



BOIS FORTE

# NEWS



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## FUEL AID DONATED BY CITGO

Bois Forte Distributes Money to Those who Qualified for State Heating Assistance

Thanks to a unique initiative between the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) and Citgo Petroleum Corporation, Minnesota Indian families in need received about \$1.7 million in heating assistance this winter.

The donation is a continuation of a program begun last year by Venezuelan-based Citgo called "From the Venezuelan Heart to the U.S. Hearths." The company gave millions of gallons of heating oil to more than 180,000

households in the Northeast last winter.

Because homes on Minnesota's Indian reservations are heated with many fuels besides heating oil, Citgo is donating money rather than fuel to the MCT. That money will be distributed to each of the six MCT bands – Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth – based on the number of people in each band who qualify for state heating assistance. Those people will



*Mariella Guzman, Elston Lawson, and Andres Rangel of Citgo join Winona Laduke of White Earth, Mille Lacs Chair Melanie Benjamin, Marrison and Kevin Leecy at the December 7th reception, the MCT hosted to thank Citgo.*

receive direct credits on their heating bills this winter, according to MCT Executive Director Gary Frazer. Citgo estimates that the funds will cut heating bills about 40%

for people in need, and the MCT believes more than 2,700 households will qualify for the program.

*continued on page 2.*

## THE WILDERNESS AT FORTUNE BAY: 'BEST COURSE YOU CAN PLAY IN 07,' SAYS GOLFWEK MAGAZINE

The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Resort Casino has done it again, earning Golfweek's num-

ber one ranking for "the best course you can play in 2007 for Minnesota," according to the magazine's executive editors.

"We are delighted with the ranking," said Kevin Leecy, Chair of the Bois Forte Band of

Chippewa, owner and operator of this golfing treasure that one national reviewer said is as beautiful as it is cunning. "The Wilderness is one more great reason for people to come and stay for a business conference or vacation time in northeastern Minnesota," said Leecy.

In addition to top Minnesota course for 2007, Golfweek also ranked The Wilderness 10th among the best casino courses in America and number 34 among the best new courses in the country. Golfweek is read by

*continued on page 5.*

## INSIDE

- CITGO Fuel Aid
- Wilderness Award
- NLPD - New Officer
- Biz Tips
- Museum Excursion
- Native Athletes
- Teen's & Marijuana
- New CD Program
- Scrolls Full Circle
- Tribal Minutes
- Obituary
- Ojibwe Language Classes



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## Fuel Aid

*continued from page 1.*

Citgo's donation also includes money for heating tribal government facilities. The Bois Forte Band is considering using this part of its funds to help facilities that directly serve Band members, such as the Health clinic.

The Citgo program has been seen by some as an effort to make Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a critic of

the Bush administration, look good. But as Bois Forte Band Chairman Kevin Leecy said, "When it's 20 below in northern Minnesota, people aren't worried about where the propane comes from, the heat is the same. It's about the people, not the politics." Leecy pointed out that the Reservation Tribal Council carefully reviewed Citgo's Master Donation Agreement, "and there were no strings attached."

Leecy and other MCT leaders met with representatives of Citgo at a reception in Bloomington on December 7. Andres Rangel, Commercial Operations Manager for Citgo told Leecy and others that part of Citgo's corporate mission is to be a good citizen where they operate. Rangel also thanked Tribal leaders for helping them bring the fuel assistance program to Minnesota.

Rangel noted that the idea for the program

came from America itself, after a group of U.S. Senators asked oil companies to help people in need. Fadi Kabboul, the minister counselor for petroleum affairs at the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, D.C., said Citgo has been the only company that has responded to the senators' plea.

Leecy told the group, "As I've said to anyone who questions this program, this is about people, not politics. On behalf of Bois

Forte, I thank Citgo for stepping up to the challenge of U.S. Senators to help those in need."

Band Executive Director Barb Brodeen also acknowledged the work of Energy Assistance Program Coordinator Eileen Barney for helping the MCT calculate how many Bois Forte Band members qualified for state heating assistance this year.

## BOIS FORTE FUNDS SCIENCE MUSEUM EXCURSION FOR ORR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

What could be more educational for anatomy and biology students than a first-hand glimpse into the workings of the human body? Orr High School Science Instructor Mary Pat Lamwers wanted to give her students the opportunity to visit *Body Worlds*, the blockbuster exhibition at the Science Museum of Minnesota in Saint Paul that presents real human bodies preserved through a unique process called plastination. Unfortunately, the school district denied her request due to a lack of funds. Disappointed, Lamwers broke the bad news to her students.

That might have been the end of the story if 16-year-old Alana Drift, a junior at Orr, hadn't

appealed to her father. Mark Drift is the District I representative to the Bois Forte Band's Reservation Tribal Council (RTC), which donated nearly \$10,000 to Orr High School last year. Much of the money went to athletic fees, other extracurricular activity fees, and Honor Role incentives for Bois Forte students at the school. A significant amount also was directed towards activities, programs and services for the entire student community, including prom, yearbook ads, and the Senior Awards Banquet.

Drift asked Lamwers for a letter explaining the benefits of *Body Worlds* to her students. The two met, and then Lamwers attended an RTC meeting



*Bois Forte Tribal Council present Mary Pat Lamwers, Orr School Science Instructor with a donation to assist with the Science Museum excursion.*

to answer questions. The RTC members agreed that the exhibition would be a tremendous educational experience, and in October they presented Lamwers with a check for \$1,640 to fund the trip.

So on October 23 at 5 a.m., 27 Orr students and 5 adult chaperones

boarded a bus for Saint Paul to view an unprecedented collection of human bodies, organs and organ configurations. The plastination process stops decomposition by replacing bodily fluids and fat with plastics. That means exhibition visitors can view the bodies and organs without any barriers, rather

than through glass walls or formaldehyde. Museum officials have said *Body Worlds* offers visitors an understanding of the body's inner workings, illnesses and diseases that up until now has only been available to medical students and health professionals.

*continued on page 3.*



Bois Forte Tribal Council pose with Mary Pat Lamwers, Orr School Science Instructor and students at a RTC meeting held in Nett Lake.

### Science Museum Excursion

*continued from page 2.*

"It was a marvelous experience, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us who attended," Lamwers said. "We are so grateful to the Tribal Council for helping us

take advantage of this rare learning experience."

Barb Johnson, one of the chaperones, seconded Lamwers' enthusiastic response. "It was absolutely fascinating. I've been a volunteer emergency medical technician for 25 years, and

thanks to the exhibition I've learned so much more than I ever knew about anatomy and how the human organs operate and are positioned."

Johnson, who works at Pattens Café in Orr, heard about the field trip from high school student and co-worker Marissa

Goodsky. "Marissa was so excited about the trip. When she told me about it, I offered to help chaperone if the school needed more adults." Johnson had high praise for the Orr students. "The kids were extremely well-behaved, and it was fun to be with them. They were very appreciative of

the opportunity."

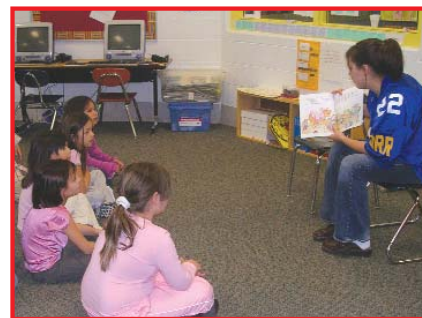
Several students voiced their appreciation in a PowerPoint presentation they created after the trip. "We saw a lot. We learned a lot. We had experiences we will remember. Thank you for such a wonderful experience!"

## MORE BOOKS PLEASE!

The Nett Lake School celebrated Children's Book Week with the football and volleyball players from Orr School. The theme for the 2006 Children's Book Week was "More Books Please!"

Ten athletes read to students, four year olds all the way up to the 6th grade. The athletes also stayed and enjoyed lunch with the elementary students.

The Nett Lake Students also participated in a "Favorite Book Scavenger Hunt" with staff at Nett Lake. Participating Orr student/athletes were: Robert Astleford, Christianne Astleford, Brandon Anderson, Alanna Drift, Rachel Morrison, Scott Lasley, Melissa Wright, Dylan Mankus, Alyssa Christiansen, and Andrew Reed.



Photos

Top left: Robert Astleford reading to the students.

Top right: Students listened attentively to Melissa Wright.

Bottom right: Rachel Morrison and Trevor Morrison.



## INDIAN VOTERS MADE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN 2006



### Native Vote initiative paid off with higher voter turnouts and big wins

One person, one vote. It's one of the bedrock principles of our country – that each man or woman counts, literally, and can make a difference.

American Indians – like African Americans and women – had to struggle to obtain the right to vote. Unfortunately, even after native people gained this critical right, political parties and candidates for office too often ignored Indians.

**But not any more** Indian tribes in Minnesota and across the country have worked hard to increase the influence of native voters, and the efforts are paying off. For the past several years, tribes have worked on all fronts: voter registration and education, issues analysis, candidate forums, poll monitoring, even providing rides to the polls.

#### In Park Rapids

This year, native voter turnout made the difference in several big races in Minnesota. The first was Red Lake Band voters turning out for the

reelection of Representative Brita Sailer in Park Rapids. Sailer, a DFLer, faced a tough rematch with Doug Lindgren, whom she had defeated in 2004 to capture a seat in the Minnesota House. Lindgren and the Republican Party used anti-Indian campaign tactics, including automated phone calls claiming that a voter for Brita Sailer would mean higher welfare payments to Red Lake Indians.

Sailer trailed in the vote count most of election night, but just after midnight, the votes from Red Lake came in and the tide turned. The strong voter turnout at Red Lake moved Sailer into the lead for good.

#### In Duluth, Bemidji and Hinckley

Native participation was also credited with helping new Senator Tony Lourey win in his district just south of Duluth, where Fond du Lac voters got involved. In Bemidji, Leech Lake voters helped Mary Olson beat incumbent Carrie Ruud for a Senate seat, and Representative Frank Moe was returned to his House seat. And in the Hinckley area, Mille Lacs voters helped elect Representative Tim Faust, a supporter of Indian gaming, in place of incumbent Judy Soderstrom, who had voted to authorize a racino.

**In voter turnout, especially on the Bois Forte Reservation** Statewide, voter turnout

for the 2006 elections was 59.5%, which was a strong showing for a non-presidential election year. But some precincts with high numbers of native voters posted even bigger turnouts. For example, 73% of eligible Red Lake voters went to the polls. And in Vermilion, the number reached a tremendous 88%. Thanks to Tammy Strong and Kristal Strong for coordinating a great Bois Forte effort!

Sadly, some anti-Indian candidates still won in 2006. In Mille Lacs, Sondra Erickson won reelection to the House. But the positive news is that her margin of victory was only 400 votes, compared to 1,500 in the 2004 election.

#### We must continue to make our voices heard

"There is definitely overall momentum by individual Indians in recognizing the importance of their votes," said Judy Hanks, who has coordinated operations for both the Minnesota and National Native Vote Initiatives. "Some of these races show that our votes make the difference."

Across our state and across our country, native voices are getting stronger and more powerful, and native people are earning new respect from local, regional, state and even national politicians. Each Indian vote can – and will – make a difference. Make sure your voice is heard in 2008 and beyond. Get out and vote!

## NLPD - NEW OFFICER

Aaniin,

My name is Jason Lee Lawrence Sr. and I would like to formally introduce myself as I have transferred to the Bois Forte Reservation. My wife's name is Jean Skinaway-Lawrence and we have four boys and one girl. They are Tyler, Matt, Jason Jr., Shelly and my baby Tristan. I am thirty-two years old, my family and myself are enrolled members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. My wife works for the FBI in Bemidji and she was also a police officer for five years.

My wife and two oldest sons are going to live in Bemidji and I have moved our three youngest children with me. I could not be happier to be close to home, I look forward to being part of the Nett Lake and Vermilion communities. I look forward to helping and assisting all community members.

I have twelve years of law enforcement experience. I started my career in law enforcement in 1995 as a Detention Officer for the BIA Law Enforcement program in Red Lake. I worked as a uniformed Police Officer and Criminal Investigator in Red Lake. I worked in Red Lake for eight and a half years. I applied for Minnesota Peace Officer License and worked as a Police Officer/Criminal Investigator for the Leech Lake Tribal Police Department on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. I worked in Leech Lake for a year and a half, until I accepted a Police Officer position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Officer Jason Lawrence Sr.

I was stationed on the Standing Rock Reservation in North/South Dakota.

I have attended and graduated from the Indian Police Academy at FLETC in Artesia, New Mexico in August 1997. I am a 2001 graduate of the Basic Criminal Investigator Program at FLETC in Brunswick, Georgia. I have attended and completed numerous in-service training programs. My Minnesota Peace Officer License is currently "inactive", but I'm still eligible to be licensed by the state of Minnesota. I have also completed the Basic Law Enforcement Supervisory Training Program at FLETC in Brunswick, Georgia.

During my two years in Standing Rock, I commuted 900 miles on a weekly basis to be with my family. I am glad to be close to home and being able to serve the Bois Forte Reservation. In the short three weeks that I have been here, I have met some friendly and giving community members. I hope to visit with households in the near future. Take care, be safe and Happy New Year.  
Sincerely,  
-Jason Lawrence Sr.

# KEVIN LEECY TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC SUMMITS FOR INDIAN TRIBES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Rebuilding Communities Through Indian Self-Reliance

Kevin Leecy, Vice Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, has agreed to direct NIGA's plan to coordinate economic summit meetings that will bring a new wave of energy and promise to tribes across the nation. The summit model was developed by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in east central Minnesota, and three other Minnesota tribal nations – the Leech Lake, White Earth, and Red Lake Bands of Chippewa – recently concluded the first joint summit to explore ways of collaborating on economic development initiatives.

Participants in the joint summit included business owners, economic and community development planners, financial businesses, corporate executives, human resources personnel, procurement personnel, educational institutions, housing, natural resources, tribal departments, tribally owned enterprises, corporations, government agencies, and elected officials. Over the two-day meeting, more than 400 registrants were divided into small facilitated work groups to brainstorm potential economic development projects.

"This is exactly what Indian Country should be doing," said NIGA Chairman Ernest Stevens Jr. in this address to

summit participants. "Tribes in rural America will be the first ones to tell you that you cannot undo 150 years of poverty and destitution overnight with one casino. We need a multi-faceted approach to economic development in Indian Country. The primary focus must be empowering and increasing the presence of Indian and tribally owned businesses within the framework of our tribal economies."

Stevens said that Leecy has been tapped to take the lead role in replicating the summit model in a series of regional economic development conferences across the country.

"I'm very grateful to Chairman Leecy for his willingness to take on this important challenge. His expertise in business marketing along with his passion, drive and strong leadership skills make him perfect for this role," said Stevens, who also commended the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council. "For a small tribe, Bois Forte has one of the most diversified tribal economies in the region."

In the past two years Bois Forte has acquired Powerain Manufacturing Inc in Tower; WELY end of the road radio station in Ely; the Y-Store near Tower and is building a new convenience store in

Nett Lake. Leecy will also focus on prioritizing expansion and implementation of the Indian Business Network.

The National Indian Gaming Association is a nonprofit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian Nations and other nonvoting associate members. The mission of the NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian people economically, socially and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and educational, legislative and public policy resource for tribes, policymakers and the public on Indian gaming issues, sovereignty and tribal community development.

## Wilderness

*Continued from page 1.*  
more than 160,000 golf enthusiasts.

Last year the Wilderness was America's Best New Upscale Public Course from Golf Digest, then a Top 10 Best New Places to Play by Golf Magazine and before that one of the 10 Best New Public/Resort Courses in America by Travel & Leisure Golf.

"On behalf of the entire team we are extremely excited to see the dividends of our hard work" said Joe Wisocki of Kemper Sports, general manager and director of golf at The Wilderness about the Golfweek ranking. "Our goal is an exceptional golf experi-

ence in one of the most gorgeous settings on the planet. Judging by the reaction of everyone in the golf community from weekend warriors to the club professionals to national course critics, we've been successful."

"The Wilderness has become a must-play golf destination for discerning golfers throughout the country," said Gary Gotchnik, Fortune Bay General Manager. "We started a major expansion of the hotel complex last spring in part to meet the demand for accommodations by Wilderness golfers. The new rooms will be ready in July, 2007 and we are eager to help guest book tee times and rooms," he added.

**ATTENTION BOIS FORTE ELDERS**  
The planning for the Elders Trip to the Gathering of Nations, Albuquerque, NM has begun. You will soon receive a letter with information on the trip. Please follow the instructions included in that letter. Any questions regarding the letter or the trip in general please call Adrienne or Louise at 218-757-3261.



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## FINDING YOUR NICHE – WHAT CAN YOU SELL THAT PEOPLE WANT TO BUY?

*Brought to you by Stephen C. Peterson Sr., Business Development Coordinator, Bois Forte Development Corporation*

On the last two days of November, I attended an Economic Development Summit and Tradeshow in Mahanomen in western Minnesota. (See *Economic Summit story page 5.*) This event was attended by a few hundred people and had 92 businesses showing their wares. Two Bois Forte Band member-owned businesses were there. Stan Day displayed one of his latest cedar chests creations with beadwork on the front panel, a carved eagle feather on the top back, and an aromatic cedar lining. Joe Geshick displayed two of his new posters and some t-shirts with his design on them. The Bois Forte Development Corporation also had its car wash manufacturer, Powerain, at the event to hand out information and make contact with interested businesses and tribal officials.

The event featured a number of presenters and round table discussions all focusing on how the Indian bands in northern Minnesota could work together on economic development and support native businesses. One question that came up is, "Should there be an effort to buy native products?" For example, if a native-

owned business supplied products to hotels, could it become more profitable, grow, and employ more band members by providing its products to many casino hotels across northern Minnesota?

This is the same approach you should take in developing your ideas about starting a business. Ask yourself, "What product or service can my business offer to other businesses in my area or across the region?" Most people believe that making something they like will create a strong business. Not true – making a product that is sought after by others is what will help you develop a profitable business.

As Bois Forte RTC continues to diversify its business holdings (buying or starting larger businesses), this opens up opportunities for small businesses by finding those products or services that larger businesses will consume.

No kidding about it, starting a business takes some time and research. As I've said in past articles, you have a better chance of success if you start a business you know something about and/or like to do. The term "hobby business" is an example of this. If you have a hobby you enjoy and you're to the point of selling items you create through your hobby, is now the time to grow that hobby into a business?

Give me a call and we can brainstorm about your ideas. I've been here a year now, and more than 75 Band members have talked with me. Each idea is on a different path and moving at its own speed. And as the Bois Forte Band continues to diversify its business holdings, more opportunities will open up for small businesses – maybe yours! – to supply Band businesses with products and services.

### UPCOMING CLASSES

- Introduction to Business Planning – Susan Martin from the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund will be at Nett Lake to present an explanation of business planning. This 90-minute introductory class will inform you about how to get started on planning your business and what to expect when you sign up to take the CORE FOUR® Business Planning Course (described above). This class will be held January 18, 2007 in the council chambers at the RTC office building. Call Steve Peterson at 218-753-7805 or 1-800-992-7529, ext 7805 to sign up.
- CORE FOUR® Business Planning Course – CORE FOUR® will be held again at Nett Lake beginning February 20, 2007 and running for four consecutive Tuesday nights. CORE FOUR® is described in detail in Susan Martin's article above, and it is highly recommended that people interested in this course take the January 18 Introduction to Business Planning (see above) first. To register for CORE FOUR®, call Steve Peterson at 218-753-7805 or 1-800-992-7529, ext 7805.

## CORE FOUR® HELPS BAND MEMBERS PLAN FOR SUCCESS

*By Susan Martin, Trainer and Entrepreneurial Campus Initiative Project Coordinator, Northeast Entrepreneur Fund*

Recently, some Bois Forte Band members who are either thinking about a new business idea or making an existing business better took part in the CORE FOUR® Business Planning Course presented by the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund at Nett Lake and Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

CORE FOUR® is a 12-hour class that meets once a week for 4 weeks and covers success planning, market planning, cash flow planning, and operations planning – critical steps that all businesses must follow to make sure they can and will succeed. CORE FOUR® guides participants with a no-nonsense approach to building a business plan that is viable, desirable and feasible, and the course includes a student workbook with many helpful worksheets.

After completing CORE FOUR®, Millie Holmes said, "This course helped me to focus on the steps and get a clear idea of what I want to do and how I want to do it." Joe Hoogland said, "Learning about due diligence and access to many research ideas were some of the concepts most helpful for me."

By helping each other, CORE FOUR® participants get more out of the materials presented during the course, plus the added wisdom of Elders in the group. Participants also learn from the questions and concerns of other Band members taking the course. For example, while talking about ideas for inexpensively marketing your business and yourself, Janet Walter shared one of her secrets: "Fake it until you make it – that always helps me feel more comfortable in a new environment."

Of course, the assistance available for Band members doesn't stop at the end of CORE FOUR®. Steve Peterson, business development coordinator with the Bois Forte Development Corporation, said, "Make an appointment to meet with us, and we can help you create a timeline to establish the type of business you dream of – that's one of our most important goals."

## MARIJUANA AND YOUR TEEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

**Depression.  
Suicidal thoughts.  
Schizophrenia.**

If you have outdated perceptions about marijuana, you might be putting your teen at risk. New research is giving us better insight into the serious consequences of teen marijuana use, especially how it impacts mental health.

Did you know that young people who use marijuana weekly have double the risk of depression later in life? And that teens aged 12 to 17 who smoke are three times more likely than non-users to have suicidal thoughts?

And if that's not bad enough, marijuana use in some teens has been linked to increased risk for schizophrenia in later years.

Today's teens are smoking a more potent drug and starting use at increasingly younger ages during crucial brain development years. Still think marijuana's no big deal?

Remember, you are the most important influence in your teens' life when it comes to drugs, so tell your teen the facts about marijuana. Teens who learn about the risks from their parents are less likely to smoke marijuana or use other drugs than teens who don't.

Let your teens know you don't want them using marijuana. Their mental health may depend on it.

*-Dana Erkkila  
Chemical Health  
Specialist  
Bois Forte Human  
Services*

## BOIS FORTE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY OUT-PATIENT PROGRAM

### PHASE II/RELAPSE

This Phase II Relapse Chemical Dependency Program is a new addition to our Specialized Treatment Services. Offering superior client care with a variety of services, experienced and highly trained, team oriented staff. The Phase II/Relapse Program is thirty-six hours in length, three hours per day, two days per week, for six weeks. Also a Driving Under the Influence/Driving While Intoxicated (DUI-DWI) Clinic will be integrated into the Phase II/Relapse Program. We are licensed Out-Patient Chemical Dependency Treatment facility for adolescents and adults. We are conveniently located on the Nett Lake and Vermilion Reservation. All our clinical staff are experienced

### Specialized Treatment Services Are:

- Out-Patient treatment, six weeks in length
- Specializing in Chemical Dependency
- Experienced and highly trained staff individual and group therapy
- Client education
- Individualized treatment planning
- Medical evaluation, if needed
- Psychiatric evaluation and therapy
- Mental health counseling by referral
- Rule 25 Assessment
- The therapeutic approaches that are used, but not limited to are: Reality Therapy, Client Centered Therapy, Gestalt, Behavior Modification, Rational Emotion/Therapy and American Indian Culture and Spirituality, attendance at a self-help support group is a requirement.

in Chemical Dependency and are licensed by the State of Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy.

*-Sidney Adams  
Licensed Alcohol and  
Drug Counselor  
Bois Forte Human  
Services*

## LEARN OJIBWE!

Ojibwe Classes taught by Karen Drift  
Beginning Tues. Jan. 9th from 7-9 PM  
The Jan. 9th class will be held at the  
Heritage Center and alternate the following  
Tues. with Nett Lake Community Center  
Ojibwe Class Schedule for January 2007:  
Jan. 9-Heritage Center  
Jan. 16-Nett Lake  
Jan. 23-Heritage Center  
Jan. 30-Nett Lake  
Classes will continue into February,  
schedule to be announced

This program is **FREE** to the public and all ages are welcome. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Questions, call Rhonda or Bev at the Heritage Center, 218-753-6017

## COMMUNITY LETTER

To the Bois Forte Band:  
I am writing this letter to you to apologize for my actions at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. I know that my actions were wrong. I have now finished serving my jail sentence and have completed my inpatient and outpatient treatment program. I now have over 114 days of sobriety, and am on my way to a healthy living. I plan to start school next fall to be a CD counselor. The main reason I am writing this letter is to

apologize to all the people I've harmed from my actions, and the embarrassment I've caused, I truly am sorry. I would also like to take this time to thank the Bois Forte Tribal Court staff, Nett Lake Police Department, and Fortune Bay staff for the work they did in helping me realize my addiction. Without them I would probably still be using, or in a worse situation. I would also like to thank everyone who believed in me and gave me a second chance to

prove myself. I know that what I did is a serious offense, but I truly am sorry to everyone I disappointed. Meth is a real problem in our communities. I hope that with this letter I can give some on hope that you can change, and you can succeed. So with that I want to thank you again to everyone that has helped me get on the right path, and I hope that everyone can forgive me for my actions.  
Sincerely,  
*-Shawn Villebrun*

## OJIBWE SCROLLS COME FULL CIRCLE

*Editors Note: News of the return of the ancient scrolls to Bois Forte continues to attract media attention. The following story, by reporter Larry Oakes, is reprinted with permission from the Minneapolis Star Tribune.*

For those who believe in spiritual forces, the story of the sacred scrolls of the Bois Forte Chippewa offers a wonderful affirmation. For those who believe we walk alone, the story offers an amazing coincidence. In September, members of the northern Minnesota tribe gathered at Spirit Island on Nett Lake for a ceremony. There, according to witnesses, a drumkeeper named Shane Drift recounted his recent dream that forgotten stories and songs of the tribe would somehow "come back to us."

About two weeks later, in early October, the phone rang at the new Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum, next to Fortune Bay Casino.

The caller was Raymond Cloutier, a physician in Bowling Green, Ky. Cloutier said that hanging in glass cases on the walls of his study were 42 birch bark scrolls inscribed with symbols and pictures.

Cloutier said the scrolls had come with a letter saying that some of the scrolls were more than 200 years old, and all originated "at Nett Lake

on the Bois Forte Reservation."

The letter -- a report from a historical society that had sought interpretation from Ojibwe medicine men -- said the scrolls depicted ceremonial songs "concerning the most fundamental laws and needs of the [Ojibwe] people."

Cloutier told the astounded museum curator, Bill Latady, that he had cherished the scrolls for decades, but he had come to believe they belonged with the tribe. Last week the band announced that the scrolls are back at Bois Forte, in a climate-controlled museum room, after untold decades away.

A group of elders has confirmed that they are long-lost records of the Bois Forte lodge of the Midewiwin, or Grand Medicine Society, a selective Ojibwe religious order that preserved its rites on birch bark and was driven underground for most of the 20th century, when Indian religions were outlawed by the U.S. government.

"Spiritually, this is probably the most important thing that has ever happened [to the tribe]," said Rose Berens, the tribe's preservation officer. "I was awestruck."

The Bois Forte Reservation is largely in Koochiching County in far northern Minnesota.

The band's elders decided the scrolls cannot be photographed, or even seen, by anyone who doesn't belong to the religious order, except for curator Latady.

Berens says that even she has not seen them, and won't until she is initiated into the order next spring in a ceremony on the Red Lake reservation.

### Mysterious journey

Cloutier said his grandfather, Dr. Herbert Burns, acquired the scrolls when he was superintendent of Ah-Gwah-Ching tuberculosis sanatorium near Walker, Minn., in the early 1900s. Bois Forte leaders speculate that poverty-stricken ancestors might have bartered them for treatment.

Cloutier isn't so sure. He said Burns was a "Renaissance man" with many interests and collections, including a trove of Indian artifacts, most of which eventually went to a museum in Walker. Cloutier suspects his grandfather bought the scrolls and the authentication letter accompanying them, probably from another non-Indian.

A few years after Burns died in 1949, the scrolls, packed in cardboard drums, went to Cloutier, then only about 12.

The scrolls range from 9 by 3 inches to 6 by 2 feet, according to Latady. The drawings are on the brown side of the bark, some drawn with charcoal and others applied with red paint. Some images are carved, he

said.

Out of respect to the band's wishes, neither Latady nor Cloutier would describe the drawings, but experts who have studied similar scrolls say they most often contain "mnemonic," or memory-aiding symbols, to recall songs among a people with no written language.

"The coming of the gods is portrayed bestowing creation of men and other creatures upon the land and in the waters of the earth," says the Bois Forte scrolls' accompanying report, written in the 1930s by the Becker County Historical Society. "The heralds of these gods, half land and half water spirits, serve the gods as ambassadors. ... Another song relates how the gods give the Indians the privilege of for the first time eating meat." From owner to guardian

Cloutier said that in the 1990s he became aware of a law requiring institutions that get federal funds to return sacred artifacts to Indian tribes. The law didn't apply to him, but he said a nagging idea grew in him: "The people the scrolls came from were not some dead Indians from a dead culture; they were still there, and they may have been suffering somewhat for having lost part of their culture. About the time I realized this, I stopped being an owner and became a guardian."

He found the Bois Forte band's website, saw that a museum had opened in 2002, and decided to

return the scrolls. His only stipulation was that the band retrieve them; he didn't want to risk shipping them.

A few days after hearing from Cloutier, Berens, spiritual adviser Vernon Adams and Bois Forte elders Myra Thompson and Phyllis Boshey drove to Kentucky, dined with Cloutier and his wife, Joyce, and left with their precious cargo.

"Once I got over the damage to my greed, it made perfect sense to return these things," Cloutier said. "Unfortunately, most of the time, these things were taken from their owners in ways that probably wouldn't make us proud today."

Tribal Chairman Kevin Leecy wrote to Cloutier that his "thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated by everyone ... from the elders who listened to the songs and stories in their youth to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will once again have that opportunity due to your generosity."

Adams said he now wonders if the strange journey of the scrolls was fortunate. Similar scrolls were destroyed by missionaries and others during the century that the Midewiwin was outlawed.

"To me, they took a path they were meant to take," Adams said. "They left, were preserved and now have come back. It's exciting to see. This is where our past meets the future."

## OBITUARY

**Joshua Ryan Rutar, 15, Buyck, died of injuries sustained in a snowmobile accident on January 1, 2007.**



SERVICES: Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:00 AM Friday at the Orr School Gymnasium. Fr. Larry Antus O.M.I. was the celebrant. Visitation was from 5 to 7 PM Thursday at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr, and continued for one hour prior to the service. The casket bearers were: Dusty Gabrielson, Jeremy Wright, Brandon

Anderson, Ben Hoffman, Robert Astleford and Brock Olson. The honorary bearers will be nephews: Bradley Day, Justin Rutar, John Stout, Lance Connor, Christopher Wells, Daniel Wells, Aren Hofmaster and David Connor. The Bois Forte Drum and All Nation Singers also took

part. Interment is at the Forest Home Cemetery in Buyck.

JosH (as he spelled it) was born on November 16, 1991, in Hibbing. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. JosH loved sports and the outdoors. He was active in many varsity and B-squad sports for the Orr High School Braves and community sports, including basketball, football, little league baseball and golf. He respected and had a great admiration for all his coaches throughout the years. JosH also was enthusiastic in 4-wheeling, snowmobiling, and liked ping-pong. He

was a ninth grader at the Orr High School, and sang in the school choir. He loved his pets—his 11 year old cat named “Kittie-Bittie-Fozzie-Rutar” and his nearly 13 year old dog “Minnie.” He had many contract jobs mowing grass and trimming grass in the Buyck area, and was dependable. JosH was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Buyck, and a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. JosH was a great friend to many, and will be so sadly missed by his family and all who come to have known him. He is survived by his lov-

ing parents, Robert and Kelly Rutar of Buyck,; 1 brother Scott Rutar at home; paternal grandparents, Tony and Jessie Rutar of Buyck; maternal grandmother, Olive Connor of Rosemont, MN., and maternal great grandmother, Viola Villebrun of Nett Lake., along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and many, many friends. JosH is preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Lawrence Connor in 1999.

Arrangements were with the Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

## COMMUNITY LETTER

I would like to take this time to conjure up thoughts for this past year. This has been a very trying and a sad year for me. As you all know, I am a survivor and will try to conquer most problems head on. I was having coffee and a cigarette out on the back of the house; I could not help but notice the clean fresh fallen snow. Even though the weather is finally like winter, it was awesome. The birds were singing and fluttering by the birdfeeder. That is when I realized how important freedom is to me.

You know ever since the September 11th incident, many people are beginning to finally talk freely, about the sudden fear that was instilled that day. This is the kind of fear that is unknown and

can come back anytime at all.

Freedom is taken for granted. Just think of all the people who live right in our own state of Minnesota, that do not have the freedom to do the things we think of as every day tasks. For example, making our own coffee in the morning. Looking across your own yard at clean freshly fallen snow or things such as a good decent meal, or at mothers and fathers walking with their children, is such a precious sight to see. These are things we take for granted. Can you imagine NOT having those comfort zones? It makes me happy to know people do take these special moments to make a good experience out of some special tasks that is so remembered in

year to come. These tasks such as a walk about the neighborhood, picking wild flowers, and doing a special task for someone who cannot do that for himself or herself. These tasks of caring, make a good experience out of something that is so remembered in years to come.

I would like to thank all the people who donated hours to me when I was using the share leave program. I really appreciate your generous help. This year has been a trying and difficult year for me. Like always I will bounce back to normal living after April of 2007. Also I would like to thank all the people who voted for me for the school board. Again thank you for your support.

-Cisco Isham

## ATTENTION BOIS FORTE BAND MEMBERS

The Bois Forte Tribal Government cordially invites you to attend the

### State of the Band

5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 25, 2007

at Fortune Bay Resort Casino

Woodlands Ballroom, Tower, Minnesota

Come early and take advantage of the following free opportunities available for Band members from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



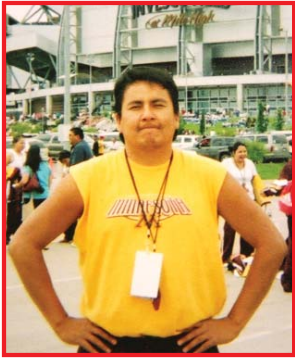
- Job Opportunity Fair
- Department information booths
- Tribal ID Cards created onsite (Bring proper ID: Valid drivers license or state issued ID card; or social security card and certified birth certificate)
- Information on Band Finances (Tribal ID required)
- Reception for the Bois Forte Language CD with Karen Drift at the Heritage Center.

Stick around after for a concert with Keith Secola.

State of the Band discounted Fortune Bay room rates available for Band members, first come first serve basis, rooms are limited.  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino (800) 992-7529.  
Bois Forte Tribal Government (800) 221-8129 • (218) 757-3261  
www.boisforte.com

## NATIVE ATHLETES

### Brandon Benner



Brandon Benner  
Sports

## VILLEBRUN ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF HER LABOR...

Every since Jenna Villebrun first picked up a basketball she had the natural ability to be one of the best basketball players in Orr School History. The only thing missing was the hunger. Well the second time she picked up a basketball that was taken care of. Here we are 10 years later and that hunger still drives her to shoot whenever she can and to play every chance she gets. It is that hunger that has lead her to become the All-time leading scorer in Orr High School basketball history in both boys and girls division. It is that hunger that will no doubt lead her to an illustrious College Career wherever she chooses to play.

Jenna has become one of the hottest recruits in northern Minnesota with Itasca Community College (CC), Rainy River CC, Mesabi Range CC, Vermilion CC, University of Minnesota-Morris,

Gustavis Adolphus, University of Wisconsin-Superior, St. Benedict's, and Upper Iowa University as the colleges that are currently beckoning her services.

With little or no notoriety in the media, Jenna has proven to be her own best saleswoman. Her steady, dominating style of play partnered with an academic career (3.79 G.P.A.) keeps the coaches calling. She has also sparked interest from Harvard University, with a chance to get a free ride there with everything paid for. This is a program that is designed for talented minority students that Jenna came across on the internet. With Jenna's credentials, she is a solid candidate for this program. Also, don't be surprised if she "walks on" the basketball team there. Hard work in the summer and her versatility as player that can play any position on the basketball court

gives her a chance to become the first Bois Forte player to make Division I. But, if you think it is all about Jenna, you are dead wrong.

With a very young team and a chance to average around 25pts per game pushing her school lead even further, Jenna has fallen in line with Coach Beseke's plan of team basketball. She passes up plenty of scoring opportunities to get her young teammates involved. It is this type of thinking that will take her far in life no matter what she decides to do. When interviewed she wouldn't give in to the heralded Bois Forte News. I bet only her dog "Chino" knows what she is going to do. Her favorite memory of basketball is, "Playing at UMD last season." This was when Jenna lead a team further than any other team has gone in Orr Girl's history. She

leaves this advice behind for the younger Lady Braves if they want it; simple, but true, "Hard work pays off."

The basketball hoops at the Orr School and the Nett Lake Police Department can attest to that as this is where she built her game. Many folk would like to tell you they had a hand in her success. But, it was only Jenna's determination coupled with loving and supportive parents, and family that can be credited with everything she has accomplished. With all that said, Jenna is even a better person than player. She always thinks of her friends and family first. Jenna couldn't tell you what sibling rivalry is as she cherishes her younger brother and sister - Jordan and



Jenna Villebrun

Destiny. She adores and looks up to her big brother Kevin. She is enjoying life right now, not looking too far ahead, only to a game on January 8, when she faces her 'old coach'- Johnny Boy Villebrun. She said, "I look forward to the challenge." Something she's said a million times in her young life.

## VILLEBRUN NAME CARRIES ON IN BASKETBALL...



Coach John Villebrun

It seems that the Villebrun name and basketball go hand in hand. With the likes of exceptional players such as

Ray Villebrun Sr., to Bryan, Ed and Warren Villebrun, to Mike Villebrun, to Frank Jr. and Donny Villebrun, to David Villebrun Jr., to Earl Villebrun, to the more recent additions Kevin and Aaron Villebrun, and to Jenna Villebrun. Even if it was Bozh Villebrun "raining 3's" at the Janitor's Classic basketball tournament in Nett Lake, it seems that the Villebrun gang has had a knack for

the game of basketball. Well, the name will carry on in a different form-coaching.

John Villebrun, son of the late "Fox" Villebrun and Edith Villebrun assumed his position as the Head Coach of the Albrook Falcons girls basketball team this season. And although John played the game, he'd be the first to tell you he wasn't the star of the team. This never stopped him from understanding, learning and loving the game of basketball.

*continued on page 11.*

## DRAMA AT THE BUZZER

As the last seconds ticked away and the teams traded leads, it was the Eagles who came away with 45-44 win over Orr

A big crowd was on hand Monday night at the Bois Forte Wellness Center as the Tower/Soudan (TS) Golden Eagles played host to the Orr Braves.

A big opening ceremony and the bright lights of the new facility lent a playoff atmosphere to the conference match-up, and the players responded with one of the most exciting girls matchups of the season so far.

It was junior Betty Suikhonen's bucket with eight seconds left that put the Golden Eagles on top after the Braves had led most of the second half.

The Braves would get

one last chance, but their shot bounced off the front of the rim just ahead of the buzzer, giving TS the 45-44 win. Suikhonen was one of three Golden Eagles to reach double figures in the match-up.

"What a great win," exclaimed TS Head Coach Randy Johnson, who was elated following the comeback victory. He said his team showed considerable poise in the home stretch in overcoming strong offensive performances by Orr's Jenna Villebrun, who poured in seven points in the final minutes, and Kelsey Radle, who finished with 17 points overall.

The Braves held the biggest lead of the night halfway through the second half, after a Villebrun three and two-pointer in quick succession put Orr up 34-27. But Alyssa



The Tribal Council welcomes everyone.

Goodwin responded with a trey of her own for the Eagles, to close the gap to four. The Golden Eagles tied it at the five minute mark on a Katrina Broten free throw. But the Braves grabbed the lead again, taking advantage of the Golden Eagles foul troubles. Two clutch buckets from Broten put the Eagles back up with less than two minutes to go, but Radle responded for the Braves, with a trey at the minute mark to

put Orr up by one. Both teams battled for possession in the final minute, but the Eagles ended up with the ball at the eleven second mark. After a side-in toss and a missed shot from the outside, Suikhonen, who dominated the boards all night, grabbed



Student - Athletes from both teams sing the National Anthem.

continued on page 12.

## Villebrun Name

Continued from page 10.

It never stopped him from developing the gift of motivating and caring for kids. John served 6 years as co-coach of the Orr Lady Braves where he was instrumental in building a fledging program into a local powerhouse. He believes he can do the same with the Albrook Falcons. John has won over his new team, as they and the community have

embraced his fun loving but stern style of coaching. This is relevant in the fact that their record so far is 3-2. John says, "I enjoy the relationships I am building with my new team. I enjoy practices, games, and the bus rides. It's funny to listen to them." He says the only obstacle he's faced so far is, "1st season growing pains. The kids had to adjust to a new way of doing things. Other than that, it is going great." Obstacles or not, John is deter-

mined to succeed, and he has the whole village of Bois Forte behind him. John's longtime friend Shane Drift knows John will succeed as a Head Coach. He adds, "He's a sports fanatic, his good attitude and enthusiasm spills over into his players. The only bad part is Rae-Rae (John's wife) takes his check." As you can gather, the first part was sincere and the last part was a joke. The two long time friends enjoy taking friendly shots at each other.

John has no bold predictions or unreasonable goals for his team except to finish above .500 and make the final four of the sections. One game he is looking forward to is the Orr game on January 8 in Albrook. He gets to face his old team the Orr Lady Braves and his former player Jenna Villebrun. Even with the care he stills carries for his old 'crew', John is a competitor. He says, "Although it will be an honor to sit across from Jenna, Albrook is my

team now and we will be going for the win. We might hold her down, or she might score 50 points against us, either way, my team will be ready and we'll be going for the win." So John's ready. Jenna's ready. And the mutual love, honor, and respect they have for one another as player and coach will not matter for one day - January 8th. The gloves will be off.

## Drama Buzzer

*Continued from page 11.*

the rebound and put it in for the two, sending the Tower-Soudan side of the bleachers to their feet. The loss was a tough one for the 1-5 Braves. "We had lots of chances at the end to put it away," said Orr Head Coach Liz Beseke. "We just couldn't get it done."

Villebrun led all scorers on the night, with 18 points. Radle's 17 was a strong second. Rachel Morrison added five points for the Braves,

Kelsey Ingebretson added three and Stephanie Ebel one. Broten led the way for Tower-Soudan, with 12 points and eight rebounds, while Suikhonen scored 11 and grabbed 18 boards. Goodwin had a strong night as well, grabbing 13 boards and scoring ten points. Also scoring were Sara Kregness, with six, and Pam Frazee and Danielle Goodwin, with three.

*Reprint: Timberjay Marshall Helmsberger*

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ATTENTION YOUNG NATIVE ARTISTS

## EDUCATION: A GIFT WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

2007 NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ART COMPETITION

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education Native American Student Art Competition is open to AI/AN students in pre K - 12.

Due to the overwhelming response to the 2006 competition, all entries for the 2007 competition must be registered online [www.indianeducation.org/sac](http://www.indianeducation.org/sac) or by calling the toll free number (888) 747-4994 to receive a registration confirmation number before you submit your art.

Last year the contest garnered 1398 entries with 18 winners and 2 honorable mentions whose artwork is now part of a traveling student art exhibit.

The deadline for the 2007 Student Art Competition is 3/14/2007.

## FORTUNE BAY JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

TITLE: FOOD AND BEVERAGE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT: FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
SUPERVISOR: GENERAL MANAGER  
SHIFT: DAYS/ WEEKENDS  
WAGE: DEPENDENT ON QUALIFICATIONS

CLOSING DATE: January 16, 2007

### JOB SUMMARY:

The Food and Beverage Director is responsible for the overall planning, directing, and controlling of food and bar service operations to include the Gift Shop, Deli operations, Tamarack Dining Room, Kitchen operations, Banquets, and Bar Departments. The incumbent shall provide sound leadership in the management and administration of assigned departments for the maximization of revenues and control of related costs. The Food and Beverage Director will establish and monitor training programs to assure the delivery of outstanding customer service, safety, sanitation, orientation, and quality food products.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

The Food and Beverage Director must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management or related major and possess at least five years of management experience in a similar position. The candidate should also have Retail management experience.

### JOB REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

The Food and Beverage Director must have overall good physical and mental health to work in a fast-paced service and entertainment environment. The incumbent will be exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke while in the restaurant and in the gaming areas of the property. Manual dexterity is required for extensive computer work and to be able to move quickly around objects, handle, and manipulate objects with hands and fingers; good vision is required to see objects at close range. The Food and Beverage Director must be able to stay focused and have good vision and a keen sense of hearing, smell, and taste. The position requires sound mental health and flexibility to deal with employee and customer conflict, working long hours, and related stress. Due to the assigned responsibilities of different departments and job functions, full mobility of the position is a requirement; therefore, reasonable physical accommodations would be minimal.

### TO APPLY:

Please submit a resume, cover letter and references highlighting related work experience to

**Director of Human Resources  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino  
1430 Bois Forte Road  
Tower, MN 55790**

Application material must be received by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Complete position descriptions can be obtained upon e-mail request to [tdagen@fortunebay.com](mailto:tdagen@fortunebay.com) or by calling the Employment Coordinator at 218-753-6400 extension 7747.

Indian Preference will apply when candidates are of equal qualifications

TRIBAL MINUTES

Minutes for November 2 & 21, 2006

**Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held November 2, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.**

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin W. Leecy; David C. Morrison, Sr.; Ray Villebrun, Sr.; Mark Drift, Sr.

Members Absent: Ray Toutloff

Others Present: Edith Villebrun; Vicki Holmes; Jerome Whiteman; Marge Holmes; George Mihelich; Marilyn Geshick; Mavis Drift; Shirley Benner; Louise Isham; Marcella Connor; Rose Berens; Lorna Landgren; Mary Strong; Pete Drift, Sr.; Adrienne Zapata; Ruth Porter; Donna Hoffer; Corinna Shirlin; Corey Strong; Stan Day; Billie Mason; Rosemary King; Carl Dagen; Gary Adams; Kim Greiner; Carol Burr; Jeneal Goggleye; Jarrod Whiteman; Wendy Thompson; Nikki Irving; Dawn Benner

A moment of silence is held in place of invocation.

Ray Toutloff enters the meeting.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held October 12, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held October 24, 2006 at the Lake Vermillion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation. Carried 4-0-0.

Elders Committee: 1) Council is informed the scrolls are now back at Bois Forte. 2) Council is informed the Elders Committee supports the pow-wow committee in regard to an incident that happened at the pow-wow. 3) In regard to Harold Goodsky's request, the elders thought he had funding for a pow-wow to honor those who have passed on. When they met with him, he wanted to cancel the mid-Winter pow-wow at Nett Lake and hold an earlier one at Vermillion and to use the pow-wow committee funds. The Elders did not agree that it should be moved or the date be changed. They also had offered to help him with fund raising because they felt the pow-wow committee's funding should be used for the three pow-wows already scheduled each year. Mark Drift, Sr. states the mid-Winter pow-wow won't be changed, and the elders

did support Harold's idea and he is moving forward with his plans for a pow-wow and he will probably have it in the gym at Vermillion. 4) In regard to shoveling/plowing this year, Jerome Whiteman states it will be basically the same route as last year and there will be about 2 or 3 people shoveling. Corinna Wettlin is to contact Housing for the elders list for shoveling in Vermillion.

Jerome Whiteman is present with his son, Jarrod Whiteman, who is home for a week from Iraq. He wanted to publicly thank the Council for their support, their thoughts and the Band flag which he flies at Iraq.

New tribal government employees introduced are: Ruth Porter, Administrative Assistant.

Stan Day requests to use half of the old roads garage for a work shop for his business on a temporary basis until something becomes available at the sawmill site. Carl Dagen is to work out an agreement on the building and figure out a cost towards the electricity, heat, and phone.

Stan Day states about a year ago he submitted a rough draft of a business plan to Steve Peterson and Jim Tolan, who administer the Business Development Program. They were going to work on his plan. Stan asked for it back about a month ago and nothing

was done to it. Chairman Leecy will talk to them and have them work on it.

Billie Mason and Corey Strong are on the State of the Band planning committee and give an update on the plans and are seeking direction on some items. Is the theme Celebration of Sovereignty okay, can the Council take over instead of having an emcee, who wants to make speeches, will financials be done in the executive board room, will information on construction projects be provided again, gifts for attendees. The theme is okay, Kim Greiner will have the financials in the executive board room for Band members, Dawn Benner and Dave Anderson will provide information on construction projects again, Chairman Leecy and Mark Drift, Sr. will give speeches. The language c.d.'s and t-shirts will be given out (the business- es to cover the cost of the t-shirts). Karen Drift and Keith Secola will be recognized for the language c.d.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #132-2007, lease cancellation – W. Larry and Patricia Suihkonen. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #133-2007, residential lease – Corey Strong. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #134-2007, residential lease – Leonard and Wendy Thompson. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #135-2007, residential lease – Kevin W. Leecy. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #136-2007, lease cancellation – Gerald W. Goggleye, Jr. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #137-2007, residential lease – Ronald W. Adams. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #138-2007, lease cancellation – Roger L. and Betty Vaudrin. Carried 3-0-1. Ray Toutloff silent.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #139-2007, recreational lease – Debra Baxter. Carried 3-0-1. Ray Toutloff silent.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #140-2007, rescinding resolution #53-2007 (residential lease – Shirley McNey). Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by David

*continued on page 14.*

## Minutes

*continued from page 13.*

Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #141-2007, residential lease – Shirley McNey. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to adopt resolution #142-2007, lease – Nett Lake School. Carried 4-0-0.

Discussion held on the boundary issue between Gary Adams and Craig Olson, the individual next to Gary who is selling his property to Rosemary King. Gary was clearing his lot and had to remove boulders that were put there. There is a sauna and woodshed encroaching on Gary Adams' lot. Gary had requested a survey which was done and staked. The stake was removed and thrown on Gary's lot. Gary requested another survey which was done and the same thing happened. Gary is putting in a house and needs room for his house. Nikki Irving sent a letter to Craig Olson stating he couldn't do anything with the lot until the buildings were removed. Nikki is to rescind the letter and let the transaction go through so the Band member can get the lot (Mark Anderson will draft a resolution for her because she will be buying the property by contract for deed). And to avoid conflict between Band members, Public Works is to move the building on to Rosemary's lot. Gary Adams is to be compen-

sated for the encroachment on his lot.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to temporarily stop contributing premiums to the workers compensation fund effective December 31, 2006. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve out of state travel for Christine Bloom and Jane Villebrun to attend the Early Childhood Programs Cluster Management Training in Health Services (Christine) and Family and Community Partnerships training (Jane) to be held November 6-8, 2006 in Pierre, South Dakota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Darin Steen to attend the USEPA Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting to be held November 8-9, 2006 in Kalamazoo/Battlecreek, Michigan. Carried 4-0-0.

Corinna Wettlin is to get Band handicap license plates for the two Elder's vans in Vermilion.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.

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### Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois

### Forte Reservation Tribal Council held November 21, 2006 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:12 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin W. Leecy; Ray Villebrun, Sr.; Mark Drift, Sr.; Ray Toutloff

Members Absent: David C. Morrison, Sr. (excused, will be present later)

Others Present: Barb Brodeen; Mark Anderson; Henry Goodsky; Vicki Holmes; George Mihelich; Kim Greiner; Pam Baber; Jeneal Goggeleye; Justin Wendland; Marcella Connor; Effie Drift; Norm Adams; Marge Holmes; Jane Villebrun; Darla Flett; Edith Villebrun; Gary Gotchnik; Wendy Thompson; Carl Dagen; Carol Burr; Judy Posch; Marilyn Geshick; Rose Berens; Rosemary King; Bob Hedlund; Bill Latady; Corey Strong; Doris Isham; Nina Villebrun; Mary Strong; Billie Mason; Corinna Wettlin; Jerome Whiteman; Nikki Irving; Keith Secola; Tracey Dagen; Lorna Landgren; Stan Day; Valarie Boness; Dawn Benner; Jim Tolan; Shawn Villebrun; Craig Olson

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of the request from the 1854 Authority for a Band flag and the

request from the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) for a flag carrier for the annual MAICC dinner and award presentation. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held November 2, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 3-0-0.

Elders Committee: 1) The Council is thanked for the gift cards for Veteran's Day. 2) The elders want to know who will be helping with the planning of the Elders trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico and that they want someone to come to the next Elders meeting to give an update. It is decided that Corinne Whiteman will be the contact person and will help with the planning.

New Tribal Government staff: Darla Flett is the new Community Health Representative.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the renewal of the Network of Emergency Services Training contract with Pam Baber to provide training and ancillary services for the Bois Forte Band and Fortune Bay Resort and Casino for 2007. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve changes to the Medical Plan as presented by

Edith Villebrun and Norm Adams for the government employees and Fortune Bay employees, effective January 1, 2007. Carried 3-0-0.

Chairman Leecy recognizes Keith Secola, who helped with the language CD and who did benefit concerts in Hibbing and Virginia for the homeless.

Ray Toutloff leaves the meeting.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the increases in the funding rates for the single and family medical and dental premiums for the Self-funded Medical and Dental Plan for the government employees and Fortune Bay employees for calendar year 2007. Carried 2-0-0.

Ray Toutloff returns to the meeting.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve a provisional license for the Nett Lake and Vermilion Head Start/Day Care Centers. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #144-2007, revisions to the Programmatic Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding consultation on federal transportation projects in Minnesota that have the

*continued on page 15.*

**Minutes**

*continued from page 14.*

potential to impact cultural resources of the Band. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #145-2007, residential lease – Nina Villebrun. Carried 2-0-1. Mark Drift, Sr. silent.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #146-2007, residential lease – Dorothy A. Strong and Jeffrey Geshick. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #147-2007, lease modification – adding Wendy Mae Drift to Mavis Drift lease. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the revisions to the Bois Forte Education Division Bois Forte Scholarship Program as recommended by Billie Mason, Commissioner of Education. Carried 3-0-0.

Gary Gotchnik presents a check in the amount of \$5,650.00 to Billie Mason for the Bois Forte Scholarship Fund. The money is from the Bois Forte Scholarship Golf Tournament that was held this summer at The Wilderness Golf Course.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to con-

tribute \$6,579.06 to Greenwood Township for fire protection for Vermilion for 2007. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to contribute \$2,250.00 to the city of Tower for ambulance/EMS services for Vermilion for 2007. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; to table the blight ordinance until the next meeting. Ray Villebrun, Sr. asks if it is a question about enforcement because there is an ordinance in place right now. Ray Toutloff states there are two trailers at Vermilion that are not occupied and are deteriorating. One is at Eagle Point and one is on the main road, County Road 104. Ray Toutloff is informed Council action is not needed to enforce the ordinance, that Corey Strong and Pete Drift, Sr. enforce the ordinance and they just need a request to look into it.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to adopt resolution #148-2007, urging the Members of Congress from Minnesota and the United States Congress to restore funding for the DHHS Centers of Excellence and the Health Careers Opportunity Programs to FY 2005 levels. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #149-2007,

concurring with the determination of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that the condition of Building 722 warrants its demolition (suffered water damage and subsequent mold infestation to the extent that rehabilitation of the building is not feasible), and authorizing the Bois Forte DNR to coordinate the demolition with the BIA. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Toutloff; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to authorize Fortune Bay to negotiate the Gaming Industry Tip Compliance Agreement with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to authorize the General Manager of Fortune Bay to execute it so it will be in place by January 1, 2007. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve requesting the MCT Legislative Subcommittee and the Tribal Executive Committee acknowledge that 100% of the proceeds of timber sales on Minnesota Chippewa Tribe land within Bois Forte's jurisdiction are handled completely by Bois Forte and the TEC's approval on how Bois Forte spends the money (the 10%, 25%, and 65% Forestry Accounts money) is not required anymore. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Brent Chosa, Ed Villebrun, and Louis Drift to attend the Explosives Safety Course

to be held December 6-7, 2006 at Odanah, Wisconsin. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Teri Morrison to attend the Public Health Preparedness Summit to be held February 19-23, 2007 in Washington, D.C. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Darin Steen and Kevin Koski to attend the EPA Region 5 Tribal Air Conference to be held December 12-14, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois. Carried 3-0-0.

Council is informed Jerome Whiteman will be the Bois Forte Honor Guard member who will attend the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner/ Awards Presentation and will be the flag carrier.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Toutloff; to approve the request from the 1854 Authority office for a Bois Forte Band flag to display at their office. Carried 3-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Carried 3-0-0. [END]

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST WINNERS!**

**NETT LAKE**  
1ST PETE DRIFT  
2ND PATSY ADAMS  
3RD ANGELO KINGBIRD

**PALMQUIST/INDIAN POINT/SUGARBUSH**  
1ST RAE EDSTROM  
2ND EILEEN BARNEY  
3RD JACKIE VILLEBRUN

**VERMILION**  
1ST VIVIAN PROULX  
2ND JIM MORRISON  
3RD GEORGE MIHELICH

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

BOIS FORTE TRADITIONAL



MID-WINTER

# POW-WOW

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:  
GEORGE STRONG

HOST DRUM:  
DRIFT TRADITIONAL

ALL DRUMS WELCOME.  
MUST HAVE 4 OR MORE SINGERS TO  
REGISTER YOUR DRUM.

HONORARIUMS AVAILABLE FOR THE  
FIRST FIFTEEN REGISTERED DRUMS  
AND FOR ALL REGISTERED DANCERS.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
ADRIENNE OR LOUISE AT 218-757-3261.

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2007

NETT LAKE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA

FRIDAY

WARM UPS, DRUM CEREMONIES, JAM SESSION

SATURDAY

GRAND ENTRY AT 1PM & 7PM  
WITH THE FEAST AT 5PM

SUNDAY

GRAND ENTRY AT 1PM & 6PM  
WITH THE FEAST AT 4PM

*All drums welcome!*

ABSOLUTELY NO  
DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED



The Bois Forte Pow-Wow Committee and Bois Forte Tribal Government is not responsible for lost or stolen property.