



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 49 NUMBER 7

July 4th closing reminder and Fortune Bay 4th of July celebration!

The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government Buildings in Nett Lake and Vermilion will be closed Friday, July 4th. This means both clinics and all other services will be closed as well. Enjoy the holiday— and make sure to check out Fortune Bay's 4th of July celebration, which includes live music from 7-10 p.m. and fireworks beginning at 10 p.m.!

Hernandez edges out Morrison by three votes

NETT LAKE— Although Travis Morrison had the name recognition and political experience coming into the June 17th General Election, Carlos Hernandez still earned a narrow 170-167 win and thus will



MEET YOUR NEW TRIBAL CHAIR!— Carlos Hernandez narrowly defeated former District I Representative Travis Morrison to fill the vacated Bois Forte Tribal Chair seat. "This is not about one person. It is about all of us, together," said Hernandez after the election. "I believe we can build something strong for the generations to come. Miigwech."

serve as Bois Forte's Tribal Chair until 2028.

"It has not fully sunk in yet," said Hernandez the day after the election results were certified. "I am incredibly honored and humbled. When I found out the results, I felt a deep wave of gratitude and responsibility."

Hernandez added that he thought of his family, our ancestors, and all the people who came together hoping for a stronger path forward.

"It was emotional," said

Hernandez, who was officially sworn into office on Monday, June 30th, four days after this issue of The Bois Forte News went to press. "I am carrying this with a lot of respect in my heart."

The three-vote victory capped a nice comeback by

made a nice comeback with the Minneapolis Urban Office by a 19-11 count. In the April Primary, Morrison won that polling place by a 21-11 margin.

Hernandez also eked out a 12-11 advantage at the Duluth Urban Office and also rebounded with Absentee Ballots by a

ing mental health issues.

When asked what the win meant to him, Hernandez said it means the Bois Forte people want to be heard and included. He added that it also means Bois Forte band members are ready for a future built on trust, communication, and account-



ELECTION DAY!— Carol Burr, left, signs in to vote at the Vermilion Sector Polling Place during the General Election on Tuesday, June 17 that would determine who the next Bois Forte Tribal Chair would be. Carlos Hernandez edged out Travis Morrison by a 170-167 margin. Helping Burr out is Election Clerk Monica Porter.

Hernandez, who came in second to Morrison in April's Primary by a 139-116 mark.

At the June 17th General Election, Morrison carried the Nett Lake vote 65-40, while Hernandez carried the Vermilion Sector by a 73-64 margin. He

26-16 count. There were three spoiled ballots out of 340 votes cast.

The 340 votes marked a 67 vote drop from the Primary when six candidates were in the running to replace Cathy Chavers, who resigned in January cit-

ability.

"I believe this victory came from listening and staying grounded in the concerns and hopes of our band members. Whether people live in Nett

See Hernandez page 3

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Six reasons why you should never miss your doctor appointment

Submitted by Bois Forte Health and Human Services staff

NETT LAKE—To live a long and healthy life you need to take care of your body. A good way to keep your body healthy is to keep your medical appointments with your doctor.

To show you the true importance of attending your medical appointments, here are six consequences of not doing so:

Having trouble setting another appointment

A doctor's schedule is not always free. Getting another appointment

quickly may be difficult to do.

Inconveniencing other patients

Doctors, on a normal basis, cater a lot of patients – not only you. If you miss your scheduled appointment by being absent or later than the designated time, you are compromising another person who has properly attended theirs. They, just like you, reserved a portion of their time to get checked.

Change in medication needs

The human body is a complex specimen and is subject to change. If you are not seeing your doctor as scheduled, chances are that your body with not be

in touch with its medical needs.

Not detecting underlying conditions

Sometimes a health issue can trigger another disease without you knowing. This is one of the most critical features of seeing your doctor often. The more you visit them, the higher the likelihood of detecting diseases and addressing them at the earliest opportunity possible.

Worsening of conditions

Never be too complacent with your health. Though you think you are feeling well momentarily, it does not reflect the real status quo of your health. Well visits are just as important as sick visits.

Outdated medical measures

Not keeping a constant touch with your doctor? You are at risk of maintaining outdated medical techniques and measures. For example, a new therapy has been declared to be more effective

than the one you are constantly engaging in. Without visiting your doctor, you may miss out on this important change.

We understand life is busy. If you are unable to make an appointment, please call to cancel/reschedule:

Nett Lake Medical Clinic —218-757-3650

Vermilion Medical Clinic—218-753-2182.

Need help with transportation to your appointment? Contact Community Health to determine eligibility:

Nett Lake— 218-757-3295

Vermilion— 218-753-4542

The Nett Lake and Vermilion Clinics are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. However, keep in mind they are closed for holidays and other special events.

BOIS FORTE COMMUNITY CLEANUP 2025

COLLECTION AREAS AND DATES:

Hwy 65 – Palmquist – July 7-July 11

Sugarbush-Indian Point – July 14 -July

18 Vermilion-July 21 -August 1

Please separate materials by type as follows:

- ❖ Wood
- ❖ Tires (with or without rims)
- ❖ Metal (all types)
- ❖ Appliances
- ❖ Mattresses

ONLY LEAVE ITEMS IN CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE. NO GARBAGE, PLEASE.

After collection dates listed above, collection areas will be photographed and listed as finished. No materials placed after the end dates listed above will be collected for disposal.

Please Contact Frank Villebrun, Environmental Programs Manager, at Bois Forte Environmental Services (fvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov or call 218-757-3261) if you have questions about this service.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is hiring!

NETT LAKE—Bois Forte has several jobs available in both Nett Lake and the Vermilion Sector.

Health & Human Services has an opening for a full-time Dentist (beginning salary is \$153,403.14) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position (beginning salary is \$52,137.57) available in Nett and Vermilion, plus a full-time Substance Use Disorder Counselor (beginning hourly wage is \$19.13) in Nett Lake. The deadline to apply is July 7 for the LPN and Substance Use Disorder Counselor, while the deadline for the dentist position is July 21.

The 477 program/Early Childhood Programs in both Nett Lake and Vermilion has a need for an on call Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute. The deadline to apply is July 23rd and the starting wage is \$12 an hour.

The Vermilion Sector Maintenance Department is looking for an on-call re-

ceptionist. The deadline to apply is September 30. The starting wage is \$12.72 an hour.

The Boys and Girls Club in Nett Lake has a need for two, full-time Youth Development Coordinators. These jobs will be posted until they are filled and have a starting wage of \$12 an hour.

Public Works/Big Woods Transit has a need for on-call, part-time and full-time bus drivers. You need a commercial driver's license to be eligible for this position, which pays a starting wage of \$16.50/\$17.25 per hour.

For more information on these jobs, please visit www.boisforte.com and go to the employment tab at the top of the home page. You can also check out job openings for Fortune Bay Resort Casino and other Bois Forte Development Corporation entities at the aforementioned website.

If you have a story idea for the Bois Forte News, please call Brian at 218-753-7882 or email bkanderson@fortunebay.com

Hernandez from page 1

Lake, Vermilion, Duluth, or Minneapolis, they deserve to be part of the decisions that affect them,” said Hernandez. “I am grateful to everyone who showed up and made their voices count.”

This is the first-time the Vermilion Sector had a candidate win the Tribal Chair since Kevin Leecy ran off three consecutive wins before Chavers defeated him in the 2016 election.

As for Morrison, he said he was not disappointed in the results of the election.

“The Bois Forte people have spoken, and I can respect that,” said Morrison. “I ran on my experience and knowledge of tribal governance...the people saw a time for change. I will still be around the community and helping in a smaller capacity.”

Morrison said his advice to Hernandez as he takes over as Tribal Chair is to stay true to himself and to stay humble.

“Listen to all band members and not just a few,” said Morrison, who added that he does not plan to run for the Bois Forte Tribal Council again. “I did my eight years and now I’ve tried for a few more. I’m happy with my effort—Bois Forte does not need me in that capacity anymore. Good luck to the future tribal councils of Bois Forte.”

Morrison expressed much gratitude to band members for their support in both the Primary and General Elections.

“Thank you to all the candidates who ran as well,” said Morrison of the

list of six candidates that squared off in April’s Primary. “And good luck to Mr. Carlos Hernandez in his new position!”

Hernandez also thanked the voters for their support and expressed appreciation to Morrison for running and for his willingness to serve the Bois Forte people.

“He ran a clean campaign and showed what it means to lead with respect. I believe he has been an excellent role model for future candidates,” said Hernandez. “It takes courage to step forward and campaign, and I know he cares deeply about our community. I hope we can continue working together in any way that strengthens Bois Forte. At the end of the day, we all want what is best for our Band.”

While the Swearing In Ceremony typically takes place in mid-July, Hernandez had less than two weeks to prepare for his new role. That means giving his notice at the Bois Forte Housing on the Vermilion Sector and then getting up to speed on all the issues the current council is facing. He said he will be reaching out to department heads and council members to learn about current efforts and how he can support their work. Hernandez will also set aside time to review policies, budgets, and ongoing projects to make sure he understands what needs immediate attention.

“It is just as important to stay connected with our Band members in Duluth and Minneapolis,” said Hernandez, who was born and raised in Long Beach,



HELPING OUT— This trio of civic-minded individuals were busy working the Vermilion Sector Polling Place at the RTG Building. Pictured, left to right, are: Monica Porter, Besse Medicine and Jeff Mattson.

California and later earned his GED at the Southern California Indian Center in Los Angeles. “I plan to stay in communication with the Urban Offices and make sure their needs are part of our planning and decisions. At the same time, I will be taking care of my own wellbeing and staying spiritually grounded. Leadership requires clarity, balance, and the ability to serve with a good heart.”

That’s exactly what Hernandez accomplished as a tribal police officer for Bois Forte and a federal police officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 10 years. He prided himself on treating people with respect and fairness and used that same model while working at Fortune Bay for 14 years in a variety of roles, including blackjack dealer, floor supervisor, pit boss, poker dealer, casino host, and players club representative.

The road Hernandez traveled wasn’t

always easy, but he persevered and thanks to his strong work ethic, values and character, he believes he is ready to lead the Bois Forte people to a promising future.

“I want to thank the people of Bois Forte for placing your trust in me. I do not take this responsibility lightly,” said Hernandez, who lives on the Vermilion Sector with his fiancé, Rhiannon Strong and their three children, Carlos, Jr., Kayden and Aolani. “My goal is to represent all of us with respect, to lead with integrity, and to listen with an open heart. Whether you voted for me or not, I serve all Band members equally, and I will always welcome your voice at the table.”



CASTING HIS VOTE— William George Isham, right, gets ready to sign in for the Tuesday, June 17th General Election with General Election Clerk Linda Shykes at the Nett Lake polling place.



FRIENDLY CREW— The Nett Lake Polling Place was manned by Cathy Strong, far left, Debbie Thompson, center, Gloria Love, standing, and Linda Shykes, far right. Thank you all for stepping up to work the election!



DOING THEIR PART!— It was a wonderful day to be outside! Pictured here are some of the Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees who helped with the St. Louis County Adopt a Highway Clean Up back in May. Great job team and hats off to St. Louis County for being such great partners to work with! Pictured, left to right, are: Melissa Abts, Alanna Sherman, Emily Lehti, Hannah Lehti, Elizabeth Deegan, Andrew Little, James Farrell and Tony Yeley.

ODE'IMINI GIIZIS FARMERS MARKET

WE WANT YOU!

Market Location: Nett Lake, MN
(Across from the Nett Lake C-Store, 13074 Nett Lake Rd)

Market Hours: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Upcoming Dates

July 10th

August 14th

September 11th

We're looking for:

- Produce Vendors
- Food Vendors
- Specialty Food
- Arts & Crafts
- Entertainment

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

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
Ode'imini Giizis Farmers Market

Waukon hired as CEO for Bois Forte Business Development Corporation

VERMILION SECTOR — Susan Waukon has been on a whirlwind tour this week as she takes the helm as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Bois Forte Development Corporation.

Not only has the Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and Ho-Chunk Nation native been busy getting acclimated to her new office at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, but she also hit the road to the Nett Lake Village Tuesday to meet with members of the Reservation Tribal Government Management team and employees.

Sprinkle in numerous meetings and it's safe to say that Waukon has seamlessly fit into her new position in guiding Bois Forte toward a prosperous future.

"The team ensured a smooth transition from day one," said Waukon, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Geology and then her Master of Public Administration from Cornell University with a specialization in nonprofit management and economic development. "They welcomed me warmly, demonstrating their dedication to the company's success."

That included an introduction of staff at the Wednesday, June 25th BFDC

meeting by Acting Chair and District I Representative Shane Drift, who wished Waukon well and added that he was glad to have her as part of the Bois Forte team. Other members of the Tribal Council also gave a nice welcome to her.

"It was very nice to meet you yesterday," said Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick, who attended the meeting via Teams. "I like all the things you let us know about supervision and leadership; I appreciate that."

District I Representative Perry Drift and District II Representative Robert Moyer also welcomed Waukon to her new role as CEO.

"I look forward to meeting you," said Moyer, who also attended the meeting via Teams. "Sorry I missed you yesterday, but I was hanging with the grand-kids as one of them graduated from Head Start. Thanks for being here, and I'll see you soon."

Waukon reciprocated the well wishes and gave a quick overview of her work history.

"I'm kind of 'Old School' in a lot of ways," said Waukon, who was raised

See Waukon on page 9



GLAD TO BE HERE!— Susan Waukon has fit right in as the new Bois Forte Business Development Corporation's CEO. The Black River Falls, Wisconsin native is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribe in Wisconsin. She was raised by her grandparents and said that her family has kept her grounded. "My adult children and dog often join me on hikes and at community events," said Waukon. "When I'm not working, I enjoy gardening and taking outdoor adventures."

The love of racing runs deep for Chavez

EVELETH— Racing cars is not only an escape for Anastashia Chavez— but it is also a reminder of family every time she hops into her black 2005 Pontiac Sunfire.

“That one is for my mom,” said Chavez, a 17-year-old Bois Forte band member, as she pointed to a decal on the back window area that reads LLARB. “It stands for Long Live Amanda Rae Boshey.”

Chavez paused for a moment as saying the words Long Live Amanda Rae Boshey struck a chord, perhaps serving as a reminder of just how fresh the tragedy of Amanda’s untimely death was to her.

Boshey was tragically struck and killed while walking Reservation Road near Fortune Bay Resort Casino on December 19, 2024, by an alleged drunk driver who fled the scene. A motion hearing was postponed in June but has been rescheduled for Eric Scott Peterson of Virginia in late July at the U.S. District Court in Duluth.

While the LLARB decal means the most to her, Chavez has other reminders of family members who were taken too soon, including her cousin Trevon Boshey and her Aunt Joni Dahl, both of whom died in car crashes.

“This is pretty much a memorial car for a lot of people,” said Chavez, who began racing at the age of 14 and is currently in the Hornet Class for several tracks around the area. “What started it was my Aunt Joni. This decal here is one that she custom-made. The 13 on my door is for my mom, who was born on the 13th of August, and the TB is for Trevon.”

While Chavez is only 17, it’s clear she is wise beyond her years, perhaps due to the numerous tragedies she has endured in her young life. Although it’s not a cure-all, whenever Chavez fires up the engine on her car at race night, the anxiety that sometimes overwhelms her, fades away.

“Racing cars is therapeutic for me,” said Chavez, who attends high school



FAMILY BOND— The sport of racing has tightened the bond Anastashia Chavez, far right, has with her grandmother Kimberly, left, and Grandfather John Dahl. Not pictured is Kimberly’s husband Brad, who also helps out Chavez’s racing career.

at Northeast Range School in Babbitt and is also pursuing her AA as part of the school’s Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program. “It helps me to escape.”

Her grandmother, Kimberly Day, concurred.

“She has a lot of social anxiety, and racing has really calmed her down,” said Day from Anastashia’s grandfather John Dahl’s sprawling backyard in rural Eveleth that also serves as the garage for Anastashia’s current car and two cars that she no longer uses.

Chavez said racing cars has also expanded her circle of friends, and she added that she even has made friends with former competitors. One of them,

whom she jokingly calls “Bonnie The Menace,” didn’t care for her very much when Chavez T-boned her at the Hibbing Raceway going 65 miles an hour.

“It was pretty bad,” recounted Chavez, whose two cars parked in her grandfather’s yard are both totaled because of race night crashes. “She got hurt that night, and so did I, but we’re now on the same racing team, so we’re teammates and friends. That’s the great thing about racing — you meet some great people, and I’ve made some good friends.”

Chavez said that getting into those crashes has helped her improve as a racer and has also saved Dahl, some money.

“The first car he bought me only

lasted three races,” said Chavez. “After that crash, I taught myself defensive driving and pretty much learned how to avoid crashes. I just take chances when the opportunity is there.”

That’s good news for Dahl as he provides his granddaughter with cars and other expenses related to the sport of racing.

“I used to race myself and thought that I was out of it,” said Dahl of the racing scene. “But then she took an interest in it, and I got a little bit of an urge to help her. I tried to talk her out of it in the beginning by telling her it’s too much work and money.”

See Chavez on page 6

Chavez from page 5

Right on cue, Anastashia chimed in. “And it only gets more expensive,” said a smiling Chavez, who was born in Hibbing, grew up in Nett Lake, and now lives in Babbitt.

Chavez said she became interested in racing cars at a very early age when Dahl took her to the races, but she wasn’t completely hooked until she watched all of the Fast and Furious movies with her older cousins. The need for speed was definitely there, and it suited Chavez just fine. So perhaps when girls her age

were more into boys and makeup, she was into working on her race car with her Grandpas, John Dahl and Brad Day, and her second cousin, Rena Boshey, who works on her pit crew.

She currently races three nights a week, so she needs to make sure her car is running in tip-top shape as she races against others in the Hornet Class. She plans to move up to the Midwest Modified Class, but isn’t sure when she’ll make that leap.

“It’s a busy schedule for us,” said Chavez, whose best finish in her young career was third at the Hibbing Race-

way. “I’m in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Hibbing on Saturdays, and then at the Proctor Speedway on Sundays.”

Despite the busy schedule, her Grandfather John doesn’t mind as it gets him back into the sport. He’s quick to offer advice and enjoys helping his granddaughter pursue her racing career.

“I like being involved with her,” said the youthful looking 81-year-old Dahl. “It gives us a chance to spend time together doing what she loves to do. She’s very family orientated and I’m glad to be part of her team.”

The same can be said for Grandma Kimberly, whose admiration for Anastashia is easy to see.

“I really love it,” said Day, whose husband, Brad, had to work and there-

fore couldn’t be around for the interview. “They are getting to know each other really well. Family is important to all of us. We spend a lot of time together, and it only strengthens our bond.”

Chavez will be a senior next year, and if all goes well, she plans to attend the University of Minnesota, where she hopes to major in Criminal Justice.

“That’s my dream college. But right now, I just want to continue enjoy doing what I love and I am very, very thankful for my team and their support,” said Chavez. “I couldn’t be where I am today without my Grandma Kim, Grandpa John, Grandpa Brad, Rena Boshey, and Mikayla Labarge.”



CONFIDENT RACER— Anatashia Chavez feels like she’s on top of the world whenever she gets behind the wheel of her 2005 Pontiac Sunfire.



TRIBUTES— Here are a couple of the decals Anatashia Chavez has on the back window area of her 2005 Pontiac Sunfire. The spider with J D on it is for her Aunt Joni Dahl, who was killed in a car accident, while the LLARB stands for Long Live Amanda Rae Boshey, who is Anastashia’s mother and was tragically struck and killed by a alleged drunk driver last December.

Bois Forte Band Member Community Meeting

July 9, 2025, 5:00PM
Nett Lake - RTG - Eagle Room



TENTATIVE AGENDA

- Bois Forte Eagle Staff
- Blood Quantum - adding Red Lake



Live Stream available via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 275 180 482 372 3
Passcode: XB3u5tC6

Light dinner will be provided

Bois Forte hosts training for All-Hazards Threats

VERMILION SECTOR—Bois Forte's Emergency Preparedness and Community Health Programs joined forces to offer a two day "Community Based Planning for All-Hazards Threats in Tribal Nations" in late April at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

"This was a unique event which brought together the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, five different Tribal Health Departments (Bois Forte, Red Lake, Mille Lacs, Fond du

Lac, Lower Sioux), ambulance/fire services from Bois Forte, Orr and Greenwood Township, the Nett Lake Police Department and other key tribal stakeholders," said Bois Forte's Emergency Preparedness Director Teresa Isham.

Isham said the overall goal of the training was to prepare participants to address all-hazards threats in Tribal Nations, including disease outbreaks and environmental health threats, using a whole community approach.

"Great discussions were held which brought light to community strengths, areas of improvement and awareness to various resources," added Isham. "It was a very beneficial gathering which will help prepare for our communities for emergencies."

Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Regional Program Coordinator Kelvin McCusky said the two-day training session provided Tribal community participants with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to

effectively detect, respond to, manage and mitigate all-hazard threats using a whole community approach.

"The course addresses the distinctive challenges that Tribal nations face in effectively detecting, responding to, managing and mitigating all-hazard threats," added McCusky. "Thanks to the Bois Forte office of Emergency Management and Public Health for sponsoring this course."



GREAT SESSION!— Pictured here are attendees of the Community Based Planning for All-Hazards Threats in Tribal Nations training that took place at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Bois Forte Housing Stability Program makes the news!

CLOQUET—Bois Forte Housing Resource Case Manager Malita Spears was excited to share the news that WDIO out of Duluth recently put the spotlight on its program at a ceremony that took place at Black Bear Resort Casino.

The event highlighted the Minnesota Department of Human Services recognizing a coalition of Tribal Nations for their efforts to prevent and help end homelessness among American Indians.

“Bois Forte Housing Stability Pro-

gram is part of the Tribal Collaborative,” said Spears, who also acknowledged Bois Forte’s Pam Hughes, the tribal collaborative elder on the board. “We are one of 10 tribes being recognized for our work in housing. The tribal collaborative is a new and innovative approach to housing funding and it has been successful.”

According to the WDIO report, The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent and End Homelessness received the Commissioner’s Circle of Excellence

Award for their work, presented by Deputy Commissioner Nikki Fargo. Formed in 2014, the Collaborative includes 10 Tribal Nations working together to address housing challenges and systemic barriers facing Native communities across the state.

Bois Forte, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, and White Earth were among the first to form the collaborative. Since then, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Prairie Island, Lower Sioux, and Upper Sioux have also joined.

According to the report, the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative helps Tribes better serve their communities by improving access to homelessness programs, advocating with lawmakers to secure state and federal funding and expanding opportunities for support across Tribal Nations.

Congratulations to Bois Forte and all of the other tribes for the work they are doing to address homelessness!

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.

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

July 1: Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes or Roasted Root Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 2: Bison Stew/Chili, 7-Grain Bun, Chef’s Choice of Fruit, Whole Fruit

July 3: Mac & Cheese, Hot Dogs, Carrots, Whole Fruit

July 4: HOLIDAY

July 7: Picnic Lunch Cook’s Choice

July 8: Roast Turkey Slice, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, French-cut Green Beans, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie

July 9: Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 10: Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 11: BBQ Pork Riblette, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 14: Egg Salad Croissant, Potato Chips, Tomato Slices, Fruit

July 15: Tator Tot Hotdish, Capri Vegetables, Fruit

July 16: Beef/Bean Soup/Potato Soup, Relish Plate, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 17: Stir Fry Chicken/egg roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 18: Bison Stew, 7-Grain Bun, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 21: Shepherd’s Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 22: White Chicken Chili w/ Beans, Corn Bread, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 23: Roast Pork, Baby Bakers Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 24: Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 25: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 28: Sausage Jambalya, Cheddar Biscuit, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 29: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

July 30: Chili Frito Pie, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad w/Dressing



BIG CREW!— Pictured here is the Tribal Collaborative team and representatives from each of the 10 tribes that joined forces to fight homelessness. Great work to you all!



PROUD MOMENT— Malita Spears, left, and Muriel Deegan, far right, from the Bois Forte Housing Stability Program, are shown with the presenter at the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative ceremony, which took place at Black Bear Resort Casino and was featured on WDIO News.

Waukon from page 4

by her grandparents and credits them for being instrumental in shaping her community-first outlook. “...I have met a lot of people in Indian Country and am happy to be here. My heart is 100 percent Native American. Anything I do, I do for people. It’s not about me— it’s about the people.”

Waukon’s professional background included several leadership roles, including serving as an elected legislator for the Ho-Chunk Nation, FEMA disaster recovery, and, most recently, acting as Vice President of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation.

When asked what piqued her inter-

est in wanting to work for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Waukon noted that Bois Forte unites commercial vision with cultural integrity.

“The opportunity to scale that model—while mentoring and diversifying revenue beyond gaming—aligned with my lifelong goal of combining profit with Indigenous prosperity,” said Waukon.

As she was doing her homework on Bois Forte and formulating a decision on whether she would accept the job as CEO, Waukon said three factors sealed her decision.

1. Shared Values – A clear commitment to economic sovereignty and cultural preservation.

2. Diversified Portfolio – Including casino, golf, and cannabis shows forward-thinking leadership.

3. Community Impact – I saw the potential to expand the portfolio to support the Band’s growth.

Now that Waukon is getting acclimated to her new job, she said she plans to review information and meet with the Bois Forte team to identify key areas of focus within People & Culture and define the organization’s strategic planning. She also wants to pinpoint new opportunities in the tribe’s growth pipeline.

For each region, Waukon said that she wants to clearly define the problem,

assign a responsible leader, set 30, 60, and 90-day milestones, and regularly update progress through a bi-weekly dashboard to the Tribal Council.

In Waukon’s opinion, achieving those goals will be doable based on how welcoming everyone has been in demonstrating their dedication to the company’s success.

“I’m grateful to join Bois Forte, and I’m committed to growing our enterprises, strengthening our sovereignty, and building opportunities,” said Waukon. “I’m excited for the journey ahead—and to call this community home for many years.”



**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 FREE career exploration camp:
all lodging, meals and materials provided

AUGUST 4-8TH, 2025

Hubachek Wilderness
Research Station
Ely, MN

APPLY HERE!



Deadline: July 7th, 2025



**HONORING
THE HUNT**

**A GATHERING FOR MOOSE
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**JULY 12TH, 2025
12:30 PM - 4 PM**

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Olson joins Heritage Center staff as Tribal Archivist

VERMILION SECTOR— Thanks to the QUEST grant program through the



WELCOME! - Morgan Olson is the new Tribal Archivist at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum.

Bois Forte 477 Department, Morgan Olson joined the Heritage Center as the Tribal Archivist—playing a vital role in preserving and sharing the Band's history and culture.

A 2022 graduate of the University of Minnesota Morris, Morgan holds bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Native American and Indigenous Studies. In her time at the Heritage Center, she has led efforts to modernize archival practices, develop engaging exhibits, and strengthen emergency preparedness for cultural materials.

This spring, Morgan traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Heritage Emergency and Response Training (HEART) for Native Communities program. She has since developed a disaster and emergency plan for the archive room and created emergency kits for the

artifact storage area.

She also secured a Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant to support a General Conservation Assessment and Long-Range Preservation Plan. In addition, she drafted a formal archival policy and is researching a new collection management system to better preserve and track the Heritage Center's holdings.

Morgan's creativity shines in her exhibit work, including seasonal displays like an Ojibwe winter storytime and a spring sugarbush exhibit. She introduced Ojibwemowin signage throughout the museum—accompanied by a scavenger hunt game—to encourage language learning in a fun and interac-

tive way.

Her impact extends across the region. She is leading exhibit planning for the Gooseberry Falls Visitor Center, Hull Rust Mine Visitor Center in Hibbing, and contributing to the design of a new center at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park. In June, she'll present on archival practices from a Bois Forte perspective at the Lake Superior Library Symposium at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Morgan's work reflects the spirit of the QUEST grant: supporting individuals whose contributions uplift the community. The 477 Department is proud to support her continued success as a steward of Bois Forte's cultural legacy.

Property improvements at the Bay!



LOOKING GOOD!— Construction crews were busy repaving the entryways as you turn onto the amenities at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Staff has also been busy with painting projects and general clean up to spruce up the property.



Minute with Millie

Ya know that expression? Ahh, drats. Spent too much time trying to find out why my link to my Scrivener program holding my all important Bois Forte News documents brought up the notification dialogue "This file couldn't be opened...blahblah-blah. Had to try several different ways to find the program link to the correct file.

Found it finally. Hurried up and found the file for this month's article. Started to write then noticed the title was wrong and so had to check out why. Corrected the title and set down the first part and lost the rest of what I was going to write. Drats.

Played a couple more games of Microsoft Solitaire Daily Challenge hoping the inspiration would return.

Alas! No such luck.

When I first was going to write it down, my first inspiration for this month's article...even so far as to write out the next couple of sentences, I thought to just open a Notepad file. But Noooo...I wanted to write it in the July document of my Scrivener program.

Couldn't be bothered to copy/



paste or even import cause I find myself getting impatient with the extra steps involved.

Why for the past few days, I've been busy with the analog tools of pen and paper mapping out my goals matching tasks progress of my life's vision and the steps to attain such a vision. Why couldn't I have just grabbed the pen and reached for my trusty notebook sitting right next to me?

NETT LAKE
PHARMACY
218-757-0230

VERMILION
PHARMACY
218-753-2182

Danielle Alys Pieratos

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Danielle Alys Pieratos—beloved mother, daughter, sister, auntie, niece, cousin, and friend—who left this world far too soon but leaves behind a legacy of deep love, sharp wit, and unwavering service to her people and community.

Danielle was the deeply loving mother of Kai Contreras-Pieratos and Nicholas Contreras-Pieratos, who both will be in high school this fall. They were her world, her purpose, and her pride—no one will ever truly grasp how completely she loved her boys. She was the cherished youngest daughter of Denise Pieratos and Creighton Pieratos, beloved sister to Nikki (Love) Pieratos, and doting Auntie to little Jacque and her namesake Dani Love.

She is remembered with deep affection by her many aunts and uncles—Junie (Tracey) Strong, Carrie Strong, Kevin Strong, Kelly Strong, Winnie (Cheryl) Strong, Pam and Dale Centanni—and by a vast circle of cousins who were more like siblings.

Danielle joins in the spirit world her grandparents Mary Strong, Phyllis & Robert

Boshey and Phyllis & Nicholas Pieratos, her Uncle Carl (Strong) Dagen, and her lifelong best friend, Kristin Jankowski—surely already laughing with her on the other side.

Danielle's life was one of excellence, integrity, and service. She was a proud graduate of St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island (Class of 2007), where as a ninth grader, she played varsity hockey and helped lead the team to a first-place state championship.

She graduated from Stanford University in 2011 as a Gates Millennium Scholar, earning her degree in American Indian Studies. She served her community through her work at Bois Forte Tribal Housing and most recently at the Bois Forte Heritage Museum, always advocating for sovereignty, health, and cultural reclamation.

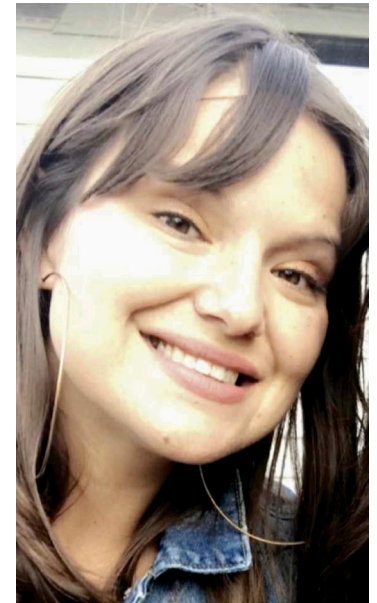
A founding force in Harvest Nation and a passionate leader in food sovereignty and land conservation, Danielle walked the talk of Indigenous self-determination. More than anything, she was a giver—selfless to her core like her Grandma Phyllis. She volunteered end-

lessly, writing grants that brought in tens of thousands for community events, organized food drives and gatherings, and tirelessly fundraised for the Lake Vermilion Powwow every summer. Her life was about bringing people together, feeding others in body and spirit, and lifting up her community with everything she had.

She was Bear Clan and loved bears dearly—both symbolically and literally. Her sister called her “Makoonz” which means Little Bear. She also loved her homeland: Lake Vermilion (Onamii-Zaaga'igan, the lake of the sunset glow). She grew up swimming in its waters with her sister and cousins, and it remained the place her spirit was most at peace. Her ashes will be returned to the lake she so loved.

Danielle was an old style Jingle Dress dancer & really shined when she was dancing crow hop or a two-step contest. She was an irreverent, brilliant, one-of-a-kind sense of humor—equal parts Monty Python, Joe Dirt, and Never Been Kissed, with her own Danielle-flavored comic genius that now echoes through the heavens.

Danielle Alys Pieratos was light,



laughter, legacy, and love. Her memory will live on in her sons, in her family, and in the land and people she gave her heart to. We are better because she was here. And she isn't gone, because when you believe in Y'shua (Jesus), you never die, you just change your address. Condolences to www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

The signs are out there for a reason!



PAY ATTENTION!— While we have been given a reprieve as of late with some much-needed rain, please make sure to use common sense when doing any outside burning. Keep an eye on latest weather conditions by paying attention to signs like this around the Nett Lake Village. When Vermilion has extreme conditions, it utilizes Fortune Bay's electronic sign by the Y Store to let guests know of fire dangers or other severe weather.

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

In the matter of Probate Petition, Miranda Lilya, Petitioner, vs the Estate of Edith Mae Villebrun, Decedent.

Family members of the Estate of the Decedent, Edith Mae Villebrun, are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given that a Virtual Court Probate Hearing will be held on the 24th of June 2025 at 10:20am CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard. The hearing is being seen before Chief Judge Megan Treuer at the Bois Forte Tribal Court via Zoom on the Probate Petition filed in this court on May 8th, 2025. The court will review the petition and will decide if order should be permanently granted or denied for the appointment of Miranda Lilya, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent.

To join Zoom meeting go to <https://boisforte.zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 305 416 1983 (there is no passcode)

Or to join via telephone only dial 1-877-853-5247

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate of Edith Mae Villebrun including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

By the Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge

Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director

12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B

Orr, MN 55771

Phone: 218-757-3462

(218) 757-3462

Bois Forte Tribal Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held May 9, 2025, at Nett Lake, Minnesota-virtual.

Meeting called to order at 12:42 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Perry Drift

Others Present: Nikki Irving, Regina Howe, Jeff Holth

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr; to approve the agenda. Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the following statement:

“The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council is aware that a complaint has been filed against a sitting RTC member under the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council Code of Ethics. The Bois Forte Tribal Ethics Committee is responsible for reviewing and making determinations on the complaint. If the complaint reaches the hearing stage, the Committee will determine if the allegations are proven or dismissed, and will send its determinations to the RTC for final disposition. At this time, the RTC is allowing the Committee process to run its course based on the steps outlined in the Code of Ethics. The RTC will provide updates on this process as appropriate.” Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the following statement:

“This is in follow up to the statements the RTC has issued regarding incidents that occurred at Fortune Bay on April 11, 2025. Shortly after the incident, the Council confirmed that there were separate investigations of the incident being conducted by Fortune Bay and by law enforcement. At this time, Fortune Bay has concluded its investigation and issued several restrictions for certain individuals involved, banning them from being present on the Fortune Bay premises, including the RV Park, the Marina, and the Wilderness. The RTC supports Fortune Bay independently investigating this matter and taking appropriate action consistent with its internal policies.” Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by

Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 12:46. Carried 2-0-0

Prepared by: Regina Howe
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: May 22, 2025

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held May 22, 2025, at Nett Lake, RTG-Eagle Room, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:09 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

Members Present: Shane Drift, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr. Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None

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 Perry Drift.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda with the addition of Donna Hoffer to present a letter to council and the censure of Dist. I Representative, Perry Drift by Robert Moyer, Jr. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Regular Meeting held, April 7, 2025. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held, May 7, 2025. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held, May 9, 2025. Carried 3-0-0

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

a) Change order No. 1 with TanksCo for Vermilion Water Tower improvements 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Carol Burr to sit on two boards, the Iron Range Economic Alliance and the Greater MN Housing Board. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Head Start FY 2024 budget revision and FY 2025 budget carryover. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 98-2025, approving SRF task order no 16171.04 for preparation of a grant application for the SS4A grant program. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve bid recommendations only, to Mega Greenhouse for the Greenhouse in the amount of \$133,901.22, W&C Complete Land Solutions LLC for the Groundwork/Foundation in the amount of \$60,655.20, Vermilion Plumbing for the plumbing work in the amount of \$31,200.00 and ArchKey Solutions for the electrical work in the amount of \$23,177.00, for a total of \$248,933.72 to construct a year-round greenhouse in Nett Lake. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 99-2025, approving the retained services addendum for FY 2025 for Self-Governance compact and annual funding agreement with US DOI BIA. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 100-2025, approving the Control Schedule Transportation Improvement Plan (CSTIP) 2025-2028. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick;

There was discussion on the speed zones on Nett Lake & Vermilion sectors.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to allow St. Louis County to put up speed limit signs within the reservation boundaries. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the contract and sole source request with Second Harvest

Northland for the food shelf. Carried 3-0-0

Discussion on alternative funding sources to address MN Legacy funding shortfall for FY 2026 & 2027.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the office space lease agreement with ISD 707 for KBFT. Carried 3-0-0

Band member Cathy Chavers brings up issues regarding the MCT resolution on blood quantum, RTC Council benefits and the CEO position.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the Tribal Ethics Committee Travel & Administrative expenses policy, retroactive to January 1, 2025. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 12-2025 for the Cannabis Regulatory Commission-Ordinance Revisions. Carried 3-0-0

Band member Donna Hoffer presents a letter to the council requesting a public meeting on all the band

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 jesters 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 the 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.

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: June 10, 2025