



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 47 NUMBER 9

BEAR MEETING POSTPONED

NETT LAKE—The August 21st meeting that was scheduled to discuss the bear issue facing the Nett Lake Village was postponed and has not been rescheduled as of yet.

Look to the Bois Forte website or its Facebook page for updates as they become available.

Thank you.

Plans for Class 2 machines at C Store shelved

NETT LAKE—While efforts will continue to revitalize the Nett Lake C Store, it appears one idea long broached by District I Representative Shane Drift will be shelved.

“We looked at bringing in Class 2 machines, but sometimes the juice isn’t worth the squeeze,” said Bois Forte Development Corporation (BFDC) CEO Mayan Beltran of the plan to roll out slot machines at the C Store to drive traffic to the convenience store. “They might make a few bucks, but it really isn’t worth it.”

Drift had always been a staunch supporter of the idea as he thought that adding slot machines would drive traffic to the convenience store, but in the end, the investment just wasn’t worth it.

“The reason why I pushed to put a slot machine in at the Nett Lake C Store was to draw people to the store and increase sales,” said Drift after the meeting. “The C Store has been operating at a loss, which our casino has to absorb. I have made various recommendations to help lower the cost of operating the C Store.”

Fortune Bay’s Director of Gaming Elizabeth Deegan backed Beltran’s comments, which were made at the BDFC meeting on August 23rd. Deegan explained that it is more than just installing machines as you have to put in a slot system; plus, train employees and pay them more because they are taking on additional roles,

adding security and surveillance as well.

She said she spoke with the slot director at Grand Portage and was told that the potential for theft is higher off property because you wouldn’t have a full security or surveillance team in place.

“There’s just a lot of initial costs that go into putting six to eight slots up there,” said Deegan, who added that after all expenses, the return on investment would only be \$20 per machine per day.

Furthermore, Beltran surmised that guests from the vil-

lage or surrounding area who typically come to Fortune Bay to gamble might stop and just play the games in Nett Lake.

“It’s like you are robbing Peter to pay Paul,” said Beltran. “We’re trying to minimize our losses at the Nett Lake C Store, but bringing in \$20 a day on each of the six machines is really not making you anything. To be honest, it’s not really feasible. Other than that, we are doing the things that will make us lose less money.”

One piece of good news that did arise out of the discussion is that C Store Manager Chesty Strong reported that edible sales are going well.

“We have gummies, popcorn, taffy, and hard candy, but our beverage sales and CBD products for pets are the biggest sellers,” said Strong after the meeting. “The pet products are for joint pain, overall wellness, and helping pets deal with anxiety. The other edibles are catching on, but the pet products and beverages are the biggest sellers.”

Strong said he was OK with the idea of pulling the plug on bringing in slot machines and added that he likes the idea of marketing the store to outsiders, whether that be through traditional advertising, like newspapers or billboards.

The latter idea came from Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, who wants assistance from Fortune Bay’s marketing team to help increase traffic at the

Another great day on the airwaves!



THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL!— KBFT radio personality George Strong flashes a million-dollar smile as he recently made announcements over the airwaves for KBFT Radio in Nett Lake. Great job George—keep up the great work that you do for the radio station on behalf of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa!

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo Ahneen
Fall is in the air.

The summer went by so fast, but many are anticipating this ricing season. Due to no rice season last year, many of us need rice for our families. Everyone you talk to either has no rice or very small amounts of rice left.

The lake looks excellent for rice. We should get to the rice with a little more water. Everyone's fingers are crossed that no storms come in.

We have ordered new floating docks for the landings to ensure the safety of our people who are ricing and getting to the water to launch their canoes. It has been a long time coming for new docks!

The Tribal Council attended our Urban Picnics in Duluth and Minneapolis. It was great to see everyone and visit and have a great meal.

I want to give a shout out to our Urban Directors, Wendy Drift and Jacque Wilson! They do a tremendous job in assisting our tribal members in the urban settings with access to services in their communities. They also continually advocate for other programs for tribal members from the Tribal Government.

Bois Forte Health and Human Services has a new CEO who was just hired. His name is Daniel Rabideaux, and he has financial and healthcare experience to bring to his new position. We are looking forward to Dan's leadership of his department!

Bois Forte Tribal Council members Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Robert Moyer, and I had the opportunity to meet with Assistant Secretary Bryan

Newland at the Partners in Action Conference held in St. Paul by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on various issues.

We first met with Assistant Secretary Newland with other tribes as a group, Leech Lake, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, White Earth, Shakopee, and others, concerning the listing of lakes and waters within the reservation boundaries as "public waters" by the DNR and State. This is clearly a tribal sovereignty issue with the State and DNR. Bois Forte then met with the Assistant Secretary on Bois Forte issues, such as replacement funding for our communications tower, which has our 911 response capabilities and other items on it. The tower is over 25-30 years old and needs replacing.

We also met on our submitted 105L Leases under the BIA, and there is a 90-day timeline from the BIA. However, they stated they were inundated with lease requests, so it may be a while before we know the outcome.

We also discussed jail facilities closer to Bois Forte, such as NERC and AJC, for our adult males and juveniles rather than Sherburne County and out-of-state

placement for our juvenile offenders.

The Tribal Council has been extremely busy with various meetings and consultations with state agencies. We consulted with the Department of Corrections, Minnesota Department of Education, Dept. of Human Services, and more to come. This is a law that was approved last year, where state agencies are required to consult with all tribes. It is a great opportunity to hear from the State what programs and services tribes are eligible for or can have access to. We really haven't had this type of opportunity in previous years.

Finally, with the legalization of Cannabis effective August 1, 2023, Bois Forte is in the process of having a feasibility study done on all aspects, from growing to distribution, etc., to present to the tribal members for their approval/disapproval for a business venture. We know that tribal members want fast movement on this, but we need to provide you with the necessary information to make an informed decision. Please look for more details on this soon.

Miigwech!

Reach out for help before it's too late

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a crucial time to raise awareness, remove stigmas, and provide education about suicide. Having conversations about suicide is important because it reduces the stigma associated with the topic. By allowing for more open and honest communication, individuals with suicidal ideations can feel more empowered to seek help and are less likely to feel alone. Currently, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States. For ages 10-44, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

Anyone can participate in Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. There are activities that individuals, schools, offices, churches, and all types of orga-

nizations can conduct to bring awareness to suicide prevention.

many citizens as possible with the positive message that suicide is preventable and enable

a user guide to help you plan for the month-long campaign.

The Jason Foundation be-

tistics, and how to find help for those at risk. Suicide can be preventable. Together, we can save lives. You may even save your co-worker, friend, neighbor's child, a relative, or even your son or daughter. Are you up for the challenge?

Visit www.jasonfoundation.com to download our Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Informational Packet. Look for Suicide Prevention Month under the How to Get Involved tab. Within the packet, there are ideas on how businesses, schools, religious institutions, athletic organizations, and even your family can become involved in spreading the message of suicide prevention.

Depression is one of the leading causes of suicide attempts. Mental or addictive disorders are associated with 90% of suicide. One in ten youth suffer from mental illness serious enough to be impaired, yet fewer than 20% receive treatment. Depression can be exhibited in many ways including the following which are detailed in more depth:

- Sudden, abrupt changes in personality
- Expressions of hopelessness and despair
- Declining grades and school performance
- Lack of interest in activities once enjoyed
- Increased irritability and aggressiveness
- Withdrawal from family, friends and relationships
- Lack of hygiene
- Changes in eating and sleeping habits

Also, on the Suicide Prevention Month page you can click on #IWONTBESILENT to learn about The Jason Foundation's campaign to reach as

those citizens to reach out for help for their loved ones and friends. You can download signs, brochures, flyers, and stickers to display. There is even

believes that education is the key to prevention. Our nation should be familiar with the warning signs associated with suicide, suicide facts and sta-

Bands support USDA Forest Service's "No Action" decision

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (the "Bands"), with one unified voice, support the USDA Forest Service's decision to issue a "No Action Decision" on a proposed project that would impact over 500 acres of culturally significant maple forest. The project proposed by Lutsen Mountain Corporation ("LMC") would irreversibly impact this unique area that has been historically important to the Bands, and will continue to be important culturally, spiritually, and as a subsistence resource for future generations.

The "No Action Decision" is necessary to protect the Bands' off-Reservation treaty rights guaranteed by the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe. The Decision honors the principles of co-management between the Bands and the Forest Service, upholds the federal government's trust responsibility to the Bands, and protects critical tribal treaty resources for future generations.

On September 30, 1854, the Bands entered into the Treaty of LaPointe with the United States whereby these Tribal nations 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, including 2.0 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.

Given the Bands' reserved treaty rights, not only does the Forest Service have a legal obligation to manage Superior National Forest lands for the Bands' benefit, but the Bands also have a duty and a treaty-backed legal right to protect those natural and cultural resources found within the Superior National Forest for future generations. Since LMC first proposed its special use permit over six years ago, the Bands' position has not wavered: the proposed permit would destroy those natural resources that Band members have relied on for centuries. The Bands applaud the Forest Service for recognizing that its duty to protect natural resources for present and future generations must come before private interests that threaten those resources.

"For too long, the Bands' treaty-reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather within the 1854 Ceded Territory have taken a back seat to private interests," said Cathy Chavers, Chairwoman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. "We commend the Forest Service for upholding their responsibility to protect our remaining treaty resources. This is the right decision."

"In the last 169 years since the 1854 Treaty was signed, the Bands have lost their ability to exercise treaty rights in about eighty percent of the treaty area," said Shane Drift, Bois Forte District I Representative. "At this rate, looking 169 years ahead, Band members will not have any treaty resources to rely on at all. That's why we are trying to protect what little we have left."

"The USDA Forest Service's 'No Action Decision' is a victory in the protection of our treaty resources," said Fond du Lac Chairperson Kevin Dupuis Sr. "Fond du Lac will continue to be stewards of the land and work with our relatives at Bois Forte and Grand Portage to ensure our unified voice is heard. Today, we have done just that."

"The Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa are very happy with the Forest

Service decision," said Grand Portage Chairman Robert Deschampe. "Impacts from the Special Use Permit would have affected our inherent rights to hunt, fish, and gather. The EIS demonstrated that the expansion would further harm maple sugar bush and old growth white cedar forest, cultural sites, and fish habitat. We as tribal leaders have a responsibility to make sure there are resources for our next seven generations."

Grand Portage Secretary/Treasurer April McCormick added: "The proposed special use permit would result in permanent losses to usufructuary rights and treaty reserved resources critical to our subsistence use. Seven Tribes, includ-

ing the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, collectively representing thirty-five Tribes, joined together to oppose the permit because of its clear negative impacts to the biodiversity of the forest and watershed. We are proud of the Forest Service acting in its Trust Responsibility to our children and those yet to be born whom will rely on these significant cultural and natural resources."

The issuance of a No Action Decision on this proposed project gives the Bands hope that the Forest Service is committed to fulfilling its legal duty to protect Treaty resources found within the Superior National Forest.

C Store from page 1

C Store. She said people really don't know about the edible sales yet and furthermore added that efforts to work with area resorts in the Orr/Nett Lake area needs to improve.

"We have to market that store," said Chavers, who added that low gas prices and the ability to purchase Native arts or crafts would be a selling point to draw more traffic. "We're not tapping the resorts up there, and we're not marketing edibles at all."

Beltran said he would work with the marketing team to devise a strategy to adhere to her requests. He will also bring in Strong and Y Store Manager Paula Bozicevich for their ideas.

However, as Beltran previously stated, the location is the biggest obstacle facing the C Store.

"It's a tough location for business; we're trying to minimize that loss, but it has been an ongoing battle for years," said Beltran.

SEPTEMBER
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**
AWARENESS MONTH



September 6th, 2023 @ 2:30 pm

Eagle Room, Bois Forte RTG
5344 Lakeshore Drive ~ Nett Lake, MN 55772

PLEASE JOIN US!

We will have a presentation from Payton Counts, the Tribal Suicide Prevention Coordinator from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

This presentation will be an overview of topics going on at the state level and how Bois Forte Communities can collaborate with Minnesota Department of Health in regards to suicide prevention.

District 1 Representative Shane Drift —



Howah, boozho Zagaawiniwag band members!

For this brief notation, I am going to talk about marijuana. I must mention that I am for the tribe getting into the marijuana business. I have spoken about a marijuana business and growing facility on my “Shane Drift District I Representative Updates” group page a few times.

When the tribal council met with Blue Stone at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on March 9th, 2022, I asked Blue Stone a few questions about a marijuana business. I asked, “Can the tribe invest in a marijuana business that is out of state, like Wisconsin, Michigan, etc.” Blue Stone answered, “Yes, the tribe could invest in a marijuana business that’s in another state.” Blue Stone shared a situation where a tribe opened a marijuana business and profited nine million dollars in its first year. I told the other council members that Bois Forte needed to invest in a marijuana business in another state to generate revenue. Just think if Bois Forte had invested in a marijuana business in Michigan. Ole Bois Forte sure could use the extra revenue. The Michigan marijuana market is growing. No pun intended.

I also asked Blue Stone if the tribe does invest in a marijuana business, could the tribe give out payments to the band members from the profits? The answer was, “Yes, the tribe could give out payments.” Please keep in mind that I am not making any promises. I am not speaking for the tribal council

or individual council members. I am only speaking for myself as the District I Representative.

I have learned that if Bois Forte is going to get into the marijuana business, the tribe would need to build a growing facility. A marijuana growing facility costs about seven to eight million dollars to build. Even if the tribe had that kind of money to buy a growing facility, the construction would be two years out. Once a growing facility is built, it would take about nine months to grow and prepare the marijuana for sale. Anyway, that’s a lot of money and a long time to wait.

When the tribal council met with Ida Rukavina, IRRRB Commissioner, back on August 1st, 2023, I asked Commissioner Rukavina if IRRRB has a program that helps with starting a new business. She stated, “Yes, they have a business loan program.” I then asked her, “If the tribe could arrange the business loan so that once the marijuana business generates revenue, it could make the loan payments?” This way, our casino would not have to take on this financial strain.

The tribe could buy a General Steel building and convert it into a growing facility. The cost would be far less than seven or eight million dollars.

If or when the tribe gets into the marijuana business, I made the following recommendations to the tribal council: 1) payments to band members. 2) build a financial reserve. 3) invest in another marijuana business/medical marijuana business. 4) provide financial reports to the band members. I would also add put payments into the children’s trust accounts.

I have had band members ask me, “Why doesn’t the tribe buy marijuana from Red Lake or White Earth and sell it?” Although it would be legal to do, I must point out that the supply and demand would be an issue. I am happy for Red Lake and White Earth; I wish both reservations all the best. I have always said this, Bois Forte can be just as successful as the other reservations howdah. Until next time, take care. Shane Drift, District I Representative.



SHOWING HER APPRECIATION— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, right, poses for a quick photo with Phil Bakken during the 10th annual Take A Vet Fishing event, which took place at Fortune Bay on Thursday, August 24th. Chavers gave the welcome at the event, which included nearly 100 veterans going out for a morning of fishing with area guides. The fishing was followed by a walleye fish fry in The Woodlands Ballroom where the veterans and guides got to hang out and talk about their day on the lake and share stories.

Help us build our Early Childhood Mailing List!

Do you have a child under the age of 5?
 If so, we would like to add you to our early childhood mailing list. Please call and leave a message for Christine or Sarah at 218-757-3261 ext. 3 or email us at cbloom@boisforte-nsn.gov or sarah.howe@boisforte-nsn.gov
 We need: Parents and child’s name (legal names), child’s birthday, mailing address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!



Band members offer ideas on how to make FBRC employment a better experience

TOWER—Band members working at Fortune Bay Resort Casino (FBRC) were given a chance to express any concerns they felt created a barrier for band member employment while working at the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's flagship business.

Before the meeting, which took place in The Woodlands Ballroom on Monday, August 21st, band member employees were interviewed and asked various questions as part of the Band Member Retention Committee's efforts to help improve their overall employment experience.

Those questions included: Do you feel valued as an employee? Is there someone at work who encourages your professional development? Is your supervisor/manager available to answer questions and assist you in carrying out your job duties? Do you have everything you need to be successful in your role? Do you know where to go if you need help or have concerns? How can culture be brought into the workplace?

"All our results came directly from sit down interviews that I did one on one with band member employees," said FBRC Payroll and Information officer Taneesha Dupree, who also sits on the committee. "Each interview took roughly an hour, some lasting up to two and a half. I had a form that they would fill out pre-interview that asked them to rate certain things and then I had a list of 32 questions that we would talk through."

Dupree said the committee met and decided that a survey should be done and decided what questions needed to be asked.

"We will use these results to identify problems associated with low recruitment and retention of band members," she said.

According to Dupree, the main goal of this survey was to hear directly from band members in a way that their voice was heard.

"We want to keep band members in the loop on every step of this process

by sharing the survey results and what this information will be used for," said Dupree. "As we identify issues, we will keep band members informed on what our solutions will be to those issues. The open meetings allow the committee to present the main concerns we found with the survey and give band members an opportunity to share any ideas they have to solve those problems."

Dupree said FBRC and RTG started the committee together but are now separate entities because they have found our issues and scalability are too different to do the same actions.

"We will still meet to share updates on our ongoing initiatives," said Dupree.

As it currently stands, Bois Forte band members comprise roughly 26% of the workforce at Fortune Bay. The goal has been to hit the 30% band membership employment, but that percentage has nearly always fallen short.

In lieu of that, the Bois Forte Band Member Retention Committee was re-established earlier this year. One of its primary goals was to start diving into why more band members are not taking advantage of employment here at Fortune Bay, which doles out significant money every month to help operate Bois Forte programs.

FBRC Director of Human Resources Beth Adams said the meeting would also share bullet points on what former employees listed as reasons why they left Fortune Bay, what employees think of morale, and what can be done to improve it.

"We've also posed the question of what changes employees would make if given the opportunity," said Adams. "The in-depth survey was a result of giving employees a chance to really open up and tell us what they feel are our company's greatest strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities."

The meeting on the 21st, which was attended by 15 employed band members at Fortune Bay, lasted for roughly 90 minutes and included additional



PRODUCTIVE MEETING—E.J. Deegan did a great job helping facilitate the Bois Forte Band Member Retention Committee Meeting in The Woodlands Ballroom. Deegan is a member of the Retention Committee and is also the Director of Gaming at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

subject matters.

Among those topics discussed, communication, or lack thereof, grabbed center stage as band members felt it needed to improve so that everyone was on the same page and informed about helping them perform their respective jobs.

Some band members felt they should be paid more than non-Native employees for the same job. Even if it were only an extra dollar an hour, that would make a difference since Fortune Bay was built in large part to provide employment opportunities for its band members.

"That suggestion came from a non-band member who worked at another native-owned casino," said Wes King, who is a Lead Manager on Duty and Bois Forte band member and broached the subject. "He was kind of curious as to why we didn't do that here."

Band member Tara Wagner said she thought that was a great idea.

"That would set band members apart," said Wagner, who held numerous positions with FBRC before finding her niche as a Manager on Duty. "It would boost our morale."

Wagner said giving bonuses to band members reaching certain employment thresholds would also boost morale, as would providing future management opportunities for band members. She said it was important to ensure band members are given a chance for promotions and not overlooked when a manager or director's job opens up.

Other band members said it's time to emphasize more of Bois Forte's culture and history at Fortune Bay. Bois Forte Elder Millie Holmes said that attempts had been made in the late 90s to do that but said management did not want to force our culture upon non-natives.

Taneesha Dupree, who headed up the meeting, said that employees, including band members, sometimes need help when it comes to Ojibwe culture, including smudging or how to handle cedar that was placed above doorways. She added that in her experience, band members and non-band members working at Fortune Bay do want to learn more about Bois Forte's history and culture.

Bois Forte Heritage Center and
See FBRC employment on page 6

Open house planned for Wellstone Center for Recovery

VIRGINIA— RMHC's Wellstone Center for Recovery has experienced a consistent uptick in occupancy since it moved from Eveleth to 731 3rd St. S. in Virginia in January 2022. We are serving more people in a more comfortable, residential environment. Feedback from those we have served there has been positive and reflective of a more palatable setting.

Wellstone Center for Recovery is a community-based program designed

to assist adults experiencing a mental health crisis or emergency. The program offers individualized services that meet the unique needs of each person. It is located in the Merritt Building in Virginia.

The program is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and is staffed around the clock by highly-trained mental health practitioners and skilled nursing staff. Each resident has a private room. Most insurances, in-

cluding Medicaid, is accepted.

Currently we are in the process of converting the second level of Wellstone into "swing beds," which means these beds can be used for short-term crisis stays and/or long-term intensive residential treatment services (which is greatly needed here). The residence also has an improved roof, refreshed interior painting, refurbished rooms, new floor, better decor and has undergone several other improvements.

We plan to celebrate by hosting an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednes-

day, Sept. 20, and would be honored to have you join us. We invite you to tour the residence, learn more about our crisis and long-term services and network with like-minded mental health advocates. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about this event and the Wellstone Center for Recovery, please call 218-749-2881.

Admissions are taken 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, call 218-471-4327 or 218-393-9117.

2023 ricing season looks promising

NETT LAKE— According to Bois Forte DNR Manager Chris Holm, the 2023 ricing season could be a very good one.

"Rice is progressing toward mature," reported Holm on Sunday, August 27th. "The last look on Friday sees most rice past milky and into soft dough stage. Not snappy-ready but it's getting there. Depending on temperature warm up and how warm it gets, rice expected to be largely ready to pick by end of August, early September."

Holm said there is excellent acreage coverage this year.

"Water levels allow access to most rice, be careful with mud near shorelines," he added. "Bed acreage mapping is completed, paper maps to be available by opener."

He said the Rice committee would meet on Tuesday, August 29th (after the BF News went to press) for another look at samples brought to them by DNR.

"New docks were installed at our landings," said Holm. "Rice bags and permits available for purchase through Conservation Officer. We should know this week if DNR is buying rice for RTC, and price to be paid for green."

FBRC Employment from page 5

Cultural Museum Executive Director Jaylen Strong said he would be more than happy to help in Fortune Bay's efforts and added that it is nice to once again do in-person tours with new employees going through orientation. He was also willing to bring cultural classes to the property and added that it might be a good idea to bring a mid-winter powwow to The Woodlands Ballroom. Holmes offered that bringing beadwork classes or moccasin making to Fortune Bay would be a good way to introduce employees to Ojibwe culture.

Due to the breadth of how many topics needed to be covered, Dupree said another meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting will include training, employee recognition and appreciation, and perhaps most importantly, strategies for recruiting and retaining band members.

"We'll be setting a time and place for that meeting soon," said Dupree. "Thank you to everyone for coming out. There were a lot of good great ideas presented that will help to improve our recruitment and retention of band members."



THE LAST KNIGHT
CASH DRAWINGS!

\$55,000 CASH!
SATURDAYS IN SEPTEMBER!

MORNING DRAWINGS
10AM - 2PM, \$3,250 WEEKLY!

EVENING DRAWINGS
6PM - 10PM, \$7,750 WEEKLY!

Fortune Bay
RESORT CASINO®

Rabideaux introduced as new Bois Forte Health & Human Services CEO

TOWER— It was only fitting that Bois Forte's new CEO for Health and Human Services was publicly introduced at a Mino-Biimaadiziwin (Good Health) Fair.

After all, as the new CEO, Dan Rabideaux will be spending a lot of time at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Clinics, acclimating himself to his new role.

"It's a pleasure to be here," said Rabideaux, who lives in Virginia and had a 10-year stint as Chief Financial Officer at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. "I did the better part of 25 years working in health care in a variety of positions, and I am really looking

forward to working with the team."

Prior to speaking, Rabideaux was introduced by Bois Forte Executive Director Luke Warnsholz, who thanked the likes of Pam Parson, Leah Masucci, and Teri Morrison for their hard work while the search for a CEO played out.

"It was not easy, and they did a great job," said Warnsholz to the estimated 100 gathered in The Woodlands Ballroom Friday, August 23rd. "I want to thank them for their time and effort. I want to show my respect and gratitude to all three of you and your staff."

Rabideaux, who started his job on Monday, August 21st, was equally

grateful for Parson, Masucci, and Morrison's work.

"I do want to echo Luke's thank you for the directors who filled in," said Rabideaux. "They did a great job, and I will continue to use them as a resource as we continue to move forward. This is my first week, and I already have a lot of excitement and see a lot of opportunity to help the tribe and band, as a whole, move in the right direction."

Rabideaux is an enrolled member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in northern Michigan and currently lives in Virginia. He said he appreciates the direction the tribe is

going as set forth by the Bois Forte Tribal Council and is excited to work at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Clinics as he determines the needs for both locations.

"I am going to go where I am needed most and where I see the most opportunity," said Rabideaux of lending his talents and experience to the Bois Forte Band. "Thank you all for the opportunity to be here. I look forward to working with various departments and services offered and serving this community the best I can—thank you again."



QUICK INTRODUCTION— New Bois Forte Health and Human Services CEO Dan Rabideaux addressed those in attendance at the recent Mino-Biimaadiziwin (Good Health) Fair. Rabideaux brings with him 25 years of health care experience and looks forward to working with the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.



Mental Health **FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

Bois Forte Behavioral Health and the Minnesota Department of Health are bringing Mental Health First Aid trainings to the

Bois Forte community members (18 years and older).

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

Nett Lake RTG Bear Room

8:30am – 4:30am

Mental Health First Aiders

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

Only 30 people can register per class.

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

Fundraising helps efforts to revitalize the Let's Soar Winged mural

COOK—The “Let’s Soar” Winged Mural, designed in part by students from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nett Lake and Vermilion, will be given a new lease on life thanks to fundraising efforts by the Northwoods Friends of the Art and local businesses.

“I am just excited to see it coming back,” said Jess Lambert of the Boys and Girls Club as she recently looked over the weather-worn mural. “It’s one of my first memories with the Boys and Girls Club, and seeing it takes me back when I started.”

The mural was constructed in 2018 and traveled indoors for the next three years to be displayed in area communities. It was officially installed in 2021 just off the main street in Cook next to the library and the park that includes several other murals depicting scenes from the town. The intent was that it would be a foundation that stood the test of time, whereby kids who had a hand in creating the mural could come back to visit a part of their history.

However, the harsh Minnesota winters, pounding rain, and damaging sun weakened the mural, and soon, the glossy acrylic paint and epoxy seal gave way to the elements. This was disheartening to the likes of Northwoods of the Arts President Shawna Kishel and former schoolteacher Lyn Reed, who played an instrumental part in the creation of the mural.

“It was really a beautiful, high gloss material that we didn’t think would weather like it did,” said Reed, an Australian native who taught school for 35 years, including stints at Orr and North Woods. “But now we are going to bring it back to how it once was and are very thrilled we’re able to do this.”

While Reed has been tasked to restore the mural, Kishel has been busy raising the money to make it all possible. The city of Cook has donated \$1,000 to the cause, as has Fortune Bay through its Ticket in Ticket Out promotion.

“We’re very appreciative of the funds donated by the city and Fortune

Bay,” said Kishel. “We will do other fundraising efforts to make sure the materials we use this time will last for a long, long time.”

Once the restored mural is done, Kishel said Northwoods Friends of the Arts members Lauren Nelson, Ron Maki, and Gary Whitenack will help install the new panels.

“They also helped with the original installation, so it is nice to have them involved with the restoration,” said Kishel. “We are also thinking of putting a roof over the mural to help protect it from the elements.”

The plan to refurbish the mural will include Reed bringing the artwork back to its original glory. She plans to have her portion of the project done by the middle of October.

“My plan is to retrace all of the feathers and paint it as exactly as it was,” said Reed. “I figure I’ll work eight hours a day on it and might enlist the help of some of my former students to get it done.”

Two of those students were Lambert and Danielle Porter.

“I taught a lot of the Nett Lake kids,” said Reed. “In fact, I had three genera-

tions of kids. Jess was one of them, and she was an excellent student. Danielle was another one of my students.”

Reed fondly recalled when Porter brought her young daughter to help with the mural.

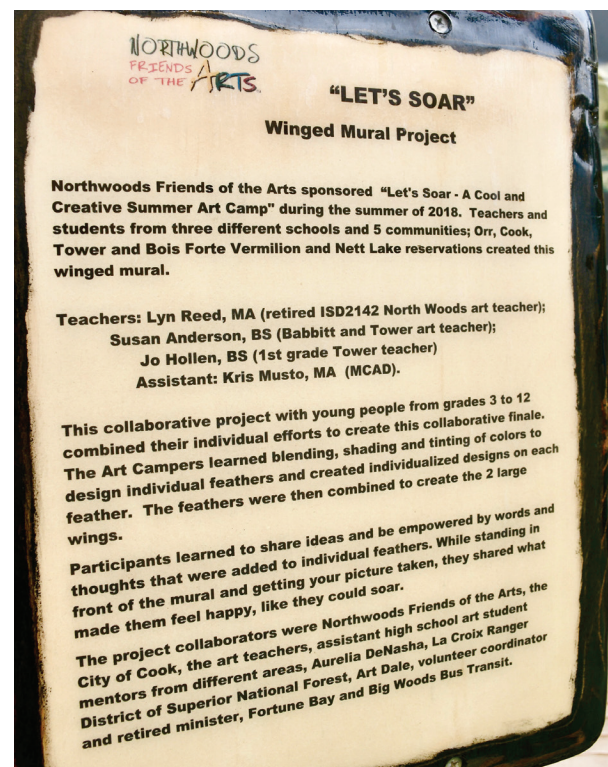
“And then the next day, I met her at the bus, and Danielle asked, ‘Can I come, Mrs. Reed?’ and I said yes,” recalled Reed of Porter. “She was really good, so I might see what she is up to.”

When the idea for the mural originally surfaced, Reed said kids from Cook, Orr, Tower, and the Nett Lake and Vermilion reservations participated in the creation. Each kid was tasked with painting a feather that would be placed in the shape of a wing, signifying how happy they were as if they could soar.

“Some kids did more than one feather, but the toughest thing was to have the kids give up their feathers for the actual mural,” said Reed with a smile. “So, on the last day, they could paint another feather and take it home. The original mural was a great collaboration of many people, both kids and adults. It was a way to bring everybody together—we had so much fun with it.”



READY TO RESTORE THE MURAL!— If all goes well, the “Let’s Soar” Winged Mural will be refurbished and reinstalled in its original location in downtown Cook. Jess Lambert, Shawna Kishel, and Lyn Reed are pictured holding up a check from Fortune Bay Resort Casino.



HERE IS THE HISTORY OF THE LET’S SOAR WINGED MURAL PROJECT—This inscription is on the backside of the mural, which needed to be refurbished. The backside of the mural also includes many pictures of the kids and adults who took part in creating the mural.



BUSY DAY AT THE BAY!— There were plenty of informational booths set up at the Mino-Biimaadziwin “Good Health” event Friday, August 25th. The day was packed with informative sessions on health, including tips for good health, diabetes wellbeing, medication therapy management, using food as medicine and living with cancer. There were also presentations on Manoomin harvesting; update on hunting seasons and awareness of consumption of fresh water fish. The breakout session including archery and first aid; tours of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum; exercise and fitness tips, plus information on breast and colon cancer.

Obituary



ISAIAH LAMAR DEEGAN, 25, of Mt. Iron passed away Sunday, July 30, 2023 in Hibbing. He was born on April 26, 1998 to Eddy Ellis and Juanita Deegan. He was co-parented

by Kevin and Joan Mogensen and was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Isaiah attended Cherry and North Woods High Schools. He worked at the Tavern on the Hill and most recently at Mexico Lindo in Duluth. Isaiah enjoyed the outdoors especially hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, bicycling, and BBQing. He also loved music and traveling to his grandmother's house in Chicago where she would make him all his favorite foods. Isaiah had a contagious laugh and took the most joy in spending time with his family and friends.

Survivors include his son, Izaiiah Deegan Jr; his parents: Eddy Ellis of Duluth, Juanita Deegan of Minneapolis, and

Kevin and Joan Mogensen of Golden Valley, AZ; siblings Rose Baldwin, Nathaniel Blight, James Mogensen, Avery Deegan, Ryan Mogensen, Angelo Willis, Melvin Willis, Kaija Ellis, Hanna Ellis, Kilala Ellis, Noelle Ellis, and Camille Billie; grandmother Rosemary Ellis and grandfather Tim Brim, both of Chicago; grandmother Muriel Deegan of Tower; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by several loving family members.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the Range Funeral Home in Virginia. Rev. Dale Tweit a.k.a. “Limey” officiated.



MAKING HER POINT— Linda Black Elk gave a wonderful presentation on how food can be used as medicine during the Mino-Biimaadziwin “Good Health” event Friday, August 25th. Black Elk gave the audience many great tips on what foods are good for the body and what foods folks should stay away from if they want to be healthy. Black Elk is an ethnobotanist and food sovereignty activist who specializes in teaching about culturally important plants and their uses as food, medicine, and materials. Looking on is David “Squidg” Morrison, Jr.



Bois Forte

*Head Start & Early Head Start
Invites You To:*

Family Storytelling Night

**With Patrick Mitchell, known nationally as the
Family Storytelling Night Guy!!**

When: Thursday, September 14, 2023

Dinner will be served starting at 5:30

Where: Vermilion Head Start/Early Head Start Center

6:00 PM will start Patrick's literacy games and family storytelling.



DOOR PRIZES



BOIS FORTE COMMUNITY

WILD RICING LEARNING EVENT

FREE MEAL
chef'd
up by
Jennalee
Porter

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

DOOR PRIZES!

REGISTRATION

All ages, especially Youth! URL to register is: <https://bit.ly/WildRiceEvent2023>. Or you can use QR code. We will contact registrants when we have a confirmed event date. Questions? Payton Counts at pkcounts34@gmail.com, 218-248-2430

Ricing on the Lake

9am-12pm. Beginner ricers can practice knocking with an experienced ricer. All equipment provided. **Must have a ricing permit.** Permits available at the RTG front desk between 8am-4pm, M-F. Cost is ~\$10-\$15 for adults. \$1 for elders or students. Descendants can request a special permit from the Conservation Committee.

Parching, Jigging & Winnowing Instruction

1pm-4pm. Learn to process wild rice with a live demonstration that covers parching, jigging and winnowing.

EVENT WILL BE ON A SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER. DATE IS PENDING.

REGISTRATION QR CODE:



REGISTER WITH YOUR CONTACT INFO & WE WILL SEND UPDATES WHEN EVENT DATE IS CONFIRMED.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Just in time for the wild ricing season!

NETT LAKE—New Docks have been installed on all four landing sites on Nett Lake (Girls Landing, Strong’s Landing, Big Point, and Goofy’s Landing).

“The Tribal Council recognized the dire need for docks on the lakeshores to provide safety as people access the lake,” said Doris Isham, who works in the Community Development and Planning Department.

Conservation Officer Tony Mason said that water on Nett Lake is currently low due to the recent droughts we’ve experienced the last two years, and the water is away from the typical shoreline.

“The docks have been permanently affixed to the normal shoreline, so part of the docks are currently on the dry shore,” explained Mason. “However, when the water levels increase

to normal, the docks are installed for when that time comes.”

Isham said that the Armor Floating Docks System was used as they adapt to water levels while remaining level with a boat. The docks also provide an ideal solution for adjusting to water conditions while providing safe and consistent access in and out of the boat. The successful bidder of the dock purchases was Manick Docks & Recreation, which is located in Cook.

Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers expressed her gratitude to the staff for seeing this project through.

“The lake is vital to our culture as we use it for gathering, hunting, spirituality, recreation, and to teach our younger generations all these things as we pass down our traditions,” said Chavers.



BF Seeding Cultural Treasures Committee program funded by Propel Nonprofits

With Support from the Bois Forte Cultural Healing Program

Now **HIRING**

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



News for Bois Forte Elders

By Millie Holmes

Well, friends, neighbors and fellow elders, it is with some sadness, a bit of excitement, and trepidation, that I announce the end of my column of ENP News for Bois Forte. I leave my position as Special Nutrition Education whatever on 07 October 2023. It's a new title for what was the Elder Nutrition Program Coordinator, and I still don't consider myself as an educator. Though I do see why it would be considered an education position.

I spent a few weeks working on and overhauling the 6-week menu and trying to get it more in line with our

traditional food. And like I told my mother when she and the boys were enjoying the tasty meals of duck soup, walleye, fried trout, venison, quail, wild rice, we now have expensive tastes. Most of those type of dishes are now only readily available to rich, well-to-do people who can afford the meat.

Here at Nett, we are fortunate to have hunters who provide venison, moose and ducks. There are also program managers who are teaching young people ricing skills and asked if they could donate 100 pounds of

Manoomin to the Elder Nutrition Program. We are also fortunate that the Community Food Shelf gives bison or walleye for the Elder Meals.

We have a Cook who knows how to cook traditional food. We are working on substituting some of the ingredients that cause problems for some people. Yes, we still have more carbs and proteins than people want. Back in the day, those recipes sufficed to fill

our bellies as we were more active, including elders.

So, my last bit of advice is to get exercise to help your metabolism kick in and use the gifts of food we were given properly. 30 minutes a day, doesn't have to be all at once. 10 minutes here, 10 minutes there and 10 minutes elsewhere. To the store and back in the cool of the day?



Minute with Millie

Well, the school year has started. Doors are slamming in various households around the village. And statewide, mayhap even nationwide, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, students, teachers, administrators, h...even shopkeepers are waking up to the sound of buses sitting outside their doors as drivers wait patiently for their charges to charge out the door heading for the open bus door.

Me thinks everyone still thinks it's summer time and there is plenty of time for the morning activities. The first frenzied minutes of the day have started as students frantically search for missing school papers, pens, pencils, books and various other belongings that one needs to survive another day at school.

Wait a minute! Shopkeepers? Why are shopkeepers waking up? Well, they've already worked a good hour or two and are catching a few more morning zzz's didn't ya know. And they're waiting for the parents to come rushing through the door to pick up their morning coffee on their own frantic journey to places of employment.



As for the rest, well I'm supposing that some have tried to catch a couple extra zzz's after sleepily waking up their littles to get ready for school. And then toss their lukewarm coffee down the drain whilst frantically pushing the app button on their phones, hoping to shave off a couple minutes between getting their kids off to school and getting them own selves off to work.

'Cept me of course.

Me, I am happily sitting here at the window, basking like a cat in the warm sunshine of a cool September morning.

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

September 5: Beef Lasagna, Green Bean, Toast

September 6: Stir Fry Chicken, Stir Fry Vegetables, Brown Rice

September 7: Cabbage Beef Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 8: Bison Stew, Multi-grain Bun, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 11: Shepherd's Pie, Biscuit, Broccoli Florets, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 12: White Chicken Chili (Beef) Cornbread, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 13: Roast Pork, Baby Baker's Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 14: (Beef) Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 15: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussels Sprouts, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 18: Sausage Jambalaya, Garlic Cheese Biscuit, Chef's Choice



For more information, call 218-757-3790.

Assorted Fruit

September 19: BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 20: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 21: Country Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

September 22: Meatballs Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 25: Burrito Bowl, Beans, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream

September 26: (Walleye/Fish) Chowder, Mixed Vegetables, Wheat Crackers, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 27: Chef Salad, Garlic Breadstick, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 28: Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Capri Vegetables, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

September 29: Bison Stew (Chili), Multigrain Bun, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit



Nett Lake Elementary
 Independent School District No. 707
 13090 Westley Dr.
 Nett Lake, MN 55772

August 29, 2023
 Dear Parents/ Guardians,

The 2023-2024 school year for our students is rapidly approaching! **The first day of school is Tuesday, September 5, 2023.** Please take note of the following dates that are pertinent to the start of school.

As we prepare for a new year, we will continue to prioritize protecting the health and safety of staff and students and monitor any impact of COVID-19 variants during school operations. If you desire to have your child wear a mask, please do so.

School Day – Start: 8:30am Dismissal: 3:00pm M,T,Th,F Start: 8:30am Dismissal: 2:00pm Wed

LUNCH INFORMATION – The Nett Lake School will be participating in the Minnesota Free School Meals Program offering nutritious breakfasts and lunches each school.

Picture Day – To be determined.

Campus Messenger – Nett Lake Elementary School will use Campus Messenger exclusively to send important messages and information.

Cell Phones/ Personal Electronic Devices – Please see student handbook.

E-Learning Days – Information is in the student handbook.

Early Release Days for Professional Learning – Students will be dismissed at 2pm every Wednesday so that teachers can collaborate as a group to examine instructional practices and strategies.

Secured Entry During School Days – Our main entrance will remain locked during school hours. Please ring the doorbell to gain entrance.

School Closing Procedures - School may be cancelled when the superintendent believes severe weather or other circumstances threaten the safety of students and employees. (Also see E-Learning Days) The superintendent will decide as early in the day as possible about closing school. School closing announcements will be broadcast over WDIO TV as well as an instant alert sent directly to persons with cell phones. Also, information will be shared on our Facebook page. Please make sure you contact information at the school is updated.

Please contact the school office at 218-757-3102 if you have any questions concerning the 2023-2024 school year. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Mr. Peter Hardy Principal



Bois Forte Tribal Council

Robert Moyer, Jr. — District II Representative
 Tara Geshick—Secretary-Treasurer
 Cathy Chavers—Tribal Chair
 Travis Morrison—District I Representative
 Shane Drift—District I Representative

Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices



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