



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 6

RTG office closures

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Tribal Government offices, including both clinics, will be closed Tuesday, June 9 for the General Election and again on, Friday, June 19, for Juneteenth Day.

They will also be closed Friday, July 3 for the 4th of July holiday.

Please make note of these dates and plan any of your clinic visits or RTG business needs accordingly, thank you!

Miigwech to all of our Ogichidaas (warriors) Memorial Day service gives community a chance to give thanks

NETT LAKE— With the flags of the Bois Forte Veterans' Memorial gently blowing under beautiful blue skies, members of the Bois Forte community paid tribute to our fallen heroes as Memorial Day 2026 was celebrated.

It was a solemn day, but it was also one that brought the community together to remember our Ogichidaas (warriors) who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

After the invocation by Jaylen Strong, the well-known military Taps instrumental was played over a sound system as the 30 or so attendees stood at attention before Bois Forte veteran Brian "Toogie" Porter bellowed, "Order arms—at ease," at the conclusion of the song.

The Bois Forte Drum group was led by event co-organizer David "Squidg" Morrison, who briefly addressed the attendees and thanked them for their support of our veterans. Morrison, whose booming voice is the perfect complement to the drum group, offered tobacco to his fellow drummers, who then performed several songs, including the veterans' song, which paid tribute to those who battled in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

"We are here for all of our veterans, those who we have



REFLECTION— Anna Geshick made her way around the granite walls that pay tribute to Bois Forte veterans who served our country. Geshick made stops at each of the walls to say a few words of gratitude to her family members and friends who served in the Armed Forces.

lost and those who are still here," said co-organizer Jenalee Porter. "Without them, we wouldn't be here—without them, we wouldn't have our rights. We wanted to honor our veterans today, especially our Indigenous veterans. We're

still fighting for our culture, our language, and our rights to practice our ceremonial ways."

Attendees were then asked by Morrison to do a short walk around the RTG building and the walking path on Nett Lake to commemorate our fallen

heroes. Some stayed behind to view the granite memorial that includes the names of Bois Forte Veterans. One of those attendees was Anna Geshick, who wheeled herself around

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Communities show support for MMIWR events

VERMILION SECTOR— Just over three dozen community members, ranging from school-age children to elders, came out May 5th to lend their support to the 2026 Missing or Murdered Indigenous Person Awareness Day program at the Vermilion Social Center.

A similar number showed up at the Nett Lake village, which was simulcast on a large TV at the Social Center, with the end goal of raising awareness to help change the narrative as it is being played out in Indian Country.

The hopes had been to take a walk around both communities, holding signs, and just paying respect to those who have gone missing or have been murdered. However, unseasonably cold weather kept the walk to a minimum, and instead, time was spent at each location talking about how things need to change as it relates to violence experienced by Native American women.

“As Tamika Jo (the presenter at the Nett Lake event) said, a Native American goes missing three times, once in real life, once in the media, and once in the data,” said Audrianna Goodwin, a Red Lake Band of Chippewa band member, who was the presenter at the Vermilion Social Center. “So, when our people go missing, we don’t see it in the media. We don’t get coverage like Gabby Petite or other white women. Again, that goes back to the racism that our people have experienced.”

Based on that reasoning, Goodwin said it’s vitally important that Native American communities band together to help one another, because the work she does on behalf of all Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons can’t be done alone. She expressed astonishment when a peer met with the Bemidji police chief several years ago, who didn’t even know what MMIWR meant.

Goodwin, who has been working on the MMIWR cause for over 10 years, admitted she is still not an expert in the field but added that she works hard because the work she does is personal.



PATIENCE!— Bois Forte’s Toni Wakemup took the time to answer any questions from those attending the MMIWR event at the Vermilion Social Center on May 5. Wakemup also helped coordinate the distribution of posters that were made in honor of the event.

“By the show of hands, who knows someone who is missing or has been murdered?” asked Goodwin. “These are our loved ones we are talking about. I don’t know enough about the Bois Forte community to say their names. If you feel comfortable, say their names—speak up.”

With that, Goodwin said she would start and mentioned Sheila St. Clair, who has been missing from Duluth since 2015.

Several people in attendance raised their hands, and a few people spoke the names of Amanda Boshey, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver in December of 2024, while another attendee called out the name of Stephanie Gawboy, who was shot and killed in Redway, California.

“Again, there are so many more,” said Goodwin of missing or murdered Indigenous women. “I’ve been doing this for about a decade now, and I dream of a time that we don’t have to gather like this anymore—where our women aren’t experiencing the violence that they do (today).”

MMIWR,” said Wakemup, who added she felt compassion and empathy from the attendees for the MMIWR cause.

Wakemup felt Goodwin did an amazing job speaking on why awareness is important and was impressed with how committed she is to this cause— not only in the words she spoke, but also in the two songs she sang as part of the event.

“These events matter because they bring attention to the crisis of MMIWR,” said Wakemup. “For too long, Indigenous families carried grief while many cases were ignored, underreported, or left unsolved. During these events, the lives of those who are missing or taken too soon are honored, giving families space to speak their loved one’s name and share their stories.”

Goodwin said the work she does is often reactive, and she would love to focus on being more proactive, which she said events like the ones held in Nett Lake and the Vermilion Sector allowed her to do.

“Every time we gather—every time we get together, that’s prevention,” said Goodwin. “When we have our young ones here, listening to us speak, being here with us, that’s preventing one of

See Community on page 4

Bois Forte’s Toni Wakemup, who managed the registration table, said she was pleased with the attendance and participation at the Vermilion Social Center.

“I was thinking that due to the weather, turnout would be low, but we had 37 people show up to learn about



GREAT PRESENTER— Red Lake’s Audrianna Goodwin did a wonderful job presenting at the MMIWR event at the Vermilion Social Center on May 5. She implored attendees to see the light in one another and to do the hard work of advocacy to help combat the violence Indigenous women experience.

Bois Forte News Briefs

Sah Gii Bah Gah Days Powwow events

NETT LAKE— The Sah Gii Bah Gah Days Powwow, scheduled for Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7, has tons of great community activities to take part in.

Things kick off Friday morning with a bean bag tournament near the powwow grounds. Sign up begins at 11 a.m. and the tournament will begin at 11:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Earl Villebrun at 218-750-0989 or send an email to: earl.villebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov

There is also a Sah Gii Bah Gah Walk/Run, which begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 6, outside the RTG (5344 Lakeshore Drive) front doors. Fruit and water will be provided, and tie-dye shirts are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after you complete your walk/run.

The event is sponsored by Bois Forte Community Wellness & Tobacco Cessation, sponsored in part by Tribal SHIP grant and tribal tobacco grant from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Everyone loves fry bread, but will they love yours? Here's your chance to see if you have what it takes to be awarded best fry bread during the Sah Gii Bah Gah Powwow.

Contestants need to submit 25 pieces of fry bread to the RTG kitchen by 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. There are great prizes for the top three finishers, and the best news is that all frybread will be used for the community dinner, which begins at 5 p.m.

Another fun event is the Sah Gii Bah Gah "Rez Car Pile In" contest, which takes place at the Nett Lake Powwow grounds at 10 a.m. Sunday. Get your team together

and see how many of your friends and family can fit into one parked car! The team that can pack the most people into the car wins the contest!

Make sure to get your cameras ready to snap some historical, or should we say, hysterical, photos!

Please see the advertisement on page 12 for more details on the Sah Gii Bah Gah Powwow and remember that this is a drug and alcohol-free event!

Attention Vermilion Sector residents— it's time to clean up your property!

VERMILION SECTOR— If you'd like to spruce up your property, make sure to have all of your items near your road between Thursday, June 4 through Thursday, June 18.

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

Please separate materials by type as follows:

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

Please note—no garbage, please.

If you have any questions, please contact Bois Forte Environmental Services Manager Frank Villebrun at 218-757-3261, Ext. 307 or send an email to (fvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov).

Free health services offered in Virginia

VIRGINIA— Make sure to come out to the North Star Church (302 Second Ave. North) on Thursday, June 4 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. to get a variety of health services free of charge!

These services include:

- Blood pressure checks
- Blood sugar checks
- Cholesterol checks.
- Cancer screening information
- Nutrition information
- Foot care
- Advance directive guidance
- MNsure navigation
- Resources and more!

This event is open to the public and no registration is required. It is sponsored in part by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, St. Louis County Health Department, Project Care, Wilderness Health, Univer-

sity of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center, Alzheimer's Association, Fairview and AEOA.

Sobriety/Prevention Support meetings

VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Substance Use program, which is sponsored by a Minnesota Chippewa Tribe grant, will be hosting Sobriety/Prevention Support meetings every Friday at 5:30 p.m.

The weekly meetings will take place at the Vermilion Social Community Center.

Coffee and treats are provided. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi or Amy at 218-753-2347.

2026 ELECTION ELECTION

8PM START
06/09/2026



Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 283 543 355 638 94
Passcode: nz2ka3Cz

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

LIVE BALLOT COUNT

Come on out to the EVFCU annual meeting!

AURORA— Please join the friendly staff from the Embarrass Vermillion Credit Union (EVFCU) on Tuesday, June 16 at 6 p.m. for their annual meeting.

There will be a free gift for every attendee, plus food and beverages, great raffle prizes (ages 13+) and kids raffles (ages 0-12)!

The EVFCU is located at 15 W. 1st Avenue, Aurora MN 55705. Hope to see you there!

Waaginogaan Building & Anishinaabe Cultural Camp

JUNE 22, 2026 - JUNE 30, 2026

1500 BOIS FORTE RD. TOWER MN

On behalf of Bois Forte Heritage Center, we invite the community to attend our two week wigwam build and cultural day camp. Lunch is served daily, unless planned dinner.

218-235-9891

JESSICA.ANDERSON@BOISFORTE-NSN.GOV

BEAR AWARENESS

STAY SAFE AROUND WILDLIFE

- DO NOT APPROACH OR FEED BEARS
- SECURE GARBAGE AND FOOD
- KEEP PETS AND CHILDREN CLOSE
- STAY CALM AND BACK AWAY SLOWLY IF YOU SEE A BEAR
- REPORT BEAR ACTIVITY TO THE DNR CONSERVATION OFFICERS OR CALL 911 TO DISPATCH TO NETT LAKE POLICE AND BOIS FORTE CONSERVATION

**BOIS FORTE
CONSERVATION
OFFICERS**

**NICOLIS BUCCHOLZ
BRIANNA WHITEMAN**

218-404-2228



**RESPECT WILDLIFE. HELP KEEP
OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.**

Community from page 2

our relatives from going missing or being murdered in the future.”

She said it is alarming to think that one in two Native American women will experience violence in their lifetime, and even more troubling is that although Native Americans only make up one percent of the population, they account for eight percent of all homicides.

“I encourage you all to see the light in one another, because it’s us—we have to be the ones to pull our communities together—to address and end the violence that our people are experiencing,” said Goodwin. “When you talk

about MMIRW, it’s intersected with the poverty our communities experience, homelessness, substance abuse—all of these things.”

Goodwin then told those gathered that as they take each step in the short walk around the community, they remember their relatives’ names and honor their spirits.

“We have to continue to do the hard work of advocacy—to see the light in one another and to remember, we are together as a community,” said Goodwin. “...So, chi-migwech. Take care of yourselves, keep advocating, keep showing up for your relatives because your presence really does matter.”

Now **HIRING**



For a list of current job opportunities,

go to: www.boisforte.com/jobs

Bois Forte BIRCH POLE GATHERING GUIDELINES

Know Before You Go

Permits are for traditional (non-commercial) use only.

GATHERING RULES

- Trees must be **5 inches or less in diameter**
- Stay at least **50 feet** away from lakes, roads, campsites, and maintained trails
- You must carry your permit and Bois Forte ID

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

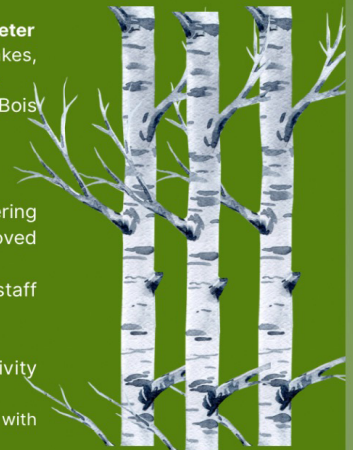
- Coordinate with Forestry before gathering to receive your permit (free) and approved location
- Present harvested poles to Forestry staff for verification and recording
- Only 1 permit per person per year
- Maximum 3 permits per project/activity per year
- Weekend gathering may be available with Forestry approval—call ahead

REMEMBER!

Respect the land. Follow guidelines to protect our forests for future generations.

WHEN YOU CAN
GATHER
Monday – Friday
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**LIMITS
UP TO 25 BIRCH
POLES PER
PERMIT**



QUESTIONS, PERMITS,
OR WEEKEND APPROVAL

CONTACT: CODY SWANSON FOREST
PROGRAMS COORDINATOR Solution Cat
218-750-0226

Native Governance Center hosts forums for Bois Forte tribal election

Make sure to get out and vote Tuesday, June 9

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— Although attendance was somewhat sparse at both candidate forums, voters will be better informed once they enter the polls on Tuesday, June 9th, general election.

That's because the Native Governance Center held back-to-back candidate forums in Nett Lake and then the Vermilion Sector to give voters an idea of where the candidates stand on certain issues facing the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

At stake are three seats on the Bois Forte Tribal Council, including a race between Secretary-Treasurer Incumbent Tara Geshick and former longtime

secretary-treasurer Dave Morrison, Sr.

The other races have two-time District I Representative Incumbent Shane Drift facing challenger Millie Holmes, and first-time District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr., going up against challenger Alanna Sherman.

In the March primary, Morrison received 147 votes to Geshick's 113 votes, while Moyer, Jr. garnered 85 votes to Sherman's 65 votes. Because only two candidates vied for the District I seat, there was no primary.

At the candidate forums, organized by the Native Governance Center, each candidate was given an opportunity to make opening remarks and closing

statements to sell themselves to voters. They were also asked five additional questions by those in attendance at both forums.

To view both the Nett Lake and Vermilion Sector forums, please go to www.boisforte.com and click on the YouTube icon, which can be found at the top right of the website's home page.

Secretary-Treasurer race:

In his opening remarks, Morrison, Sr., reiterated that if elected, he will keep the lines of communication open and ensure the tribal council and the management staff provide full trans-

parency to band members.

"If elected, I will keep those words at the forefront," said Morrison, Sr., who previously served 32 years as Bois Forte's Secretary-Treasurer.

He added that he will request quarterly financial meetings on all of the band's businesses so that band members are better informed.

"As former secretary-treasurer, I'll bring experience and a stable form of leadership to the band," said Morrison, Sr. who also expressed a desire to bring

See Election on page 7



HATS OFF TO YOU ALL!— Pictured here are the candidates that will be vying for your vote Tuesday, June 9. All candidates have been respectful and truly want what's best for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and they should be commended for being so forthright and honest. Pictured, left to right, are: Robert Moyer, Jr., Alanna Sherman, David Morrison, Sr., Tara Geshick, Millie Holmes and Shane Drift, shortly after the Native Governance Center's candidate's forum in Nett Lake. Cheers to Native Governance Center's Michelle Red Day and Sasha Strong for the work they did in setting up the forums in Nett Lake and the Vermilion Sector. Thanks also to Corrina Lyons for the awesome meals she provided at both forums! To watch the entire forums, please go to www.boisforte.com and click on the YouTube page. And finally, make sure to get out and vote Tuesday, June 9!

Readers of the North

GET REWARDED FOR READING

- Pre-Register with Chrissy before you start logging your reading
- Read 15 minutes or more per day
- Record your reading times in a daily log

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

- Start Date- Monday, June 9th
- Last Day to Register- Monday, June 29th
- Deadline to Submit Reading Logs- Monday, August 10th
- Ice Cream Social- Thursday, August 20th

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN THESE DISTRICTS

ISD 2142, Ely, Mesabi East, MIB, Hibbing, Chisholm, NLC, Vermilion Country School, Nett Lake Elementary School, Rock Ridge, and International Falls.

For ages 5-18

Contact Information

Please contact Chrissy Fairchild at the 477 department for registrations, reading logs, and any questions.
218-757-3261
chrissy.fairchild@boisforte-nsn.gov

Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg

Bois Forte 477



Ogichidaas from page 1

to each of the walls, touched the name of a relative, and quietly reflected and thanked them for their service.

“I have a lot of respect for these soldiers for the service they gave to our country,” said Geshick. “It takes a lot of bravery and a lot of courage—and a lot of love to do what they did for us.”

Doris Isham said she came out to show support for those who made so many sacrifices so that we can enjoy the freedom we have because of their service in the military.

“It’s a day to honor the veterans

that are with us now and the ones that passed,” said Isham. “Memorial Day is the day we need to remember them for all the contributions that they made to our country.”

Isham also extended her thanks and appreciation to the drum group for the wonderful job they did in honoring our veterans.

“The veterans’ song is important,” said Isham, who was joined at the service by her husband, Pete, who was a Corporal serving in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. “It’s our tradition in the way that we honor people by using tobacco and the drum. It was

good to see everyone who came out today to show their support.”

Following the walk, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez addressed the attendees before a meal of hot dogs, chips, and water was served by Morrison and Porter. Veterans in attendance also received a baseball hat with the military branches embroidered on it.

“Memorial Day is more than a holiday,” said Hernandez, who thanked everyone who came out to honor the brave men and women who served our country and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. “It is a time for remembrance, reflection, and gratitude. We remember the courage

of our veterans, the strength of their families, and the sacrifices made so future generations could live with hope and opportunity.”

Hernandez added that Memorial Day was about standing together in respect and unity.

“As Anishinaabe people and as a community, we carry forward the values of honor, service, and caring for one another,” said Hernandez. “We lift up our veterans and all those no longer with us and we say miigwech for your sacrifice and dedication. On behalf of everyone gathered here today— thank you for taking the time to remember and honor our heroes.”

Niibin Market • Ode’imini Celebration

We’re starting the summer season in a good way by bringing together the **Niibin Market** and the **Summer Block Party** for one shared community event.

EVENT DETAILS

June 11 - Vermilion

BGC & Clinic Parking Lot

June 18 - Nett Lake

Across from C-Store

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Plant giveaway

Block Party games and family fun

Free lunch (first come, first served)

Community vendors, growers, and makers



APPRECIATION— David “Squid” Morrison offers tobacco to Andrew Day just prior to the drum group playing several songs as a tribute to all veterans who defended our country. Pictured from left to right are: Angelo Kingbird, Lance Kingbird, Squidg Morrison, Andrew Day and John Day. District I Representative Shane Drift also helped the drum group perform songs in front of the estimated 30 people in attendance. Morrison thanked everyone who came out and also thanked our veterans, both living and ones who have passed, for their service. “Native Americans have had the highest per capita of those serving our country,” said Morrison. “They always answered the call.”

NOW HIRING!

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



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on a board of directors with financial experience to help guide decisions the band makes to ensure a prosperous future.

Geshick said she has made significant progress and gained extensive experience in her first term since defeating Morrison, Sr., in the 2022 election.

She said she has prioritized strong, prudent financial systems.

“We must move away from an open-checkbook, reactive mindset toward proactive auditability and accountability. We’ll continue monthly and quarterly reviews, identify and close leaks, and ensure accountability if funds are misused,” said Geshick, who added that she has prioritized financial stewardship that is transparent, accountable, and focused on long-term stability for the next generation. The secretary-treasurer must be versed in audit findings, profit-and-loss prevention, on-site audits, and fraud/embezzlement red flags—skills I bring and continually develop.”

She also said that since she was elected in 2022, the band has begun to elevate standards, and they have delivered.

“Today’s leadership requires executive-level financial and computer literacy, administrative rigor, cultural awareness, governance acumen, and strong communication and leadership,” said Geshick. “I’ve aimed to bring those qualities to the secretary-treasurer’s office, and I believe we must continue to demand them.”

In her closing statement, Geshick promised to maintain rigorous financial governance through a disciplined approach to audits, ongoing risk identification, and a readiness to act on red flags.

“There is no room for a “spend-first” mentality; we will continue to review, verify, and validate every dollar to prevent leaks and misuses,” said Geshick, who thanked voters for their trust and holding leaders to high standards. “Our approach to development will remain selective, evidence-based, and community-centered. We will insist on

robust documentation for every investment: three-year projections, clear P/L statements, accurate appraisals, and thoughtful consideration of tax and land-trust implications before moving forward on projects.”

Morrison closed his comments by saying that he will not make any campaign promises he can’t keep.

“I’ve told you my concerns and visions to address those concerns,” said Morrison, Sr., in regard to holding quarterly financial meetings and establishing a board of directors to oversee the band’s businesses. “Those who know me— know my high ethical

values, my commitment, and responsibilities to my job.”

He added that tribal leaders carry high expectations to be at work, to attend important meetings to ensure band members’ needs are taken care of, and to be there when opportunity knocks to represent all band members

“We are there to represent them on their behalf,” said Morrison, Sr., who also encouraged band members to get out to vote because one or two votes can make a difference in who will represent them the next four years.

See Election on page 11

General election takes place Tuesday, June 9th

The Regular Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Election of the BOIS FORTE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on June 9, 2026, to fill the following positions:

ELECTION DATE: June 9, 2026

POLLING PLACES:

- **DISTRICT I:** Government and Community Services Bldg, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Orr, MN 55771
- **DISTRICT II:** Vermilion Social Center, 1610 Farm Road South, Tower, MN 55790
- **BOIS FORTE DULUTH URBAN OFFICE:** Duluth Urban Office, 1915 South Street, Duluth, MN 55812
- **BOIS FORTE MINNEAPOLIS URBAN OFFICE:** Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404
- (District I – is the Designated Polling Place for absentee ballot voting)

POLLS OPEN: 8:00 a.m.

CLOSE: 8:00 p.m.

SECRETARY/TREASURER – 4 Year Term

Tara Geshick *Incumbent

David C. Morrison, Sr.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT I COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Shane Drift *Incumbent

Mildred R. Holmes

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT II COMMITTEEPERSON – 4 Year Term

Alanna K. Sherman

Robert Moyer Jr. *Incumbent

For more information on the election, please visit www.boisforte.com

**Lake Vermilion
Traditional Pow Wow**

Lake Vermilion Reservation Pow Wow Grounds - Tower, MN
June 26th - June 28th

Spiritual Advisor: Jeremy Wilson
MC: Terry Goodsky
Arena Director: Joel Boshey
Vendors & Security: Muriel Deegan
Host drums: Lake Vermilion Singers & Night Sky
Friday: Warm-ups
Saturday: 1pm & 7pm Grand Entry
Sunday: 1pm Grand Entry
Afternoon Royalty crowning & raffle drawings
Two Step Contest: Saturday Evening
Win \$500 + Trophy & Belt
Musical Chairs: Adult & Youth ~ Trophy each category
Heads or Tails contests all weekend
Showers & Camping available
Contact: Muriel Deegan 218-750-7772 or Tracey Dagen 218-780-1478
Alcohol & Drug Free event. 24 hour security

Fortune Bay unveils the Aki (Ah-kee) Bistro

The Mino (Mih-no) Grill is set to open Wednesday, June 10

VERMILION SECTOR— A new dining era was ushered in Friday, May 22, as the Aki (Ah-kee) Bistro officially opened with a ribbon-cutting and then a busy booking sheet as guests came in to try out Fortune Bay Resort Casino's latest restaurant.

"Today is about more than opening a new restaurant," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez, who was joined by fellow council members, Shane Drift and Robert Moyer, Jr. "It is about growth, opportunity, and continuing to invest in experiences that bring people together. Food has always been a way to connect with one another, whether it is family gathering around a table, friends catching up over a meal, or visitors creating memories during their stay."

Friday's grand opening was preceded by a soft opening on Wednesday, where guests were able to try a variety of fare that Fortune Bay's culinary team eagerly prepared to dial in recipes. Guests' favorites from the limited menu included bacon-wrapped shrimp, lobster bisque, creamy sundried tomato soup, 14-ounce ribeye, blackened salmon risotto, and the Aki Bistro burger.

That was just a sampling of things to come, though as Friday's grand opening brought out all of the culinary teams' creative talents as the menu expanded to include wild rice crusted walleye, lobster mac & cheese, 8-ounce filet mignon, smoked jalapeno aioli burger, Aki's signature steak flatbread, Northwoods bison meatloaf, and much more.

"I'd like to give a huge shout-out to Chef KK (Kirstie Kern) and her staff because the food was phenomenal at Wednesday's soft opening," said General Manager Elizabeth Deegan, who also thanked Fortune Bay's maintenance team and Director of Hospitality Operations Nick Papadatos for their help. "We received many compliments about the



CHEERS!— A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place Friday afternoon, May 22nd, just hours before the Aki (Ah-kee) Bistro opened its doors. Pictured, left to right, are Nick Papadatos, Kirstie Kern, Shane Drift, Carlos Hernandez, Robert Moyer, Jr. and Elizabeth Deegan.

quality of the food and the service that our staff provided. We're super excited about showcasing this new dining experience here on Lake Vermilion."

The Aki Bistro's full bar features many favorites, including the Lake Vermilion Old Fashioned and the Wild Rice Honey Sour. Craft beer will be flowing from the taps as soon as next week, a perfect complement to many of the entrees.

The Aki Bistro will be open seven days a week from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended, and you can make yours by calling 218-753-7885.

The word Aki is taken from the Ojibwe language, meaning earth/land.

"Aki reminds us of our connection to the land, our community, and the values that guide us," said Hernandez.

"This new addition reflects our commitment to providing quality dining experiences while creating opportunities for our employees and strengthening one of the most important economic engines of our Band."

The grand opening of the Aki Bistro will soon be followed by the launch of the Mino (Mih-no), meaning 'good or nice' in the Ojibwe language, Grill on Wednesday, June 10.

The Mino Grill will take up residence in the former Tamarack Buffet/Gold Mine Grill area, while the Aki Bistro will be located in the former space occupied by the Sunset Steakhouse. The Mino Grill will offer a variety of burgers, wood-fired pizzas, buffalo chicken wraps, a walleye sandwich, and the return of the Fortune Bay Casino Club.

The Mino Grill will be open from 7

a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The daily breakfast buffet will still be offered, but guests will also be able to order home-cooked breakfasts again.

Drift, who is the District I Representative, offered high praise for the new endeavor.

"I'm excited to see the direction we are going with this new bistro here," said Drift. "I'm sure it will do quite well with summer tourism, but the real test will come after tourism is over. We'll have to monitor it to make sure that it stays successful."

That is District II Representative Robert Moyer Jr.'s hope as well.

"I hope everything goes well tonight," said Moyer, Jr. of the grand opening. "I'm glad it is coming to fru-

See Bistro on page 9

Bistro from page 8

ition. It's going to be good, especially with the busy summer tourism season kicking off with Memorial Day weekend. It's exciting, and I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this possible."

Hernandez expressed his gratitude to the many individuals who helped make this vision a reality. Whether that be the planners and designers to

Fortune Bay's maintenance crew, management team, and staff who welcome guests each day, Hernandez thanked them all.

"Your hard work and dedication are what brought us to this moment," said Hernandez. "As Chairman, I am proud of the continued improvements taking place across our enterprises. Every investment we make is an investment in our future, our workforce, and the generations who will follow us.



FIRST CUSTOMERS!— These are the first customers of Fortune Bay Resort Casino's Aki (Ah-kee) Bistro, which opened Friday afternoon, May 22. Pictured, left to right, are Aki Bistro server Ashley Sorum, Embarrass resident Brenda Conaway, Juli Rogers, who is from Ohio, and Brenda's husband, Gary.

Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:

Defendant	DOB
Buckanaga, Christopher Charles	06/26/1969
Burns, Riley William	08/25/1995
Butcher, Ryan Allen James	07/29/1986
Deegan, Peter James	08/21/1977
Drift, Mark Edward Jr.	10/10/1995
Goggleye, Charles Victor III.	12/29/1980
Goggleye, Michael Lance	01/03/1980

If your name is on this list, you have an active warrant for your arrest by our Court. Please contact the Tribal Court to get your criminal matter addressed. Failure to do so could result in your arrest. If you are reading this and know someone on this list, help them to get the information.

Bois Forte Tribal Court now inputs active

Defendant	DOB
Guenther Jr., Loren Bruce	10/23/1995
Hughes, Dustin James Lee	06/16/1990
Isham, John Edward Sr.	04/24/1976
Jenkins, Robert Wayne	06/20/1960
Johnson, Robert Gerald Jr.	01/22/1996
Lightfeather, Gewedinodin	02/23/1985
Nelson, Thomas Jr.	06/07/1990

warrants into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

To address your warrant, call the Tribal Court during business hours Monday- Friday 8:00-4:30 at 218-757-3462 and request to be placed on the docket to address your court matters.

We are excited to share Aki Bistro with our community and visitors from near and far. Miigwech, and welcome to Aki Bistro. Let's cut the ribbon!"

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Date: June 17, 2026
Time: 10am-2pm
Location: Eagle Room at the RTC

What to expect:

- All Health & Human Services programs
- Community resource booths
- Free health screenings (A1C, Blood Pressure checks)
- Wellness & prevention information
- Family & Community supportive services
- LUNCH PROVIDED

Open to all community members!

Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:

If your name is on this list, Tribal Court is looking for you and needs your updated contact information in order to address your current past due court matters.

If you know someone on this list, please help us get the message to them!

Leon Eugene Chosa
Lisa Ann Goldsworthy
Ryan Scott Goggleye
Christopher Allen Hunt
Liberty Lynn Isham
Lisa Kay Kleven
Kane Charles Bonga
Angelique Jo Brown
Donovan Wade Moose

Jace Matthew Olson
Christopher Ellis Pearce
Brianna Patrice Lucille Sheffield
Gerald Lee Urban
Donald Lee Wiggins Jr.
Benjamin Thomas Spears
Brayden Bradly Shultz

Call the Tribal Court during business hours Monday- Friday 8-4:30 p.m. at 218-757-3462 to update your current mailing address and contact information or you can email us at bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov

Bois Forte Obituaries

Lyla Jeanette Pete “Nii Zhoo Tey”

Lyla Jeanette Pete “Nii Zhoo Tey” died unexpectedly Sunday, May 10, 2026, in Minneapolis. She was born September 15, 2013, in Virginia, Minnesota.

Lyla was the daughter of Anya Pete, who passed away in April of 2019. Lyla’s father is Jens Hort.

Lyla’s grandmother, Muriel Deegan, wanted to share these words from Lyla’s Coach Alisha:

“Taken from us far too soon, but never forgotten. We will always remember Lyla’s smile, her kind heart, and the joy she brought to the game and to everyone around her. She made an impact bigger than she probably ever knew. Lyla, you will forever be part of our team and forever in our hearts. #24”

Funeral services were held at the Vermilion Wellness Center

in Tower on Friday, May 15, 2026. The Spiritual Advisor was Tommy Councillor.

Casket bearers were Dale Boshey, Steven Boshey, Jr., Bobby Deegan, Jim Deegan, Jerako Deegan and Cheyenne Boshey.

Honorary casket bearers were Lola Pete, Miigwen Tuchel, Taquin Tuchel, Tristan Day, Ezra Day, Johnny Annette, Anissa Pete, Nijah Pete, Bern Day, Nevaeh

Hartland, Anne Isham and Stacy Day.

Interment was in the Bois Forte Vermilion Cemetery in Tower, Minnesota.

Funeral services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower, Minnesota.



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

LESLIE DONALD EMERY

Funeral services will be held for Leslie Donald Emery at the Nett Lake Baptist Church on Monday, June 22 at 11 a.m.

Emery will then be laid to rest next to his wife, Loretta O’Leary Emery, in

the Bois Forte Cemetery just outside the Nett Lake Village.

Family and friends are invited to attend the services. If you have any questions, please call Shari Lynn Farimond at 858-354-7127.

NIGEL MILBRIDGE



Nigel Albert Milbridge, 43, of Fridley, MN, passed away on April 28, 2026 of natural causes. Nigel was born on Sept. 4, 1982 in Virginia, MN. He grew up in Warroad, MN. He was a good student, and participated in hockey, golf, and football. He enjoyed hunting moose, deer, ducks, and geese. He also raced snowmobiles on the sno-cross circuit.

Nigel graduated from Warroad High School. He went on to attend Augsburg College and graduated with a Physics degree. He remained in the metro area working in the legal research field until his passing.

Nigel is survived his mother: Cher-

yl Milbridge; father: Larry (Anita) Milbridge; significant other: Michelle Simpson; daughters: Katarina and Mia Milbridge; brother: Eric (Sara) Milbridge; grandmother: Sharon Milbridge; uncles: Kevin (Shullon) Strong, and Dan (Alicia) Milbridge; aunts: Tracey Strong, Carrie Strong, Denise Pieratos, and Cheryl (Matt) Seppi; great aunt Sara; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by grandparents: Robert and Phyllis Boshey, Mary Strong, and Elden Milbridge; uncle: Carl Dagen; aunt: Kelly Strong; and cousin: Dani Pieratos.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Cheryl’s home: 1441 Carl’s Way in Tower.

Family Services provided by Bauman’s Vermilion Funeral Home, A Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower. To leave a remembrance online, see www.baumanfuneralhome.com.

COMMUNITY MEETING

*Open to bandmembers only
(Tribal ID required)*

Topic: Cannabis Cultivation

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
5:00pm

Fortune Bay Resort Casino
1430 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790



A light dinner will be served

Election from page 5

“People have a voice and have input, just like their ancestors had a long time ago. I will bring a proven track record of fairness and representation to all band members.”

District I Representative race:

Incumbent Shane Drift reminded attendees at both forums that he takes his responsibilities as District I Representative very seriously and is always available to answer any questions or concerns band members may have.

He later said that his work is not yet done and that he hopes voters give him another four years to continue working on projects important to the band’s future, namely the cannabis business, which he believes can be a game changer for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

“The days of relying on the casino don’t look so good,” said Drift of Fortune Bay Resort Casino, which is providing \$1.2 million for FY2026, but has been as high as \$3 million in recent years to provide Reservation Tribal Government operations for the services they provide to its members. “We need to implement good, financially sound business decisions.”

He reminded voters that a resolution currently in place ensures that any new business the band is looking at must be approved by band members. He said giving band members that voice is vitally important.

“That resolution was put in place for you guys, for your benefit—not mine,” said Drift, who also touted the success stories of the new DNR building, new Big Woods Transit Building, new public works building in Vermilion, and the food shelf. “... we’ve made a lot of progress together, and I sincerely hope that you place your trust in me again, as you did in 2018 and 2022—Miigwech.”

Holmes’ opening remarks centered on the importance of family, especially raising her two sons, and on her desire to continue working on behalf of the Bois Forte Band’s efforts to change the MCT Constitution and the effects it has on all band members.

“I’ve served on the MCT Constitu-

tional Reform Committee as a Delegate since 2018,” said Holmes, who works for Bois Forte and also runs her own business. “I’ve attended TEC meetings as the Bois Forte Delegate Representative and have worked with many of the other delegates from all the reservations. I’ve also worked with some of the Sioux tribes.”

She mentioned that both of their sons like their jobs, and she believes that is an important aspect of providing for oneself and believing in oneself.

“I am a jingle dress dancer because it’s an integral part of me—who I am, my belief system, and my chosen place in this world,” said Holmes. “I ask for you to vote for me in the upcoming election, miigwech.”

In her closing remarks, Holmes said her hope for the future of the Bois Forte Band, all members and their families, wherever they may be enrolled, is that

we stand together in overcoming obstacles to our unity as a tribe.

“One way is to allow the ones who didn’t have a chance to learn our ways, our history, and our language without fear of ridicule for trying to speak our language or learn something,” said Holmes. “And for the rest of us, there is always something more to learn. I do my best to share the little bit I know with others. Teach culture classes—I am a pretty good role model.”

Holmes added that she is concerned for our elders and the limbo we seem to have landed in is one she dearly wants to address.

“In the coming years. I want to see elders having their activities once

again,” said Holmes, who added she would like to see our elders travel from reservation to reservation. “I’ve worked with elders since I was a struggling parent raising two sons, and received much direction, advice, and help from my elders. Miiew. Giigawabimin Noongom.”

For Drift, he asked voters to give him another chance to build on the success stories he and the tribal council have achieved since he took office in 2018. He reiterated that it is important for all band members’ voices to be heard, that he is not a puppet, that he will not be bullied, and that he will not shy away from standing alone on issues.

“I will not bend the rules, policies, or procedures for anybody,” said Drift. “I will continue to speak up for band members and employees. I take my job duties very seriously. Chi-miigwech for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It is an honor and privilege to serve

you—please vote for Shane Drift.”

District II race:

Incumbent Robert Moyer, Jr. said he, too, has appreciated the support he has received since taking office in 2022, and he also would like to continue building on some of the success stories Drift mentioned, such as the new public works building in Vermilion, plus the DNR Building in Nett Lake that is expected to be completed this summer.

“It has been an honor to serve in this position for the last four years,” said Moyer, Jr., who promised to remain committed to work on behalf of all band members at the federal, state, and local levels, including our First Nation relatives. “I’ve learned a lot, and I believe

I can accomplish much more.”

Moyer, Jr. added that it is important to protect our sovereignty and to bring resources to our people.

“I want to ensure the voice of Bois Forte is respected at every level,” he said.

Meanwhile, Sherman believes her past work experience at Bois Forte, then at Fortune Bay, and now at Giants Ridge, has shown her the importance of communication, accountability, and teamwork. She believes those attributes can help move the Bois Forte community and its businesses forward.

“Some of my first priorities are to implement communication and transparency,” said Sherman. “I want to hold regular community meetings and to continue conversations with our elders and youth to see what they want to see improved in our Bois Fort Tribe—I do not think I know all the answers—but am willing to listen and learn to see what really matters to us as a team for Bois Forte—that’s really why I am running (for office).”

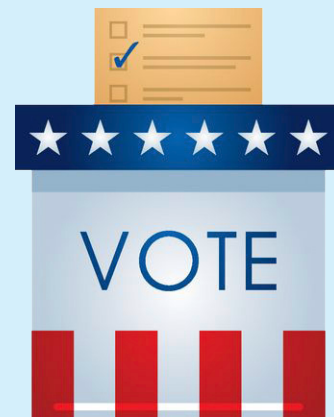
Both candidates kept their closing remarks short and thanked band members for coming out to hear their thoughts and ideas for moving Bois Forte toward a positive future.

“I’d like to thank the Native Governance Center for letting people get to know the candidates,” said Moyer, Jr. “I wish everyone good luck—Dave, Tara, Shane, Millie, Alanna, and I. Please just get out to vote. We’re all here trying to do our best for the band. Do what you think is best and get out and vote—thanks again for coming, have a good night.”

Sherman echoed those thoughts, saying that no matter the election’s outcome, she wants our community to continue having conversations with our elected leaders.

“Keep letting them know what’s working, what’s not working, because I believe without letting anyone know something, nothing will change. Get out and vote. Get your voice heard because your voice matters—don’t think it doesn’t, because it truly does. Thank you all for coming out.”

Get out to vote in the
Bois Forte General
Election, Tuesday, June
9 and best of luck to all
the candidates!





Minute with Millie



Aaniin, gakinawiya. Boozhoo? Yepper, I'm starting to do much better with the language on Rosetta Stone that I signed up for many moons ago. I'm starting to pick up more and more of the conversations, the songs. I still mess up a bit saying sentences.

And yet...I'm not struggling as much to know what is being said. Thinking I may soon be

heading for an immersion camp or two in the near future. Then I will surprise my elders who are still here with being able to carry on a regular ol' conversation with them.

I'm already deciphering the few Anishinabemowin stories that are out there. I may just start practicing with those too. Hmmm.

Oh man, on another note...

Today, my phone is dragging me kicking and screaming into the world of AI. My phone updated the latest software. First thing I noticed was the blue keys on the screen.

Next up, the yellow highlighted "START" button. I clicked it and it showed the symbol for the AI. I back out and hit the teeny tiny button "start" and there is my usual screen.

So, now what is the sneaky set up that AI is going to be springing on me the next time I try to do something the old fashioned way. I'm tired of trying to teach some new fangled ideas to my poor little overworked brain. Especially when that AI seems highly akin to teaching littles something that they patently don't want to know.

Sah Gii Bah Gah

Pow-Wow
June 5, 6, 7, 2026
Nett Lake, Mn.

Host Drum Gaagigaikwe
Co Host Drum Bois Forte Singers
Invited Drums Agency One,
Lake Vermilion

Spiritual Advisor - Danny Geshick
MC - Terry Goodsky
Arena Director - Nate Tibbetts

Friday
5pm - Opening Ceremony
6pm - Welcome Feast

Other Specials
Bells Only
Potato Dance
50/50 Raffle
Pow - Wow Committee Raffle

Saturday
Breakfast 7-9am
Grand Entry - 1pm
Royalty Cornation
Regalia Giveaway
Dinner - 5pm
Walk/Run Event during dinner break
Grand Entry - 7pm
Goodsky Jingle Dress Special

Vendor Information -
Derek Morrison 218-994-9405
General Information -
Teresa Isham 218-750-7632
Ashley Goodsky 218-248-0780
Camping Available

Sunday
Breakfast 7-9 am
Family Games & Benner Show 10-12
Grand Entry 1pm
Dinner - 5pm
Bike Giveaway

Any one inquiring about having a ceremony is to see Dan Geshick on Friday. Ceremonies are to be done by noon on Saturday & Sunday

Drug and Alcohol-Free Event

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.

NOTE: Menu is subject to change.

- June 1: Lasagna, Cali Veggies, Garlic Bread, Fruit
- June 2: Chicken Fajita/Veg, Rice & Black Beans, Sour Cream
- June 3: Chili w/Beans, Cornbread, Salties, Fruit
- June 4: Cobb Salad, Dressings, Bread Stick, Whole Fruit
- June 5: Meatloaf, Baked Squash, Green Veggies, Fruit
- June 8: Cream Potato Soup, Chicken Salad, Croissant, Fruit
- June 9: Elections
- June 10: Porketta on WW Bun, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Steamed Mixed Veggies
- June 11: Chef Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit
- June 12: White Chicken Chili, Tortilla Chips, Coleslaw, Fruit
- June 15: Chicken Tenders, Mac N Cheese, Veggie
- June 16: Tacos in a Bag, Lettuce/Salsa/Sour Cream, Spanish Rice, Fruit

06 2026
June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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	1	2	3	4

- June 17: Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese on WW Bread, Apple
- June 18: Chicken Caesar Salad, Dressing, Whole Fruit
- June 19: Holiday
- June 22: Chicken Wild Rice Hotdish, Veggie, Fruit
- June 23: Hot Turkey on WW Bread, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Veggie & Fruit. ELDER MEETING AT 2 P.M.
- June 24: Grilled Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Italian Veg Blend
- June 25: Italian Salad, Dressing, Fruit
- June 26: Beef Ravioli, Cali Veggie Blend, Garlic Bread
- June 27: Wild Rice Meatballs, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, WW Bun
- June 28: Cheeseburger on Bun, Fries, Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle/Onion, Fruit
- June 29: Chicken Noodle Soup, Salties, Cobb Salad, Dressings, Bread Stick, Whole Fruit
- June 30: Cobb Salad, Dressings, Bread Stick, Whole Fruit