

DEBAHJIMON

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
BEMIDJI, MN
PERMIT NO. 68

JANUARY 2009

VOL. XXIII No. 7

FREE

INSIDE

PERSELL TAKES
OFFICE

Page 3

Prevent Septic
Freezing

Page 12

Top Headlines
2008

Page 14



Leech Lake's own John Persell (one of 22 newly elected state representatives) poses with Chairman LaRose and District III Rep. Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird on the House chamber floor before roll call on January 6th, 2009. Photo by Chris Haugene

Chairman's Report for November-December 2008

It has been a busy quarter and there is much to report as we end the old year and enter a new one. There are a lot of good things happening and there is lot to report and discuss. The Secretary Treasurer is putting together a brief financial report for the newspaper with a full presentation of the Band's financials at the Quarterly Meeting, January 9th, in Ball Club, MN. Full reviews of everything will be part of the upcoming Band Assembly that has been promised. We need to talk with our band membership on the proposals for the Nelson Act Settlement, discuss blood quantum and constitution reform, the high voltage Powerline and Enbridge Pipeline that want to come across the reservation, as well as development issues and overall needs.

I can say it is a real positive change from many of the recent administrations to have a Tribal Council that truly works well together. We have been working together to plan for the future while we try to deal with ongoing issues that need to be addressed. We have set the goal of again becoming the reservation that leads and set the direction that the other reservations look toward as an example of progressive tribal government. We all look forward to sharing the exciting direction and work being done. A real positive change has come to Leech Lake.

We recently held a meeting on November 12, 2008 for all government

Quarterly Report to the People of the

Leech Lake Reservation From Secretary Treasurer Michael J. Bongo

I would like to first of all start by taking this opportunity to extend my belated best wishes to all of our Band members for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By now the vast majority of our Band members should have received their tax rebate checks. The tax rebate checks were initially mailed out on December 18, 2008. If by chance you have not yet received your check it is because our Tribal Enrollment office and Accounting office do not have either your correct mailing address or social security number. To correct this problem, please call the Accounting office at (218)-335-8200 and provide them with the accurate information and I assure you that your tax rebate will be processed and mailed out immediately. However in doing so I ask that you be patient, polite and courteous and mindful of the fact that in processing and mailing out 7,075 checks there are going to be some minor problems and mistakes especially given the fact that this is the first time that this has ever been done. Hopefully we can learn from any mistakes or problems this year which will help us streamline the process for next year.

This year the Leech Lake Tribal Council was able to appropriate \$1.5 million for the tax rebate to the Band membership. The tax rebate serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when you have a Tribal Council that works together, sets priorities and works to ensure that the assets and resources of the Reservation are properly managed. I would like to also point out that this was achieved without the loss of jobs or reduction of services to the Band membership.

If we as a tribal Council can continue to work together, plan and prioritize and financially manage the assets and resources of the Band I am hopeful that the tax rebate to our Band membership should continue to grow modestly each year provided as I stated that we as a Tribal Council continue to work together to establish the proper goals, objectives and priorities of the Reservation.

Sec/Treas Report Cont. Page 10

Chairman's Report Cont. Page 5

More snowfall makes for hazardous driving conditions

The Minnesota Department of Transportation advises motorists to drive with extreme caution as new snowfall and cold temperatures compounded with wind is creating reduced visibility and slippery roads.

MnDOT snowplow operators have been steady in their efforts to keep the roads as clear as possible under the current conditions and motorists are being asked to take measures for their own safety.

MNDOT reminds motorists to follow these safe driving practices:

- Travel only if necessary in extreme conditions, carry a cell phone with you and let others know your destination and expected arrival.
- Always use seat belts, and headlights must be turned on when it is snowing or sleeting.
- Adjust speed to road and weather conditions - lower speeds minimize crashes.
- Move over one lane from any stopped emergency vehicle.
- Keep a safe stopping distance between vehicles, and leave extra room between your vehicle and snowplows or other snow removal equipment.
- Know your brakes and how they react on snow-covered roads.
- Clear snow and ice from vehicle windows, hood, headlights, brake lights and directional signals.
- Do not use cruise-control.

Mn/DOT also wants to remind motorists of the "Move Over Law" - when approaching and passing an authorized emergency vehicle parked or stopped on a street or highway having two or more lanes in the same direction, the driver must move their vehicle to a lane away from the emergency vehicle. If a motorist cannot move over, they should reduce speeds.

For more information on safe winter driving, go to <http://www.winterweather.state.mn.us/>.

For statewide travel information and road conditions, call 5-1-1 or log on to www.511mn.org.



2529 15th ST NW
Bemidji MN, 56601

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers provide FREE Income Tax Preparation Assistance to low-income, elderly, disabled and limited English speaking people. Call Monica to see if you qualify.

**Appointments:
Tuesday & Thursday
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
January 20 to April 14,
2009**

Telephone: (218) 751-4631
Toll Free: (800) 332-7161

Mock Disaster Drill held at Cass Lake Indian Health Service Unit

By CAPT Amy Buckanaga, RN

On November 13, 2008, a mock disaster drill was held at the Cass Lake Indian Health Service Unit (CLIHS). Disaster drills allow systems to prepare for everyday emergencies and for the unexpected. Planning for the drill began in September and involved the hospital staff as well as the Leech Lake Ambulance staff, and Leech Lake Department of Public Safety (DPS).

All hospitals have plans in place to deal with disasters, whether man-made or natural and CLIHS is no exception. Hospital disaster plans use an "all-hazards" framework that can be tailored to meet the specific demands of an incident. CLIHS conduct at least two drills a year: one may focus on an internal disaster (such as a complete power failure); the second must focus on an external event (such as a mass casualty incident). The drill on this date was to test the preparedness of the facility and staff for a mass casualty event. The scenario was a domestic violence incident with multiple gunshot victims. To complicate the scenario, the emergency room (ER) staff would already be taking care of a patient with chest pains. The Leech Lake Ambulance staff applied make-up to the victims to make the scenario more realistic.

In many disaster incidents, the victims do not just arrive at the hospital by ambulance, victims may also show up by private vehicle, law enforcement, or just walking in. The number of victims arriving by ambulance is usually reported to the facility by the ambulance crew allowing the ER staff time to prepare in advance. This information is not always received when victims arrive by alternative means, which may find a facility surprised by the total number of victims. In this drill the two victims were known to be arriving by ambulance, two other victims arrived by Leech Lake Tribal Police. Disaster drills provide an

opportunity to help "rehearse" our responses to possible future events. And as with any good drill, CLIHS found out things that we do well and areas that need to be addressed. The medical and nursing staff on hand were able to triage, stabilize, and identify the necessary resources needed to transfer patients to a higher level of care. This was aided by the pre-hospital care provided by the Leech Lake Ambulance staff. Areas that will continue to be addressed were related to availability of medical and nursing staff and communication. This drill happened during a weekday, when there was additional staff in the building. However, if this event had actually occurred after regular work hours; staffing would have been severely compromised. Ways to access additional staff after hours will be reviewed and tested. Improving communication between all involved parties will also be addressed.

The Cass Lake Indian Health Service Unit would like to thank all those who participated in the drill, especially: the Leech Lake Ambulance staff, Leech Lake tribal security, Leech Lake DPS, the observers: LCDR Tim Duffy and CDR Barbara Nyberg; and the victims: Mike Robinson, Cecil Reams, Sandy Ryan, Patti Byers, and Alberta Kodaseet-Jones. We would also like to apologize for any inconvenience that this drill might have caused for the public, but also want to acknowledge the action taken by the Cass Lake-Bena School district and the RTC, who activated their emergency plans when they received unconfirmed reports of violence in the community. Their actions demonstrate their commitment to the welfare and safety of those they serve. Emergency preparedness is everybody's business and needs to be addressed and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the highest quality of care will be available.

**District I
Community Dinner
Saturday Jan 17th, 2009
11am - 3pm**

Morris Town Hall
Deer River, MN

The Boxing Chairman Arthur “Archie” LaRose

By Wally Storbakken

The recent Tough Guy Competition on December 19 & 20th 2008 at Northern Lights Casino saw Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chairman LaRose come out of retirement, not from politics, but from boxing. LaRose said, “I trained hard for this and whether I won or lost I wanted to give it my all.” A number of tough fights showed he could still hook with the best of them and at the end of the day he claimed the Tough Man title in the Super Heavy Weight division.

Whether it is politics or the boxing ring the term “The Come Back Kid” seems to follow Archie LaRose. His rocky political career has seen a number of ups and down but no matter what his opponents throw at him he comes right back. I think that is also what we term tenacity. That tenacity has seen him rise to become the Chairman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe after he resigned his seat as the Band’s Secretary Treasurer and enter the 2008 election for Chairman. He defeated the incumbent chairman knocking him out of the election in the primary with over 50% of the vote. Leech Lake Tribal Chairman LaRose says it just setting your mind on your goals and working hard until you reach them. He said, I remember as a young boy seeing the RBC offices and RBC members and thinking I want to be in those offices when I get older. That was a goal.

Goal setting and giving it your all is what he wants the youth to understand. That is also what I want my own kids to understand. Decide what it is you want and work toward it. Same when I started boxing. I set my goals and trained hard giving it all I had. That goal setting saw him become in 1982 at age 10 at 85 lbs Minnesota Junior Olympics Champion and in 1985 he became a Silver Gloves National Champion at the age of thirteen in the 100 lb division. He stated in an interview after winning the Silver Gloves in 1985, I don’t drink or

smoke so I hope I’ve set an example for some of the younger kids who want to get into athletics.”

A recent statement after winning the Tough Guy competition shows that same spirit. LaRose said, “Setting goals and setting an example isn’t always easy as my political career clearly shows. But there will always be road blocks and detours, just don’t quit. Sometimes those bad times or road blocks are the best lessons. I probably didn’t think that at the time but I know as I look back I learned even from the bad experiences. Those times helped me to become better. So I want our people especially our youth to remember one thing, and that is not to give up. When my Grandmother was alive she always told me there are three things I should remember. One was to be good to the elders, two was not to smoke, and three was to have as many friends as possible. I think that, goal setting, and not giving up, is good advice.”

Leech Lake Dist. III Rep. Serves on Headwaters Board

by Chris Haugene

Eugene “Ribs” Whitebird is Leech Lake’s voice of concern on the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB). “I’m focused on preserving the natural state of the river,” said Mr. Whitebird when asked about why he wanted the post. He went on to explain that development and encroachment of housing and farmland runoff are things that he finds to be issues of concern.

The Board was formed in 1980 as an alternative to the watershed being placed into the National Wild and Scenic River System. The MHB is tasked to “protect and preserve the first 400 miles of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. A joint powers board of Clearwater, Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties, the MHB is mandated by Minnesota Statutes 103F.361-377 to enhance and protect the natural, cultural, historic, scientific, and recreational values of the headwaters region.”

Tribal Leaders Bolster Support and Partnerships for New Legislative Session

by Chris Haugene

Tribal Leaders from around Minnesota met at Mystic Lake recently to discuss the new Minnesota legislative session, and how the Bands could work together towards maintaining stability and continuity of their message during what is sure to be some of the worst economic times seen in generations. With a gigantic plunge in the stock market index equaling trillions of dollars lost, and the housing crisis, and the mounting deficit and debt on both a state and federal level, Tribal Leadership is gathering its resources and partnering with as many people, agencies (private and public), and organizations in order to weather the economic storm that has already started sprinkling across the state and the nation.

The issues discussed at the meeting include the fact that there are few new revenue sources available to the state without inflating taxes, and that gaming expansion may be politically safer than tax increases for the legislature, but could ultimately secure little if no more funding—under the cost of regulation—and actually do more harm than good for the Tribes. As the recession deepens the need for government services will grow while the government cuts spending (read budgets) and services to its constituents leaving a huge divide between the need for services and the political backlash of raising taxes. Expanding gambling will not produce enough new revenue to make a meaningful dent in the deficit as it stands. Our economic uncertainty makes revenue projections unreliable at best, and as the recession grows people will have even fewer dollars to gamble with. Moreover, gambling expansion is more likely to cost more than it generates in new revenue with regulatory costs, enforcement costs, capital construction/equipment costs, as well as compulsive gambling costs and service increases.

John Persell Takes his Oath, Assumes the House 4A Post

by Chris Haugene

With the swearing in of the newly elected state representatives on Tuesday January 6th at the State Capital, Leech Lake saw one of its own employees get ushered into what is sure to be a highly scrutinized and much publicized legislative session.

John Persell, with his family in attendance—as well as Tribal Chairman Archie LaRose, District III Representative Eugene ‘Ribs’ Whitebird, and Executive Director Rob Aitken—Representative Persell began his service to the constituents of the House 4A seat he now occupies. He will also be a key partner for the Leech Lake Band having worked for the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management since June of 2006 as an Environmental Policy Analyst and for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe where he began in 1978. Mr. Persell will be concentrating on the legislative session until it concludes in May and will be back at Leech Lake in between sessions.

This legislative session will be a fulcrum for some of the programs and services that are offered on the reservation, and area wide for that matter, as well as serve as a barometer for how long this economic debacle might last. With the gaveling in of the new state legislative session and a new federal session taking hold, all eyes are on government leaders from cities, counties, and states as to how they will protect their constituents on the one hand, and secure future funding from an ever dwindling well of monies that is being gobbled up by our federal and state deficit and debt. It begs the question: is there anything else that can be done besides raising taxes?

**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
IN TRIBAL COURT**

115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3682/4418
Traffic Division

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROCEED BY DEFAULT

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

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

Dated this 18th day of December 2008.

APPEARANCE DATE: February 10, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Charge and Date</u>
Kim A. St. Cyr	TR-08-086	Failure to Stop for School Bus Occurring On: 09/09/2008
Rozanna M. Roy	TR-08-089	Careless Driving Occurring On: 08/31/2008
Denise E. Raisch	TR-08-092	No Driver's License Occurring On: 07/05/2008
Alissa J. Donnell	TR-08-090	Speeding in Excess of 10 mph Over the Limit Occurring On: 07/05/2008

APPEARANCE DATE: February 10, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Charge and Date</u>
Morris I. Beaulieu, Sr.	CN-08-008	Harvesting During Closed Season or After Hours Occurring On: 08/28/2008

**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
IN TRIBAL COURT**

115 Sixth Street NW, Suite E
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3682/4418
Civil Division

In the Matter of the Application for
Name Change of:

R.S.C, Minor Child/Applicant, and
Valerie Cloud, Parent,

Petitioners.

NOTICE OF LEGAL
PUBLICATION

CASE NO. CV-08-67 NC

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on November 14, 2008, an Application for Name Change was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child of the above-named parent. A Hearing will be held on January 9, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in the Leech Lake Tribal Courtroom located in the Leech Lake Facility Center, 16126 John Moose Drive NW, Cass Lake, Minnesota, upper level, to address the issue of the change of name of the above-referenced minor child. The hearing may be held by telephone and you may contact the court at 218-335-3682.

You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.

DATED: November 21, 2008.

/s/ Kimberly Anoka, Senior Court Clerk

**LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE
IN TRIBAL COURT**

6530 Hwy 2 NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3682/3586/4418
Traffic Division

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

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

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that pursuant to Leech Lake Traffic Code, Chapter, Section 304:

1. If you are found in Contempt of Court, you may be subject to an additional penalty not to exceed \$500.00, said penalty for contempt shall be in addition to any fines or other penalties previously assessed by this Court.
2. You may also be subject to one or more of the following enforcement actions without further notice:

- a. Report violation to the State of Minnesota for entry on defendant's driving record;
- b. Add the fine to the amount defendant must pay to renew or obtain Leech Lake vehicle registration or plates;
- c. Seize defendant's vehicle registration plates;
- d. Seize the vehicle driven by defendant at the time of the violation;
- e. Suspend defendant's fishing, hunting, trapping, ricing or other treaty rights within the boundaries and jurisdiction of the Leech Lake Band until defendant pays the fine in full.
- f. Garnish wages by the Leech Lake Band.

/s/ Korey Wahwassuck, Judge of Tribal Court.

APPEARANCE DATE: January 13, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>
Anderson, Jerome W. L.	TR-05-121	Lindgren, Nathan Joel	TR-05-11
Anderson, Jerome W. L.	TR-06-29	Lindgren, Timothy Scott	TR-08-45
Day, Justin Craig	TR-05-71	Lindgren, Timothy Scott	TR-08-108
Gale, Travis John	TR-05-76	Locke, Kevin Lawrence	TR-05-125
Johnson, Ronald James	TR-05-115	Pacheco, Juanita Marie	TR-05-92
Lindgren, Nathan Joel	TR-06-37	Wright, Cassandra Jaye	TR-05-86

APPEARANCE DATE: January 20, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>
Beaulieu, Joshua John	TR-06-07	Hunt, Nate Bruce	TR-06-27
Bellanger, Joseph Harvey	TR-05-96	Jones, Corey J. Walter	TR-04-671
Fahlstrom, Russell	TR-05-107	Roberts, Karla Rose	TR-04-671
Goose Carol Anna	TR-07-211	Standing Cloud, Gina Rose	TR-07-61
Goose, Carol Anna	TR-07-210	Staples, Clarence	TR-05-42
Harrison, Linda Rae	TR-05-97	Whitefeather, Howard D.	TR-06-04
Howard, William James	TR-06-25		

APPEARANCE DATE: February 17, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>
Atkinson, Tammy Jo	TR-07-166	Fairbanks, Leroy Louis	TR-07-167
Bebeau, Tina Marie	TR-04-747	Fairbanks, Mark Leo	TR-08-10
Bebeau, Tina Marie	TR-07-222	Jackson, David Joseph	TR-08-40
Bebeau, Tina Marie	TR-07-75	Kingbird, Charles Anthony	TR-07-123
Bendix, Terri Lee	TR-08-07	Raisch, Christine Anne	TR-07-125
Brown, Nita MiWaBiGoNeence	TR-07-139	Staples, Michael Allen	TR-07-119
Denasha, Leo Lawrence	TR-07-161	Thompson, Karla Jean	TR-07-110
Dunn, Sara Jean	TR-07-84	Woodward, Lucas Alan	TR-07-168

APPEARANCE DATE: February 24, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Defendant</u>	<u>Case No.</u>
Carmona, Emerejirido Duane	TR-08-47	Smith, Timothy Lee Jr.	TR-08-54
Ellis, Jeanette Rae	TR-08-44	Smith, Timothy Lee Jr.	TR-08-53
Fairbanks, Amanda Leigh	TR-08-38	Smith, Timothy Lee Jr.	TR-08-57
Fairbanks, David Wayne	TR-08-37	Staples, Ronald Joseph	TR-08-34
Jones, Robert Joseph	TR-08-58	TeJohn, Thomas Lee	TR-08-32
Miettinen, Gary Gene Jr.	TR-08-49	White, Diana Michelle	TR-08-33
Munnell, John David	TR-08-51	Whitebird, Marcy Jean	TR-08-31
Robinson, Andrew Martin	TR-08-22	Wind, Darlene Marie	TR-08-63

Chairman's Report Continued from Page 1

side Reservation employees. This was a chance for all 600 plus employees to sit down with the council and talk about issues and concerns. A lot of our employees said it was a great experience to see all the other employees and let them see visually and be told verbally how they are a vital part of the Leech Lake Reservation. It was a time to remind all that we work for the Band membership and we must all give 100 percent. All who attended felt it was not only a kind of historic event as it had never been done before but was also very good for morale.

As promised in mid December with the tax revenue sharing we got some money out and into our members pockets for Xmas. Monday the 29th of December we held the Elder Conference which was well attended. This is in preparation of the roll out of an elders department as we start to get all the needed services consolidated into one department. It has been a number of years since the elders division was disbanded and comprehensive elders services was one of the things this council felt was greatly needed. More information will be presented as this department moves forward. January 26th is set for the next follow-up meeting for this.

In regard to youth we are going to be working with a number of regional organizations to set up a Youth Services Providers Summit hopefully in early April. The purpose of the summit will be to work more closely with regional partners and our legislative representatives to develop a regional youth development strategy. It is not a conference because we don't want to talk about youth statistics and needs but want to meet and come away with a Regional Action Plan for Youth Development with goals that we can start working together to get identified services and programs in place. Tied to this will be youth recreation, employment and educational funding needs and opportunities in order to help give kids a positive outlook on life and a chance for a better positive future. We have too many of our young people in out-of-home placement and in the juvenile justice system. The Northern Minnesota

Tribal Economic Development Commission made up of Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth is joining us in this effort as youth needs are critical for all of our reservations.

We are working to schedule a Native Nation Building Conference late February or early March. Native Nation Building is one of the means of moving Leech Lake forward. This is part of what this council has decided is the way to move Leech Lake back into a leadership role and stop the infighting that has crippled our government for so many years. The Northern Minnesota Tribal Economic Development Commission that is made up of Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth is also supporting holding this conference so it should be a big event here in Indian Country.

Even though the country in an economic recession we have been busy for the last few months working on a number of Economic Development projects including the Economic Development Initiative with the U.S. Department of Justice, Treasury Department, and Oweesta. This work will help us complete a Comprehensive Development Strategy or CEDS plan and through working with these partners help bring in the money to make some major projects happen that will benefit the Reservation especially to help create a healthy economy for us but also needed jobs. We have a number of developments that are in the planning stages.

In regard to health we have been invited to become an equal partner with Cass County on the Healthcare Campus that the County is developing at the Ahgwahching property in Walker, MN. In regard to our healthcare needs we have formed a Reservation Healthcare Workgroup to look at controlling our costs and improving services at our six clinics as well as how best to utilize the Healthcare Campus. This group will also meet with IHS about healthcare issues.

This RBC is also going to become more politically active on all fronts as we

exercise our sovereignty and jurisdictions. We will make sure that our federal issues remain also at the forefront as this new presidential administration and congress convenes. We are currently scheduling meetings with Cass surrounding County Boards to try to improve working relations. We recently had a joint meeting with the Cass County Board of Commissioners and it was viewed by all that it was one of the most productive and positive interactions between us in a long time. We will also work with Red Lake and White Earth Reservations and the counties on legislative and development and other identified issues that have or can have a regional impact.

We have many issues including housing needs and we have identified 589 substandard homes. We also know we need more homes as many families are double and tripling up. We have told our division directors and Housing authority we need to have plans ready with timelines to start working on addressing these problems. Part of economic develop is getting the

Chairman's Report Cont. Page 7

ENTERTAINMENT

AT NORTHERN LIGHTS EVENT CENTER

 <p>January 16th Marshall Tucker Band 7:30 pm Tickets: \$12/\$18</p>	 <p>January 25th Ricky Skaggs 7:00 pm Tickets: \$23/\$31</p>	 <p>February 6th & 7th Bill Engvall 8:00 pm Tickets: \$43/\$49</p>
 <p>February 14th Harry James Orchestra Dinner/Dance 6:00 pm Tickets: \$25</p>	 <p>February 28th Mixed Martial Arts 7:00 pm Tickets: \$28/\$37/\$46</p>	 <p>April 19th Oak Ridge Boys 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Tickets: \$19/\$26</p>
 <p>May 17th Don McLean 7:00 pm Tickets: \$19/\$26</p>		

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO HOTEL & EVENT CENTER
877.544.4879 Walker, MN
www.northernlightscasino.com

Proudly Owned And Operated By The Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe. Management reserves all rights.



Personal Finances

From Leech Lake Housing

Even when we are good at reaching our financial goals and we manage our life, sometimes "life happens" and blows out our budget. Leech Lake Housing Authority's Resource Center is offering budgeting training beginning **Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 1:00 p.m.**, at the Cass Lake office. For residents of Cass Lake, call Transportation at 335-7041 for a ride to attend the class. Housing clients will receive credit toward their outstanding balance for attending.

Future classes will be held in February in Ball Club, Onigum, and Inger. Watch the De-bah-ji-mon for scheduling. LLHA will send a mailing to its clients.

Budgeting classes will help stretch a person's paycheck past the next paycheck, allowing him or her to be able to afford a little fun yet pay the utilities.

Some of the concepts to be discussed include: "Paying Yourself First," "The Difference between Needs and Wants," and "Funding Your Own Emergencies." These articles are written by Kimberly Danger, "Paycheck to Paycheck Reality Check," publisher of mommysavers.com. (<http://mommysavers.com/family-finances/paycheck-to-paycheck.shtml>).

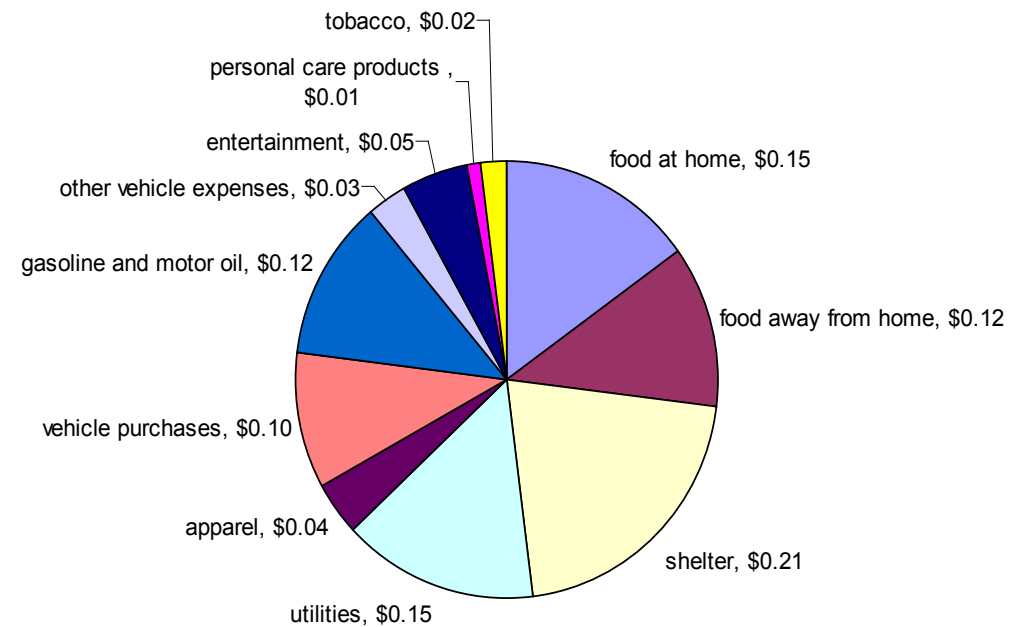
Future budgeting topics include "General Ways to Improve Your Credit," "Tracking Your Spending," "Analyzing Your Credit Score."

The following is a sample budget that will be introduced: The assumptions are based on a family of 4, one income of \$10 an hour or \$1,733 a month, no childcare expenses (US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey 2003-2005).

Food	\$468
Food at home	\$260
cereals and bakery product	\$35
meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$60
dairy products	\$30
fruits and vegetables	\$44
other foods at home	\$91
Food away from home	\$208
Housing	\$629
shelter	\$365
utilities, fuels	\$264
Apparel and services	\$70
Transportation	\$416
vehicle purchase	\$166
gasoline and motor oil	\$200
other vehicle expenses	\$50
Entertainment	\$87
Personal care products	\$20
Tobacco	\$42
Total	\$1,733

For every \$1 you spend, here is how much you spend on these budget categories:

How Consumer Dollar is Spent



YOU May Qualify

Qualified customers living on Tribal Land can receive **monthly local telephone service for as little as \$1⁰⁰ a month.**

Get Connected, Afford-A-Phone!

Ask how to receive 70 minutes of FREE long distance each month too.

- No money down
- Keep your current phone number
- Local service from a local company

Call **Cindy Walkhof**, Tribal Lifeline Specialist, at **1-800-630-7593** today.



Proudly Serving the Leech Lake Reservation

Qualified low-income customers living on Tribal Land can save as much as \$13.45 per month on basic telephone service via the Federal Lifeline Program. Subject to terms and conditions of FCC Link Up and Lifeline Program guidelines and FCC and Minnesota taxes and fees. Receive seventy minutes of free ACS Long Distance each month when you sign up for ACS local telephone service. After the first seventy minutes of ACS Long Distance each month, a charge of seven cents a minute will apply to all intra and interstate toll calls. International calling excluded. Based on ACS service area. Some restrictions apply.

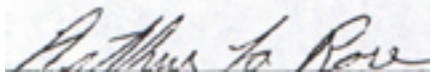
Chairman's Report

Continued From Page 5

Shingobee property developed as it has sat for a few years now. We are looking at turning the Che-we Store into a co-op with satellite C-stores setup in the outlying communities this will give our members more ownership and increased purchasing power and local buying from their own stores. We are also working with RREAL Manufacturing on a partnership to build solar panel furnaces. These plans are already being drafted and will be presented to the membership shortly.

There will be a Band Resource Guide that should be published in February. The guide will have information on programs and services with contact and other information to help our band membership know what is available. This guide will also be on the new Band Website that is being developed. The new website will be much more informative and interactive than what has been in place. It along with the Debahjimon and the upcoming Radio Station will keep the Band membership better informed of what is going on with its government and businesses.

I close on behalf the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the RBC with wishing all a wonderful New Year and much prosperity. Chi Megwitch



JOB OPENING

Community Mental Health Practitioner

FT Benefits, BS Behavioral Services plus 2000 hrs mental health experience. Assist men and women with long term mental illness to learn recovery and problem solving skills. Seeking workforce diversity.

Send resume' and cover letter to:

Hope House
PO Box 1097
Bemidji, MN 56619
 (218) 444-6748
 Open until filled.

LEECH LAKE BAND of OJIBWE

Summary of Job Openings, updated weekly and posted on www.llojibwe.com
 Leech Lake Band Member preference, MCT, and other Native American preference applies
 Publication date: Monday, **January 12, 2009**

You may request a complete job description for any position listed

****ALL position requires a valid MN driver's license, current insurance or is insurable (Unless otherwise stated)**

URBAN AREA OFFICE CLERK ~ HUMANSERVICES ~ DOQ ~ JOB CODE: 09-006 Closes: January 23, 2009

Responsible for general office management and performing secretarial support for the Child Welfare Urban Area Office. The clerk will be the central contact to direct clients or visitors to the staff. **QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent. At least one year experience in general office administrative support. Gain knowledge and understanding of the Indian Child Welfare Act. Knowledge of Microsoft operating systems. Must be able to prepare reports, documents, letters and memos upon request. Establish, maintain, process and/or update files, records and other documents. Strong verbal, written, organizational, professional office and customer service skills. Must pass a criminal background check.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR ~ HUMAN SERVICES ~ DOQ ~ JOB CODE: 09-003 Closes: January 23, 2009

Coordinates all of the mental Health Programs to ensure maximum success with no duplication of efforts or services and for providing direct Psychological/Therapeutic services to individuals, families and groups. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Master's Degree in Behavioral Science preferred. Degree may be waived in lieu of five years of administrative, managerial and clinical experience related to working with diverse age groups. Must have knowledge of hospital protocol. Familiarity with Leech Lake Reservation, Human Service Agencies and surrounding communities. Proficiency in: budgetary and fiscal management. High degree of professional ethics with the ability to effectively supervise, motivate and develop professional employees.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TEAM LEADER ~ ACCOUNTING ~ DOQ ~ JOB CODE: 09-002 Closes: January 23, 2009

Plans, organizes and manages the operation and activities of a centralized accounts payable function. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's Degree. May have four to six years related experience and/or training; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have extensive knowledge of computer applications (spreadsheets, databases, word processing). Good oral /written communication and customer services skills. Ability to supervise, monitor activities and satisfy the reporting requirements. Effectively present information and respond to questions from a variety of groups which includes the general public.

LEAD COOK/ BALL CLUB ~ EARLY CHILDHOOD ~ \$8.00/hr ~ JOB CODE: 09-001 Closes: January 23, 2009

Responsible to meet each child's nutritional needs, providing a sanitary environment and establishing good eating habits that promote healthy development and life long well being. **QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent. Work experience in cooking in a large setting. Must be 18 or older with 1-2 years of supervisory experience. Serve Safe Certificate or ability to obtain, Food Handler and Sanitation certification or ability to obtain. Must be familiar with guidelines and reporting requirements of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, After School Snack Program & Summer Food Service Program. Ability to lift and carry 50lbs. physically able to work with children ages 0-5 years old. Assist with transportation of children to and from Head Start centers as required. Must pass a criminal background check.

PART TIME DISPATCHER ~ TRIBAL POLICE ~ \$13.50/hr ~ JOB CODE: 08-122 Closes: January 23, 2009

Provides communications directly with LL Tribal Police officers acting as the center for LLTP and other Law enforcement agencies and for persons needing police assistance or services. **QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent. Must have completed CJIS, First Aide and CPR. Must be 18 years of age or over. Can not have any convictions which include felony or domestic assault. Good oral, written communication and customer service skills. Radio Communications and Emergency Medical Dispatch training or willing to obtain.

LICENSED ALCOHOL & DRUG COUNSELOR ~ HUMAN SERVICES ~ \$16.00/hr ~ JOB CODE: 08-096 Closes: January 23, 2009

Provide professional and therapeutic intervention services for individuals that are misusing and/or addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Two year post secondary education and well as, Level 3 certification by UMICAD or MN LADC. Must be familiar with GAINS and Rule 25 assessments as well as Rule 31/ Minnesota statute 9430 and the six dimensions of treatment planning. Teaching and coaching experience in individual and family education. Be free of chemical use problems for at least two years.

How to apply: Interested parties may come into the Human Resources office to pick up an application and disclaimer or they can download an application and disclaimer from our website at www.llojibwe.com. Interested parties may also send a letter of application, resume, credentials, and transcripts to: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources - 115 Sixth St NW, Suite E - Cass Lake, MN 56633. You may also FAX your documents to Human Resources, our FAX number is; #218-335-3697, or Email your documents to LLhumanresources@Llojibwe.com. **Policy:** Human Resources must receive your application documents before or no later than 4:30pm on the date the position is scheduled to close. Late applications received after 4:30pm on closing date will not be accepted. Call 218-335-3698 or toll free 1-800-631-5528 for more information.

Obituaries

RODNEY J. JOHNSON SR

Rodney Jerome Johnson Sr., 34, of Longville, MN and Cass Lake, MN, the son of the late Thomas and Marlene Mitchell, entered into rest on December 11, 2008.



Rodney attended school in Longville, Remer, and BugoNayGeshig High School where he graduated in 1992. He enjoyed pow-wows, listening to music, working on his art, playing cribbage and yahtzee, watching movies, reading and spending time with his kids, mom, dad, and sisters.

He is survived by special friend Amanda Burnette, sons, Ethan of Cass Lake, Rodney Jr, Rodger, and Jerrod of Longville, daughters; Lasandra of Cass Lake, Daizie of Longville and his baby girl Amarrod of Cass Lake, his mother, sisters; Missy Johnson of Longville, Charlene (Chad) Mitchell, Jenna (Francis) Mitchell, both of Remer, Lucy (Terry) Mitchell of Longville, adopted brothers, Aaron Jackson of Longville, Ken Whitebird Jr. of Walker, Steven Johnson of Longville and Nate King of Bemidji, his grandmother, Daisy Johnson of Longville, several nieces, and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his dad Thomas,

father Roger Smith, brother Jerome Johnson Sr., Susie K. Allen, and his son Joseph.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum with the help of Steve Johnson, Vikki Howard, Colleen White and Ronald Johnson, the firekeeper. Interment was at the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery in Old Agency. Dennis Funeral Home of Walker handled funeral arrangements.

KENNETH "WING" BEAULIEU

Kenneth "Wing" Joseph Beaulieu, 66, of Bemidji died Thursday, December 11, 2008 at his home.



Funeral Services were held at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, December 16, 2008 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN with Rev. Nick Hill officiating. Interment will be in the spring at the Sugar Bush Township Cemetery in rural Bemidji, MN under the direction of the Cease Family Funeral Home of Bemidji.

He was born on August 1, 1942, in Cass Lake, MN the son of George and Ida (Fairbanks) Beaulieu.

He attended schools in the Bemidji area. He moved to Cleveland, Ohio and attended welding school. He moved to the Twin Cities and owned B and S Auto Repair. He moved to the Bemidji area and owned "West End Auto Repair" in Cass Lake. He enjoyed racing cars for many years in the Twin Cities and at the Bemidji Speedway. He also

enjoyed hunting, playing darts, blackjack, going to casinos, attending pow-wows, and being with his Grandchildren, who he loved dearly.

He is survived by: Wife, Diane Beaulieu of Bemidji, Daughters: Shannon Jones, Lorraine Beaulieu of Bemidji, Theresa Beaulieu of Bemidji, Ida Beaulieu of Bemidji, Sons: Edward Fairbanks of Minneapolis, Anthony Libby of Detroit Lakes, Kenneth Beaulieu Jr. of Bemidji, George Beaulieu of Pipestone, MN, Brothers: Roy Beaulieu of Bemidji, David Beaulieu of Bemidji, Larry Beaulieu of Cass Lake, MN, Anson Beaulieu Sr. of Bemidji, Sisters: Margaret Hardy of Cass Lake, Shirley Beaulieu of Bemidji, Donna Beaulieu of Bemidji, Numerous Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Nieces, and Nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Edith Wiese Beaulieu, brother Robert Holstein, nephew George Dennis Beaulieu, and ex-wife Veronica Fairbanks.

Active Casketbearers were: Leroy "Puff" Whitebird, Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird, Robert "Jap" Headbird, Richard "Ole" Brown, Jules Fairbanks, and William Beaulieu.

Honorary Casketbearers were: Terry Loeken, Gary Nelson, Byron Johnson, Daniel Hardy, All of his family, racing buddies, and friends.

ROSE MARIE SEELYE

Rose Marie (Kornezos) Seelye – Azhe-dey Ikwe (Coming back woman) 79 years old, Bena, MN joined the angels on Sunday November 30, 2008 while recuperating at the Havenwood Nursing Home in Bemidji.

She was born on November 19, 1929 at Knife Falls on the Fond du Lac Reservation to John Constantine Kornezos and Caroline

La Prairie Caldwell. She had one sister Stella Kornezos Benjamin. She attended "Sister School" in White Earth. She married Jack Harold Seelye on July 7, 1949 in Milwaukee, WI. They lived in Englewood CO and Mpls MN before moving to Bena where they made their permanent home.



She enjoyed her visits to the casino; making moccasins; doing beadwork; visiting with family and friends; crocheting her infamous "dammit dolls"; and her grand children and great grand children's company. She was a master at the sewing machine and made many quilts for her family members. She loved to visit and made everyone and anyone feel at home when they came to see her.

She is survived by her husband; her daughters Jackie (Rocky) Tibbetts and Bonita Seelye; her sons Larry Seelye and Scott Seelye; eight grand children; and twelve great grand children; her sister Stella Kornezos Benjamin aka "her favorite sister, Thelma Mae"; very special nephews and niece; and her many friends.

Her mother and father; and her special stepfather John Moose preceded her in death.

Service was held at the center on Friday at 11:00 am with graveside services at the Lakeview Cemetery in Bena, MN.

Active Pallbearers were Rocky Tibbetts Jr., Jesse Tibbetts, Tony Tibbetts, Mike Kornezos, Davey Seelye, and Lanny Seelye.

Subscribe to DeBahJiMon

This is a FREE subscription

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check One:

- New Subscription
 New Address:
 Include previous zip code _____
 Remove from mailing list

Mail to:

DeBahJiMon
 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
 115 6th Street NW
 Cass Lake, MN 56633

DeBahJiMon

A monthly publication of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.
 4,300 published monthly.

Arthur Larose Chairman
 Michael J. Bongo Secretary
 Robbie Howe..... District I
 Lyman Losh District II
 Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird District III

Chris Haugene, Managing Editor

Mike Chosa, Graphic Designer

E-mail: debahjimon@llojibwe.com

Phone: (218) 335-8225 • Fax: (218) 335-3660

Deadline for February Issue is January 27th, 2009

Honorary pallbearers are Shannessy Chubb, Justin Seelye, Sam Cleveland, Nate Seelye, Josh Seelye, Tony Treuer, Micah Treuer, David Treuer, and Rocky Tibbetts Sr.

Carroll Funeral Home in Deer River handled the arrangements. Memorial Donation suggestion to the Humane Society in Bemidji – she loved all animals, big and small.

“Guide me a path that’s safe, and let my journey be a walk in grace.” She was a believer of angels – here on earth and above...

DENISE ELIZABETH DAHL

Denise Elizabeth Dahl or “Mashkowitz Gabowiik” which means “Stands Strong Woman” of Cass Lake passed away Monday, December 29, 2008, the eve of her 54th birthday at North Country Regional Hospital in Bemidji.



Services were held at Noon on Sunday, January 4, 2009. Interment was at the Farris/Farden Township Cemetery in rural Cass Lake under the direction of the Cease Family Funeral Home of Bemidji.

Denise was born as Cecelia Madeline Fairbanks on Dec. 30, 1954 in Cass Lake to Jack Fairbanks and Mary Jane Folstrom of White Earth. She was raised in the Lake George area until her parents death at which time she was adopted and raised in the southern United States. She traveled the world doing mission work with her adoptive parents, but eventually came home to Cass Lake in 1975, where she met and married Jack Dahl, Sr. on May 15, 1975. They lived in the Guthrie/Laporte area and raised their six children while also keeping doors open to numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and extended family. In 1991, after much determination to be a role model for all her children, she received her diploma from Cass Lake-Bena High School. In 1997, she then continued her studies at Northwest Technical College and persevered diligently until she obtained both a Secretarial/Receptionist and Bookkeeping degrees. Her graduation coincided with her youngest son Brent’s high school graduation and was a highpoint in her life. She worked for MCT home loan for several years, and then at the Cass Lake-Bena High School for Indian Education. She was a founder of the

drum and dance group at the high school and helped with the Anishanabe Quiz Bowl program. She also helped coordinate cultural presentations for the Youth Works program during the summer. She loved to sew and at one time was an independent contractor for Lady Slipper Designs although her true passion was creating powwow regalia for all her kids.

She is survived by 14 children: James (Cindy) Dahl of Onigum, MN, Brenda (Al) Dahl of Cass Lake, Michael (Crystal) Dahl of White Earth, MN, Jack (Ronda) Dahl, Jr. of Bemidji, Brent (Jessica) Dahl of Bemidji, Christine (Ken) Goggeye of Laporte, Kerri Wells of Guthrie, Sarah Headbird of Fargo, ND Mindy (Jeremy) Swan of Bemidji, Bonnie Zamora and Amaya Fisherman of Cass Lake, Kathy Jaspers, Sarah (Ken) Jaspers and Bob (Sylvia) Jaspers of Cass Lake, 23 grandchildren, a great grandchild, and numerous nieces, and nephews. Seven siblings- Sylvia “Jeannie” (Ed) Lemay of Desota, Wisc., Karen Solberg of White Earth, Liz (Gary) Pierce of Walla Walla, Wash, Will (Lorraine) Klaus of Guthrie, Fred Fairbanks of Cass Lake, Missy Murray of Walla Walla, Wash, and Clara (Spud) Carlson of Bemidji, Former husband and father of her children – Jack Dahl. Sr. of Laporte

She was preceded in death by her parents- Jack Fairbanks and Mary Jane Folstrom, Sister- Shirley Adams, uncle- Pat St. Clair, and grandfather- Simon Folstrom.

Active casketbearers were Travis Heusers, Ryan Lemon, Don Carlson, Mike Hanson, Tim Nelson, Ricky Haaland with alternate- Carl Remmers

Honorary casketbearers will be all the students and staff at the Cass Lake-Bena High School.

The family is asking that in lieu of flowers that monetary donations be made for the establishment of a Denise Dahl memorial scholarship in tribute to her constant dedication to education.

MICHAEL “BOCKY” KINGBIRD

Michael Kingbird, 36, of Minneapolis, formerly of Cass Lake, died Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at his home in Minneapolis.

Funeral Services were held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, December 13, 2008 at the Veteran’s Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Arrangements are with the Cease Family

Funeral Home of Cass Lake.

He was born on October 19, 1972, in Bemidji, MN the son of Cynthia Lucille Kingbird and Michael Finn. He grew up in the Cass Lake, Mission area. He attended Bemidji area schools and the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in Bena. He later attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis and learned auto-body repair. He met Kristen Swanholm, moved to Minneapolis together, and started a family. He enjoyed being with his family and friends. He enjoyed working on cars, being active in all sports, carpentry, and traveling. He was a very sociable person and had a great sense of humor.

He is survived by: Sons: Michael Jr. & Nicolas, Daughter, Lacy, Special Friend, Krissy Swanholm, Sisters: Nicole Kingbird, Kelly (John Wright) Kingbird, Brother, Kevin Kingbird Sr. all of Cass Lake, Maternal Grandfather, Daniel Kingbird Sr. of Bemidji, Paternal Grandmother, Alverna Finn of Cass Lake, MN, Numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, maternal grandmother, and paternal grandfather, sister Carmen Kingbird, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Active Casketbearers were: Roger Butcher, Jim Kingbird, Darryl Drouillard, Kevin Kingbird Sr., Ivan Wind, Mike Kingbird, Tory Suarez, and Matt Morgan.

Honorary Casketbearers were: Dave Swanholm, Dan Charnoski, Robert Staples, Dan Kingbird Jr., Doug Staples, Clarence Drouillard, Robert Adams Sr. Ray Pemberton, and Ron Hullett Sr

MARY LOONS

Mary Loons of Walker, Minnesota died Monday, December 29, 2008 at Golden Living Center in Walker.

Mary was born in Onigum, Minnesota on May 11, 1908 to John and Mary (Jackson) Bellanger.



She married Lawrence Loons, and spent her whole life in Onigum as a wife, and mother to twelve children. She liked to cook, and her family will remember her enjoyment in making fry bread.

She is survived by daughter Cecelia Luiten (John), two sons; James Loons and Robert Loons, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Lawrence, four daughters, and 5 sons.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the Onigum Community Center with Father Mark Coen officiating. Interment was at the Old Agency Catholic Cemetery in Old Agency. Dennis Funeral Home of Walker is handled funeral arrangements.

THE FIRST WIDOWS CLUB

MONDAY
JANUARY 19TH
6:00 PM

AMERICINN CONFERENCE
ROOM
WALKER, MN

JANUARY THEME?
IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE
HOUSE?

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO COME
SHARE A MEAL, PARTICIPATE IN
SOME HOOPLA AND MERRIMENT
WITH OUR GUESTS, REGISTER FOR
AMAZING DOOR PRIZES, AND ENJOY
AN EVENING OUT WITH LADIES WHO
KNOW HOW YOU FEEL... THERE IS
NO PRESSURE AT FWC, SHARE IF
YOU LIKE, SIT AND LISTEN IF YOU
LIKE. COME AS YOU ARE... WE RECOGNIZE YOUR GRIEF JOURNEY IS AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE... YOU WILL LEAVE FEELING ENCOURAGED, WE PROMISE!!!!

STACY LITTLE: FACILITATOR,
547-1331
QUAKE@EOT.COM



Sec./Treas. Report Continued from Page 1

In my prior quarterly report to the Band members I touched briefly on our need to lessen our overall dependency on our gaming dollars. There are a number of reasons behind this and I will touch on a few of my major points which are as follows:

First and foremost I would remind you that presently the Leech Lake Reservation still owes over \$41 million on the loan to the Shakopee Sioux Tribe. As I indicated in my prior report presently the Leech Lake Reservation is making interest only payments on this loan agreement. Until such time as we put together a financial plan to repay this loan as soon as humanly possible it will continue to be a huge financial burden to the Leech Lake Reservation and severely limit our ability to move forward with additional positive economic growth and development of the Reservation.

Secondly the dependency on gaming dollars has in some respects made many of our staff and administrators complacent and has resulted in the loss and waste of money, opportunity and resources to the Leech Lake Reservation.

As an example recently it was discovered that the Education Division had not developed or submitted an administrative cost pool budget for any of the Federal grants that they receive. Rather they simply charged their administrative costs to the direct funding (gaming dollars) they received from the Tribal Council. The end result was that the Leech Lake Reservation lost out on potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in Federal funds and most recently resulted in the Leech Lake Reservation potentially having to return approximately \$180,000 in funding back to the Federal government. This in my opinion is simply unacceptable under any circumstances and specifically illustrates what I mean by the waste, mismanagement and abuse of Leech Lake Reservation resources.

In other similar instances you have had situations where program managers have spent the Band's direct funding first as opposed to the grant funds they receive and then end up having to return unspent grant funds to the various funding agencies at the end of the fiscal year or go on a spending spree to spend down the grants at year's end. Again the end result is the further waste and mismanagement of Leech Lake Reservation resources.

As a further result fewer and fewer funding grants were being written and submitted by program managers and directors resulting in a further dependency on gaming dollars and an additional loss of opportunity to generate more resources for the Reservation. To correct this problem the Executive & Deputy Director now mandate that each Division write and submit a minimum of two grants per year and that grant funds are expended first before utilizing direct funding dollars from the Band.

The first three months in office as the Secretary Treasurer I spend a considerable amount of time reviewing the government operations budget and the direct funding the Band provides to the various programs. As a result of this work and in partnership with the Budget Team we put forth a number of recommendations to the Tribal Council for the reallocation and re-budgeting of approximately \$5 million in direct funding to the programs based upon the goals, objectives and new priorities of the Tribal Council.

This resulted in the creation of the Day Labor Program (\$2 million) the recent creation of the Elders program \$500,000, a Housing Repair & Improvement Program in each district at a cost of \$500,000, approximately \$250,000 for summer

Youth Employment program, and the Tax Rebate to the band members at a cost of \$1.5 million dollars. In addition accounting has been charged with the mission of more closely monitoring the various program budgets to hold down and eliminate unnecessary spending and improve our methods of operation and how we conduct business.

If we are diligent and continue to follow the current financial plan as I have laid out I am hopeful that we will end the fiscal year with a budget surplus of approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million which can then be applied directly to the principal on the \$41 million dollar loan owed to the Shakopee Sioux Tribe.

In the coming months I will be recommending to the Tribal Council that we hold a series of public hearings with our Band members to explore various options and methods of repaying the debt to Shakopee. As I stated earlier until this debt is substantially reduced or repaid in full it will continue to limit our ability to implement other positive social and economic efforts to advance the Leech Lake Reservation.

As an example we have the capacity to repay this loan over the next 4 years by allocating \$10 million each year from our direct funding to be applied directly toward the principal on the loan agreement. This would not only result in the repayment of the loan but save us several million dollars in interest as well. However to accomplish this it would mean that as a Tribe we would need to eliminate all unnecessary spending and operate as lean and mean as humanly possible.

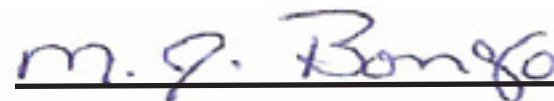
If we allow ourselves to dream for a minute, think if we were to do this over the next eight years, repayment of the loan in 4 years and then invest \$10 million a year for an additional 4 years. The result would be retiring the initial debt and provide the Band with an additional \$40 million trust account not including of course the annual interest earned on such assets. After 4 years the tribe would be completely debt free and 8 years down the road the Tribe would have an additional \$40 million in assets. As a Tribe we could then rebate the annual interest back to the Tribal members over and above the current annual tax rebate provided to the band members this year.

This is but one potential example that we could possible explore for discussion purposes and I for one would be most interested in getting input from our members as well as hearing any other potential thoughts, ideas and possible solutions and plans that our Band members may have. However it is the Band member's resources and regardless of whatever it is we do I firmly believe that our Band members should have the opportunity to voice their input.

As the current Secretary Treasurer please rest assured that I will continue to advocate that we do what is in the best interests of the Leech Lake Reservation as a whole; that the Leech Lake Reservation is properly managed to ensure our financial solvency; and our members are well informed and have access to whatever financial information you desire; and that your voice and concerns are heard.

Thank you for your time and attention and I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the Leech Lake Reservation is properly managed in the best interest of all of our Band membership.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bongo, Secretary Treasurer

District I All Community Meeting

By Chris Haugene & Mike Chosa

Leech Lake's Robbie Howe held a community meeting in Ball Club recently in order to continue the communication between Tribal leaders and Band members. Robbie recently spoke at the employee meeting regarding several issues that concern her regarding youth advocacy, chemical dependency, and accountability in the home for our loved ones, to touch on a couple issues she holds near and dear.

Scheduled to speak were Chris Bedeau and Mike Lemon who lead the effort at Leech Lake's TEP (day labor) program; Wally Storbakken representing economic development; Ken Washington from the Tribal Police Department, as well as representatives from the Itasca County Sheriff's Department.

Secretary Treasurer Mike Bongo led the speakers off by highlighting some of his goals and objectives that parallel District I Representative Howe's. Mr. Bongo spoke about his want to bring back a summer youth development program where kids would take a career inventory assessment before the end of the school year that could match them up with a summer job that interests the kids. "We have a wealth of talented and gifted kids here, and we need to foster these skills and abilities," said Mr. Bongo. He also mentioned trying to revive things like summer baseball and basketball leagues, which would be a continuation of some of his recent work leading the Northwest Indian OIC out of Bemidji.

Meetings like this are becoming commonplace for the new Tribal Council. Feedback from the communities they represent and the people employed by the Band is starting to take hold. Everything from the temporary employment program to the recent tax rebate released before the holidays have all come from open and honest dialogue from the Leech Lake constituents. Please look for more of these events to be announced in the Debahjimon, or placed on the new Leech Lake website (<http://www.llojibwe.org>) that will be up before the end of the month.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

From the family of Rose M. Seelye

To everyone who attended the funeral & everyone who could not attend the funeral and sent their prayers, flowers and/or cards;

To Ricky Seelye who led the Rosary with grace and his expertise;

To Father Paul Larson who so eloquently brought together the Catholic mass with an Ojibwe touch; the smell of cedar smudge remains in our senses;

To the Ojibwe sacred drum singers – Rodney & David Northbird – whose farewell song was superbly done and a spectacular finish to the funeral services;

To the Fire Tenders who supplied wood and fire through-out the week;

To the PCH Restaurant for the wonderful food;

To the Leech Lake Community Service Program that supplied the rough box for the gravesite;

To the Leech Lake Public Works Department that supplied the Day Labor crew to dig the grave;

To the Bena ladies who supplied the endless labor of love to set up, feed, and then clean up after the feast; they never tired, never complained, never took a break, and appeared to "wave the magic wand" to make it all come together;

To the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe that made the funeral expenses bearable in our time of need;

To the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for their generous donation so we could provide the beautiful flowers;

To Cass Lake Floral for the expertise and love they put together in arranging the beautiful flowers and the hug that came with them;

To Carl and his staff at the Carroll Funeral Home for taking care of our loved one and providing their services;

The family is indeed very thankful and wishes for everyone to know that we truly appreciate everything that was done for us during this tough time. We know whom we can count on in our time of need....

A final hug and thanks to the angels that delivered mom, wife, grandmother, and great grandmother to her final resting place beside her loving God...she is finally at peace in the arms of her mom.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS EVERY ONE OF YOU!

Thinking of starting
a business?

**The American Indian
Economic Development Fund**

is offering a two week-end:

**Culturally Relevant
Indianpreneur Class**

Starting February 6-9, 2009

To be held at:

Hampton Inn & Suites
1019 Paul Bunyan Dr S
Bemidji, MN 56601

For more information or
to request an application
Please Call Linda Sapp at
(651) 917-0819

831 Como Avenue
St Paul, MN 55103-1463
651-917-0819
info@aiedfloans.org
or www.aiedfloans.org

NOTICE:

Bena Clinic

Leech Lake Health Services now has a health care provider for Bena Clinic who can see patients for general issues such as hypertension, diabetes, well child checks, well woman exams, sports physicals, general physicals and much more.

To Schedule your appointment call

(218) 665-5303

Don Day receives Education Award

Dr. Don Day, an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, was selected as the 2008 Outstanding American Indian Administrator of the year at the 24th annual Minnesota Indian Education Association Conference this past October 8th and 9th.

Day was nominated by students from Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College where he served as President from 2003-2008. During Day's tenure at Fond Du Lac the college's student enrollment almost doubled in size to approximately 1,300 full-time students; created an AFA degree in Art to compliment the existing AA, AS, and AAS Degrees; created a free-standing Nursing Program; established their first ever Division III intercollegiate sports team (Men's football and Women's softball); established articulation agreements with Red Lake Nations College and Mille Lacs Tribal College; lobbied for and secured 49,000 sq. feet to the institution; saw many faculty, staff, and students win many state and national awards. This was all accomplished without one grievance from a faculty or staff member over the past four years. Day stated the bulk of his work was done by the great faculty and staff at the college and that he was only steering the ship as they moved forward.

Don is currently the Executive Director of the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University. After graduating from BSU in 1977, Don worked in the Education Division of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for six years, then became the first Director of Indian Student Services at BSU in 1983. Day states that becoming the Executive Director is "like coming home."

Dr. Day said he is honored to be selected as the Outstanding American Indian Administrator of the Year because he was nominated by the students he served and was selected by a group of his peers from across the

state. Day went on to state that BSU has a long history of serving American Indian students well. BSU started one of the first American Indian Studies Departments in the country in 1969 and created the Ojibwe Language Program in 1971. BSU has graduated almost 600 American Indians with Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Day said he is looking forward to working with faculty and staff administrators, students, tribal officials, and community members to make BSU an even more logical and appealing institution for American Indian students to attend.

"We Shall Remain" Conference

In concordance with the PBS series "We Shall Remain", we are inviting all interested parties to converge on many different Issues pertaining to Native American communities across all party lines. We welcome all members of recognized Native tribes and the governing bodies that represent them including; local, state, and federal government to convene on a conference level to discuss issues that affect communities in and around Reservations. Fostering a pattern of awareness that reflects our resolve to make changes as to how to identify, and enact partnerships of development between our communities. These proceeds will be filmed as possible infusion into the "We Shall Remain" multipart series, and excerpted for use in the upcoming Lakeland Public Television Current Events Programming.

Your input will be invaluable in developing community awareness and participation, enabling a new cooperative base effecting new beginnings. Please support this effort by Red Lake Constructors Corporation, a Minnesota Non-profit organization. Donations gladly accepted.

These conferences will be held at:
Bemidji State University Campus
Native American Resource Center
1500 Birchmont Dr NE

As follows;

Friday January 16th, 2009 1-4PM

Friday January 23rd, 2009 1-4PM

Contact: Gregory W. Paquin C: 651-503-9493, H: 218-209-3157

Protect your septic system from freezing

By Anne Zahalka

Leech Lake Dept. Public Works

We started this winter season with very little snow cover and the likelihood of a septic freezing will be greater because of this.

The most common reason septic systems freeze is the lack of snow cover, cold temperatures and how the septic system is maintained. This could be because the system is waterlogged (leaky pipes, over use, cold air entering the system (broken or missing covers on tank, lines and drain field inspection pipes), compacted soil from walking and driving on the lines or lack of plant cover. If the soil over the pipe is compacted, the elevation of the pipe may shift, causing a loss of gravity flow. This result is water left standing in pipes which can easily freeze. If you simply walk or drive on a septic lines you can drive the frost down freezing them. If your septic system has frozen, you should contact a professional sewage pumper or installer who can help determine the cause of the problem and offer solutions.

There are many things you can do to reduce the chances of your system freezing this winter take these precautions:

- Add a layer of mulch (8-12 inches) over the pipes, tank and soil treatment area to provide insulation. A mulch of loose hay or straw works well, as do leaves. The key is to keep it loose to form air pockets, which act as the insulation. This is particularly important if your system is new, and vegetative cover has not been well established.
- Use normal amounts of water; the warmer the better. Spread out your laundry schedule to one warm/hot load per day, a pattern that should be followed year around. DO NOT leave water running all the time, this will hydraulically overload the system. DO NOT add antifreeze to the system.
- If you plan to be gone more than a day or two, plan accordingly. Have someone visit and use water regularly. If you are going to be gone for an extended period (weeks or months), pumping the tank may be the best option.
- Fix any leaky plumbing in your home. The small trickles of water going into the system can freeze as thin ice layers within pipes, and eventually close them. If you have a high efficiency furnace, collect the water in a large container, emptying into the ground periodically. This does not need to go into your septic system-it is clean water.
- Keep all types of vehicles—including ATV's and snowmobiles—and high traffic people activities off the system. This is a good rule to follow all year.
- Make sure all risers, inspection pipes and manholes have covers. Adding insulation is a good idea.
- Periodically check your system to see if there is any seeping or ponding.

If you have any questions please call Leech Lake Water and Sewer at 218-335-3717. Thank you.

Home Heating

By Tonya J. Losh
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Many residents have heating costs on the mind. Whether primarily heating their homes with oil, gas or electricity, local families are struggling to meet the challenge of record-high energy costs this winter. While the projected rise in heating costs this winter could be devastating for many wallets, increased use of alternative heating equipment – like pellet stoves, wood stoves and space heaters – could have an even more devastating effect on the already serious home heating fire problem.

As a leading cause of home fires, heating is a concern for every community every winter. This year, with the projected increase in use of alternative heating equipment, families need to be especially vigilant to use all heating appliances properly.

Alternative heating sources are not inherently a greater fire risk; with caution they can be used safely. That's why the Health Division is encouraging residents using pellet stoves, wood stoves, space heaters or any other non-traditional home heating equipment this winter to follow this advice:

Portable electric space heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an auto shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Place space heater on solid, flat surface at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.

Fuel-burning space heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying again, do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.

Wood and pellet-burning stoves

- Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.

Please join the Health Division in ensuring that our community is safe from heating fires this winter.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Dave Pecora, PA-C
Matthew Houge, RN

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is commonly produced by fires, automobile exhausts, charcoal, kerosene and gas stoves, furnaces, or space heaters. With proper ventilation, these sources of carbon monoxide usually don't lead to any problems, but in poorly ventilated areas or with faulty ventilation, carbon monoxide levels can build up and cause symptoms. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that carbon monoxide poisoning claims nearly 500 lives, and causes more than 15,000 visits to hospital emergency departments annually.

Red blood cells pick up carbon monoxide quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of carbon monoxide in the air, the body may replace oxygen in the blood with carbon monoxide. This blocks oxygen from getting in to the body, which can damage tissue and may result in death.


The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, carbon monoxide poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from carbon monoxide poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

If carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected:

- Move all family members and pets to fresh air away from the source of carbon monoxide.
- Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital medical emergency department to seek medical care
- Watch for any breathing problems until medical attention is provided.

Prevention is the best treatment. Keep areas well ventilated. Do not run automobiles in closed garages. Do not use charcoal grills or portable gas camp stoves indoors. Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home. Carbon monoxide detectors are available at hardware stores and most department stores. Ideally there should be one on every level of your home and in every bedroom, but if you can only install one locate it near the sleeping areas where it can wake you if you are asleep.

This Year, Resolve to Reduce Your Cancer Risk



The typical New Year's resolutions people make at this time of year – to eat healthier, exercise more, and quit smoking – could also be categorized under one important resolution: Reduce your risk of cancer. The American Cancer Society is here to help. There is strong scientific evidence that healthy eating – including five or more servings of vegetables and fruits each day – along with regular physical activity (at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity, above usual activities, on five or more days of the week), are essential to maintain a healthy body weight and reduce cancer risk. Regular screenings by a health care professional can lead to early detection and removal of precancerous growths, as well as the diagnosis of cancers at an early stage, when they are most treatable. At least half of all new cancer cases are cancer types that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening. The American Cancer Society's Great American Health Check is here to help you keep your resolutions – and enjoy a healthier lifestyle – with personalized online tools to help you set goals and track your progress. At www.cancer.org/GreatAmericans, the Health Check will help you get started with specific recommendations based on the information you provide. The Health Check can also give you a quick overview of recommended screening tests through a simple online assessment at www.cancer.org/GreatAmericans. Easy-to-use and confidential, this interactive tool allows you to enter your age, gender, height, weight, dietary habits, physical activity levels, and alcohol and tobacco use for yourself or a loved one. The tool in turn provides recommendations for screenings, diet, physical activity, and tobacco cessation to help lower your risk for certain cancers, and a health action plan that you can print and share with your doctor or email to a loved one.

This is the year to think differently about your New Year's resolutions – and stick with them. Do something great for your health – visit www.cancer.org/GreatAmericans today or call 1-800-ACS-2345 for more information.

TOP HEADLINES OF 2008

By Mike Chosa

January

- Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe signs Memorandum of Understanding with Cass County, establishing guidelines for implementation of ICWA.

- Economic Stimulus Package passed by Congress, all checks to be mailed out by July.

February

- Twenty Four people file for open seats on Leech Lake Tribal Council.



- Leech Lake Tribal Court signs Joint Powers Agreement with Itasca County, Leech Lake Flag permanently installed in all Itasca County Court Rooms.

- SuperBowl: Giants dash the Patriots hope for a perfect season 17-14.

March

- Grand opening of the new Community Center in Bena.

- Cass Lake-Bena Boys Basketball team returns to the State Tournament, Takes 3rd Place.



- Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe selected as semi finalist for Harvard Honoring Nations Award for its work in developing Joint Jurisdiction Agreements.

April

- Arthur "Archie" LaRose wins Primary Election with historic 56% of the vote, negating the need for a run-off election. Michael J. Bongo and Burton "Luke" Wilson, Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird and Donald "Mick" Finn were the top vote getters and will face each other in the General Election for Secretary/Treasurer and District III Representative, respectively.

- Anishinaabe Legal Services Celebrates 40th Anniversary.

- Winter goes out with a bang: Snowstorm dumps 39 inches of snow on Cass Lake over two days.



May

- LLBO Employee John Persell announces intent to run for the MN House seat 4A vacated by Roger Moe.

- 1st Annual Tribal Elder's Summit held at the Palace Casino in Cass Lake.



- Thirty Eight Students graduate from the Leech Lake Tribal College.

June

- General Elections held, Michael Bongo elected Secretary-Treasurer, Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird elected District III Representative.

- Leech Lake Tribal College sends five students to Costa Rica to study abroad for the summer.

- Barack Obama continues to gather support for the Democratic Nomination for President, officially adopted into the Crow Nation in Montana.



- Leech Lake Tribal College hosts Native American Art Show.

July

- The new Tribal Council is sworn in at the Quarterly Meeting. Credit Card policy abolished and Band Member Rate set at all Leech Lake Casino Hotels.



- Chippewa National Forest celebrates 100th Anniversary.
- Herschel Ogema, Leech Lake Band Member, joins Team Hollywood Celebrity Basketball Troupe.

August

- Day Labor Program gets up and running, over 90 people sign up by 11:00 am on the 1st day.
- Leech Lake, White Earth & Red Lake host an Economic Development Summit and Trade Show at Northern Lights Casino.



- RTC offices are remodeled and a new parking lot is added.
- Enbridge Pipeline donates \$100,000 to LLBO.

- New Head Start building opened in Onigum.

September

- Leech Lake Tribal College students build two new homes for Red Lake.
- Leech Lake hosts Great Lakes Regional Conference on Fish & Wildlife.

October

- T.E.P., also known as Day Labor, signs agreement with USDA, Forest Service & Chippewa National Forest to provide brushing, tree planting and excavation work.

- Senate hopeful Al Franken makes a visit to Leech Lake Reservation.

- Plans for the “MN Tribal Nations Plaza” are unveiled. It will be located at the new U of M TCF Bank Stadium.

- Treats for Tots a resounding success at all 3 Casinos.



November

- Barack Obama wins historic victory over Republican John McCain to become the 44th President of the United States.

- John Persell, Leech Lake DRM Employee, is elected to MN House of Representatives.



- MN Senate Race between Al Franken & Incumbent Norm Coleman, too close to call. Automatic recount initiated.

- Paul Day is hired as the new Executive Director for Anishinaabe Legal Services.

December

- Leech Lake tax rebate checks mailed out in the amount of \$200 to all band members 18 years of age and older.

- Tribal College Board of Trustees votes to remove President Leah Carpenter from office.

- First Elders Solutions Meeting held at Northern Lights Casino.

- Chairman LaRose wins Toughman Competition, held at Northern Lights Casino, in the Super Heavyweight Division.

- Franken – Coleman Senate Race heads to court to determine a winner.

10th Annual Bemidji Freedom Walk

"to commemorate the legacy of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Monday February 2, 2009
5:00 PM

Route:

From the Paul & Babe Statues at the Lake Bemidji Waterfront to the Bemidji State University Campus

A Program in the BSU Beaux Arts Ballroom will begin at 5:30 with featured speakers, singers and video.

Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe Elder's Meeting

Monday January 26th 2009
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Northern Lights Casino Event Center

Lunch will be provided
Door Prizes will be given away

This is a follow-up meeting from the Dec. 29th Elder's Conference. For Elders who did not attend this meeting, you will be able to fill out a Questionnaire form. The Leech Lake Tribal Council will be available for this meeting.

Transportation will be provided by the Leech Lake Health Division
CHR Office Call Terry Thompson @ 1-800-282-3389

For further information, contact
Carol Jenkins or Marilyn Bowstring @ 1-888-619-8283

LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE 2009 POWWOW SCHEDULE

LEECH LAKE VETERANS MEMORIAL,
SPRING POW WOW
CASS LAKE, MN
MAY 22, 23, 24, 2009

S-LAKE TRADITIONAL,
S LAKE, MN
JUNE 26, 27, 28 2009

LEECH LAKE 4TH OF JULY,
CASS LAKE, MN
JULY 3, 4, 5, 2009

MI-GWETCH MAHNOMEN DAYS,
BALL CLUB, MN
JULY 17, 18, 19, 2009

ONIGUM,
ONIGUM MN
JULY 24, 25, 26, 2009

CHA CHA BAANING,
INGER MN
AUGUST 21, 22, 23, 2009

WII GITCHIE NI MI I DIM
(LABOR DAY CONTEST)
CASS LAKE, MN
SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6, 2009

BATTLE POINT,
BATTLE POINT MN
SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 2009