

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

LLBO Delegates consisting of council members and employees visited the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Page 2

## MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Page 4

## SOVEREIGNTY DAY IN MN

Representatives from Minnesota's 11 Tribes attended the State Capitol which hosted the return of Sovereignty Day.

Page 5

## KID'S PERCH JERK 2023

Photos and winners from this year's Kid's Perch Jerk, held at Denny's Resort along Big Winnie in Bena, MN.

Page 6

PRSKT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BEMIDJI, MN  
PERMIT NO. 68

# The Faces of Minnesota's Opioid Crisis: Advocates and Families Rally for Change

*Advocates Push for Increased Penalties and Access to Naloxone to Save Lives.*

By MICHAEL CHOSA

ST. PAUL – Minnesota is in the grips of an opioid epidemic, with deadly overdoses reaching an all-time high and killing twice as many people as car crashes in 2021. Advocates are calling on the government to take more action to prevent deaths, including requiring schools and first responders to carry naloxone, a drug that can reverse an overdose.

Patty Bittner, an advocate for the Leech Lake Tribal Police, recently gave a powerful speech at a rally in the Minnesota State Capitol in response to the state's opioid crisis. Bittner spoke about the devastating impact of fentanyl on the Leech Lake Reservation and the need for lawmakers to take action to slow down the flow of the drug into Minnesota.

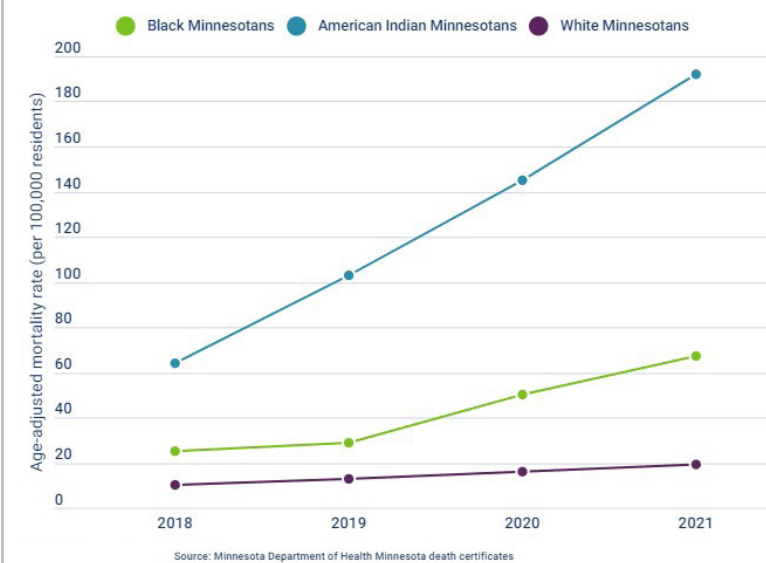
Bittner highlighted the disparity between the penalties for fentanyl possession and those for heroin possession, arguing that the sentencing guidelines for fentanyl should be the same as those for methamphetamine and heroin. She displayed bags of sugar and flour to illustrate the amount of fentanyl a person must possess to be charged with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree drug possession crime compared to the amount of heroin required for the same charges.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Fentanyl is up to 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

Advocates are also calling for the state government to require schools and first responders to carry naloxone, a drug that can reverse an overdose.

Governor Tim Walz's budget proposes spending \$22 million over the next two

In 2021, American Indian Minnesotans were ten times as likely to die from a drug overdose than white Minnesotans. Black Minnesotans were more than three times as likely to die from drug overdose than white Minnesotans.



Patty Bittner of the Leech Lake Tribal Police displays bags of flour to illustrate the stark difference between the amount of fentanyl and heroin needed to be charged with 1st degree possession at a rally in the Minnesota State Capitol.

## MN Controlled Substance Crimes (Possession)

**1st Degree**  
Heroin 25 grams      Fentanyl 500 grams

**2nd Degree**  
Heroin 6 grams      Fentanyl 50 grams

**3rd Degree**  
Heroin 3 grams      Fentanyl 10 grams

Source: 2022 MN Statutes Chapter 152.  
DRUGS; CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

panies to inspect packages.

The opioid epidemic is taking a heavy toll on families and communities across Minnesota. Organizers put on the "Faces of Fentanyl" display and rally at the Minnesota State Capitol to bring attention to the crisis. Bittner recounted the story of her nephew, Demikel Nason, who became addicted to opioids after being prescribed them for a neck injury in 2019. He bought pills off the street that he thought were Percocet but were actually fentanyl, which ultimately took his life in May 2020. His picture along with the faces of hundreds of Minnesotans who have died from opioid overdoses were displayed at the State Capitol, reminding lawmakers of the urgent need for action.

As the opioid epidemic continues to ravage communities in Minnesota and across the country, it is clear that urgent action is needed. Lawmakers must take bold steps to address the crisis, from requiring schools and first responders to carry naloxone to revising sentencing guidelines for fentanyl possession. The lives of countless Minnesotans depend on it.

years on a Comprehensive Drug Overdose and Morbidity Prevention Act, which includes providing non-opioid pain management and expanding overdose prevention teams. Federal lawmakers are also contemplating action, with President Joe Biden calling for stronger fentanyl trafficking penalties and partnerships with delivery com-

**VOL XXXIX NO 10**

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

**Leech Lake Tribal Council**

Faron Jackson Sr.,  
Chairman

Leonard Fineday,  
Secretary-Treasurer

Kyle Fairbanks, District I  
Representative

Steve White, District II  
Representative

LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III,  
District III Representative

**Staff**

Michael Chosa, Editor  
Kayla Duoos, Journalist  
Anthony Belgarde, Graphic Design

**Submissions**

The submissions of pictures, articles, announcements and letters is encouraged. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, length and libelous content. Submission does not guarantee publication. The Editor reserves the right to reject any material submitted for publication.

**DEBAHJIMON**  
190 Sailstar Dr. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

news@llojibwe.net

Ph: (218) 335-8200  
Fax: (218) 335-8309

**Deadlines**

May Issue.....4/28/2023  
Jun. Issue.....5/26/2023  
Jul. Issue.....6/30/2023



Council Members Steve White and Leonard Fineday pose for a quick photo with the treaty documents alongside Government Relations' Amadeo Bellino, Executive Director Ben Benoit, Deputy Director Gordon Fineday, Human Services Director Earl Robinson, Gaming Director Mike Auger and Legal Director Christopher Murray, Washington D.C.

## LLBO Delegation Uncovers Significant Piece of History at the National Archives During Visit to Washington D.C.

By BEN BENOIT

WASHINGTON - On the February trip to Washington D.C., a delegation from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe visited the National Archives and uncovered a significant piece of our history. The delegation, made up of Tribal Council members and staff, visited a specially protected area of the archives where only three people have access. There, they were able to view the Treaty of Washington, which was signed in 1855 between the United States of America and the Mississippi, Pillager and Winnibigoshish Bands that make up the Leech Lake Nation. Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution describes treaties as "the Supreme Law of the Land" and this document still holds significant weight today, 168 years after signing and ratification by Congress, to permanently reserve our homeland.

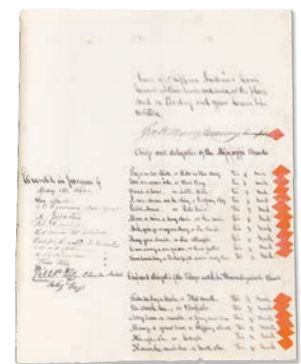
The Treaty of Washington is just one of the many important docu-

ments housed in the archives' vault, which was moved to its current location in late 1935 or early 1936. The vault contains a vast collection of historical documents, including all public laws, presidential proclamations, executive orders, Ratified Indian treaties, international treaties, papers of the continental congress, records of constitutional convention, ratified and unratified constitutional amendments, ratifications of the Bill of Rights and Constitution. Some examples of documents that are housed include the Jay Treaty, Treaty of Versailles, and the Louisiana Purchase. During their visit, the delegation was given a tour by Jane Fitzgerald, one of the few people who has access to the vault. Fitzgerald explained that the vault's current documents date back to the early years of the United States.

The Leech Lake delegation's trip to the National Archives was part of a larger visit to Washington D.C., where they met with Federal

Agencies and the Minnesota Congressional Delegation to discuss Leech Lake Federal priorities. These priorities included the clean-up of the St. Regis Superfund Site, the drug and Fentanyl epidemic, the encroachment of State licensed 'early-teal' waterfowl hunters into Leech Lake Reservation wild rice beds during peak harvest season, and the technical amendment to the Leech Lake Reservation Restoration Act of 2019 to restore an additional 4,300 acres of stolen Indian Lands.

One meeting that bears mention is when the delegation met with the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), the branch of the EPA that provides oversight of Superfund site cleanup throughout the U.S. This meeting was set as a follow-up between Leech Lake and EPA leadership regarding the cleanup of the St. Regis Superfund Site located in Cass Lake. At this meeting the Assistant Administrator of OLEM, Carlton Waterhouse, committed to develop Records of Decision for OU1 and OU2 within the next two years, utilizing Leech Lake Tribal law as the standard(s) for the site cleanup. Movement towards cleanup of the legacy pollution within Cass Lake has been a long-time priority of the Band as well as EPA recognition that Tribal



via NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The scanned page, visible in the above photo, of the 1855 document of Ratified Indian Treaty 287: Chippewa-Mississippi, Pillager, and Lake Winnibigoshish, Washington, DC.

cleanup standards should be applied to lands within the Leech Lake Reservation. This announcement was well received by the Leech Lake delegation and marks a big step in helping our community move past the contamination at the site.

The delegation's visit to the National Archives serves as a reminder of the long and complicated history of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the sacrifices our ancestors made to reserve this wonderful place for us and the ongoing responsibility we have to protect our rights, people and land.

## RBC BRIEFS • April 2023



By KAYLA DUOOS

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

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

One meeting was held in March 2023. All RBC briefings and meetings are live streamed via Vimeo and are available to view on [lechlakenews.com](http://lechlakenews.com) under "Videos". Official meeting minutes can also be found on [lechlakenews.com](http://lechlakenews.com) under "LL Tribal Council" and "Tribal Council Meeting Minutes."

### BRIEFING/MEETING RECAPS

**1. March 16, 2023** A briefing & meeting was held in the RBC Government Chambers. Recorded video is available for playback via Vimeo.

#### Presentations Given

- **Daniel Frye, IHS** — Presentation covered a number of issues; including the ongoing renovations that will provide the hospital with a new updated building that will house dental, Physical therapy, radiology, CT, and same day appointments. IHS is looking to add a drive-thru pharmacy alongside these renovations. However, the drive-thru pharmacy would require the closure of 7th street in Cass Lake that the city is currently against. The band is currently looking into contacting the city of Cass Lake and moving the project forward.
- IHS is currently also looking at contracting orthodontic services through Grand Rapids orthodontist offices.
- IHS is currently looking to bring back inpatient services which have been on pause since 2019.
- **Chris Bedeau, Tribal Development/Rory Haaland, DPS-Leech Lake Animal Wellness** — Presentation centered on the creation of the Leech Lake Animal wellness center. A location has been found for the center and work continues on keeping the project moving forward. Funding has been secured for the center and support is widespread from Leech Lakes animal wellness partners.
- **Ken Washington/Taylor Humprey, DPS** — Policing Grant, The LLPD is currently understaffed and now looking at recruiting/offering placements within the LLPD through Leech Lakes Tribal College.
- **Bryan McCoy, Tribal Development** — The Tribe is currently working on completing the updated "Comprehensive community development strategy" by October of this year. The plan highlights the Tribes goals including workforce/housing needs and job creation. The bands comprehensive plan was last updated in 2016.
- **Mandi Aalto/Mikele Finn, Tribal Development** — Presentation centered on the grants the band is looking to apply to address the ongoing opiate crisis. Grants will address additional staff and support resources. Implementing grant goals is estimated to take 3-5 years. Council was given drafts of grant letters.

## Former LLBO DRM Employee and Executive Director Named District Ranger for Deer River

By KAYLA DUOOS

CASS LAKE – Former Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Executive Director, Ben Benoit Named Deer River District Ranger.

The USDA Forest Service Chippewa National Forest announced that Benoit will serve as the Deer River District Ranger, March 20, 2023. Benoit started his role as Ranger on March 6, 2023. Prior to coming to the Forestry Service, Benoit, an enrolled LL band member, worked within the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Government since 2014.

Benoit brings a broad range of experience, having worked in several roles with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, including Environmental Director for Natural Resource Management. In his most recent role, he served as the interim Executive Director, working directly with the Tribal Council implementing policy and procedure throughout the Tribal organization which employs over 2,000 staff members. Ben received his Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota, College of Biological Science in 2011.

"I am excited to be joining the Chippewa National Forest and returning to natural resource management, that is where my passion is," said Benoit. "I look forward to further developing relationships with the professionals at the Forest and to be a part of supporting the many communities who rely upon the national forest today."

The Forest utilized the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) which provides for the assignment of personnel between the Federal Government and eligible organizations, including Indian tribal governments, to place Benoit in the role of district ranger. The intent of the IPA is to facilitate cooperation between the Federal Government and an outside entity to place skilled personnel for purposes that are of mutual concern



Ben Benoit, Deer River District Ranger.

and benefit to both parties. This is the first occasion the USDA Forest Service has used the IPA for placement of a district ranger incoming from a Tribal government.

"Utilizing the IPA to bring Ben onboard as part of the management of lands of mutual interest to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and economies and communities that we live and work with every day is truly beneficial to all. Through this collaboration we will grow understanding together," said Michael Stansberry, Chippewa National Forest Supervisor. "Ben brings a passion for Natural Resources and building relationships. It has been a pleasure working with him over the years, I am excited for what he will bring to the Deer River District and the Forest Service as a whole."

"We welcome the appointment of Ben Benoit as Deer River District Ranger, and we are pleased to see the Chippewa National Forest utilizing the Intergovernmental Personnel Act to foster collaboration between the Forest Service and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe," Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr., Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. "As an enrolled tribal member with extensive experience in natural resource

management and Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Benoit will bring a unique perspective to the management of our shared lands. We believe that this appointment will strengthen our government-to-government relationship and lead to better outcomes for our people and the environment."

The Forest recognized the use of the IPA as an opportunity to further enhance restoration efforts and objectives by both the national forest and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe on their shared lands. The Leech Lake Indian Reservation and the Chippewa National Forest share almost 2,000 miles of boundary, 44% of the Forest lies within the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. This unique geographic relationship directly links the national forest with the social, economic, and cultural well-being of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

"This agreement under the IPA highlights the continued efforts to strengthen relationships between Indian Tribes and the USDA Forest Service," said Gina Owens, Eastern Regional Forester. "With his level of experience, leadership skills, and Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK), I am confident that Benoit will be an asset to the Chippewa National Forest staff in their continuous forest management efforts to benefit all people."

Benoit also brings prior experience in collaborating with the forest. Through his years working for Leech Lake Division of Resource Management, he served as the point of contact to facilitate the government-to-government relationship between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest.

During that timeframe he was a key player in the development and implementation of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between LLBO and the Forest to further develop relationships and working towards co-stewardship of the Chippewa National Forest.

### LLBO 2023 STATE OF THE BAND ADDRESS

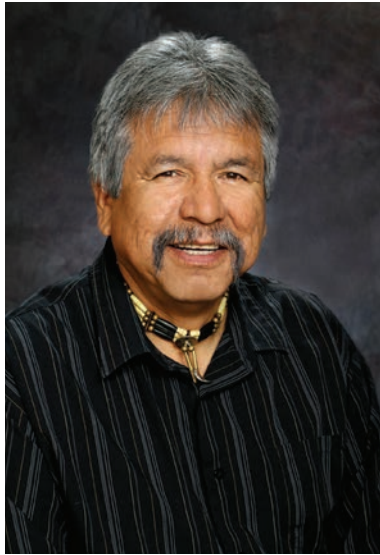
FRIDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>  
Northern Lights Event Center  
10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Delivered by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. Please join us as we reflect on the past year and take a look at what we can expect in the year 2023.

**BAND MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

To watch live please visit: [lechlakenews.com/sotb](http://lechlakenews.com/sotb) or  
[facebook.com/leechlakebandofojibwe](https://facebook.com/leechlakebandofojibwe)

# Chairman's Report



**CHAIRMAN  
FARON JACKSON SR.**

Governmental Activities  
Chairman's Summary

Monthly Report

Boozhoo, my relatives, friends, community members and all! The Leech Lake Tribal Council has kicked the lobbying efforts into overdrive on Minnesota legislation in support of our initiatives. Once again, we are seeking funding for a Wellness Center and protecting our most precious gift; the children and their drinking water at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School. In the struggle together, here is the news on the Tribal home front being reported to the great Leech Lake People.

**Bug O Nay Ge Shig School** — At 2:00 pm on Thursday, March 30, 2023 the Leech Lake personnel had another meeting on the contaminated water at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School. The governmental

agencies present at the meeting had been the EPA, BIE, and BIA officials. The PLAN of ACTION had consisted of more testing, BIA/BIE had set aside \$27,000.00 dollars for safe drinking water; intermediate plan could be charcoal infiltration of the current water from the contaminated wells but that water would still need to be tested; and/or the long-term plan would be trucking in fresh water and being placed in holding tanks at the school, per BIA/BIE officials.

The meeting was very intense, the Leech Lake employees had stressed that Leech Lake must be at the table when decisions are determined on the plan of action. It was further stated that the plan of action needs to abide by the government-to-government consultation process. The Leech Lake staff had emphasized the importance of identifying the source of the PFAS and PFOS in the drinking water at the school. The Leech Lake staff had stressed the need for additional funding to resolve the drinking water contamination at the Bug O Nay Ge Shig School. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had stated, "The highest priority has been placed on the safety and health of the students and staff at the school with an immediate resolution on the water crisis."

**2023 State of The Band Address** — In other news, the Leech Lake Tribal Council and Chairman Faron Jackson, Sr. are cordially inviting the honorable members and guests to the 2023 State of the Band Address at 10:00 am on Friday, April 21, 2023 at the Northern Lights Casino & Hotel, Event Center. A meal of roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and dessert will be provided at the event. In addition, a multitude of door prizes and gift bags will be made available for the attendees.

This will be a time to visit with friends and family, be provided an overview of the Band's governmental endeavors, and hear first-hand, the immediate issues that need to be addressed, like the schools drinking water and the present legislative and congressional priorities.

**Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) Signed into Law** — A historical moment in history, the MIFPA modifications had been passed by the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz had an unofficial signing into law of the MIFPA on March 16, 2023. On Monday, March 27, 2023 Governor Waltz and Lt. Governor Flanagan had a government-to-government consultation meeting with the Leech Lake Tribal Council. At that time, Governor Waltz had stated that an official signing with the Minnesota Tribes will be scheduled in the future.

MIFA modifications had to be passed because the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) law was under fire. The Brackeen v. Haaland case is before the U.S. Supreme Court that is testing the constitutionality of the ICWA law. The intent of the ICWA law have outlined the process in reunifying Indigenous families, connecting children to their culture, and strengthening community ties. Minnesota's 38-year old Indian Family Preservation Act modifications had been fortified under the new law.

The Minnesota MIFA law acknowledges "the historical deprivation of rights of Native people" that has led to disproportionate child removals. MIFA also affirms "inherent authority" of all federally recognized Indian Tribes to handle cases of Indian child custody and child placement proceedings, "regardless of whether the Tribe's members are on or off the reservation." Chairman

Faron Jackson, Sr. and Leech Lake employees had testified before the Minnesota lawmakers.

**Minnesota Governor Walz & Lt. Governor Flanagan** — At 11:00 am on Monday, March 27, 2023 Governor Waltz and Lt. Governor Flanagan had a zoom meeting with the Leech Lake RBC Tribal Council and key Leech Lake staff. Leech Lake had indicated to the Governor that the highest priority is the \$25 million Leech Lake Area Health & Wellness Center in Cass Lake and satellite centers in Kego Lake and Ball Club as noted in Minnesota H.F. 569 and S.F. 2034. The RBC had also expressed support for the \$50 million Tribal Aid Package in Minnesota H.F. 3068 and this funding will occur annually. Chief of Police Ken Washington had reported the Opioid Crisis Response with overdoses and deaths on the reservation and the lack of Narcan.

**Minnesota Legislature Tribal Aid Package** — At 3:00 am on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 Minnesota Representative Gomez shall introduce H.F. 3068. A bill for an act is related to taxation; state aids; establishing Tribal Nation aid; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 477A. Tribal Aid funding of \$50 million by Minnesota Legislature would be classified as the same as state aid to cities and would be considered a permanent funding versus a grant or contract. The present bill of \$50 million has 50% of the fund to be divided among the 11 Tribal governments equally, and 50% will be based on distribution share of enrolled members in a Tribal Nation.

**State of Minnesota Legislature** — Leech Lake Tribal Council is supporting the following bills: \$3 million for Minnesota's Tribal Colleges; Sports Betting Proposal has stalled with dollar amounts, percentage of taxes, and the horse track industry's involvement; and other bills are being monitored by Leech Lake lobbyists.

**Vatican Rejects Discovery Doctrine** — Ancient history but a great moment, on March 30, 2023. The Vatican on Thursday responded to Indigenous demands and formally repudiated the "Doctrine of Discovery;" the theories backed by 15<sup>th</sup>-century "papal bulls" that legitimized the colonial-era seizure of Native lands and form the basis of some property laws today. Sublimis Deus (said that the Indians are to be regarded as truly human) bull in 1537, that reaffirmed that Indigenous people shouldn't be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property.

**Why Treaties Matter** — At 5:30 pm on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Walker High School. The Bois Forte Chairman Dupius, Leech Lake Chief Judge Day, Secretary-Treasurer Fineday and Chairman Jackson, Sr. had a panel of three students asking questions and answers provided on "Why Treaties Matter". Chairman Jackson had stated that Treaties are agreements between sovereign nations and Treaties are the supreme Law of the Land. Chairman Jackson, Sr. had also stated, "I hold the position as Chairman of the Leech Lake Band very highly, along with my marriage to my wife. It's right up there. I try to do the best that I can every day and our decisions are made in the best interest of our people."

**Governor Walz Signs Bill** — The bill will provide free school meals for Minnesota students. Governor Waltz had stated, "I know that providing free breakfast and lunch for our students is one of the best investments we can make to lower costs, support Minnesota's working families, and care for our young learners."

Safety note, please be careful of slippery porch steps and walkways, shoveling and salt will prevent falling and being hurt. Spring is finally here but it still feels like winter yet!

## 2023 LLBO POW WOW SCHEDULE

**Memorial Day  
Traditional Pow Wow**  
May 26 - 28, 2023  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
**Waa Wiye Gaa Mag 19<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Traditional Pow Wow**  
June 16 - 18, 2023  
S. Lake, MN 56681  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Leech Lake Days  
Traditional Pow Wow**  
June 23 - 25, 2023  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

**Mii Gwitch Mahnomen Days  
60<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Pow Wow**  
July 14 - 16, 2023  
Ball Club, MN 56636  
**Onigum 24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Traditional Pow Wow**  
July 21 - 23, 2023  
Onigum, MN 56484  
**Cha Cha Bah Ning 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Traditional Pow Wow**  
August 25 - 27, 2023  
Inger, MN 56636

**Sagasweive 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Traditional Pow Wow**  
September 8 - 10, 2023  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
**Battle Point 25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Traditional Pow Wow**  
September 15 - 17, 2023  
Battle/Sugar Point, MN 56641

For more info call:  
218-335-3637 or visit  
[facebook.com/lpowwows](https://facebook.com/lpowwows)



# Secretary Treasurer Monthly Report



**SECRETARY / TREASURER  
LEONARD FINEDAY**

## Governmental Activities Secretary/Treasurer's Summary

### Monthly Report

Aniin my fellow Leech Lake Band Members! Below is the Secretary/Treasurer report to our Band members for April 2023, regarding the activities undertaken the last month. Due to timing changes with the DeBahJiMon print schedule, I will report FY 2023 Quarter 2 financials in next month's report.

### BUDGET UPDATE

The Budget Team met on March 24, 2023 to approve various modifications to the FY23 Budget, reflecting ongoing changes within the organization. These modifications included areas related to Health,

Human Services, Tribal Police Department, and Administration. Work continues on monitoring and increasing our third party billing collections, as the billing taskforce held another meeting on March 30, 2023.

Work on the FY 2024 Budget also continues under the plan that was outlined earlier this year. Division Directors and Program Managers will have until April 15, 2023 to submit their budgets to the Budget Team and work will begin immediately on ensuring the budget is balanced. The goal for this year is to still get to budget adoption by June 30, 2023, before the start of the Fiscal Year on July 1, 2023. That will take a lot of work and organization, but I am hopeful we will accomplish what needs to be done.

### FOUR WALLS POLICY

As work continues on our billing processes, we are also advocating with the federal government to ensure that many of the programs we provide will still be allowed to bill for the services offered at the federally negotiated all inclusive rate for reimbursements. The Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services is in the process of enforcing a policy on all IHS and tribal facilities that would severely limit our ability to collect reimbursements. This policy requires all reimbursable services to be provided within the "four walls" of a clinic facility. Any service provided outside of a designated clinic would not be eligible for reimbursement. Enforcement of this policy would currently have a detrimental impact on the services we provide through our A&D program, behavioral health, and home health programs, and would cut our reim-

bursements by approximately thirty eight percent.

The Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services is set to enforce this policy on tribal governments in February 2024 unless action is taken. Leaders from Leech Lake joined leaders from other Minnesota tribes, including Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, Red Lake and White Earth in meeting with the Deputy CMS Administrator earlier this month to push CMS for a permanent administrative fix to this issue. Our position was well received, and we were thankful to be joined by Minnesota DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, along with U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum, who attended the meeting to support the tribal position. Staff members from Senator Tina Smith's office and Senator Amy Klobuchar's office also attended to show their support for our position.

CMS will provide an answer to us by May, and that will assist us as we work on our next steps to ensure that all of our programs are able to receive the reimbursements required to provide these critical and necessary services to our people.

### OPIOID / FENTANYL EPIDEMIC

Due to inclement weather, we had to postpone the Community Meeting on the opioid and fentanyl epidemic that was originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at Cedar Lakes Casino. This is a critical issue impacting all of us and we know that we are only stronger when we are working together. This meeting will be rescheduled in the very near future. Please review postings and information from LLBO Communications regarding the new

day and time for the meeting and to coordinate transportation, if needed.

### LAND TRANSFER UPDATE

We are moving forward with the process to transfer over 11,000 acres of publicly held Forest Service land back to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. This transfer was authorized in the 2020 enactment of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to return land that was illegally transferred from the Band to the Forest Service decades ago. We are working with the USDA, the National Forest Service, the Department of Interior and the BIA to accomplish this transfer in a timely manner.

As has been previously reported, the Bureau of Land Management identified additional acreage that was illegally transferred during their surveying process. In order to accomplish the transfer of this additional acreage, Congress needs to enact a technical amendment to the LLBO Reservation Restoration Act. Recently, Senator Tina Smith, who sits on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, introduced the legislation to ensure the return of this additional land (S.616). We are working with members of Congress to ensure this legislation is enacted as expeditiously as possible.

### OTHER GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS

Within the State Legislature, we are continuing to work with other tribes on sports betting, and are still hoping we can get a bill signed into law this year. A recent development within the legislature has also been a proposal to provide aid to tribal governments within the

state budget on an ongoing basis. There are details to work out regarding aid amounts and formulas, but we are hopeful the legislature will support tribal governments and offer this aid, just like they currently provide to counties and municipalities.

We are also continuing to work on our expanded jurisdiction for Class II gaming, as our Amended Ordinance remains under review at the National Indian Gaming Commission. There are a few minor changes we will need to make after their initial review, and the RBC will take action soon to address those changes.

We recently had a call with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland regarding our letter of intent to join the Department of Interior's Tiwahe Initiative. The Tiwahe Initiative seeks to change the delivery of services to children and families through strengthening self-determination and offering flexibility in the administration of tribal programs. It provides additional funding to break down silos and encourage collaboration. We unfortunately did not get accepted into the Initiative this round, but we did receive \$100,000 in funding to start the work with the goal of reapplying for the Initiative in the future. I would like to thank the team of dedicated staff who put time and energy into this project and hope to announce in the near future that we will join the Initiative.

We continue to work on other matters as well on behalf of all Leech Lake Band members. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office. *Miigwech!*

## MN Tribes Lead Sovereignty Day Return in 2023

By KAYLA DUOOS

ST. PAUL – Minnesota's 11 Tribes addressed a rare joint session of the Minnesota State Legislature.

The Legislature hosted "Sovereignty Day" at the Capitol, March 13, 2023. The Tribal led event was first held in 2019 and took a pause during the pandemic, before returning this year. The event previously only was held for the Minnesota House, and not the Senate, making this year's event a first of its kind.

The event was first envisioned by House Speaker Melissa Hortman

and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan in 2018 who sought to unite Tribal leaders and MN officials by spending a day giving cultural training, Tribal history education and providing an open floor for Tribal leaders to air their grievances regarding on-going issues.

The joint session opened with a traditional drum circle and flag presentation. Native leaders who gave presentations at the event included; Leech Lake Chairman Faron Jackson Sr., Red Lake Chairman Darrell Seki Sr., Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin, Shakopee

Mdewakanton Sioux Community Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton and Tadd Johnson, the Professor Emeritus of the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

After speeches from Tribal leaders, members of Minnesota's legislature attended breakout sessions on key issues including public safety, cannabis, criminal justice, and the environment. Discussions were led by Tribal members and focused on the respective bands opinions on the topics in question.



Tribal Leaders at the State Capitol for Sovereignty Day. **BRIAN BAKST | MPR News**

Lieutenant Governor Flanagan Monday who spoke at the event about the current administration's efforts in the past four years to solidify relationships with Tribal governments, and to set up a permanent Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

"Together we have shown that tribal communities are still here and aren't going anywhere," Flanagan told lawmakers and Tribal leaders. "Together we have accomplished so much and I'm excited to think what we can accomplish in the next four years."



KIDS

# PERCH JERK

MARCH 4, 2023 • BIG WINNIE DENNY'S RESORT BENA, MN '23

## Tom Bowstring Biggest Fish



1. Bennett R.  
8.7 lb Northern



2. Lucas M.  
4.36 lb Eel Pout



3. Travis T.  
4.14 lb Sucker



1. Brynlee S.  
.28 lbs

## 0-5 Boys Perch



1. Jerod S.  
.35 lbs



1. Mark O.  
.48 lbs

## 6-10 Boys Perch



2. Ben B.  
.21 lbs



3. Toddie W.  
.17 lbs

## 11-16 Boys Perch



2. Kegan F.  
.28 lbs



3. Franklin B.  
.17 lbs

## Warm Weather and Shining Sun Welcome Young Anglers to 2023 Kids Perch Jerk.

BENA – On Saturday, March 4, more than 400 young anglers gathered on Big Winnie for the 2023 Kids Perch Jerk, sponsored by the Leech Lake Tribal Council and Leech Lake Gaming. The warm weather and shining sun created the perfect backdrop for a day of ice fishing, prizes, and fun. The perfect weather was a welcome respite from the bitterly cold winds and temperatures participants endured at 2022's event.

Spirits were high as kids cast their lines and waited for the fish to bite. A majority of the fish were caught before noon, with the bite slowing down considerably after lunch time. An impromptu comedy show quickly became a crowd favor-

ite and had kids lining up to tell their best knock-knock and fishing jokes on the microphone. In addition to the main event, attendees also had the chance to win door prizes and enjoy a complimentary lunch on the ice.

"We want to extend our sincere gratitude to all of our volunteers and sponsors: District II Representative Steve White, Sugar Point LIC, Bena LIC, Northern Lights Casino, Leech Lake Gaming, the Leech Lake Tribal Police, the Cass Lake Fire Department, Leech Lake DRM, RC Sounds and Denny's Resort," said Communications Director, Mike Chosa. "Without their generous support, this event would not have been possible. We thank them for

helping us make this annual event a success!"

The 2023 Kids Perch Jerk was not only a fun event but also highlighted the importance of getting kids outside and engaging in physical activity. With the increasing prevalence of technology, video games, and social media, it has become more challenging to get children to engage in physical activity and spend time outdoors. However, it is crucial for children to have access to nature and engage in outdoor activities for their physical, mental, and emotional development. Participating in outdoor activities such as the Kids Perch Jerk can also promote social skills and help children develop a sense of community. The event pro-

vided an opportunity for kids to interact with one another and build relationships while sharing a common interest. Furthermore, spending time in nature can foster a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment.

The 2023 Kids Perch Jerk was a wonderful event that not only provided kids with a day of fun and fishing but also highlighted the importance of getting children outside and engaging in physical activity. It is important for parents and caregivers to encourage children to spend time outdoors and participate in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. We look forward to seeing what next year's event will bring!

## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Health Department Offers Harm Reduction Services to Community Members

*Program Aims to Promote Health and Well-being of Community Members Through Essential Services.*

By MICHAEL CHOSA

CASS LAKE – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Health Department offers Harm Reduction Services to community members as part of its efforts to promote the health and well-being of the community. The program aims to minimize the negative effects of drug use by providing essential services to community members.

The program operates at the Bena Community Center on Mondays, Onigum Community Center on Tuesdays, and Ball Club Community Center on Wednesdays. Services are available from 1 pm to 3 pm on each of those days. For more information, interested individuals can contact the DIS program at 218-335-4500.

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use. It recognizes that drug use is a complex issue that cannot be eliminated and that the war on drugs has not been effective.

Harm reduction, therefore, focuses on reducing the harm associated with drug use.

The harm reduction approach has been in practice for over 30 years, starting in Europe in the 1980s. The approach has gained popularity worldwide, and many countries have implemented harm reduction programs. Harm reduction programs aim to reduce the harms associated with drug use, including the spread of HIV and hepatitis, drug overdoses, and other negative consequences of drug use.

Harm reduction services include Hepatitis and HIV rapid testing, needle exchange, harm reduction kits, Narcan kits, STI testing, and education. These services are essential in promoting the overall health and well-being of the community.

Hepatitis and HIV rapid testing are some of the critical services offered by the program. The rapid testing provided by the program enables early diagnosis and treatment, reducing the spread of these

infections within the community.

The needle exchange program provides sterile needles and syringes to people who inject drugs, reducing the risk of transmission of HIV, hepatitis, and other blood-borne pathogens.

The program also provides harm reduction kits containing essential items such as condoms, alcohol swabs, and sterile water for injection. Narcan kits are also available, which contain a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses, saving lives in the event of an overdose.

STI testing and education are other essential services provided by the program. Early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are crucial in preventing the spread of these infections within the community.

The harm reduction approach acknowledges that drug addiction is a complex issue that cannot be resolved through punishment and criminalization alone. Harm reduction programs have been successful in reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use in many communities worldwide.

Community members are encouraged to take advantage of these essential services. For more information, please contact the LLBO DIS program at 218-335-4500.

## First Face-to-Face Meetings of the Not Invisible Act Commission will Take Place to Address Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples

By KAYLA DUOOS

WASHINGTON – As part of the continued work by the Departments of the Interior and Justice to implement the Not Invisible Act and combat the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP), Secretary Deb Haaland and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco hosted the first in-person plenary session of the Not Invisible Act Commission at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

The two-day meeting follows a series of online sessions since the establishment of the Commission last year.

The Not Invisible Act, which was authored by then-Rep. Haaland and passed into law in October 2020, established the Commission as a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of both federal and non-federal members including law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors. Secretary Haaland and Deputy Attorney General Monaco announced the members of the Commission last year as part of a live event to recognize National MMIP Awareness Day on May 5.

“This work requires each of us to face our own trauma, to relive unimaginable pain, and visualize a future in which our loved ones are safe and our communities have closure. We’re here for our children, grandchildren and relatives we have yet to meet,” said Secretary Haaland. “This work is urgently needed and requires all of us working collaboratively. I am so grateful to the Commission for the work they are doing and the lasting impact they will have.”

“The Justice Department is steadfast in our pledge to work with Tribal governments in preventing and responding to the violence that has disproportionately harmed Tribal communities. And we are committed to listening and being responsive to what our partners have to say,” Deputy Attorney General Monaco emphasized.

The Commission is developing

*“This work requires each of us to face our own trauma, to relive unimaginable pain, and visualize a future in which our loved ones are safe and our communities have closure.”*

–Sec. Deb Haaland, DOI

recommendations through the work of six subcommittees focused on improving intergovernmental coordination and establishing best practices for state, Tribal and federal law enforcement to bolster resources for survivors and victim’s families, and combating the epidemic of missing persons, murder and trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, as specified under the law.

As part of the Commission’s final report to Secretary Haaland, Attorney General Merrick Garland and Congress, the subcommittees selected specific locations to hold field hearings this year to hear directly from the public in some of the communities most affected by the MMIP crisis. Minneapolis, Minnesota is included on the commission’s list of locations to visit later this summer.

## New Legislation in MN Senate Considers Ban on Native American Mascots in Schools

By KAYLA DUOOS

ST. PAUL – New legislation has been introduced to the Minnesota Senate floor that would prevent Minnesota schools from using Native American mascots.

Senate File 584, Introduced and Authored by Senator Mary Kunesh, restrict school districts from using “names, symbols, or images that depicts or refers to an American Indian Tribe, individual, custom, or tradition to be used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name of the district or school within the district.”

If the bill passes, Schools can seek an exemption but would need to be granted permission from the Tribal Nations Education Committee and Indian Affairs Council to continue using a nickname and logo. Schools can also get permission from all eleven federally recognized Tribes across the state.



The MN State Capital building, St. Paul.

via MN.GOV

“We want to just make sure that any of those images, any of the words that are used or the names that are used, are used respectfully and appropriately and not used in any

derogatory or racist use,” said Kunesh. Senate File 584 has not yet been passed by the Senate, but is already facing opposition from non-Tribal members.

<b>APRIL</b> Tulsa, Oklahoma Anchorage, Alaska
<b>MAY</b> Flagstaff, Arizona
<b>JUNE</b> Minneapolis, Minnesota Northern California
<b>JULY</b> Albuquerque, New Mexico Billings, Montana

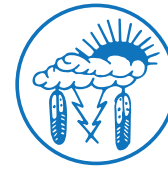
A national, virtual field hearing will be held later in Summer 2023 with details to follow.

Hearings will include both panel discussions and a public comment period. Specific topics of the hearings as well as logistical details and information will be made available to the public as the date of each hearing approaches. Trauma-informed mental health professionals will be available at each location.



PRESERVING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

# BUG O NAY GE SHIG



# SCHOOL NEWS

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

▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig School's Quarterly Pow Wow drew a large crowd of family and friends. They enjoyed many intertribals along with specials such as the orange dance, sidestep, and spot dances.



▲ The Bug O Nay Ge Shig School library held their annual bookmarks contest in conjunction with "I Love to Read Week", the first week of March. Students spent several weeks creating and voting on bookmarks in order to win several prizes. All Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participated. Simone L.B. took first place, Tala G. th placed second, and Benjamin H. placed third.



▲ Delilah Sorenson, Leech Lake Tribal College Student Senator is shown reading for the Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration at Bug O Nay Ge Shig School.



▲ Two Bug O Nay Ge Shig Ojibwe History students are shown during a storytelling session with some elementary students. All students in the Ojibwe History class had the opportunity to entertain the younger students.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program continues with after school activities. Academic support takes place during the first half of the program with enrichment activities during the second half.



▲ A team of medical students from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College was in Cass Lake, MN recently. They volunteered at the Cass Lake IHS and came to Bug O Nay Ge Shig School to give a presentation to students and facilitate a hands-on activity. Pictured are students using a stethoscope to listen to heartbeats. The medical students also visited the Kindergarten class and read a book to them.



▲ Bug O Nay Ge Shig 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders had an exciting afternoon in the snow last week at the Winter Games. Events included: Snowsnake, Kick Ball Race, Two Person Sled Race, Snowshoe Race, Stump and Rope Pull, Tug of War, and Lacrosse throw. Certificates were awarded to the winners.



# Gweyakmino Wiisinidaa!

Let's eat the right foods!

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



## Lemon Chicken

**Ingredients**  
(\*Commodity Foods)

- 1 (3 ½ -pound) chicken\* (cut up into pieces)
- ¼ cup fresh parsley leaves    3 lemons
- 1 tablespoon olive oil    ¼ cup fresh oregano leaves
- 2 teaspoons chili powder, mild
- 1 teaspoon salt
- salt (optional, to taste)    ¼ teaspoon pepper

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Grate 1 tablespoon lemon peel and squeeze 3 tablespoons of juice, cut 1 lemon into wedges. Trim any excess fat, de-skin (except for wings), and trim the tips of chicken wings. Combine lemon peel and juice, oregano, parsley, olive oil, 1 teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper. Add chicken and toss to coat. Place in an 11x13 baking pan. Roast the chicken for 30 to 35 minutes or until juices run clear in the thickest part of the chicken when pierced. Serve with lemon wedges.

**Nutrition facts**

Chicken builds muscle naturally. Chicken contains high levels of a protein that benefit your body, especially when you work out. It is easy to digest and can help your body develop quicker and stronger. Oregano is one of the top herbs for healing because of its antioxidant and antibacterial activity. Oregano contains chemicals that might help reduce cough. Oregano also might help with digestion and with fighting against some bacteria and viruses. People use oregano for wound healing, parasite infections, and many other conditions. With powerful antioxidants and components that help fight bacterial and viral infections. Parsley is rich in vitamins A, C, and K. The vitamins and beneficial plant compounds in parsley may improve bone health, protect against chronic diseases, and provide antioxidant benefits. It's a powerful natural diuretic and can help reduce bloating and blood pressure.

For more recipes and resources on this delicious recipe contact Chyrle or Josh Red Day at the Leech Lake Diabetes Clinic at 218-335-4511 or stop by.

# May

## District III Elder Birthdays

- Robert Aitken
- Mark Allen
- Kerry Anderson
- Ramona Anderson
- Sheryl Babineau
- Lani Birt
- Leonard Budreau
- Dorthea Cloud
- Muriel Crawford
- Calvin Day
- Paul Day
- Norma Ducheneaux



From the District III Office  
LeRoy, Toni & Kari

- Ramona Dunn
- Audrey Emineth
- Cynthia Fairbanks
- Deanna Fairbanks
- Karen Fineday
- Linda Fisherman
- Marti French
- Gordon Geving
- Emma Graham
- Lawrence Hardy
- Donnie Harrison
- Susan Headbird
- Patrick Jackson
- Darrell Johnson
- Orville Johnson

- Roberta Johnson
- Pauline Johnson
- Thomas Jones
- Bernadine Kangas
- Patricia Laudenback
- Douglas Liila
- Kathleen Lindahl
- Genevieve Lowry
- Clyde Morgan
- Herschel Ogema
- Yolanda Oxford
- Carol Parsons
- Bill Pell
- David Quincy
- John Rock, Jr

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

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

APR 25 2023

CEDAR LAKES CASINO · HOTEL



Door prizes and grand prize drawing!

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided!

**10AM**

until **3PM**



# Obituaries

## Richard "Rich" Robinson



Richard Robinson, Jr., "Rich", age 70, of Cass Lake, MN passed away on March 11, 2023, in Fargo, ND, after fighting a courageous battle with a rare type of cancer. Rich was born on February 4, 1953, to Richard, Sr. and Gladys (Bobolink) Robinson, the oldest of seven children.

Rich graduated from Cass Lake High School in 1971, and attended Bemidji State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1976. Rich and his mom actually were in college at the same time, which was something that he was very proud of. He spent his early adult years working various jobs with Bemidji State University, Pamida, and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe before starting his long-time career with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Rich was especially proud of his years working with the Reservation. In August of 1988, he became the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Executive Director and two years later accepted the position that he was most known for and the most proud of; the Director of Resource Management. He remained in this position until he was elected as the District III Representative for the Leech Lake Band, a position that he held for one term. In 2010, Rich accepted the Executive Director position once again and remained in that position until 2012. He then returned to the DRM as the Director and had remained in this position until the time of his death. Rich was so proud of the work at the DRM, but was especially proud of the DRM's efforts in reclaiming 12,000 acres of land that was wrongfully sold in the 1940's and 1950's. This represented a chain of collective efforts in which Leech Lake Band members continue to dedicate their careers in furthering our self-governance and fight for our treaty rights, lands, and people of

the great Leech Lake Nation! Rich was a walking encyclopedia when it came to treaties; he knew them well, which was extremely instrumental in all his work with both state and federal governments. He had a crazy sense of humor with a big heart. He loved to spend time with friends and family, visiting and B.S.ing. Rich, his dad, and uncles enjoyed spending time at the Leech Lake Powwows, always sitting in their own special place on the east side of the powwow arena. He enjoyed golfing with his boys and friends, fishing, hunting, playing pool, and ricing. He loved the woods and lakes and spent many hours just riding around with his family and friends and sharing hunting stories about when the old timers were alive. But at the end of the day, it was his wife and family that mattered the most to him. Rich had a special relationship with his grandson, Jarrick, who he loved to spoil. Rich married his wife, Valerie (Pacheco) on February 25, 2012. They shared a loving life together. Rich will be remembered for the love he had for his family and friends, his crazy sense of humor, his love and respect for the woods and lakes, and his commitment to the people of the Leech Lake Reservation.

Rich is survived by his wife, Val; sons, Jason (Crystal), Jay (Jessica), and Jordan (Jamie); daughters, Jennifer (Seth), Kelli, Miranda, and Marena; sisters, Sue and Kelly; brother, Larry "Weiner"; grandchildren, Sam, Ella, Lucia, Benjamin, Alexander, Parker, Mallori, Bonnie, Amaya, Julian, Phillip, Zane, Ayden, Jarrick, Harvey, Cassidy, Alysanna, Christian, Dulce, and Estrella; great-grandchildren, Shane and Luraeya; special uncles, Bobby (Linda), and Dennis Robinson; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Rich is preceded in death by his parents, Richard, Sr. and Gladys; brothers, Martin "Mutt", Terry "TR"; sister, Bonnie (Morgan), twin sons, Tristan and Dominic; and special uncle, Al Robinson.

An overnight wake for Rich will begin on Thursday, March 16th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. and continue until his service on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm, all to be held at The Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Father George Ross will officiate. Pallbearers are Jay Fisherman, Jordan Robinson, Jarrick Robinson, Kelli Fisherman, Val Pacheco, Wayne Bohn, Glenn Ostlund. Alternates are Matthew LaDuke and William Ethier. Honorary pallbearers are Casey Parmenter, Alfred "Tig" Pemberton, John Ringle, Margaret "Muggs" Jordan, Sherman "Chick" Brown, Jr., Mike Kornezos, Mary Lou Reich, Ben Cameron, and Luann Frazer. Interment will be at a later date in the Farris Cemetery in Cass Lake, MN.

Rich's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Carla Gale



Carla Marie Gale, age 34, of Federal Dam, Minnesota began her journey to the spiritual world on Saturday, March 11, 2023. She was born in Cass Lake, MN on March 23, 1988, to Lori Gale and Leo Jones, Sr.

Carla had a big heart and loved her children with all of it. Carla was the kind of person that would give you the shirt off her back if you needed it. She loved to laugh and make people laugh. Carla loved doing her hair and getting neatly dressed. She was a very good writer; she loved to write poems, drawing and coloring in her spare time. Carla worked many jobs over the years, most of them in Customer Service and Housekeeping. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed spending as much time as she could with her family, friends, but especially her nieces and nephews.

Family that welcomes Carla to the spirit world are her son, Markell Steven Morris; mother, Lori Gale; grandmas, Della Robinson and Dolores Jones; grandpa, Ronald Gale, Sr.; great grandma, Lillian Gale; and aunts, Patricia and Tracy Gale.

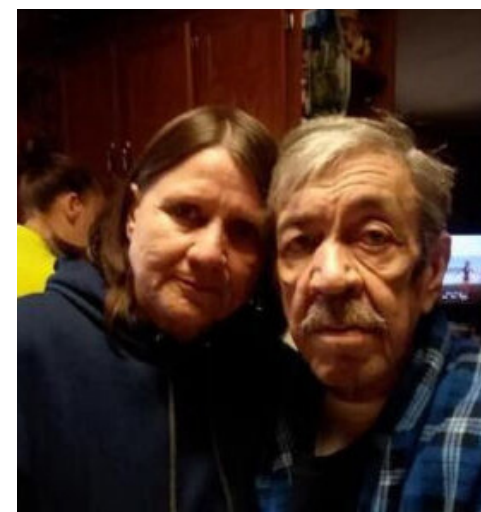
Those left behind to cherish her memory are her children, Fantasia Norton, Richard Norton, Jr., Annaheigha and Gwiwiizence Morris, Brayden Dahmen, Jameson Anderson, Tracy Ann and Ezemae Gale-Anderson; father, Leo Jones, Sr.; grandpa, Leo Robert Blair Jones; sisters; Linnea Rae Gale, Tiffany Hardy, Jessica and Mardee Jones; brother, Leo "Barney" Fisher-Jones; and many nieces and nephews.

An overnight wake for Carla will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17th and continue until her 10:00 a.m. traditional service on Saturday, March 18th all to be held at the Battle Point Community Center in Federal Dam, MN. Bradley Harring will be her Spiritual Advisor. Helping to lay Carla to rest are Steve Dahmen, Miles Anderson, Byron Whitebird, David Chase, Troy Bowstring, Javon Lehti, and Stephanie Day. Her honorary pallbearers are Jovannah Gale-Martinez, Vydell Jones, Renee Gale, Bianca Gale, Barbara Schworchert, Derek Doerr, Nikki Boswell, Janice Gale and Travis Bowstring. Interment will be in the Battle Point Burial Grounds immediately following her Saturday service.

Carla's care has been entrusted to

Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Deborah Tibbetts



Deborah Jean Tibbetts, age 66, of Bena, MN, began her journey home to be with the love of her life, Michael C. Tibbetts, Sr., on Monday, March 20th, 2023, from Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Deborah was born in Cass Lake, MN on Friday, March 8th, 1957, to Helen (Johndahl) and Vernon Campbell.

She enjoyed growing up on her family's farm in Federal Dam. Debbie married Mike and they shared 47 years of marriage together. They made their home in Bena and set forth raising their family.

Debbie's strong devotion to her family shows evidence of her big heart. Debbie loved her family and many others in the community and was always willing to help anyone with anything that she was able to.

Debbie had many hobbies. Her strong suit was her cooking. If anyone ever needed to know how to make something, Debbie was the woman to call. Whether it was baking sweets or a savory dish, Debbie was able to tell you how to do it. Her family loved enjoying her tasty creations.

Debbie's most favorite thing to do was spend time with her family. She could never get enough time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She also enjoyed going to the casino to play the slots. During their life together, Debbie and Mike loved to pass time going to garage sales and driving around on country back roads. When the weather was right, they would break out Mike's pride and joy and go cruisin' in the Corvette.

Debbie was never afraid of working hard or hard work. She dedicated 16 years working at the Big Winnie Bar. Then she and Mike went on to manage Willow Beach Supper Club. After that she was able to utilize her great love and knowledge of flowers and gardening during her time at A-to-Z Nursery. During the last 20 years of her working career, she held various positions for LLBO.

Debbie will be deeply missed by her family and friends. However, I don't think there is

any disputing that Mike was waiting with arms outstretched for her. So may there be solace found in the belief that Debbie and Mike are together, and their hearts are once again whole.

The family that Deborah is reunited with are her husband, Michael Tibbetts, Sr.; daughter, Billie Tibbetts; parents, Helen and Vernon Campbell; granddaughter, Allie Tibbetts; sister, Sandra Campbell; brother-in-law, Terry Greenside; and uncles, Milton and Leroy Campbell.

She leaves behind her children, Michael (Kati) Tibbetts, Jr., Cameron Seelye, Jessica (Luis) Tibbetts, Sara Tibbetts, and Nicole Tibbetts; siblings, James (Debra), Donny, Charlie, and Bobby Campbell, Annie Zahalka, and Peggy Greenside; grandchildren, Rian, Rebecca (Rob), Alyssa, Gage, Makayla, Danielle Donte, Kotah, George, Rob Jr., Stephanie (Travis), Leo (Tatum), Moggie, Kaden, and Kyler; great-grandchildren, Marcela, Marie, Mya, Brian, Felipe, Tawny, and Sadie Jean; auntie, Bobbie Jean (Kenny) Smith; sisters-in-law, Diana Stangel, Gina Fairbanks, and Helen Mae Tibbetts; her best friend, Sissy; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and her many friends.

The wake for Deborah will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 26th and continue until her 1:00 p.m. funeral service on Tuesday, March 28th, all being held at the Dave Morgan Community Center in Bena, MN. Pastor Mike Nelson will officiate. Pallbearers are Luis Mendez, Kevin Campbell, Justin Campbell, Eli Finn, Travis Humphrey, Antonio Hanson, Amos LaDuke, and Cameron Seelye. Her honorary pallbearers are her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, all her family, and friends. Interment will be in the Lakeview Cemetery in Bena, MN immediately following her funeral services on Tuesday.

Deborah's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

### William "Baby William" Wilson



William "Baby William" Troy Wilson, Makoons "Baby Bear," born August 25, 2014 began his journey to the spirit world March 14, 2023 (age 8).

The world welcomed William Troy Wilson August 25, 2014, the son of Ashley Marie Williams and William Jack Wilson Jr. Makoons began his spirit journey peacefully at home March 14, 2023, surrounded by his loving family, Cass Lake, MN.

Baby William was a very special little boy. He never let all his medical issues keep him from smiling everyday. He had the biggest smile that made your day. He was beloved by his Mother, Father, sisters, brother and everyone who loved him.

Baby William has had a lot of medical problems ever since he was a baby. He was treasured by his Mother, Father, Sisters, Brother and everybody who met or knew him.

William spent some time with Ginger Miller and everyone at her house took great care of him also. All his nurses, be they male or female, fell in love with him right away. He was a happy boy and loved everyone for who they were.

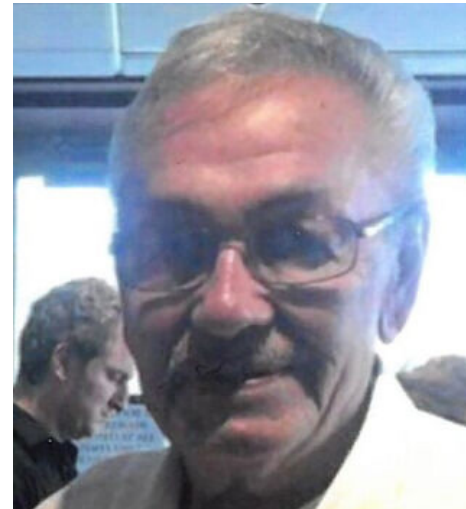
William was reunited with his family almost a year ago. William was the center of his family, everything revolved around his care and well-being. William's mother took the best care of him and Baby William loved it when his mother spent any time with him. Even William's baby sister would sneak in to lay with William. Everyone had to spend some special way with him. He had so many that adored him.

Makoons is survived by his Mother Ashley Williams, Father William Wilson Jr., Sisters Anessa Wilson, Ahava Wilson, Ayanna Wilson, Amelia Wilson, Annalycia Wilson, Louise Wilson, Aliza Wilson and Erza Wilson, Brother George William Wilson, Aunts Kelly Williams, Cordelia Williams, Dana Williams, Marisa Wilson and Miranda Wilson, Uncles Wayne Carson Jr., Cameron Carson, Aaron Wilson and Jack Wilson, Cousins Elyziah Bevins, Ilyanna Bevins, Sage Nelson, Maximus Nelson, Jayla Nelson, Haiden Cournoyer, Ogimaa Cournoyer, Aziah Bevins, Baby Girl Bevins, Nishime Gordon, Peyton Drouillard, Cheyenne Wilson, Dalton Wilson, Callan Wilson, Micheal LaRose 3rd, Tyius Richardson, Taytay Richardson, Mortecai Wilson, Baby Boy Wilson, Great Grandma's Jessica Harrison and Mary Cutbank, Grandpa Damascus Troy Williams and Grandma Suzzane Cutbank, Great Aunties Kathy Anderson, Kelly Anderson, Carol Parsons,

Baby William was preceded in death by Cousin Chaske Gordon, Macy Nelson, Great Uncle Andrew Wilson, Grandpa Jack Wilson Senior, Grandma Anessa Anderson and Great Great Grandpa George Earth.

A traditional wake will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Cass Lake and continue until the service at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Active Pallbearers will be: Peyton Drouillard, Cheyenne Wilson, Damascus Troy Williams, Cameron Carson and Wayne Carson Junior. Honorary Pallbearers will be, Elyziah Bevins, William Gordon, Aaron Jack Wilson, Wayne Carson Senior, Kim Miller, Isaac and Isaiah RedDay, Dennis and Norman Cutbank. Burial will be at the Pennington Cemetery. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service [whisperingpinesnorth.com](http://whisperingpinesnorth.com).

## John Smith



John Smith, age 76, of Walker MN, passed away on Monday, March 13, 2023. The wake will begin at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 20, 2023 at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum and continue until 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. Visitation will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Walker with Mass at 11:00 AM with Father Tim Lange officiating. Burial will be at the Old Agency Cemetery in Onigum, followed by a luncheon at the Onigum Community Center. Full obituary will follow shortly. Arrangements provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service ([whisperingpinesnorth.com](http://whisperingpinesnorth.com)).

## Peggy Hunt



Peggy Ann Hunt, age 66, of the Bear Clan and Onigum, MN, met her Lord and Savior on Monday, March 20, 2023, from her home, at Shilo Assisted Living in Pequot Lakes, MN. She was born in Cass Lake, MN, on April 15, 1956, the daughter of Phyllis Louise (Chief) and James Joseph Hunt, Sr.

Peggy loved her dogs, being an aunt, and spending time with her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. She enjoyed putting jigsaw puzzles together, watching "The Young and the Restless" and "Days of Our

Lives", going to powwows, casinos, and playing slots. She lived an adventurous life with minimal responsibilities and looked forward to her daily hitchhiking. Peggy was humorous, bringing laughter to wherever she was. She always made time to go to church with her buddies. Peggy would take care of any sick family members, no matter the distance, she was there. She always enjoyed family gatherings and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

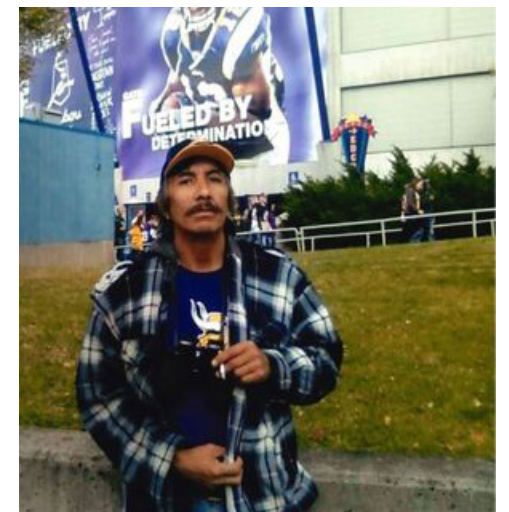
Preceding Peggy in death are her parents, Phyllis and James Hunt, Sr.; brothers, Roland, Ronald, Ernest, and James Hunt, Jr.; sisters, Donna, Brenda, Janice Hunt, and Judy Littlewolf; nephews, Russell Tucker, Richard "Dicky Doo" Littlewolf, Jr., Roland Hunt, Jr., Duane Hanks, Jr.; nieces, Lisa Dakota, Nettla Hunt; and close friend, Donald White.

Peggy is survived by her significant other, Brian Overby; brothers, Matthew (Ruth) Hunt, Melvin (Joy) Hunt; sister-in-law, Susan McMurrin; close nieces, Cindy (William) Jackson-Kingbird, Crystal (Gerald) Hunt-Welch, Lavone (Dennis) Smith, Phyllis "Chocie" Hunt; close nephew, Ernie Dakota; close friends, Greg Escobedo, Emmilee Smith, LaVae Oothoudt, Pat Jackson; numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members.

An overnight wake for Peggy will begin Monday, March 27, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Onigum Community Center in Onigum, MN. Peggy's memorial service will be Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Onigum. Father William "Bill" Butcher will officiate. Peggy's urn bearer is Osmund Hunt-Fairbanks. Honorary urn bearers are all Peggy's family. Interment will be in the Spring of 2023 in St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Old Agency.

Peggy's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

## Duane "Juju" Budreau Jr.



Duane Anthony Beaudreau, Jr. "Juju", age 57, journeyed to the spirit world on Friday, February 24, 2023, from Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, MN. He...



# Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court

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

Honorable Paul W. Day **Chief Judge of Tribal Court**  
Honorable Amber Ahola **Associate Judge of Tribal Court**

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re: Estate of: Leonard Bruce Parks Sr., DOB: 08/28/1967, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-22-25

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Leonard Bruce Parks Sr., died December 30, 2021. **A hearing was held before the Honorable Paul W. Day, Chief Judge of the above-named Tribal Court** located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 9th, day of June, 2022 at 11:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Madeline Dorothy Parks, surviving spouse of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on June 9, 2022, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Madeline D. Parks, 1144 Porcupine Rd. SE Cass Lake, MN 56633, was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Leonard Bruce Parks Sr., decedent.

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re Estate of: Casey Jean Richards (Jones), DOB: 10/12/2002, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-22-135

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Casey Jean Richards, died August 13, 2022. **A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court** located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 1st day of December, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Robert Jones Sr., surviving father of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on December 1, 2022, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Robert Jones Sr., PO Box 367 Cass Lake, MN 56633 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Casey Jean Richards, decedent.

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

claims will be barred.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In Re Estate of: Patricia Lynn Wade, DOB: 08/27/1967, Decedent.

Court File No. CV-22-154

#### NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named decedent, Patricia Lynn Wade, died July 3, 2022. **A hearing was held before the Honorable Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Associate Judge of the above-named Tribal Court** located in the Leech Lake Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive NW, in Cass Lake, Minnesota on the 25th, day of January 2023 at 10:30 a.m., upon the filing of a Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative by Bryan Finn, surviving significant other of the decedent.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at the Initial Probate Hearing held on January 25, 2023, in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Bryan Finn., PO Box 62 Bena, MN 56626 was appointed to act as Personal Representative of the Estate of Patricia Lynn Wade, decedent.

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Dominic L. Meeshenow and Alyssa N. Beaulieu, Parents

Court File No. CP-23-02

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that an Emergency Child Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. **An admit/deny hearing has been scheduled** for March 23, 2023 at 9:30 am in the Leech Lake Tribal Court. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may adjudicate the children as in need of protection by default.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Tiana L. Sumner and Jimmie D. Harrison, Parents

Court File No. CP-23-08

#### NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that an Emergency Child Protection Petition, Motion for Immediate Custody and Affidavit in Support have been filed in the Leech Lake Tribal Court regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. **An admit/deny hearing has been**

**scheduled** for April 3, 2023 at 11:30 am in the Leech Lake Tribal Court. Please Contact Leech Lake Tribal Court Administration for any further questions and/or a copy of the documents. The telephone number is (218) 335-3682 or 3586. You are served with this notice because you are a party to this proceeding. If you fail to appear for this hearing the Court may adjudicate the children as in need of protection by default.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: K.A.T., Child, DOB: 02/12/2007. Derrick Therriault, Petitioner, And Jamie Peterson & Zachary Therriault, Respondents,

Case No. FA-21-107

#### NOTICE

OF LEGAL PUBLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on August 12th, 2021, **a Petition for Appointment of Guardian (Minor) was filed with the Leech Lake Tribal Court** regarding the child(ren) of the above-named parents. You, the respondent herein, are hereby notified that you must appear in Leech Lake Tribal Court on May 24th, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., the date of the Permanency Hearing scheduled in Leech Lake Tribal Court, Tribal Justice Center, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Failure to appear at the above date and time may result in the relief requested in the Petition, and any other relief may be granted as prayed for by the petitioner.

You are served with this notice via legal publication in the DeBahJiMon in two

consecutive issues (Leech Lake Judicial Code, title 2, Part II, Rule 5, Section C(5)) because you are a party to this proceeding or you are a person whose presence is important to a determination concerning your child.

## LEGAL NOTICE

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in Tribal Court

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Plaintiff, vs. Francis D. Ortega, Defendant.

Case No. TR-23-05

#### SUMMONS

AND COMPLAINT TO: Francisco D. Ortega, 171 Ryans Cir NE Bena, MN 56626 **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before the Judge of this Court for an Initial Hearing** on May 2nd, 2023 at 9:00am in the Tribal Courtroom located at the Tribal Justice Center, 200 Sailstar Drive, in Cass Lake, Minnesota, then and there to answer to and defend against the Complaint in Traffic Violation attached hereto and filed with the undersigned attorney for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

NOTICE: You must pay the fine for this offense or appear at the above time and place for the hearing. If you fail to appear, you will be found guilty by default and charged additional Court processing fees. Failing to pay your financial obligations can result in additional contempt penalties being imposed against you, including garnishment of wages, impoundment of your license plates and suspension of your driver's license.

Payment plans and community service options are also available at Court Administration.

Obituaries Continued.

...was born on June 14, 1965, in Minneapolis, MN, the son of Cornelia (Antell) and Duane Beaudreau, Sr.

Juju enjoyed being outside, hunting, fishing, ricing, and bough picking. He liked to work on cars, go to the casino, gamble, and play keno. He was a big MN Vikings fan. Juju loved spending time with his grandchildren and his dogs, especially teaching them new things. He had a big heart and always liked to help people when he was able to. Juju will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Those greeting Juju in the Spirit World are his parents, Cornelia Beaudreau and Duane Beaudreau, Sr.; step-mom, Gloria Beaudreau; sisters, Jolynn Beaudreau and Dorothy Dunn; brother, Mario Ramirez; daughters, Kimberly and Nicole Beaudreau; grandson, Ma'Koons Bellanger; and a granddaughter, Reina Fineday. Those left behind to cherish Juju's memory are his loving wife, Donna Beaudreau; daughters, Deanna and Amber Beaudreau, Brittany and Dana Fineday; grandsons he raised, Emillo and Enrique Fineday; sisters, Diane (Mike) McClain, Barb Haugen, Bea Dunn, Patty Beaudreau, Kim (Mark) Duncanson; grandchildren, Tyler, Annie, Cameron, Amya, Raquel, Abinoojiinoojinyens, Julio, Arianna, Isabella, Caleb, Mateo; great-grandchildren, Emillo, Jr., Rosabella, Kyren; first cousins,

Louis, Audrey, Elaine, Jimmy, Willy Joe, Tom, Mary, and Robert.

Juju's traditional service will be Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. with a visitation two hours prior to the service, all to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Cass Lake, MN. Juju's Spiritual Advisor will be Marvin Goodman. Those helping to lay Juju to rest are Mario Rodriquez, Glenn Fineday, Brandon Fineday, Mike Shubert, Louis Beaudreau Fisher, Tyler Fineday-Beaudreau, Emillo Fineday, Enrique Fineday, and Jayme Finn. Honorary pallbearers are Ian McClain, Dee Fineday, Amber Beaudreau, Deanna Beaudreau, Diane McClain, Eva Lovelace, and Kyle Lovelace. Juju's final resting place will be in the Fineday Family Cemetery in Pennington, MN, at a later date.

Juju's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

**Mary "Cookum" Thompson**

Mary Lynn Thompson, "Cookum" age 63, of the Bear Clan and Cass Lake, MN, journeyed to the spirit world on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND. She was born on March 10, 1959, in Ponsford, MN, the daughter of Mary Lemae (Roberts) and Jacob Thompson.



Mary loved spending time with her family and friends. She enjoyed going to rummage sales and thrift stores, gardening, working, and reading. Mary was known for always having a good home cooked meal and food available at her house. She always kept her family in line and together. Mary was always caring for others, checking up on them, cleaning up their homes, and putting a pot of coffee on, making sure they were well taken care of.

Those greeting Mary in the Spirit World

are her parents, Mary Lemae and Jacob Thompson; sister, Virginia Thompson; brothers, Franklin Roberts, Leonard Butcher, Jacob, Jordan, and Joseph Thompson; daughter, Stephanie Thompson; significant others, Douglas Dick, Sr., and Robert Goodman; grandson, Markell Cloud; 2 granddaughters; and numerous friends.

Those Mary leaves behind to forever cherish her loving memory are her sons, Douglas Dick, Jr., Jeramiah (Marijayne) Thompson; daughters, Maria Thompson Cruze, Candace (Dameon) Dick; sister, Faith Ann Thompson; 14 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; numerous other family members and friends.

An overnight wake for Mary will begin Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. and continue until her Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m. service, all to be held at the Oak Point Community Center in Oak Point. Mary's Spiritual Advisor is Allen Hardy. Those helping to lay Mary to rest are Douglas Dick, Jr., Jeramiah Thompson, Dameon Severson, Joaquin Cruze, Mark Kline, Douglas Dick III. Jordaine Thompson will be an alternate. Honorary pallbearers are all Mary's children, grandchildren, and sister, Faith Ann Thompson. Inurnment will be at a later date.

Mary's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com).

# Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program

## Words and sentences list for April

**OJIBWEMOWIN**

abwe  
aqaji  
ozhiitaa  
aqigokaa  
bimoode  
waabikwe  
ombiiqizi  
qawishimo  
baabii'o  
debisiniishkwege  
ishkwege  
maajibi'i'iqe

**ZHAAGANAASHIIMOWIN**

She/He cooks something over a fire.  
She/He is shy, bashful.  
She/He gets ready, prepares.  
She/He has a cold.  
She/he crawls along.  
She/He has gray hair.  
She/He is loud, noisy.  
She/He lies down, goes to bed.  
She/He keeps waiting.  
She/He has enough to eat, is full.  
She/He lives on the edge of town.  
She/He writes a letter.

**Niigaane Ojibwe Language Immersion Program**

15353 Silver Eagle Drive, Bena MN 56626  
Telephone: **218-665-3000**  
Toll free: **1-800-265-5576**  
[www.bugonaygeshig.org](http://www.bugonaygeshig.org)

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

# UPCOMING: Community Meeting to Address Fentanyl Epidemic

By MICHAEL CHOSA

CASS LAKE- The ongoing epidemic of fentanyl overdoses and deaths in the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe community is a serious issue that requires action. In response, the Leech Lake Substance Abuse Response Team has developed a Fentanyl Response Plan, which includes new initiatives to address the issue at all levels.

One of the initiatives in the plan is to expand access to naloxone (narcan), a medication that can immediately save the life of someone experiencing an overdose. The plan also includes developing a civil commitment code, which would provide a tool for families to direct individuals struggling with addiction to attend a treatment program. Additionally, the plan includes the development of a program for community navigators, who will be able to direct individuals to resources and services for addiction treatment.

Another key initiative is the expansion of the Ahnji-Be-Mah-Diz Recovery Center to an in-patient treatment program. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Human Services division has been working diligently to obtain licensing and funding for the facility, which will serve both male and female clients.

These are only a few of the initiatives included and represent a new beginning of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's efforts to address the fentanyl epidemic in the community. Community engagement and feedback will be crucial in the ongoing develop-



ment and implementation of the Fentanyl Response Plan.

All community members are encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting to learn more about the plan and provide feedback. Together, we can work towards ending the fentanyl epidemic and creating safe places for our people to heal. Transportation is available for community members, visit <https://form.jotform.com/230874283856164> or call **218-335-8351**, please leave your name, phone number and address.

Due to the winter storm that occurred through the week of April 3, 2023, this meeting was postponed until a future date. Please check [www.leechlakeneews.com](http://www.leechlakeneews.com) or [www.facebook.com/leechlakebandofojibwe](http://www.facebook.com/leechlakebandofojibwe) for updated information and a finalized date for the meeting. *Miigwech.*

# THE RURAL MN COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT



Share your views regarding safety  
in YOUR Region 5 community!

*take the survey!* →

Survey is anonymous.  
[surveymonkey.com/r/R5Safety2023](https://surveymonkey.com/r/R5Safety2023)



Visit [regionfive.org](https://regionfive.org) to learn more.



**Home is everything.**

Open yours to a rewarding career in child care.

**Child Care** *Wayfinder*  
A one-stop navigation network for  
starting and growing programs

[ChildCareWayfinder.org](https://ChildCareWayfinder.org) | 888.986.8207

## Honoring & Celebrating Our Elders April Birthdays

### District I

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

From the District I Office  
Kyle, Amanda & Jenelle

### District II

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

From the  
District II Office Steve,  
Stephanie, & Michelle



### District III\*

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

From the District III Office LeRoy, Toni & Kari

*\*all coupons must be used within Birthday Month\**

# Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Summary of Job Openings

[www.llojibwe.org](http://www.llojibwe.org) | drop off or mail documents to:

**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Human Resources**

**115 Sixth St. NW, Suite E - Cass Lake, MN 56633**

Fax documents to: 1-218-335-3697

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

## THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS CLOSE ON APRIL 14, 2023

*Driver/Operator ~ Tribal Roads ~ \$19.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-075*

## THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

- Alcohol & Drug Counselor (2) ~ Human Services ~ \$22.65/hr ~ Job Code: 23-003*
- Family Support Specialist ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-005*
- Case Manager (2) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-007*
- Mental Health Professional (4) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-008*
- Mental Health Targeted Case Manager ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-009*
- CTSS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-010*
- Mental Health Clinical Trainee (4) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-011*
- ARMHS Mental Health Practitioner ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-012*
- On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Professional (3) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-013*
- On-Call Crisis Response Mental Health Practitioner (5) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-014*
- Program Accountant (2) ~ Finance ~ Job Code: 23-015*
- Infant Toddler Teacher (5) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-016*
- Infant Toddler Team Leader ~ Education ~ \$21.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-017*
- Infant Toddler Teacher/Family Services Advocate (2) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-018*
- Pre School Teacher/Family Services Advocate (3) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-020*
- Pre School Teacher (6) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-021*
- Mental Health Professional ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-022*
- Gekinwaaamaaged (Teacher) (4) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-025*
- Naagaanizid Gekinwaaamaaged (Lead) ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-026*
- Infant Toddler Teacher (Onigurn) (2) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-029*
- Infant Toddler Teacher (Ball Club) (2) ~ Education ~ \$17.20/hr ~ Job Code: 23-030*
- Pre School Team Leader ~ Education ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-031*
- Community Food Systems Coordinator ~ Health ~ \$19.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-032*
- Lead Nurse (A.R.C) ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-035*
- Community Health Representative (2) ~ Health ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-038*
- Water Resources Technician II ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-039*
- Intake & Assessment Mental Health Case Manager ~ Human Services ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-041*
- Watercraft Inspector (2) ~ DRM ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-042*
- Seasonal Invasive Species Crewmember (2) ~ DRM ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-043*
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Attendant (4) (Part Time) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-044*
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) (4) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-045*
- Planner/Developer (2) ~ Tribal Development ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-047*
- Driver (Part time) (O.T.P) ~ Human Services ~ \$16.75/hr ~ Job Code: 23-050*
- Billing Specialist ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-052*
- WIC & Nutrition Registered Dietician (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-054*
- Advanced Practice Provider ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-055*
- Adolescent & Maternal Child Health Manager ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-058*
- Maternal Child Health RN ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-059*
- Home Healthcare RN Manager ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-060*
- Home Healthcare RN (2) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-061*
- Home Healthcare LPN ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-062*
- Registered Dietitian (Diabetes Program) ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-063*
- Disease Intervention Specialist LPN ~ Health ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-064*
- Wetland Specialist ~ DRM ~ D.O.Q ~ Job Code: 23-065*
- Transportation Dispatcher (Part time) ~ Fleet Management ~ \$16.50/hr ~ Job Code: 23-066*
- Transportation Vehicle Operator (3) ~ Fleet Management ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-067*
- Transportation Vehicle Operator (Part time) (2) ~ Fleet Management ~ \$15.00/hr ~ Job Code: 23-068*

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

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



# CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY

SUNDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

1:00-3:00PM

AT THE

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO IN WALKER

Graduates arrive no later than 12:30pm.

Each graduate is allowed up to 7 guest/family members to attend the ceremony.

All graduates/guests are encouraged to practice social distancing and wear a mask.

All graduates/guests will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms & recent COVID-19 contact.

*Any person showing symptoms, will not be allowed in ceremony area.*

Only graduates and pre-identified staff/faculty are allowed on the stage.

Event will be broadcasted via Facebook live.

## Subscribe to DEBAHJIMON

This is a FREE subscription

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Check one:

New Subscription

Moved / New Address:

Include previous zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Remove From Mailing List

### Mail to:

Debahjimon

190 Sailstar Dr.

Cass Lake, MN

56633



**CEDAR LAKES**  
CASINO • HOTEL



**Shingobee**  
SPORTSBAR • MARINA

# PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

1 844 LL GAMING



## SPRING CHA-CHING

PICK A FLOWER TO WIN CASH OR RISK IT & PICK AGAIN

6PM-11PM, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

<b>WEEKLY</b> MARCH 17 - APRIL 28 WIN UP TO <b>\$1,000</b>	<b>GRAND PRIZE NIGHT</b> APRIL 29 WIN UP TO <b>\$5,000</b>
--	--

Walker, MN  
 Cass Lake, MN  
 Deer River, MN

Earn 1 entry for every 10 points March 12 - April 29, 2023. See Players Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

# EASTER

2023

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Event Center 10:30am-4:30pm	BUFFET <b>\$26.95</b> \$9.95 UNDER 10
Event Center 10am-3pm	BUFFET <b>\$26.95</b> \$9.95 UNDER 10
9am-3pm	BUFFET <b>\$17.95</b> \$9.99 UNDER 10

Reservations recommended!  
Call 1-844-554-2646

Subject to change.

## BLAZE THE BIGGEST TRAILS

PLAY TO WIN  
2023 POLARIS RANGER 1000 PREMIUM  
(Valued at over \$22,000)

DRAWINGS  
WED. MAY 3\*

1 UTV AND \$8,000 IN CASH & FREE PLAY GIVEN AWAY AT EACH CASINO

6pm-7pm	2-\$250 Free Play and 2-\$250 Cash
7pm-8pm	2-\$500 Free Play and 2-\$500 Cash
8pm-9pm	2-\$1,000 Free Play and 1-\$1,000 Cash
9pm-10pm	2-\$500 Free Play and 2-\$500 Cash

POLARIS UTV DRAWING

Walker, MN  
 Cass Lake, MN  
 Deer River, MN

\*Must be present to win. Earn 1 entry for every 10 points Feb. 2 - April 30, 2023. Prizes may differ from UTV shown. See Players Club for rules and complete details. Management reserves all rights.

# NORTHERN LIGHTS CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

**\$3K ADDED\***

APRIL 14 & 15, 2023

**FRIDAY**  
6pm-10pm: Luck of the Draw

**SATURDAY**  
10am-2pm: Singles  
Mini Tournament (Throughout tournament upon availability of boards.)  
5pm: Doubles

REGISTRATION  
Social Singles: \$10  
Social Doubles: \$20  
Competitive Singles: \$20  
Competitive Doubles: \$40  
Mini Tournament: \$5

To pre-register contact Dave Cronin at 218 556 9720 or email david.cronin@whiteoakcasino.com

For lodging contact 844 LLGAMING. (Mention Cornhole Tournament.)

WALKER, MN  
northernlightscasino.com

\*60% of \$3,000 would go to Competitive League and remaining 40% to the Social League. Subject to change. Management reserves all rights.

# TATTOO CONVENTION 4

APRIL 28-30

3 day pass: \$20  
Sunday only: \$10

# ICE CUBE

JUNE 9

TICKETS:  
\$109/\$99/\$89/\$79

OUTDOOR EVENT - RAIN OR SHINE

# Oak Ridge Boys

JUNE 15

TICKETS: \$49/\$39/\$34

OUTDOOR EVENT - RAIN OR SHINE

# BRETT YOUNG

JUNE 23

TICKETS:  
\$79/\$69/\$59/\$49

OUTDOOR EVENT - RAIN OR SHINE

# GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS

50 YEARS OF ROCK

AUG. 12

TICKETS:  
\$69/\$59/\$49/\$39

OUTDOOR EVENT - RAIN OR SHINE

WITH JOHN CAFFERTY AND THE BEAVER BROWN BAND

# GABRIEL "FLUFFY" IGLESIAS

SEPT. 8

TICKETS:  
\$89/\$79/\$69/\$59

OUTDOOR EVENT - RAIN OR SHINE