

Bois Forte NEWS

OL 48 NUMBER 4

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS PLANNED

Bois Forte is pleased to host Family Movie Night in Nett Lake at the ENP at 5 p.m. Friday, April 19th and at the Vermilion Social Center on Friday, April 26th at 5 p.m. The movie night will include showing a Native Cultural movie from actual historical events. The movie being shown is titled, Killers of the Flower Moon. A light supper will be served and there wil be popcorn and door prizes.

Nett Lake mourns the loss of Gordy Adams, Jr.

NETT LAKE— The Nett Lake community was in shock as the news spread about the death of Gordy "Jones" Adams from a tragic house fire on Sunday, March 24th.

Adams was able to initially escape from the fire with his two grandchildren in stow but went back into the house to retrieve some items for his granddaughters and did not make it back out.

The loss of Adams comes on the heels of his wife of 37 years, Kathleen "Patsy," passing away in December of 2022 and nearly two and a half years after the death of his older brother, Norm Adams, who died in December 2021.

"That family has dealt with so much grief, and our hearts go out to them," said Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. Gordy was one of our Ochidas (warriors)—he did so much for our community and he was always someone you could count on."

Adams, who graduated from Orr High School in 1975, was a standout athlete in his younger years and eventually gave back to his community by coaching youth sports.

One of his former players was Bois Forte Tribal Council District I Representative Travis Morrison.

"I mostly remember him as my elementary coach. He taught me the fundamentals of basketball and what it means to be a coach to others," said Mor-



HE WILL BE MISSED— Gordy Adams, Jr. is pictured here with his granddaughter Everly Adams. Gordy, who was 66, died in a tragic house fire in Nett Lake Sunday, March 24th. File photo.

rison. "It's not about the money, the recognition, the glory.....it's about giving your time to the young people in our community."

Morrison recounted how Adams showed him and his teammates the meaning of dedication, discipline, work ethic, and the joys of the game.

"He was our coach for a short time, but the lessons we learned stayed with us for a lifetime," said Morrison. "I'd just like to say that Gordy is a proud Marine Corps Veteran, and I saw him as a warrior in our community."

While Morrison remembers Adams for giving back to the youth of Nett Lake and serving his country, Adams was also a steward of the community. He served two terms on the Bois Forte Tribal Council, held several other vital positions with Bois Forte, and volunteered as an EMS first responder on the Bois Forte Ambulance Services.

"The ambulance service needed more volunteers to step up and serve and Jones stepped up," recalled District I Representative Shane Drift. "It was an honor to serve with Jones on our ambulance service. Jones really loved his wife, Patsy, their children, and grandchildren. I would see him at community events and powwows with his grandchildren."

Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers knew Adams for many years and called him a great friend to their family. She fondly remembered Adams as a player under her uncle and renowned Orr Braves basketball Coach Bill King.

"We had many good times together, whether hanging out, going to basketball tournaments, or, more recently, having the opportunity to spend time with him talking about our kids and grandchildren," said Chavers.

Like Morrison, Chavers spoke of Adams' military career, which included him being honorably discharged from the Marines in 1979.

Chavers said Adams was a very proud veteran who served his country and our community by becoming a part of it by working for the tribe in various job positions, on the Tribal Council, or by volunteering.

"We lived close to Gordy Adams, Sr., and were good friends with all the kids. We watched them all grow up and are still great friends today," said Chavers. "He will be greatly missed, and I am very blessed to have had the good fortune to be a part of his life."

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo:

As we navigate this unique winter, let us hope for a more favorable spring. The absence of snow, prior to the late March storm, has left our areas vulnerable to high fire danger. This collective challenge requires our utmost vigilance, regardless of where we reside.

There are times when personal situations arise that you have experienced that can also be a situation for other tribal members. This past month, we had a death in the family, and the family member had health issues for a large amount of his life. It was very sad to have someone so young begin his journey, but all band members and others must be aware of the events that transpired. Granted, this only pertains to the State of Minnesota; however, for those outside the state, please check with your legislators or laws to see if this applies in your area.

When this individual passed, he was at home on the reservation. Law enforcement, of course, arrived, as did the ambulance. Nothing could be done, so the coroner was called to come to the scene. Depending on the availability of coroners in our area, it can sometimes be different people. The family told the coroner and law enforcement that they did not want an autopsy done. However, an autopsy was ordered, and he was sent to Minneapolis for an autopsy. As we all know, with a traditional ceremony, there should not be an autopsy, etc., as there are timelines, etc. that need to be followed.

Last year, the State of Minnesota, under the Minnesota Statutes, 390.11, Investigations, subdivision 2b., recognized the importance of 'Religious objections to autopsy' (d). If the representative of the decedent objects to the autopsy on religious grounds, an autopsy must not be performed unless the coroner or medical examiner determines there is a compelling state interest to perform the autopsy. In other words, if it is not a suspicious death and you do not want an autopsy, you have the right to refuse it due to our cultural and spiritual beliefs. It is disheartening to know that

this is not always respected, and I felt it was important to inform our community about this law. There may be coroners or medical examiners who need to be made aware of this provision. This law applies to the entire State of Minnesota, and it is our duty to ensure its implementation.

I hope others do not run into this type of situation, but being aware of this law will be helpful. It is hard enough when something like this happens to a family, and their spiritual and cultural beliefs need to be respected and followed under the law.

District 1 Representative Shane Drift



Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members! I sincerely hope that you are doing well. I started reading a book called, "A Guide To Tribal Employment." It's a very good and informative book.

Here is an excerpt from page 56 of the book, which discussed the Federal Government's Trust Responsibility to the Tribes:

"The trust responsibility

is supposed to impose upon federal officials the obligation to read federal law in a way which benefits or favors a tribe. If a reading of a federal statute could lead reasonable persons to more than one conclusion. a court may find statutory ambiguity. If there is a finding of ambiguity, the trust responsibility urges an interpretation, which most benefits the tribes. Common sense also reinforces the idea that an ambiguous statute should be interpreted in a manner that does not benefit the drafter of the law since the drafter is in the best position to write with clarity. When clarity is not found, the drafter should not be awarded an interpretation that favors them. Therefore, the language of federal law, if confusing, should be viewed in a manner which benefits the tribes."

This is from the U.S. Constitution, Article VI, second para-

graph, "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding."

When it comes to interpreting the 1854 treaty, the interpretation has never been in Bois Forte's favor. As for Trust Responsibility, the trust is broken, and the responsibility is irresponsible. As far as the 1854 Treaty being "the supreme law of the land," well, it's anything but supreme. The law, aka treaty, has been broken so many times.

The 1854 Treaty area is getting smaller and smaller and becoming more polluted

each passing season. Access to our own treaty area is becoming less and less, and the lakes within the 1854 treaty area are becoming impaired.

I was in support of saving the maple trees by Lutsen Mountain. I am glad that Bois Forte and the two other tribes pushed to save the maple trees.

In my humble opinion the interpretations of the 1854 and 1866 treaties have never been interpreted from Bois Forte's point of view. The interpretations that have been made never benefited Bois Forte. As an example, the 1866 treaty does not ensure that Bois Forte's treaty rights continue like the 1854 treaty rights, but the 1866 treaty does not take away the treaty rights either."

Our people were hunting, fishing, and gathering in the 1866 treaty area long before the 1866 treaty was signed. Our people continued to hunt, fish,

and gather in the 1866 treaty area long after the treaty was signed. The reason why our people continued to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1866 treaty area was because that's how they understood the 1866 treaty. One of my questions regarding the 1866 treaty area is that, why else would a tract of land that surrounds the main sector of Bois Forte be set aside?

As the District I Representative, I will continue fighting for our 1854 and 1866 treaty rights and treaty areas. I will continue pushing Bois Forte's interpretations of the 1854 and 1866 treaty.

As always, I am not speaking for the tribal council or individual council members. I am on sharing what I am fighting for as the District I Representative. So, take care and I will see you in my next article howah.

Chavers to face Lehti-Chosa; while Drift, Sr. and Villebrun advance

Bois Forte band members flocked to the polls to cast their ballot for the next Tribal Chair and District I Representative. "Your individu al contributions o

Incumbent Cathy Chavers was the top vote-getter for tribal chair as she garnered 157 votes to Hannah Lehti-Chosa's 125 votes.

Finishing third and fourth were Bri-



an Whiteman, Sr., who received 74 votes, while Carlos Hernandez received 31.

Chavers and Chosa-Lehti will face off in the June 11th General election.

"I want to thank all of the

band members who voted for me in the primary election," said Chavers. "Also, good luck to the District I candidates Edward Villebrun and Perry Drift, Sr. Thanks to all the candidates who ran for office. It is much appreciated."

Chavers' campaigning efforts were sidelined for a while as she underwent back surgery but is now on the mend.

"I look forward to talking and meeting with our band members in the next few weeks!," said Chavers.

Chavers, who is seeking her third term, had strong support in the Nett Lake sector by receiving 49 votes to Lehti-Chosa's 22 votes. They both received 18 votes via absentee ballots, and Lehti-Chosa, who lives in the Vermilion sector, outdistanced Chavers by a 57-51 margin on her home turf. Chavers carried the Minneapolis Urban Office by a 22-15 margin and the Duluth Urban Office by a 17-13 count.

"Miigwech for the overwhelming support during the primaries!," said Lehti-Chosa to those who voted for her.

Lehti-Chosa said her commitment to giving a voice to every member of our tribe remains steadfast and she will carry that momentum into the June general election.

"Your al contributions of wisdom have been the backbone of my campaign's success so far, and I am dedicated to nurturing the strength of our tribe



through unity, shared wisdom, and mutual support," added Chosa-Lehti.

Meanwhile, in the District I Representative race Perry Drift, Sr. and Edward Villebrun advanced to the general

election in June by receiving 78 votes and 55 votes, respectively.

"I would like to thank all of the candidates and voters who participated and made their



voices be heard," said Drift, Sr. "Every vote does ultimately matter in the end and I just appreciate the care and support from everyone in this community. Together we can move toward a healthy way of communicating with one another going further."

Drift, Sr., said he understands that earning the trust and support of band members can take time, and he plans to build a proper rapport with the voters.

"I also plan to utilize my Anishaanabemowin language with band members as much as possible to help show the younger generation that using your language in a professional and personal setting is one of the goals of this amazing tribe of people," said Drift, Sr. "It can be

See Election on page 11



READY FOR A LONG DAY!— Bois Forte Election Board members were prepared to work a long shift Tuesday, April 2nd at the Vermilion Social Center. Pictured left to right are Tessa Porter, Bessie Medicine, Jeff Mattson, who was the chair, and Monica Porter. Thank you all for your hard work and service to such an important civic duty!



Bois Forte is expanding Mental Health and Well Being services across the Region

Bois Forte Health and Human Services has partnered with Portages Health, a Minnesota-based behavioral healthcare company to enhance and expand behavioral health services for the Bois Forte community. The Bois Forte Tribal Council has directed this effort to begin by addressing the mental health and wellbeing needs of American Indian youth across our region.

Starting in April, the Bois Forte Clinics and many schools across the region will have teams of mental health and wellbeing coaches, mental health therapists, and child, adolescent and adult psychiatry providers available to provide a wide array of personalized mental health services to children, adolescents,

adults, elders and employees.

This Spring, Bois Forte mental health and wellbeing teams will be available to provide a broader array of services in our Nett Lake Clinic and our Vermilion Clinic, as well as area schools.

"We are honored to have this opportunity to partner with the Bois Forte leadership to serve the community," said Dr. Read Sulik, a Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist, Pediatrician and CEO of Portages Health. "I am deeply inspired by the vision and passion that Dan, Leah, the Tribal Council and Chairwoman Chavers have to better serve the mental health needs of their entire community."

The new services available will emphasize teaching youth and adults new

skills to overcome stress, anxiety, trauma, depression and substance abuse. Yet there will also be a major focus on teaching preventive strategies such as mindfulness exercises and stress-reduction techniques to improve overall wellbeing. Through practices such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, and strategies to think more positively, youth and adults are better equipped with valuable tools to manage stress, enhance self-awareness, and foster resilience in the face of adversity.

"We are excited to get this program expanded and underway," said Dan Rabideaux, CEO of Health and Human Services for the Bois Forte Band. "We've been providing some great services in our clinics and in several schools, but this gives us an opportunity to dramatically expand access to Band members across our entire region. One goal in beginning our new efforts is to give our youth the self-care tools they'll need to succeed throughout their lives."

In the new groundbreaking school-based program, every school will have a

coach onsite, a therapist available several days a week, and access to a child and adolescent psychiatry provider. These team members will offer a confidential space for students to discuss their concerns, seek guidance, and develop coping strategies tailored to their individual needs.

"Within the next year we will continue to partner with Portages Health to expand clinic locations so we can assure that our Bois Forte members in Virginia, the metro region, and Duluth have access to behavioral health care when needed", said Rabideaux.

Anyone interested in receiving services at the Bois Forte clinics can call the Nett Lake Clinic at 218-757-3650 or the Vermilion Clinic at 218-753-2182 to request an Intake Appointment.

Parents and guardians interested in their children accessing services in the school can reach out directly to their school office to request a referral to the Bois Forte Mental Health and Wellbeing Team.





Bois Forte Behavioral Health and Bois Forte 477 Programs Bois Forte community members (18 years and older).

This is an all-day class. 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Please plan to arrive 10 minutes early – there is a lot of material to cover.

Learn about early intervention – recognizing warning signs of a mental health or substance use crisis and how you can help.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Vermilion Fortune Bay Conference Room
8:30am – 4:30pm

Lunch is provided.

Mental Health First Aiders

- Do not diagnose or treat
- · Observe changes in behaviors
- Offer a nonjudgmental listening ear
- · Respect individual's privacy
- Serve as a vital link to early intervention
- Respect and honor the individual's culture

Only 30 people can register per class.

Register with Chrissy Fairchild@ chrissy.fairchild@boisforte-nsn.gov

Erin Danielson @ erin.danielson@boisforte-nsn.gov

LAKE VERMILION TRADITIONAL POW WOW JUNE 28, 29 & 30 **Lake Vermilion Pow Wow Grounds** Lake Vermilion Reservation - Tower MN Co-Hosts: Lake Vermilion Singers & Night Sky Singers **Spiritual Advisor:** Darrel Kingbird MC: Terry Goodsky Arena Director: Corey Goodbird **FRIDAY:** Warm ups **SATURDAY:** Grand Entries 1pm & 7pm **SUNDAY:** Grand Entry 1pm TWO STEP CONTEST - SATURDAY EVENING Win \$500 + a big trophy & belt **MUSICAL CHAIRS CONTEST - ADULT & YOUTH DIVISIONS** TROPHIES FOR WINNER IN EACH CATEGORY **HEADS OR TAILS CONTEST - ALL WEEKEND LONG CAMPING AVAILABLE** Contact: Muriel 218-750-7772 or murieldeegan@yahoo.com Tracey 218-780-1478 Drug and alcohol-free event. Smoking is allowed 50 feet away from arena.

Promise Act grants ranging from \$10,000-\$50,000 may be available

NETT LAKE— The COVID-19 pandemic was hard on everybody, especially small businesses, who struggled to stay afloat in those most challenging times.

However, help might be available for those businesses as grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 are up for grabs. These grants are dependent on business revenue from 2021.

Bois Forte's Katherine Lahti is hosting a meeting to go over the guidelines on Monday, April 8 in Nett Lake from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. and then at the Vermilion Social Center, Monday, May 6 from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Here are some of the stipulations in determining whether a small business can receive these grants.

•Only existing businesses that were in business in 2021 with revenue below \$750,000 are eligible to apply.

• Non-profit organizations that earn at least 30% of their revenue similar to a business are eligible to apply.

•The grant application period is open for eight weeks. Any application received during that period will be considered equally to the others. Funding is NOT on a first come first serve basis.

•Applying does not guarantee funding. We anticipate there will be more applications than available funding. A business may reapply in the 2025 grant round if they do not receive a grant in 2024

The guidelines for this program

were set by the legislature in the 2023 legislative session. The Northland Foundation did not have input into the grant program guidelines, which are set by the Promise Act law.

To be competitive, a business must meet three criteria. Businesses that don't meet all of these requirements can apply, but their grant score will be ranked lower than businesses that meet all three criteria. •Gross Revenue less than \$750,000 in 2021.

•Economic Hardship — a 10% decline in gross revenue OR any decline in net profits in 2022, compared to 2021 as shown on business taxes.

•Received less than \$10,000 in previous State of Minnesota COVID related aid.

According to Lahti, \$1.15 million in See Grants on page 9

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Minute with Millie

Well, after the exciting news of last month, I have been brought back down to earth with a thud. "Hows that?" You're thinking to yourself? ""Life just got to be the best."

Yep. I received quite a few comments about "The millions are coming in." I just laugh. "Remember I've got a large family and that line is pretty big. It's just about to get bigger I suppose." Heady thinking, glamorous dreams! Hahaha.

This morning I was busy on a project that's been on the back burner long enough that the whole thing may just go up in flames. Those of you who count yourselves among my friends on, well, that much maligned social platform that the whole of the Indian tribes on the North American continent have been, either willingly or cajolingly, forced to join if only to keep up with family news: the new "Moccasin telegraph," may remember that I posted a pic of the time I bought 15 yards of muslin for my various sewing projects. Well, those 3 pieces as well as the separate few yards for smaller proiects have been folded away patiently waiting for the day I iron all those many, many yards of fabric.

Well, this morning I woke with the energy to iron the first of my projects for a fitting toile, mock up or mistake ridden piece for my jingle dresses I am making. I spent about a week stringing hundreds of jingles, more days color coordinating ribbons, debating if I should make my own bias tape or buy it and organizing the pattern for the dress.

Yep. Anything and everything to put off the ironing of the fabric which I insisted was going to just take about an hour, perhaps two and I'd be happily sewing up the dresses. [Quit laugh-

ing those of you who go through this very trial and tribulation every so often yourselves.]

T'any rate, I stood there waiting for the iron to heat



up, straightening up the 60" wide fabric (which apparently lost 4" on the width due to pre-washing the 100% cotton) on a 46"x18" makeshift ironing board. (Makes me wonder how much the yardage shrunk. I cringe. Hope I bought enough to do the mock-up.)

When it was hot enough, I started ironing the first 18" of the material which I had sprinkled with one of those new fangled spray bottles. I compared what I was accomplishing with the image in my mind of freshly laundered and ironed clothes we wore to school. I stood for a moment pondering the situation.

The hours spent sprinkling all those clothes and rolling them up to get them damp enough to iron out the stubborn wrinkles burst forth upon my befuddled brain. Huuw.

And people want the good old days to be brought back?

BOIS FORTE SOLID WASTE

*PLEASE NOTE: ONE CONTAINER PER HOUSEHOLD

DO'S:

- Have your Solid Waste container out to the curb the night before or, no later than 8:00 AM on the day of your solid waste collection day.
- * Remove container from the curb or front yard no later than 8:00AM on the day AFTER your collection day.
- * Place container at least 5 feet away from any object (mailboxes, cars, trees etc.)
- * Place container at curb with handles facing away from the road.

DON'TS:

- Do not overload or overfill the container. Make sure lid shuts, all trash must be bagged and tied shut.
- Operator will not be picking up loose trash or bags that are not in the Solid Waste bin. Yard waste does not go in container.
- NO PERSONAL TRASH CANS!! ONLY the Bois Forte Solid Waste containers will be picked up and disposed.
- * DO NOT put RECYCLING in Solid Waste Container!

Current Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Schedule:

MONDAYS: RECYCLING - Nett Lake (All sectors)

TUESDAYS: SOLID WASTE - Nett Lake Village, Palmquist, HWY 65,

Indian Pt & Sugarbush

THURSDAYS: SOLID WASTE- Vermilion FRIDAYS: RECYCLING - Vermilion

Contact Frank Villebrun, Jr at (218) 404-5457 for RECYCLING

Contact Frank Barto, Sr at (218) 757-0193 for SOLID WASTE

Martinez makes her mark with Mural project

CHISHOLM— Taking mom's advice is something we're all taught at a young age and thankfully for Alexis Martinez, heeding her mother's advice might just lead to bigger and better things as an artist.

That's because it was Michelle Adams who told her daughter to sign up for an Indigenous-themed project sponsored in part by Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) in Chisholm and funding by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

"She sent me a link," said Martinez less than an hour before her collaborated work with her fellow regional artist Moira Villiard was unveiled. "I didn't think I was going to be picked, but I said, 'Yeah, let's do it.' So, I signed up, sent in some artwork I had done and ended up being selected."

Admittingly, Martinez is a shy person, who would much rather be immersed in her creativity as an artist than to talk about the work she has done. Perhaps, that is why she chose to ask her grandfather, Vern Adams, to take centerstage with her at the unveiling, which took place Thursday, March 14th at MDC.

"I drew my inspiration from my grandfather from one of the stories he used to tell me as a child," said Martinez, a Bois Forte band member and Fortune Bay Resort Casino employee, who was joined by many other family members and her boyfriend at the event. "The story he told me depicts how our culture survived over the years. This one talked about how the robin got its red chest."

Adams, who serves as Bois Forte's Spiritual Advisor, told those gathered in the auditorium at MDC about a medicine man who wanted his son to grow up to be a strong man. The gist of the story was that the longer the boy could fast, the stronger he would grow up



TALENTED ARTISTS— Moira Villiard, left, and Alexis Martinez, right, stand next to the mural they created shortly after it was unveiled at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm.



A THING OF BEAUTY— This is the finished mural that was created by Bois Forte's Alexis Martinez and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa direct descendent Moira Villiard. The mural was unveiled at Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm in front of roughly 75 attendees, who were also able to view to other projects both artists had created.

to be. However, after spending many days in the woods without food, the boy was no longer in the spot where the medicine man had left him. So, his father called out for his son repeatedly.

Just then a robin flew down and said, "Don't you recognize me? I am your son." And with that the robin, with its beautiful red chest, flew off—meaning he now had all the power his father had hoped he would get by fasting for so many days.

This story paralleled the message Adams had given in Anishinaabe prior to sharing the story about the robin, which was the central focal point in the mural Martinez and Villiard created.

"...I asked spirits to help them on their path in life and to walk with them, so they have a good life," said Adams of his granddaughter and Villiard.

Adams' message was one of hope and encouragement to both artists who worked extremely close together throughout the mural project. This work included Villiard, who is a Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa direct descendent, coming to the Bois Forte Reservation to get a better feel for Martinez's vision. While that was a great experience for her, Villiard said she was most ex-

cited to see Alexis becoming a famous artist.

"She has such a natural skill set and is great at following through, following directions and taking critique," said Villiard an award-winning artist.

Martinez's boyfriend, Kyler Patterson, also sees an artist ready to bloom into bigger and better things.

"I'm so proud of her," said Patterson prior to the unveiling. "I've enjoyed watching her throughout this process. It turned into a bigger project than she was expecting, but she's very excited to do this. The

See Mural on page 7



SHARING HIS WISDOM— Bois Forte's Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams, left, shares the spotlight with his granddaughter, Alexis Martinez, center, and Moira Villiard, right, during the event at Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm.

Mural from page 7

mural is absolutely gorgeous, and I can't wait for everyone else to see it."

And Patterson was right as the unveiling drew much applause and words of praise as both Martinez and Villiard finished autographing the mural. A documentary of the mural project will be shown at MDC once it's completed.

True to her humble self, Martinez said the creation of the mural was not the hardest part. Rather, the whole evening in itself claimed that honor as she doesn't like to talk about herself or her

success as an artist.

"Kyler has been supporting me throughout this whole process and he's making sure I'm not completely freaking out about this evening," said Martinez with a gentle smile, who also thanked Patterson for providing her transportation to Chisholm on several occasions so she could work alongside Villiard to complete the mural. "His support and my family's support mean a lot to me and I'm happy to share this moment with them all."





Bois Forte Tribal Government 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772 (218) 757-3261, Ext. 1162



White Earth Family Office 220 2nd Street NW

Cass Lake, MN 56633

Bois Forte Tribal Enrollment will be available at the White Earth Family Office 220 2nd St NW Cass Lake, MN to issue Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and Wednesday September 25, 2024 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED
PLEASE BRING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO

RECEIVE A TRIBAL ID:

- Original Certified Birth Certificate (no photocopies)
 - State Issued Driver's License
 - State Issued Identification Card
 - Valid Passport

For name change please bring legal documents

For replacement Tribal ID Cards or for any changes made before the expiration date, there will be a \$12.00 fee (cash or check) Please have correct change

Any questions, please contact Kathie Holman, Tribal Enrollment Coordinator at (218) 757-3261, ext. 1162 or kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov



The Menochigeyang Team, Victim Services & SDPI invites you to help raise awareness & honor our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives

FRIDAY, MAY 3RD 2024 TIME: 3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

LOCATIONS:
NETT LAKE DNR PARKING LOT
VERMILION WELLNESS CENTER PARKING LOT

COMMUNITY IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Participants will receive a T-shirt while supplies last Fill out a survey to be entered into a basket drawing sponsored by Victim Services

Light snacks & water will be provided

Bois Forte is one of three Minnesota Tribes to receive Clean Energy Support

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators Tina Smith, a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and Amy Klobuchar (both D-Minn.) announced federal funding to connect Tribal homes to clean electricity, including homes previously not connected to electricity at all. Minnesota Tribes selected for funding include Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Nation and Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The grants are made possible by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, which Senators Smith and Klobuchar both supported.

"For generations, Native communities have been hurt by underinvestment and underfunding of basic infrastructure. Our transition to a clean energy economy can't leave Indian Country behind," said Senator Smith. "This funding gets us

closer to ensuring every household in Minnesota, including on Tribal lands, have access to clean electricity."

"This federal grant will deliver critical clean energy infrastructure improvements," said Senator Klobuchar. "Investments into clean electricity are vital for securing the power grid in Tribal communities and bolstering the transition to renewable energy."

"This investment in Indian Country and, specifically, the Prairie Island Indian Community, will literally help create a brighter future for our people," said Prairie Island Tribal Council President Grant Johnson. "Achieving energy sovereignty while eliminating or offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions on Prairie Island is the goal of our net zero program. This grant will allow us to make

electrification improvements to our members' home and involve them more directly in our efforts to change our energy narrative and achieve our net zero goal."

"We are excited and honored to have received the funding from the Biden-Harris Administration America Agenda to Electrify Homes Across Indian Country with Clean Energy. This funding will assist us in the implementation capacity to bring critical renewable energy that is reliable and affordable for our Tribal Members," said Bois Forte Band Chairwoman Cathy Chavers. "The training of our tribal members to become certified in clean energy operations will provide future employment opportunities as we work towards our goal of providing zero emissions energy systems."

"The funds from the Tribal Electrification Program will help the Red Lake community develop a robust planning process to coordinate energy improvements over the next five years including the following priorities: 1. Increase the reliability of the electric power grid on the reservation, 2. Reduce the environmental footprint of the community through clean energy deployment, 3. Reduce the cost of clean energy especially for those families who are most vulnerable to power shutoff and energy poverty, and 4. Grow a core group of clean power and energy conservation practitioners in the community," said Red Lake Nation Chairman Darrell Seki.

Native American households lack access to electricity at far higher rates than the national average. Understanding the unique challenges Tribal nations face, the Tribal Electrification Program provides not only financial assistance to Tribes for clean energy projects, but also technical assistance in applying for funding.

Bois Forte Band will receive \$295,000, Prairie Island Indian Community will receive \$500,000 and Red Lake Nation will receive \$600,000.

The Tribal Electrification Program also advances the Biden-Harris administration's Justice 40 Initiative, which set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that have been marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution, including federally-recognized Tribal Nations.

THE BOIS FORTE ENROLLMENT OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO UPDATE ADDRESS OR SEEKING INFORMATION REGARDING:

CALLICO, BILLIE S

CLOUD, RONIN B

DAY, STANLEY

DAYDODGE, CLARENCE R

GATZ, TONY E

GESHICK, DENNIS W

GRUENHAGEN, STEVEN A

HARDING, ALTON

HUSMANN, VANESSA R

JENKINS, SUSAN

JOHNSON CANDICE M

JORDAN, KRISTINA L

KEPHART, BONNIE J

KNOWLTON, DEBORAH L MCKENZIE, VALERIE E R

NEVITT, DIANE V

PASCUAL, ELIZABETH F

PETE, STEVEN B

RUSZCZEWSKI, DOROTHY

SAMM, ALEXANDER O N

STRONG, JULIAN ${\bf M}$

SWAN III, VICTOR J

TAYLOR, CARA P

THOMPSON, DOROTHY G

VILLEBRUN, VINESSA D

WAGNER, LE ANNE J

WEBB, AMANDA

Please contact the Bois Forte Enrollment Department at 218-757-3261 ext. 1162., or email kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov

Address Updates can be hand delivered or mailed to: Bois Forte Tribal Government: Attn: Enrollment 5344 Lakeshore Drive • Nett Lake, MN 55772

All written address updates must contain the following information:
Name, Address, DOB, Signature, Date

This app that can be a life saver!

Submitted by Adnan H. Memon MB.BS. MPH

Disease Intervention Specialist for Bois Forte Health and Human Services

I am thrilled to introduce the Scan and Watch QR code, providing direct access to our Bois Forte Disease Awareness channel. This initiative aims to empower Bois Forte band members and individuals with easily accessible resource to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

I am proud to share that this initiative marks the first of its kind in our Northeastern region. It's important to note that this idea originated from my own initiative, and I took the necessary steps to bring it to execution.

Through Scan and watch, viewers can access a variety of videos covering disease preven-

tion and health related topics. I firmly believe that joining the power of Digital media, we can



effectively reach and engage our band members in discussions about health and wellness.

I invite you all to scan the QR code yourself and explore the content.



RELAX WES!— Fortune Bay Resort Casino Manager on Duty Wes King gets ready to give blood at the Memorial Blood Center's Blood Drive this past month. Great job, Wes!

Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg



Bois Forte 477

- Scholarships
- Resumes
- Utility Assistance
- School Supplies
- GED class
- Vocational Educational Classes
- WorkClothes/Boots

- Skill
 - Enhancement
- Tools
- Child Care
- Rental Assistance
- General Work Skills
- Auto Repairs
- Financial
 Education

Vonda Carr 218-757-3261 Ext. 1400



Leanne Hoffman 218-757-3261 Ext. 1401

vrcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov lhoffman@boisforte-nsn.gov

Grants from page 9

grants will be distributed in our region in 2024. It's not possible to predict exactly how many grants will be distributed, because the number of \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000 grants will depend on how many applications are received in each revenue bucket.

Businesses are going to be asked to upload four documents as part of the application:

1. Primary Contact Identification such as a current driver's license, Tribal

ID card, or other Government ID.

- 2. Proof of Operating Business Address such as a bill or invoice addressed to the business.
 - 3. 2021 Business Tax Return
 - 4. 2022 Business Tax Return

The application is 23 questions long with most of the questions being yes/no or quickly answered from tax return information.

Again, if you would like more information on these grants, make sure to attend Lahti's classes on April 8th or May 6th.

LEGAL NOTICE

In The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court Civil Division Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

In the matter of Erika Lynn Jensen petitioner vs Dion Raemone James, respondent. TO: The above-named respondent, Dion Raemone James.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given a Zoom hearing will be held on the 10th day of April 2024, at 11:00 a.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771, on the Order for Protection Petition filed in this court on February 12th, 2024. This hearing is to determine if the Order for Protection should be granted or denied.

You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you and the Order for Protection being granted. To join Zoom meeting go to https://boisforte.zoom.us/j/3054161983

Meeting ID: 305 416 1983 (there is no passcode)

Or to join via telephone only dial 1-877-853-5247

By The Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge

Kristina Isham, Clerk of Court

12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771 • Tel: 218-757-3462

LEGAL NOTICE

In The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court Child in Need of Protective Services Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

In the matter of Bois Forte Family Health Services, petitioner vs Kent Lyle Isham, respondent.

TO: The above-named respondent, Kent Lyle Isham.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given a Zoom hearing will be held on the 9th day of April ,2024, at 11:00 a.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771, on the Children in Need of Protective Services. This hearing is to review the welfare matter of the children.

You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you being granted. If you are unable to join via zoom or by phone, you will be required to attend in person at the Tribal Court.

To join Zoom meeting go to https://boisforte.zoom.us/j/3054161983

Meeting ID: 305 416 1983 (there is no passcode)

Or to join via telephone only dial 1-877-853-5247

By The Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge

Kristina Isham, Clerk of Court

12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771 • Tel: 218-757-3462

Gordon "Jones" Adams, Jr



Gordon "Jones" Adams Jr., Age 66, Longtime resident of Nett Lake, died Sunday March 24, 2024, in his home from a tragic house fire. He was born October 15, 1957, in Fort Francis, Ontario Canada, the son of Gordon Clifford Adams Sr. and Martha Jane (Burnside) Adams.

Gordy (Jones) was a 1975 Graduate of Orr High School and played Basketball for the Orr Braves basketball team under the direction of William (Bill King) - In 1975, the Orr Braves won the District 27 Tournament and Gordy was a member of the "starting five". He was also selected as the outstanding Native Athlete his senior year. After Graduation he joined the United States Marine Corps. - He was an accomplished Marine and received many honorary medals including Rifle Sharpshooter, Infantry and Good Conduct. He was honorably discharged as an E-4 corporal in 1979. Upon completion of his Military Service, Gordy worked for the Bois Forte Sawmill, served as Construction Manager for the Nett Lake School project and also was an accomplished self-employed Carpenter instrumental in the remodeling of many reservation construction projects. He also worked for the Bois Forte Energy Assistance Program, was Executive Director for the Bois Forte RTC, and later served on the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council as District One Council Member and was elected for 2 terms. He was also well known throughout greater Indian Country, serving as a representative for the National Indian Gaming Association and was a Regional Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians. He later worked

for Bois Forte Enterprise at Fortune Bay Resort Casino as the Business Manager and Power Rain. He also volunteered on the Bois Forte Ambulance as an EMS first Responder and took pride in his many past accomplishments and was a proud honorary veteran.

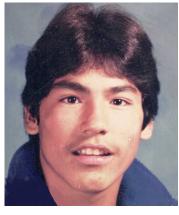
Gordy enjoyed fishing, he loved taking his boat on Pelican Lake fishing with his family, hunting ducks and deer, guiding, netting fish on Lake Vermillion, picking berries, and was an accomplished ricer, he enjoyed cookouts with family & friends. He took pride in raising his grandchildren Everly & Ivy whom he thought of as his own. On November 16, 1985, he married the love of his life in Nett Lake, MN. - Kathleen "Patsy" (Day) Adams. They were married for 37 years. On December 28, 2022, he lost the love of his life Patsy and was in deep mourning, it brings his family great comfort knowing that they are now reunited. Once a Marine, always a Marine - he died a hero, as he saved his family from a catastrophic house fire by awakening everyone and getting them out before saving himself.

Gordy is survived by his daughters: Rebecca (Craig) Adams of Nett Lake, MN. Tyla Adams of Nett Lake, Mn. Sons: Gordy (Nikki) Adams III of Nett Lake, Mn, Mike Adams of Virginia, Mn. Siblings: Vern (Cindy) Adams of Virginia, Mn. Randy Adams of Hoyt Lakes, Mn. Les (Roberta) Adams of Duluth, Mn. Sherrie Laitenen of Tower, MN. Grandchildren: Owen, Liam, Della, Everly, Ivy, and Avis and numerous nephews, nieces and friends and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents: Gordon Sr, and Martha Adams Brothers: Norm. Bill. Lester. Lorne. Bob, Sisters: Carlene and Mary

The wake was held on Friday March 29, 2024. Tribal Rites funeral were held on Saturday March 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake, MN. The Spiritual Advisor was Billy Blackwell, assisted by Clint Miller.

Family services provided by Bauman-Cron, A Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. To share condolences online, please visit www.baumanfuneralhome.com.

Barry Merle Day



Barry Merle Day, 52, of Bois Forte Ojibwe Reservation passed away on March 4, 2024. Barry had Rheumatoid arthritis all of his life, but that did not stop him from enjoying his time. He loved hunting deer and loved his Vikings; but most of all, he loved his son Talon. Barry sat on the Conservation Committee for a time and was a big part of the reservation; acquiring the cookie cutter, which saved our Wild Indian rice.

Barry is survived by his son Talon Day; his mother Jewel Day Walker; father Ronald Boshey; brothers: Ronald, Damon, Dean, Neil, and Charles Graue; nieces Kateri, Loya, and Genesis; nephews Dylan, Douglas, Shawn, Michael, and Daysaun and AJ; special friends Christy Zika and Elsie Jones.

A wake and service was held at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Lance Kingbird officiated. Casket Bearers: Kent Isham, Klib Isham, William Villebrun, Martis Voss, Adam Strong, Mike Isham. Honorary Casket Bearers: Christy Zika and Elsie Jones. Online condolences to www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

Sidney Adams

With deepest sympathy and sorrow, we regret the passing of Sidney Orville Adams. Sid was born April 18, 1942 and passed on March 16, 2024, surrounded by family and the great staff at Vermilion Assisted Living.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Peter and Florence Adams; Brother: Robert "Chuckie" Adams; sister: Cheryl; and uncle: Melvin Sinclair.

Surviving family members are sisters: Gladys Averill and Marlene (David) Farmer; brothers: Ronald (Vivian), Gary (Linda) and Gordon (Barbara); extended family: Kathy, April, Antonella, and Ava.

Sidney had the true meaning of recovery. He enjoyed watching hockey, working on his cabin, drinking coffee and having a cigarette on his deck, while watching the lake and the birds. Sid would drive around in his truck checking on family and friends and most often, not stopping, just looking. He had strong cultural views and values.

Tribal Rites and viewing were held at the Vermilion Wellness Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Vernon Adams will be the Spiritual Advisor.

Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion. To share condolences online, please visit: www.baumanfuneralhome.com.

Anton James Buckanaga

Anton James Buckanaga, age 29 of Tower, died unexpectedly in his home on March 6, 2024. He was born May 26, 1994 in Minneapolis, the son of Miles Parkhurst and Angela Buckanaga. Anton liked beading, family time, car rides, music with his siblings; loved his children, family and friends.

Anton is survived by his mother: Angela Buckanaga of Tower, children: Carter. Evalette, and Taven Buckanaga of Minneapolis, sisters: Michele and Rena Buckanaga, Sophia Medicine and Tara Carlos all of Tower; brother: Brandon Hanks of Tower; numerous aunts, uncles, cousin and many friends from Tower to Minneapolis.

He was preceded in death by his father: Miles Parkhurst, grandpa Andrew Buckanaga, grandma Vivian Francis; and many uncles and aunties.

The wake was held Sunday, March 10. 2024 in the Vermilion Wellness Center. Tribal Rites were held Monday at the Wellness Center; William Peters was the Spiritual Advisor. Burial followed in the Bois Forte's Vermilion Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Brandon Hanks, Kyle, Bill Peters, Bryan Jr., James, Harvey Jr., and Aiden Strong. Honorary Pall bearers were Michele, Rena, Sophia, Paxton, and Andrew.

Family Services provided by Bauman-Vermilion. To share condolences on line, please visit: www.baumanfuneral.com.

Election from page 3

accomplished. I truly believe in that."



Villebrun
also thanked
voters for their
support and
looks forward
to letting band
members know
more about his
platform via
sending out a
campaign letter
highlighting ar-

eas of concern to him.

"I feel I am the best candidate for District I because I care for our tribe and I want to see us progress in many areas," said Villebrun. "Some areas would be the hiring practices, doing more for our elders, increasing activities for our elders, and preserving our hunting rights."

Finishing third was William G. Isham with 47 votes, while Robbie Goggleye garnered 41 votes and David H. Villebrun, Jr. finished with 24 votes.

Villebrun edged out Drift, Sr. by a 37-35 count in the Nett Lake sector, while Drift, Sr. had a 6-2 advantage in the Vermilion sector.

Drift, Sr. carried the Minneapolis Urban site and Duluth Urban site with a 11-4 and 12-5 advantage. Drift also doubled up Villebrun in absentee ballots by a 14-7 mark.

Best of luck to Chavers, Lehti-Chosa, Drift, Sr. and Villebrun in the General Election. We will run another election story in the May issue.

C-STORE 218-757-3268

PHARMACY 218-757-0230 Y-STORE 218-753-3868

PHARMACY 218-753-2182

CORRECTION:

It was erroneously reported in the March 2024 Bois Forte News that if the incumbent received 50% of the vote, plus one additional vote, the incumbent would automatically return to office for another term. However, this would apply to both the incumbent and challengers for the Tribal Chair, as well as to those seeking the District I Representative seat. Please see the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe ordinance below for clarification:

According to THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE, ELECTION OR-DINANCE (Amended 12/11/23): Chapter 1; CANDIDATES AND VOT-ING, Section 1.1 Primary Elections. 1.2(B), The purpose of the primaries will be to determine two candidates for the Regular or Special Election, unless a candidate receives more than one-half (1/2) of the votes counted for that position in the Primary Election in which case that candidate will be the winning candidate.

We apologize to all of the candidates and band members for this error.

Thank you.



DOING HIS CIVIC DUTY — Gary Adams interacts with Bessie Medicine at the Vermilion Social Center Tuesday, April 2nd. The Social Center is one of four polling places used for Bois Forte Tribal Elections.

Remaining 2024 Bois Forte Tribal ID's Offsite Locations

Cass Lake: April 17th & September 25th, 10am - 2pm White Earth Family Office - 220 2nd Street NW.

International Falls: May 16th, 10am - 3pm Kootaska Building - 2232 2nd Ave East

Lake Vermilion Pow Wow: June 29th, 11am - 4pm Government Center - 1610 Farm Point Road S.

Virginia: September 25th & October 16th, 10am - 3pm Career Force - 820 9th Street North #250

Vermilion: December 18th, 10am - 3pm Government Center – 1610 Farm Point Road S.

Please note that to receive a Tribal ID you must bring one of the following with you:

Original certified birth certificate (no photocopies)
 State issued driver's license -State issued identification card
 Valid passport

For name change, please bring legal documents.

For replacement Tribal ID cards or for any changes made before the expiration date, there will be a \$12 fee (cash or check).

Please have the correct change.

Any questions, call Tribal Enrollment Coordinator Kathie Holman at 218-757-3261, ext. 1162 or email: kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov

FDL IRB: #110 | Date approved: 7/20/2023 | Expiration date: 7/19/2024 MTU IRB: #2053275-1 | Date approved: 8/29/2023 | Expiration date: 8/28/2024



Are you an Indigenous or Descendant community member with a connection to iron mining (past or present)?

If you answered yes, this study may be for you.

Research study for community members with relationships to iron mining

I'm looking for adults 18 years and older who self-identify as Indigenous or Descendant and have a connection to iron mining in Minnesota to share stories about this relationship.

Industrial heritage sites in the Iron Range tell many stories of the people who live(d) on the Range and were associated with the mining process. This research seeks to understand if these sites are missing the stories of Indigenous and Descendant community members.

Participants will be asked to participate in:

Interviews to share stories

Location

• Soudan Underground Mine, Pioneer Mine, Quad Cities, Iron Range, Duluth Area

Are you eligible?

- 18 years or older
- Self-identify as Indigenous or Descendant
- Connection to iron mining

Participants will receive:

- Snacks and refreshments during interview
- A 'legacy' package detailing your contributions (audio files, transcripts, etc.)

If you're unsure if you meet the requirements or have questions about this study, call or email:

- Larissa Juip
- lajuip@mtu.edu
- (218) 235-3292

Bois Forte Conservation update

By Officer Tony Mason

Winter was a very quiet one this year. A lack of snow and fall precipitation along with a dry spring may bring severe fire hazards. Hopefully, Mother Nature brings spring showers. Netting Season will be upon us soon, as I'm sure a few of our Band Members will start doing under ice netting. 1854 reported to me that there we some ice disappearing in a few spots and Band Members were getting anxious to go out and harvest some fresh fish. We at the Conservation Officer Department wish you all

the best of luck and hope to be safe this spring.

1854 has completed and submitted to us the Moose Survey for 2024. We had a count of twenty-eight (28) moose. Slightly less than the thirty-one (31) from last year. Of the 28 moose counted. Nine (9) were bulls, eleven (11) were cows and eight (8) were calves. We did not harvest any moose this year within the boundaries of Nett Lake this year.

Again, wish all a great spring and a safe netting season!!

TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

TERO TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

ABOUT US



TERO was established by tribal law, enacted by the Bois Forte Tribal Council, to promote and require Indian Preference in employment, training, and contracting. The TERO Ordinance, revised and adopted on July 20, 2005, covers all non-governmental employers and projects located on or near the Bois Forte Reservation

The Nett Lake Band of Chippewa Indians have a sovereign right to employment opportunities on and near their own land. These rights are protected through your local TERO Ordinance enacted by the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

Tribal members should register with the TERO office to ensure they are listed by job skills and qualifications, in the event a job opening occurs for which they are qualified.

TERO OFFICER

WARREN VILLEBRUN

Office: 218-757-3261 Cell: 218-404-8481 Fax: 218-757-3312 Email: wvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov Mail to: wvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov





5344 Lakeshore Dr. Nett Lake MN 55772

