

# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL 49 NUMBER

# Important notices!

The Bois Forte RTG offices, including both clinics, will be closed on Tuesday, June 17th for the Special General Election and Thursday, June 19th for the Juneteenth Holiday.

Please see page 15 for the June 17 special election information.

## **Bois Forte Tribal Court celebrates 50 years!**

Courtroom named after longtime employee Lucille Morrison

NETT LAKE — It was a jam-packed courthouse Thursday, May 22nd, as Chief Judge Megan Treuer welcomed everyone to Bois Forte Tribal Court's 50th-anniversary celebration while also paying homage to longtime court clerk Lucille Morrison.

Morrison served as a clerk for over 34 years, so it was fitting the courtroom was named in her honor some nine years after she passed away.

Many memories were shared about how Bois Forte was granted authority to police itself back in 1975. The tribe had lost that right in 1971 when Officer Ira Isham passed away, and no one from Bois Forte stepped in to take over. That meant the closest police protection offered was some 73 miles away in International Falls.

The celebration included a tour of the facility, which consists of the courtroom, reception area, two holding cells, a jury deliberation room, office space for staff, and a storage room that holds files for all pertinent matters dating back to the past 50 years.

Treuer commended her staff for the painstaking task of organizing all the files.

"They were all in a shed; only (Police) Chief Jamie Burdick had access to the shed," explained Treuer as she led roughly a dozen attendees around the facility. "It was a very long process—everyone did a good job."

While Treuer gave the tour,



GREAT TURNOUT!— Chief Judge Megan Treuer addresses the attendees that showed up for the Bois Forte Tribal Court's 50th anniversary.

another three dozen attendees enjoyed snacks and beverages in the reception area and marveled at how nice the facility was. After all, the state-of-theart building opened just as COVID-19 was wreaking havoc on the way we lived. Judicial Services Director Melissa Wright even commented later that it was enjoyable to gather in person rather than being on a Zoom call.

In fact, both Treuer and Wright remarked on how nice it was to finally meet Family Health Services (Child Protection ICW) Attorney Joy Parker in person for the first time.

Treuer created a timeline of Bois Forte's Tribal Court history and asked those gathered for input, seeking any stories to share or corrections to the timeline's presentation. She spoke passionately about how fortunate she is to be a part of such an excellent judicial system and team.

"I'm really happy to see so many people here today," said Treuer, who in her excitement forgot to let Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams, Sr., give the Invocation to open up the celebration. "I'm really honored to serve in this capacity for the community. It has really been rewarding to work for a tribe that has criminal jurisdiction and is exercising their sovereignty and enforcing crime on their land."

While the headliner of the celebration was to recognize the tribal court for its 50th anniversary, the late Lucille Morrison played a key role as the event unfolded. She was given plenty of adoration by Treuer

and others, including former Tribal Chair Gary Donald, for being such a great asset to Bois Forte's judicial system.

Treuer's connection to Bois Forte runs deep, as her mother, Margaret Seelye Treuer, was appointed Chief Judge by the RBC in 1991 and served in that capacity until 2016, when she was appointed as Chief Judge.

"I think the community is really fortunate to be able to have what they do today, which is all the more reason I'm just honored to be the judge here and serve in this capacity," said Treuer. "....one thing that I've noticed in my 10 years working here is that the community has always done a good job looking after one another and taking care of each other."

See Court page 3

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# INDIAN TRUST SETTLEMENT

# Are you an Heir of an Individual Indian Money Account Holder?

## \$38 MILLION IS AVAILABLE TO PAY HEIRS. THE DEADLINE TO FILE A CLAIM IS JUNE 30, 2025.

A \$3.4 billion dollar settlement was approved in a class action lawsuit, called *Cobell v. Salazar*, that claimed individual Indian land, funds and other assets were mismanaged by the federal government. \$38 million is available to pay heirs and awards could be significant.



### Who is eligible?

You are eligible for a money award if you are an heir of one or more of the over 17,000 Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders whose *Cobell* settlement awards were not distributed. You must submit a claim form with proof that you are an heir. Claim forms can be submitted online or can be downloaded and mailed to the administrator by **June 30, 2025**. More details are available on the website.

### Here's what you need.

Heir eligibility proof includes any of the following:

- A state or tribal probate order identifying estate heirs; or
- A last will and testament approved by a probate order; or
- A small estate document from an approved state in accordance with small estate procedures; or

- Documentation showing the appointment of an estate Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative; or
- A federal probate order that directs distribution of trust funds or trust lands.

A copy of a tribal, or state, or federal probate order is needed to establish whether the Settlement Administrator can pay the heir(s) directly for the estate's Settlement award.

If you do not have a tribal or state probate order but a personal representative or executor has been named for the estate, funds may be released to the representative or executor and they will be responsible for distributing the funds according to the wishes of the deceased Class Member.

## You must act quickly.

The deadline to file is June 30, 2025.

After the deadline, all remaining funds will be distributed to the Cobell Scholarship Fund, which is managed by Indigenous Education, Inc.

## **LEARN MORE**

### CobellSettlement.com

800-961-6109

Indian Trust Settlement c/o Kroll Settlement Administration P.O. Box 5324 New York, NY 10150-5324

## Bids due June 30, 2025 for Bois Forte Public Works' vehicles

NETT LAKE— The Bois Forte RTG Maintenance Department has eight of its older fleet of trucks up for bid. The bids remain open until June 30, 2025.

Six of the vehicles can be viewed at the Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake, while the other two can be viewed at the Vermilion Center. All of the trucks include a plow. A list of known issues is posted on each vehicle.

Minimum bid for all of the vehicles, which include seven Chevrolet trucks

and one Dodge Ram, is \$5,000. Only cash payments will be accepted, and the successful winning bidder has 30 days to pay once the bid winners are announced.

All bids are sealed and must be mailed to: Bois Forte RTC Attn: Robbie Goggleye, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772. On your sealed bid, you must indicate which vehicle you are bidding on, i.e. Vehicle 1, Vehicle 2, Vehicle 3, etc.

## VEHICLE UP FOR BID 2007 DODGE 2500 CREW CAB With 8'2 Boss V Plow





### Issues known:

# Bid Date: 5/20/2025 - 6/30/2025

- Due by the end of business 6/30/25.
- Minimum bid \$5,000
- Sold as is
- Highest bid accepted

VEHICLE CAN BE VIEWED AT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CENTER IN NETT LAKE

Must be cash payment within 30 days of award

### **BID SUBMISSION**

All bids to be sealed Bois Forte RTC Attn: Robbie Goggleye - DODGE 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

VIN: 3D7KS28D38G169707 Mileage: 26,899

### Court from page 1

Phyllis Tousey, former Public Defense Attorney, also spoke about how special Bois Forte's Tribal Court and community is to her,

"If you don't recognize me, that means you haven't been in court," joked Tousey as she addressed those gathered in the courtroom. "I was the public defender here, and I had that honor for almost 10 years."

Tousey recalled the days when the court was operated in a small room, probably the size of the reception area that exists in the new facility.

"As a lawyer, I practiced in a lot of other courts, but I can tell you that this court had compassion, as well as knowledge, and it was the real honor to come here and to be able to represent people," said Tousey.

Tousey, who fills in on occasion if Bois Forte's current defense attorney Heidi Drobnik cannot attend court, fondly recalled the days when Court Administrator Wendy Thompson Morrison would make lunch for everyone.

"And if you were in the jail, you got

lunch too," said Tousey about those sitting in holding cells also getting a nice home-cooked meal compliments of Wendy or Lucille.

Treuer also had a similar "Mayber-ry-like" story to share, as she came to Nett Lake in the middle of winter one year. A young man, who was going to be in court later that morning, was out shoveling the sidewalk.

"I didn't have community members out there shoveling snow in Walker when I got to court," said Treuer, who is a Leech Lake band member. "So, I said that's nice you're doing that, and he's like, 'Yeah, well, Lucille is my aunt, and I don't want her to fall."

That memory resonated with Treuer, and it shows the respect Lucille commanded from those who had a court date, regardless of whom that person was. When Lucille announced her retirement, Treuer lamented that she would need three full-time employees and a case management system to fill the void she would leave behind.

So, while the celebration highlighted Bois Forte's 50 years of judicial history, the day gravitated back to Morrison,

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WELCOME!— Bois Forte Tribal Court Chief Judge Megan Treuer shakes the hand of former Bois Forte Tribal Chair Gary Donald before the program that celebrated the 50th anniversary of Bois Forte's Tribal Court. Looking on is former Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. The event included a tour of the court, an Invocation by Vern Adams, and a program where Treuer touched on highlights of the past 50 years. The event also included naming the courtroom after longtime Bois Forte Tribal Court Clerk Lucille Morrison, who worked for the tribal court for 34 years. Morrison passed away in February of 2017.

whom Treuer and others praised for the work she did over her 34-year career with Bois Forte.

Bois Forte Executive Director Miranda Lilya did an excellent job painting a picture for those who had not had the pleasure of meeting Lucille. She talked about how Lucille was always buying something, and then when it arrived in the mail, she would wonder what she had ordered in a "moment of craziness" because she was always ordering something—more often than not, it was a gift for someone.

"She was extremely generous," said Lilya of her aunt.

When Lilya was getting married, Lucille asked her to drive her to the bank. Once she got back into the car, she handed Miranda an envelope containing a large amount of money. Miranda tried to give it back, but Lucille would not accept it. For her wedding, Lucille then gave Miranda a beautiful ashtray that Miranda's mother, Edith Villebrun, had given to Lucille, for being a part of her wedding.

"That's her thoughtfulness," said Lilya. "She hung onto it for 20-some years until I got married, and then she gave me the same gift."

But Lucille's generosity didn't end there as when it was time to open the wedding cards, Lilya found a card with Lucille's distinct handwriting on it.

"I was like, 'What else can she give me?" said Lilya, who got a tad emotional talking about the memories Lucille had left with her. "Well, I opened the card, and a dollar fell out, and she had written on the card, 'You might as take my last one."

Those gathered loved that story, but Lilya had one more up her sleeve before closing down her tribute to her aunt, who meant everything to her.

Earlier, Lilya talked about how Lucille loved taking her and her mother, Edith, out to eat at Jue's Chinese Restaurant in Virginia and how she stood up to a man who claimed that "Indians" don't pay taxes. For Lucille to stand up to that man meant a lot to Lilya.

"As a girl in high school, that was awesome to see her do that and to correct him about the inaccuracies he knew about natives," said Lilya. "That was amazing to me—and I remember that to this day, she wasn't afraid."



TRIBUTE— Here is the picture of Lucille Morrison that hangs above the courtroom, which is now known as the Lucille Morrison courtroom.

But Lilya said there were other times when Lucille knew she might have gone too far, and she would tell Miranda's mother, Edith, that she had put her foot in her mouth again, sometimes adding that 'her shoelaces were hanging out," meaning she really put her foot in her mouth this time.

For her last story, Lilya said she wasn't sure it was appropriate but decided it was too good to keep to herself. They were once again at Jue's Restaurant, and for some reason, Lilya found herself thinking that she had never seen Lucille with a boyfriend or male friend.

"We were just sitting there, and she said, 'You know what I haven't had in a long time?' We said, 'What?' and she replied, "A good wiener!" said Lilya with a hearty laugh as she recalled how embarrassed she and her mother, Edith, were sitting in the booth. "But she wasn't thinking what you are all thinking—she was just talking about a hot dog."

With that, the ceremony soon wrapped up, and so to close another day in Bois Forte's history—it was a good day. One that involved celebrating 50 years of success for the Bois Forte Tribal Court, as well as the successful career of Lucille Morrison, who left her mark on everyone she crossed paths with.

"The event turned out great, and it was nice to have guests at the court to celebrate the years of our court's establishment and all the hard work that Lucille had done for so many years as a court clerk," said Wright after the celebration. "It was also nice to see several of our past court staff present as they played a key role in our success."

## **Bois Forte News Briefs**

# ENP program receives \$160,000 grant!

NETT LAKE— Congratulations to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's Elder Nutrition Program for a successful grant award of \$160,000 from the 2025 Minnesota Community IDEAS program.

The program seeks to design, test and spread ideas that make our communities better for everyone and inspire, equip, and connect people through meaningful, community-led change.

"Grant funding will support measures to address mobility issues for Elders to promote health and community connectivity, with the purchase of a vehicle to transport Elders," said Elder Nutrition & Food Shelf Supervisor Jennie Rowland.

## Benner wins scholarship

This year's Daniel E. Morrison Sr. Memorial Scholarship recipient is Kalvyn Benner. Kalvyn is a North Woods School 2025 graduate. Kalvyn will attend North Dakota State University pursuing an education in Architecture.

The Bois Forte 477 Department encourages Bois Forte Band member students graduating from North Woods School or Northeast Range School, or an open enrollment student living on the Bois Forte Reservation with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher to

apply for the Daniel E. Morrison Sr. Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded annually to one senior at each qualifying high school.

Congratulations, Kalvyn!!



CONGRATULATIONS!— 2025 North Woods School graduate Kalvyn Benner won the \$1,000 Daniel E. Morrison Sr. Memorial Scholarship. Pictured with Benner is Bois Forte 477 Department Director Vonda Carr.

# Wilderness teams up with Boys and Girls Club

VERMILION SECTOR— The Wilderness at Fortune Bay staff is pleased to announce it will be offering complimentary golf lessons to Bois Forte Boys and Girls Club members this summer.

The first lesson will take place June 18th, followed by two more sessions in July (9th and 30th). The lessons are one hour long and will include teaching the kids proper grip, stance, swing, short game, rules and course etiquette. Clubs, tees and balls will be included as is individual instruction from The Wilderness at Fortune Bay's talented staff.

The Summer Finale will be a two-person scramble on Wednesday, August 6th. Tee-times are available between 9:40 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. Members of the Nett Lake or Vermilion Boys and Girls will be able to play in the scramble and then have lunch afterwards. Prizes will be handed out at that time as well. Participants for the finale must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information, please call The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Pro Shop at 218-753-8917.

## Head Start Early Childhood Program Enrollment reminder!

If you would like to get your child enrolled in either the Nett Lake or Vermilion Sector Bois Forte Head Start Early Childhood Program, please contact Christine Lundemo or Sarah Howe at 218-757-3261, Option 3.

The Vermilion dates are June 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then again June 17th from noon until 8 p.m.

The Nett Lake Dates are June 5th from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and then again on June 18th from noon until 8 p.m.

These classes are for children from 0-5 years of age. Enrollment paperwork that is needed includes: Household proof of income, child's birth certificate, food stamp/commod numbers, TANF/MFIP numbers, health insurance cards, child up to date immunizations, child's physical and child's dental.

APPLICATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT ALL, THANK YOU!

## **Scrubs Camp June 11-13!**

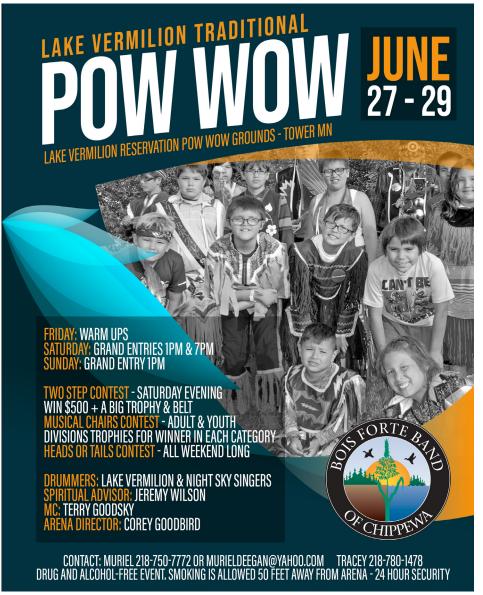
CLOQUET— The Scrubs Camp Indigenous Healthcare Career Exploration Day Camp, hosted by Fond du lac Tribal and Community College, is slated for June 11-13. To apply, https://bit.ly/SCRUBSCamps

For more information, please contact: Brenda Shafer-Pellin at bshaferpellinen@ ardc.org

## **Boys and Girls Club Raffle!**

Make sure to buy your ticket for the Vermilion Boys & Girls Club Raffle, which takes place at 4 p.m. on June 28th at the Vermilion Powwow. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Tickets can be purchases at the Vermilion Boys & Girls Club (BGC) front desk or any BGC club representative.

The grand prize is a one-night stay in a premium room at Fortune Bay, plus one round of golf for two at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay and \$75 to the Sunset Steakhouse. Second prize is a handmade quilt, while third prize is a handmade dream catcher, both are made by the Vermilion BGC Youth.



have to look at the products we sell (if

we haven't done so already) and make

# Morrison and Hernandez vie to be your next tribal chair

NETT LAKE— It's getting to be crunch time for Bois Forte band members to decide who they would like to represent them as the next tribal chair.

Former District I Representative Travis Morrison was the top vote getter in April's primary, but Carlos Hernandez was only 22 votes behind, meaning the June 17th General Election should be a nip and tuck battle.

The *Bois Forte News* asked the candidates some questions leading up to the upcoming election and here are their responses, verbatim. Since Morrison won the primary election, we will put his answers first.

Please tell our readers three campaign promises you'd like to make and how do you make sure to keep them?

Morrison: The only promises that I can truly keep are—I can provide fair and consistent leadership. I will work TOGETHER with the tribal council to provide better communication with the band membership. And I will be available to whoever wants to interact with me. To keep these promises I plan to be in the office as much as possible and be available to the council and our staff to keep moving forward on all the issues that we face as a people.

### **Hernandez**:

Transparency and Accountability: I promise to improve how information flows between leadership and the people. This means delivering regular updates to Band members in plain, clear language. Whether that's financial reports, meeting summaries, or public discussions around major decisions, I will support a communications system that includes newsletters, digital posts, and in-person forums, so we don't leave anyone behind. But transparency is not just about putting out information. It's about being willing to explain decisions, own mistakes, and make room for feedback. To keep this promise, I will advocate for the council to adopt policies that require transparency, not just recommend it.

Investing in Our People:

Our greatest strength is our people, and we must invest in ourselves first. I





Travis Morrison

Carlos A. Hernandez

promise to create hands-on workforce development programs that not only provide training but also create real jobs. This includes developing our own tribally led vocational school offering electrical, carpentry, plumbing, and IT certifications. I also support launching a tribally owned cannabis grow operation, with plans to use profits to fund housing, healthcare, and education. I will push for opportunities that allow Band members to build, learn, and lead right here on our land. This promise will be kept through budgeting priorities and strategic partnerships that bring funding and expertise into the fold.

Revitalizing Culture and Language: I promise to expand access to Ojibwe language learning and cultural programs. This means supporting teachers, speakers, artists, and knowledge keepers so they can pass our ways on to the next generation, both on and off the reservation. Culture and language should be embedded into every part of our government and educational systems, not treated as something optional. I'll work to secure funding, increase support for our cultural departments, and provide tools to bring language and ceremony into schools, council chambers, and homes. This promise will be kept through policy changes, dedicated funding, and collaboration with elders and educators.

There have been some talks about funding for Bois Forte programs coming under fire with the new administration—what will you do to ensure the cuts made do not result in the elimination of programs?

**Morrison:** To ensure programs are not eliminated due to cuts from the big governments we will need to look deep into our own funding streams. See what

programs are going to be effected and look at ways we can shift other funding or pots of unrestricted money to help keep those programs available to our people. I will lobby our Representatives and Senators on behalf of the Bois Forte band to keep any program from being eliminated.

Hernandez: The programs we have today were built by generations of community effort. They represent promises already made to our people—to care for our elders, teach our youth, heal our families, and support each other through every stage of life. Cuts to those programs would hurt the foundation of our tribal nation.

To protect our programs, I will first work to grow our own revenue streams, so we are not so vulnerable to political shifts. A tribally owned grow operation, improvements to our enterprises like Fortune Bay and the C Store, and smart reinvestment strategies can all help create sustainable income.

Second, I will support internal audits of how every dollar is used, ensuring that we are being efficient and focused with our limited funds. That means looking at duplication, waste, and outdated processes that could be streamlined—not through cuts, but through smart restructuring.

Third, I will be a strong advocate when dealing with federal partners. That includes working with our tribal lobbyists, engaging with other tribal nations to protect block grants and direct services, and making sure Bois Forte has a voice when policy decisions are being made in Washington.

If we face unavoidable cuts, I will demand transparency about which programs are at risk, include Band members in the conversation, and make sure we protect the services that support our most vulnerable, our elders, our youth, and our families.

The C Store has made some progress under the leadership of Manager Jeff Mattson, what else do you think can help to minimize the monthly losses the store faces?

**Morrison**: To further minimize the losses at the store. I believe we will

necessary changes to increase sales. I believe Jeff has done a great job to minimize losses and I'm sure he looked at many ways to further minimize losses. I know we receive a tax rebate on sales at the store. That money goes into the general fund and is used to help pay salaries and other expenditures. We could use that money to offset any losses at the store (of course we'd have to make changes to make sure money still goes into the general fund to cover the expenses that the rebate covers). Or maybe even combine the C Store and the Y Store as one business and share costs as a whole. And as soon as possible put the Y Store land into trust and therefore start receiving a rebate on the sales at that store. We have to be creative to maximize profits at our businesses.

Hernandez: I appreciate the dedication Jeff and his team have shown. Running a tribally owned business is no small task, especially in a rural area. But the C Store can be both a community service and a financially stable business, and I believe we can take it further.

First, we need to improve systems behind the scenes, including inventory management, vendor relationships, and cost control measures. This can help reduce waste, overstocking, and shrinkage. We should also evaluate what products are being sold most and adjust accordingly to meet the needs of

Second, let's make the store more of a community hub. Promote locally made goods, art, and food. Create a stronger brand identity. Host seasonal promotions or customer appreciation events. These things don't just bring in revenue, they build loyalty.

Third, I'd like to see more investment in staff development. When employees are well-trained and empowered to lead, operations improve, and customers notice. We could also consider rotating internship opportunities for youth who are interested in retail or

## See Tribal Chair on page 7

## Game plan needs to be made to offset potential program cuts

NETT LAKE—Citing a need to chart a path down the right financial path, Bois Forte District I Representative/ Acting Chairman Shane Drift called for a brainstorming session to begin the process of ensuring a prosperous future for the band.

It won't be easy, but nonetheless Drift, along with his fellow council members and some members of the



GETTING A GAME PLAN GOING— Bois Forte District I Representative/Acting Chairman Shane Drift uses the whiteboard in the Bird room to start laying out a plan to discuss ways how a financial reserve can be built up to help ensure long term success for the band.

# Community cleanups are just around the corner!

NETT LAKE— Make sure to keep your eyes open for upcoming community cleanups in Nett Lake, Highway 65/Palmquist, Indian Point and then the Vermilion Sector.

Announcements will be posted on the Bois Forte website (www. boisforte.com) and Bois Forte's social media outlets for official dates, but the earliest the cleanup will begin is probably the second week of June. The Vermilion Sector will be the last area that will be picked up.

Items that can be tossed include the following:

- Appliances
- •Junk iron
- Household items
- •Tires
- •Wood

These materials must be separated into individual piles, or they will not be picked up.

Items that are not allowed for pick up, include regular solid waste or recyclables.

If you have any questions, please call Bois Forte Environmental Services at 218-757-3261, Ext. 300.

executive management team, sat down Wednesday, May 21st at the Bird Room in the RTG Building to get the conversation moving in the right direction.

Others present at the meeting included: CFO Kim Greiner, Executive Director Miranda Lilya, HHS CEO Dan Rabideaux, Director of Finance/Interim Fortune Bay CEO Brad Anderson and Fortune Bay General Manager Elizabeth Deegan.

The gist of the meeting was to be prepared once cuts to Bois Forte programs come to fruition under President Trump's Administration. No one knows how significant those cuts will be, but hence the reason Drift reiterated his message that a financial reserve must be built to deal with funding cuts.

"We have to start pulling together financially so we can get a look at the big picture for the tribe," said Drift. "...the cuts are starting to come down. What can we do with what we got? How does this all play out?"

Drift wants to minimize the impact Fortune Bay Resort Casino will feel, as the flagships business already pays \$2 million to 3 million dollars in distributions every year to the band to help offset program costs.

"I know we have money set aside at the casino, but we do not have an official financial reserve," said Drift. "We really need to come together and quit working in silos. It's not an us versus them mentality—it's just us."

The group reiterated the need to continue to be aggressive in seeking grant money to not only fund programs, but to make capital improvements to its assets. It was stressed that the tribe needs to get away from seeking grants that come with the caveat of having to match grants.

For example, while it may be great that the tribe receives a \$200,000 grant, but when Bois Forte then must come up with \$200,000 to receive the matching grant, that is a tough ask in these uncertain times.

District I Representative Perry Drift stressed that hard decisions will be coming down the road.

"We need to trim the fat, not saying

firing people, but we have to start cutting stuff. We need to stop it right now—right now," he said, while pounding his hand on his table to emphasize his point. "...any project that is not making us money, we need to cut it right now."

Shane Drift concurred and said Bois Forte needs to stop relying on the distribution money the band receives every year from Fortune Bay.

"You're right," said Shane to Perry. "The Nett Lake C Stores loses money every year and Fortune Bay absorbs that. It's hard for the casino to function because expenses increase, salaries increase. We have one revenue (source) coming into the tribe and that's Fortune Bay."

Shane Drift also stressed that the band must maximize its profits while minimizing expenses.

"You guys see stuff that I can't—you're smarter than I am," said Drift, as he looked to Greiner and Anderson for their knowledge and experience on how to best navigate through these tough times. "We need to figure this out as we move forward."

Rabideaux, who had a 10-year stint as Chief Financial Officer at the Virginia Regional Medical Center prior to joining the Bois Forte team in 2023, said it was important the everyone looks at the big picture. That includes really diving into financial statements and forecasting revenue so that everyone knows where the tribe stands.

"How can one entity support the other if one is doing well and one is not doing so well. With all the brain power in the room, we should be able to get to that," said Rabideaux. "We have to optimize funds between entities."

While no decisions were made, the group agreed that the meetings will have to continue to ensure Bois Forte and its businesses weather these uncertain times

"We need to find a way to move forward so that we continue to provide services to our band members and keeping our band members employed," said Drift.

## Tribal Chair from page 5

entrepreneurship.

The C Store should be part of a larger conversation about how we support our local economy, hire and train our people, and keep dollars circulating on the reservation.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino is the primary revenue driver for Bois Forte— however, the property is aging, and much work needs to be done. How will you address those problems and what funding mechanisms will you pursue to make the necessary improvements needed at Fortune Bay?

Morrison: I have always been in favor of improving our Resort and Casino. It is aging and we need to update the property. Of course, we need to have a plan and funding to cover the costs to update. I know we have a capital improvement plan, so we will need to update the plan and look at the capital improvement budget. Construction costs have gone up and we will need to add to that budget. We will need to look at our debt to see where exactly where we stand....can we start a project with the funds that we already have, can we take out a loan, are there grants from other entities that could help.... these are the questions that we need to answer. Another question is....is there a chance for growth within our Resort and Casino? Bigger RV park, bigger marina facility, water park, lakeshore dining!

Hernandez: Fortune Bay is our economic backbone, and its success impacts every tribal program we run. But like any major property, it requires regular reinvestment, and we've reached a point where that reinvestment can't wait.

My first step would be to support a thorough facility and financial assessment to identify where we're losing money, where guests are dissatisfied, and which parts of the property need the most urgent attention. Based on that, we could create a multi-phase renovation and reinvestment plan that allows us to tackle upgrades while still keeping operations running.

We should also evaluate the types of entertainment, food, and experiences that bring people in today. Are we staying competitive with other casinos and resorts in the region? Are we giving guests a reason to return?

Funding options may include using a portion of casino profits, seeking out federal tourism and development grants, or responsibly using bond financing. I would also explore possible partnerships with other tribal nations or private-sector developers, but only under terms that protect our sovereignty and give us full decision-making power.

Fortune Bay has the potential to not only recover, but to expand and evolve. With strong planning and the right team, we can build something that continues to benefit Bois Forte for decades to come.

Language and culture are very important to the Bois Forte people, what will you do to ensure both of these are made a priority for the next seven generations?

**Morrison**: This is an important one for me. I love our culture and language and I see it slipping away. We have to make a conscious effort to keep it alive. Right now there are a lot of small parts working together to keep it moving. I think we can allocate funding to bring it all together as a small department. This department could oversee community ceremonies, pow wow's, bring in teachings, language classes, elder and youth gatherings...! The possibilities are there, we just got to work together to make it happen.

Hernandez: Our language and culture are not side projects. They are the heartbeat of our identity. Without them, we risk losing the very spirit of who we are. Revitalizing language and culture must be a shared responsibility across our entire tribal government. It cannot rest on the shoulders of just one department. Every program, policy, and decision should reflect and reinforce who we are as Anishinaabe people.

I will advocate for full-time language instructors, language nests for young children, and immersive programming for adults. I support integrating Ojibwe into signage, official documents, community events, and daily communication. Language belongs in our schools, in our homes, and on our lips.

Culture also includes art, ceremony, land-based knowledge, and seasonal

teachings. We should support makers, medicine carriers, ricing camps, drum groups, traditional cooking, and find ways to keep our teachings active. I will work with our cultural departments to increase funding, provide space and supplies, and create more intergenerational gatherings.

Urban and off-reservation relatives must also be part of this vision. Access to cultural teachings and language should not be limited by geography. I will support virtual programs and events in cities like Minneapolis and Duluth, and work to keep urban members included in decision-making.

When we build with the next seven generations in mind, we build slowly, with care, and with strength. That's the approach I will bring as Chairman.

And finally, why are you the right candidate to be the next tribal chairman for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and guide the current council to better days ahead?

**Morrison**: I believe I am the right candidate because of my experience of being on the council before. I have eight years of service to our people. In this time, we went through some rough times. An extended government shutdown and a pandemic, both were not easy. We had to make a lot of tough decisions. I have made many friends and contacts in Indian Country and within the State and Federal Governments. I kept in touch with them, and they reach out to me from time to time. In my time on the council, I spent a couple years as

the vice chairperson, and I went to a lot of the same meetings as the Chairwoman and I have chaired meetings while she was out. I know the demands of the Chairperson and I believe I am ready to stand up for our Band. With this new federal administration, we need someone who has experience and knowledge to navigate the tough world of state and federal politics.

Thank you and please reach out to me with any questions you may have of me. I am willing to come visit and listen!

**Travis Morrison** 

Phone: 218-780-5642 leave a text or voice message and I'll get back to you.

**Hernandez**: I believe in the power of listening. Truly listening. To what our people need, and then taking bold action to address it. I've had to navigate systems both inside and outside of our community, and I know how difficult it can be when people feel ignored, disrespected, or excluded. That's why I'm running. To change that dynamic.

I'm not coming in with all the answers. I'm coming in with a commitment to serve, to work alongside others, and to make decisions based not on fear or politics, but on long-term peace and strength. I want to create a council culture where respectful disagreement is welcome, where accountability is expected, and where transparency is the norm.

I bring strong communication skills, deep cultural respect, and a vision that centers on healing, equity, and opportunity. I believe we can lead with love and still hold strong boundaries. I believe we can modernize our systems without losing our traditions. And I believe that together, with honesty, consistency, and shared purpose, we can rebuild trust, strengthen our community, and rise into the future.

This isn't just a campaign. It's a commitment to a better path forward.

## **8PM START** 06/17/2025





ELECTION

ENERAL

U

SPECIAL

**Microsoft Teams** Meeting ID: 251 765 453 737 3 Passcode: 6aj1Pn7u

District will be live starting with Mpls-Urban at 8:05 followed by Duluth-Urban. Vermilion and then **Nett Lake** 

LIVE BALLOT COUNT

## No More Stolen Sisters event resonates with the Bois Forte community

NETT LAKE—With Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) events taking place across the country, David Morrison, Sr. said he was pleased Bois Forte was doing its part.

"It's nice to see so many people out here for this important cause," said Morrison as he got ready to partake in a No More Stolen Sisters Walk/ Run to raise awareness for MMIW on Wednesday, May 21st. "Personally, I wanted to come out to show my support for people that are missing around the country. It's a really good turnout by our community and the school."

Nearly 100 people came out for the event, which took place in the parking lot at the RTG Building. A similar event took place on the Vermilion Sector one week later.

The Nett Lake event included songs from Bois Forte's Drum group, a T-shirt giveaway to all participants, followed by a walk around the village. Classes from the Nett Lake Elementary School were also on hand to show their support.

"It's always nice to see the kids out and about," said Morrison. "It's imsaid Anderson. "I hope people enjoy themselves today but also remember the cause of why we are here."

A few weeks prior to the event in Nett Lake, a story appeared in *The Minnesota Star Tribune*, discussing how the FBI's "Operation Not Forgotten" program is going to put more manpower into investigating cases involving missing or murdered indigenous people. This was welcome news



## Minute with Millie

June is that time of year that spells freedom for me. Out of school for the summer. Days filled with sunshine. Nights filled with stars in the sky. Powwow time.

On Memorial Day I honored my father and all those who died during the past wars fighting for our country. Especially those of Native American descent who fought in World War I, those who weren't citizens of the United States of America.

Why do I think of this this year? Well...The fact that birthright citizenship is under fire. I watched several of the videos floating around. I've expressed my opinion on this before...the belief that the United States only granted us citizenship in "their country" because they found out they couldn't draft us. I was told back in the day that wasn't why we got citizenship. I didn't believe that then and still don't. Why did it take an Act of Congress on 02 June 1924 to grant citizenship to us? And having a provision that "granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property." I put this here because I was told at a MCT Delegate Convention meeting that it was an Executive Order that granted citizenship. No, it was an Act of Congress.

"Dual Citizenship: The Indian Citizenship Act did not require Native Americans to give up their tribal citizenship. They hold a unique dual citizenship status." Ahhh...therein is the crux of the matter. This is my



interpretation that I came to after a high school Civics Class and is the reason I questioned my father about it.

I, for one, am proud of the fact that so many of my tribe among others had the highest rate of enlistment per capita than any other group in the United States of America. Why? Because we've always fought for our country whether it was known as the United States of America or not.

We're told to keep the seven generations in mind when making decisions. At least we and following generations will have a better understanding of words being said to us rather than listening to an interpreter.

Still so hoping I can continue to look forward to June as being freedom for me.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT— Jenna Lee Porter, who is a cultural healing specialist for Bois Forte, watches as a young student signs up for the No More Stolen Sisters event that helped raise awareness for MMIW. Looking on is Dave Morrison, Sr., who was a longtime secretary-treasurer for the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

portant for them to learn more about causes like these."

Bois Forte band members Natalie Goodsky and Mabeline Anderson also showed up for the event as they too wanted to come out to support missing women.

"Not just the ones who are missing," said Goodsky, "but also the ones who had wrongful deaths."

Anderson added that events like these shouldn't just be important to Native communities, rather to everyone.

"People need to be aware of what is happening to indigenous women," to both Goodsky and Anderson.

"I think that is great, but they should have done it a long time ago," said Anderson.

Goodsky agreed.

"They shouldn't have waited so long, but it's better late than never," she said.

Jenna Lee Porter, who is a cultural healing specialist for Bois Forte, gave a powerful speech prior to the drum group performing its songs. She said that every year more than 5,000 indigenous women and children go missing in the United States alone.

See Stolen Sisters on page 12

## SLOTCO expands tribal gaming footprint at Fortune Bay

VERMILION SECTOR—SLOTCO, a trusted name in slot floor strategy and placements, is teaming up with Fortune Bay Resort Casino to bring an exciting wave of new gaming action and property-wide improvements that are sure to turn heads. This collaboration marks a significant step in elevating the growth of Tribal gaming and delivering an elevated player experience.

This May 2025 installation, marking phase one of a three-phase rollout, was made possible through close coordination with SLOTCO's national vendor network, whose partnership played a crucial role in delivering this

project on time and to spec.

Fortune Bay expanded a curated lineup of state-of-the-art slot machines from some of the industry's top names, including Aristocrat, Light & Wonder, Everi, Incredible Technologies and Gaming Arts. Each machine is integrated with the powerful data collection network from Acres Manufacturing Company and Intelligent-Tag, providing real-time insights for SLOTCO and Fortune Bay.

The updates go beyond the gaming floor. SLOTCO is also backing a series of capital improvements across the property. While construction continues, Fortune Bay will remain open



BUSY WITH THE INSTALL— Fortune Bay's slot team was busy with installing new games on the main level of the casino recently. Pictured working on one of the new games was Mark Boshey, while Mack Swanson, standing left, Elizabeth Deegan, center, and Shawn Sampson, right, look on.

to guests, with planned upgrades—including a new hotel roof, marina improvements, along with road repairs to name a few. These investments are set to roll out in phases thanks to SLOTCO's immediate financial invest-

"At SLOTCO, we're all about creating unforgettable gaming experiences, and this partnership with Fortune Bay is a perfect example of that mission in action," said Robbie Sawyer at SLOTCO. "From cutting-edge machines to forward-thinking upgrades, we're proud to support Fortune Bay Resort Casino in raising the bar for Tribal gaming."

This collaboration with SLOTCO marks a new chapter for our property and our guests," said Elizabeth "EJ" Deegan, General Manager at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. "These enhancements—both on the floor and across the property—show our commitment to innovation, excitement, and delivering the best possible experience to our players and guests."

About SLOTCO

ment.

SLOTCO is focused on slot se-

lection and placement through our data scientists. Partnerships are customized with consistent reporting and recommendations to maximize casino revenues. SLOTCO is Tribally owned through Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures. Our mission is to elevate Tribal gaming and can provide immediate capital to support Tribal communities. To learn more about SLOTCO, please visit: www.slotcocapital. com or follow us on LinkedIn.

## About Fortune Bay Resort Casino

Fortune Bay Resort Casino is located on beautiful Lake Vermilion in northeastern Minnesota and is owned and operated by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

The expansive property first opened its doors as a bingo hall in 1986. Since then, Fortune Bay has added a resort, casino, marina, RV park, golf course, museum and many other amenities, to truly position itself as a destination property.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino is also one of the area's largest employers and is well-known for generously giving back to the communities it serves.

# Bois Forte Tribal Government Enrollment

5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772

218-757-3261, Ext. 1162

Bois Forte Tribal Enrollment will be available at the **Sah Gi Bah Gah Powwow** to issue Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards.

Saturday
June 7, 2025
11:00am to 3:00pm
No Appointment Needed

Bois Forte Tribal Government Building in the Bear Room 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

Any questions, please contact

Kathie Holman,

Tribal Enrollment Coordinator
at 218-757-3261, ext. 1162 or
kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov



Please bring one of the following to receive a Tribal ID:

- Original Certified Birth Certificate
  (No Photocopies)
- State Issued Driver's License
  (Not Expired)
- State Issued Identification Card
  (Not Expired)
- Valid Passport

For name changes please bring legal documents.

# Morrison, Jr. heads up Stroke Awareness event

VERMILION SECTOR— While the turnout might not have been what Bois Forte's David "Squidg" Morrison, Jr. hoped for, he was still pleased that band members took the time to attend a Stroke Awareness Walk/Run as part of May being Stroke Awareness month.

"We are raising awareness of stroke, its symptoms and supporting stroke survivors," said Morrison at the event, which took place Friday, May 23rd outside the Vermilion Wellness Center. "Up to 80% of strokes may be prevented."

During his short presentation, Morrison

touched on what's known as the B.E.F.A.S.T. acronym, which stands for Balance, Eyesight Changes, Face Drooping, Arm Weakness, Speech and Time to Call 911.

Here is a further breakdown of what each letter of the B.E.F.A.S.T. acronym entails:

B= BALANCE

A sudden loss of balance. Ask a person to walk and watch for staggering.

**E= EYESIGHT CHANGES** 

Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes. Onset of double vision. Ask a person for a simple vision

est.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} F=&FACE&DROOP-\\ ING \end{tabular}$ 

Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask a person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

A=ARM WEAK-NESS

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S= SPEECH

Speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like, "The sky is blue."

T= TIME TO CALL 911

If you have any of these symptoms or see someone else having them, call 911 immediately!

Morrison then went on to remind attendees that a stroke is reported every 40 seconds in the United States.

"Your readiness to spot the stroke warning signs and call 911 could save a life or make the difference between a full recovery and long-



READY TO WALK!— Bois Forte band member Judy Jacka signs up for the Stroke Awareness Walk/Run, which took place Friday, May 23rd outside the Vermilion Wellness Center.

term disability," said Morrison, who added that the faster a stroke is treated, the more likely the patient will recover. "In fact, stroke patients who are treated within 90 minutes of their first symptoms were almost three times more likely to recover with little or no disability. The thing to remember is that stroke is largely treatable. It's the matter of getting the right treatment, right away."

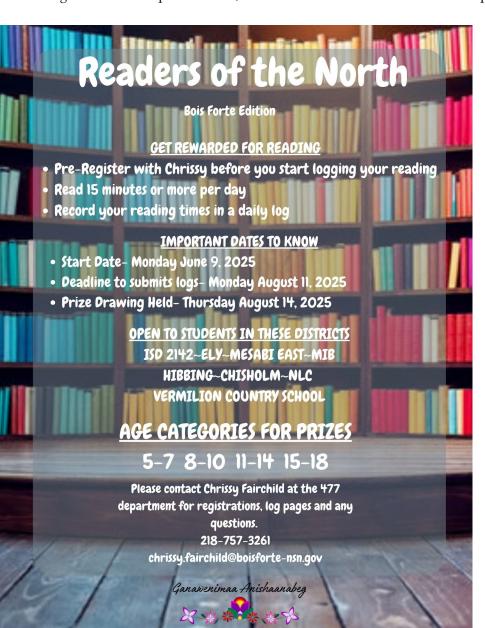
After Morrison's short presentation, the dozen or so attendees went out for a walk to show their support to raise awareness about strokes and taking the steps the reduce one's chance to have a stroke. Some took a short walk, but Morrison said some attendees had planned to walk from the Center to Fortune Bay and beyond.

Obviously, getting exercise, eating right, not smoking, limiting the amount of alcohol consumption, are important steps to take—but also reducing stress is another big factor.

Morrison encouraged attendees to grab a large booklet he put together that was chock full of tips from the American Stroke Association. With the help of Jim Morrison, there was also a display table set up with illustrations from the booklet.

For more information on how to reduce the likelihood of having a stroke, please call the American Stroke Association at 1-888-478-7653 or visit stroke.

For heart-or risk-related information, call the American Heart Association at 1-800-242-8721 or visit heart.org



# **Bois Forte Nutrition Education Program supports and advocates for mental wellness**

During Mental Health Awareness Month, the Bois Forte Nutrition Education Program and the Reducing Harms with Asemaa Project partnered with Bois Forte Behavioral Health to raise awareness and reduce mental health stigma.

To promote positivity and self-care, the team created signs featuring positive affirmations written in English and Ojibwe. These signs are designed to uplift, support, and encourage community members on their mental wellness journey. Some affirmations also carry symbolic meanings rooted in Ojibwe culture, deepening their impact and honoring traditional values of strength, balance, and community healing.







## NENDA GIKENDAN NOOPIMING GAYE NIBIING

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE IN THE WOODS AND PLACE OF WATER

# TRIBAL YOUTH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CAREER CAMP

~ High School aged Tribal youth (14-18yo) ~ participate in a <u>FREE</u> career exploration camp: all lodging, meals and materials provided









Deadline: July 7th, 2025





If you have a news item or announcement for the Bois Forte News, please send it to: bkanderson@fortunebay.com



# Hackey family experiences a connection to its past

VERMILION SECTOR— With the need for additional help in fighting fires throughout our region, Bois Forte band member Vickie Hackey was more than surprised when she found out a crew from the Tule River Tribe in California answered the call for help.

It was actually a chance meeting as the crew from Tule River was unaware that Fortune Bay Resort Casino, where they were staying while in northeastern Minnesota, was located on Dan Hackey's reservation. Dan had worked for the Tule River Tribe for over 20 years as their public relations director. Sadly, he passed away in January of 2024.

Vickie Hackey, who lives on the Vermilion Sector, said the guys thought her brother was from California, so they were amazed to know they were staying at a resort on Dan's reservation.

Those coming to help with the fires in northeastern Minnesota included three of Tule River's Wildland crew members, Owen Rubio, Christian Tapia, and Stordy Dick.

While staying at Fortune Bay, Vickie Hackey arranged a group photo with the crew and some of her family members, including her grandson Jeff Mattson, Jeff's mom, Crystal Mattson; Vickie's sister, Pam Sherman, her grandchildren, Dexter and Ellie Sherman with their dad, Josh Sherman, and Dan Hackey, Jr.

"Thank you, Vickie Hackey, for your heartfelt words!" wrote Rondii Nieto Bonilla of Tule River in a Facebook post about the crew's visit to



PROUD MOMENT— Members of the Dan Hackey family were touched to find out that the Tule River Tribe in California recently sent three members of its Wildland crew to help fight the fires in northeastern Minnesota. Pictured, left to right, are: Owen Rubio, Christian Tapia, Dan Hackey, Jr., Josh Sherman, Ellie Sherman, Pam Sherman, Dexter Sherman, Crystal Mattson, Jeff Mattson, Vickie Hackey, and Stordy Dick. Submitted photo.

the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation. "It was exciting to me to know the crew was in the 'Home of Dan Hackey!' We all miss him... They (Vickie's family) are their connection to Dan. Thank you for running out to take your photos with them like they were celebrities."

For Vickie Hackey, the visit from the Tule River Tribe Wildland Firefighters meant a lot to her and her family.

"It was exciting, and I was just happy to be in touch with people that Dan knew and those that knew him!" said Hackey. "It's like, just because Dan isn't with us any longer —we still have his ties to the Tule River Reservation that took such good care of him for over 20 years!"

### Stolen Sisters from page 8

"So when we do this walk today you're walking for all of the women and children who never got to see their families again— who never got to go to a powwow again, who never got to experience all the things we get to experience, like taking a walk," said an emotional Porter. "I want everyone to remember that today when they take this walk."

Porter said due to her small stature in size that she is a target for people who prey on indigenous women.

"The fact, that I am only 5' 1" makes me even more of a target so I have to watch my back constantly when I am out of town by myself," said Porter, who painted her face in the symbolic red color used to raise awareness for MMIW. "Thank you to everyone for being here, because this shows you care about these people who never made it home. Miigwech."

David "Squidg" Morrison, Jr. also thanked everyone for coming out to support the No More Stolen Sisters event. You could tell he appreciated the resounding support shown by those in attendance.

"We are gathered here today in a good way—to honor, recognize and raise awareness for MMIW and their relatives," said Morrison, Jr. "It's important that we gather to sing and pray for them. We also pray for those families out there that still have loved ones missing. We pray that they are able to bring them home and start healing."

## Rock painting session part of Healthy Teen Conference

## **Iim Morrison**

VIRGINIA— The Healthy Teen Conference that took place earlier this month at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center was a big hit. Students learned about a wide variety of topics, including some sessions on mental health.

Here are some of the benefits that rock painting can do for one's mental health:

## Promote mindfulness and focus:

When you're absorbed in a creative activity, you are less likely to dwell on stressful thoughts, promot-

Submitted by Dawn Anderson and ing mindfulness and a sense of being present.

### Cortisol reduction:

Studies have shown that engaging in creative activities like art and crafts can significantly reduce cortisol levels, the hormone associated with

### **Emotional expression:**

Arts and crafts can serve as a safe outlet for expressing emotions, allowing you to process and release pent up feelings.

## Distraction from stressors:

The act of creating can be a pow-

erful distraction from daily stressors, providing a temporary escape and a chance to relax.

## Sense of accomplishment:

Completing a craft project can provide a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, boosting self-esteem and promoting a positive mindset.

### Self-care and relaxation:

Arts and crafts can be a form of self-care, allowing individuals to prioritize well-being and engage in activities that will bring you joy and relaxation. "There are things known and things unknown, in between are the doors."





VERY IMPRESSIVE!—Here are some samples of the rocks the students painted at the Healthy Teen Conference. Great job to you all!



# Important

## **Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council Public Notice of Censure**

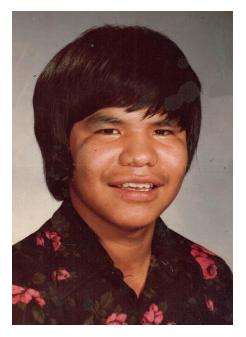
At a meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council ("RTC") held on May 22, 2025 at Nett Lake, Minnesota, on the Bois Forte Reservation, the RTC adopted the following Censure Motion by vote of 2 for, 1 against, 0 silent, with a quorum of 4 being present:

## Censure of District I Representative Perry Drift

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to censure District I Representative Perry Drift for his actions that occurred on April 11th and 12th at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, which included damage to property, abuse of power and authority, and making serious threats to Bois Forte Band Members and guests through gestures and statements, all of which has eroded public trust in the Tribal Council, damaged the reputation of the Tribal Council and the Bois Forte Band, undermined tribal traditions and values, and inflicted fear among guests and staff of Fortune Bay. The censure shall be posted in public places on Bois Forte Reservation and on the Tribal Government's official social media outlets.

Carried 2-1-0, Perry Drift opposed.





## Harry "Butch" Dean Porter III

Harry "Butch" Dean Porter III, age 64, passed away on May 11, 2025, in Burnsville, Minnesota.

He was born on February 18, 1961, in Cook, MN to Harry Porter Jr. and Mary (Goggleye) Porter.

Through the years he lived in Duluth, and lived most of his adult life in Virginia, Minnesota. He enjoyed spending time listening to the music of Kiss, riding his pedal bike and fishing.

He is survived by his son, Jamison of Cloquet, Minnesota; his mother, Mary Porter of Nett Lake, MN; brother Gerald "Turk" (Jeneal) Goggleye of Nett Lake, MN; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harry Porter Jr; brothers: Lance Por-

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

June 2: Fried Fish, Crinkle Cut Fries, Coleslaw, Hushpuppies, Fruit

June 3: Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

**June 4:** Scalloped Potatoes w/ Ham, Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 5:** Beef Barley Vegetable Soup Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 6:** BBQ Pulled Pork Baked Bean, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 9:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 10:** Roast Turkey Slice, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, French-cut Green Beans, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie

June 11: Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef's Choice of Fruit

June 12: Picnic Lunch-Cook's Choice June 13: BBQ Pork Riblette, AuGratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit



**June 16:** Baked Pork Chop, Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower/Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

June 17: MCT ELECTIONS-closed

**June 18:** Tuna Noodle Casserole, Capri Veg Blend, Corn Muffin, Fruit

June 19: HOLIDAY

June 20: Swiss Steak, New Roasted Potatoes, Chateau Veg Blend, Garlic Cheese Biscuit, Chef's Choice of Fruit June 23: Shepherd's Pie, Biscuit,

Steamed Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 24:** White Chicken Chili w/ Beans, Corn Bread, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 25:** Pasta Salad, Broccoli, Bread Stick, Yogurt

June 26: Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**June 27:** Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit

ter, Brian J. Porter, Dion Porter, and Barry Porter; grandparents: Madeline Goggleye and Jess Goggleye and Harry Porter and Jenny Porter; sister, Becky Porter.

The wake was held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, beginning at 5 p.m. Traditional Services took place Friday, May 16, 2025,

at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building.

Casket Bearers were: Bryce Chosa, Darius Goggleye, Angelo Kingbird, David "Squidg" Morrison, Lance Kingbird, Charles Gonier, Devon Porter and Bryan Porter.

--Entertainment

We would like to thank everybody for their donation of food and support for the Harry D. Porter family during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

The Porter and Goggleye families

Call or Text Amber R. Z. Harman at 218-248-0148

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK** 

Ode'imini Giizis Farmers Market



### Regular RTC meeting April 7, 2025

Minutes of a Regular meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held April 7, 2025, at Nett Lake Government agreement 3-0-0 Center, Eagle Room, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:04

Invocation done by Vern Adams Members Present: Shane Drift, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Robert Mover, Jr.

Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Miranda Lilva. Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Jaime, Carol Burr, Matt Knight, Kim Greiner, Doris Isham, Vondalee Carr, Jim Barto, Randy Long, Jaylen Strong, Vanessa Little, Rebecca Gawboy, Sam O'Brian, Simona Benner, Angela Wright, Theresa Drift.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with modifications, move Melissa Wright with SORNA after Dan Rabideaux and adding Randy Long with the NTIA Fiber to home contract after Simona Benner.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held March 3, 2025.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held March 5, 2025 due do not being ready.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) Resolution No. 73-2025, Appointment of Christopher D. Anderson to serve as an MCT Tribal Election court of appeals judge for 2025 Special Election 3-0-0
  - b) Appointment of Debra Thomp-

son to General Election Board 3-0-0 NA Code revisions.

- c) Approved Financial contingency plan for Federal Shut Down 3-0-0
- d) Resolution No. 81-2025, approving candidate forum project
- e) Approve interest payment from CRC to RTC 3-0-0
- f) Approve lease payment to CRC for rent govt services/council rent
- g) Appointments to General Election Board 3-0-0
- h) Resolution No. 82-2025, participate in MTERA Home electrification and appliance rebate program
- i) Letter to Senator Hauschild Re: Bands support for SF 2530 (Helium Legislation) 3-0-0
- i) Raffle Fundraiser for sobriety pow wow being held 04/19/2025 3-0-0
- k) Approve Letter RE: Bands opposition to Trump Executive order "Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy" Targeting the CDFI Fund 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

During the consent agenda approval, Shane confirms that with letter d) resolution no. 81-2025 that this was discussed with MCT and they are ok with it, Miranda confirms. Shane also requests Kim Greiner to discuss items e) and f).

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Nett Lake Food Shelf renovation, accept bids, award bid to Lenci Enterprises and authorize HHS CEO, Dan Rabideaux to sign and execute documents.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the VA Medical reimbursement agreement with Dept. of VA, St. Cloud.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 85-2025, adopting SOR-

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 83-2025, no single RTC member has the power to take action to bind the band.

Carried 3-0-0

Presentation and discussion from Jaylen Strong, Sam O'Brian & Rebetween Heritage Cener and Vermilion Country School on Language & Culture Nest, Education Program for teenagers.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift: to approve Resolution No. 91-2025, the SS4A Transportation Safety Action Plan.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the bid recommendations and award bid to Lenci Enterprises for the Vermilion Head Start project.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 84-2025, Appointment of Malita Kletschka-Spears to the MN Tribal Collaborative.

Carried 3-0-0

Due to a conflict with Shane on the Donation committee recommendations with Indigenous Student Organization of UMD, this item will be polled.

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the following donation committee recommendations:

- a) \$500 to ISD 2142 Iron Mosquitos Indigenous Outreach Team
- b) \$500 to Northern Twisters Gym-
- c) \$500 to Next Level Basketball Academy
- d) \$500 to North Woods Archery 2025

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agreement and sole source request to North Span for the SSBCI program prove Phase 2 construction contract technical services.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agreement and sole source request to Tyler Technology for ERP system.

Carried 3-0-0

Discussion and follow-up on SSBbecca Gawboy on the collaboration CI & Fortune Bay request for financial assistance.

> Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 86-2025, adopting procedures for garnishment of per capita payments for CY 2025 and future years.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the MOU and billing agreement with St. Louis County for Pilot Sprint Medic program.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 87-2025, adopting the 401K funding changes.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Postloan Engineering Services contract, Telecommunications Systems to Communication Network Engineering, Inc. for NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity in the amount of \$1,066,837.00.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Phase 1 construction contract to Hanco Utilities, Inc in the amount of \$8,023,049.33.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Phase 1 splicing contract to Optical Xperts. LLC in the amount of \$633,001.02.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Mover, Jr.; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to apto Lake States Construction, LLC in the amount of \$5,890,188.26.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Phase 2 splicing contract to Ramstad Technologies, Inc in the amount of \$390.118.44.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Phase 3 construction contract to North Central Service, Inc. in the amount of \$3,917,02.48.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Mover, Jr.: seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Phase 3 splicing contract to Ramstad Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$261,322.56.

Carried 3-0-0

Representative District I, Perry Drift, provides a report on his trip to Washington D.C. for MAST Impact Week (Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes), 03/23/2025 - 03/27/2025.

Pam Parson gives a compliance update.

Shane brings up a discussion on Suspension/Debarment policy. Shane would like to bring this policy in place for contractors on Tribal Government side and Band Member side. What this policy would cover is if a contractor does not fulfill the contract they would be disbarred from doing business with the government.

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 88-2025, adopting polices regarding RTC members' salaries and benefits.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 1:17 p.m.

Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving Approved at Special RTC Meeting:

May 22, 2025

## SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

A Special General Election of the BOIS FORTE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on June 17, 2025 to fill the position of Chairperson.

**ELECTION DATE:** June 17, 2025 **POLLING PLACES:** 

#### DISTRICT I:

Government and Community Services Building 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

#### DISTRICT II:

Vermilion Social Center 1610 Farm Road South Tower, MN 55790

#### **BOIS FORTE MINNEAPOLIS:**

URBAN OFFICE URBAN OFFICE MN Chippewa Tribe Office 1308 E. Franklin Ave. Ste. 112

#### **BOIS FORTE DULUTH:**

1915 South Street Duluth, MN 55812 POLLS OPEN: 8:00 a.m. CLOSE 8:00 p.m.

### \*\*\*ABSENTEE VOTING\*\*\* **GENERAL ELECTION BOARD**

Government and Community Services Building Wolf Room 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

### **CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRPERSON-TERM ENDING 2028**

**Travis Morrison** Carlos A. Hernandez

## **Bois Forte RTC Meeting Minutes**

## Special RTC Meeting May 7, 2025

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held May 7, 2025, at Vermilion Social Center, Tower, MN, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 .m.

Moment of silence done for invocation.

Members Present: Shane Drift,

Tara Geshick, Robert Moyer, Jr. Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: Perry Drift (leave status)

Others Present: Miranda Lilya, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Pam Parson, Randy Long, Jim Barto, Simona Benner, Doris Isham, Christine Lundemo, Meredith Two-Crow, Peter Boney, Kristen Strong, Carol Burr, Lawrence Connor, Dan Rabideaux, Kim Greiner, Toni Wakemup, Marissa Rose, Leah Masucci, Carrie Strong, Jaylen Strong, Vickey Hackey

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda with the addition of Jeneal Goggleye-Bid Recommendations for Housing Roof Project and 2 updates to share with band members.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a) Donation recommendation to Indigenous Student Organization of UMD \$500 3-0-0
- b) Joint tribal letter opposing sweepstakes to online gaming 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

Pam Parson provides a compliance update. Will be providing HIP-PA training. Working on policy reviews security risk assessment for last year. Emphasis was placed on logging off computers and employee education on phishing schemes.

Tara Geshick enters the meeting during Pam's update.

During the approval of the March 3, 2025 meeting minutes Shane makes some comments on the letters approved during the consent agenda for the March 3rd meeting. Shane also asked for an update on the Fortune Bay projects requesting to use Government funds. Kim does provide some information.

and that they have been working with the SSBCI program.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC Meeting minutes from special meeting held March 3, 2025.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the RTC Meeting minutes from special meeting held March 5, 2025.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table the RTC Meeting minutes from regular meeting held April 7, 2025.

Carried 2-0-0

During the approval of the April 14, 2025 meeting minutes Tara asks if the absence of Perry Drift is excused or unexcused. There was a lot of discussion on this from council and the audience, but no clarification was made. There was further discussion on Perry's paid or unpaid status and who approves leave.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the RTC Meeting minutes from special meeting held April 14, 2025.

Carried 2-0-0

Paxton Goodsky provides a financial on update on Ishkode includes sales, profits and plans for repaying the Y-Store. There was a lot of discussion on expenses, product sourcing and employee salaries.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the FY 2026-2027 MN Head Start grant.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the 2026 Head Start licensing in Nett Lake and Vermilion centers.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start Child health and safety reporting policy.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the letter to Tina Smith re: Head start funding and authorizing Shane to sign.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Mover, Jr.; sec-

onded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Virginia Property renovation Phase II, accept bids, recommendation of Max Gray Construction and authorize Dan Rabideaux to execute documents.

Carried 2-0-0

David Morrison Jr. brings up communication issues between Council, Sr. Mgmt, and employees and if his concerns/questions are being brought back to Sr. Mgmt or Council. There a lot of events that he and his colleagues are involved in. Noted that participation is low, even by Senior Management or Council members. Brought up that employees were directed to use TEAMS to share their events but not everyone is using or has access. Employees should be involved and encouraged to attend.

A 15-minute recess is taken at 11:15 a.m.

Meeting reconvenes at 11:31 a.m.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the donation committee recommendation of \$500 to the MN Native Elder games.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Tribal monitor program agreements for each of the 5 individuals, Vern Adams Jr., Donald Wakemup, Amanda Quoetone, Brian Stillday, Jr., and Devon Porter.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the 2025 vehicle/misc. insurance renewal and authorize Tara to sign.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the contract with Northspan for Technical Assistance with the SS-BCI program.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Accounting Policy for Recurring Operating Costs, effective June 1, 2025.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the request open a bank account for the SSBCI program at Park State Bank.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Data use agreement for Participating in the MIIC (MN Immunization Information Connection) and authorizing Shane to sign.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the State of MN Micro grant for MN Paths to Parenthood 2 (MNPTP2), audience analysis-indigenous youth.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 92-2025, cancellation of lease agreement for Anna Wirta-Kosobuski.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 93-2025, new lease agreement for Taneesha Dupree.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the submittal of the 2026-2027 CSBG grant.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the 2025 EMS appreciation stipends totaling \$13,500.00.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the amendment to professional services agreement to DSGW for A&E services for the Bois Forte Housing project, renovations to 5 homes.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the bid recommendation to Archkey/Town and Country for Bois Forte Housing roof replacements.

Carried 2-0-0

A recess was taken at 12:43 p.m.

Meeting reconvenes at 12:54 p.m.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 94-2025, extending Resolution No. 35-2017 to employees of Bois Forte Enterprises.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to deny Resolution No. 95-2025, Prohibit RTC members from engaging in any consumption of alcohol at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 96-2025, Prohibit RTC members from engaging in any form of gambling at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Carried 2-0-0

Resolution No. 97-2025, giving Executive Director authority due to lack of quorum in certain HR-related items, dies for lack of motion.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 1:46 p.m.

Carried 2-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving Approved at Special RTC Meeting: May 22, 2025

## LEGAL NOTICE IN THE BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS TRIBAL COURT CIVIL DIVISION - MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

In the Matter of: Jennifer Lynn Medicine, petitioner vs Cheyanna Medicine, respondent,

Court File Number: CV-HO-2025-0009

TO: The Above-Named Respondent, Cheyanna Medicine.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given that a permanent Harassment Restraining Order was granted in the above-named case on May 27th, 2025, by default. The said Harassment Restraining Order is in effect until May 27th, 2026.

By the Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B Orr, MN 55771 Phone: 218-757-3462