



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 7

RTG offices closed July 3

In recognition of the July 4th holiday, all Bois Forte RTG offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd so that staff can celebrate with their family and friends! Safe travels and enjoy this special holiday as America turns 250!

Swearing In

David Morrison Sr., Robert Moyer Jr., and Millie Holmes will be sworn into office Tuesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. The ceremony takes place at 10 a.m. in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

New clinic will serve band members in Quad Cities area

VIRGINIA—With a vision to bring more services to band members living off Bois Forte's reservations, a process that began several years ago will do just that in the heart of Virginia.

And the end result is a repurposed building with state-of-the-art equipment that will provide pharmaceutical, dental, mental health services and supportive housing to band members and eventually, non-band members as well.

"Thank you for coming out and for this opportunity to celebrate something awesome for the band and thank you to everybody who took part in this process," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez at an open house Wednesday, June 17. "It took a long time for it come together, but it's good to see it finally open. It is an excellent way to provide more services to our band members."

Hernandez said he would like to use this as a model for Bois Forte's future and to bring services like this to band members in Duluth and Minneapolis.

"So, again—thank you all for joining us today," said Hernandez to the three dozen or so band members and dignitaries who joined the celebration and were later given tours. "I am excited for this opportunity—Miigwech."

With the help of funding through the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation



MIIGWECH—Bois Forte's Pam Parson offers tobacco to Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams, Sr. as the Bois Forte Singers prepare to sing at the new Bois Forte Health and Human Services' Open House on Wednesday, June 17.

(IRRR), Park State Bank and others, Bois Forte was able to make the nearly \$1.8 million dollar project possible. The primary goal is to provide additional services to band members so they would not have to drive to Nett Lake or Vermilion for most of their medical needs. The hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but the pharmacy will be closed on

Wednesdays.

District I Representative Shane Drift was extremely proud to lend his support to the concept early on and gave thanks to Secretary Treasurer Tara Geshick, former District I Representative Travis Morrison and District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr. for moving the project forward.

"This is what was needed," said Drift. "And like Carlos

said, this is a step in the right direction in what the tribal council wants to do regarding providing services to our band members in Duluth, as well as the Twin Cities, and band members that live here."

Drift cautioned that because there are not enough band members living in the area to sustain the building

See Clinic on page 12

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PERMIT #92

Strong is another Quest success story for Bois Forte

*Submitted by Chrissy Fairchild
477 Recruiter*

VERMILION SECTOR—Aidan Strong's journey is a powerful example of determination, perseverance, and the impact that opportunity and support can have on someone's life. Before joining the QUEST Grant through 477 department, Aidan faced significant challenges that made finding employment difficult. Past legal troubles resulted in the loss of his driver's license, creating barriers to employment and contributing to a pe-

riod of substance abuse. Determined to make positive changes, Aidan completed a 15-month recovery program through Teen Challenge and served time related to his past offenses. Despite his hard work and commitment to rebuilding his life, Aidan continued to struggle finding employment without a valid driver's license. Everything changed when he saw a Bois Forte Housing Maintenance Worker position that did not require a driver's license. He applied, was hired as a Maintenance Worker with Bois Forte

Housing Maintenance Department through the 477 Department's Quest Grant and began his journey towards a brighter future. Through the Quest program, Aidan received case management services and support designed to help him succeed. Assistance included payment of driver's license reinstatement fees, work clothing, and tools needed for his position. With stable employment and ongoing support, Aidan was able to focus on rebuilding his life and spending more quality time with his children. One of Aidan's biggest challenges was saving enough money to purchase a vehicle to install an interlock device. Through hard work, dedication, and not giving up after all the hurdles, Aidan successfully achieved that goal. Today, Aidan is proudly employed, and he obtained his Minnesota driver's license. He is grateful for the opportu-



Aidan Strong
nities and support provided through the 477 department and the QUEST program. His story demonstrates how employment, case management, and community support can help individuals overcome barriers and create lasting positive changes for themselves and their families.



AICHO

American Indian Community Housing Organization

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES. TOGETHER.

Join Us to learn about homeowner opportunities!!

Vermilion Social Center

July 23rd

10:00 am

Great information to be shared!

Door Prizes and light snacks

PREPARED BY

David Hawk
Home Pathway Specialist
AICHO

davidh@aicho.org

218-576-6822 (Temporary)

202 W 2nd St
Duluth, MN 55802

WE'RE HERE TO
**HELP YOU
GET HOME.**



Our mission is to provide education, support, and access to sustainable homeownership for Native American families and communities.

Your future. Your home. Our mission.



SAVANNAH ROSE PARISIEN
GRADUATED FROM MANKATO UNIVERSITY.
DAUGHTER OF IRIS ISHAM
AND RICHARD PARISIEN
"WAY TO GO SAVANNAH!"

NETT LAKE
PHARMACY
218-757-0230

VERMILION
PHARMACY
218-753-2182

Applications for 2026 Moose Hunt are due August 7

DULUTH— The 1854 Treaty Authority has announced details for the 2026 Moose Hunt season, and interested hunters are encouraged to begin preparing now. Applications became available on June 22 and can be obtained through the 1854 Treaty Authority.

The 2026 season will open on Tuesday, Sept. 15, and will remain open until either each band's quota of 15 moose has been reached or Dec. 31, 2026, whichever comes first.

Up to 25 permits per band (Bois Forte and Grand Portage) will be issued through

a lottery system based on the lead hunter's tribal affiliation. In addition, each band will receive one subsistence permit, with hunters designated by the Tribal Council.

Hunting parties must consist of at least three enrolled members and no more than four enrolled members. The harvest limit is one antlered bull moose per hunting party. Hunters who harvest a collared moose must return the collar and provide the exact harvest location.

Hunters are reminded that they must notify the 1854 Treaty Authority within 24 hours of taking a moose. Once a band's

quota of 15 moose has been reached, all hunting parties from that band will be contacted by phone and notified that the season has closed.

Important Dates:

- June 22 – Applications available from the 1854 Treaty Authority
- August 7 – Application deadline
- August 14 – Lottery drawing (if needed)
- August 19 – Letters mailed to successful and unsuccessful applicants
- September 3 – Permits, carcass tags, and hunt information mailed via certified

mail to lead hunters

- September 15 – Moose season opens
- December 31 – Season closes if quota has not already been met

The moose hunt remains an important treaty-reserved harvest opportunity and a valued tradition for participating bands. Hunters are encouraged to submit their application by the August 7 deadline and watch for additional information from the 1854 Treaty Authority.

Good luck to all applicants and have a safe and successful hunting season!

The Bois Forte Tribal Council invites you to the Swearing In of

David Morrison Sr.
Secretary Treasurer

Mildred Holmes
as District I Representative

Robert Moyer Jr.
as District II Representative

Tuesday, July 14, 2026
10:00am

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

Live Stream available via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 277 957 328 891 59
Passcode: 9eH3P44y



MOOSE HARVEST RECRUITMENT

HONORING THE HUNT

- Update your 1854 ID
- Sharing from CO's, Biologists, knowledge keepers
- Gather your hunting party, submit a 2026 application
- Door Prizes and giveaways
- Meal provided

6 - 8PM

Monday, July 13th, 2026
Nett Lake Tribal Government Center
Eagle Room

SCAN TO REGISTER



For more details, contact Marne:
mkaeske@1854treatyauthority.org

Morrison, Moyer Jr. and Holmes earn four-year terms

NETT LAKE— With three seats open for the Bois Forte Tribal Council, voters decided they wanted to see change as both District I Representative Shane Drift and the Secretary Treasurer Tara Geshick lost to challengers Millie Holmes and David Morrison Sr., respectively, in the June 9 General Election.

District II Representative Robert Moyer Jr. held off challenger Alanna Sherman by a 100-86 margin. He won the Vermilion Sector vote by an 81-63 margin to propel him to another four-year term. (See page 5 for a separate story on this race).

Morrison Sr. had a strong showing in Vermilion (100-61) and Nett Lake (67-49) en route to his 248-186 win over Geshick, who had defeated Morrison, Sr., four years ago. Up to that point Morrison Sr. held the seat for an incredible 32 consecutive years.

“Serving 32 years on the tribal council certainly helped,” said Morrison Sr., who will be sworn in Tuesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay. “I really hit the pavement this time around. I went door to door to get input from band members.”

Attempts to reach Geshick for her comments were unsuccessful.

Morrison Sr. said he really enjoyed campaigning like that as he was able to find out what was on their minds and what they wanted to see from him as the secretary-treasurer of the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

He said voters wanted to ensure the tribal council reaffirms its commitment to transparency and to making wise business decisions, so we are not putting our band into deep financial hardship. They also want to see money reinvested into Fortune Bay Resort Casino and more employment opportunities for band members looking to better themselves and their families.

“It was really interesting hearing those concerns face to face,” said Morrison Sr. “It was an eye opener for me because I had not campaigned like that



Dave Morrison

for quite a while.”

The District I race, which pitted two-term incumbent Drift against Holmes, was a tense back-and-forth contest that could have gone either way, but in the end, Holmes held on for a 129-119 victory. Holmes had led by 12 votes heading into the absentee ballot count and saw that lead shrink down to a tie before finishing strong to win her first-ever term on the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

For Holmes, earning a seat on the tribal council meant a lot, and she believes her late sister, Victoria “Wick-o” Holmes Villebrun, helped guide her to the victory.

“Oh, she was watching me. She was the first to demand a sign for her driveway. She was happy to give me advice on how to run my campaign,” said Holmes of her earlier runs for office. “I still miss her. I’d planned to bring her with me when I had to travel for meetings. She encouraged me and supported me through thick and thin.”

Holmes added that Wick-o would have been the first to plan a party or get-together to celebrate.

“She’d probably be starting a scrapbook for me,” said Holmes, who will be sworn into office on Tuesday, July 14th.

Just as important are other members of the Holmes family, including her three sons.



Millie Holmes

“My family has all supported me and contributed in various ways to my campaign. They were so happy when I called and texted that I’d won,” said Holmes, who will have to give up her job with Bois Forte’s Housing Department prior to taking office. “My sons said I still say ‘umm’ a lot. Not as much as I used to. I just laughed. ‘Yeah, I could hear one of you guys, or Auntie M, Wick-o every time I said or started to say ummm.’”

Throughout the campaign, Holmes, like Drift, remained respectful and vowed that whoever won would do what’s best for all band members.

“My parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and many others taught me to be respectful and to listen to others,” said Holmes. “I feel their pride whenever I hold to the standards they set for me. I am happy to see others doing the same, holding to the standards our elders set for us.”

In regard to how close the race got during the absentee ballot count, Holmes said the word “nerve wracking,” isn’t descriptive enough of the emotional tumult she was experiencing.

“I had to use a couple of the meditations I’d learned to settle myself down,” said Holmes. “That’s when I realized how important it was for me to win this time. Not just for myself and my family,

but for our band.”

For Drift, not being able to serve band members for a third consecutive term was not easy on him.

“It was nerve-wracking in how it played out, but it played out the way it was meant to go,” said Drift from his office roughly one week after the election. “That’s what the band members wanted, there’s nothing I could do except respect their (voters) wishes and move forward in a good and positive way. I wish Millie, Dave, and Robert all the best.”

Drift said he encourages the new council to continue building on the momentum the current tribal council has started, namely moving forward with plans for a grow facility so that the middleman can be eliminated when replenishing product at the Ishkode Dispensary.

“That’s going to be a huge game changer for the tribe,” said Drift. “That is going to generate much-needed revenue for this little tribe.”

Drift added that it will be imperative to put the right person in charge once the facility opens, perhaps as early as the fall of 2027. There was a community meeting on June 17 regarding future plans for a grow facility that would be located across the main sign from the Fortune Bay Resort Casino entrance.

However, many details need to be ironed out regarding finalizing a game plan for the estimated \$18 million project.

“They need to put people in there that are qualified and educated, who know the ins and outs of that business, the science behind it,” cautioned Drift. “If you put someone in there who doesn’t know what they are doing and they are in charge of a multi-million-dollar business, you are just setting them up for failure—we can’t do that.”

As Drift winds down his term in office, he again wishes the members of the council nothing but the best. He

See Terms on page 5

Moyer Jr. grateful for a chance to continue his work

Sherman appreciates the opportunity to make a difference

VERMILION SECTOR—As she was throughout her hard-fought campaign with Robert Moyer Jr., Alanna K. Sherman was a class act even in defeat.

“For me personally, respect was extremely important because we are all neighbors, family members, coworkers, and friends long after the election is over,” said Sherman, who only lost by 14 votes to Moyer Jr. in the District II Representative race. “Disagreements will happen, but I believe we can have different views while still treating one another with kindness and dignity. Leadership starts with how you treat people.”

Moyer Jr. had a strong showing in the Vermilion Sector as he garnered 18 more votes than Sherman to seal the win in the June 9 general election.

During the campaign, both Sherman and Moyer, Jr. exuded true class and respect, as evidenced by how they greeted and treated one another at community forums. These same types of acts were seen in the District I race between Millie Holmes and Shane Drift, as well as in the Secretary-Treasurer race between Tara Geshick and David Morrison Sr.

“I believe every candidate who ran did so because they care deeply about Bois Forte and its future,” said Sherman, who previously worked for Bois Forte and Fortune Bay Resort Casino, before moving on to a new career with Giants Ridge in Biwabik. “While we may have had different ideas or approaches, we all share the same goal of wanting what is best for our band members and our communities.”

Moyer Jr. agreed.

“All candidates were very respectful, and I would like to thank them all,” said Moyer Jr. “I truly believe all involved wanted what’s best for the band.”

Moyer Jr. said he was overwhelmed with gratitude to earn a chance to serve the Bois Forte people for another four-



Robert Moyer Jr.
year term.

“I really don’t know how to describe it right now,” he said.

Moyer Jr. believes the key factors that propelled him to the win were just being himself, listening, and being approachable.

He would like to continue his work in ensuring band members have equal representation. That means changing the tribal council from its current makeup of tribal chair, secretary-treasurer, one District II representative and two District I representatives to tribal chair, secretary-treasurer, one District I representative, one District II representative, and an at-large representative. The at-large could reside at either Nett Lake or Vermilion.

Moyer Jr. plans to continue working on this issue as he prepares to begin his second term, and he wanted to thank the voters for their support.

“I am so honored and proud to serve as the Vermilion representative,” said Moyer Jr.

Meanwhile, Sherman said she learned a lot during her bid to unseat Moyer, Jr.

“I learned that running for office is both rewarding and demanding,” said Sherman. “There is a tremendous amount of time, energy, and commit-



Alanna K. Sherman

ment that goes into meeting people, listening to concerns, and balancing family and work responsibilities.”

She added that when you spend months talking with people, attending forums, and putting yourself out there, you become emotionally invested.

“At the same time, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude,” said Sherman, who added that watching the election results unfold in real time was quite an experience. “Regardless of the outcome, a lot of people put their trust in me, and that support meant a great deal to my family and me.”

She took the time to thank her family for their unwavering support throughout the election process.

“I could not have done this without my family,” said Sherman. “My husband Josh and our children sacrificed a lot of time without me throughout this

campaign. They supported me on the difficult days, encouraged me when I doubted myself, and reminded me why I started this journey in the first place. Their love and support meant everything.

She also paid tribute to her mother-in-law, Pam Sherman, for all of her support.

“Without their help, many of the things we needed to accomplish throughout this campaign simply would not have been possible,” said a grateful Sherman. “Whether it was helping with the kids, offering encouragement, or lending a hand when we needed it the most. She was a huge part of this journey. I am incredibly grateful for everything she did behind the scenes.”

Sherman added that campaigns often highlight one person, but in reality, they are powered by family, friends, and supporters.

“I was fortunate to have an incredible support system standing beside me every step of the way,” she said.

As for future plans, Sherman said she wants to exhale from the rigors of a hard-fought campaign and reflect on everything she learned.

“Although I fell short in votes, I do not view this experience as a loss. I view it as an opportunity for growth,” said Sherman. “As for another run in the future, I would never rule it out. I care deeply about our band members and community, and that commitment does not end because an election is over.”

Terms from page 4

plans to apply for jobs off the reservation, but if that doesn’t pan out, he may go back to college and earn another degree.

“We have another tribal election coming up in 2028, but I have no plans to run for tribal office,” said Drift. “I’d

just like to thank everyone who supported me over the years. Any decision I made was in the best interests of all members of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.”

Editor’s note: We will run a farewell story on Drift in the August issue of the Bois Forte News.

Deegan deals with loss of beloved granddaughter

VERMILION SECTOR— The pain of losing her precious granddaughter, Lyla Pete, is still a daily battle that Bois Forte band member Muriel Deegan faces—and it’s a pain that won’t go away anytime soon.

“It has been very hard—some days are unbearable,” said Deegan about losing Lyla, the day before Mother’s Day, to an asthma attack that she feels may have actually been a heart attack due to some new medications the 12-year-old was on.

Deegan said Lyla had been sluggish as of late and attributed it to adapting to a new medication. As unfair as it may seem, Deegan has questioned herself on whether she should have brought Lyla in to see if there was a reason for that sluggishness. Deegan, painfully, added that if there is one lesson to be learned from the tragedy, it is to keep a close eye on any side effects a new medication may be causing.

“Please go to the doctor and have yourself examined every which way—tell them everything, whether it’s a little thing or a big thing,” urged Deegan, who is raising Lyla’s twin, Lola, and two other grandchildren, Nevaeh and Nijah, at her residence on the Vermilion Sector.

Deegan said it appeared Lyla was just wearing down, and she planned to make an appointment to see if the meds could be adjusted or switched.

“When this happened with Lyla, you could see she was breathing way too hard in basketball,” said Deegan. “Just be aware of your health and remember that little issues matter—it’s better to be overly cautious.”

One thing that has helped Deegan and other members of their tight-knit family is the support they’ve received from the community—she said that has been of utmost importance to help in the healing process. The love and support have come from all walks of life, including family and friends, teammates, strangers, and those who had the opportunity to coach Lyla in baseball, softball, basketball, and gymnastics.



GONE TOO SOON— Here is an image Muriel posted about her twin granddaughters, Lyla and Lola. Angel wings were added to Lyla, whom Muriel knows that she will see one day again. Submitted image.

“It has meant a lot,” said Deegan as she paused to wipe a tear from her eyes. “It was kind of overwhelming, but in a good way—I needed all the support I could get, and I can’t thank the people enough for what they have done for us.”

Deegan said one of the hardest things to accept was losing her granddaughter on Mother’s Day. The episode took place the afternoon before Mother’s Day, but Lyla was taken off life support the next day as doctors indicated Lyla did not have any brain activity.

“I knew she was gone when I saw her,” said Deegan, who raced to meet Lyla and the friends she was with coming back from a birthday party on Fectos Road in Greenwood Township. “I could feel it in my heart just by looking at her.”

She recalled how parents were doing their best to bring Lyla back by per-



MEMORIES — Muriel Deegan looks at family photos of her four grandchildren, including twin granddaughters, Lyla and Lola. Lyla, who was 12, tragically died on Mother’s Day.

forming chest compressions, but it just wasn’t enough to fully resuscitate her. Lyla was airlifted to Duluth and then transported to Minneapolis where she passed way at the Masonic Hospital.

“When it first happened, I was in shock,” said Deegan. “The first couple of weeks, I felt like I was kind of out of my mind, but then I was brought back to reality. Now, after the shock, it is reality, and I’m going through all of these emotions.”

Deegan said it was odd at first be-

cause she couldn’t cry, but then one day it all hit her, and she cried for an entire day. It’s especially difficult for Deegan to go down to the lake because it was one of Lyla’s favorite places in the whole world. It was here where Lyla would wait for the sunset each night and stare at amazement at the world around her.

“Right now, it is really hard for me to go down there; it’s just a painful reminder that Lyla is gone,” said Deegan.

Deegan said that Lyla was always one to help out around the house without being asked. She said 11-year-old Nijah has been following Lyla’s footsteps with these tasks, and she takes great comfort in that.

“Lyla always did things for me without me having to ask her—she was so thoughtful,” said Deegan. “She really liked doing chores and making sure the house was nice and clean.”

Since Lyla’s passing, Deegan said her twin, Lola, has not been able to be in the bedroom she shared. She has been in therapy to help her cope with the loss of her sister and best friend.

“She’s doing the best she can, as are Nijah and Nevaeh,” said Deegan.

See Deegan on page 7

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
Guenthner 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.

Deegan from page 6

"Even though the twins fought, as most siblings do, when Lyla would call Lola, she said, 'Hey Siri, call my 'Best Friend.' They were extremely close, and it has been devastating for Lola to go through this."

Deegan said the home is quieter now as she deals with moving Lyla's personal items from her bedroom in preparation for a planned addition to her home. She said she is creating a wall

of memories that has photos of Lyla, Lola, Nijah, and Nevaeh. Eventually, she will create a shrine of sorts in her bedroom in memory of Lyla.

"We all miss her so much," said Deegan as she looked down at some family pictures. "We miss everything about her and are just taking it one day at a time as we continue to go through the grieving process, but I take comfort in the fact that I know I will one day see her again—to see that beautiful smile of hers."

Friendly reminder from Bois Forte Housing!

GREASE CAN REALLY DO A NUMBER ON YOUR PIPES!— Attention: All tenants and Bois Forte homeowners —Do not put grease down the kitchen sink or the toilets or any drain as it can really cause problems!

Conversation begins on grow facility

MAKING A POINT— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez addressed the crowd at a community meeting regarding Ishkode Dispensary financials, as well as talking about a grow facility that could be operational by September of 2027. Pictured to Hernandez's left are Robert Moyer Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick. It is still early in the ball game, but Hernandez said the grow facility would be an economic boon to our tribe. Attendance at the community meeting was roughly 30 band members, several of whom asked questions during the meeting or submitted questions via a QR code that the council and upper management will answer at a yet to be set second community meeting on the proposed business venture. Look for a follow up story on this venture, plus an update on the Ishkode Dispensary in the August issue of the Bois Forte News.

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

WILL & ESTATE PLANNING INFORMATION SESSION

Hosted By Bois Forte Tribal Court

Learn how to plan for the future with confidence. Presentation Topics include:

- Estate Planning Essentials
- Will Creation
- Probate vs. Trusts
- Understanding Estates with Trust Land
- Understanding the Probate Process at Bois Forte vs. off reservation
- Healthcare Directives
- Appointing a Personal Representative
- Group Discussion going through the process of estate planning or executing wishes of family members after their passing

All in attendance will receive the opportunity to work with a law clinic attorney to develop your Will and/or Estate Planning at **NO COST**.

Event Details

 **Date:** Thursday July 23, 2026

 Two Opportunities to attend **Times:** 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM (don't need to attend both)

 **Location:** Tribal Court Building 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B Orr, MN 55771

Zoom Virtual Attendance Option Available —Zoom Meeting ID: 305 416 1983

Questions? Contact: Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director  **Phone:** 218-757-3462

Bois Forte News Briefs

Financial Education Workshop scheduled for July 14

NETT LAKE—A Financial Education Workshop to Focus on Building Financial Confidence will be held on Tuesday, July 14, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Eagle Room at the Tribal Government Center, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn practical financial skills in a supportive environment. Light snacks will be provided, and attendees will have

a chance to win door prizes.

This event is sponsored by the Bois Forte 477 Program and Northern Communities Credit Union.

Sobriety/Prevention Support Meeting

VERMILION SECTOR—Community members are invited to attend a Sobriety/Prevention Support Meeting every Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

Coffee and treats will be provided,

courtesy of the Bois Forte Substance Use Program and MCT Prevention Grant.

For more information, please contact Heidi or Amy at 218-753-2347.

Community Reminder: Bear Awareness – Stay Safe Around Wildlife

NETT LAKE— As bear activity increases throughout the area, community members are encouraged to remain vigilant and take precautions to help keep themselves and their families safe.

To reduce the likelihood of bear encounters:

- Do not approach, feed, or attempt to interact with bears.
- Secure garbage, pet food, bird seed, and other potential food sources.
- Keep pets and children close, especially when walking or playing outdoors.

• If you encounter a bear, stay calm, avoid sudden movements, and slowly back away while giving the animal plenty of space.

Community members who observe bear activity in residential areas or have concerns about wildlife encounters should report the activity to DNR Conservation Officers. In emergency situations or if a bear poses an immediate threat to public safety, call 911 to be dispatched to Nett Lake Police and Bois Forte Conservation.

By taking simple precautions and respecting wildlife, we can help prevent conflicts and ensure the safety of both people and animals in our community.

For additional information or questions, please contact Bois Forte Conservation Officers Nicolis Bucholz or Brianna Whiteman at 218-404-2228.

NOW HIRING!

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



INTRODUCING OUR 2026-2027 SAH GII BAH GAH DAYS ROYALTY!



Tiny Tot Princess-
Celina Morrison



Junior Brave-
Kalin Dow



Tiny Tot Brave - Callan Houle
Junior Princess - Melina Houle
Senior Princess - Mikaela Houle



Senior Brave-
Harvey Goodsky



Minute with Millie



Ahniin, greetings. There's been so much happening this time of year. I went to the pow-wow, ya know, the SahGiiBah-Gah Powwow. Our annual event that happens every June. One which I've attended ever since I was a small child. One where I'd also had my name drawn to win a very fine lamp which sat proudly on my dresser.

Well, this year I'd put up the

8 foot x 8 foot canopy which I'd won at a Wakemup Family Reunion, aka Christmas in July, one fine year. I'd had help because, of course, I am too short to reach the top point of the datted, oops, very much appreciated shade. Why, I could barely reach the top of the corner poles to straighten out the four points of the canopy's metal structure with the corner point

of the mosquito netting that's attached to the canvas top.

The canvas top was perched, very much crookedly, above my head. And, of course, my cousin who was helping me, wasn't very much taller than myself. And both of us has immediate family members who are quite tall enough to reach even the center of the whole contraption.

Naturally, none of them were anywhere near where we needed them to be. Lo an behold, a kind lady pitched in to help us set up.

And naturally, the next morning, I arrived to find the whole datted tent laying on the ground, blown over by the strong wind during the night.

Proudly representing Bois Forte!



GOOD TIMES!— Jenny Goodsky-Evans, Lela Goodsky Correa, and Jackie Wilson attended the Gathering of Nations Powwow earlier this spring. The Gathering of Nations is the largest pow-wow in the United States and North America. It is held annually on the fourth weekend in April, on the Powwow Grounds at Expo NM, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over 565 tribes from around the United States and 220 from Canada travel to Albuquerque to participate.

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's menu for the month of July. 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.

- July 1: Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup, Saltines, Veggies, Fruit
- July 2: Cobb Salad, Bread Stick, Fruit
- July 3: Holiday
- July 6: Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potato, Corn, Fruit
- July 7: Sausage and Egg Bake, Biscuit, Fruit
- July 8: Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Saltines, Chef Choice Sandwich, Fruit
- July 9: Taco Salad
- July 10: Chicken Fajita, Veggies, WW Tortilla, Fruit
- July 13: Baked Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Fruit
- July 14: Cheeseburger, Tomato, Lettuce, Onion on Side, Potato Wedges, WW Bun
- July 15: Beef Quesadilla, Refried Beans, Cheese, Sour Cream, Lettuce, Fruit
- July 16: Chicken Bacon Ranch Salad, Bread Stick

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	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

- July 17: Wild Rice Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, WW Bun, Fruit
- July 20: Meat Sauce, Pasta, Garlic Bread, Veggie
- July 21: Baked Ham, Potato, Veggie, Fruit
- July 22: Ham and Pea Soup, Saltines, Fruit
- July 23: Italian Pasta Salad w/Pepperoni, Fruit, Bread Stick
- July 24: Pork Loin, Rice Blend, Veggie, Fruit
- July 27: Chili/Cornbread, Veggie, Fruit
- July 28: Lasagna, Mixed Veggies, Fruit
- July 29: Chili Dogs, Fries, Veggie, Fruit
- July 30: Chef Salad, Veggie
- July 31: Porketta, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veggie, Fruit

Bois Forte Obituaries

Gary Wayne Bignose Donald



Gary Wayne Bignose Donald, Zaagaategaabow ("One Who Stands in the Rays of the Sun") and Niizhoodenh ("Twin"), of the Bullhead Clan, passed away peacefully on the morning of June 20, 2026, at Essentia Health-Northern Pines Care Center in Aurora, Minnesota. He was 93 years old.

Gary was born on August 2, 1932, to Ellen King and Peter Bignose Donald. He was born and raised in West Duluth until his family moved back home to Nett Lake Village on the Bois Forte Reservation.

Gary enlisted in the United States Army in 1951 and attended basic training at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He became a drill instructor and was given the nickname "Little Beaver" before transferring to the Medical Corps, serving at Tripler Army Medical Center until his honorable discharge in 1954.

After returning home to Nett Lake, Gary met the love of his life, Joanne Boness Strong. They were married on July 3, 1954, and together built a life centered on love and family. They welcomed four daughters, Gayle, Leigh, Coleen, and Carolyn. In 1966, the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio's Little Italy neighborhood, where Gary attended barber school.

In 1978, Gary and his family returned home to Bois Forte, settling at Lake Vermilion. He dedicated his life

to serving his people through his work with the Teamsters Union as a foreman, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in housing development, and later, for 16 years across four terms, as Tribal Chairman of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

During his years of Tribal leadership, Gary helped guide the Bois Forte Band through a period of significant growth and opportunity.

In 2002, Gary played a key role alongside the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bois Forte Tribal Council in placing 1,105.25 acres of land into federal trust status, ensuring the land would remain a permanent asset for future generations of the Bois Forte Band. On February 28, 2002, deeds conveying title to the land into trust were formally signed, securing an important piece of the Band's future.

He was also a driving force behind several economic development initiatives that strengthened the Band's future, including the development of the Fortune Bay Bingo Hall, which later grew into Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Golf Course.

These efforts created jobs, expanded tourism, and generated opportunities for Tribal members and communities throughout the Iron Range. Their impact continues to be felt today, supporting both the Bois Forte Band and the regional economy. Gary was proud to contribute to projects that helped build a stronger future for the community and create opportunities that will benefit generations to come.

Gary's accomplishments were many, but those who knew him best will remember the man behind the titles. He loved fishing and netting the waters of northern Minnesota, hunt-

ing, trapping, harvesting and processing wild rice, playing guitar, singing karaoke with family, sharing stories, watching the NFL and the NBA, listening to the Grand Ole Opry, and enjoying a good game of Rummy 500, house rules.

Whether he was gathered in the kitchen at a family celebration or out on the lake, Gary had a natural gift for making everyone feel welcome. His kindness and humor radiated wherever he went, and he found his greatest joy in spending time with family, sharing stories, hearing laughter, and making people smile. He always seemed to know what to say, when to say it, and how to say it.

More than anything else in the world, Gary loved being "Gramps." He and Joanne treasured every opportunity to spend time with their grandchildren. Whether it meant driving hours across the state for a sporting event or filling an entire summer with adventures and memories, they never missed a chance to be present. When their family needed help, they were always there. When it came to their grandkids, their favorite saying was, "Just leave them with us."

For Gary and Joanne, family was never an obligation. It was one of life's greatest blessings.

Gary leaves behind not only those who loved him, but also a lasting legacy within the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and the communities he called home. He lived a life of service to his country, his people, his community, and above all, his family. His teachings, values, and love live on through the generations of family and community members who carry them forward. He will be remembered for his strength, leadership, generosity, and unwavering pride in his Anishinaabe

heritage. His stories, wisdom, humor, and quiet examples of kindness and integrity touched countless lives and will continue to guide and inspire all who knew and loved him.

Gary was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joanne; his parents, Peter Bignose Donald and Ellen King (Tibbetts); his daughters, Coleen Jennings, Carolyn Donald, and Leigh Donald; his twin brother; his sisters Patricia "Girly" Strong, Pricilla Morrison, and Gwen Tibbetts; his brother Nathaniel "Butch" Freeman-Tibbetts; and many friends, relatives, and loved ones who passed before him.

He is lovingly remembered and survived by his daughter, Gayle (James D.) Littlewolf; his grandchildren, Wenona (Don-Iban) Kingbird, Jamie (BJ) Copenace, Andrea Gorham, Joanna (Tonya) Boyer, Jessa (Anthony) Boyer, Emma (Levi) Brown, and Gary Proudchief; 19 great-grandchildren; his siblings, William (Sharon) Tibbetts, Fern Isham, Elaine Tibbetts, and Linda (Frank) Barto; along with many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, and community members who will forever cherish his memory.

On June 24 and June 25, a traditional wake, funeral service, and community feasts were held in Gary's honor at the Vermilion Wellness Center in Tower. Spiritual Advisors were Billy Blackwell and Vern Adams, Sr.

Burial with Full Military Honors will be held on Friday, July 3, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Lakeview Cemetery in Tower, Minnesota, on what would have been their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Gary will be laid to rest beside Joanne, reunited once again after a lifetime of love and devotion.

Stanley James Day

Stan Day began his Spiritual Journey on June 17, 2026. He was born February 28, 1946.

His primary condition was Alzheimer's/Dementia, with underlying conditions that caused his mind and body to shut down. Though we mourn his passing, he has left us with stories and memories that commemo-

rate his life here. Let us be content knowing that his body and mind will be healed and whole in the spirit world. Only love...

Stan was preceded in death by his beloved parents: Clyde George Day-Father and Charlotte Day-Mother; siblings: Clyde Day II, Clarence Day, Arlene Gulso (George ((d.)) Edie Day (Rich), Margaret Coonts, Charles Day (Judith), Janet Day,

Jeanette Day, and Leonard Day.

He is survived by his children: David John Day, (Myrlyn) Springdale, Washington; Shawmarie Guelcher,(Davis) St. Paul, Minn.; William Day, (Amelia) St. Louis Park, Minn.; Clyde Day III, (Daniell) Minneapolis, Minn.; Sarah Day, Virginia, Minn.; siblings: Sharon Day, Ross "Michael" Day, Cheryl Day-Earley, Charlene

Day-Castro (Raymond((d.))), Dorene Day, Jeannie Day, Lindsey Day, and Dolores Day.

He also survived by many loved ones, grand-kids, great-grand-kids, nieces and nephews, and extended family.

His love for family was endless.

SOLAR HEAT FOR ELDERS

Now seeking up to 5 Elder households. The Bois Forte Energy Department, in partnership with 8th Fire Solar, is bringing a Solar Thermal for Elders Project to the community. This project is designed to help reduce home heating costs during the colder months by using solar thermal technology at no cost to the homeowner.

DEADLINE OF JULY 10TH FOR SIGN UP.

ELIGIBILITY

REQUIREMENTS:

- The elder must be a permanent resident of the household
- The elder must be 55 years or older
- The elder must be a tribal member
- Homeowners and renters are both welcome to apply
- The home must have an open, south-facing wall
- The south-facing wall must be free from blockage by trees, buildings, or other structures.

If you are unsure if your home is right for solar, site assessments will be done for all applicants.

For more info, contact Amy Mason, or 8th Fire Solar.



CONTACT INFO:

Contact for application:

Amy Mason, Energy Director
218-636-1796 Office
218-404-9899 Cell
Amy.mason@boisforte-nsn.gov



AICHO

American Indian Community Housing Organization

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES. TOGETHER.

Join us to learn about homeowner opportunities!!

Tribal Government Center - Eagle Room

July 30th

10:30 am

Great information to be shared!

Door Prizes and light snacks

PREPARED BY:

David Hawk

Home Pathway Specialist

AICHO

davidh@aicho.org

218-576-6822 (Temporary)

202 W 2nd St
Duluth, MN 55802

WE'RE HERE TO
**HELP YOU
GET HOME.**



Our mission is to provide education, support, and access to sustainable homeownership for Native American families and communities.

Your future. Your home. Our mission.

Election from page 1

and the services, it may eventually have to be opened up to non-natives to help keep it fiscally sound.

“One thing I would hate to see happen is that if doesn’t start to make it, then it would fall back on Health and Human Services to keep it afloat,” said Drift, who commended former Bois Forte Health and Human Services Director Dan Rabideaux for the ground-work he put in to get this project moving. “(To rely on) third party revenue would be bad business.... we need to continue providing services to our band members without it being a financial burden on our tribe— Miigwech.”

New Bois Forte Health and Human Services Director Janelle Rost was on hand for the celebration and made sure to pay tribute to her staff for the work they’ve done to get this facility open. She said Bois Forte is fortunate to have such a strong and dedicated team within HHS.

“It has truly been a labor of love,” said Rost, who spent 26 years in the United States Air Force and gained experience as a health administrator during a portion of her service to our country. “Special recognition to former HHS Director Dan Rabideaux, Clinic Administrator Leah Masucci, Compliance Manager Pam Parson, our clinical, pharmacy, dental, community health, behavioral health, and IT staff, as well as our Executive Director (Miranda Lilya) and the Bois Forte Tribal



PROUD MOMENT— Bois Forte District I Representative Shane Drift addresses the attendees at the new Bois Forte Health and Human Services’ Open House on Wednesday, June 17.

Council.”

Rost apologized if she missed anyone else who played a part in making this venture possible.

“...But it truly took a team effort to bring this to fruition,” said Rost. “I was incredibly impressed by everyone’s dedication, and it was so rewarding to see that effort reflected in such an outstanding turnout.”

Lilya and District I Representative Jeneal Goggleye briefly spoke, and echoed sentiments shared by others on how excited they are about the new operations and what it will mean to band members living off the reservation.

Parson, who helped with the offering of tobacco, among other chores, said she hoped everyone in attendance feels

as proud as she did about having the new business in Virginia for Bois Forte band members.

“Thank you Dan (Rabideaux), thank you Miranda (Lilya), thank you tribal council for believing in us and thanks to everyone who took part in this,” said Parson before adding Leah Masucci (clinic administrator) and Jeff Holth (tribal attorney) to her thank you list.

With that Parson paused and looked around the gathering room before making statement that everyone in attendance could agree on.

“It looks beautiful,” said Parson with a gentle smile. “Anything for our band members.”

A light meal was then served as attendees took tours around the spa-



WELCOME— This trio of employees greeted attendees with awesome service during the Wednesday, June 17 open house to commemorate the opening of the new Bois Forte Health and Human Services building in downtown Virginia. Pictured left to right are: Christie Swanson, Amanda Goggleye and Krystal Strong. Great job ladies!

cious building and staff answered any questions that were posed.

After the event, Rost called it a great success, and she hopes that it will be a great success story for Bois Forte for years to come.

“We had a wonderful turnout from both band members and local community members,” said Rost. “It was truly exciting to see so many people come out to support the tribe. We are so grateful to be able to bring many services closer to band members on the Range.”

The Bois Forte Health and Human Services building in Virginia will offer Dental, Pharmacy, and Behavioral Health Services (including both mental health and substance use) Monday through Friday, excluding Bois Forte Government closure days.

“Additional support services available will include supportive housing assistance, WIC, scheduling for comprehensive assessments, and other services that may benefit our band members,” said Rost. “We will also be offering group substance prevention classes in the near future and plan to host community classes as well.”

If you would like to utilize services at the Virginia location, Rost encouraged band members to contact the clinic at 218-550-1864.



CONVENIENT LOCATION—These pictures show the outside of the new Bois Forte Health and Human Services building, which is located at 303 Chestnut Street in downtown Virginia. The windows of the buildings are adorned with beautiful murals, while the entryway pays homage to Bois Forte’s history, including old photos and a birch bark canoe.