



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 49 NUMBER 5

## Important note from 1854 Treaty Authority

The 2025 Spring netting season is off to a late and slow start. Plenty of ice remains on the lake and netters are reminded to have an 1854 Netting permit and 1854 ID card in their possession while engaging in Netting activities. It is equally important to have and wear a PFD !

Have a safe Netting season this year!

## Morrison to face Hernandez in June 17th General Election Winner will serve out remainder of Chavers' term, which ends in 2028

NETT LAKE— Voters advanced former District I Representative Travis Morrison and Carlos Hernandez along to the General Election to see who will serve as Bois Forte's next Tribal Chair.

Morrison earned 139 votes while Hernandez garnered 116 votes to square off for the upcoming General Election, which takes place Tuesday, June 17th. The election was necessary as former Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers vacated her seat, citing personal reasons earlier this year.

Finishing in third place was former District II Representative Peter "Chief" Boney with 62 votes, while Millie Holmes finished in fourth with 49 votes. Marty Connor tallied 31 votes and Rhonda Hoaglund garnered six votes to round out the voting.

Morrison, who served two terms in office, collected 11 more votes than Hernandez in Nett Lake (39-28), while Hernandez held a slim 59-56 edge for the Lake Vermilion Sector, where he resides. Morrison won the Duluth polling place 10-8 and the Minneapolis polling place by a 21-11 count. He also held a slight 13-10 edge in absentee ballots.

There were 407 votes cast for this special election, although there were four spoiled ballots.

Bois Forte band member Barbara Lorenson-Little was one of 72 voters who cast a bal-



DOING HER CIVIC DUTY— Barbara Lorenson-Little, right, was one of 72 voters who showed up at the Minneapolis Urban Office to cast her ballot. Helping out Little were Bois Forte Election Board members Nikki Irving, left, Simona Benner, center, and Robbie Goggleye, far right.

lot at the Minneapolis Urban Office. When asked what she is looking for in Bois Forte's next tribal chair, she said someone who can address housing.

"We need more housing on the reservation to bring our people back home and for our elderly," said Lorenson-Little, who has lived in Minneapolis since 2005. "I would like to move back home for my senior years, but there just isn't any available housing and I would like to see that change."

Sierra Jensen echoed the concerns about housing as well.

"We need to address that," said Jensen, who grew up in Nett Lake, but moved to the Cities

two years ago. "I want our next leader to listen to the concerns of our band members."

Morrison was appreciative of the support he received in the Special Primary Election and is hopeful that support continues for the General Election.

"I'd like to say a quick thank you for all the support I received in the primary election," said Morrison after the results were in. "Congratulations to Carlos, too!"

Morrison said he was also appreciative of all the positive campaigns that the other candidates ran. He said he enjoyed the forums that were held leading up to the primary as it showed

all candidates wanted what's best for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa going forward.

"I believe my positive mindset and openness to work with everyone goes a long way," said Morrison.

Morrison said communication is one of the biggest hurdles Bois Forte continues to struggle with, but he's hopeful he can turn that trend around.

"I'm sure with vigilance and by working together we can improve our overall communication with you, the band membership," said Morrison. "With that I humbly ask for your

*See Election page 3*

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# Giizhik Market opens at Fortune Bay!

VERMILION SECTOR— Fortune Bay Resort Casino General Manager Elizabeth Deegan didn't wait long to fulfill her promise to start making Fortune Bay Resort Casino better known as a Native American-owned property as the Giizhik Market recently opened its doors for business.

"The name pays homage to our Anishinaabe language," said Deegan of the Giizhik Market, which opened Tuesday, April 8th. "We'll continue to come up with other ways to honor our culture, but this is the first step in ensuring guests know more about the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa."

The establishment of the Giizhik Market, which is housed across the hall from The Whispering Winds Gift Shop, is the first step in revamping Fortune Bay Resort Casino's dining options. The plan is to move all Grab and Go items from the former Gold Mine Grill, which has taken up residency in the Tamarack's breakfast buffet area since late November.

"This new market gives our guests more options while also opening up additional space in our Tamarack dining area, which is sorely needed," said Deegan.

The items at the Giizhik Market include a variety of cold sandwiches such as



**SUCCESS!**— The Giizhik Market opened its doors Tuesday, April 8th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured, left to right, are Fortune Bay's General Manager Elizabeth Deegan, Food and Beverage Director/Executive Chef Kirstie Kern and Francis Littlewolf III, who works at the market and also at The Whispering Winds Gift Shop.

turkey, ham, club, and an Italian sub. All condiments are separated from the actu-

al sandwich to accommodate those fussy eaters. There are chef, cobb, and oriental salads available, as well as fruit cups and veggie cups. Yogurt parfaits with granola are also a part of the menu, as are cherry

and blueberry cheesecakes.

There are also a variety of cookies, trail mix, muffins, cinnamon rolls, gluten-free breads, Eclairs, Rice Krispie bars, deli bars, and assorted, individually packaged breads.

The Giizhik Market will also enable guests to make microwaveable pizzas and other hot items. Twelve packs of pop and six-packs of larger water bottles will be sold at the market to serve guests who may have extended stays or just want to have beverage options available for their rooms.

The new plan also entails moving all food and beverage items from the gift shop to Giizhik Market, which will free up shelf space in The Whispering Winds Gift Shop.

The Giizhik Market will be open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., seven days a week. Staff from the former Gold Mine Grill, plus new hires recently brought on board by Food and Beverage Director/Executive Chef Kirstie Kern, will work the Giizhik Market.

"I am super excited to have this space open again," said Kern of the space that used to house the Tim Horton's Coffee Shop and guest coffee lounge. "It will give our customers more variety and open up the Tamarack dining area as well."

Kern said the move will allow for an occasional specialty buffet, like the

*See Market page 11*

## Bois Forte is looking to recruit Tribal Monitors.

The work of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum (BFHCCM) Tribal Monitor will be to Locate, Identify, Document, Cultural Resources during Construction Projects or Traditional Cultural Property Serves. Monitors will work as Independent Contractors with these general requirements:

- Enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band & 18 years of age or older
- Able to walk long distances, stand for long periods of time, kneel, bend, stoop, navigate on various terrains
- Good communication skills, note taking, taking pictures
- Work well with others
- Training provided

Those interested should contact Randy Teboe, Cultural Resource Coordinator, Bois Forte Heritage Center, 218-753-6017.



**PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM**— Here are just some of the items available at the new Giizhik Market at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

# NGC hosts candidates' forums to better inform voters

NETT LAKE— With a special election on the horizon to see who Bois Forte's next tribal chairperson will be, the timing was perfect for the National Governance Center (NGC) to host community forums in Nett Lake and the Lake Vermilion Sector.

"Candidate forums are a great way to engage tribal citizens in upcoming elections and provide opportunities for tribal citizens to learn about the candidates running for office," said NGC Program Manager Michelle Redbird, who heads up the agency's Tribal Governance Support programming.

Redbird, a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community, said the NGC believes in strengthening civic engagement as it leads to strong leadership, governance, and the ability for Native nations to create a self-determined future.

"We are proud to offer this service free

of charge to Native nations and provide a neutral third party to organize and moderate the candidate forums," said Redbird, who added that Native Governance Center has offered the candidate forum moderation service since 2018. "The forum process allows for fair and equitable consideration of topics to be covered, as picked by community members, that give candidates a chance to share their opinions on issues the community deems important."

At both forums, attendees were asked to write a question they would like candidates to answer. The NGC staff and two volunteers from the audience then reviewed the questions and decided on the top three questions that candidates would be asked. Candidates also shared opening remarks and closing remarks with the audience.

While the candidates were able to

prepare for opening and closing remarks ahead of time, the random questions asked by attendees gave the candidates a taste of what they might face if they are elected. Now more than ever, the tribal chair is the face of the tribal council, and they serve on several committees and attend many meetings to ensure the needs of our tribe are kept at the forefront.

Redbird said her team was impressed with the turnout in Nett Lake and Vermilion, and they were also grateful to the Bois Forte citizens in the urban areas who organized watch parties to join the livestream.

"Attendees represented a wide range of tribal members," said Redbird. "It was great to see abinoojiinyensag (babies) and mindimooyenyag (older women) in the audience!"

She added that NGC believes in the Native Nation Rebuilding philosophy to empower leaders and citizens to create change that will impact the next seven generations and beyond. She added that NGC's Leadership Development program (also known as the Native Nations Rebuilder program) is a leadership training experience for Indigenous changemakers, and there are six Rebuilder alumni from Bois Forte.

"It was beautiful to see and hear from folks who are engaged and hopeful in the future of Bois Forte," said Redbird.

Redbird said this event was the second forum NGC has hosted where their staff, including Bois Forte band members

Jessica Glidden and Sasha Strong, were able to serve their Native nation. Glidden serves as the Program Manager for NGC's Leadership Development program, and Strong is the Program Coordinator for NGC's Tribal Finance program.

"Jessica and Sasha were thrilled to contribute to the events," said Redbird. "Bois Forte participated in NGC's first Tribal Finance cohort, a program designed to support Native nations in building their financial leadership and capacity."

Redbird said her staff was appreciative for others who helped out, not to mention some great food served up by T Patten Café in Orr and Bois Forte's Corinna Lyons.

"Rebuilder alumni Jaylen Strong and Tea Drift provided logistical support in guiding candidates to and from the candidate room during the question-and-answer portion of the evening," said Redbird. "With their help, the evenings went smoothly."

Redbird said the NGC will be considering holding another forum in the coming weeks to give band members a chance to see who will earn their vote as the next tribal chair for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

If the forum between top two vote getters (Travis Morrison and Carlos Hernandez) is set up, the time and date will be announced at [www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com) and will also be posted on social media.



READY FOR THE FORUM— The National Governance Center held forums in both Nett Lake and the Vermilion Sector prior to the Primary Election. This picture was taken at the Nett Lake forum, which took place April 9th. Pictured, left to right, in the front row, are: Travis Morrison and Millie Holmes. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are: Peter "Chief" Boney, Carlos Hernandez and Marty Connor. Rhonda Hoaglund was unable to attend the forum due to a family emergency.

## Election from page 1

continued support in the upcoming general election. Please reach out to me at 218-780-5642 with a text message or leave me a voicemail and I will get back in touch with you to set up a visit at your convenience!"

Hernandez was equally appreciative of the support he received.

"Miigwech from the bottom of my heart to everyone who came out to vote," wrote Hernandez in a Facebook post he shared on Bois Forte Tribal Affairs after the election. "I'm humbled and honored to share that I will be moving forward to the general election for the chairperson of our band."

Hernandez thanked his supporters in his post and added that this campaign

has always been about unity, transparency and a shared vision for a stronger future.

"We are just getting started," wrote Hernandez. "To the other candidates—Peter, Travis, Rhonda, Marty and Mildred—Chi-Miigwech for stepping up to serve our people. It takes courage to lead and heart to run, and I have great respect for each of you and the ideas you brought forward."

He implored band members to continue to walk together, to listen to one another and to build a Bois Forte where all our voices are heard —on and off the reservation.

"I ask for your continued support as we head into the next phase," wrote Hernandez. "Together we rise."

# Communication to play key role under Lilya's direction

NETT LAKE— As someone who has been working for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa since 1997, you could say Miranda Lilya has a pulse for what's going on with the ins and outs of tribal government, and perhaps that is why Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick is excited to see Lilya as Bois Forte's newest Executive Director.

"She has been doing great," said Geshick of Lilya, who emceed the State of the Band this past March and did a great job keeping the program moving. "She is extremely organized and experienced enough to take charge of tasks, many of which require exceptional communication."

And communication is something Lilya is focusing on to ensure a clear, consistent message of expectations for RTG employees and its leaders will be delivered. In her eyes, communication is ultra-important if progress is to be made, especially in the uncertain times facing Indian Country.

Rather than rely on a deluge of emails being sent out, Lilya has instead put in a weekly newsletter for employees entitled "Smoke Signals," which covers anything and everything RTG employees need to be aware of.

"This is to increase communication to all employees in one weekly email rather

than constant, multiple 'All staff' emails," explained Lilya, who believes All staff emails should be reserved for the most important, urgent communication.

She recounted that during COVID, the meetings at the Urban Offices stopped, and so did the lines of communication to ensure off-reservation band members were kept in the loop of what was happening. Now that Lilya is at the helm, she is working with Bois Forte's Urban Office Coordinators (Jacque Wilson and Wendy Drift) to restart those meetings.

"We can get our programs and services down to the Urban Offices to provide information to the band members on what is available to them as well as on the reservation," said Lilya.

It was this effective form of communication that bridged gaps during a critical time, and it's the type of communication Lilya wants to instill once again. However, it's more than just a newsletter and community meetings that Lilya will depend on to get pertinent messages out. She also started quarterly All-Staff meetings, including training and other vital information for all staff.

"I recently received the council's approval to schedule quarterly gatherings for band members that will rotate quarterly," said Lilya of the meetings, which will take place in Duluth, Minneapolis, Bemidji/Cass Lake, and Nett Lake/Vermilion. "These gatherings will increase communication to and from band members with the tribal council."

Lilya said that once a schedule is set, the dates will be publicized so that band members are given ample notice of when these meetings will occur in their respective communities.


"Finally, we will be gathering information from the band members, employees, and community members on what information they want from the Tribal Government and how they wish to receive it," said Lilya. "Once we gather that information, we will plan for even more improvements to our communication."

Lilya credits her parents, David "Fox" Villebrun, who previously served as executive director for Bois Forte, and Edith, who also enjoyed a lengthy career with

*See Communication page 6*

## LAKE VERMILION TRADITIONAL POW WOW JUNE 27 - 29


LAKE VERMILION RESERVATION POW WOW GROUNDS - TOWER MN



**FRIDAY:** WARM UPS  
**SATURDAY:** GRAND ENTRIES 1PM & 7PM  
**SUNDAY:** GRAND ENTRY 1PM

**TWO STEP CONTEST - SATURDAY EVENING**  
WIN \$500 + A BIG TROPHY & BELT  
**MUSICAL CHAIRS CONTEST - ADULT & YOUTH**  
DIVISIONS TROPHIES FOR WINNER IN EACH CATEGORY  
**HEADS OR TAILS CONTEST - ALL WEEKEND LONG**

**DRUMMERS:** LAKE VERMILION & NIGHT SKY SINGERS  
**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR:** JEREMY WILSON  
**MC:** TERRY GOODSKY  
**ARENA DIRECTOR:** COREY GOODBIRD



CONTACT: MURIEL 218-750-7772 OR MURIELDEEGAN@YAHOO.COM TRACEY 218-780-1478  
DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT. SMOKING IS ALLOWED 50 FEET AWAY FROM ARENA - 24 HOUR SECURITY



EXCELLENT LISTENING SKILLS— Bois Forte Executive Director Miranda Lilya, left, listens to Fred McDougal, a fellow Bois Forte band member, right, at the 2025 State of the Band, while her mother Edith, can be seen in the lower left corner of the photo. Sadly, Edith passed away a little over three weeks after this event.

# Leecy continues to pursue his musical dreams

VERMILION SECTOR—Lelan Leecy has had many life experiences that serve as a reminder to stay humble and grounded as he continues to make a name for himself as a rap musician.

“The inspiration behind my music has been my family, my life, and overcoming homelessness,” said Leecy on a recent visit to the Lake Vermilion Sector. “I dedicate a lot of my music to my family and my music friends who made their journey to the spirit world.”

Leecy, who played in the Northstar Lounge Friday, April 25, is the youngest of



**NICE BLING**— Lelan Leecy is shown here in a promotional shot. Submitted photo.

11 children. He grew up in south Minneapolis before moving with his family to north Minneapolis in 2000.

He is hopeful to make his musical career a full-time job, but for the time being, he is a supervisor at a restaurant called Zona Cocina, located in the Twin Cities.

“I work on the dishes and adding new recipes,” said the 35-year-old Leecy, who has a daughter, Amelya (15) and a son Lelan Jr. (13), both of whom are into music as well. “I travel with my fiancé Deidre Raymond and she helps take video and pictures of me at events, as well as supports me.”

Leecy said his interest in rap music started at a very young age.

“I was four years old,” said Leecy. “Being the youngest in the family, I got to listen to whatever my brothers and sisters were listening to.”

Perhaps, he should have said “had” to listen to since being the baby of the family didn’t give him much say in what music would be played. However, as he grew up, he said he started to dive into different music genres other than Rap/Hip Hop and grew fond of music by world-wide renowned artists Bob Dylan and Prince. He said these two famous musicians really piqued his interest in music.

He said his favorite songs are “Subterranean Homesick Blues” by Bob Dylan, “I Wanna Be Your Lover” by Prince, and “All Original” by Bone Thugs-n-Harmony.

“They’re my favorite songs because I can listen to them over and over,” said Leecy. “They’re timeless, and I can remember when I first listened to them. They bring back great memories.”

While two of Leecy’s favorites are iconic songs performed by legendary musicians, Leecy eventually went back to his roots by paying homage to his beloved Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

“I wanted to have a rap career that I can shape around the state and reservation I’m from,” said Leecy. “I always experimented with music as I go from song to song. I tend to bend the rap genre with blending native flute, fast flow, and deep lyrics over my own beats.”

Aside from his favorite musicians already mentioned, Leecy said he is also inspired by the likes of Twista, Tech N9ne, Big L, and Eazy E.

“They’ve been a huge influence to my music interests growing up” said Leecy. “Connecting with their songs, it brought out the writer part of me. I had a passion for rhyme and rhythm.”

Leecy said he started his musical journey in 2003 when he was just 13 years old. He said he used to write poetry and wanted to come up with an original song, as opposed to just playing cover songs.

“I wanted to turn my words into something bigger, something people could feel,” said Leecy, who goes by the stage name of Itz Lil Lee as a nod to being the youngest of 11 children.

That desire, he said, sparked a lifelong

passion. Armed with a beat machine and a computer mic, he began recording music at home, experimenting with sounds and stories drawn from his life. His first show came in 2007 at Bryant Lake Bowl, and he hasn’t looked back since.

“In 2011, I released a song called “Frybread Booty” which went viral that year and helped me get recognition in the Native American music scene,” said Leecy. “Most recently, my song “Warrior Spirit,” featuring Keith Secola, was nominated at the Native American Music Awards this year.”

While Fortune Bay was his latest stop, Leecy has also performed at plenty of oth-

er venues around Minneapolis, including The Terminal, The Cabooze, and Abi’s Restaurant. Leecy performed with well-known Native American Artist Keith Secola on the Ancestral Embers Tour, which featured concerts in Nett Lake, Cloquet and Duluth in early April. He also performs at open mic nights around the Twin Cities area and will be part of Bois Forte’s KBFT’s 14th anniversary.

“My goals in my music career are to perform more often across the country, work with my idols, and to be recognized amongst other great native artists,” said Leecy.

## ODE’IMINI GIIZIS FARMERS MARKET

# WE WANT YOU!

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

**Market Hours: 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

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

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**  
Ode’imini Giizis Farmers Market

**We're looking for:**

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

*Communication from page 4*

Bois Forte, for giving her the tools needed to succeed in this position. Sadly, both are now gone, with Edith passing away on March 26. However, Edith was able to attend the State of the Band to see her daughter emcee the annual event and took great pride in knowing her daughter continues to be a shining light for Bois Forte.

“My parents were very big influences on my life, and when I was young, I learned so much from them from watching them each day when I was growing up, and those early interactions have shaped me into the person I am today,” said Lilya. “They were both very generous and caring individuals who had excellent morals, values, and good business sense.”

Lilya, who previously served two stints as Human Resources Director and Judicial Services Director for Bois Forte, fondly recalls how outgoing her dad was, and she can vividly remember him offering help to anyone who may have needed it.

“I remember him constantly saying, ‘If you need anything, anything at all, let me know,’ whenever a person or family was in need,” said Lilya, who has been happily married to her husband, Tim, for 22 years and have three children, Kristen, Timothy and Angeline and eight-month-old twin grandsons, Asher and Andrew. “This has inspired within me a need to serve people, which I think is what the Executive Director position is —an opportunity to serve the band members and communities.”

While her father played an intricate role in shaping Liyla’s future, it was her

beloved mother, Edith, who perhaps prepared her the most for this latest endeavor.

“She was my rock, and her honesty, integrity, and work ethic are what I have always strived to match,” said Lilya of Edith, who always greeted people with a friendly smile, whether she was at The Wilderness golfing on a day off or working at the RTG Building in Nett Lake. “She worked for the tribe longer than any other employee, so her loyalty and stamina are another trait I hope to mirror in this position.”

With her parents’ guidance, Liyla believes these traits have prepared her well to serve in this vital role.

“I am so very thankful for their hard work and dedication to the Bois Forte Reservation,” said Lilya, who added that each day has been exciting, challenging, and different, which is why she loves her job so much. “They forged the path, and although I am sure they did not know it,

they have made my path easier by their influences on the person I am, which makes me well-equipped to begin this latest chapter.”

For Geshick, she is certain Lilya will succeed and added that her hiring is a further testament that empowering band members in key positions will be the template moving forward because the band has intelligent, qualified, and talented people to lead our team.

“She is a leader that many have expressed approval of to carry the RTG’s communications and authority to a new level,” said Geshick, who added that Lilya’s level-headed leadership is a perfect fit with the tribal council’s message of a new and improved level of leadership and accountability. “I like that she can keep the tribal council moving forward and scrupulous in this fast-paced work environment.”

**BOIS FORTE HEAD START**

# EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS ENROLLMENT

**ENROLLMENT STARTS MAY 19TH AND 21ST FOR RETURNING CHILDREN**

**NETT LAKE DATES: JUNE 5TH 9-3 PM & JUNE 18TH 12-8 PM**

**VERMILION DATES: JUNE 3rd 9-3 PM & JUNE 17TH 12-8 PM**

**0-5 YEARS OLD**

- Experienced and caring educators
- Engaging Curriculum
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Well Equipped Classrooms & Facilities
- Full-day Programs Monday-Thursday/Every other Friday
- Nutritious snacks and meals provided
- Exciting Field Trips and Special events
- Parent Teacher Conferences

**Enrollment Paperwork needed!**

- Household proof of income
- Child’s birth certificate
- Food Stamp/Commod Numbers
- TANF/MFIP Numbers
- Health Insurance Cards
- Child Up-to-Date Immunizations
- Child’s Physical & Child’s Dental

(Application will not be accepted without all)

**CONTACT CHRISTINE LUNDEMO OR SARAH HOWE AT 218-757-3261 OPT 3**

## Helping out at the Duluth Urban Office!



PATIENTLY WAITING FOR ANOTHER VOTER TO SHOW UP— The Duluth Urban Office was fairly quiet for the Special Election that took place Tuesday, April 15th as only 32 votes were cast. Pictured in the back row, left to right, were Davelle Jones and Regina Howe; pictured in the front row, left to right, were Stacie Howe and Angeline Lilya. Thank you for the work you do ladies!

### BOIS FORTE DNR NOTICE ABOUT BEAR “MAKWA”

Boozhoo! It’s spring and it’s Bear time. They are starting to look for food. Here are some tips to keep them away from everyone’s yards and most importantly, away from our children:

- Remove bird feeders. If you are keeping them, place them at least 10-12 feet off the ground.
- Do not keep garbage out overnight, keep it indoors until the next morning.

- Properly store and dispose garbage
- Keep dog and cat food indoors.
- Do Not Feed the Bears. Once fed, they will keep coming back for more.

If a bear becomes a problem or a nuisance, call a Conservation Officer at any time. Questions, Comments, Sightings, or Suggestions are welcomed: Tony Mason (218-404-3955) Brian Whiteman Jr. (218-404-5761)

# Great turnout for Wellbeing Feast and traditional drum teachings event

## Submitted article

VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum hosted a Wellbeing Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings event at the Vermilion Government Center April 5th.

“It was a great community event as the Heritage Center staff were expecting 40 people to attend, but 64 showed up,” said Dani Pieratos, who is the Visitors Services Manager for the museum.

Pieratos said that Rebecca Gawboy served a wonderful feast with deer meat stew, deer meat chili, wild rice, cornbread

and a berry dessert.

“David Morrison Jr. shared traditional drum teachings,” said Pieratos, who added that singers Lance Kingbird, Jordan Gawboy, and Mark Black assisted with the teachings. “David and his team sang beautiful songs while explaining pow wow etiquette and the deeper meanings behind each song.”

Pieratos said that “Deww’igan” is the Ashinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) word for drum.

“A main teaching is that we are to treat the drum as a relative, a grandfa-

ther or grandmother, to never put it in the closet or off to the side, but to keep it somewhere in the house just like a living relative,” explained Pieratos.

Bois Forte Community Programs

were onsite to provide information about their services that to assist individual and family wellbeing, such as Nutrition Education, Energy Assistance and Bois Forte’s Cultural Healing Program.



**PACKED HOUSE!**— Over 60 people attended the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum hosted Wellbeing Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings event at the Vermilion Government Center April 5th. Submitted photo.

**Here is the Elder Nutrition Program’s menu for the month of May. 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.**

**May 1:** Meatballs with Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 2:** Picnic Lunch - Cook’s Choice

**May 5:** Pork Loin, Garden Blend Rice, Diced Beets, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 6:** Beef Soft Taco, Refried Beans, Shredded Lettuce, Diced Tomato, Cheese, Tortilla Chips, Fruit

**May 7:** Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 8:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef Choice of Fruit

**May 9:** BBQ Pork Riblette, AuGratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 12:** Baked Pork Chop, Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower/Broccoli Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 13:** Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 14:** Beef/Bean Soup, Potato Soup, Relish Plate, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 15:** Stir Fry Chicken, Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown



Rice, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 16:** Bison Stew, 7 Grain Bun, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 19:** Shepherd’s Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 20:** White Chicken Chili with Beans, Corn Bread, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 21:** Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 22:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad, Cole Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 23:** Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 27:** Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 28:** BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**May 29:** Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Steamed Rice, Broccoli Florets, Egg Roll

**May 30:** Black Bean Burrito Bowl, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

## LEGAL NOTICE IN THE BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA TRIBAL CHILDREN’S COURT MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

In the Matter of the Welfare of: D.E.I DOB: 08/23/2016. Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Liberty Lynn Isham and Samuel Vaughn Bryers, Respondents.

Court File No. CP-2025-0005

To: Liberty Isham and Samuel Bryers

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition to Suspend Parental Rights was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on April 28th, 2025. A hearing on the above petition will be held May 13th, 2025 at 10:40 a.m. Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard via Zoom, at the Bois Forte Children’s Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771. Please contact the Tribal Court at 218-757-3462 or via email at [bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov) for Zoom link hearing information.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED BY THIS SUMMONS AND NOTICE THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE NOTED ABOVE. FAILURE TO ATTEND THIS HEARING MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT BEING GRANTED FOR THE PETITIONER.**

By the Court,

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge

Melissa Wright, Court Administrator

Attorney for the Petitioner, Joy Parker

12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B

Orr, MN 55771

(218) 757-3462

## Bois Forte News Briefs

### Tribal Council down to three members

NETT LAKE— The Bois Forte Tribal Council is down to three members, following the leave of absence of District I Representative Perry Drift and vacant Tribal Chair position, which will be filled in July.

As of press time, Tuesday, April 29th, it was unknown as to how long Drift will be on his leave of absence.

However, Acting Chair and District I Representative Shane Drift is confident he, along with Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick and District II Representative Robert Moyer Jr., will be able to con-

tinue serving band members until they are back to five members.

### Community Connect plans

HIBBING— Make sure to come out Wednesday, June 4th for a Community Connect event that will take place at Minnesota North College-Hibbing Campus.

The event begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. Arrowhead Transit will provide free rides to and from the event on its existing bus route.

Event details include food, clothing, hygiene items, hair trimming, crisis in-

formation, housing supports, children & family services, health screenings, health insurance information, mental health resources, substance use disorder resources, warrant resolution, vaccine & disease education and more.

For more details, please reach out to Bois Forte 477 Director Vonda Carr at 218-757-3261.

### Job openings for Bois Forte

The Bois Forte Tribal Government has several job openings available, including two Indian Child Welfare Case Managers for the Health and Human

Services Department at the Nett Lake office, an on-call receptionist for the Human Resources Department in Nett Lake; a dentist for both Nett Lake and Vermilion; an Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute for the 477 Program/ Early Childhood Program in Nett Lake and Vermilion; an on-call receptionist for the Maintenance Department in Vermilion; and an on-call, PT and FT bus driver for Public Works/Bigwoods Transit in Nett Lake.

For more details on these jobs and other job opportunities, please check out [www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)



## Minute with Millie

May flowers may be on the way...or not. I sit here by the window looking out on the yellow brown grass from last year's growth covering the front yard. The ground is slowly thawing. Not fast enough for me. I have looked through my seeds, I've started a few and now anxiously await the day when I can go outside and set up my garden beds.

I wanted to do several root vegetables. Now looking outside, I wonder if I could get enough containers to grow enough for a few meals over the wintertime. Rutabagas, turnips, carrots, parsnips, mayhap a couple celery ones. Oh and enough tomatoes that just might make it through to the fall in time for storage somehow.

Hmm. Freeze tomatoes? Planned on freezing quite a few of the vegetables. But therein is the problem. Thinking I just may grow beans, might I still have some shield beans left. Potatoes in five-gallon containers. Maybe not. Think I'll try one of those grow bags I saw in one of the YouTube videos. Hope to get a least a hundred pounds.



And herbs in planters I can bring indoors though I don't think they'll grow over the winter. I might have to dry them. Well, dreaming of enough food for the coming winter so that I only have to purchase a few things...like bread, eggs and the more exotic spices.

Well, this just might be how my ancestors thought at this time of the years in times past. Oh the thoughts that go through my head when I sit at the window looking out.

## Let's not forget Amanda Boshey!



JUSTICE FOR AMANDA— Friends and family of Amanda Boshey, who was struck and killed by an alleged drunk driver this past December, paid for this sign to make sure people do not forget the 38-year-old mother of five children. The sign is located on Reservation Road heading to Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Boshey was killed as she was walking on Reservation Road the night of December 17, 2024. The suspect, Eric Peterson, 50, Virginia, will appear in U.S. District Court in Duluth for a motion hearing on Friday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 3.

# Yeley shares story of depression with Fortune Bay team

VERMILION SECTOR— “I’m good,” is what Tony Yeley used to tell anyone who asked how he was doing even though he knew it was a lie when he told people that.

But the lie continued until the mild-mannered Yeley started planning how he was going to end his life.

Using a gun would be too messy and an embarrassment to his family. So, the now 67-year-old came up with an elaborate plan to make his death look like an accident. He would be taking a cruise on his motorcycle on his favorite back country road, hit the throttle to propel him to a speed of 123 miles an hour, take a selfie of the speedometer and then run off the road into a large red pine tree.

“I thought people would say, ‘Well, at least he died doing what he loved best,’” said Yeley, as he spoke to Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s managers and directors recently and felt the timing was perfect to share his story, being that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

As it turned out, Yeley backed away from his suicide plan, mostly because of his family, but also because he knew he really wanted to live. However, a day back in 2021 was wreaking havoc with his mental state and he knew he needed help healing from that traumatic day.

The day, April 28, 2021, started out just like any other day for Yeley, who was just getting back from vacation and working at Minorca Mine in Virginia, while also serving on its emergency response team (ERT) as an EMR.

“It was a day that will live on in infamy for me as I was called upon to assist with the rescue of a child,” said Yeley, who added that he was excited at the prospect of helping rescue a child from whatever trouble they had encountered when he was called into action.

The excitement was short-lived, though, as Yeley realized the boy he was called upon to rescue didn’t survive the accident as the boy suffered fatal injuries after falling down a steep embankment.

“It went from a rescue to a recovery—things went from bad to worse and I went from being relatively healthy to suicidal,” said Yeley, who is Fortune Bay’s Risk Manager and heads up its EMT/EMS teams.

Trying to recover from his mission was tough on Yeley, who is a compassionate person by nature and always keeps an

open-door policy should anyone ever just need to talk.

“It’s not something I enjoy talking about—this is the first time I’ve been nervous in probably 30 to 40 years,” said Yeley as he spoke to Fortune Bay’s team about the tragic accident that changed his life forever four years ago.

After the boy was taken away, Yeley tried to be strong and it was probably at this time he started telling that same “I’m good,” lie repeatedly when someone asked how he was doing.

“I’m good is what I told my therapist,” said Yeley. “I’m good is what I told my wife, I’m good is what I told my family, my friends and my boss—I really wasn’t good though.”

And as time went on, Yeley found himself changing. He calls himself a man’s man, but yet he couldn’t explain why he would just start crying at the most random things.

“I didn’t realize I was dying at the time,” explained Yeley. “I was on a slow progression—untreated, my depression went from bad to worse... I went from having suicidal thoughts to actual detailed plans on how, where, when and how I could do it without embarrassing my family.”

With the help of his therapist, Yeley got over those suicidal thoughts, but it was a long road back to where he felt normal again. As it turns out, it wasn’t just the boy’s death that troubled him so much. It was also the fact that he was one who always volunteered and never thought twice about helping out others. It was an admirable trait, but he just never knew how to slow down and take time for himself.

“I felt I always had to show up for everything and felt like I had to fix everyone’s problems,” said Yeley.

As time went on, the pressure on Yeley built up and his therapist told him point blank that she was surprised he had lived this long, presumably because he never took time to take care of himself. In explaining his suicidal tendencies, Yeley said that it’s not that he wanted to die—he just didn’t want to live anymore.

“I know that sounds a bit contradictory, but I didn’t want to die, I just didn’t want to live to keep going the way I was going,” said Yeley. “There’s a lot of misun-

derstandings about suicide, including if you’re talking about it, it will cause it to happen. I’m an absolute opposite of that. I think that talking about it, it will help it not to happen.”

There are plenty of other warning signs of suicide that Yeley went through and encouraged people to visit this link (<https://tinyurl.com/ys6h42vk>) to get a more in-depth overview of warning signs of suicide and ways to help those who may be struggling with mental health.

“Mental health is mental health,” said Yeley. “It is not a character flaw—it is not a weakness. It is an illness... We have to break this stigma about mental health.”

As time went on Yeley broke away from his cycle of hopelessness and started turning his story of tragedy into a story of hope. He said he accomplished that by popping into his boss’s office one day to say he needed to get out of there. His boss asked what was going on, but Yeley just told him he would tell him later.

With that, Yeley went home and started to write a letter to his boss telling him everything he had been going through. To say writing the letter was therapeutic would be an understatement, as would be another letter he eventually wrote.

That letter was even more personal to Yeley, who wanted to reach out to the family of the five-year-old boy who tragically lost his life April 28, 2021. With the help of a mutual friend, Yeley was able to get that heartfelt letter into the hands of the boy’s parents.

“I wanted them to know that we treated their son with respect and dignity, the same way we would have treated one of our own kids or grandkids,” said Yeley. “It was important for me to communicate that with the family and the family appreciated the letter.”

For Yeley, getting that message out helped him cope with the tragedy and while he will never forget the tragedy, it

helped in his healing process.

“Suicide is not a weakness, it is not selfish, it is not the easy way out,” said Yeley. “Suicide is the final phase of a health crisis, and we really need to start looking at it as such.”

Yeley said that he would be more than happy to talk to anyone who is suicidal and added that it would be in com-



**SHARING HIS STORY—** Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s Risk Manager Tony Yeley shared his personal story of depression with managers and directors at a recent meeting in the Sumac room at Fortune Bay.

plete confidence.

“I’m here to listen,” said Yeley, who might be making the same presentation to RTG staff as part of May’s Mental Health Awareness Month. “I am not here to judge and I am not here to diagnose... I will talk to anybody at any time—24/7—if my phone rings, I’m going to answer it.”

Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s General Manager Elizabeth Deegan said Yeley’s story was heart-breaking, but also thought-provoking and inspirational.

“His message resonated with our staff,” said Deegan. “It took a lot of courage for him to recount such a tragedy, and we appreciate his willingness to help others who may be experiencing depression or thoughts of suicide.”

*Editor’s note: Yeley can be reached during regular office hours at 218-753-7848 or after hours at 218-750-1211. You can also dial 988 for immediate help.*

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

In the Matter of Jennifer Lynn Medicine, petitioner vs Cheyanna Sue Marie Medicine, respondent.

TO: The above-named respondent, Cheyanna Sue Marie Medicine.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given a Zoom hearing will be held on the 27th day of May 2025, at 11:00 a.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771, on the Harassment Restraining Order Petition Application filed in this court on April 3rd, 2025. This hearing is to determine if the Harassment Restraining Order should be granted or denied.

You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you and the Harassment Restraining Order being granted. If you are unable to join via zoom or by phone, you will be required to attend in person at the Tribal Court. Please contact the Court to get the Zoom link information at 218-757-3462.

By The Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771  
Phone: 218-757-3462

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

In the matter of Leo A. Vidal OBO T.R.A.V, petitioner vs Yukie Lee, respondent,  
Case number CV-HO-2025-0010

TO: The above-named respondent, Yukie Lee.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given that a permanent Harassment Restraining Order was granted in the above-named case on April 22nd, 2025, by default. The said Harassment Restraining Order is in effect until April 22nd, 2026.

By the Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771  
Phone: 218-757-3462

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

In the matter of Adam St. George OBO K.H.S.G, petitioner vs Julianna Chavers, respondent,  
Court Case number: CV-OP-2025-0006

TO: The above-named respondent, Julianna Yvonne Chavers,

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given that a permanent Order for Protection was granted in the above-named case on March 25th, 2025. The said Order for Protection is in effect until March 14th, 2027.

By the Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Melissa Wright, Judicial Services Director  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771  
Phone: 218-757-3462

## Edith Mae (Morrison) Villebrun



Edith Mae (Morrison) Villebrun was born in Nett Lake on September 17, 1944, to John and Angeline (Wein) Morrison. She began her journey to her heavenly home on March 26, 2025, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota at the age of 80 surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Edith was a proud member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. She spent most of her life in Nett Lake and Indian Point, graduating from Orr High School in 1962. She then attended Haskell Indian Junior College in Lawrence, KS. After earning her degree, she moved to California for two years, living with her sister, Lucille.

In 1977, Edith served as a member of the Nett Lake Ambulance crew and later worked as a Census worker in 1990, conducting interviews in many homes. She dedicated many years to the Bois Forte Tribal Government, holding positions such as CAP secretary, Acting Director of the Bois Forte Accounting Department, Accounting Supervisor, and Commissioner of Administration. Even after retiring in 2017, she returned to work as an Accounting Specialist.

Edith was a woman of deep faith, a member of St. Bridget's Church in Nett Lake before joining Holy Cross Catholic Church

in Orr. Her faith was central to her life. On the day she passed, her children prayed the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet with her many times.

In November 1970, Edith married David "Fox" Villebrun at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr, Minnesota. Though they later divorced, together they raised three wonderful children: David Jr., John, and Miranda. She was a devoted mother, grandmother to 14, and great-grandmother to three. Edith loved fiercely and took great care of her family. Though finances were often tight, her children never felt it—she made sure they were always provided for and loved.

Edith had a competitive spirit and a love for games. She enjoyed playing bingo and golf, especially when competing alongside her children in the Black Bear tournament. A two-time Vermilion Fairways Women's Golf Club League Champion, she also loved watching golf, tennis, figure skating, the Olympics, the Game Show Network, and The Price is Right. She was an avid true crime fan, often telling Miranda about a show she started but fell asleep before finishing. She also had a fondness for keepsakes, even collecting Bois Forte flags from this year's State of the Band.

She cherished time with her family, cheering on her children and grandchildren in sports, playing Sudoku, and sharing her favorite stories. Her signature saying, "Whatever," summed up her sharp yet lighthearted spirit.

Edith was loved dearly and will be missed by her children: David Villebrun of Nett Lake, Miranda (Tim) Lilya of Orr, and John (Rae) Villebrun of Mountain Iron; brother, Floyd Morrison of Nett Lake; sister, Marcella Connor of Nett Lake; grandchildren, Bridget, Cassandra, Davis, Nicholas, Alexander, Patia, Sa-

vannah, Ian, Hannah, William, Emily, Kristen, Timothy, Angeline; great-grandchildren, Asher, Andrew, and Inayah. She is preceded in death by her spouse, David Villebrun in 1995; her parents, John and Angeline; brothers, Dan and Joe; and her sister Lucille.

Wake services for Edith were held at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Building on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 5:00 pm with the Rosary prayed at 6:00 pm.

Mass of Christian Burial took place Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center with Fr. Beau Braun as the Celebrant. Casket Bearers were Nicholas Hayes, Alexander Hayes, Corporal Ian Villebrun, USMC, Timothy Lilya, Corey Kolkin, Olin Nelson, Brendan Parson, and Wesley Jeanotte. Honorary Bearers were Edith's grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Bridget Villebrun, Cassandra Villebrun, Davis Villebrun, Patia Hayes, Savannah Parisien, Hannah Villebrun, Emily Drift, William Drift, Kristen Lilya, Angeline Lilya, Asher Kolkin, Andrew Kolkin, Inayah Kaivola.

The Rosary was led by Rae Villebrun, Patia Hayes, Savannah Parisien, and Hannah Villebrun. The Readers were Edith's daughter, Miranda Lilya and friend, Patti Wilkie. Edith's son, John, gave her eulogy. The Funeral Pall was placed by Edith's children, David, John, and Miranda. The meal was served after the burial service at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center. She will be buried at the old Nett Lake Cemetery.

Edith's love, strength, and unwavering devotion to her family and community will always be remembered. Services were provided by Mlaker Funeral Home, Cook, Minnesota.

*Market from page 2*

one they had for the much hyped Bone Thugs-n-Harmony concert, which took place Friday, April 11th.

“There’s no way we could have had the space to host the buffet if our Grab and Go items were still being sold in the Tamarack area,” said Kern, who enjoyed a successful career at Green Mill Restaurant prior to beginning her career at Fortune Bay Resort Casino in 2015. “This will be a good move for us, and I’m excited about this new opportunity.”

In an effort to offer 24-hour service, there are also plans to bring in kiosks to

make the Giizhik Market self-service. This will mirror other self-service checkouts like Walmart, Target, etc.

“The goal is to have that option available before summer arrives,” said Kern, who thanked the maintenance crew, hospitality staff, and gift shop staff for their assistance in preparing the market for the much-anticipated opening. “If a guest runs into any issues, we’ll work with our personnel from the front desk to help out.”

In regard to making sure inventory is protected, Kern said the Giizhik Market has adequate camera coverage, and more can be added if needed.

“We’re not really worried about that

happening,” said Kern of guests trying to walk out without paying for their items.

The move of the Grab and Go items from the Gold Mine Grill will also open up additional dining options for the Tamarack space, but until those plans are 100% dialed in, Kern did not want to go into too many details at this time.

“We are going to rebrand the Gold Mine Grill into a restaurant in the current Tamarack space,” said Kern, who added they are in the process of developing a new kitchen and menu. “We are not 100% sure when this will happen, but I hope it’s sooner rather than later.”

NETT LAKE  
PHARMACY  
218-757-0230

VERMILION  
PHARMACY  
218-753-2182



**HIGH IN THE SKY!**— Crews were busy constructing a temporary cell tower near the water tower, which services the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. There were some issues with the equipment inside the water tower, resulting in the need to replace aging parts. The water tower will also be given a new paint job in the coming weeks.

## Sprouting Seedlings - Community Gardens update

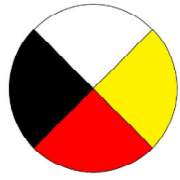
*By the Nutrition Education Program*

As the days grow longer and the sun a little warmer, signs of spring are popping up at the Bois Forte Community Gardens. Seedlings planted by the Nutrition Education Program are well on their way, nestled in their starter cups and patiently waiting for the final frost to pass. We've started eight different varieties of tomatoes and six different varieties of peppers, all heirloom seeds. We plan to cultivate cucumbers and summer and winter squash seeds in May.

Once the weather warms consistently, the seedlings will be transferred into the garden beds, marking the official start of the growing season. Once the soil is warm enough, we plan to plant our peas, beans, carrots, and beets.

The Bois Forte Nutrition Education Program welcomes volunteers for upcoming planting days and encourages community members to stop by, lend a hand, or take a walk through the space.





# SCRUBS CAMP

## Indigenous Healthcare Career Exploration Day Camp

June 11-13, 2025

Hosted by Fond du Lac Tribal and  
Community College (Cloquet, MN)

Students attending the day camp will:

- Experience cultural activities
- Explore careers in a variety of healthcare fields
- Engage with Tribal community healthcare professionals
- Become CPR and First Aid Certified
- Go on fun excursions and other activities

## Honoring Health, Wellness, and Tradition

Apply at: <https://bit.ly/SCRUBSCamps>

For more information, please contact:  
Brenda Shafer-Pellinen at [bshaferpellinen@ardc.org](mailto:bshaferpellinen@ardc.org)



FDLTCC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.  
A member of Minnesota State and the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium.



**Applications are NOW open  
for Minnesota students  
entering  
grades 9-12\*.**

Through the generous  
support of our partners there  
is no cost to participants.

\*Preference will be given to American  
Indian/Alaska Native students

Transportation stipends are  
available for students  
residing 35+miles from  
campus.

## Bois Forte RTC Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 25, 2025, at Vermilion Social Center, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Invocation is done by Vern Adams

Members Present: Shane Drift, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Mildred Holmes, Peter Boney. See attached for list of virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to certify Peter (Chief) Boney as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming special election.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to certify Marty J. Connor as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming special election.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to certify Carlos A. Hernandez as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming

special election.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to certify Rhonda Hoagland as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming special election.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick.; seconded by Perry Drift; to certify Mildred R. Holmes as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming special election.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer; to certify Travis Morrison as candidate for Chairperson in the upcoming special election.

Carried 3-0-0

A lottery draw was done to show how the names will show on the ballots for the upcoming Primary Election on April 15, 2025 for Chairperson. The names are listed as follows:

1. Peter (Chief) Boney
2. Carlos A. Hernandez
3. Travis Morrison
4. Rhonda Hoagland
5. Marty J. Connor
6. Mildred Holmes.

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 am.

Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: March 5, 2025

You are cordially invited to the  
**Bois Forte Tribal Court**  
**50th Anniversary**

Thursday, May 22, 2025  
2:00pm

Join us for refreshments as we honor Lucille Morrison by dedicating our court room in her memory and years of service as the Bois Forte Tribal Court Clerk



Bois Forte Tribal Court  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B  
Or, MN 55771

