



Bois Forte NEWS

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LEGAL HELP IS AVAILABLE!

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota has kiosks (computers) at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Clinic that can be used Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These easy-to-use kiosks can help you find information about legal problems, help you learn more about your rights, and help you apply for a free lawyer.

For more information, you can also visit LEGALKIOSK.ORG

Nett Lake Dam project is a big success story

The sound of water efficiently racing through the new Nett Lake Dam was music to Chris Holm's ears on a recent spring day.

The dam was working to perfection, and the aesthetics of the \$1.2 million project was equally gratifying. Yes, some road work and landscaping still needed to be completed, but for the most part, the enormous job of seeing the project through was now in Holm's rearview mirror.

And there were many thanks to be doled out as Holm called the project one that had many moving parts and agencies coming together to create a lasting legacy for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, not to mention protecting Nett Lake's wild rice beds should the former dam had ever completely failed.

"This really was a team effort, and we are grateful to Chris Holm and his staff at the DNR for their work," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. "We are also indebted for our ARPA funding and the generosity of the IRRRB (Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board). It's nice to see so much support for a project that is so important to Bois Forte."

Much of the money used to complete the project came from Federal ARPA funding, while a generous \$350,000 infrastructure grant was provided by the IRRRB.

"Many persons and agencies spent considerable time



TEAM EFFORT!— The Nett Lake Dam project took a team effort, not only from funding sources like the IRRRB and ARPA, but through hard work of the Bois Forte DNR team. Pictured, left to right, are: Chris Holm, DNR Programs Director; Frank Villebrun, DNR Environmental Services Manager; Tony Mason, DNR Conservation Enforcement Officer; Cody Swanson, DNR Forest Program Manager-Interim; Dylan Day, DNR Forest Program Technician; Bill Isham, DNR Water Resources Technician and Nic Buchholz, DNR Lake Restoration Program Technician.

and energy in developing and implementing this project," said Holm, who is Bois Forte DNR Manager. "Thanks must be expressed to IRRRB for timely provision of funding; Northland Construction and Stantec Engineering staff for exceptional engineering construction skills and abilities."

Holm said Northland Construction and Stantec Engineering put forth much work on extensive pre-development and pre-construction site evaluations, soil tests, and hydrological evaluations.

"They readily worked out-

side contract scope on many occasions to address DNR questions, concerns, permitting issues, and so forth," said Holm, who also gave the nod to the Bois Forte Tribal Council for its attention to program details, multiple meetings, and site visits with engineers. "The tribal council also showed genuine interest and support for the project as a means toward continued well-being of Nett Lake."

Holm also expressed gratitude to Bois Forte's Accounting staff for their ability to manage many facets of program pro-

urement and accounting for this multi-agency, multi-fund source project.

And last but not least, Holm was highly grateful to his DNR staff for never wavering during this labor-extensive project. He said that all DNR staff persons stepped up in various ways, including participating in construction and engineering meetings; offering opinions and insight on future management as it is affected by design.

"They provided on-site hardware fabrication and fixes

See Nett Lake Dam page 5

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo:

First, I want to congratulate all the graduates from Head Start to post-secondary. Another year has come and gone, and to our graduating seniors, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Many great opportunities and adventures await you on your path, whatever that will be. Good Luck!

As most of you now know, our business venture with the Eveleth C Store is no more. However, what started as a great idea and experience, beginning with the land being sold to us to be-

ing leased after almost two years, was not acceptable to the band. Therefore, we have ended this project. However, I would like to give you more insight and information regarding the legislative outcomes of this session as the State of MN has an abundant surplus, and it is a budget year. Unfortunately, as I write this article, they have not yet ended their session. I will update you next month on the outcomes.

One definite outcome is the legalization of recreational marijuana in Minnesota. While the specifics relating

to this are forthcoming, this could be a business opportunity for Bois Forte. We will be asking for tribal members' approval/disapproval of this venture soon. This will be for our state property at the Y Store and the building in Ely, where our former radio station WELY was stationed. The council will discuss this more and bring it to you.

Now that summer is here, we hope you and your families have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Miiigwech!

Ode'imini Giizis Farmers Market

VENDORS WANTED

FOR OUR UPCOMING...

Farmers Market

Open June 22, 2023
 Market Location: Nett Lake
 Market Hours: 11 am - 1 pm
 Every other Thursday throughout the summer

We're looking for:

- Produce Vendors
- Food Vendors
- Specialty Food
- Arts & Crafts
- Clothing & Accessories

More information:
 Call or Text Amber Zapata at 218-248-0148

Happy Graduation

★ Congratulations to the ★
Class of 2023!

ATTENTION:
 If you would like to get a high school or college graduation announcement in the July issue of the Bois Forte News, please send it to: bkanderson@fortunebay.com before June 15th.

There is no cost for this service, thank you!

Getting ready to make another run!



HERE WE GO!— Big Woods transit driver Roxanne Goggleye gets ready to bring Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees back to Nett Lake. Having this bus service available is a big help to those who do not have reliable transportation. Great job Roxanne!

Little wins Ecolab Water Vision Award

*Reprinted with Permission from the Mesabi Tribune
By Staffwriter Jesse White*

B A B B I T T — M a k -
enzie Little doesn't know what got her interested in things like science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, but she has a pretty good idea.

"I'm not sure what got me into S.T.E.A.M. specifically. I'd like to think I'm pretty curious and creative, so I think S.T.E.A.M. kind of just came more naturally to be one of my interests," the 13-year-old 8th grader from Northeast East Range said by email a couple of weeks removed from winning a major award at the Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair (S.S.E.F.).

In late March, more than 300 middle and high school students from over 50 schools across Minnesota competed in the 86th annual event—held at the St. Paul RiverCentre and organized by the Minnesota Academy of Science (M.A.S.).

Little was one of them, and her project "What is the best way to desalinate water?" won the Middle School Ecolab Water Vision Award of \$700.

A judge commenting on her project said it was a "good job designing multiple different ways to desalinate water. You did a great job on your presentation and showing enthusiasm for your topic!"

"I was super excited," Little said. "I was at a friend's house, and I started squealing when I saw the Ecolab and how my name was announced."

According to information on the S.S.E.F. website, Ecolab is a global leader in water, hygiene, and infection preven-

tion solutions and services.

The Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair is a program of the Minnesota Academy of Science, and Seagate Technology remains the event's premier sponsor.

During the competition, dozens of companies and organizations gave awards valued at over \$15,000. Participating students advanced from regional science fairs throughout Minnesota to compete in the event.

Little said the process starts at Northeast Range with a science fair, and then "our science teacher (Ellen Pierce) asks who wants to try for regionals."

"I did the science fair last year because Mrs. Pierce also gives extra credit for doing it, so I decided, 'I'll do it again,'" Little said. "I think we started in October, and I was having a difficult time deciding what I would do. I talked to my mom about it, and she started telling me about a presentation she saw about desalination and the water crisis. Then my mom and I worked together to make it a project."

In the video of the project, Little uses humor and expressive storytelling to describe the process, stating near the start: "I want to do this project because what if I get stuck on a deserted island and there's no fresh water around? I would die," she says before falling on the floor in dramatic fashion and then jumping back to her feet.

"Let's not get off track," she then exclaims. "The cool thing about this project is it taught me about the water crisis, which is an added plus. Hey,

I have an excuse not to know. I'm 13 and from Minnesota—from the land of 10,000 lakes. It's not like we have a lack of fresh water here."

From there, she explains her experiment, what is needed—including a heat lamp, a rock, a styrofoam container, and some plastic wrap—and leads the viewer through the process.

Little said besides a little help from her parents—which included the use of a stove early on—she also got some tips and help from Pierce, who let her use the lab and gave her ideas to expand the project.

The video took her a couple of classroom hours to complete.

"I had to make a lot of clips as my friend was in the same room doing her project, which was kind of loud, so we took turns standing there awkwardly while the others did their thing," Little said.

Pierce said by email that she holds a local science fair for all 7th and 8th graders at N.E.R. in December and that students started researching their projects earlier in the fall.

She said any students that wish to move on to the Regional NE Minnesota Science Fair held in Duluth in February gather additional data and research during January.

"This year, we had nine students compete at the regional fair level. Several of them earned prizes and awards at the regional level, and all nine advanced to the state level of competition," Pierce said.

Emilia Swenson and Amelia Sandy received 2nd and 10th place overall for all middle school projects. While



GREAT JOB!— Makenzie Little, an 8th-grade student at Northeast Range, won the Middle School Ecolab Water Vision Award of \$700 during the Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair in March. She was one of more than 300 students to compete. Her project was entitled "What is the best way to desalinate water?" A video of her project is available at: mnmas.org/2023-ssef-awards. Submitted photo.

Rain Killic and Trevor Zaitz received awards from the Society of women engineers and the N.R.R.I., respectively.

Pierce said Little—who is a Bois Forte Band member—received a first-place award in her category and was recognized with an award from the American Indian Science and Engineering fair judges.

"She is an exuberant hard-working science student. Spending extra time before and after school and during lunch to gather data," Pierce said of the 8th grader. "When I suggest a different method or procedure, she willingly tries it and engineers a way to make it work."

Pierce added that while

she has had students win awards at the state level in the past, this was the "largest monetary award that a student has won."

"Unfortunately, this year's award ceremony was virtual, so I didn't get to see her excitement when winning, but we all cheered her on in a group text," Pierce said, adding that she is retiring this year but has offered to mentor students next year if the new science teacher doesn't want to run science fairs.

That's good news for Little, who is already looking ahead.

"I already have a small plan on what I'm doing next science fair," she said

District 1 Representative Shane Drift —



Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members! As I sit here writing this article looking out my office window, trying to figure out how I'm going to write this notation. A Facebook friend posted an article about a "Mayo High School freshman campaigns to get financial literacy into Minnesota's education standards." I read the article and it is an awesome idea. So, I shared it on my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" Facebook group page on March 29th, 2023.

Please keep in mind that this article is from the Post Bulletin Facebook page. The young man's name is Tej Bhagra. Tej conducted a survey, and his results prompted him to lobby the state Legislature to incorporate fi-

ancial literacy into the state education standards. According to the article, Tej enrolled in an online course, The Mathematics of Volatile Markets, to enhance his knowledge of stocks, pyramid schemes, complex formulas, and how the flow of money works within markets.

I serve as the chairman of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's Health & Human Services, Education subcommittee. I called Dr. Campbell, MCT Human Services Director and asked her to invite Melanie Franks, Minnesota Department of Education Tribal Liaison to the next MCT Health & Human Services, Education subcommittee meeting. I spoke with Melanie Franks prior to the meeting and shared the Post Bulletin article with her.

During the Health & Human Services, Education subcommittee meeting at Mille Lacs on April 27th, 2023, I talked about adding "retirement" to the financial standards. The need to get students thinking about retirement and teach them about setting up a retirement account. How comfortably one wants his or her retirement to be depends on how they set up their retirement account. Does one want to be able to live comfortably as they do now? Some people have lived beyond their retirement account, and that's scary. Some people have had to return

to work. I stated that some parents share their financial knowledge with their kids, but what about the other kids that don't get that, don't have that?

As I whittle my article down, I would like to share a book title with you, a book that I have read, and I am reading again. The book is titled, "Money Master The Game" by Tony Robbins.

This is an awesome book.

If you have any suggestions or information that you would like to share with me please send me an email at sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov If you would like to join my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page on Facebook please do so. So, until next time take care and talk with you later. Mii'iw miigwech!



I would like to wish all the Fathers, Grand-fathers, Great-grandfathers, Stepfathers, Foster-fathers, and Uncles a Happy Father's Day! I would also like to say a special thank you for everything that you do. Thank you for all the sacrifices that you made especially the sacrifices that you don't talk about. Once again,

Happy Father's Day!

Shane Drift
District I Representative

LAKE VERMILION TRADITIONAL POW WOW JUNE 23, 24 & 25

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

HEADS OR TAILS CONTEST - ALL WEEKEND LONG

CAMPING AVAILABLE

Contact: Muriel [218-750-7772](tel:218-750-7772) or murieldeegan@yahoo.com
Tracey [218-780-1478](tel:218-780-1478)

LVTPW RAFFLE!

The Lake Vermilion Tradition Powwow is pleased to announce it is running some great raffles and a silent auction at its upcoming Powwow, June 23rd through the 25th.

These raffles include:

- **Button Raffle** - Big Bucks previous winners won \$750!
- **50-50 each session** - Win some spending cash!
- **Pick Own Your**- \$1/ticket and you put in the prize bucket you want to win!
- **Silent Auction** for Round of Wilderness Golf for four plus two, one night stays in a premium room at Fortune Bay Resort, plus two, \$50 Sunset Steakhouse gift certificates!

For more information, call Tracey Dagen at 218-780-1478.

Nett Lake Dam continued from page 1
on-the-fly, providing site spot-checks, mitigations, and contracted heavy equipment security on nights, weekends, and holidays,” said Holm of his staff. “They also helped with planning, procuring, and transporting supplies and equipment necessary for eventual management work and other tasks.”

To say the new Nett Lake Dam project was a lengthy process would be an understatement. After all, Holm said the DNR started looking at a dam rebuild in 2019 since repair issues dated back to the mid-2000s.

“We knew there were growing structural problems, but in 2020 and 2021, we started to see real structural problems developing as a result of aging infrastructure,” said Holm, who added that ice and water flow damage dates to the river dredging and channelization that was done in or around 1987, at approximately the same time as the dam was built.

Holm explained that channelized high-velocity river flow in Nett doesn’t stop in winter; as it passes through and between dam gates, however, it freezes on metal surfaces, infiltrates cracks in concrete, expands, adds more water, repeats the freeze cycle, and then acts as a wedge to bend and break mechanical parts, hardware, and concrete.

“The channelization idea we believe originally proposed to increase drainage rate from the basin and lower water levels faster for rice germination was sound thinking, but the intended effect is largely canceled by the solid concrete wall foundation of the dam,” said Holm. “So, design changes were necessary.”

Thus began the arduous process of finding the best solution to replace the aging dam. Holm said that Bois Forte appropriated funding to hire an engineering company with dam and hydrology specialization to perform a feasibility study and identify what construction options were for the dam. Once all the legwork was done, Holm said Bois Forte was left with three options.

1. Do nothing and continue to make repairs on the existing dam on the fly as necessary;

2. Repair the existing dam to original specs, which would basically amount to a complete rebuild;

3. Or replace the existing dam with a structure that better-facilitated flow and was not subject to ice damage, costly repairs, or a barrier to fish and wildlife movement from lower Nett River toward or from Nett Lake.

After some discussion, options 1 and 2 went by the wayside as Holm said making repairs would be akin to “putting lipstick on a pig” as it would just be a temporary improvement and run the risk of facing more significant and imminent structural failures. Meanwhile, Holm said the costs to rebuild the dam would be enormous, and the same hydrology and ecology problems would still exist.

So once option three was agreed upon, plans were in the works to get rid of the concrete dam, which Holm said was a “top sliding weir gate” style dam, and plans were drawn up to go with what’s known as a “stop log” dam.

“This design was what Bois Forte used previous to the concrete wall dam,” said Holm of the stop log dam. “It allows water to draw from the entire water column. The water level is managed by placing or removing four square “stop logs” from the H-Pile frame that spans across the river.”

He added that removing all logs creates free discharge of the entire water column, and the water level can be reduced rapidly.

“This imparts a potentially substantial advantage to mitigate against flood conditions such as what occurred in 2021 and 2022,” said Holm.

Holm said costs to reconstruct a new design dam with simplified operation, fewer mechanical parts requiring repair, the ability to remove discharge water from Nett Lake without retaining wall hindrance and reconnecting the fragmented lower Nett River with the upper reach to Nett Lake for fish passage were not inconsequential. However, its cost was less than reconstructing a concrete wall dam with ecological drawbacks or costs Bois Forte would likewise incur over time making repairs to the existing structure.

The new dam was constructed over this past winter. Holm said relatively mild winter conditions (i.e., minimal frost) allowed most work to be completed during this time, and the dam is



SIMPLISTIC BUT EFFECTIVE!— Here is the new Nett Lake dam, which is known as a stop log dam. “This design was what Bois Forte used previous to the concrete wall dam,” said Bois Forte DNR Manager Chris Holm of the stop log dam. “It allows water to draw from the entire water column. The water level is managed by placing or removing four square ‘stop logs’ from the H-Pile frame that spans across the river.”

now operational. Some remaining landscape work, road repair, shoreline restoration, concrete aprons, and emergency spillway installations are currently being completed.

“The construction work is being accomplished ahead of originally anticipated schedule and within budget,” said Holm.

According to Holm, the project was conducted as a “design-build” project, meaning that design engineers, construction company managers, and Bois Forte staff routinely met as a group during project development and construction to discuss design, work out construction or engineering issues encountered, and generally cross-check activities to make sure no significant errors were occurring during field construction.

“This was a good experience for Bois Forte staff, as they had significant and well-heard input into design considerations for the structure that they will be managing,” said Holm.

Holm said once the remaining details are completed, his staff and others will revisit the channelized river and consider the reintroduction of the original meanders to approximate the original river course.

“Channelization, as mentioned, was performed to speed water discharge from Nett Lake, but the effect was largely negated by the concrete dam wall design, and other non-wanted effects such as basin filling were occurring,” explained Holm. “Since the concrete dam is gone, and free discharge through the new dam can be achieved, channelized flow is no longer considered essential.”

Holm said that reintroduced meanders in lower Nett River in 2014 are now being utilized by wildlife, encouraging waterfowl nesting and providing protective refugia areas.

He added that the DNR is thus planning feasibility and cost analysis evaluations to determine the possibility of reintroducing 6-10 additional meanders above and below the dam as a first-phase resource restoration plan to expand wildlife habitat and refugia areas and reduce channelized high-volume flow and associated water quality issues that high-volume flow may cause.

“So, while the dam is now up and running, we still have some work to do,” said Holm. “But it is work our staff is ready to do so that we can do our part in protecting our natural resources.”

Tribal Council nixes Eveleth C-Store plan

EVELETH—Due to some last-minute changes by the City of Eveleth, the Bois Forte Tribal Council decided it was in their best interests to walk away from a proposed Eveleth Convenience store.

“There were a lot of changes at the 11th hour that didn’t align with the project being feasible for the tribe to move

forward with,” said Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO Mayan Beltran. “Based on those facts, I am content with the decision that had to be made by our tribal council.”

With assistance from its Attorney, Jeff Holth, the council drafted a letter on May 9 informing Eveleth’s City Council that they would no longer be

pursuing the development of the C-Store, which would have been located off Highway 37 as you head toward Gilbert.

“I am glad that the tribe is not moving forward with the Eveleth gas station,” said District II Representative Shane Drift. “In my humble opinion, the gas station would have been another financial burden

on our casino and a financial burden with ripple effects. As the tribe moves forward and considers other business ventures, I cannot stress this enough a business venture must provide jobs for our band members and revenue for the tribe.”

Roughly \$140,000 was invested in the project, which was approved via a survey sent to Bois Forte Band Members in March 2022. The original price tag for the project was roughly \$4 million, but that number grew to over \$9 million thanks in part to inflation and other factors.

“The cost of building the station had gone through the roof,” said Beltran of the project, which included a gas station, plug-ins for hybrid or electric vehicles, and a car wash. “That was a concern of mine, and the changes made by the City of Eveleth really put the nail in the coffin.”

When pitched to band members, the selling points were Bois Forte band member employment opportunities and a chance to expand its portfolio and increase revenue invested in band member services and programs. There were also guaranteed sales from a new Rock Ridge School contract.

Even so, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers said the modifications made to the original agreement were a deal breaker and a risk that was not worth taking.

“We wanted this project to succeed, but with the changes made, that would not have been realistic,” said Chavers, who added the tribe’s inability to have tribal land in Eveleth also played a part in nixing the deal. “It’s frustrating because a

lot of time and resources were put into this business opportunity. However, we have to protect the interests of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and that is what we did when we opted out of this project.”

Drift concurred.

“I have said this before, and I will say it again, Bois Forte can be just as successful as the other tribes,” said Drift. “I will continue to look out for the best interest of our band members, employees, tribal businesses, tribal government, and our future.”

When looking forward to new business ventures, Drift cautioned that the tribe needs to have a contingency plan in place in case the business venture cannot make it on its own.

“The tribe cannot fall back on Fortune Bay Resort Casino to keep a new business venture afloat,” said Drift. “To rely on Fortune Bay Resort Casino in this manner is not smart business.”

With this business opportunity being shelved, the tribal council and CEO Mayan Beltran will continue to look toward the future. That could include a potential business at the former WELY building in Ely or perhaps looking at adding a grow operation and dispensary close to Fortune Bay’s property. The latter just surfaced when Minnesota recently became the 22nd state to legalize recreational marijuana.

“The casino is close by, plus our other outlets, so that would be a great location,” said Beltran. “Regardless of what we pursue next, we’ll do a feasibility study to ensure the project we undertake will be a success story for the band.”

It was a great day to be outside!



GOOD TIMES!— Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees spent a recent morning cleaning up a portion of County Road 77 as part of its Adopt a Highway commitment. Pictured left to right are: Andrew Little, Mayan Beltran, Elizabeth Deegan, Hannah Lehti, and Alanna Sherman; kneeling is Brad Anderson. “We had a great time, and we ended up having lunch at The Wilderness Grill, which was phenomenal,” said Director of Public Relations Brian K. Anderson. “It was a great team-building exercise, and it feels nice to help St. Louis County with these types of activities. Hats off to all the other companies and organizations who are doing the same for their community!”

Soft opening planned for Fortune Bay's Smokeshop

After several months of fine-tuning and getting products in, the Smoke Shop at Fortune Bay Resort Casino will have its soft opening Friday, June 2nd.

The temporary hours of operation will be from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Those hours will be ramped up once more employees can be trained to work in the outlet.

"We hope to gradually increase it to Thursday through Sunday and when we hire more employees, we'd be looking at being open seven days a week," said Director of Hospitality Rebecca Stahl, who will oversee the retail shop that will be managed by Melissa Abts.

The Smoke Shop will carry various edibles designed to provide a better quality of life for those suffering from arthritis pain, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, and other day-to-day health problems one might experience.

While some edibles are in gummy form (and other chewables), other options can be consumed via baked goods (cookies, brownies, etc.) or in liquid form. These can include topical oils you put on your body or in a liquid form you can drink. Plans are also in the works to use infused food products in some of the Sunset Steakhouse's menu.

"As I mentioned when we first pursued this business opportunity, edibles, especially those tied into health and wellness, are really exploding now," said Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO and

Fortune Bay General Manager Mayan Beltran. "It made sense for us to capitalize on that wave to help increase revenues for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa."

Aside from edibles, the plan is to sell vape products. Tobacco products will also be sold, including cigarettes as well as paraphernalia that can be used for recreational marijuana use. Minnesota recently became the 22nd state to legalize recreational marijuana.

The smoke shop is located on the main level of the casino on the west wall bank.

With the news of Minnesota legalizing recreational marijuana, the Bois Forte Tribal Council will get input from band members to see if they want to approve a grow operation and a dispensary near Fortune Bay.

"We're trying to expand our business portfolio," offered Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers at a recent Bois Forte Development Corporation meeting. "We will send a survey this summer to see if band members would back this project."

Legalized marijuana in Minnesota goes into effect on August 1, 2023.

Meanwhile, plans for a grand opening at the smoke shop are expected to occur in July.

"We're excited about this latest retail outlet that we have opened," said Beltran. "It has been a long process, but we did not want to rush that process to ensure we were ready to go on day one."



HELPING OUT!—Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO and Fortune Bay Resort Casino GM Mayan Beltran checks out a box of cigars in the new Smoke Shop that opens Friday, June 2nd.



NICE SELECTION!—The new Smoke Shop at Fortune Bay Resort Casino has a wide selection of products including edibles, tobacco, paraphernalia, and beverages. The soft opening is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd.

Obituary

HARVEY JONES THOMPSON, 77, of Nett Lake passed away on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at his home with his wife by his side.

Harvey was born in Nett Lake MN to William Woodenfrog and Evelyn Thompson. He attended elementary school in Nett Lake and high school in Orr. He furthered his education by attending UMD. Harvey worked as a chemical dependency counselor and was director of Bois Fort Chemical Dependency Program. He then went on to be an Anishinaabe Language and Culture Teacher for FDL Head Start Programs, FDL Ojibwe School and Cloquet Public Schools. Harvey came back home to teach at the Nett Lake School, where he worked until retiring in 2021. Harvey was proud of his cultural heritage and his ability to teach that to others; he was a 3rd degree Midewiwin.

Harvey enjoyed his tea "piping hot". He liked to cook Dry Mac for his kids. He enjoyed pow wows, watching Minnesota Vikings football games on TV, and listening to old time country music, Elvis, Johnny Cash, and in the last few years, bluegrass. He loved his children, grandchildren, and his wife, Rachel, very much. He cherished his friendships and extended family. Harvey embodied the Serenity Prayer,

even though he didn't say it himself: He had the serenity to accept the things he could not change; the courage to change the things he could, and, usually, the wisdom to know the difference. When he didn't have that wisdom, he looked for it in prayer, by consulting others, and listening. His spirituality and his observance of Anishinaabe culture was the cornerstone of his continuous sobriety since 1985. He will be greatly missed but remembered with gratitude and love for a very long time.

Harvey was preceded in death by his parents; daughter Denise Thompson; brothers Leonard Thompson and John Thompson; grandsons: Syllis and Lucius.

Harvey is survived by his wife Rachel Thompson; children: Debra Thompson, Kristina Defoe, Patrick Defoe Jr. Karla Bluebird, and Antonio Roy; grandchildren: Bryson, Patrick, Justice, Eliza, Patrick III, Kaylin, Apaulo, Daksyn, Nickole, Karmin, Ziigwan, and Anthony; great-granddaughters: Kyomi and Zela; and aunt Jennie Woodenfrog.

A Traditional Wake was held on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at the Bois Forte Government and Service Center. The Traditional Service was held Monday, May 22, 2023, also at the center.

PER CAPITA CHECKS MAY SOON DOUBLE!

Attention: Bois Forte Band members:

As you may know, the 2023 Legislative Session wrapped up late Monday, May 22.

While much work was accomplished, we are pleased to announce that legislative funding was secured that is expected to double the 1854 Treaty payment. While not a guarantee yet, this could mean band members will see their per capita checks double in the next few years.

Our lobbyist, Reid LeBeau, also reported that the state approved funds for various tribally directed programs. He reported that they are working through the bills and will provide a list to the tribal council in the coming weeks. These funds are not specific to individuals, but they will support many of our programs and new programs coming online soon.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison,
Shane Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

DID YOU KNOW?

**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROGRAM
IS OPENING A NEW EMERGENCY
SHELTER HERE IN NETT LAKE!**

**WE ARE ASKING THE
COMMUNITY FOR HELP NAMING
OUR NEW SHELTER!**

13071 Nett Lake Rd, Suite B

Nett Lake, MN 55772

218-757-0233 Office

218-404-9173 Cell

Kristen.holmes@boisforte-nsn.gov

**Please submit your name ideas
via Call, Text, E-mail, Walk-in
your ideas for naming our shelter.**

Winner will receive a prize!!!

Please submit ideas by:

July 10, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU, A CHILD IN YOUR CARE, OR ANOTHER LOVED ONE WERE HARMED BY ENDO OR A RELATED COMPANY, INCLUDING PAR OR AMS, OR THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING OPIOIDS, RANITIDINE, OR TRANSVAGINAL MESH, YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED BY DEADLINES IN THE ENDO BANKRUPTCY.

The deadline to file a claim in the bankruptcy is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

The deadline to object to Endo's sale is July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time).

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On August 16, 2022, Endo International plc and certain of its affiliates filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Certain Endo affiliates manufactured and/or sold, among other things, branded opioid medications (including but not limited to OPANA® (oxymorphone hydrochloride), OPANA® ER (oxymorphone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET® (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets)), generic opioid medications, generic ranitidine medications, and transvaginal mesh. **This notice is intended to inform you of your rights in this bankruptcy regarding the bar date and proof of claim process and Endo's proposed sale of substantially all of its assets.**

WHAT IS A CLAIM?

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. If you, a child in your care, or another loved one were harmed by Endo or a related company, including Par or American Medical Systems (AMS), or their products, including opioids, ranitidine, or transvaginal mesh, you may have a claim against one or more of these entities. To make a claim, you will need to submit a proof of claim in the bankruptcy case. You may file a claim on behalf of yourself, a child in your care (including a child exposed to opioids in the womb), or a deceased or disabled relative. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Endo bankruptcy include but are not limited to:

- > **Opioid Claims:** Claims for death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of consortium, or neonatal abstinence syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others.
- > **Ranitidine claims:** Claims for cancer, including bladder, esophageal, pancreatic, stomach, and liver cancer, among others.
- > **Transvaginal mesh claims:** Claims for pelvic pain, infection, bleeding, among others.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BAR DATE AND PROOF OF CLAIM PROCESS?

The deadline to submit your proof of claim is called a bar date. The bar date, or the deadline to submit your proof of claim, is July 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time). If you do not submit a proof of claim by the deadline, you will lose any rights you may have had to seek payment or compensation. You must file a proof of claim form so that it is actually received by the bar date. A proof of claim form can be filed by you, a legal guardian, survivors, or relatives of people who have died or are disabled. You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

For a more complete list of relevant companies and products manufactured and/or sold by Endo and its related companies, including full prescribing information and BOXED WARNINGS for OPANA® (oxymorphone hydrochloride), OPANA® ER (oxymorphone hydrochloride extended release), and PERCOCET® (oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets), and for more complete details about the bar date and instructions on how to file a confidential personal injury claim, visit EndoClaims.com or call **877.542.1878 (Toll-Free)** or **929.284.1688 (International)**.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SALE?

Endo intends to sell substantially all of its assets in an auction and sale process in the bankruptcy case and subject to approval by the bankruptcy court. **Endo is seeking relief that the sale will be free and clear of all claims, liens, and encumbrances.**

If you disagree with the proposed sale, you must object to the sale in writing, so that your objection is received on or before **July 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time)**. **Any party in interest who fails to properly file and serve its objection by the objection deadline may lose its claim against Endo's assets if the sale is approved.** Objections not filed and served properly may not be considered by the bankruptcy court.

Complete details about the proposed sale, including any auction for Endo's assets, the date of the hearing to consider the sale, and instructions on how to file an objection, are available at EndoClaims.com or by calling **877.542.1878 (Toll-Free)** or **929.284.1688 (International)**.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CALL: 877.542.1878 (Toll-Free)
929.284.1688 (International)

VISIT: EndoClaims.com

EMAIL: EndoInquiries@ra.kroll.com

WRITE: Endo International plc Claims Processing Center
c/o Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC
Grand Central Station, PO Box 4850
New York, NY 10163-4850

Let's not forget the true meaning of Memorial Day!

Memorial Day may be the official start to summer, but at cemeteries across the nation one only needs to look at headstones of those who have passed on to understand the real reason we pause to pay our respects.

That same scene is played out at the new Nett Lake Cemetery, which is located just a mile or two away from the village. It is here where you will find head-

stones of fallen war heroes with last names such as Villebrun, Holmes, Strong, Isham, Connor, Boness and Chosa.

This page is dedicated to all of our fallen heroes. May you continue to Rest in Peace and know just how much we appreciate your sacrifices you gave so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today.



News for Bois Forte Elders

By Millie Holmes

June. Powwow season.

Summer fun. Swimming and other activities of summer. What do activities such as these mean to us? The Elders of Bois Forte? Well, good news, of course. Here at the Elder Nutrition Program, we are planning on having one monthly outdoor cookout beginning, of course, with Memorial Day, which is already passed since this is June, and ending with Labor Day.

I can't report on attendance, whether it rained or if we had to eat

indoors. And I probably won't be able to report on those for the rest of the summer. Or I could give an update in the next month's Bois Forte News.

We are still tweaking the recipe menu, trying to get delicious food everyone can enjoy. And yeah, as those that eat at the Center can tell ya. I do, upon occasion, take it upon myself to give the Cook a day off. We're not that harsh.

T'any rate; we have taken their suggestions to heart and won't be doing shrimp or clam anymore. One, not

many people will even eat it, and thus, the dish is mostly wasted. Two, we will be adding more traditional foods to the menu. Taking our cue from the Sioux Chef and his protege, Yazzie the Chef, we will try to make our recipes look and taste delicious.

If anyone has some delicious tra-

ditional recipes, please send them to me at the Elder Nutrition Program. We will put them together in a book, and proceeds will benefit the Elder Activity Committee when it is re-established. The book itself will likely become the mainstay in our kitchen.

Hoping so, anyways.



Minute with Millie

Is that rain on the roof? I got up and went to check. I'd been listening to a Soundscape during my morning meditations of rain falling on leaves. I sometimes leave it playing whilst I do other things. This morning I was watching Hercule Poirot so...no soundscape. Got closer to the kitchen. A slight tinge of disappointment. "Oh, it's just the refrigerator." Then I got closer and yes! It was a bit dark for sunrise. I went to the door, rats. Had to unlock it. Looked at the porch. Right by the door, it was dry. Drats. My gaze slid further to the edge and it had a few drops of rain splashing. First morning I'd ever been greeted with the first gentle drops of rain.

I'd always before been woken by the Thunder Spirits, or to the louder sound of rain falling on the wet shingles of the roof.

Yep. I'd fallen asleep last night thinking about the fires in Canada. Thought about the air quality here. Feeling a slight sense of dread. I'd considered asking for a gentle rain. Debated it in fact. Wondered if I should even be thinking about it.

I thought about the different aspects of fire, water, air and finally earth itself. And yeah, each, in their



way, cleanse, destroy, build and protect us. I thought about the closing of the gas production that companies chose when the temperatures raised too high. For even a short while, that helped Mother Earth. It helped us. It helped the trees. The cycle of life.

I thought there must have been enough of us thinking about the possibility of rain. Yeah, upon occasion, I ponder the more serious aspects of life. And I like listening to the sound of rain falling gently upon the earth. And my roof.

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's (ENP) menu for the month of June. Services offered include nutritious meals served daily, Monday through Friday at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Community Centers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with home-delivered meals available to Elders who are unable to get to the ENP sites.



For more information, call 218-757-3790.

June 5: Teriyaki Grilled Chicken, Brown Rice, Oriental Vegetables, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit (Philly Cheesesteak)

June 6: Roast Turkey Slice, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, French Cut Green Beans, Pumpkin Pie

June 7: Rigatoni Hot Dish, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit, (Cabbage Roll Hot Dish)

June 8: Grilled Chicken Breast, Spanish Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 9: BBQ Pork Ribette, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 12: Baked Pork Chop, Rosemary Baby Red Potato, Cauliflower, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 13: Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast

June 14: Stir Fry Chicken, Stir Fry Vegetables, Brown Rice

June 15: Cabbage Beef Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 16: Bison Stew, Multigrain Bun, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 20: White Chicken Chili (Beef), Cornbread, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 21: Roast Pork, Baby Bakers' Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 22: (Beef) Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 23: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 26: Sausage Jambalaya, Garlic Cheese Biscuit, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 27: BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 28: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

June 29: Country Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

June 30: Holiday Cookout Menu: Hamburgers, Brats, Beans, Potato Salad, Fruit Veggie Tray

Tribes join forces to sign MOU with Superior National Forest

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Chairperson Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr. of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Chairman Robert Deschampe of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (the “Bands”) and the USDA Forest Service Regional Forester Gina Owens and Superior National Forest Supervisor Tom Hall, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide for co-stewardship and protection of the Bands treaty-reserved rights under the 1854 Treaty within the Superior National Forest. The agreement is the first of its kind between the Bands and the Superior National Forest.

“It’s historic with three Bands within the 1854 Treaty area coming together as one,” said Chavers. “We, as Tribal Leaders, are charged with caring

for our natural resources. This includes our elders and youth. We also must think of the next seven generations by building partnerships and strengthening relationships to work together to achieve that common goal. Chi Miigwech— we are very thankful to everyone involved in finalizing the MOU.”

On September 30, 1854, the Bands entered into a treaty with the United States whereby they ceded to the United States ownership of their lands in northeastern Minnesota. Under the Treaty, the Bands retained their inherent rights to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1854 Ceded Territory. This Ceded Territory encompasses approximately 6.2 million acres of land in what is now considered present-day northeastern Minnesota, including 3.3 million acres in what is now called the Superior National Forest. The

1854 Treaty is an express recognition of the government-to-government relationship between the Bands and the United States.

The MOU recognizes the Bands as original stewards of lands now encompassing the Superior National Forest and outlines procedures to ensure that Tribal input is meaningfully incorporated into Forest Service decision-making. This includes robust processes for meaningful and early tribal consultation on Forest Service decisions that may impact the Bands’ treaty-reserved rights. It also includes provisions for designation and protection of culturally sensitive areas within the Forest, coordination on forest management objectives, and tribal-Forest Service training. Through the MOU, the Bands and the Forest Service also commit to jointly pursuing funding opportunities to support

co-stewardship within the Superior National Forest. Through this agreement the Bands will assist the Forest Service using deep place based Tribal traditional ecological knowledge to support shared goals of protecting and enhancing the land and water for future generations.

The MOU is also intended to fulfill the objectives in the Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters issued in November of 2021 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That Order commits to using agreements as a tool to foster cooperation on protection of treaty and subsistence rights and taking action to ensure that tribes play an integral role in decision making related to the management of Federal lands

and waters through consultation, capacity building, and other means.

“The U.S. Forest Service has a trust responsibility to our current generation, our children and those not yet born who will recognize their inherent usufructuary rights guaranteed by treaty. The signing today is a commitment, a call to action for the U.S. Forest Service, that when we sign this piece of paper with words on it, that it is not just going to stay a piece of paper with words, that we are going to live out that commitment to each other. We are leading alongside one another to enhance and protect our treaty reserved resources within the 1854 ceded territory and the Superior National Forest,” said April McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.



TIME FOR A SPRING CLEANING!— Bois Forte Water/Waste Water Technician George Mihelich was out and about performing annual maintenance on fire hydrants across the Fortune Bay Resort Casino property, including the resort and RV Park, before making his way across the reservation to do the same on hydrants located throughout the Lake Vermilion Sector. He said it’s not just about making sure the hydrants are all operational but added that it’s done to clear sediments out of the pipes. Great job as always George!

Environmental Services will be conducting its annual clean-up!

If you plan on doing spring cleaning to get rid of old appliances, mattresses, metals, and other refuse, the timing will be perfect as the Bois Forte Environmental Services will be beginning its annual clean-up.

“We are doing it after powwow weekend up here in Nett Lake,” said Environmental Programs Manager Frank Villebrun, who has been working to secure a bid from area companies to complete the clean-up of the June 2nd to 4th powwow. “We are asking people in Nett Lake to NOT put stuff out until after June 5th.”

At that point, Villebrun said, residents will have a minimum of two weeks to pile up their materials. Here is a time estimate on when all areas of both Nett Lake and the Vermilion Sector will be picked up:

- Nett Lake Village—June 5th through July 7th
- Highway 65 and Palmquist—July 10th through July 14th
- Sugar Bush and Indian Point—July

17th to July 21st

- Vermilion Sector— July 24th through August 7th

“These are just estimates at this time, but we want to make sure residents have their items out by the dates we are putting out there,” said Villebrun.

After the collection dates listed above, collection areas will be photographed and documented as finished, so please do not put additional items out, or they will not be picked up.

Items that can be placed out include wood, tires (with or without rims), metal (all types), appliances, and mattresses. These items must be placed in separate piles, and garbage must NOT be placed outside the green Bois Forte garbage can that Environmental Services picks up weekly.

For more information, please get in touch with Villebrun at 218-757-3261, Ext. 307, or you can email him at fvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov