



Wilbert "Sonny" Strong Jr., 52,

whose Indian name was "aakiia anakwad", meaning Thunder Cloud, passed away on Monday, November 10, 2014 at Essentia Health in Duluth. Sonny was born on January 21, 1962 in Cleveland, Ohio the son of Wilbert and Patricia(Tibbetts) Strong Sr. He grew up in Nett Lake and attended school in Nett Lake and Orr. He furthered his education by going to carpentry school. He lived in Duluth from 1989-2000 where he worked for a commercial cleaning company. Wilbert returned back to Nett Lake and worked at the Nett Lake sawmill. Sonny had a passion for mechanics and enjoyed working on cars with his uncles Herb and Reggie. His family fondly recalls that he had talent for winning arm wrestling contests. He was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He is preceded in death by his mother Patrici Strong in 1973, three brothers, Gregory Strong in 1980, Gary Donald Strong in 2000 and Kristopher Strong in 2011. Sonny is survived by his father Wilbert Strong Sr. of Nett Lake, 3 sisters Connie Strong of Duluth, Kathy (Kenneth Lien Sr.) Strong and Dawn (Leonard Howard) Strong, both of Nett Lake, along with numerous nieces, and nephews.

SERVICES: Traditional services will be held at 10:00 AM, Thursday, (Nov. 13th) at the Nett Lake Community Center. The wake will be start at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Center. The Spiritual Advisor will be Steven Jackson. Casket bearers will be his nephews: Carl "JR" Carlson III, Jonathan "Johnny" Carlson, Gregory "Chesty" Strong, Shane Lien, Luke Strong, and Josh Strong. Honorary bearers will be: Joe Boshey, Gary "Squeek" Strong, Steve Isham, Ron Boshey, James Boshey, Henry Villebrun, William Chavers, Gene Boshey Jr., Raymond Thompson, Mike Thompson, Lance Hill and Leonard Howard. Burial will be in the Nett Lake Village Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.