DECEMBER 2026

Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 12

Bois Forte RTG and Clinic schedule

Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government Buildings and its clinics in Nett, Vermilion and Virginia will be closed Friday, December 4 for its holiday party. The buildings and clinics will also be closed December 24, 25, 30 and 31 for the holidays.

Early deadline reminder!

Due to the holidays, the January Bois Forte News deadline is Wednesday, December 16—please send any news item, obituary, photo, etc. to bkanderson@fortunebay.com. Call 218-753-7882 if you have any questions—thank you!

Peterson sentenced to 51 months for criminal vehicular homicide

Family contends no sentence will bring Amanda Boshey back

DULUTH— Emotions ran high Monday outside the federal courthouse in Duluth as family and friends gathered Monday, November 23, to show support for Amanda Rae Boshey, who was struck and killed by Eric Scott Peterson of Virginia.

The courthouse was standing room only; before the court was called into session, supporters spilled out into the hallway. Staff brought in additional chairs, and family members were then asked to join media personnel who had been moved to the jury box because Courtroom 1 was so full.

Peterson, who was found guilty this past April of criminal vehicular homicide for the hit-and-run accident that killed the 38-year-old mother of five as she walked Reservation Road on December 17, 2024, had been free on bail since he was convicted of criminal vehicular homicide.

On Monday, he was sentenced to 51 months in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release. He is to have no contact with the Boshey family and while on supervised release is not allowed to visit any casinos (nor participate in online gambling, or any other form of gambling, i.e. pull tabs or establishments whose main source of business is related to alcohol sales and a couple other minor conditions handed down by Judge Provinzino. He was also ordered to pay over $4,000 to cover funeral expenses, plus a $100 fine. There would be no additional restitution, as Peterson, who used to work as a car salesman, lost his job and has not worked since the accident, meaning he does not have the financial means to pay.

There was not much reaction when the sentence was read, but when Peterson's request to remain free on bail while it was determined where he would serve his prison time was denied by U.S. District Judge Laura M. Provinzino, there was plenty of clapping and sounds of joy shown by Boshey supporters.

Provinzino reminded Peterson at the conclusion of his

See Boshey on page 8



MUCH LOVE AND SUPPORT— Kimberly Day, who is Amanda Rae Boshey's mother, receives a hug from a well-wisher prior to Eric Peterson's sentencing Monday, November 23, at the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth.

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BOIS FORTE
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

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BOIS FORTE NEWS DEADLINES AND SUBMISSIONS:

The deadline for the *Bois Forte News* is typically the 20th of every month unless otherwise noted for early or late press runs. If we do change the deadline for the following month, it would be announced on Bois Forte's social media page or the front page of the *Bois Forte News*.
If you have any news items, column, obituary, picture or advertisement, please email it to *bkanderson@fortunebay.com*

ADDRESS CHANGES, NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS OR CANCELLATIONS:

Please send address changes, new subscriptions or cancellations to: bkanderson@fortunebay.com
We are no longer charging band members for renewal subscriptions but will only mail the paper to the continental United States. For those living elsewhere, you can read the *Bois Forte News* online by visiting www.boisforte.com
Non-band members are now charged $15 per year in state and $20 out of state.
If you have any general questions, please call Brian @ 218-753-7882.

Bois Forte News Briefs

Reminder of return to in-person court appearances

NETT LAKE—As a reminder, Bois Forte Tribal Court has returned to a primarily in-person model for all court proceedings.

Attendance at scheduled hearings, conferences, reviews, and other court appearances will be required in person unless otherwise authorized by the Bois Forte Tribal Court.

The Bois Forte Tribal Court has determined that in-person proceedings promote effective communication, accountability, courtroom decorum, and the efficient administration of justice.

Accordingly, virtual appearances will be limited to specific circumstances approved by the Bois Forte Tribal Court. Not having a ride will not be considered as a reason for virtual appearance requests.

A request for a virtual appearance should be submitted in writing as soon as possible and no later than 10 business days before the scheduled hearing whenever practicable.

If you questions regarding scheduling or requests for virtual appearances, please contact the Tribal Court at 218-757-3462.

Thank you for your cooperation as the Bois Forte Tribal Court returns to in-person proceedings.

Sobriety/prevention support meetings

VERMILION SECTOR—Bois Forte Substance Use Program, along with a MCT Prevention Grant, are pleased to announce the continuation of a Sobriety/Prevention Support Meeting every Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

Coffee and treats are available.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi or Amy at 218-753-2347.

December Crafting/Beading Circle dates

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— The Crafting/Beading Circle dates for December are as follows:

- Sunday, December 13— Nett Lake from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Building.
- Sunday, December 13—Vermilion Sector from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

Ten participants are required for the events to be held. You must sign up by calling Jennalee Porter at 218-404-3059 or via email at jporter@boisforte-nsn.gov

Thank you from the C Store!

NETT LAKE— The staff at the Nett Lake C Store would like to thank its customers for their continued support during this past year and want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nett Lake Community's 2027 Trunk-or-Treat was a success!

Submitted by 477 Department

NETT LAKE—The 2027 Nett Lake Community Trunk-or-Treat brought over 125 community members out for a night of costumes, games, a walking taco dinner, and of course treats!

See Briefs on page 3



TEAM SPIRIT! —Pictured here are the Lilyas with the best decorated trunk and family fun night goodies. All participants were given the opportunity to vote on their favorite trunk. Congrats to the Lilyas! We are already excited for next year!

Bois Forte pays tribute to its Ogichidaa

VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Veterans program is always a solemn event, but with several recent passings in the community, the 2026 program was even more subdued.

The Woodlands Ballroom was relatively empty as members of the tribal council did the roll call for our Ogichidaa, warriors, who bravely served our country.

Even though the event was sparsely attended, Bois Forte Chairman Carlos Hernandez did an admirable job in making sure those in attendance knew the importance of honoring our warriors.

"Today is about gratitude," said Hernandez after Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams Sr. did the invocation. "It's about taking the time to recognize the men and women who answered the call to service, who made sacrifices that many of us will never fully understand— and who helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today."

Hernandez, who was joined at the program by District I Representatives Jeneal Goggleye and Mildred Holmes, said that for our Anishinaabe people, being a warrior has always meant more than going into battle.

"It means having the courage to stand up for others, to protect our people, and to put the needs of others before your own," said Hernandez, who added that the spirit of service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. "We see it in our veterans who continue to serve their families, their communities and future generations."

Hernandez told those gathered that it was important to recognize the families of our veterans.

"Your sacrifices matter too," said Hernandez. "The time spent apart, the worry and the strength it takes to support someone serving our country should never go unnoticed."

Hernandez then took a moment to remember those veterans who are no longer here with us—those who have traveled on to the spirit world but will never be forgotten. He talked about how their service, their stories and the sacrifices they made while serving our country and long after they returned home.

See Ogichidaa on page 5



PAYING HIS RESPECTS—Tribal Chairman Carlos Hernandez reads off names of Bois Forte Ogichidaa (warriors) during a Veterans Day program that took place in The Woodlands Ballroom, Friday, November 20.

Briefs from page 1

The community event was sponsored by the 477 Department, Human Resources, and the Cultural and Healing Department.

Decorated vehicles lined the parking lot of the Tribal Government building while departments and community members handed out candy and offered games to the little ghosts and goblins of Nett Lake. The event was held October 29th so the children were still able to enjoy their trick-or-treating on Halloween.



Fortune Bay's health fair was a big success!

VERMILION SECTOR—With the cold and flu season slowly rearing its ugly head, it was the perfect time for Fortune Bay Resort Casino's Human Resources team to bring back a health fair.

Leading up to the health fair, which took place Wednesday, November 4th in Pre-function area, Director of HR Liz Michka encouraged employees to learn, connect and discover new ways to live a healthier, happier life.

"Our health fair will bring together valuable health resources, wellness information, interactive activities, and opportunities to connect with others who share a passion more health and well-being," wrote Michka in an email sent out to the Fortune Bay team.

And Michka and her team, namely Bridgette Burr, who was the key player in bringing a health fair back to Fortune Bay after a several year absence, certainly delivered.

Other HR team members working the health fair were Training Manager Alex Sheehy, Personnel Manager Matt Graves, Payroll & HRIS Manager Dan Keller, Recruitment & Onboarding Specialist Rochelle Gwash, and HR Administrative Assistant Cindy Berlin.

"Thank you to every employee and vendor who participated, and to everyone who helped bring the event together," said Burr after the event. "A special thank you to McKenzie Buchanan and the banquet staff; Elise Grabowski for the stickers; Marion Padilla for the bags; KK, Tonya, and the Food and Beverage team for the snacks, meals, and their booth; and our Human Resources team for their help throughout the event."

Traffic was moving at a fast pace early on as employees made their way around the pre-function area visiting booths to get their flu shots, cholesterol and blood sugar checked, a private massage, compliments of Bois Forte Health and Human Services, and a slew of information on other health related topics.

Burr said bringing this event back was important to her because Fortune Bay offers valuable benefits, and she wants employees to feel informed and confident in using them.



HUB OF ACTIVITY—Fortune Bay's Mickey Peterson, seated, took advantage of all the free health services that the Fortune Bay health fair offered. She was visiting one of Bois Forte's Health and Human Services booths, which was offering flu shots. If you have not received your flu shot, makes sure to stop into one of Bois Forte's three clinics to do so!

"Hosting the Health Fair during open enrollment gives employees an opportunity to explore health and wellness resources, ask questions about their benefits, and learn more before making their elections for the coming year," said Burr, who is hopeful to make the Health Fair an annual event once again. "It's also a meaningful reminder of the importance of caring for ourselves and the resources available to support us."

Bois Forte was well represented as they had informational booths from its community health, diabetes, nursing, pharmacy, dental, food sovereignty and tobacco cession programs. Band member Jarvis Goodsky made up a large batch of popped wild rice with fresh berries that was a big hit at Fortune Bay's Food and Beverage booth, which was manned by Tonya Vanderline.

Delta Dental, Bluelink, Symetra/Clarity, Cook Hospital and Care Center, Melaleuca, Tranquility by Jane and Ely Folk School were also represented under wellness, while lark and Lotus Mindfulness Meditation and Resiliency POPWER Education headed up booths

See Health Fair on page 7



Ogichidaa from page 3

"To all of our veterans," said Hernandez as he paused to look around the room and make eye contact with veterans and their families. "I hope you know how much you mean to us. Not just today, but every day. Sometimes two simple words carry more meaning than we can ever express—Miigwech, thank you. Thank you for your courage—thank you for your sacrifices. And most importantly thank you for your service."

Hernandez then introduced Goggleye and then Holmes as all three did the time-honored tradition of reading off roll call for all of our veterans who have answered the call to serve their country.

Nearly 400 names, branch of service and military honors were read off. It was interesting to note how many families had five or more siblings or relatives serve our country, such as the Adams family (7), Anderson family (7), Boness family (7), Boshey family (8), Brown family (7), Chosa family (13). Connor family (13), Drift family (5), Geshick family (8), Goggleye family (6), Gonier family (5), Goodsky family (10), Hackey family (7), Isham family (12), King family (21), Lumbar family (8), Mihelich family (5), O'Leary family (7), Pete family 6), Porter family (5), Sam family (8), Strong family (11), Villebrun family (8) and Whiteman family (11).

The service was a tad more subdued this year as there was no drum group or singers to perform the traditional songs or to lightly beat the drum when another name was read off.

In closing the ceremony, Adams reminded those gathered that loved ones who are no longer physically present were there.

"You look around," said Adams as he paused to look out at the crowd. "It looks empty, but it is not... the ones that have passed on, came here and sat down with us today."

Those were comforting words and the fitting way to end the program as Bois Forte leaders honored our Ogichidaa.



THANK YOU MR. WHITEMAN— Bois Forte elder and former tribal council representative Jerome Whiteman paused for a quick photo outside The Woodlands Ballroom Friday, November 20. Whiteman recently lost his son, Brian Whiteman Sr. to a tragic accident that rocked the Bois Forte community.





ROLL CALL — District 1 Representative Mildred Holmes (left) and District 1 Representative Jeneal Goggleye (right) took pride in reading names of Bois Forte veterans on Friday, Nov. 20 in The Woodlands Ballroom.



Working together for the betterment of our community

VERMILION SECTOR— Christmas came early this year for the Vermilion Boys and Girls Clubs as a community effort, backed with funding KABOOM! and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and support from the local community, resulted in the construction of a new playground near the Vermilion Social Center.

"The project will transform an outdated play area into a safe, inclusive, and engaging space where children can learn, play, and build healthy relationships for years to come," said KABOOM! Senior Manager Program Innovation & Community Activation Eunice Cho, who helped organize the project with Bois Forte and the local Boys and Girls Clubs.

Construction of the playground was done very quickly in large part to the number of volunteers who gave freely of their time and resources, summer like weather also helped expediate the project that was completed it in a mere three days.

The playground is a godsend to kids on the Vermillion sector and has already seen a lot of use even though Old Man Winter will be here sooner than later.

"Thanks to an extraordinary partnership and a community that came together to make it happen, a new place to play, grow, and make memories is now a reality for children at the Vermilion Boys and Girls Club," said Bois Forte Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Travis Vake. "What makes this playground especially meaningful is that it was designed with the children themselves."

Vake said through a collaborative process led by KABOOM!, local youth shared their ideas for their dream playground. Landscape Structures brought those ideas to life, incorporating Ojibwe signage and elements celebrating local wildlife and culture.

"The project was made possible through the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) Indigefit initiative, in partnership with KABOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to play" said Vake, who was overwhelmed with how many volunteers showed up to help with the project. "Vermilion is the first playground completed through this Indigefit partnership, reflecting a shared commitment to healthy, active futures for Native youth."



FINISHED PRODUCT— Here is a submitted photo from KABOOM! Senior Manager, Program Innovation & Community Activation Eunice Cho, who was thrilled with the work done to make this new playground a reality. "The community truly came together to build a play area that the kids and staff at Bois Forte truly deserve, said Cho. "A huge thank you to our friends at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte – Vermilion (and to our amazing volunteers from Nett Lake!) and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community – we are so grateful for your support throughout the entire design and planning process."

Vake said during an inspiring three-day Build Week at the Vermilion Sector, volunteers transformed the playground at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte – Vermilion. He added that the former equipment was carefully removed for reuse elsewhere, making way for a larger, vibrant play space featuring slides, swings, climbing walls, monkey bars, a spinner, and a zip line.

"Equally remarkable was the community effort behind the build. Volunteers from Vermilion and Nett Lake worked alongside Bois Forte maintenance staff, tribal leaders, Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union, and Minnesota North–Vermilion," said Vake. "The MDH Tobacco Cessation Program and Bois Forte Food Sovereignty Program helped keep volunteers fueled with meals and snacks. Every helping hand mattered."

The celebration concluded with a blessing by Jaylen Strong and traditional drumming and songs, honoring both the accomplishment and the community spirit behind it.

"For the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte, this new park represents more than playground equipment. It is a safe, welcoming space where children can be active, build friendships, and take pride in something they helped create," said Vake. "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to SMSC, KABOOM!, every volunteer, and everyone who supported the planning and construction. Together, we built more than a playground. We built a lasting investment in our children and our community."

Indeed, they did and Cho could not have been more grateful for the support.

"And to our amazing volunteers who showed up every day ready to work and build this play space —we are able to do this work because of you," said Cho, who thanked her staff members, Jen DeMelo, Jennifer Diamond and Sarah Pinsky. "Thank you for your time, energy, and passion in helping create such a beautiful space for the children of Bois Forte. Thank you once again for making the week so special and these past few months such an incredible experience."

Health Fair from page 4

for mental health.

Erin Callahan from UBS had a booth for financial health as did Boyd Carlblom from Range Reliable Insurance and Bryan Marker who handles Bois Forte's 401k program.

"The fair provided a fantastic opportunity for our team members to connect with one another, learn about important open enrollment information, and access valuable resources to support their health and well-being," said Michka after the event. "It was inspiring to witness the engagement and the sense of community that filled the space."

As an added incentive to partake in leading a healthier lifestyle, plenty of great door prizes were up for grabs, including hotel stays, dining credits to the Aski Bistro, a Ninja Air Fryer, four, one day PTO, gift cards and much more.

"I'm so pleased with how the Health Fair turned out," said Burr. "I hope everyone enjoyed the format, connecting with our vendors, learning about available resources, and, of course, the prizes!"

Burr said she will be sending out a feedback survey that she encourages everyone to fill out as that will help with the planning process next year.

"I truly appreciate the time, effort, and teamwork that made this day possible!" said Burr.

Michka was equally impressed with the success of our recent Health Fair. She said that it was truly rewarding to see this event come together, especially since one has not been held for several years.

"The event ran smoothly and the results were impressive," said Michka, who like Burr, appreciated the collaborative efforts from the Sales & Banquets Team, the Market, Promotions, F&B and the support of the entire HR Team. "A special thank you goes to Bridgette Burr, our Benefits Administrator, whose dedication made this successful event possible. Bridgette's hard work and attention to detail ensured everything ran smoothly and that our employees received the information and support they deserve."

Michka also gave a special thank you to all of the vendors and to everyone who came out to make the event so successful.

"We look forward to continuing to invest in the health and wellness of our Fortune Bay family," said Michka.



Check out the Ishkode Dispensary website!

Visit ish-kode.com to pre-order to save you time on your next purchase!

Ishkode Dispensary, which is located next to Fortune Bay Resort Casino's RV Park, is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. They even have EV chargers available to its guests! For more information, call 218-696-1060.

Thank you for your continued support!

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

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An opportunity for building Indigenous wealth to support a future in which Indigenous people flourish.

The **Collective Abundance Fund** supports Indigenous wealth for individuals and families who live in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Collective Abundance Fund fosters efforts to build generational Indigenous wealth while creating an abundance of social and cultural sharing. NDN Collective invites Indigenous individuals and families to imagine opportunity and envision a collective regenerative economy where all people live well-balanced and healthy lives.

Applications Open
January 6, 2027

Award Amount
$25,000 or $50,000

Award Cycle
Launch: Jan 6, 2027
Registration Closes: 1/20/27
Flux Assistance Closes: 2/3/27
Application Closes: 2/12/27
Award Notifications: June 2027
Award Period Starts: July 2027

TYPES OF WEALTH-BUILDING ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED

This award will support a self-determined, twelve-month (12-month) wealth-building plan focused on up to two of the following activities:

Homeownership or Household Stability — Business Development

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TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT:
https://ndncollective.org/collective-abundance-fund/

The Collective Abundance Fund
08 KNOLLWOOD DR. RAPID CITY, SD 57701
Phone: +1 (605) 791-3999

Boshey from page 1

trial in April that when it came time to sentence him, he would be taken into custody—and, to the family's satisfaction, she kept her word.

"You've had sufficient time to get your affairs in order," said Judge Provinzino in denying the request. "The time to start your sentence is now."

This decision was met with cheers and applause as a U.S. Marshal placed Peterson in handcuffs. As this scene played out, one of Boshey's cousins stopped on the way out of the courtroom, staring at Peterson, hoping he would make eye contact, but he never looked at her icy stare.

Before the sentencing, Boshey's family and friends from the Bois Forte community, members and staff who work for Missing and Murdered Indigenous gathered outside the courthouse, to show their enduring support and unity.

Plenty of media were on hand to record the day's events, including hanging red shirts and dresses, putting out MMIW/MMIR signs, posters bearing Boshey's face, and calling for an end to injustice against Native American women. Jana Williams from MMIR's office in the Twin Cities said it was time for justice and that Native Americans demand the same type of justice everyone else receives.

Bois Forte drummers also showed up before the proceedings, and their drum echoed all the way into the hallways of the fourth floor of the courthouse where Peterson was sentenced. The sound of the drums piqued the interest of courthouse personnel who looked down at the scene unfolding on the lawn outside the courthouse. After the sentencing, the large group that gathered inside the courtroom went back to the courthouse commons area and continued the ceremony as they paid homage to a life gone way too soon due to Peterson's decision to drive under the influence.

The proceedings were fairly straightforward as Peterson's attorney, Jean M. Brandel, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Garrett S. Fields and David M. Classen, who prosecuted the case, went back and forth with Judge Provinzino through the formalities. Provinzino noted that Peterson's family and friends wrote letters of support for him, but no one read any of those letters in front of the court.



PAINFUL REMINDER— Family and friends hold up signs reminding the public not to forget Amanda Rae Boshey, who was tragically killed during a hit and run accident on December 17, 2024 on Reservation Road near Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Eric Peterson, 51, of Virginia, was sentenced to 51 months in prison and two years supervised release with additional conditions Monday, November 23.



GETTING READY— The Amanda Rae Boshey family gathered outside the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth prior to addressing the media Monday, November 23.

However, the victim impact statements read by Amanda's mother, Kimberly Day, her sister, Megan Ruzic, and Amanda's two oldest daughters (Annakeiah and Anastashia Chavez), plus a co-worker, Taysha KillsEnemy, and a cousin, Leah Miller, brought out many painful emotions from family members and friends who sat through the heart-wrenching words they all shared.

Each victim impact statement served as a painful reminder about how they will never be able to talk to Amanda again and how birthdays, other life milestones, and holidays will never be the same and will be empty without the fun-loving Amanda being part of any of them.

Some of them felt no prison sentence was long enough for Peterson because he has been able to live his life since that fateful day in December 2024, while Boshey's life ceased to exist once he struck and killed her. They were also dismayed when his attorney asked for a mere sentence of one year and one day for killing Boshey.

Peterson, whose past led to a life of addiction with gambling and alcohol, expressed remorse for his actions and sobbed as he told the family how sorry he was for taking the life of Boshey. He said he relives the day over and over again and that he never meant to cause anyone harm the night he left Fortune Bay Resort Casino, where it was determined he consumed seven drinks and then, as he made his way down Reservation Road, forensic evidence indicated he looked at his phone to check out a TikTok video someone had texted him. He originally denied being on his phone, but evidence showed he was. It was also never proven that he tried to sober up for an hour and 15 minutes after his last drink.

Peterson always contended he thought he hit a deer and that is why he kept driving down the road and did not stop, which Boshey's family found hard to believe, as she was wearing a bright red jacket that night and the force of the impact caused her body to hit the hood of Peterson's Dodge Durango and roll off onto the side of the road.

During his statement, he talked about the life Boshey lost, and it was something he would never wish on anyone.

"I am so sorry for the pain you've

See Boshey on page 9

Creations by Corinna continues to evolve

NETT LAKE—What started out as a side gig to show off her Native American inspired culinary talents at local powwows, has turned into a nice career opportunity for Bois Forte band member Corinna Lyons.

"It has really evolved for me," said Lyons of her Creations by Corinna catering business. "I started out just doing powwows, but I have picked up numerous Bois Forte events where I can showcase my talents."

And showcasing her talents has been a win-win for both Lyons, Bois Forte and other clients that seek out her services. Her goal, other than providing quality meals, is to work with clients to create menus that fit their needs.

"Everybody is always happy with my pricing too," said Lyons after a recent event in Nett Lake that featured donated bison from the Fond du Lac band, fry bread, wild rice, bourbon glazed sweet potatoes, and other healthy options. "I make sure food is affordable for people. I do a food vendor booth at our local powwows throughout the year and I cater events for many Native American businesses and for other special occasions."

For those wanting more variety in their catering needs, Lyons is open to specialty orders or they can go the traditional route of requesting beef, chicken, pork, venison or bison.

"The focus is to create whatever the customer wants," said Lyons, who enlists the help of her sister, Doreen Cameron, and cousin, Donna Gullickson, for larger bookings.



ANOTHER GREAT MEAL!— Corinna Lyons stands by as she makes another batch of delicious fry bread for an event in Nett Lake. If you would like to have Lyons prepare a delicious meal for your event or special occasion, call her at 218-750-1099.

Lyons said she makes sure to offer soft foods for elders, gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian options as well.

"I can cook just about anything," said Lyons, who has experience in making Mexican, Italian, Cajun, Asian, and all-American dishes. "However, Native American dishes like Indian Tacos, wild rice hotdishes, blueberry pudding cake, fry bread and cedar tea seem to be the most requested items."

As previously written about Lyons in the Bois Forte News while she was gaining traction about her culinary talents at a Nett Lake Powwow, her Pumpkin fry bread is a specialty that she makes during the fall months.

"It is well sought after as it is served with cinnamon sugar, butter and a powdered sugar glaze," said Lyons of her top selling dessert.

As for menu additions, Lyons said she is learning how to smoke meats in her smoker. It will take some time to fine tune the process, but Lyons is confident new recipes will be unveiled at the February Mid-Winter Powwow in Nett Lake.

"I'll definitely have some tasty heat and eat meals ready for purchase," said Lyons, who still offers pre-made meals for purchase as well. "I also make creamy chicken wild rice soup and chicken wild rice soup with broth that can be added to my Native American dishes."

If you would like more information about Lyons' business, she can be contacted via her cell phone at 218-750-1099 or email creationsbycorinna@gmail.com

Note: If you have a Native owned business that you would like to feature in the Bois Forte News, please email Brian (bkanderson@fortunebay.com) or call 218-753-7882 to set up an interview, thank you!

Boshey from page 8

had to endure," said Peterson as he addressed Amanda's children. "I can't imagine the hurt and pain that I have brought you... I am so, so sorry— because of my actions, your mother was taken away from you."

As he continued, he said that nothing he could say or do would ease their pain.

"(You've lost) a daughter, a sister and mother—this is something I live with every day," said Peterson, who broke down several times reading his statement. "I accept the court's decision, and again, I want to say how sorry I am."

While Peterson's words seemed sincere, Assistant U.S. Attorney Garrett S. Fields reminded the court that Peterson's actions could not be blamed on anyone else. He firmly told Peterson that he chose to drive drunk and added that he was distracted when he looked down at his phone to view the TikTok message before striking Boshey.

"He didn't even stop to see what happened," said Fields. "... he just kept on driving. As a result of his actions, a life was lost."

Fields said it was important to listen to the statements Amanda's children were going to make so he could hear their pain and feel their sorrow. He added that with the holidays approaching, the truth is there will be a lifetime of Thanksgivings and Christmases that won't be spent with their mother, daughter, or siblings.

"...it's a family torn apart by Mr. Peterson's actions," said Fields, who added that a lifetime of memories was stolen from the Boshey family because of what he did.

Note: Kimberly Day's victim impact statement can be found on page 12. We will run the rest of the victim impact statements in next month's issue of the Bois Forte News.

Bois Forte Obituaries

Brian Lee Whiteman Sr.



Brian Lee Whiteman Sr., 51 of Nett Lake, MN, passed away on November 6, 2026, tragically in Cook, MN. He was born in Virginia, MN on April 1, 1975, to Jerome and Clara (Strong) Whiteman.

Brian attended Orr High School and graduated in 1993. He had a passion for welding and later became a "Proficient Welder" in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He also worked for Tim Olson Logging in Orr, Minnesota.

Brian started working for Ulland Brother's Company out of Hibbing, Minnesota, which took him to many construction sites throughout the state. He then started working for Bois Forte Housing to start a career that brought him closer to home and to have more time with his family. Brian started working for the Bois Forte Public Works Department as a foreman and then later became the Public Works Director until present.

Brian was dedicated to being called upon at all hours and had the care and compassion to keep all communities safe, with the help of other staff members at Bois Forte Public Works. Brian took this dedication seriously. He also had high respect for the Bois Forte Public Works staff and would be proud to depend on them "to get the job done if he couldn't." Brian was also elected to be a member of the Nett Lake School Board. Another role he was dedicated to was the love and care that he had for the youth of the community.

He was united in marriage with Panda (Yerxa) Whiteman in 2003. Brian was a devoted and proud father to Charmaine Jourdain, Brian Jr., Brianna (Peanut), and Carleigh Whiteman.

He loved supporting and attending activities with others in within the North Woods community, Nett Lake, and Canada. His enjoyment was being around family activities and had a special skill for BBQ. Brian loved his humor and his laugh was "prominent." He loved going to pow-wows to watch his family dance. He was extremely proud of all family activities in Canada and Nett Lake. He loved his friends and shared many laughs with them. When Brian teased you, or teased with you, he showed the love he had for you. He loved the San Fransico 49ers. In any situation, he would crack a joke. That was his way of dealing with serious and stressful situations. He had excellent knowledge and skills with working on vehicles and didn't hesitate when it came to helping others. He loved his gadgets and his remote-control cars. He loved being out in the woods and surrounded by nature. He also loved his parakeets.

Brian is proceeded in death by his mother, Clara Jane (Strong) Whiteman, and his children's grandmother, Florence Yerxa, his son: Bryden Lee Whiteman, and baby, his maternal grandparents, Herbert Strong Sr., Emma (Boness) Strong and paternal grandparents, Eugene Whiteman Sr., and Angeline (Wein) Whiteman.

Brian is survived by his father Jerome Whiteman, and siblings, Adrienne Whiteman, John Whiteman Sr. (Jeanine), Regina Valequez (Marco), Jarrod Whiteman, Corinne Whiteman, and Janella Whiteman (Pat Brunk).

He is also survived by his children's grandfather William Yerxa, along with his children's aunties and uncles, as listed Wilma, Ed, Vernon, Debbie, Brian, Cheryl, Charlene, James, Lori, Wanda, Darren, Randy, and Krista.

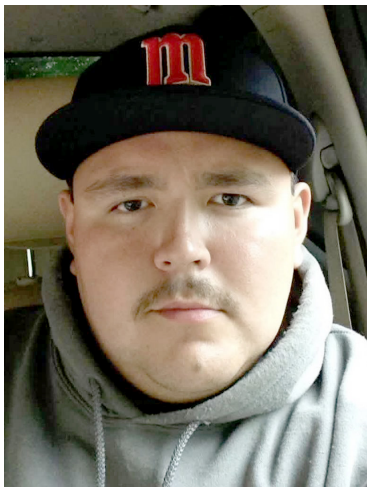
Brian is survived by many nephews and nieces in Nett Lake and Canada, along with numerous cousins and friends. Brian would want us to be strong, love each other, grieve and heal in your own way. "Remember the good times" he would say.

A Traditional Wake was held on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at Bois Forte Government and Services Center.

The Traditional Service took place the next day, Friday, November 13, 2026, also at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center.

You may send condolences to the Whiteman family by visiting mlakerfuneralhome.com

Darian Scott Morrison



Darian Scott Morrison, "Waa say ona quit" / "Shing gway gway gii shik," 33, of Nett Lake, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 18, 2026.

Darian was born on August 7, 1993, in Virginia, Minnesota, to David C. Morrison Sr. and Teresa M. Morrison. He was of the Sturgeon (Name) Clan.

Darian enjoyed spending a lot of his time with his children—swimming, biking, teaching them sports, and taking walks together. He was a great dad to his children and loved them very much. Darian also loved watching the Minnesota Vikings, hunting, helping at parching, playing dice games, and cooking deer meat the way his mom taught him. Anyone who crossed paths with Darian knew him as someone who was always happy, helpful, and loved to joke around, bringing laughter wherever he went.

He is survived by his children, Celina, Delvin, and Davian Morrison; his dad, David C. Morrison Sr.; his brother, David "Squidg" Morrison Jr. (Kristen Strong); his nieces, Jennifer Morrison, Stacie Howe, and Clandra Staples; his sister, Erynn Morrison (Lance Kingbird); his nephew, Angelo Kingbird; and his niece, Alyvia Kingbird.

Darian was preceded in death by his mom, Teresa Morrison; his grandparents, William and Twyla Day, and Daniel and Priscilla Morrison Sr.; his brother Baby Dave; and aunts and uncles.

A private family service was held.

Cheryl Debelak

Cheryl Debelak, age 69, of Tower, passed away on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at her residence.

A full obituary will be published when available.

Minute with Millie



Sometimes, when I'm driving down the road, mostly minding my own beeswax, I occasionally get one of those drivers who zoom past, then cut over to my lane right in front of me, then head off onto the off ramp whilst my foot hovers on or near the brake.

Some choice words are popping into my head…which sometimes spring forth from my mouth before I have time to bite my tongue. Not that that helps in the least little bit. Especially since I learned a couple new choice words riding along with my sister, particularly after she learned to navigate the freeways and expressways of the cities.

I have also learned to use those grab bars which are on the roof near the door. Some more choice words pop into my head whenever I am in a car where my hand unexpectedly fails to find a grip on the roof cause it's a totally different vehicle. Yepper, more choice words upon occasion will sneak their way past even my bitten tongue.

Ya know what else doesn't help? Whenever I am riding with my sister and she is engaging in her own form of the dreaded choice words escaping syndrome.

I used to wonder why cartoons would show those blue clouds with all those symbols in the air over someone's head. Now I know the reason. Yepper, I do imagine those blue clouds of big, bolded symbols rising above my head. Sometimes, they're even accompanied by actual reddish-purplish highlighted, words.

Bois Forte Obituaries

Eileen Rose Barney

Eileen Rose Barney, born June 16, 1944, passed away on November 23, 2026.

Eileen graduated from Orr High School and was united in marriage to Kenneth Barney, who shared many years of life and memories with her.

Eileen was preceded in death by her parents, Vi and Broncho Villebrun; her children, Shelly Strong (Villebrun), Sam Villebrun, and Mona Villebrun; and her siblings, Ramona, Patricia, and Olive.

She is survived by her loving husband, Kenneth Barney; her siblings, Frank and Jacquelyn (Fido); her children, Michael Villebrun and Kenneth Villebrun; and numerous grandchildren who will cherish her memory.

Eileen found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved gardening, playing bingo and cards, fishing, cooking and baking, sewing, knitting, and watching her favorite western shows. She also had a special love for her dog, Sam, who brought her much happiness.

Eileen took great pride in her many years of service as a teacher's aide at the Nett Lake School. She valued her time there and the opportunity to be part of the lives and education of the children in her community.

Eileen will be remembered for her love of family, her many talents, and the memories she created with those around her. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through her children, grandchildren, family, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Nett Lake Tribal Government Building, with a potluck style lunch to follow, please bring a dish if able.

Family and friends are welcome to come together to celebrate Eileen's life, share memories, and honor the woman who meant so much to so many.

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

The Food Shelf at Lake Vermilion and Nett Lake are closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 and will reopen on Jan. 7. Please plan ahead for the closures.

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

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Hanukkah begins at sundown	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 First day of winter	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins Boxing Day
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Tuesday Dec. 1: Chicken Bake, Veggie Cup, Whole Fruit

Wednesday Dec. 2: Pork Loin on Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Whole Wheat Bun

Thursday Dec. 3: Butternut Squash Soup, Ham & Cheese Slider, Whole Fruit

Friday Dec. 4: Closed

Monday Dec. 7: Ravioli w/Meat sauce, Steamed Broccoli, Breadstick

Tuesday Dec. 8: Elder Meeting at 2 p.m. Beef Enchilada Casserole, Refried beans, Whole Fruit

Wednesday Dec. 9: Baked Chicken/ Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Whole Fruit

Thursday Dec. 10: Potato Soup, Chic Salad Croissant, Veggie Cup/Ranch

Friday Dec. 11: BBQ Pork on Whole Wheat Bun, Fries, Cole Slaw Cup

Monday Dec. 14: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Italian Veggies, Garlic Bread

Tuesday Dec. 15: Porketta, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Steamed Cali Veggies

Wednesday Dec. 16: Wild Rice Tator Tot Hotdish, Bread Stick, Whole Fruit

Thursday Dec. 17: Beef Noodle Soup, Cheese Stick, Apples/Peanut Butter

Friday Dec. 18: Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli, Whole Fruit

Monday Dec. 21: Chili & Cornbread, Cheese Stick, Banana

Tuesday Dec. 22: Wild Rice Meatballs, Rice Pilaf, WW Bun, Steamed Veggies

Wednesday Dec. 23: Chicken Tenders, Tator Tots, Whole Fruit, Veggie Cup/Ranch. Also, take home of Creamy Wild Rice Soup, Crackers for Christmas Eve.

Thursday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

Friday Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Monday Dec. 28: Cheeseburger/ Whole Wheat Bun, Fries, Baked Beans, Orange

Tuesday Dec. 29: Wild Rice/Sausage/ Quiche, Breakfast Potato, Whole Fruit

Wednesday Dec. 30: Mexi-Chicken and Rice Casserole, Refried Beans, Corn. Also, take home of Sausage/Potato/Kale Soup, Crackers for New Year's Eve.

Thursday Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

Friday Dec. 1: New Year's Day

Victim impact statement of Kimberly Day, Amanda Rae Boshey's mother

Your Honor,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.

My daughter, Amanda Rae Boshey was not just a name in a court file or a victim in a criminal case. She was my first born child, a mother, a sister, a friend, a co-worker to many people who loved her. She was loved beyond words. She leaves behind a space in our family that can never be filled.

Amanda left behind five children. Her children were her whole world. Every day, she worked long hours as a construction worker to provide for her children. Her children were robbed of enjoying birthdays, graduations, holidays, advice, hugs, laughter and all the moments a mother should have with her children. Amanda will not get to see and enjoy her grandchildren. Amanda's children will grow up with memories that were cut short because Eric Peterson made the choice to drive his uninsured vehicle while being intoxicated. Because of Eric Peterson's choices, my daughter will never be back.

I was so proud of Amanda and the positive choices she was making to better herself and be a role model for her children. She was working toward a better life for herself and her children. Amanda loved her children with all her heart. Knowing that she will never get the chance to continue being their mother, watching them grow, and see that she will never get the chance to continue and seeing the adults that they will become is a pain that words cannot fully describe. This pain is caused by the choices that Eric Peterson choice on December 17, 2024.

Every day, I wake up knowing that I will never hear her voice again, never hug her again, never celebrate holidays, birthdays or share milestones with her. I will never hear her laugh or receive a phone call from her. This is a life sentence that I will carry forever.

When people ask me how I'm doing, I usually say that I am fine. In my thoughts, I hope that no one will try to hug me because I might break down and cry. I don't think I will ever be fine. There are days when the pain of losing Amanda makes it hard to do anything and find the strength to pretend that everything is okay. I find myself driving in my car, talking to my daughter, Amanda as if she was sitting right next to me. I always hope that somehow she can hear me. There is an emptiness in my heart that will never go away.

Throughout this entire court process, I hoped to hear genuine remorse or acknowledgement of responsibility. Instead, Eric Peterson made excuses and told lies. When I heard him claim that he was a careful driver and thought she was a deer in a bright red jacket was heart breaking. Other drivers did see her on the road that night and they knew she was a person. He did not stop to see what he hit or what damage was on his vehicle. Most normal people would stop even if they thought she was a deer. In my opinion, Eric Peterson does not have a conscious. He thought about himself and kept driving. He knew that he did not have insurance and he knew he was drunk. So instead of taking responsibility, he ran to avoid being arrested or questioned by the police. Eric Peterson did not call 911, stop to help her, or take any responsibility. He left my daughter in the ditch on a cold snowy night as he drove to Virginia to buy cigarettes.

His refusal to accept responsibility has added to my pain. While our family has to relive my daughter, Amanda's death through every hearing, every delay in court dates, and every court appearance, he has continued to deny the reality of what he did. This has caused me more anger and pain. I will never heal from this pain cause by Eric Peterson.

No sentence can bring my daughter back. Nothing can erase the pain or restore what has been taken from us. But I ask the court to consider not only the choices that Eric Peterson made on the evening of December 17, 2024 but also his refusal to accept responsibility. Accountability matters. It honors the value of my daughter's life and sends a message that these choices have devastating, lifelong consequences. Consequences that could have been avoid if Eric Peterson did not choice to drive intoxicated, leave the scene and drive his uninsured vehicle to his house without taking any responsibility for his choice.

I miss my daughter every day. Nothing can change that. I want the court to remember my daughter for who she was, not only for how she died. Her life had value and losing her has forever changed me.

I ask the courts to impose a sentence that reflects the value of my daughter's life and recognizes the immeasurable harm that has been done to her children, her family, myself, and everyone who loved her.

Amanda Rae Boshey mattered. She was loved beyond measure. She did not deserve what happened to her.

Thank you,

Kimberly Day, Amanda Rae Boshey's mother

