



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 45 NUMBER 9

Don't Wait..VACCINATE

The Bois Forte Clinics have openings for the following vaccinations:

- Pfizer -available to ages 12-17 years old
- Moderna-available to ages 18 and older
- Johnson/Johnson-Available to ages 18 and older

Call and schedule your appointment today!

Nett Lake Clinic

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

Vermilion Clinic

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



Draining Nett River reveals damage and instability of old control dam

“If there’s a dam break, the wild rice seed beds will be destroyed,” said Dr. Chris Holm, Ecological Resources Program Director. “Dams have a lifespan, like everything. The lifespan of a dam depends on how hard its life is. This dam,” he explained, “has had a hard life.”

According to Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers, this dam is the highest priority of the Band right now.

The Nett River control

dam is a small, worn-looking metal structure spanning a portion of the river. It is composed of a 12-inch thick concrete wall, a pair of 25-foot gates which sit side-by-side, and an emergency spillway. Typically, the dam holds back several feet of water, but recently the river’s water level has been purposefully lowered. Water plants dry in the sun along the muddy riverbed, which is walkable at the moment, while the dam is being

inspected and assessed. A safety berm has been installed upriver— a wall of sand that prevents the flow of water into the dam— and Holm says that it serves a dual purpose.

“We didn’t build that berm just to block off part of the river, we are trying to keep water in the basin. We don’t trust that dam to last the winter. We are making efforts to protect the seed beds so that the wild rice can survive,” Holm explained.

Holm’s history with the dam is long and, by his accounts, strenuous.

“I have been trying to hold this thing together for 25 years,” he said. Holm has contended with the control dam for his whole career at Bois Forte, making many repairs along the way.

Holm explained that the dam’s gates are “Weir gates,” meaning that they operate by lifting up against the

(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)
current, and the water level is controlled by dropping it. However, in the Nett River control dam, these gates were put in backwards: they were mounted on the down-

stream side of the dam, opposite of where the flow is coming from. This design flaw has caused massive problems and resulted in a lot of damage to the dam itself over the years.

“Those gates are heavy 10,000

pound gates. When they come loose, it’s not just a matter of picking them back up and putting them back into place,” Holm said. The gates have come loose before, and Holm expects they will certainly do so again if the dam is not replaced.

“In winter, there is a horrific ice load pressing up against that structure. Ice builds on the upstream side of the dam, the leakage seeps through the concrete wall because of more structural issues, the ice freezes and expands, and the gates pop off.”

Since 2008, Holm has found the gate laying in the river, pulled off the structure completely, three separate times. Repairing this is elaborate and expensive, requiring construction crews, a crane, heavy equipment, re-drilling of holes, new hardware, and re-routing the water each time.

The dam as-is damages the ecosystem as well, Holm says. “Where you had one ecosystem before, now you have two— one downstream and one upstream. With a concrete dam like this, you can never flush the system. You can never allow fish passage in and out of the system. The fish population in Nett Lake has crashed, largely because they have no access in or out of that basin. When Nett Lake freezes, it freezes to the bottom everywhere—they can’t go downstream, they have no refuge. They’re stuck, they’re effectively wiped out of the system.”

The dam has been repaired many times, and Holm has even tried to rework the structure to make the dam function better, but the age of the current Nett River control dam is likely coming to a close.

“We’re not going to repair it,” said Chairwoman Chavers. “We’re going to replace it.”

The Nett River control dam was built in 1987. Before that, the lake was dammed by a stop log. At the time the control dam was built, there was little understanding of the problems with concrete dams.

The recent low water levels have revealed the extent of the dam’s insta-

bility.

Holm says that the best solution to the dam’s issues is replacing it with a rock arch dam.

“The rock arch dam is much more environmentally friendly. It allows fish passage, water passage, animal passage.”

A rock arch dam is thinner than any other type of dam, requiring less construction material. It is an economically and ecologically practical structure.

“Once we’re done with duck hunting and ricing, we’ll be in the process of replacing it. We are in the process of replacing it-- we have been working over the past year, going through the procurement process for funding,” Chavers explained. “We are looking at ARPA funding. We’re running into a hurdle, because we started working on this before ARPA came out, and now that we’re using the funding, there’s rules we have to follow.”

ARPA, or the American Rescue Plan Act, provides emergency supplemental funding to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds are given for government services, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, and other related expenses, as well as delivering potable water, housing, and administrative costs and oversight. There are specific rules and processes regarding the procurement and use of these funds.

Chavers is eager to retire the old dam and introduce the improved version.

“Once these things are done,” said Chavers, “We’ve got to take that dam apart. How do we do that? We’ve got to slowly take it apart piece-by-piece, bring the rocks in, get them ready for placement. This winter, we’re going to be hauling in rocks. We’re going to do the rock arch dam.”

Construction of the new dam will have a positive impact on the fish and wildlife of the lake, and preserve the wild rice beds for the future.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo,

This month's article will focus on the land that is currently owned by the Conservation Fund (previously PotlatchDeltic). But I would like to start out with just a little background on this.

A few years back, the Tribal Council was meeting with PotlatchDeltic to inquire on how to buy our land back. Well, in November 2020, the Conservation Fund advanced one of their largest projects with the purchase of over 72,000 acres of forest land (the former PotlatchDeltic land) spanning over 14 counties in northern Minnesota. They call this project "Minnesota's Heritage Forest."

Since the purchase, the Conservation Fund has been working closely with Bois Forte as 27,000+ acres are within the Bois Forte Reservation boundary. They contacted us to help us acquire our land back.

When PotlatchDeltic owned the land within our reservation boundaries and elsewhere in the state, they enrolled the land into the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Incentive Act Pro-

gram (SFIA). This was done in 2016 for a period of 50 years.

The SFIA provides direct incentive payments to property owners to encourage sustainable use of forest lands. Property owners can receive a payment for each acre of qualifying forest land they enroll in SFIA. In return the owner agrees not to develop the land, and to follow a forest management plan while they are in the program.

Payment rates under this program are adjusted each year based on statewide average market values and tax rates, but will not increase or decrease by more than 10% per year. For 2021 the payment rate for 1,920 or more acres enrolled in SFIA is \$20.92 per acre.

What does this mean for Bois Forte? We recently had the Conservation Pre meeting team here at Bois Forte, and will be hosting a meeting with the CEO of the Conservation Fund and other staff and funders here at Bois Forte on September 9, 2021.

If we get funding to purchase the land, as an example, we can say the total sale for the land is eight million (remember, this is just an example) and we would receive yearly from the State of MN a check for \$564,000 under the SFIA program. This land sale would be paid off in approximately five years using the yearly payment from the state against the funding for the land. Since the land is enrolled in the SFIA fund, we would get approximately \$500,000 each year up to the year 2066.

We will keep you updated on this very important project once we know more about where we will get the funding to purchase the land from the Conservation Fund.

Miigwech!!!



Members of the Conservation Fund from Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, and Minnesota met with the Bois Forte Tribal Council to discuss the Minnesota's Heritage Forest project.

Boozhoo Bois Forte Band Members:

In our ongoing efforts to be as transparent as we can, the Bois Forte Tribal Council would like to announce that we've been in preliminary discussions with the Eveleth City Council to explore the possibility of opening a gas station, similar to the Y Store.



The store would be located where Highway 53 and the off-ramp onto Highway 37 East that heads toward Gilbert. It is still early in the discussion stages, but we would envision the store being a state-of-the-art facility with charging stations, propane filling, car and truck wash, bait store, deli, and convenience store items. This proposed business is not on trust land, and we do have the opportunity to add a liquor store.

To date, MNDOT has done a vehicle analysis (traffic count). We are now working on a marketing study to give us even more insight as to whether this is a project we want to pursue. Furthermore, we are also exploring other potential funding opportunities for Eveleth and Bois Forte to get this project up and running. Rest assured, we will look out for the best interests of all band members before entering into any agreement.

We will be holding a public hearing in October at Fortune Bay Resort Casino to provide more details on this proposed business venture, and, of course, to answer any questions you may have. The date and time of the public hearing will be announced in the coming weeks.

Chi Miigwech!

Bois Forte Tribal Council

VERMILION CLINIC SCHEDULING:

218-753-2182

NETT LAKE CLINIC SCHEDULING:

218-757-3650

District 1 Representative Shane Drift

Boozhoo Bois Forte Band Members! I sincerely hope that this brief notation finds you well. I sit here in my office, looking out the window at our beautiful lake and manoomin, thinking about what to write about—Ah, I'm going to write about the business resolution. The business resolution calls for any new business ventures that the tribe council is considering buying must

be put before the band members first. My second month in office, I brought this resolution up during a Bois Forte Development Corporation and Gaming Commission meeting on November 28th, 2018 at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

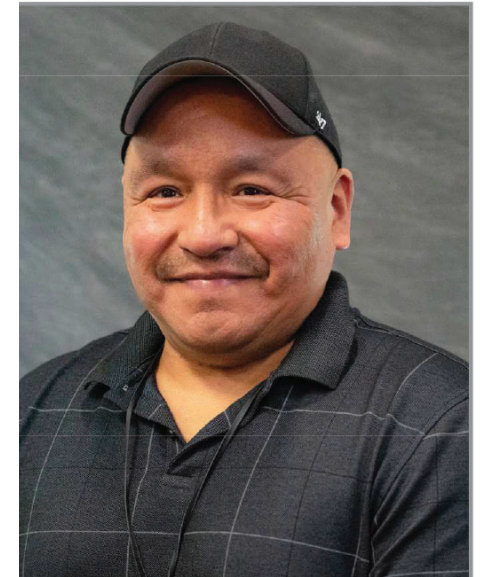
If the band members give approval on purchasing an existing business, the next step would be to apply for a

loan. Some things to consider regarding a loan are as follows: How much is the loan for? What is the interest rate? When and how will the loan be paid off? What is the backup plan? Is there money in the bank to continue operations, paying the employees and vendors? Is the market stable, declining, growing? We must understand the company's culture, expense detail, and other business expenses. What else does the tribe need to consider?

The tribe will also need to inspect and take inventory of the business, equipment, products, property before the business is purchased and again before final signatures. The reason why I am saying this is because there will be a time period from when the paper work is drawn up and the closing of the sale. What else does the tribe need to consider?

Other items that the tribe needs to take into consideration is taxes, paying state taxes and property taxes. Other expenses are as follows: insurance on the business, medical and dental coverage for the employees, permits, water and sewer, electricity and security, internet, and repairs. There is advertising with the radio stations, newspapers, and social media. There is the cost of joining the local chamber of commerce. The tribe needs to consider creating a business team to review any new business proposals. What happens with the profits? What about quarterly financial reports to the band members? What else does the tribe need to consider?

In closing, I would like to thank the tribal council for passing the



business resolution. I would also like to say "chimiigwech" to all the band members that voiced their concerns, gave input, and shared their business knowledge at the meeting on Monday, August 2nd, 2021. And finally thank you to the tribal council for listening to the band members and voting no on the business.

If you would like to share your business ideas with me please feel free to email me at Sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov. You can also call me on my council cell phone at 218-404-8220. I'm also on Facebook. I must mention that I have my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page on Facebook. If you cannot find my group page, please message me on Facebook or send me an email. So until next time, please remember to practice social distancing, wear your face mask, wash your hands, and stay safe out there. Mii'iw chimiigwech!

LEARN WILD PLANTS!

Yarrow, which is called Adjidamo Anuk in Ojibwe and Achillea Millefolium in Latin, is finishing its blooming season. It thrives in full sun and well-drained soils. You can see lots of it growing along highways, in fields, and parking lots!

Butterflies love this plant. It's scientific name comes from the Greek hero Achilles, who used yarrow to heal the wounds of his soldiers. It's Ojibwe name means "Squirrel tail."



Ojibwe people have used yarrow flowers in kinnikinnik for ceremonies. Ojibwe people have used it to break the fevers of sick people, placing the flowers on hot coals and inhaling the smoke, causing the sick person to sweat until the fever broke. Yarrow flower tea was used to break fevers, and yarrow leaf tea was used to treat stomach problems.

Yarrow has also been a first-aid plant. Like Achilles' story implies, it has been used to help treat wounds and stop bleeding in emergencies.

Dried yarrow can be hung over the entrance of a residence, along with cedar, to protect the home.

Yarrow has a pleasant smell and may be grown for its herbaceous aroma, or to attract pollinators.

Poison Hemlock may look similar to yarrow. Make sure you know for sure what a plant is before harvesting it!

Yarrow is generally a safe plant, but it should be avoided while pregnant.

C-STORE

218-757-3268

NETT LAKE
PHARMACY

218-757-0230

Y-STORE

218-753-3868

VERMILION
PHARMACY

218-753-2182

Should you get another vaccine dose?



Are you eligible for an additional dosage of the vaccine?

Studies are showing that immunocompromised people may not receive full protection from the Covid-19 vaccine. Currently, the CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive a third dose.

According to the CDC, this includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system

- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

If you qualify, you can receive your third dosage at the Nett Lake or Vermillion Clinics.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In the matter of Probate Petition, Tom Spears, petitioner vs the Estate of Patrick Connor, decedent.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given a Zoom hearing will be held on the 14th day of September 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771, on the Probate Petition filed in this court on August 12th, 2021. This hearing is to determine if the temporary personal representative of decedent order should be permanently granted or denied for the appointment of Tom Spears, whose address is 5226 St. John Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, 55772, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent located at 13068 Westly Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, 55772. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate located at 13068 Westly Drive, Nett Lake, Minnesota, 55772, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

By the Court
Megan Treuer, Chief Judge
Janell Smith, Clerk of Court
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B
Orr, MN 55771
Tel: 218/757-3462

The Bois Forte Enrollment Office is looking for the following individuals:

AHO, ALICE JANE
 ANDERSON, JORDY FORREST
 BENADE, CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY
 BENNER, AARON HALVIN
 CALLICO, BILLIE SUE
 CHICAS, SUSAN MARIE
 CHOSA JR, MICHAEL LEE
 CHOSA, JENNIFER ANDREA
 CHURCH, ROXANNE FRANCE
 COLUMBUS III, RUSSEL
 CONNOR, FRANCIS DAVID
 CURRAN, JACK DUDLEY
 CURRY SR, DANIEL PETER
 DAGEN, AUSTYN CIERRA
 DAY, BERN GARETH
 DAY, MIA FRANCES
 ENGELSON, MICHAEL MATTHEW
 ENGELSON, JAMES FRANKLIN
 ENGRAV, SAMANTHA ARIANNA
 FRANZEN, CHRISTOPHER PAUL
 GESHICK, JUDITH ANN
 GESHICK, JUSTIN SAGE
 GESHICK, SHAWN MELVIN
 GONZALES, ROSE MARY
 GOODRIDGE, ASHLEE MARIE
 GOODSKY, WAUBUN
 GRUENHAGEN, STEVEN ANDREW
 HARDING, ALTON
 HUSMANN, VANESSA RENEE
 ISHAM, WILLIAM LYNN
 ISHAM, DANIEL JAMES
 JACOBS, ANGELA CAROL
 JENKINS, DARIN WAYNE
 JENKINS, SUSAN
 JOHNSON JR, JAMES DORAN
 JOHNSON JR, ROBERT GERALD
 KEPHART, BONNIE JEAN
 KING, JEAN LOUISE
 LEECY, MARISSA ANNE
 LEECY, RENE
 LEHTI, JOHN GAMALIEL
 LERFALD, SHAWN THOMAS
 LIGHTFEATHER, IZAIHAH EDWARD
 LUCIA, LAURA KAY

LYONS, ALVIN JOHN
 MCCLENNON, JOSEPH ANTHONY
 MCDANIEL, DIERSTA YVONNE
 MCKENZIE, VALERIE EMMA RO
 MOYER JR, BRIAN EUGENE
 MULDOON, MARY JANE
 MYHRE JR, CHARLES WESLEY
 NORCIA, TYLER DALE
 PORTER JR, FRANKLIN ROGER
 PORTER, DEVIN ROBERT
 PORTER, MINH DUC
 PORTER, SAMUEL LANCE
 RABBITT, EMILY ARICA
 ROBINSON, LEE DOUGLAS
 ROY, CASSIDY LAURA MARIE
 ROY, DUANE ERNEST
 RUSZCZEWSKI, DOROTHY
 SANTA, STORM MARINE
 SEVERSON, SARA JANE
 SIKKILA, KARI LEE
 SKURLA, ZACKARY DAVID
 SPEARS, JOELLEN
 STRONG, ROBERTA ANN
 THOMPSON, DOROTHY G
 THOMPSON-ETTER JR, DAITYN
 THOMPSON-ETTER, KAMRYN
 TILDEN, DANIELLE PRINCESS
 VILLEBRUN, DONOVAN WAYNE
 VILLEBRUN, LESLEE MARIE
 VILLEBRUN, LEVI WILLIAM
 VILLEBRUN, VINESSA DERA
 WAGNER, LE ANNE JOSEPHINE
 WAKEMUP, DANA LESLIE
 WEBB, AMANDA DAWN
 WEST, KEITH LYNN
 WHITE JR, BRIAN DONOVAN

Please contact the Bois Forte Enrollment Office at 218-757-3261 ext. 1162. Or email alanna.sherman@bois-forte-nsn.gov.





**BACK TO SCHOOL!
2021-2022**

**BACKPACK +
SCHOOL
SUPPLIES
GIVEAWAY**

**BEGINNING:
AUGUST 23 2021 AT THE
RTG**

**AUGUST 24TH, 2021 AT
THE VERMILION
GOVERNMENT CENTER
8:00 AM-4:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2021
4PM-7PM AT THE OPEN
HOUSE AT NORTHWOODS
HIGH SCHOOL**

***FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.*
LIMITED SUPPLIES
CAN BE PICKED UP AT RTG ASK FOR BRIDGETTE BURR OR LEANNE
HOFFMAN
CAN BE PICKED UP SEPTEMBER 1ST FROM 4PM-7PM IN INDIAN
EDUCATION ROOM AT NORTH WOODS HIGH SCHOOL DURING OPEN
HOUSE NIGHT
ONLY FOR GRADES 5TH-12TH**

WHAT COMES IN IT?

- 1 30X CALCULATOR
- 1 BINDER PENCIL POUCH
- 1 MINI STAPLER
- 8 MULTI-COLORED GEL PENS
- 8 BLACK GEL PENS
- 12 BIC MECHANICAL PENCILS
- 2 PKGS OF INDEX CARDS
- 2 OF 100 SHEETS OF STICKY NOTES
- 3 MINI COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK
- 2 70CT SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- 2 PACKS OF COLLEGE RULED FILLER PAPER
- GRAPHING PAPER
- 2 BINDERS
- 18 SHEET PROTECTORS
- 2 PKGS OF INDEX DIVIDERS
- 602 POCKET PAPER FOLDERS
- BACKPACK
- WATERBOTTLE
- DRAWSTRING BACKPACK
- SHARPIES
- A CONCISE DICTIONARY OF MINNESOTA OJIBWE
- BOIS FORTE PLANNER

Blueberry Buckle

Ingredients:

1/2 cup shortening	2 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 cup sugar	1/2 cup milk
1 egg	2 cups blueberries
1/4 tsp salt	1/2 tsp cinnamon
2 1/2 cups flour	1/4 cup melted butter

Instructions: combine shortening, 1/2 cup sugar, egg, salt, 2 cups flour, baking powder, and milk. Pour mixture into 8" or 9" pan. Top with blueberries.

Mix 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, cinnamon, and melted butter. Mix until crumbly. Sprinkle over berries.

Bake at 350 for 30-45 minutes, until golden brown on top.

Serve with cream.

Why is wild rice soup creamy?

By Madeline Johnson

I had a friend from New York who once confessed to me they didn't "get" wild rice. "I just don't like it. It's too chewy, the texture is weird," they said. I was baffled by this. I asked if they had been eating real wild rice— by my definition, real means hand-parched and wild harvested— or the paddy rice from California which my family always warned me away from. My friend insisted it was real. I refused to believe them, and my suspicions were confirmed when I tried some of the so-called "real" wild rice they had at their house and found the old adage to be true: you know it's paddy rice if you drop a rock in the pot, and the rock softens up before the rice does.

The Ojibwe have enjoyed wild rice for centuries. It is sacred, nutritious, delicious, and wholesome. Non-native Minnesotans have also enjoyed wild rice for centuries, immigrating to the region and quickly discovering many uses for the tasty grain.

Wild rice soup is a popular way to use manoomin. Creamy wild rice soup is most common, but adding wild rice to chicken soup or beef stew is also a well-loved way to incorporate it into dishes.

I was going through some old recipe books that belonged to my late grandma— the sort that are made up of assembled recipes of a community, containing her own recipes in most cases. These included many favorite recipes of contributors, including her own creamy wild rice soup. But it was not the only creamy wild rice soup recipe. There were several others. And, to my tremendous confusion, nearly all of them contained Velveeta. In one recipe, the ratio is 1 cup of wild rice to 1 whole pound Velveeta cheese.

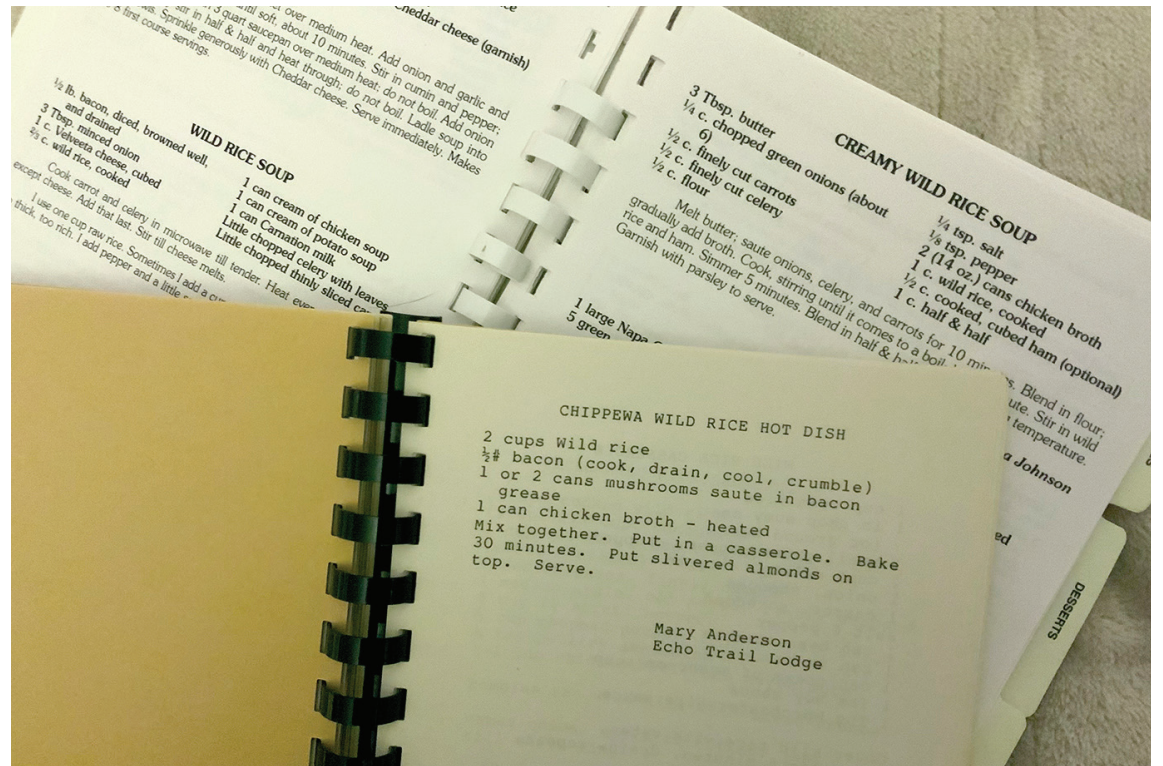
Perhaps the prevalence of Velveeta-based wild rice soups had to do with the availability of processed cheese, which was cheaply sold and commonly provided as a government commodity due to its long shelf life,

and produced in massive quantities during the 70s and 80s. According to The U.S. Government, in an attempt to rescue a failing dairy industry during a recession, had purchased and accumulated warehouses full of 500 million pounds of processed cheese. With no way to sell this mountain of cheese, the government instead distributed it to families in need— many were still struggling to recover from the recession. Velveeta is a close cousin of this "government cheese," though most strongly prefer the former to the latter.

Introducing cream and dairy products is not traditional to manoomin recipes, despite how common creamy wild rice soups and casseroles are today. Historically, milk products were not a part of the Ojibwe cultural diet.

I paged through recipe after recipe of cream-based wild rice foods— some used cheddar, some used cans of creamy potato soup, some used Carnation milk. My Grandma's recipe was fairly light, calling for a base of chicken broth with a cup of half and half.

Perhaps the desire to add a cream element to wild rice came from a culinary trend towards richer, more decadent dishes in the 1950s and 1960s, when the food industry experienced rapid industrialization and ingredients like condensed cream soups, potted meats, hydrogenated oil toppings, and gelatin were mass-marketed towards American families. Or, perhaps, this trend started far earlier, taking inspiration from French cui-



sine, which boasts a wealth of creamy bisques— it's not so far-fetched that the region's history with voyageurs may have influenced a trend in dairy-based soups.

However creamy wild rice soup became the popular variety, it has become more or less a law of cuisine that any wild rice soup you find on a menu

is bound to contain a dairy element.

In the recipe book, I found one submission by my great-grandmother, Mary Anderson, who was a professional chef at the Burntside Lodge. She was born in 1900, raised by her Ojibwe-speaking mother, and attended the Vermillion residential school.

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BOIS FORTE TRIBAL COURT WARRANT RESOLUTION EVENT

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm via Zoom or in-person

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://boisforte.zoom.us/j/81467698569?pwd=RUhDNDE2MzdrQnhqUzNqWGM2SUFNZz09>

or by calling **(888) 788-0099** and entering
meeting ID: **814 6769 8569** and passcode: **636404**

REPRESENTATIVES AVAILABLE:

- CHIEF JUDGE, MEGAN TREUER
- BENJAMIN PACHITO, PROSECUTOR
- HEIDI DROBNICK, PUBLIC DEFENDER
- WES MARTINS, INDIAN LEGAL AID

View the Bois Forte Warrant List at www.boisforte.com on the
Judicial page located under the Government Directory

For more information about your case, or to request the
Zoom invitation via email, please contact the
Bois Forte Tribal Court at (218) 757-3462

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Several of her recipes, like those of her contemporaries, did contain condensed milk, mini marshmallows, lime gelatin, and cream of mushroom soup. However, there are two recipes that she has explicitly labelled “Chippewa.” I interpret this to mean that, by her accounts, these recipes are meant to emulate the sorts of cooking practices and trends of her Ojibwe community, as opposed to the dominant culture. In fact, this notion is supported by the fact that she has two frybread (bannock) recipes listed on one page: one titled “Bannock,” and one titled “Chippewa Bannock.” The “Bannock” recipe contains milk and vegetable shortening. The “Chippewa Bannock” recipe, however, does not include any dairy— it uses water and bacon drippings instead.

My great-grandma Mary’s recipe for “Chippewa Wild Rice Hot Dish,” similarly, does not include any cream elements. It does, however, use half a pound of bacon and bacon grease, which she instructs must be used to sauté the mushrooms. There is no vegetable oil, no cream, no butter. It is topped with slivered almonds.

Preserved meat and animal fat were both very common ingredients throughout Ojibwe history, so it’s no surprise that her definition of Chippewa cooking involved bacon grease— it would have been similar to the rendered animal fat that Ojibwe people preferred to use to cook their food in precolonial days.

Wild rice dishes— whether they are traditional, experimental, plain and simple, creamy, cheesy, or full of bacon— are a delicious way to celebrate Ojibwe history and culture. Manoomin is beloved, sacred, and important to tribal identity. It feeds the body, mind, and soul— especially when we look back on our cultural history while we cook with it and enjoy the dishes with family. Send us your favorite wild rice recipes at news@boisforte-nsn.gov.

***If you have a recipe you would like to share, email it to:
news@boisforte-nsn.gov***

Tribal Employees attend presentation: Two very different teachers, two brutal accounts of history, one common goal

On Friday, August 13, the employees of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa government gathered both online and in-person to attend a lesson on history. Grace Smith then gave her personal testimony about her experiences at residential boarding schools.

Smith, a senior tribal elder from the Yupik tribe in Alaska, recounted a harrowing and deeply troubling account of abuse, humiliation, neglect, and loss at Holy Cross Mission Orphanage, a residential school in Holy Cross, Alaska. She described memories of suffering and watching her loved ones suffer, denied comfort and care when they were sick, separated from each other. Her brother died there of tuberculosis, and she was not told why he had disappeared until she endured multiple beatings from the nuns there for the crime of asking. Smith described the emotional catharsis of returning to Holy Cross just a few years ago and finding, for the first time, her brother's unmarked grave on top of a hill with other unmarked graves.

"Even when we are dead, we are not treated like human beings," she told her audience. "But I said, 'I finally found you, big brother. I found you.'"

Smith's testimony was moving and emotionally difficult for those who listened. Her survival was hard-won, and her memories of this traumatic time were only recently unearthed. In 2015, she sat in on a class at the University of Minnesota Duluth with her daughter, Alicia, who was enrolled in the Master of Tribal Administration and Governance program (MTAG). Professor Tadd Johnson, a Bois Forte member, taught the class. His specialty is the long history of Federal Indian law and policy over the course of the colonization and transformation of the United States.

While Johnson spoke about the Boarding School period, Smith's repressed memories began to return to her, and she had to leave the room.

"I realized it was real," she said. "What happened to me was real. What could a child have done to God—that he would put them in that place? That place was real."

Johnson was also present at the lesson. Before Grace Smith and her daughter, Alicia Smith, spoke, Prof. Johnson gave a two-hour lecture on tribal history.

Johnson has delivered presentations like this to state employees for years.

"I go through the multiple epochs of tribal history, from Columbus to the modern days of tribal self-determination and Indian gaming," Johnson said. "I recognize my job is strictly academic. I can talk about the word 'assimilation.' Grace lived through that. She lived through being punished for not being able to speak English. People always remember her presentation," he said.

Before Grace and Alicia spoke, Johnson introduced them:

"You're not gonna remember a single thing I say after Grace talks," he said.

We spoke with Johnson after the lesson about the history of this program. Johnson has conducted lessons like this for state employees across Minnesota for years.

"We wanted to create a course that would be valuable for state employees in understanding how the federal state and tribal governments worked together. We did a 'pilot program' at UMD in June of that first year. I gave the history of Federal Indian policy, from government-to-government negotiations to the removal act and allotment, etc., and in the middle of talking, my colleague came up to tell me one of the audience members wanted to speak."

That person was Janice Bad Mocasina, a Crow Creek Sioux tribe member from Shakopee, MN.

"Janice said, 'all these policies that Tadd is talking about— allotment, boarding school, the 1956 relocation act that sent Indians to cities, not being able to practice tribal religion— all of

this happened to me. The result of this is felt in my family. There is alcoholism, drug addiction, and all these problems because of these oppressive policies from state governments.'"


Johnson realized that people want-

ed- and needed- to hear personal stories. That is the only way to show that this history is important, real, and deeply impacting modern communities.


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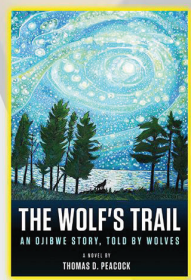


CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

FREE EVENT! Native Writing Festival

Tuesday, September 28th
 Noon - at the Virginia Public Library
 Virginia, MN
 5pm at Nett Lake School Circle Area
 Nett Lake, MN


BLACK BEARS & BLUEBERRIES PUBLISHING
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This tells the story of the parallel relationship between wolves and the Ojibwe People.

Black Bears and Blueberries Publishing is a Native Owned Company that focuses on creating Native Children's books.
 Thomas Peacock is a retired Associate Professor of Education who taught and served as an administrator at UMD for 13 years. He's a member of the Fond Du Lac Band of Ojibwe. Several of his books are award winners.
 For more information on Thomas Peacock visit: www.blackbearsandblueberries.com



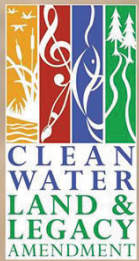
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Presents

Native Food Festival

Nett Lake Wild Ricing Event

Wednesday, September 29th

noon - 5pm

at the **Bois Forte Tribal Government Building**
Nett Lake, MN

****Local chefs welcome to bring their best
wild rice dish to share with the community
for paid honorariums.**

Call Chaz at 218-780-3755 to register.**

FREE EVENT! EVERYONE WELCOME!

- KBFT Live Broadcast
- Wild Rice Seminars
- Learn how to rice
- Games/Prizes
- Ojibwe Language
- Special Guest Presenters
TBA

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“We needed a mixture of historical facts and personal impacts on people,” he said.

Johnson’s tribal-state relations presentation, in its usual form, sometimes involves an activity to demonstrate the profound unfairness of treaty negotiations which typically tipped dramatically in favor of colonizers.

“We’ll negotiate a treaty. We’ll negotiate in Ojibwe if we’re on Ojibwe land, or Dakota if we’re on a Dakota reservation. My co-presenter would give the translation. In the early days, the treaty would involve everybody giving up their cell phone. We’d ask the highest-ranking state official what their favorite food was— chocolate and red wine, for instance— and then the translator would say ‘we are asking everybody to behave and be respectful, and you will get a snack.’ Then, when he read the contents of the treaty that they had to negotiate in the Indian language, it would usually be something like ‘you will stay in this room for the next year without leaving, and be fed only chocolate and red wine which we will give you whenever we feel like it, if we feel like it.’”

This exercise, he said, demonstrated to people how absurd it was to expect non-English speaking people to properly advocate and defend their interests in these predatory agreements.

While Johnson began by giving these presentations to state employees, tribal leaders voiced a need for this training in their own governments.

“One tribal leader said to me, ‘god, everyone should have this. Everyone needs to understand how we got here, how treaties get negotiated, no matter what their job is,’” Johnson recounted.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers, who regularly comes to the Tribal-State Relations meetings, wanted the presentation on Bois Forte. The day was set aside for this training.

Grace Smith thanked Johnson for his role in her journey to remember and speak out about her experiences.

“Grace always touches people’s hearts,” Johnson said. “There are grown men, tough guys, who can’t sit through

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PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY AND WILDFIRE AWARENESS!

Minnesota is currently experiencing several active wildfires. Due to the drought, it's important to take extra precautions and keep fire safety in mind.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION TIPS:

Do not drive vehicles on dry grass or shrubs.

Do not toss cigarette butts or ash out car windows. Make sure you extinguish your cigarettes completely.

Keep all flammable objects away from sources of heat or electricity.

Pick up dry vegetation and flammable debris when you see it.

Keep a fire extinguisher.

Mow your grass before 10 am, and avoid mowing when it is especially dry or windy.

Do not allow gasoline or motor oil to spill onto dry grass.

Be sure recreational vehicles have working spark arrestors.



The new
Purchased/Referred Care
year is beginning on **October 1st**.



If you have not done so, please turn in your application as soon as possible to avoid delay in coverage.

Applications and questions can be turned into

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Kristal.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov

Nett Lake Clinic

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

Destinie.villebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov

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her presentation because it's too sad, too wrenching. People always remember it. I love her dearly, she's like a second mom to me. It's always a joy to present with her, she's a great person, and her story is so compelling— and I'm laying out a flat history course before that, I know some people fall asleep— but I know my role. The main thing I want people to take away is that as Indian people, tribes retain all inherent tribal sovereignty. It has never been taken away. Sovereignty is a very powerful muscle, it's there to protect

their languages, their religion, their cultural practices. Being an Indian isn't an ethnic classification, it's a political classification— because being an Indian Tribe is a governmental concept. It's a sovereign nation. Those are the points I want to drive home."

While their presentations are very different, Smith and Johnson both hope to educate their listeners about the history of Native Americans, and the importance of unearthing histories that are rarely taught about.



Did you know?

Bears are excellent swimmers!

A black bear can swim at least a mile and a half in fresh water. One swam more than nine miles in the Gulf of Mexico!

