



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 8

PER CAPITA PAYMENT

The Bois Forte Tribal Council is pleased to announce that the 2024 Per Capita payment will be distributed Friday, August 9th. This year's amount will be \$1,280.

OFFICES CLOSED!

As a reminder, the Bois Forte Tribal Government offices will be closed on the August 9th for the annual Employee Picnic—thanks to the staff for all of your hard work!

Cannabis dispensaries could open later this year

While there are still some legal hurdles to climb, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa could be getting into the cannabis business by the time fall rolls around.

To help expedite that process, a meeting has been called with the Bois Forte Tribal Council and its leadership team on Monday, August 5th in Nett Lake. The meeting is not open to the public, but band members will be given updates as soon as a game plan is formulated.

The news comes at a time when many band members have expressed their concerns that the process has moved too slowly.

District I Representative Shane Drift echoed those concerns at a Bois Forte Development Corporation (BFDC) meeting on July 25th at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

“We need to get a plan in place and vote on it,” said Drift. “We gotta get going on this. We are way behind—way behind... No more waiting around—we gotta get it done.”

According to Bois Forte’s Tribal Attorney Jeff Holth, earlier this year, the Bois Forte RTC adopted a comprehensive cannabis regulatory law that established the framework for regulating cannabis operations owned by the Band.

“The law establishes a Cannabis Regulatory Commission and covers topics such as licensing, rules for operation, inspections, enforcement, etc...,” said Holth. “A key purpose of the regulatory act is to ensure that

Band owned cannabis operations are conducted safely and transparently for the benefit of customers and employees.”

Holth added that before any Band owned cannabis business can go live on the Reservation, the business needs to be licensed by the Bois Forte Cannabis Regulatory Commission. He said it requires the business to submit a licensing application that includes business information and safety standards among other things.

“Once licensed, the business must comply with all li-

censing standards and safety regulations at all times,” said Holth, who added that business employees must also pass a background check before beginning employment. “The Cannabis Regulatory Commission has ongoing oversight authority to ensure that Band owned cannabis enterprises are conducting business in compliance with all laws and regulations.”

BFDC CEO Drew Ebert said there has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work going on but cautioned that getting all the pieces together to open a mari-

juana dispensary can be a slow process.

He has been working with officials from Minnesota Roots to get their expertise and guidance as Bois Forte prepares to enter what it hopes to be a lucrative business venture.

“Minnesota Roots has been critical in helping us establish policy and operations, introductions to vendors for all of our needs, they assist in negotiations for all things related to the dispensary, grow, and

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Groundbreaking ceremony held



GOOD JOB— District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr. shows his appreciation to Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams after giving remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Vermilion Public Works and Food Shelf Facility. Pictured to the left is Lance Kingbird, who is part of Bois Forte’s Drum group. See story and other pictures on page 4.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo everyone!

It appears time flies by faster than ever now, as we are already into the month of August! Soon, many of us will be busy with back-to-school shopping, racing, and more.

Even though northern

Minnesota has received a lot of rain and water levels are up on most lakes, rivers, etc., the rice is coming up well in Nett Lake. I hope we have an excellent racing season this year, and I look forward to getting on the lake!

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) held meetings at Bois Forte on July 8th, and all the new chairpeople were sworn in. There were also officers that needed to be voted on for the MCT. As most of you know, I have been President of the MCT for the past four years and have decided to step back from this role. So, Mike LaRoque, Secretary-Treasurer from White Earth, is the new Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

President. Congratulations to Mike—I am sure he'll do a great job!

The other MCT committees have new members as well. For Bois Forte, Robert Moyer is now on the Health and Human Services Subcommittee; Shane Drift is on Minnesota Housing Finance; Perry Drift is on Natural Resources; and Tara Geshick is on the Legislative Committee.

I am happy to report that since 2020, Bois Forte has received over \$100 million in various grants. When I started as Chairwoman in 2016, along with my other council members, we stressed the importance of grant writing and not depending on Fortune Bay revenue

all the time. We have great staff and grant writers, and I want to commend them all on their efforts!

As we all know, communication is an issue not only for Bois Forte but everywhere. Our Senior Management, the CEO of Bois Forte Development Corporation, and the GM of Fortune Bay had our first meeting to address the communications issues. We all talk about how bad the communication is, but we have not yet met to come up with a solution to this ongoing problem. We will be meeting again in August to keep pursuing our solutions. We will be launching our new website soon as well!

Our 1854 per capita will be \$1,280.00 this year. Bois Forte will diligently work with the Governor and his staff during this next legislative session as it is a budget year. To continue to get an increase in the 1854 payment for next year, we need to renegotiate a new amount, hopefully, higher than the \$1.5 million increase we received last year and this year.

It was approved legislatively, but it must be added to the DNR budget. Bois Forte and Grand Portage will collaborate on this.

Be safe, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Miigwech

Bois Forte Purchased/Referred Care Re-Enrollment

WARNING
DUE DATES ARE CLOSER
THAN THEY APPEAR

**Open Enrollment is
August 12th through September 30th**

Applications will be sent in the mail shortly. In order to get your card before the new fiscal year starting October 1st, please have your application turned in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristal Strong.

Nett Lake Clinic

5219 St. John Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772
(218)757-3650

patientbenefits@boisforte-nsn.gov

Vermilion Clinic

1613 Farm Road South
Tower, MN 55790
(218)753-2182

Kristal.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov

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product,” said Ebert.

Some initial concepts have Bois Forte exploring two sites for a dispensary. The one that may have the most potential is Ebert’s plan to utilize green space near Fortune Bay’s RV Park. The area is a former service road just to the north of the RV Park. Depending on what direction the Tribal Council takes at the August 5th meeting, Ebert plans to meet with contractors to figure out prep work, electrical needs, etc.

“We are securing plans and contract to order a dispensary trailer that is roughly 35’x60’,” said Ebert, who added that it is too early to give estimates on the construction costs of this trailer.

Ebert said he believes that there will probably be a need for three to four employees, plus a manager at the Fortune Bay site.

The other location and perhaps just the jumpstart it needs, is the Nett Lake C Store. The idea, of course, is to draw traffic to the convenience store, which given its remote location, has always struggled to turn a profit.

If the C Store location is selected, the plan would be to repurpose the laundromat into a small retail store where customers can buy an assortment of products.

Ebert said those products would be similar to the ones sold at Fortune Bay’s location including real cannabis flower, pre-

rolls, gummies, drinks, legal mushroom options, and more.

Like the Fortune Bay site, Ebert believes there will be a need to have three to four employees, and the manager at the Fortune Bay site would also serve as the manager for this proposed site.

The million-dollar question is when will Bois Forte officially open its doors to the dispensaries?

“Currently, it would appear to be around the end of September, but we are hopeful that it will happen sooner,” said Ebert. “We plan to have the Nett Lake site operating around the same time frame, but it could be sooner.”

While Ebert’s game plan for Fortune Bay and Nett Lake will bring in revenue for Bois Forte, the big payout would be once a grow operation is opened. That would require a much larger investment by Bois Forte, but the Return On Investment could make a huge impact down the line. And like the work done thus far, Ebert said Minnesota Roots will be there to provide its expertise.

“We have an ongoing contract with them, and we will continue working with them until that venture is off and running,” said Ebert. “Right now our focus is the dispensary and we’ll be discussing all of our options at the meeting on August 5th.”

Drift's perseverance pays off as his Sad Evil book gets published

Editor's note: Bois Forte District I Representative Shane Drift recently answered questions about his first ever published book, which is called Sad Evil. We hope you enjoy this question and answer feature and wish Shane nothing but the best with his book!

Please give a background about yourself, include your education, hobbies and family.

Howah, boozho, Bois Forte Band Members! First off, I would like to say "Thank you!" to Brian Anderson for giving me this opportunity to talk about my Sad Evil book. Brian sent me various questions regarding my book. So, I will answer the questions in the order that they were written.

My name is Shane, I currently serve on the tribal council as the District I Representative. I was recently voted in as the vice-chairman at the last tribal council meeting. I have been alcohol and drug-free for over 31 years and counting. I dropped out of high school, I was drinking, doing drugs, and partying too much. I should have graduated in 1990. My grandma Jessie strongly encouraged me to go back to high school to get my high school diploma. I graduated from Orr High School in 1992. I graduated with honors from Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in 2005. My area of focus was economics and business management. As for hobbies, I absolutely love writing and reading. I have two wonderful children, JessieAnne and Sean. I love both my children more than anything. I started dating Christina Premo back in 2018. We had plans to get married. We lost Christina to cancer on Saturday, February 10, 2024. I watched Christina take her last breath.

When did you first start dabbling in writing and what inspired you to do so?

I hated writing in elementary and high school. I started to take more of an interest in writing after I sobered up. It was after my divorce was finalized that I got serious about screenwriting. I was raising my two kids and barely getting by. It was expensive, but I purchased screenwriting software. I thought of it as an investment in my dream. As a young kid, I remember going to the movies and seeing Star Wars, Superman, and Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. I remember wiping away my tears when Spock died in Star Trek II. Those movies had a huge impact on me.

Aside from Sad Evil, you also write poetry... What piqued your interest in this medium and what are some of your favorite poems that you have written and why is that?

I wrote poetry on and off through the years. I really took an interest in writing poetry after Christina passed on. I used my writing gift as a means to deal with Christina's passing in a positive way. Most of my poems I posted on my facebook page are about Christina. I love them all because I wrote them about Christina. The one that stands out is my first, "Castle of Time" that I posted on May 5th, 2024.

How did you come up with the title of the book Sad Evil and were there any other titles you thought of and discarded in favor of Sad Evil?

First off, my Sad Evil book is based on my Sad Evil screenplay. So, Sad Evil is a screenplay first and a book second. Usually, it's a book first and then a screenplay second. The title has always been, Sad Evil. I loved

that name ever since I started writing Sad Evil. In the Sad Evil universe, his actual name in anishinaabemowin means, "I am Sad and Evil". However, his name was shorted to, "Sad Evil" over time. Sad Evil was going to be a one and done, but after careful consideration, I choose to make Sad Evil into a series.

How long of a process was the book and how did you stay the course to see the book through?

My late girlfriend, Christina, strongly encouraged me to turn my Sad Evil screenplay into a book. I did not know how to write a book. So, I did some research to learn how to write a book. I get up every morning at 5 a.m., put coffee on, and write. Sometimes when I have to travel for a meeting, I get up at 4 a.m., put coffee on, and write. I spend time writing in the evenings and weekends. It took over two years to turn Sad Evil into a book.

Without giving away too many details, please summarize what the book is about?

Sad Evil, was once a guardian of the people. He is possessed by an Evil Being. The Evil Being releases Sad Evil from his dark realm into present day reservation life. Darby, Skaw-haw, and their family rise up to try and stop Sad Evil. The age-old battle of good verses evil is renewed.

What was the hardest part of writing the book and how did you overcome any roadblocks to finish the book?

The whole process was hard, this was my first time writing a book. The whole process was slow, time consuming, but also a learning experience. It was also fun and exciting. I just kept writing and writing. There were times I didn't feel like writing, I would force my-

self to write.

Do you have any book signings lined up?

I am looking to set up a book signing event at Barnes & Noble in Duluth in the near future. I am also looking at other places to set up a book signing event down the road.

I noticed on the KBFT website, there was mention that Sad Evil also has the potential to be a screenplay. Are you still pursuing that and if so, what's the timeline to finish that project?

Sad Evil is a screenplay. I have entered my Sad Evil screenplay into the Final Draft screenplay contest. I received some feedback from the Final Draft screenplay contest people. Their feedback is invaluable. I will enter my Sad Evil screenplay into other screenplay contests in the near future.

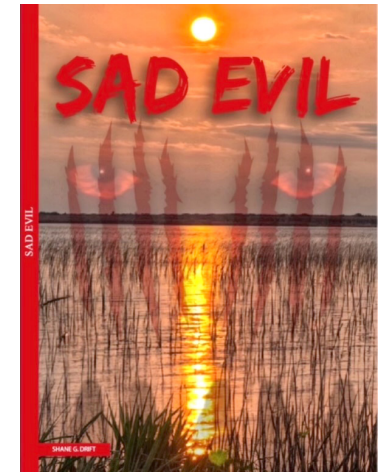
Is there anyone you'd like to thank for believing in you to become an author?

Yes, Christina Premo, my late girlfriend. She truly believed in my gift of writing. My two wonderful children, JessieAnne and Sean. I would tell them what I wrote. They are both very supportive of my writing.

I would like to thank my ex-wife, Theresa Drift. She helped me write my biography information that is on the back of my Sad Evil book. I would also like to thank, Madeline Johnson, Linda LeGarde Grover, and Marcie Rendon for all their help that they have given me. I will always be forever grateful to them, always. If I forgot to mention anyone please forgive me.

What type of advice would you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps of becoming an author?

Start writing, keep writ-



ing, do your research, and have fun. No matter how many times you are told, 'No,' keep writing keep moving forward. No matter how many doors close on you, keep writing, keep moving forward. When you let other people read what you wrote, remember they may not like it or they may downright hate it. There will be people who will like or love what you wrote. If you truly believe in your story, your idea, don't let anyone talk you out of not writing your story, your idea.

How cool is it to carry that title of being an author and what's next for you as an author?

It is exciting, very exciting. My Sad Evil book is finally out there. I would have loved to have my Sad Evil book published before Christina passed on. I would have loved to have given her a signed copy and tell her, "This is all because of you, sweetie!"

I am almost finished writing a follow up to my Sad Evil screenplay. Once I finish writing my second Sad Evil screenplay then I will start to turn it into a book. I just bought the Fifty Shades of Grey book for research. I have a steamy love story idea that I want to

See Sad Evil on page 5

Groundbreaking ceremony takes place for state-of-the-art Public Works Facility



BIG CREW!— There were no shortages of instrumental people who took part in the groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new Vermilion Public Works and Food Shelf Facility. If all goes well, the \$5.15 million dollar project should be completed by the end of this year.

VERMILION SECTOR—With the sounds of heavy machinery working in the background, a groundbreaking ceremony took place July 3rd to commemorate a state-of-the-art \$5.15 million dollar Vermilion Public Works and Food Shelf Facility.

“This is an exciting project and I cannot wait to see it completed,” said Vermilion Public Works Director Brian Whiteman. “This has been a long time coming as I started in 2008 and I’ve heard rumors of this been built since then—wow, it’s finally here.”

Depending on how the project unfolds, the 13,800 square foot facility is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

The new facility will have office space, ample storage space for equipment, including the Head Start bus, which will be a welcome relief on those cold winter days bringing the kids to and from class. The architectural firm hired by Bois Forte for this project was DSGW

Architecture, which is located in Virginia and has offices in Duluth and the Twin Cities.

“We enjoy enriching communities through architecture, and this is just one of those beautiful projects that we get to be part of,” said DSGW’s Erik Wedge. “This project represents more than just a new building—it signifies a commitment to strengthening the Bois Forte community here on Vermilion.”

The building will also house a food shelf that will not only serve Bois Forte band members, but also area cities and Greenwood Township, and will include a conference room. It is being built across the road from the Reservation Tribal Offices and Public Works Building.

“We at DSGW are proud to have partnered with the Tribal Council and the Bois Forte Band on this wonderful project,” said Wedge. “We listened closely on the community needs and designed a facility that is both functional and sustainable.”

The guest speakers on this day were many, including Neil Whitegull from the HUD office, which provided much funding for the project, along with Iron Range Resources Rehabilitation Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, District II Representative Robert Moyer, and others. Outgoing District I Representative Travis Morrison, who did not seek re-election, was also on hand for one of his last official acts as a member of the council. Bois Forte Planning & Community Development Director Carol Burr did the introductions.

District II Representative Shane Drift took part in the Bois Forte Drum Group, which also included Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams. The Drum Group did several songs, including a special healing song for a worker at the site who was injured days earlier when a tree fell on him. He has since been released from the hospital and Wedge said the family would be touched that a song was played in his honor.

Like Whiteman, Moyer said the project had been a long time in the making and expressed gratitude to previous staff members that saw the need for making this project a reality.

“I just have to thank all the previous staff and tribal council for making this happen and who kept moving things forward, like Kevin Strong and Dave Anderson—we have so many good people,” said Moyer.

Moyer said having Bois Forte’s Drum group, which included Adams, Drift, Lance Kingbird and Jim Morrison, was especially meaningful to him.

“There’s no words to explain how good I feel with the ceremony that was put on,” said Moyer, who gave Adams a firm handshake as he finished speaking.

In relation to the project stalling a few times over the years, Moyer said there might be some bumps in the road, but Bois Forte works through it to get through it to reach a common goal.

See *Groundbreaking* on page 5



GLAD TO BE PART OF THE PROJECT—HUD's Neil Whitegull pauses as he spoke about how grateful he was to be part of the Vermilion Public Works and Food Shelf Facility. Pictured to the far right is Carol Burr. Seated with their backs to the camera were Jim Morrison, foreground, and District I Representative Shane Drift, who were part of the Bois Forte Drum Group.

Groundbreaking from page 4

"This a great project for this community," said Moyer. "That's what we are here for—that's all I care about. I want to thank everybody who has taken the time and effort to put into this and that's a lot of people—thanks again."

Others who spoke talked about how this project was so much more than just a new building. They talked about how a project like this can strengthen a community and its infrastructure. Meanwhile, Chavers talked about how this project would not have been possible without the funding of HUD, IRRRB and ARPA.

"I'd like to welcome you all and say what a great job Carol (Burr) and Dave (Danz) have done," said Chavers. "Like Brian (Whiteman) said, this is actually becoming a reality. We're very happy to have this facility at Vermilion. It will serve the Vermilion residents and others living in the area. I'd like to thank the staff for all of its hard work in seeing this project through."

HUD's Neil Whitegull said getting the chance to collaborate with Bois Forte on this project was special.

"Being able to work with your community and people is really important," he said. "We're not just funding a building here, but we are investing in commu-

nity and tribal government."

He talked about how the food shelf and other elements of the project are so important to the community, especially coming out of the pandemic.

"We're seeing real commitments," said Whitegull as opposed to officials just showing up, snapping a few pictures and never hearing from them again.

Whitegull announced that going forward, HUD is going to streamline the process for tribes to receive grants and not just matching grants— but grants without any strings attached.

"It's going to make life so much easier for tribes to obtain grants," he said. "I encourage you to keep applying for grants—I can't wait to come back here and cut the ribbon once it's done."

IRRR Commissioner Ida Rukavina, whose agency provided a \$386,500 grant for the project, echoed Whitegull's comments as she too talked about reinvesting in communities.

"We're really happy to be able to support this project and can't wait for it to be done," said Rukavina, who also mentioned working on other projects with Burr and Bois Forte. "As commissioner, I get to show up, but it is really our staff, like the staff here at Bois Forte, that makes things happen—thank you, Miigwech."



Minute with Millie

Summertime blues has floated into my view. It's that time of year when summer is ending. Leaves are on the brink of changing colors. Kids are playing harder and longer as they sense that freedom from school and accompanying obligations is fast becoming reality.

I look out the window and see the grass isn't growing as fast. Mowing the lawn isn't as much of a chore and is being slowly replaced with preparations for winter. Canoes are being checked for damage, paddles are hunted down, poles are being propped up outdoors. And the all-important knocking sticks are brought to the light for inspection. The faint scent of snow blows in on the breeze.

It's the turning point that nature puts out there for those who pay attention. The signal that one must hurry to get the rest of the eating provisions stocked for the coming winter. Yep, I still do that.

I wait for the 1854 Treaty check which the State of Minnesota has diligently sent to us for the past 42 or so years. With this in hand, I stock the pantry with canned goods, dry



goods, and that all important toilet paper. Yep, there are those of us who still remember why it's important.

Well, the wind has definitely turned a bit chillier; so I'll close the window and grab a blanket to set close to hand for the coming months. And will add warmer clothes to the list of supplies I'll need for the winter.

Sad Evil from page 3

get out there. I also have some animation ideas. I am excited about a screenplay and book idea that I have. I call it, "Mikaage." It is pronounced, Me-kah-gay.

Is there anything else you'd like to add that I might not have covered with this list of questions?

My Sad Evil book is a supernatural/fantasy book. My book is also in the process of being turned into an audiobook. I requested that the narrator be a Native American Ikwe (Woman). So, the narrator is a Native American ikwe, howah! Once my Sad Evil book is an audiobook, I will post it on my Facebook

page. People can look for my Sad Evil book on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple, Baker & Taylor, Smashwords, and other platforms.

When people read my Sad Evil book, they will recognize various places from the Nett Lake village in my book.

I would like to say, "Thank you!" for this opportunity to talk about my Sad Evil book. I would like to say "Thank you!" to everyone that purchased my Sad Evil book. Also, thank you to everyone that supported and encouraged me throughout this process.

Thank you to the Gitchi-mooniedo up above for giving me this gift to write.

Chavers set to lead Bois Forte for another four years



TAKING THE OATH— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers raises her right hand as Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Executive Director Elizabeth Drost conducts the Swearing In Ceremony at the RTG building in Nett Lake on July 9th. In the photo below, Bill King shakes the hand of Karen Drift while Heart Warrior Chosa looks on.



NETT LAKE— It's not that often you'll see Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers wear her emotions on her sleeves, but the mere mention of thanking her family during the Swearing-In Ceremony had that effect on her.

After all, seeking a third straight, four-year term can wear on a person as serving on the tribal council is not an easy job given the demands and stress of the position.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank my family because I would not be here today without them," said Chavers. "I want to thank my sister, Linda, my sister, Janet, and my sister Carol, who's in assisted living, for their love and support. I also want to thank my Uncle Bill King—he's like my father figure now because our parents are gone, and he's been very supportive of me, and I really appreciate that."

Chavers said she is looking forward to working with Perry for the next four years because she's excited about bringing in a younger generation to the tribal council. She said the council now has a nice mix of younger, middle-aged, and elder members.

"I also want to say that we need young people to stand up and be involved in our tribal government," said Chavers, who commended her opponent, Hannah Lehti-Chosa, for her campaign. "I want to thank all the candidates who filed for office because being involved in politics, which I usually call a chess game, is difficult. As tribal leaders, it's difficult to please everybody... it's not a glory job, it's hard work."

She implored younger band members to consider a career that could make them leaders for the Bois Forte Band in the years to come. She also reminded those gathered at the ceremony not to be afraid to ask questions of those on the tribal council who have a wealth of knowledge to share.

"We have experience and knowledge and we can help you," said Chavers. "Don't be afraid to ask questions; we want to see our people succeed. Like I said, this isn't a glory job. It's about the

tribe, Bois Forte, and our sovereignty. We have a big job ahead of us. We've made great strides, but we have a lot of work to do."

That includes working hard at the state and national levels to fight for what is essential to Bois Forte Band members and Indian Country in general. She spoke of protecting our natural resources and having a seat at the table when important issues facing tribes are discussed.

"We know that we need to have our voices heard and be heard forever because we were here first, and it's very important that we also remember our seven generations to come," said Chavers. "That's what we're here for to ensure that what we have today—our natural resources, our language, our culture—is here for the next seven generations to come. It's not about us today—it's about the future."

And Chavers said that staying involved with what's happening politically can pay big dividends for Bois Forte. She said many people on the campaign trail asked why they should vote for anybody because they don't do anything for them. However, Chavers noted this was not true and added that Bois Forte could lose its voice if work was not done at the capitol.

"Two years ago there were 20 pages of statute legislation that was changed to include tribes— 20 pages," emphasized Chavers. "If our name isn't included, we cannot apply for those funds. It has to say cities, counties, local governments, and tribes."

As for the strength in numbers, Chavers said that seven Minnesota tribes are now included in one district and must be unified when heading to the polls for the November General elections, namely the presidential race.

"This is the first time ever that we've had that power," said Chavers. "We know we're united in numbers, so I want to encourage you all here in the audience and anybody else that you know to get out and vote this fall. It really does

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Drift pays homage to elders, looks forward to making a difference on the tribal council

NETT LAKE—During his campaign to earn a spot on the Bois Forte Tribal Council, Perry Drift often spoke about the importance of keeping the Anishinaabe language and culture at the forefront.

Perry made good on that campaign promise by having his grandmother Karen Drift take part in the Swearing-in Ceremony, as he officially joined the Bois Forte Tribal Council on July 9th.

"That moment will forever be etched into my memory," said Drift after the ceremony at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building. It was very special and a moment that had been 32 winters in the making.

Drift said that his grandmother had always taken care of him when his parents had to work, and those babysitting sessions helped them bond through use of Anishinaabemowin and its teachings. He added that it is a skill set he plans



LIGHTER MOOD— Newly sworn in District I Representative Perry Drift smiles shortly after accidentally stepping on Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers foot as she left the stage after she gave her remarks at the Swearing In Ceremony. Drift joked that he just took office and yet he's already stepping on Chaver's feet.

to use to help the younger generations achieve comfortability in using their tribal language every day.

Drift also paid tribute to other elders who played an instrumental part in making him the man he is today. Those elders include his great-grandmother Jessie Drift, Harold "Dayshun" Goodsky, Eugene Goodsky, Lester Drift, Sr., Jennie Woodenfrog, Harvey Thompson, Myra Thompson, and Billy Blackwell. Drift said not only did they teach him the language, but they also taught him spiritual lessons that he tries to honor every day. He said he drives his knowledge from those who are not here anymore.

"That's where my knowledge comes from; it doesn't come from a book, a college, or anything like that," said Drift. "It comes from them..."

During his acceptance speech, Drift spoke in both Anishinaabe and English. He said it was difficult to make the transition, but important for him to pay homage to his culture. One poignant moment was when he spoke in Anishinaabe and then explained that he had just used an old, old Bois Forte word that meant something was broken, but it can be fixed. It was an analogy he used to reiterate there will be bumps in the road during his time in office, but he'll do his best to fix them.

Drift thanked all of the band members who took the time to cast their votes. He said it was important for them to exercise that right regardless of who they voted for. He also paid homage to his opponent in the general election.

"I just really appreciated the whole experience, and I want to give thanks and a shout-out to Ed Villebrun," said Drift, who added that Villebrun gave him a formidable challenge.

Drift said that he understands that he won't always agree with others on the council when it comes time to vote on a specific issue, but added that it is okay. However, he wants to ensure the council listens to band members, as that is who they ultimately work for.

"These elders that I learned from didn't have a voice 40-50 years ago, and it's crazy how the world works because



LOVING GRANDSON— District I Representative Perry Drift brings his grandmother, Karen Drift, back to her table after she took part in his Swearing In Ceremony July 9th. Proudly looking on in the background are members of the Bois Forte Drum Group, including George Strong, Chaz Wagner and Vern Adams, who also gave the invocation.

now they do. I'm speaking for them, and they're speaking through me right now," said Drift as a member of the drum group softly pounded on his drum to emphasize the point Drift had just made. "I just want to say thank you to everybody and that I will always keep an open mind on everything."

After the ceremony, Drift said the first elder he had to test his knowledge of the language on was his great-grandmother, Jessie Drift.

"She was a boarding school survivor and first-language speaker," recounted Drift. "My grandmother Karen Drift would have me visit her when I was six years old, and I would have to ask for peanuts in the language. It was scary for sure, being my first time speaking the language with the ones who passed it on

originally."

However, Drift passed the test and has been making a concerted effort since then to develop his proficiency in the Anishinaabe language and culture.

"It's just crazy how life comes full circle," said Drift. "I remember seeing those elders frustrated at times trying to teach the youth language, trying to teach them anything, even the older generation, and you know, giving them back their voice right now is something that I'm just really happy for. I want to say Miigwech Akina Gego!— Thank you for everything!"

Drift will serve a four-year term on the tribal council, as will Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, who won a third straight term by defeating Hannah Lehti-Chosa.

Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino partner up for lake tours

TOWER— Thanks to the efforts of Bois Forte Band Member Jessa Boyer, Lake Vermilion has become the hotspot of the summer with the recent launch of the Footloose Cycle Cruise!

“This one-of-a-kind lake cruising adventure features a stunning 35-foot cycle cruise boat, boasting 12 pedal stations that propel a 6-foot pedal wheel,” said Footloose owner Bill Cox prior to an Open House on July 10th that drew nearly 50 people to Fortune Bay’s Marina. “With certified captains at the helm, passengers can enjoy the ride worry-free, all the while taking in the beautiful surroundings.”

And if you would prefer to just kick back and not pedal, no worries as the

vessel has a four-stroke 70 horsepower motor to bring you on a memorable cruise on Lake Vermilion.

Leading up to the Open House, Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino staff have been busy booking group tours.

“We’ve already had several inquiries, plus our sales team is pitching the Footloose Cycle Cruise to groups that are coming up north,” said Fortune Bay’s Brian K. Anderson. “We even have a bachelor party that wants to try it out, so we think this partnership will be a win-win for both of us.”

Fortune Bay General Manager Josh Thurmes concurred.

“We’re all excited about this oppor-

tunity to work with the Footloose team,” said Thurmes. “I think our guests will be thoroughly impressed with the tours as they will get a chance to experience a cruise on one of the state’s best lakes.”

The Footloose Cycle Cruise is fully equipped with modern amenities like its 16-foot glossy bar which includes several built-in ice coolers, USB ports for all your charging device needs, and vibrant LED lighted cupholders. Guests can enjoy the 100-watt stereo system and speakers, which can connect directly to your Bluetooth device so you can be in control of your music while you enjoy a frosty beverage and great food selections from Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s culinary team.

“We had an extremely successful first cruise on June 30th,” said Boyer, the granddaughter of former Bois Forte Tribal Chair Gary Donald. “The guests wanted to pedal the whole time and they had a phenomenal experience. They were just hanging out, enjoying one another’s company and occasionally stopped pedaling just to enjoy the

views that Lake Vermilion offered.”

In this exciting partnership, Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino are transforming the lake experience. Guests have the option to pre-purchase delicious food and drinks through the Footloose Cycle Cruise website. Food and beverages will be delivered directly to the boat by Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s team ensuring convenience and enjoyment throughout your cruise experience.

For the safety and comfort of all guests, only non-glass beverage containers are allowed onboard. This ensures a secure environment while you have fun on the water.

“Footloose Cycle Cruise caters to everyone from ages 6 years old and up, who want to cruise Lake Vermilion,” said Boyer. “The cruises are perfect for corporate events, parties, celebrations, and anyone interested in exploring the lake in a fun and unique way.”

For more information regarding this venture, please visit www.footloosecyclecruise.com.



AHOY!— Bois Forte Band members Jessa Boyer and Kyle Littlewolf have played a key role in the early success of the partnership between Footloose Cycle Cruise and Fortune Bay Resort Casino. This picture was taken at an Open House that took place Wednesday, July 10th.



HITTING THE LAKE— The Footloose Cycle Cruise takes out the first guests that showed up for the July 10th Open House that drew nearly 50 people. If you would like to sign up for a tour, please visit www.footloosecyclecruise.com



GOOD EATS!— Bois Forte Band Member and Fortune Bay's Director of Marketing Hannah Lehti-Chosa, left, and BFDC CEO Drew Ebert, right, stopped by the Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, June 29th to enjoy the festivities and the great offerings of food.



QUITE THE DANCER!— Bois Forte Band Member Corey Two Crow didn't let a consistent rain stop him from dancing at the Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, June 29th.

Request for Conservation Committee Membership

The Bois Forte Conservation Committee currently has three open service positions. The Committee requests interested Bois Forte Band Members to submit name and contact information for consideration to serve via these committee positions. Committee Members serve 4-year terms.

Persons must be enrolled Bois Forte Band Members and must permanently reside on Vermilion, Indian Point/Sugarbush, or Nett Lake Reservation lands.

Interested persons should submit their information for consideration by 100 PM, August 6. Please email information to Executive Assistant, RTC

Administration Office (executiveassistant@boisforte-nsn.gov) or by scanning code below. Written information may be delivered in person to the RTC Reception desk, with instruction to transfer to Executive Assistant.

The Conservation Committee will review all provided information and make recommendation to the Bois Forte Tribal Council for approval and appointment.



**Noojimo'iwewin:
Recovery, Healing & Health
Conference**
September 10-11, 2024
Northern Lights Casino
Walker, MN

Email: shawn.macgregor@llojibwe.net for more information
or call AhnjiBeMahdiz Recovery Center at: 218-335-6800

Olive Marie Connor



OLIVE MARIE CONNOR, 88, of Tower, MN passed away on Friday, July 19, 2024.

Olive was born on July 5, 1936, in Nett Lake, MN to Frank and Viola (Porter) Villebrun. She graduated from Orr High School. She married Lawrence Connor Sr. on March 24, 1955. They were blessed with nine children.

Olive worked at various jobs throughout her life, the last 20 at Mystic Lake Casino where she was a cashier until her retirement. She was an incredibly hard worker.

Olive enjoyed playing bingo and cards. She started out each day with a game of solitaire. She loved music and always had the radio on in her kitchen. Her favorite song was "Hello Darlin."

She bought many guitars for her friends so they could play for her. She loved to cook, especially for her family; she often cooked a roast beef dinner for her family on Sundays. Olive's family was the center of her life. She was close to her sisters and brother Frank and there was always an open-door policy between the siblings for their children; their houses were always full of love. Olive loved her family, children and grandchildren with all her heart. She was a tough lady who raised 9 children and cared for her grandchildren.

Olive was preceded in death by her parents Frank Villebrun Sr. and Viola Villebrun; sisters: Ramona Villebrun and Patricia Caribou; husband Lawrence Connor Sr.; and sons: Francis "Tuna" Connor, Loren Hawk, and Alden Connor; and grandson Joshua Ryan Rutar.

Olive is survived by her children: Lawrence Connor Jr., Lois Graham (Howard), Ann Dorr (Randy Dahlquist), Darrell Connor (Tina Shackelton), Karen Connor, Kay Connor, Kelly Rutar, and Ruth Connor; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A Wake was held Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. The Traditional Services were held the next day on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, also at the center. Online condolences to www.mlakerfuneral-home.com

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

MOOSE HUNT 2024

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is having a Moose Hunt this year and it will be held within the boundaries of the Reservation.

SEASON DATES:	September 14 – December 31, 2024
NO. OF PERMITS:	Six total (6)
LEGAL MOOSE:	Antlered Bulls Only
July 25	Applications Available
August 23	Applications Due*
September 2	Lottery Drawing Held
September 9	Permit, Tag, and Information Provided to Lead Hunter
September 14	Moose Hunt Begins

*Applications **MUST** be received by August 23rd. Late applications will **NOT** be included in the drawing. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
Lottery winners must pickup permit booklet by September 13th 5:30pm.

Applications are available at the Bois Forte DNR and the Bois Forte Website (Download), or contact us and we can either e-mail or mail one to you.

More detailed information about the hunt can be found in the application Packet.

Bois Forte DNR
5344 Lakeshore Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772

Phone: 218-757-3261 | Fax: 218-757-3312 | www.boisforte.com

1854 Treaty Authority is holding an instructor taught

FIREARM SAFETY/HUNTER

EDUCATION

certification course, in partnership with the Bois Forte Boys & Girls Club (BGC)

Tuesday - Thursday
August 13-15th
Vermillion/Nett Lake

Plan on hunting this fall?

Anyone 12 to 15 years old must have a valid firearms safety certificate while hunting big or small game in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

- Anyone 11 years and older can participate
- Class size is limited - sign up ASAP
- All lunches and materials included
- **MUST** attend all 3 days to earn a certificate
- Transportation will be provided for BGC members
- Parents/guardians responsible for transport of non-BGC FASHE kids

Get more details when you REGISTER



- OR contact:
- Marne Kaeske
 - Cultural Preservation Specialist
 - 218-722-8907
 - mkaeske@1854treatyauthority.org



We're **HIRING!**

For a list of current job opportunities,
go to: www.boisforte.com/jobs



ENJOYING LUNCH!— Bois Forte's Tracey Dagen smiles as she just sat down to enjoy a delicious meal at the Swearing In Ceremony July 9th.



August is National Immunization Awareness Month. This annual observance highlights the importance of protecting people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccination.

Vaccinations are safe, effective, and can save lives. Protect your child, protect your community, and ensure a healthier future for all.

Take Action Today! 

- **Schedule a Check-Up:** Visit your healthcare provider to review your child's vaccination records and schedule necessary shots.
- **Stay Informed:** Check with your school or local health department for vaccination requirements and recommendations.
- Easily access your family's immunization records through the **DOCKET App** where you can check what vaccines you or your family may be due for, vaccines needed in the future, and easily share a PDF copy of your records with schools, healthcare facilities, travel, and other purposes.

To get started, download the free app by searching "Docket" on the Apple App Store, Google Play, or visit docket.care online.

Call Bois Forte Medical Clinics today to schedule your appointment

Vermilion Clinic
1613 Farm Road S
Tower, MN 55790
(218) 753-2182

Nett Lake Clinic
5219 St John Dr
Nett Lake, MN 55771
(218) 757-3750



Chavers from page 5

impact the tribes, and if you have somebody in there who doesn't support the tribes, they'll try to take away what's been done."

Chavers closed her comments by reiterating how excited she is to work with Perry and the rest of the Tribal Council, which includes Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick, District I Representative Shane Drift, and District II Representa-

tive Robert Moyer, Jr.

"I want to show that Bois Forte is a leader in tribes," said Chavers, who added that the council is working on the cannabis venture, carbon credits, helium prospects in the 1854 territory, and other opportunities. "I don't like to follow. I always say I want Bois Forte to lead, and we are leading in the country, so I want to say Chi Miigwech to everybody who took the opportunity to vote..."

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's (ENP) menu for the month of August. 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.



August 1: Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 2: Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Red Cabbage Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 5: Picnic Lunch Cook's Choice

August 6: Goulash, Corn, Bun, Fruit

August 7: Wild Rice Meatballs, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef's Choice of Fruit, Fruit Parfait

August 8: Breakfast Hotdish, Potato Wedges or Tots, Muffin, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 9: BBQ Pork Riblette, Au-Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 12: Egg Salad Croissant, Potato Chips, Tomato Slices, Fruit

August 13: Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes or Roasted Root Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 14: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Fruit

August 15: Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 16: Beef Stew, 7-Grain Bun, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 19: Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 20: Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 21: Tuna or Chicken Pasta, Salad, Capri Vegetable Blend, Corn Muffin, Fruit

August 22: Chicken Wild Rice Soup or Hotdish, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 23: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit

August 26: Sausage Jambalaya, Cheddar Biscuit, Jambalaya

August 27: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Garden Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Jambalaya

August 28: Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Jambalaya

August 29: Breaded Chicken Patty, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Fruit, Dinner Roll

August 30: Taco Salad with Chips, Refried Beans, Lettuce/Tomato/Onions/Cheese/Blk Olives, Whole Apple with Caramel

Plenty of jobs are available at Fortune Bay and Bois Forte!

If you have any family members or friends looking for a job, please have them visit (www.fortunebay.com/careers) or (www.boisforte.com/jobs) to see what jobs are currently available!

Fortune Bay has dozens of openings,

including The Gold Mine Grill which still needs to fill 12 openings and Environmental Services, which has eight openings. The bar needs eight servers, and resort housekeeping needs five room attendants—so spread the word that we

still need some help!

Meanwhile, Bois Forte has several jobs available too, including a Housing Stability Programs Manager, which has a starting pay rate of \$31.58 per hour. Bois Forte also is looking for a Licensed Practical Nurse; a Cultural Resource Co-

ordinator at the Heritage Center, plus an Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute, and a bus driver in Nett Lake.

For more information on available jobs at Bois Forte, please email Human Resources Specialist Char Jordan at cjordan@boisforte-nsn.gov



BOIS FORTE MEDICAL CLINICS

Is Your Child Due for a Sports/School Physical or Annual Well Child Check Visit?

Don't wait until the School Year & Fall Sports Season are about to start...

Call Today to Schedule Your Child's Appointment

Vermilion Clinic 218-753-2182
Nett Lake Clinic 218-757-3650

Clinic Hours
Monday – Friday
8 AM – 4:30 PM

MN State High School Sports Physicals are valid for 3 years

Well Child Check Visits should be scheduled annually beginning at 3 years of age



Get a free* mammogram

"Big or Small Let's Save Them All"

Yearly mammograms are recommended starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as a woman is in good health.

Step inside the Essentia Health mobile unit to have your mammogram. It's private and set up like a doctor's office.

Register today for this event.

Please call **Vermilion Clinic: 218-753-2182** or **Nett Lake Clinic: 218-757-3650** to make an appointment.

Nett Lake Clinic	Vermilion Clinic
September 9 th	September 10 & 11

9 AM to 4 PM

5219 St. John Dr
Nett Lake, MN 55771

1613 Farm Rd S
Tower, MN 55790

*Costs for the mammogram are covered through insurance, MDH-SAGE program, or community grants.

There will be a Crossbody Purse for everyone who attends as well as various giveaways. We will have drawings daily for prizes. Refreshments will be provided!



Visit Bois Forte Band of Chippewa on these social media outlets.

