tribal, Federal, and State Laws. The purpose of the Leech Lake Purchasing Department is to provide economical and efficient management and control of supplies and equipment in support of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's programs. It is the intention of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to incorporate in its procurements the relevant requirements of Federal funding sources including Federal Acquisition Regulations, OMB circular A-87, A-102, A-133, and specific grantor requirements for programs administered by Tribes. It is the goal of the Purchasing Department to continuously strive to improve the Band's procurement process.

Our Internal Investigations have been very busy over the last year. Internal Investigations have spearheaded the investigation into questionable Tribal Referral expenditures. Internal Investigations has conducted preliminary analysis of approximately \$4 million in Tribal Referral assistance. To date, over 30 individuals suspected of receiving assistance through fraudulent means have been referred for possible federal prosecution.

Internal Investigations has also conducted investigations into numerous allegations of employee fraud, or misuse of tribal assets. As a result of these investigations, several employees have been removed from their positions through termination or resignation. Some employees have also been referred for possible federal prosecution. Internal

Investigations has also coordinated an audit of the tribal HIP program by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This audit was conducted in October of 2005. We are currently awaiting the BIA's findings.

Internal Investigations is also coordinating a forensic examination of numerous tribal programs being conducted by Eide Bailly. Findings have been issued on the 100 Home project, resulting in a write off of approximately \$500,000 for construction costs that exceeded the value of the homes. Findings have also been issued on the tribe's corporate credit cards, identifying approximately \$37,000 in undocumented charges and outlining numerous control issues and corrective actions to be taken. Internal Investigations is working on an ongoing basis with the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General to investigate allegations of financial impropriety involving both tribal and federal funds.

The Leech Lake Tribal Police Department has completed the hiring of seven additional Patrol Officers to help patrol and service the entire reservation. The added personnel will give the department sixteen Patrol Officers and three Patrol Sergeants to cover three districts twenty four hours, seven days a week. The added Patrol Officers will help serve the outer communities, help make enforcement of public safety more efficient and effective. The added Officers brings the department up to nineteen Patrol Officers, two School Resource Officers, three Narcotics Officers, one Criminal Investigator, One Assistant Chief and one Chief of Police. Each section of the department has produced effective roles in crime prevention of the community. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council has allowed the Leech Lake Tribal Police to be competitive with area law enforcement agencies in wages that also work wonders for retention of officers at Leech Lake.

Again, I want to acknowledge and thank all program staff and personnel for their many accomplishments. Everyone's efforts are to be applauded.

Before I close, I would like to take this time to speak about an issue that is on everyone's mind. We are currently in the midst of an epidemic that has had an effect on virtually every person in this room. This epidemic I speak of is rampant drug abuse and its associated crimes:

- crimes of thievery, burglary and robbery;.....
- crimes against the family and community;.....
- crimes of violence and death.

We are all aware of the disastrous

Continued on Page 12

## State of the Band Address

Continued from Page 11

incidents of the recent past.

Now our customs are being manipulated, our values mocked by those who have chosen the pathway of drugs. We have survived as a people by overcoming adversity throughout our history. This survival has been dependent on maintaining our cultural values, our customs, our language....our very identity.

In this I see our challenge. I ask each and every one of you to join me in accepting that challenge, and that is:

- Go beyond the normal, the standard, the acceptable.
- Let us dare to strive for the exceptional!
- Let us set our goals high and put forth the extra effort.

In this way, at day's end, whatever the results, we will have the satisfaction of knowing we gave our very best in the interests of our community of people.

We must always remember the constant principles that have sustained our great nation, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, that we commit to uphold:

- we show respect for our elders,
- we share responsibility and accountability with our generation,
- and we nurture our children.

Miigwech akina bizindaawiyeg!!"

### Legal Notices

**Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs. Miranda Dawn Butcher, Defendant,** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Miranda Dawn Butcher is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that she committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.215.C, Driving after revocation.
2. Chapter 200, Sec.214.A, Motor vehicle insurance-Owner.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on January 31, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

Douglas Todd Cloud (Minor) and Lorretta Cloud (parent), Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Douglas Todd Cloud (Minor) and Loretta Cloud (Parent) is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that he committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.215.C, Driving after revocation.
2. Chapter 200, Sec.214.A, Motor vehicle insurance-Owner.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on February 7, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

Amy Ann Fairbanks, Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Amy Ann Fairbanks is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that she committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.208.A.3, Speeding in excess of 10 mph over the limit.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on February 7, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

will be entered against you.

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

Ralph Wayne Schaaf, Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Ralph Wayne Schaaf is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that he committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.215.A, No Driver's license.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on February 7, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

Jolene Jennifer Smith, Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Jolene Jennifer Smith is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that she committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.215.C.1, Driving after revocation.
2. Chapter 200, Sec.205, Open Bottle.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on February 7, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

Marilyn Rose Wakanabo, Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Marilyn Rose Wakanabo is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that she committed the following violation of the Leech Lake

Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.214.C, Failure to show proof of insurance.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on January 31, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

#### **Leech Lake Band, Plaintiff vs.**

James Edward Wilson, Defendant, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, James Edward Wilson is hereby required to appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on March 21, 2006 at 1:00 P.M., and answer the complaint filed alleging that he committed the following violation of the Leech Lake Traffic Code:

1. Chapter 200, Sec.215.C, Driving after revocation.
2. Chapter 200, Sec.214.C, Failure to show proof of insurance.

#### **YOU ARE NOTIFIED BY PUBLICATION BECAUSE:**

1. Failure to appear in court on February 7, 2006 pursuant to the summons duly served upon you.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you fail to appear as required, judgment by default will be entered against you.**

## WOMEN'S GATHERING

Every Friday evening  
at 7:00 p.m.  
6729 Lower Cass  
Frontage Road  
Next to Auto Parts Store  
Cass Lake, MN

218-335-8065

# Cass Lake:

**ACE has Affordable Phone Service for YOU!**

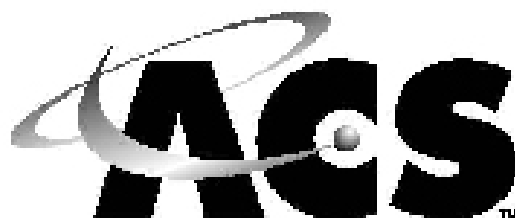
call **Cindy Walhof**, your local Tribal Lifeline Specialist,  
at **1-800-630-7593** today and **save money**  
on your local telephone service.

*No money down!*

*No credit check!*

*Keep your current  
phone number!*

Qualified customers  
can receive monthly **\$1**  
local telephone  
service for only **month**



Arvig Communication Systems

**When it matters most, choose ACS.**

Qualified low-income customers living on Tribal Land can receive a local landline service for only \$1 per month. This program is available in the United States. Subject to credit and a minimum of 100 lines. By local, Tribal, Original jurisdiction and PCT and Subsequent local landline. Based on ACS Terms and Conditions. Please refer to website for details.

## Students, Athletics and Asthma

By Niki Johnson, LPN, Cass Lake IHS

Physical fitness is an important lifelong goal for all students. Yet, sports and physical activity is sometimes restricted or even avoided by students with asthma. Supporting and encouraging each student's efforts to follow the asthma management plan is essential for a student's active participation in all physical activities.

Signs that may indicate poorly controlled asthma include a persistent cough, wheezing, chest tight-

ness or shortness of breath after vigorous activity. Most of the time there is a low level of stamina during physical activity or reluctance to participate at all. Because exercise provokes symptoms in most children with poorly controlled asthma, the student may need to be evaluated by a Health Care Provider. Together you can decide on treatment goals and what is needed to control asthma.

Getting control of asthma means recognizing asthma triggers (the factors that make asthma worse or cause an asthma episode), avoiding or controlling these triggers,

following an asthma management plan, and having convenient access to asthma medications.

Students who follow their asthma management plans and keep their asthma under control can usually participate in any sport or physical activity. Olympic medalists with serious asthma have shown that with good asthma management, any student can be a winner.

### FILE HERE - DRIVE HOME TODAY!

We can process your tax return with no out-of-pocket costs.

### PAYOFF OR UPGRADE-TODAY!

You can use your tax refund to pay off an existing loan or upgrade.



#### INSTANT REFUND LOAN!

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- ❷ FILE HERE
- ❸ GET YOUR CAR TODAY
- ❹ GET CASH NOW

...And Your Filing is Free!!

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**YOUR W-2 = CAR & CASH FOR YOU**



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## **Native Youth Crisis Hotline**

1-877-209-1266

## Cass Lake Fire Department Gets New Fire Truck



Pictured above is the new 2006 Sterling Acterra Chassis Fire Truck with a 3000 gallon pumper tank. The truck was recently purchased through a FEMA (U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security) grant written by Lisa M. Rath, a Grants Specialist of Bemidji, Mn. The FEMA grant award was for \$116,437.00. The George W. Nielson Foundation awarded the Cass Lake Volunteer Rural Fire Association with \$15, 525.00, and the balance of \$42,863.00 came from the Rural Truck Fund, making the total cost of the truck a whopping \$174,825.00. The truck was built by Central States Fire Apparatus LLC, Division of Rosenbauer Firefighting Technology. This beauty replaces a unreliable 1951 military bridge truck concerter which carried a 2,000 gallon tank. Members of the Cass Lake Volunteer Rural Fire Association are made up of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, City of Cass Lake, and the townships of Pike Bay, Wilkinson, Ottertail Peninsula, Unorg. 5, Farden, Ten Lakes and Brook Lake of Beltrami County.

Photo by Patsy Gordon

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

M.A. Mortenson Company is currently seeking tribal members with construction trade journeymen experience for consideration of future employment on the Grand Casino Hinckley Expansion Project. Interested parties please contact, Mitchell Matrious TERO Compliance officer @ 1-800-Grand-21 ext 4635 or Mortenson job site @ 1-800-Grand-21 ext 4707.

## Youth Soccer Registration

The Bemidji Youth Soccer Association has announced registration for the 2006 season. All local youth, including those from the Cass Lake, Bena, and Leech Lake Reservation area, are invited to sign up to play in any of three leagues starting in the spring. Leagues include Indoor Soccer for ages pre-school through high school, Recreational Soccer for ages 4-11, and Competitive Traveling Soccer for ages 8-19. For more information on any of the leagues, or to request registration information, please contact either Jack Judkins at 751-2041 ([jjudkins@paulbunyan.net](mailto:jjudkins@paulbunyan.net)) or Travis Annette at 444-9894 ([tjannett@paulbunyan.net](mailto:tjannett@paulbunyan.net)).



**20/20 Bingo**  
Seven Days A Week  
3:00pm - 1:00am

**\$1,000 Night**  
Saturday, March 4th

**2 for 1 Bingo**  
March 18th & 24th

**Birthday Night Bingo**  
March 26th  
\$10 off any regular Bingo package  
\$5 Bingo coupon

*Purchase any level Bingo package during the month and qualify to win:*

**Sanyo 42" Plasma EDTV March 26th**

Doors open: Thursday - 6:00pm • Friday - Sunday - 5:30pm  
Sunday Matinee - 11:00am

Regular sessions Thursday • Sunday 7:15pm • Sunday Matinee 1:00pm  
See Bingo for more details.

**START YOUR SUMMER with a HUMMER**  
MARCH 30th - MAY 21st



Thursdays - Saturdays  
RANDOM HOURLY HOT SEAT DRAWINGS

7pm - 11pm  
Win up to \$400

PRIZE DRAWING

11pm - Midnight  
Win up to \$749 in  
Hummer Merchandise

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS**  
Sunday, May 21st

6pm - 7pm \$1,000  
7pm - 8pm \$250

8pm - 9pm  
**HUMMER H3 & \$2,000**

9pm - 10pm \$500  
10pm - 11pm \$750

The actual prize may vary slightly from photo.

**TREASURES & PLEASURES**

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS  
NOW - MARCH 25th

**\$12,000 in Cash Giveaways**  
**Over \$33,000 in Prizes!**

Registration for Treasure Chest Drawing 4pm - 11pm  
Earn Bonus Entries Daily

**RANDOM HOURLY HOT SEAT DRAWINGS**

8pm to 9pm \$100    10pm to 11pm \$300  
9pm to 10pm \$200    11pm to 12am \$400

**Midnight Treasure Chest Drawing**

Yamaha Bruin ATV w/ Trailer  
Yamaha V-Star 1100 Classic Motorcycle  
\$1,000 Cash Prizes • Plasma TV  
And Much More!

Prizes may vary from those shown



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[www.palacecasinohotel.com](http://www.palacecasinohotel.com)

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Joanie Johnson, Director of the Walker Boys & Girls Club takes the Polar Plunge at the 2006 Eelpout Festival held in Walker, Mn. Submitted Photo

## Artist and Teacher Showcase

Region 2 Arts Council Press Release

Region 2 Arts Council, the Perpich Center for the Arts, and the Minnesota State Arts Board are jointly sponsoring an Artist and Teacher Showcase, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Fosston Library Arts Center, 404 Foss Avenue N, Fosston, Minnesota.

The event is open to artists interested in offering school residencies; teachers interested in funding and integrating arts in their classroom; and anyone interested in accessing state and regional arts resources.

This showcase is a unique opportunity which can provide answers to your questions about where to find an artist for a school residency, what tools are needed to become a residency artist, how to access arts funding, how the arts address the graduation standards, and more.

Pre-registration is required. There is NO CHARGE to attend the showcase. FREE box lunches will be provided to registered participants. Space is limited. Please register at: [mara@nwrdc.org](mailto:mara@nwrdc.org).

If you have questions, please call Terri Widman, Region 2 Arts Council at 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447. You may also email questions to Terri at: [r2arts@paulbunyan.net](mailto:r2arts@paulbunyan.net).



Happy Birthday, Brody!  
From Amy



Happy Birthday  
Marcie!  
From Amy



## Wiidookodaadiyang 2006 Traditional Gathering

(All of Us Helping Each Other)

...a Traditional Gathering is a time for cultural renewal, sharing, socializing and fun...

Our Key Note Speakers Are:  
Eddie Benton Benai (Three Fires Grand Chief)  
Skip Sandman (Traditional Healer)  
Frank Dickenson (Spiritual Teacher)

Also included are many good local teachers, health educators, spiritual leaders and entertainers.

March 4th and 5th  
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sunday  
Speakers start at 10:00 a.m.

The various youth activities start on Saturday at noon, include crafts, traditional teachings and feature Lacrosse!

At the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School  
(15 miles west of Cass Lake on Highway 2)

Meals included.  
No drugs or alcohol.  
Medic and security on site.

Please call Amy at 1-218-335-4244 for additional information.  
(Leech Lake Tribal College, Community Education Office)



**WELCOME!**

Keon Sanchez Wheeler, Jr.  
5 lbs. 6 oz. - 18 1/2 inches  
January 20, 2006 - 10:03 a.m.  
Parents: Heather Staples and  
Keon Wheeler, Sr. - Grandfather,  
Michael Morris and Great  
Grandmother, Sharon Goose



## LEECH LAKE CHILD CARE SERVICES IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW LEARNING LOUNGE.

They are seeking volunteer readers. If you would like to read a story to the children or talk about the American Indian culture with the children, please call Bobbie Castillo at 335-8249 to set up a date and time.

If you have a favorite book you would like to share with the group, please feel free to bring it along!

## Irene Folstrom

continued from page 1

allocation for this election, which means we have more power to decide who is endorsed. So let's take this opportunity to flex our muscles at the precinct caucuses and endorsing convention. We, as Leech Lake Band members, need to band together and vote Folstrom in! **Rides to your caucus location can be provided by calling 335-8222.** On April 8, 2006 all delegates will go to the endorsing convention at the Walker High School.

Folstrom has three core issues that she is focusing on during her run for the Senate. They are community revitalization, education, and health care. "Even though these are my three core issues", Folstrom said, "these issues go into other areas as well, such as the need for healthy communities, law enforcement to have the resources to keep us safe, economic development strategies that will work in each of our distinct communities in our district." She went on to say, "Although my heart is in this community, and the reason why I decided to run was to help my community, during the campaign it is also necessary for me to concentrate on issues that are affecting District 4 as a whole."

Health care and education are really broad issues, and with that, Folstrom realizes that the majority of this district is concerned about the rising costs of health care. Additionally, education is a cornerstone of her campaign, since she is a living testament to the power of an education to provide more opportunities. She vows to address these issues of concern at state and national levels.

Folstrom's motto is "We can, and must, do better."

With election year upon us in 2006, it is imperative that voters know the voting process, whether it is state, local, federal, or tribal elections. In the past few recent years, the Native vote has really been sought after more than ever before, and it will be no different again this year. Politicians are realizing that we, as Native people, can and will make a difference in the outcome of elections, as we proved

in the state elections of 2004 with Minnesota District 4B Senator Frank Moe winning due largely to the native vote! Now we need you to do it again by making a difference with voting and electing Folstrom to the senate.

It has been proven that more and more Native Americans are voting with each election. That's great, positive and encouraging news for us as Native peoples. It's showing those that are running our country that we are still here, and we're coming back stronger than ever and that we want to be heard and counted. After many, many years of politicians never paying attention to us, it's time that they start, and they are realizing that we are not just Indians locked up on reservations. We are taking a stand and they are finally beginning to see that.

And because of that, politicians are out there after our vote now. Let's get together collectively as a people and put all of our votes where they will count – with Irene Folstrom!

Any questions you may have relating to the election can be directed to Eva Wilson at the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal offices at 335-8222, or by calling Folstrom's campaign at 218-760-1516. Also, anyone wishing to volunteer or donate to her campaign can do so by also calling 218-760-1516 or by visiting Folstrom's website at [www.irenefolstrom.com](http://www.irenefolstrom.com).

Help Leech Lake to better ourselves and our community by attending your caucus and becoming a delegate and vote for Irene Folstrom for the DFL endorsement!

Caucus dates, locations and contacts are provided below.

### Caucus Dates:

Precinct caucuses will be held on March 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. (Look for your location listed to the right.)

County caucuses will be held in March or April 2006. (It's up to the individual political parties.) State caucuses will be held in May or June, 2006. (It's up to the individual political parties.)

The primary election is on Tuesday, September 12, 2006. The general election is on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

## Caucus Locations and Contacts for Cass & Beltrami Counties.

### Cass County

#### Cass Lake Middle School - Lee Cook 335-8743

Bena, Cass Lake, Hardwood, Ottertail Peninsula, Pike Bay, Sucker Lakes, Wahnena, Winnie-Portage Lakes, Wilkenson and Unorganized 5 townships.

#### Longville City Hall Cheryl Jones, 566-1407

Boy Lake, Gould, Iguadona, Kego, Trelipe, Thunder Lake and Wabedo Townships

#### Remer Area, Northland H.S. Economics Room Rich Andresen, 792-5881

Boy River and Remer Villages, Boy River, Buelah, Crooked Lake, Lima, Remer, Rogers, Selam, Slater, Smokey Hollow, Torrey, Unorganized #4, Willow River Townships

#### Walker Area, H.S. Commons Kent Reeve, 547-3587

Walker, Leech Lake, Pine Lake, Pine Point, Rogers Point, Shingobee and Turtle Lake

### Townships

#### Beltrami County

#### Lincoln Elementary School

Bemidji Ward 5  
Bemidji Twp.  
Frohn Twp.  
Moose Lake Twp.  
Sugar Bush Twp.  
Ten Lake Twp.  
Unorg. #3 Twp.

#### Grant Valley Town Hall

Grant Valley Twp.  
Wilton

#### J.W. Smith Elementary School

Bemidji Ward 1  
Bemidji Ward 2  
Bemidji Ward 3  
Bemidji Ward 4

#### Northern Elementary School

Durand Twp.  
Northern Township 1  
Northern Twp. Precinct #2  
Port Hope Twp.  
Turtle Lake Twp.  
Turtle River City

**IRENE FOLSTROM**  
**FOR SENATE**





## Precinct Caucuses: Basic Information

DFL Website

### What is a "Precinct Caucus?"

A precinct caucus is a group of individuals who live in a certain geographic area, or "precinct", and support a particular political party who meet to do their Party business. Precincts are the basic political unit upon which the DFL is organized and are essential to our grassroots network. Precinct caucuses are the beginning of the process that the DFL uses for choosing candidates and the issues we will support in the next elections. The choices are especially important because the future of our state and country will be affected by the candidates we elect. Those individuals who attend our caucuses will have a say in these issues.

### What happens at caucuses?

Upon arrival at your caucus site, you will be asked to sign-in with your name and address. By signing in, you are agreeing with the party principles and stating that you intend to support Democratic candidates in the coming election. Before the caucus convenes, attendees will pass out their platform resolutions and encourage support for certain candidates and delegates. If you want to be active at the caucus then come early and take part in this. You may bring copies of your own resolutions and bring people who support your positions, so you can identify supporters. If you feel like you are still learning about the process, just go to watch the first time. At 7:00 p.m., the caucus will be called to order. The main orders of business for each

caucus are the following:

**Election of Delegates and Alternates** - At the precinct caucuses, each precinct will elect delegates and alternates to DFL endorsement conventions to be held throughout the spring.

**Discussion of Issues** - Caucuses provide a forum for you to voice your views on issues such as education, transportation, civil rights, the environment and others. You can submit and vote on resolutions that the party conventions may make a part of the party platform.

**Election of Local Party Leadership** - Precinct chairs and associate chairs will be elected at precinct caucuses as well as the delegates to the next level of party organization (county unit convention) where County Unit party leaders will be elected.

### Who can participate in precinct caucuses?

Anyone can attend the precinct caucus to observe. To be eligible to participate in the DFL precinct caucuses, a person must satisfy the following requirements:

a.. The person must reside in the precinct.

b.. To run for county unit convention delegate or alternate, or vote on the presidential preference ballot (in presidential election years), the person must be 18 years old and otherwise qualified to vote by Election Day of that year.

c.. The person must not be an active member of any other political party.

d.. The person must agree with the DFL principles as stated in the State DFL Constitution & Bylaws. The person must not be an active member of any other political party.

If you are interested in becoming a delegate or alternate to the county unit convention but are unable to attend your precinct caucus, you can send a letter indicating your intent to your county unit chair. Please contact the State DFL office at 1-800-

999-7457 to find out where to send the letter.

### How do I find out where my precinct will meet?

The precinct caucus locations will be available at [www.dfl.org](http://www.dfl.org). You can also call your local county auditor or the DFL at 1-800-999-7457 after mid-February for caucus locations. You can look at your local newspapers for sites as well.

### What if I work or have school that evening?

Minnesota Statutes section 202A.19 permits you to take time off from work without pay to attend your caucus if you give your employer written notice at least 10 days in advance. State universities, community colleges, and public school cannot hold classes or events after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of precinct caucuses.

State agencies, school boards, county boards, township boards, city councils, and all other political subdivisions cannot conduct meetings after 6:00 p.m. on caucus night.

### Why should I attend my caucus?

If you want to take an active role with the elections, caucuses are the best place to start. Whether you are considering running for office and attend your caucus to find supporters or are interested in being involved with the party in one of the leadership positions, precinct caucuses are the first step in the process.

In addition, caucuses give you a chance to discuss issues that are important to you, with your neighbors in your precinct. It is your opportunity to influence the party's platform & candidate selection within your party. Going to your precinct caucus gives you a voice!

### From the Republican Party Website

THE 2006 PRECINCT CAUCUSES are an opportunity for Republicans from around the state to determine the direction of our Party and plan for the November elections. The importance of attending these caucuses cannot

be overstated. Our success in November hinges on our ability to organize, mobilize, and activate volunteers throughout Minnesota. Precinct Caucuses are Step One in this process.

At the caucuses, you will have the opportunity to discuss and propose changes to the Republican Party platform, run for and/or vote for delegates to your local Party's convention. Most importantly, you will be making a statement of support for our President and our Party. The Democrats will be turning out in force on Tuesday, March 7th.

### SENIOR HUMOR

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed for me has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked  
**"NO REFILLS."**

### The Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program - FSNEP

A program for all...  
Teaching you about food and health, cooking, saving money at the grocery store...  
And food safety...

For more information please call Genny at the Health Division  
218-335-4529

Here are some of the topics:  
Healthy snacks for kids  
Grocery shopping tips  
Cooking classes  
Food Safety  
And more!!!

## Leech Lake Chairman Goggleye Addresses Hospital Concerns With Regional I.H.S. Director

The following is the text of the letter that Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Chairman, George Goggleye, Jr., wrote to Dr. Charles Grimm at the Indian Health Service Regional Office in Rockville, Maryland after receiving numerous complaints from Band constituents. The Chairman is awaiting his reply.

February 13, 2006

Charles W. Grim D.D.S.  
Director of Indian Health Service  
801Thompson Ave. # RB 440  
Rockville, Maryland 20851627



Dr. Grim:

I am writing to you regarding the quality of care for tribal members at the IHS/PHS hospital on the Leech Lake Reservation. It has been brought to my attention that many complaints have been filed with the Service Unit Director regarding the quality of services administered to tribal members at the facility. However, to date nothing has been done to rectify the problems that have been identified at the facility.

Many tribal members speak of a "lack of compassion" demonstrated by the hospital staff. I understand that lack of funding plays a part in the lack of adequate services being provided to our people, but, funding cannot buy compassion. I have been told on several occasions that the staff at the Hospital treat tribal members as if they were part of an assembly line. This type of conduct is not acceptable, assembly line mentality has led to tribal members being misdiagnosed for illnesses that they do not have, given the wrong medication, or in some cases not being seen by a qualified medical provider and instead being sent home with heartburn medication or pain pills.

As Tribal Chairman, it is one of my highest priorities to ensure that tribal member complaints regarding the quality of care at the IHS/PHS hospital are properly addressed. Accordingly, based on the complaints registered with my office by patients and staff, it would be my contention that there exists a lack of professionalism and Leadership at the hospital. Therefore, I would respectfully request that you visit the Leech Lake Reservation in order to open up the lines of communication so that the Band's concerns can be properly heard. The Tribal Council Members and I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to sit down and openly discuss with you the issues mentioned in my letter.

Sincerely,

George J. Goggleye Jr., Chairman  
LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

## Tribal Judge Fineday Issues Order Regarding Tribal Elections

**Cass Lake, MN** – On February 20, 2006 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court Judge Anita Fineday issued an order denying a request by Plaintiffs Frank Bibeau, Wallace Storbakken and Ralph Schaaf for a Temporary Restraining Order and Request for Declaratory Relief regarding the upcoming Leech Lake tribal election.

A hearing was held on February 15, 2006 in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Cass Lake, Minnesota in which Plaintiffs argued that the Leech Lake Reservation be restrained from continuing the election currently, claiming the \$50.00 fee paid by candidates for tribal office was unfair and unconstitutional. The Defendants, through their attorney, Michael L. Garbow, argued that the fee was fair and justified because the Band had to pay approximately \$50.00 per candidate for background checks to comply with recent Amendments to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Court found that Plaintiffs' attorney, Frank Bibeau, did not provide any evidence of irreparable harm, only providing "plain statement in [their] affidavits that they could use the \$50.00 fee for other items." The Court also held that "the Plaintiffs provided no evidence that any candidate had been denied the right to run for office due to the inability to pay the \$50.00 filing fee."

## Certification of Candidates Running for Leech Lake Tribal Office

**Cass Lake, MN** – On February 21, 2006 the Leech Lake Tribal Council certified candidates for the upcoming tribal election. Candidates for Secretary/Treasurer are Burton "Luke" Wilson, Walter "Frank" Reese, Franklin E. Bowstring, Arthur "Archie" LaRose

(incumbent), Donnie Headbird, Delores Fineday, Benay Nazhike Fairbanks, Leonard M. "Lenny" Fineday, and Fred K. Jackson, Jr. Candidates for District I Representative are James Howard, Robbie M. Howe, Milton Gotchie, Samuel Johnson, Jr., Mike Brown, Lawrence Gotchie, Sr., Steven A. Jackson, Sandra Fairbanks, Lewis Bowstring, and Gary Charwood. Candidates for District II Representative are Lyman Losh (incumbent), Marlene Mitchell, Bonita Brown Desjarlait, Harry "Jon" Greene, and Deborah "Debbie" Tibbetts.

The two top vote getters in each race will advance to the general election to be held on June 13, 2006.

Candidates Wally Storbakken and Frank Bibeau were denied certification; Storbakken for refusing to comply with mandatory criminal background check procedures used to ensure compliance with recent amendments to the Revised Constitution and By-laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe making those convicted of felonies ineligible to run for office, and Bibeau because he is not an enrolled Leech Lake Band member as required by the Revised Constitution and By-Laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Regarding the constitutional amendment prohibiting convicted felons from running for office, the Leech Lake Tribal Council clarified its policy on criminal background checks. The Tribal Council declared that any conviction stating that "this offense is deemed to be a misdemeanor" shall be deemed a misdemeanor for tribal office certification matters.

## Leech Lake Reservation Career/Job Fair 2006

March 10, 2006  
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Northern Lights Casino & Hotel  
Walker, Minnesota  
Open to High School students,  
Grades 10-12 and the  
general public.  
Lunch will be provided.  
For more information contact:  
Leech Lake Education  
1-866-638-7738

## It's Lucky Time

### It's "Seeing Green" Time

MARCH 3rd - MARCH 26th

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS  
March 3rd - March 25th

RANDOM HOT SEAT  
DRAWINGS  
7:00PM TO MIDNIGHT

Win up to \$250

SUNDAY, March 26th  
GRAND PRIZE  
CASH DRAWINGS

HOURLY CASH DRAWINGS  
3:00PM - 10:00PM

Win up to  
**\$3,000**



## Ladies Night Poker Tournament

Ante Up and be the Lucky Poker Winner!

### Every Tuesday!

BRING A FRIEND AND WE  
WILL WAIVE THE ENTRY FEES!

- \$20 buy in
- \$5 entry fee
- Registration begins at 5:00pm
- No re-buys or add-ons allowed
- Tournament starts at 6:00pm

Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Celebrate Spring at White Oak Casino:  
visit our Poker Room, show your skills and  
tempt Lady Luck!

Mondays 6:00pm	Tuesdays 12:00 Noon	Wednesdays 6:00pm
No - Limit Hold' em Freeze - out Entry Fee \$5 Buy-in \$20	No - Limit Hold' em Freeze - out Entry Fee \$5 Buy-in \$20	No - Limit Hold' em \$500.00 Guarantee Entry Fee \$5 • Buy-in \$20



EARN 100 POINTS ON YOUR  
WINNERS CLUB CARD AND  
RECEIVE \$10 IN CASH AND  
\$5 IN COMP DOLLARS!

Spending your Comp Dollars does not deduct  
Cash Back points from your Winners Club account.

Comp dollars can be redeemed  
for Snack Bar and Gift Shop  
purchases.  
(no cash back value)



## WHITE OAK CASINO

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## ENTERTAINMENT

at the lights

March 4th

**Joan Jett &  
The Blackhearts**

"I Love Rock 'N Roll"  
Billboard Magazine's #28 Song of All Time

7:00pm & 9:00pm  
\$23/\$28 - Advanced Tickets  
\$28/\$33 - Day of Event



March 18th

**Diamond Rio**

6 Time CMA and AMC  
Vocal Group of the Year

7:00pm & 9:00pm  
\$23/\$28 - Advanced Tickets  
\$28/\$33 - Day of Show



April 8th

**Quiet Riot &  
Slaughter**

80's Rock 'N Roll Sensations

6:30pm & 9:30pm  
\$15/\$20 - Advanced Tickets  
\$20/\$25 - Day of Show



Purchase Tickets Online or at the Gift Shop!  
[www.northernlightscasino.com](http://www.northernlightscasino.com)

## Cruise Into Spring

March 3rd - April 9th

Fridays - Sundays

Random Hourly Drawings      Cash Prize Drawing  
7pm - Midnight      12am - 1am  
Win up to \$300      Win \$500

Grand Prize Drawing  
Sunday, April 9th  
8pm - 9pm

**2006 FORD RANGER**

and \$2,000 Cash

Plus, chances to win:

\$250 \$500 \$750 \$1,000

Sunday, April 9th  
Random Cash Drawings

4pm - 5pm \$1,000  
5pm - 6pm \$750  
6pm - 7pm \$500  
7pm - 8pm \$250  
9pm - 10pm \$150



## Laughs at the Lights

COMEDY IMPROV  
TUESDAYS - 7:00PM



The Best in  
Comedy!

FREE  
ADMISSION

Located in the Cabaret Bar  
Show may contain adult content.

## Northern Lights Casino Hotel & Event Center

Call 877.LIGHTS.9 for Tickets      Walker, MN      [www.northernlightscasino.com](http://www.northernlightscasino.com)

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# Elect *Irene* Folstrom



Pictured above with Irene is her husband, Brett, sons, Victor 3, and Maxwell, 1 1/2

## For *Senate*