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Bois Forte



News

NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - September 2011

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Minnesota Chippewa Tribe enrollment request for information



The Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) is seeking input from its tribal membership and descendants to gain a more complete picture of its tribal enrollment by requesting information about what other non-Minnesota Chippewa Tribe blood exists within families enrolled with MCT. This includes blood quantum from other federally recognized Tribes and Canadian First Nations.

Currently, the MCT enrolls individuals who possess at least ¼ degree MCT Indian blood. There are many individuals who possess less than ¼ degree MCT Indian blood who may also have Indian ancestry or blood quantum from other federally recognized Tribes. These individuals are not enrolled with the MCT, but may be eligible for enrollment in the future if the enrollment criteria are changed. This information gathering exercise does not constitute a vote on changing enrollment criteria, but it is the first step in the process of determining whether the MCT will consider changing its enrollment criteria in the future.

“This is especially important to Bois Forte and Grand Portage, because we are so close to the Canadian border,” said Secretary/Treasurer David Morrison Jr. “That artificial line, drawn to separate U.S. and Canadian lands, also put families into different countries. As a result, both bands have relatives on both sides of the border.”

“We have been pushing the blood quantum issue for some time,” said Band Chairman Kevin Leecy. “The MCT is finally ready to move, and this survey is an important part of the effort.”

If you choose to participate in this information gathering process, please include the following information and submit it in writing to the address below or, email it to MCTRFI@mnchippewatribe.org by October 31, 2011:

- Identify your family’s MCT and Band ancestry (e.g. MCT – Bois Forte Band)
- Identify your family’s non-MCT ancestry (e.g. Lac La Croix first Nation)

• Identify the number of family members with MCT and non-MCT ancestry who are not enrolled. All information you submit is voluntary and will be kept confidential in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, Public Law No. 93-579, (Dec. 31, 1974).

The next step in the process is to develop a formal enrollment survey. This survey will be prepared and sent to current tribal members in the fall/winter of 2011.

If you have questions, contact Brian Brunelle or Joel Smith at (218) 335-8581 or email MCTRFI@mnchippewatribe.org.

New dam construction to begin in September

Bids for a concrete subcontractor were let in August and all federal permits have been secured so the Bois Forte DNR and their engineering partner Wenck Associates, Inc. are planning to begin reconstruction of the dam on the Nett River in September.

A temporary dam will be placed upstream to de-water the work area. The old gates on the existing dam will be removed and the entire concrete structure will be strengthened. New, heavy-duty gate hardware and gates will be installed.

One of new gates will open top-down and the

other will open from bottom-up. This will afford additional flexibility in water level management allowing for greater and faster draw-down potential, which is necessary for early wild rice seed germination.

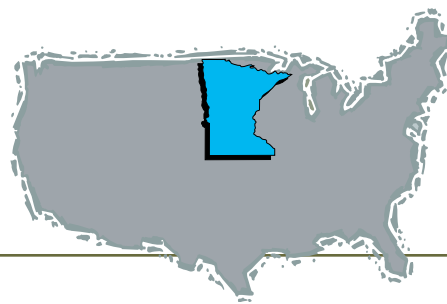
Hydraulic modeling based on specific gravity of rice straw and precipitation data indicates that this design will move more sediment and rice straw out of the system, where presently this is not possible. This new design should provide a better environment for wild rice growth. There will be no disruption apparent in the system (i.e., drastic water level changes) during the construction.

This is considered Phase 1 of the project and should take about 1-2 weeks to complete once started.

Phase II occurs next season and will include placement of a fish passage and restoration of some original river meanders downstream from the dam structure.

The EPA provided funding for this project through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

National and State News



Legislative session ends with fewer cuts than expected

It's over.

The legislative session that ended in a deadlock and shut down the state government in July was finally wrapped up by a Special Session. And in the end, the cuts that most programs received were not as deep as originally feared. However, the restored funding came largely from borrowing on money owed school districts and selling bonds to be repaid with future tobacco settlement revenues, a scheme the Band's lobbyists characterized as irresponsible.

Following is a quick look at some of the cuts and their affect on Band members and other Minnesotans. This information is a condensed overview of a report prepared by Bois Forte's Lobby team Robert Johnson & Associates. To view a more detailed legislative summary, go to www.boisforte.com and click on the Tribal Council page.

Health and Human Services

The \$1.04 billion in health and human services cuts will hurt the elderly, disabled, children, medical education institutions, counties, hospitals, and all other health care providers. Here are some examples:

- \$26.3 million in cuts for child care programs
- \$22 million cut from the Children and Community Services Act grants, the only state dollars that go to counties for child protection
- \$197 million in cuts to programs for the elderly and disabled

However, there are some bright spots:

- A new White Earth Human Services project (\$365,000) and a study of the need for a White Earth Urban Clinic (\$100,000)
- An increase in rural pharmacy payment rates
- \$62,000 for emergency medicine training in rural Minnesota

Also of note:

- Minnesota Family Investment Plan participants in the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card

program may not use cash assistance to purchase alcohol or tobacco

- Patients must be sicker than in the past to receive expensive residential treatment for chemical dependency

K-12 Education

- Funding was increased by \$195 million
- For fiscal year 2013, there will be no net change in statewide school district property tax levies, although the impacts vary by district
- Every school district must adopt a local literacy plan to have every child reading at or above grade level no later than the end of Grade 3
- Some districts are now eligible for additional small schools revenue
- Districts must reserve 2% of their basic revenue for staff development

Higher Education

- The total funding of roughly \$1.28 billion in each of the next two fiscal years represents a cut of 12% from the forecast

Natural Resources

Overall the DNR was cut 17%, and many of its essential programs were saved. Of particular interest to Bois Forte:

- Sulfate standards for waters that contain wild rice received only modest changes
- \$1.5 million for a wild rice study
- \$8 million for design and construction of infrastructure at Lake Vermilion State Park
- \$17 million to renovate state-owned facilities and recreational assets including the Soudan Underground Mine
- \$3 million to design, construct and equip an addition to and renovation of the Iron Range engineering program at Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in Virginia

New approach launched to reduce tribal alcohol and substance abuse problems

The seriousness of alcohol and substance abuse facing American Indian and Alaska Native communities has been brought to the forefront by a new federal program that will help communities deal with the aforementioned social issues.

"Alcoholism and addiction are among the most severe public health and safety problems facing American Indian and Alaska Native people," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The new program, which will be overseen by the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will help coordinate tribal substance abuse programs across the federal government with a special emphasis on promoting programs geared toward reaching youth and offering alternatives to incarceration.

"There is a clear need to align, leverage, and coordinate federal resources so that we can best support tribal efforts to build healthy and safe communities," said Secretary Ken Salazar.

For more information, go to <http://www.samhsa.gov/tloa>

Housing

- The Housing Finance Agency received a 6.3% cut
- There will be more money for counseling for the first-time homebuyers program

Indian Affairs Council

- The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council ended up being cut 5%, rather than losing all of its funding as anticipated
- The council received \$1.75 million for program grants that promote Indian language education, immersion, revitalization and preservation

RTC News



Band members receive 100% of 1854 Treaty Funds

As it has for the past six years, the Bois Forte Tribal Council returned to Band members 100% of the 1854 Treaty funds received from the state in August. Checks were mailed August 12, and enrolled adults over 18 years of age received \$775 each. Those under age 18 had their money placed in a trust fund that they can apply for after their 18th birthday.

The DNR contacted Bois Forte the first week in August with the news that this year's total payment would be \$2,537,348. The payment to Band members was determined by taking that total payment from the state and dividing it by 3,279, the number of enrolled members. The actual number per person was \$773.81, but the RTC rounded the amount up to \$775.

This year's individual check is down \$65 from last year's amount due to a decrease in the

payment received from the state and an increase in enrollment at Bois Forte. The State is seeing a consistent decrease in the number of fishing licenses sold as young people continue the trend of not taking up fishing in as great a number as their parents and grandparents. The state payment this year was down \$141,768 compared to the 2010 total.

At the same time that the state payment has declined, the number of enrollees at Bois Forte increased by 91 in the past year; bringing the total enrollment to 3,279 people.

A history of the payments

From 1994, when the payments began, until 1997, Band members received \$500 each. That amount increased to \$550 from 1998 through 2001, and was raised again to \$600 for 2002

through 2004. The payments were not fully returned to Band members during these years because the Band used a portion of the treaty money to fund tribal government programs and services.

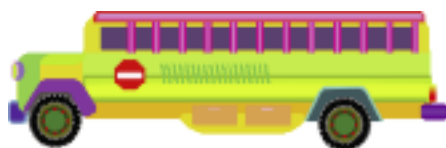
Beginning in 2005, the RTC has passed all of the treaty payments directly on to Band members. Bois Forte's diversified business portfolio, especially Fortune Bay, has had continued success even during the economic downturn of the past two years. Business profits have been directed by the RTC to fund programs and services such as housing, health care and education. Since the RTC was confident programs and services that Band members depend upon would be fully funded, they again chose to return all of this year's 1854 Treaty payment to enrolled members.

Protect the Kids

With more school buses on the roads this month, including our own new Head Start bus in Vermilion, the RTC offers a few tips for adults to be more alert and help keep our kids safe.

TIPS FOR ALL MOTORISTS

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Red overhead flashing lights, and/or an extended stop arm, tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children. Stop at least 20 feet from the front or rear of a school bus and do not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.
- Be Alert and ready to stop. Prepare to stop for a school bus when overhead yellow lights are flashing. Drive with caution if you see the yellow hazard warning lights flashing on a moving or stopped bus. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.



Vanessa Little hired as RTC Executive Coordinator

Every once in a while, you cross paths with a job that seems made for you. "The first time I read the job posting for the Senior Executive Coordinator for the Band, I thought they wrote it for me", said Bois Forte Band Member, Vanessa Little. "It was everything I wanted to do, had done, and loved doing."

Vanessa was working at Fortune Bay Resort Casino as the Human Resources Administrative Assistant when a co-worker showed her the job posting in May.

"I was immediately excited, it seemed like a great opportunity to use the skills I had gained in previous positions," these include; project management as the Divisional Kroc Project Associate for the Salvation Army and processing donor advised grants for The Saint Paul Foundation and the Minnesota Community Foundation.

Vanessa's parents are Tina Barto-Stanley (Bois Forte) and Sidney Lincoln (Leech Lake).

(cont. on page 4)



Vanessa Little looks at home in her new post as RTC Executive Coordinator.

Nett Lake



Nett Lake Duplex Update

Tribal Chair Kevin Leecy and Secretary Treasurer David Morrison, along with Community Planning and Development Director Andy Datko and Housing Commissioner Carol Burr and a representative of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency sign the closing documents for financing the new duplexes being built in Nett Lake.



Infrastructure work is underway at Pineview East to install sewer and water to the six new duplexes (12 units) being built by Bois Forte Band member Mike Bass of MB Custom Development of California. Bois Forte Band member Christina Woods, President of TAC Construction of Pequot Lakes is serving as a subcontractor on the Pineview East project.

(Vanessa Little cont. from page 3)

Tina's parents were Ernest and Florence Barto. Florence's parents were Maggie Benner Whiteman and John Whiteman. Ernie's parents were Mary Day and Frank Barto. Vanessa has a family of her own with husband Andrew Little, who is a Security Supervisor at Fortune Bay, and two children; Austin Wind (14) and Makenzie Little (2). They live in Orr.

Vanessa started her new position in July and she is very excited for upcoming projects she will coordinate, including; the Christmas Toy Program, Town Meetings, and the Elders' Holiday Dinner. "I love that every day is different. I never know what will happen next." Vanessa works on the second floor of the new Tribal Government building. Stop by and meet her the next time you're in to see the Council.

The Public Works staff and their subcontractors recently completed work repairing 4.3 miles of Palmquist Road. The project involved pulverizing the old road, installing two layers of new undersurface and a smooth top layer of bituminous asphalt concrete.



Public Works staff are also cutting and removing brush along side the road leading into Nett Lake. A major cause of accidents in the region are auto - deer collisions. Clearing back brush, small trees and grass mowing along side the roads will give drivers more time to spot wildlife and avoid collisions.

Nett Lake T-Ball Champions

Congratulations to the Nett Lake T-Ball Team on a great season! These young athletes won their division with an 8-2 record and then went on to sweep the North and South St. Louis County T-Ball Playoffs between 17 other teams. The Nett Lake Eagles were undefeated in four playoff games and won the Championship Trophy.

Squidg Morrison did a terrific job coaching the Eagles this season. Mii gwech to Brent Chosa, David Morrison Sr. and Lance Kingbird for also helping the young athletes improve their baseball skills.

Kneeling L-R: Caydean Holmes, Steve Morrison, Sean Morrison, Brianna "Peanut" Whiteman, Anna Lafave; Standing 1st row L-R: Bryce Chosa, Kayleigh Holmes, Angelo Kingbird, TJ Cly, Davonte Boshey; Standing 2nd Row Coaches L-R: Brent Chosa, David Morrison Sr., Lance Kingbird, and Squidg Morrison. Thanks to Teresa Morrison, Charlie Holmes, Erin Morrison and Terrie Morrison for their work in the concession stand. The profit from food and beverage sales covered the kids tournament travel cost.



Vermilion

Homeless outreach program offers a new lease on life

Editor's Note: As the infrastructure work moves forward on the New Moon Supportive Housing Project, some BFNews readers may wonder what a supportive housing project can accomplish. Band member Tanya Deegan, shares her story on how Bois Forte's Homeless Outreach Program made a huge difference for her family.

In the early '80s there was a popular song that went, "I made it through the rain; I kept my world protected. I made it through the rain; I kept my point of view. I made it through the rain and found myself respected by the others who got rained on too and made it through."

These words could have been written about the life of 36 year old Bois Forte member Tanya Deegan who has successfully transitioned out of homelessness with the help of the Band's Homeless Outreach Program.

The year was 2007 and the new calendar was barley hung when Tanya's mother was diagnosed with lung cancer. In May, she found her beloved Aunt deceased in her apartment, and that spring she lost her children to social services and child protection. Tanya was in chronic pain, and on disability, as a result of an auto accident in 2005. She was addicted to alcohol and was quickly slipping into homelessness.



Tanya Deegan and finance Ron Reynolds in front of their home in Virginia with Kia (6 yrs), Aiden (8 yrs), and Ian (14 yrs). Tanya's oldest son, 18 year old Darik was not home when the photo was taken.

Losing her children brought her to her knees. "I knew I had to enter a 30 day in-treatment program. It was so hard to be away from my kids but they were my incentive to get and stay sober. I needed a do-over," stresses Tanya.

By the end of that year Tanya's mother Jeanette Deegan had died. Tanya was ready to make a change. "My mom did an excellent job raising eight children as a single parent. I was a single mom of four, between the ages of two and 14 years old. I knew I could do better by them. I now had a clean slate, a second chance," Tanya recalls.

Tanya's life took a dramatic turn for the better when she got connected with Janelle Burton of the Bois Forte Homeless Outreach Program. "My kids and I spent months sleeping at the homes of friends and family. I was running out of safe places and sources of food so I filled out paperwork to try and find transitional housing in Virginia. The Program immediately stepped in and put my family in a hotel. During the week we were there I was able to locate a two bedroom apartment," Tanya says gratefully. Program funds provided her a damage deposit and rental assistance. Tanya and her kids also benefitted from the Program's purchase orders for food, Target gift cards for household needs and gas vouchers when they were eventually able to secure transportation.

"During the entire two years I was on the Program, Janelle Burton was there for me and my family. She not only made sure we were aware of the help that was available, she personally drove us to appointments, but beyond all that she became a real friend to me. I confided in her about my struggles. She is a really good person. I recommend the Program to others in my situation," said Tanya.

Janelle is quick to point out that while she was there to offer support, Tanya did the real work. "Success stories like Tanya happen when people are serious about wanting to make a change and are willing to do the work. Tanya was. And it wasn't just our program, ICAW and Chemical Dependency were part of the equation and we all shared the same goal in supporting Tanya. That's how it's supposed to work."

Tanya wishes that everyone would have to spend a week dealing with the daily struggles that result from being homeless. "Many people have no idea what it feels like to not have any money to speak of, to not know where the next meal will come from for their kids and a thousand other simple things each day that are so taken for granted," asserts Tanya.

She believes that the New Moon housing development will be of great benefit to the people of Bois Forte. "For people who want to live on the reservation, especially on the Vermilion side, I think its location [within walking distance of Fortune Bay] is going to be a big plus for Band members. Having access to employment is key to escaping homelessness," shares Tanya.

In closing Tanya adds, "It's been a hard road but it has also been a blessing. Given everything I have been through mentally, emotionally and physically, I feel fortunate that I can say I am in a good place [in my life] now."

Construction moves ahead



Almost 60% of the crew working for Ulland Brothers Construction on the infrastructure for the New Moon Supportive Housing project are Bois Forte Band members. Ulland Brothers employs Bois Forte Band members throughout the region like John Barto pictured here operating heavy equipment on the job site in Vermilion.



Construction Manager Dave Anderson oversees the pavement work around the Y-Store parking area. The project created more parking and cleaned up the appearance of the two stores and Y Express Lube property.

Urban Office

Urban Office Picnic: Fun, Food, Family and Friends



Elders & Culture

Manomin Oma ga onji bi izha yang: Wild Rice, Why we came here

By Rose Berens

Growing up at Nett Lake I often heard the Elders say, "The wild rice brought us to this place. The rice is the reason we're here, living by this lake."

Many people don't know that the anishinabeg came from the east coast. Because of a dream, we made a long journey, following the great megis shell for over 500 years. We were instructed to follow the megis shell and search for the food that grows on water. We came down the St. Lawrence River, into the Great Lakes area and finally inland. An Elder told me how we settled near Hibbing and called that area cattail town. She said a man shot a moose and wounded it. He tracked it for many miles and caught up to it at a lake filled with the food that grows on water. He went back to cattail town and told the people what he had found and they all moved to Asabekonezaga'iganing, Nett Lake.

At that time we were not called Bois Forte. Stinging nettles grew all along the Lake shore and the people used this to make clothes, fishing nets, bags, mats and rope, thus we were called The Nettle Fiber People.

Manominike gizis, wild rice harvest time, was always a fun time in the village. Friends and relatives that had moved away came back to go ricing. In the evenings people would be parching,

cooling, jigging and fanning rice and the village would be covered by a thin layer of smoke from the fires and it smelled so good. You could go around visiting with people you hadn't seen all year. On the first day of picking there would be a ceremony, giving thanks for the good harvest and there would be a Powwow almost every night up on the old ball field and the drum would sound long into the night.

Wild rice was not only an important food staple it was part of our economy. People sold their rice and paid bills, bought cars, other essentials and school clothes for their kids. I remember one fall on the night before opening day of ricing there was a huge storm. It was real windy, raining and hail. I woke up and heard my mother in the kitchen. She was crying. When I asked her what was wrong she said, "The storm took all the rice, we will be poor this winter." That year they were only able to go out and get enough for eating but none to sell.

Long ago, before anyone went out picking, an Elder couple would go out and pick rice. They would not use knocking sticks they would pick with their hands. They would take that rice and finish it then they would have a ceremony offering the first bite to the creator. This was done not only to ensure a good harvest but also for good weather.



The Legend of Nett Lake, painted by Carl Gawboy, depicts the story Rose Berens shares in this column.

Oral history is the primary method of passing on traditional knowledge. Stories and legends tell us of the spiritual importance of wild rice and how it is used not only as food but as medicine and how the simple act of harvesting binds us to this sacred resource and proclaims who we are as a people. We put tobacco in the water each day before we go out on the lake and offer a prayer of thanks because it is the central part of who we are and it is why we are here.

Wild rice season set to open

With wild rice season set to open soon, the Rice Committee, Elders and DNR staff are closely monitoring the crop. This year, the north side of Nett Lake looks the best, with decent stands of rice that appear to be ahead of other areas of the lake.

Right now, the DNR and Rice Committee predict ricing will begin in early September. For the latest information on the wild rice crop, visit the Band's web site www.boisforte.com.

Remember Your Ricing Permit

Bois Forte Band members must have a valid permit to harvest wild rice on Nett Lake. Permits are on sale at the Vermilion Center and the Community and Government Services Center in

Nett Lake during the regular business hours of Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Conservation Officers will also sell permits at the Nett Lake Store on weekends.

To purchase a ricing permit, you must have tribal enrollment identification, such as a Bois Forte Band ID or an 1854 Treaty ID. Permit prices are:
Adults \$5.00
Elders \$1.00
Students \$1.00

Remember Your Tobacco Offering

Remember to always begin your ricing with a tobacco offering. This is an important way to thank the Spirits for the use of the lake.



Patsy Adams works hard to gather a full canoe of rice in this photo from 2009.

Youth

2011 Summer Language Camp at Sandy Bottom Beach in Vermilion



The end of a good day.



Fun swimming at Sandy Bottom.



Karen Drift and Daanis Chosa



*Brandon Hanks and Tecumseh Johnson
enjoy the fry bread they made.*



Terry Goodsky and Virgil Sohm teach young drummers.



*Joe Chosa whittles cedar into a
knocking stick.*



*Don Chosa, Myra Thompson, Daanis Chosa, Ellen Adams,
Terry Goodsky and Karen Drift (Virgil Sohm and Michael
Dunkley not pictured) served as the Language Camp leaders,
teachers and story tellers.*



Preparing the circle for storytelling.

2011 Water Safety Training



Bois Forte Conservation Officers Bill Isham and Ed Villebrun are seated with Ralph Laplant of the 1854 Treaty Authority Office during the Canoe/Jet Ski Safety Training offered to youth in July at Indian Point. Bill, Ed and Ralph were joined by Leo Vidal and Chief Clay Rumph, of the Enforcement Office of the 1854 Office and Frank Moe, a water safety instructor contracted for the event.



The Water Safety training was part of a summer education series for youth that also included firearms and ATV training. Bois Forte Education, Summer Youth, the Heritage Center and the 1854 Treaty Authority collaborated on the program.



Champions again

Reprinted and edited for length with permission of author Jim Romsaas, Mesabi Daily News

The Mountain Iron-Buhl sixth grade girls basketball team once again won the Pacesetter Great 4 State Championship at the Target Center in Minneapolis on Sunday, August 14.

What the girls accomplished this past season was nothing short of amazing.

The team of six sixth-graders and three fourth-graders compiled a 35-0 record as they won tournament after tournament. Key players include Austyn and Lauren Dagen, daughters of Kelly and the late Carl Dagen and Chelsea Mason, daughter of Billie and Tony Mason. "It's been a pretty successful group here," said Jeff Buffetta, who is one of the team's coaches. They are most often the smallest team in the

tournaments, but they "have bought into defense," he said. Along with that there are a few girls that can handle the ball and put it in the basket, he added. "It's fun to watch."

"They really bought into a team concept and team defense," head coach Brian Buffetta said. They also have put in a lot of time, have a good attitude and listen, he added. Melissa Briski is the team's other coach.

In last weekend's championship run, the Rangers beat Cascade, Iowa, 32-19 and Ethan, S.D., 21-18 on their way to the title game. In the championship game MI-B dominated Hill City, S.D., with their suffocating defense, 34-12.

The victory helped the Rangers complete back to back championships at the four-state regional - the top two teams from the Pacesetter State



The Mountain Iron-Buhl sixth grade girls basketball champs. The girls are repeat champs of the Pacesetter Great 4 State Championship held at the Target Center in Minneapolis. Pictured front row (L-R): Ashlee Bruner, Lauren Dagen, Macy Savela, Maddison Overbye; back row (L-R): Coach Jeff Buffetta, Caylee Sauter, Patty Overbye, Chelsea Mason, Mya Buffetta, Austyn Dagen, coach Brian Buffetta. Not Pictured: Coach Melissa Briski.

Tournaments in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Back to School

New name on the Principal's door in Nett Lake



Principal and Superintendent Rae Villebrun

Nett Lake School welcomes Rae Villebrun as its new Superintendent and Principal. She started on July 1st and is eager for the school year to get underway.

"I am very interested in seeing kids grow in their self-confidence and self-esteem. If I can have a hand in creating systems that allow young people to know their full potential and realize their dreams then I am in the right position," shares Principal Villebrun.

Rae Villebrun was formerly an educator at Nett Lake School, having taught kindergarten and a combined 3rd and 4th grade class for eight years. She then went on to being the Principal at Fond du Lac Ojibwe School and then Vandyke and Marble Elementary in the Greenway School District.

She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees at Bemidji State and her Principal/

Superintendent credentials from Saint Mary's University. Have training in both allows Rae to not only work in close relationship with teacher and curriculum development but also permits her to work on policy and build a positive working relationship with the School Board as well as the larger school community.

Rae is especially interested in implementing Response to Intervention (RtI) at Nett Lake School. Parents of students with special needs may be familiar with what is called an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that customizes learning for students who demonstrate a certain educational need. RtI is similar but more inclusive and she's been pleased with how it has helped students at her previous schools.

"This initiative provides for all students. It affords them instruction at their learning level and helps with maximizing their abilities," explains Rae. "RtI provides interventions for kids who are on all points of the learning spectrum from strugglers to high-flyers. RtI is unique in that it doesn't permit the child in the middle to fall through the cracks."

Rae is the daughter of retired Nett Lake Chief of Police Richard Wilkie and the Band's former Human Resource Director Patti Wilkie. "I don't remember education being directly discussed in my household, growing up, there was just this feeling that it was really important and an expectation that we'd do well in school," recalls Rae.

School continues to be a big part of Rae's home life. Her husband John is a K-6th grade teacher who is currently serving kids with special needs and has a 5th grade classroom at Nett Lake School. Their four children Nicholas (18), Alexander (16), Patia (11) and Ian (6) are all currently in schools and the family has plans to move back onto the reservation.

Rae appreciates the efforts made by her predecessor, former Nett Lake Principal, Teresa Strong, "Teresa did a great job implementing up-to-date curriculum, cooperative learning, and professional development opportunities for our teachers," praises Rae. "She brought our school's technology into the 21st century. All these advancements have freed me up to focus on additional areas where Nett Lake can improve and our students can shine."

Greetings from Principal Villebrun

By Rae Villebrun

Who is excited for the new school year to start? I AM! After being way from Nett Lake for the last six years, I can't tell you how excited I am to be back. I absolutely loved being a teacher here and now look forward to leading the team of teachers and staff members toward providing our students with learning opportunities that meet their individual needs.

There has been a whirlwind of activity in preparation for the new year. Along with the normal summer cleaning and repairing that occurs, new carpet was installed in the Library. It looks absolutely beautiful! If you have a chance, stop by and look. Also, we had several teachers take new positions in other school districts. This gave me the opportunity to hire five new teachers: Summer Opacich, Kindergarten; Laura Reinsch, 1st Grade; Loretta Rankila, 5th Grade; Trish Sullivan, 6th Grade; and John Villebrun, SLD/EBD (Specific Learning Disability/ Emotional Behavior

Disorder). We most certainly have a passionate, motivated, and hard working team of teachers who will be working with our children.

Usually this is where I would let you know if our school made Adequate Yearly Progress according to No Child Left Behind. However, with the recent state shutdown, we will not have those results until September. As soon as we receive the results of the MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment), I will send home a letter letting you know how we did.

The teachers participated in many workshops in August. One of the workshops involved making changes to our behavior plan or discipline policy. If students are going to be in a learning environment that supports positive learning experiences, we need to provide the students with the skills necessary to being a contributing member of the classroom. Our new behavior



plan is based on teaching the students what the expectations are in each of the areas of the school.

For example, we want the students to show certain behaviors while in the cafeteria, we will take the students to the cafeteria and teach them the expectations. The students will also be given refresher lessons throughout the year.

(cont. on page 11)



Not too late to get a great Head Start!

Bois Forte Head Start is still accepting applications for the 2011-12 school year. Children must be three years old by September 1, 2011 to enter the program.

For more information, contact Christine Bloom, Director of Head Start, at (218) 757-3265 or cbloom@boisforte-nsn.gov.

Thinking about college? Tips you need for financial aid

Start early – The earlier you get your applications in, the better your financial aid package may be. If you need help filling out the forms or have questions, the Education Department will be glad to help. Contact Leeanne Hoffman or Billie Mason at 218-757-3124.

Do your FAFSA – You'll find the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Complete this application anytime after January 1. Your FAFSA results will determine your eligibility for the federal and state assistance. The results will also be used to complete your student budget for the Bois Forte Scholarship Program and the Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program.

Understand the forms of financial aid – Financial aid is not all created equal. Here's a quick primer:

- **Federal Pell Grant** – Dependent upon financial need, costs of school attendance, and full-time/part-time status. Does not have to be repaid.
- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)** – Amount varies. Does not have to be repaid.
- **Federal Work-Study (FWS)** – Part-time jobs arranged by the schools. Wages do not have to be repaid.
- **Federal Perkins Loan** – Student loans must be repaid over a period of time, which can become a financial burden. Repayment activity is

reported to credit agencies and can have a direct impact on your credit history. Use loans only as a last resort after exhausting all other options! You will be required to attend an orientation class to learn more.

Start college right

Apply – Contact college admissions offices for admission and financial aid applications. The Bois Forte Band can help with the cost of application fees, if needed.

Visit – Once you've selected a college, schedule a campus tour with a school representative or visit on your own so you can start finding your way around.

Network – Meet with the Minority or Indian Services Director.

Get an advisor – If you are not automatically assigned an academic advisor, ask to schedule a meeting with one to help develop an education plan and pick your classes.

Register for classes early – Classes required to meet graduation requirements fill fast.

Find a place to live – If you need housing, either on or off campus, find it as soon as possible before it becomes scarce. Expect to pay a security deposit and the first and/or last month's rent.

(Principal Villebrun cont. from page 10)

If we want the students to make good choices, we need to teach them how to make good choices. More information will be provided at the start of the year and will continue throughout the year.

Response to Intervention (RtI) will be an important tool we use to provide students with an education that is designed for them.

Interventions will be put in place for students depending on their needs. It is similar to how we do our *Success For All* program, but with groups of 2 to 4 students. We will also have a weekly meeting time to discuss students' progress and what more we need to be doing to ensure each student's success.

There will be a slight change to the school day to accommodate the very important RtI meeting time each week. The school building will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 a.m. each day and end at 8:20 a.m. The students will return to their classrooms and will begin the day at 8:25 a.m. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the school day will end at 3:20 p.m. On Wednesday, the school day will be over at 2:40 p.m. Arrangements have been made with the Boys and Girls Club to accommodate the time change on Wednesdays so students will go to the Boys and Girls Club at 2:40 p.m. Kindergarten students will go to Latch Key with Tracy Lammi. On Friday, the school day will end at 3:00 p.m. I am confident these changes will allow us to better meet the needs of our students.

On Wednesday, August 31, we will be hosting an Open House from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The students and their families will have an opportunity to meet their teachers, visit their classroom, learn about our Title I program, and have lunch. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 6th.

The 2011-2012 school year is going to be the best year. I look forward to the amazing things our students are going to learn and accomplish through the changes we are making. With your help, we will prepare our students to achieve their highest goals.

Back to School



Bois Forte Youth Education & Experience Assistance Program policies

It is the goal of the Bois Forte Tribal Council to provide assistance to youth who are enrolled members of the Bois Forte Band in meeting expenses related to an experience that cannot be provided locally, provide an opportunity for personal growth and education, and to expand knowledge of the world outside the boundaries of the reservation.

It is also the goal of the Bois Forte Tribal Council to promote and reward student behaviors that will encourage and contribute to student success. This program is not an entitlement program, but one that is accountable to education by reinforcing school expectations for attendance and being on track academically.

Only those requests that are made as part of an organized group will be considered. In addition, the request must also include other fundraising efforts that demonstrate the youth/group's commitment to help meet the expenses of the activity. Requests for travel expenses for family vacations or for travel unrelated to an organized group activity cannot be considered.

"Youth" means a person enrolled in elementary/secondary education. Seniors will be eligible after graduation provided the experience is related to secondary educational years.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for assistance, youth must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be enrolled with Bois Forte Band, and

2. Must be going as part of an organized group, and

3. Must be on track to graduate if a senior, or

4. Must be on track for advancing to the next grade level, and

5. Must not be in violation of the school's attendance requirements, and

6. Must not have been adjudicated as delinquent by reason of an act involving damage to or theft of property belonging to the Bois Forte Band or I.S.D. #707

LIMITATIONS:

The following limitations apply:

1. You may receive this assistance only once during elementary grades (through grade six) and once during secondary educational grades (through grade 12).

2. The assistance will not exceed 25% the total expense or \$500, whichever is less.

3. All assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis until all funds have been expended.

4. All assistance will be sent to the organization and/or school on behalf of the youth.

5. Students who are homeschooled will only be considered if the request is part of a local school

organized event.

6. Reimbursement will only be provided with valid proof of payment, provided that the request for reimbursement is made within one (1) year of approval of the application.

7. Repayment of loans will not be considered as an allowable expense.

TO APPLY:

To Apply for the program, all youth must complete the following:

1. Youth Education & Experience Application
2. Consent for Release of Information for:
 - School Attendance and Academic Information
 - Tribal Court Juvenile Records
3. All supporting documentation including, but not limited to, all expenses related to the request, program information/application, acceptance letters, referrals, etc.
4. Fund-raising obligation (the Sponsor must verify that it has been met).

Upon return, all youth receiving assistance must provide a summary of their experience to the Education Office that will be placed in the youth file.

For more information, contact the Education Office at 218-757-3124.

Roxie (King) Wefel graduates as Certified Nurse Practitioner

On May 15, 2011, Roxie (King) Wefel graduated from St. Scholastica in Duluth, where she received her Master of Science Degree in Nursing.

Roxie is a 1999 graduate of Cook High School. She lives in Duluth, with her husband Jason and two children. Roxie is employed at Fond du Lac Min No Aya Win Clinic in Cloquet as an Adult Nurse Practitioner. She is the daughter of Rocky and Glory King of Cook.



Here are a few final tips for a fantastic school year:

Get enough sleep.

Eat a healthy breakfast.

Try your best.

Use good work habits, like writing down your assignments and turning in your homework on time.

Take your time with school work. If you don't understand something, ask the teacher.

Remember to keep a sense of humor. School is fun!



Community News & Announcements

Boys & Girls Club Branch Director in Nett Lake

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northland has a full-time opening for a Branch Director. This position will be responsible for facility management of a newer club located in Nett Lake School. Candidate must be able to plan, implement, and evaluate youth programming as well as supervise, motivate, and train staff.

Position requires knowledge of non-profit principles, budget management, and grant management. Excellent communication skills and ability to work with community a must. Prior youth experience and 5 yrs management experience preferred. BA/BS preferred.

Send letter & resume to: Attn: Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northland. Salary plus benefits.

P.O. Box 16435
Duluth, MN 55816
tmcloughlin@bgcnorth.org



CenturyLink offers telephone assistance to individuals living on Tribal Lands

CenturyLink is energizing its efforts to inform residents of two assistance programs that provide discounts on initial telephone installation and basic monthly telephone service to qualifying low-income consumers. Link-Up helps these consumers pay the initial costs of getting telephone service. Lifeline provides certain discounts on monthly service for qualified subscribers.

Lifeline and Link-Up are available to qualifying consumers in every U.S. state (territory and commonwealth). Qualifications for participation vary by state. States with their own programs have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the federal program, the subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or if the Household annual gross income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty level.

The amount of the discounts also varies by state. Link-Up helps qualified low-income consumers to connect to the telephone network. This federal program offsets 1/2 of the initial hook-up fee, up to \$30, for qualified households.

Residents of American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal lands may qualify for an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and up to \$70 of expanded Link-Up support beyond current levels. An individual living on tribal lands may also qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up discounts if he or she participates in one of the above programs or one of the following federal programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance or Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Individuals living in a CenturyLink service area should call 800-201-4099 or visit www.centurylink.com/lifeline to inquire about eligibility.



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www.centurylink.com

Come join us for some healthy fun!

Wisdom Steps 8th Annual Golf Tournament

Fond-du-Lac

Friday, September 16, 2011 at the Black Bear Golf Course
I-35 and 210 in Carlton, Minnesota
9:00 a.m. Registration - 10:00 a.m. Shot Gun start



Electric carts, casino dollars, and gift bags!
Plus many other prizes and fun contests, a silent auction and raffle!

Your generous support to improve Elder health will benefit you and the Elders of tomorrow.

REGISTRATION LEVELS

Corporate Sponsor - \$600 (4 person team, hole sign, & GPS Ad)
Hole Sponsor - \$400 (Hole sign)
Foursome - \$400 (4 person Team)
Individual Golf Entry - \$100
Dinner Only - \$25

Brochures available upon request

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Shauna FourStar, Elderly Programs Assistant
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/MN Indian Area Agency on Aging
P.O. Box 217, Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: 218/ 335-8586 Toll-Free: 888/ 231-7886 Fax: 218/ 335-8080
E-mail: sjenkins@mnchippewatribe.org

Happy September
Birthdays, Elders!

Loren Connor	9-9
Michael Drouillard	9-5
Rae Edstrom	9-3
Geraldine Hanks	9-23
Priscilla Morrison	9-30
Edith Villebrun	9-17
Frank Villebrun	9-11
Viola Villebrun	9-16



Happy Belated Birthday to Jeanette Hackey Jobin whose birthday was on July 3, Bruce Martin Ellis whose birthday was on July 8, and to Beverly May Frizzle whose birthday was on May 13.

Community News & Announcements

Vermilion Bois and Girls Club Branch Director brought four youth to New Mexico for the 2011 National Intertribal Youth Summit. The group will be writing a story on their experience for the October *Bois Forte News*. Here are some photos they shared from New Mexico:



Megan Ruzic, Henry Guenthner, Loren Guenthner, and Ciara Leecy in San Felipe Pueblo at a Sports Clinic learning about golf, soccer, and nutrition education



When first arriving at the Summit during the opening ceremony we joined in a friendship circle with the other youth representing over 50 tribes



Learning from Notah Begay III, the only full blooded Native American on the PGA tour, at the Sports Clinic

Perennial idea for the Community Garden

Coming up with a great idea for a new community service is often easier than figuring out ways to keep it new and fresh each year. That was the challenge the health and nutrition staff had when they developed the Community Garden in Nett Lake a few years ago using funds from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

The Community Garden idea was exciting at first and the Summer Youth were active in helping with the weeding and maintenance. But over the years, the garden required an outlay of new cash each year to purchase plants and attracted fewer participants to help with the weeding and watering.

This year, when a team of Health staff consisting of Community Health Nurse Teri Morrison, Nutrition Educator Theresa Drift, Maternal Child Health Nurse Jill Schuchard and SHIP Coordinator Ellen Morrison got together to brainstorm how to keep the goal of growing fresh produce without all of the upfront annual cost and labor, they came up with a new idea to give the garden a perennial crop of healthy foods.

The new idea was to stop putting the money and time into annual plantings and convert the Community Garden to an orchard and berry



garden. The team got to work obtaining the materials and thanks to the hard work of Axel Holm Jr. the perennial garden and orchard are already taking root.

Fruit trees have been planted along with strawberry, blueberry and black berry bushes in Nett Lake behind the Native Hearts Fitness Center. Enough plants and trees were purchased to share with Vermilion who will soon be planting their perennial garden on the side of the Social Service Center near the Powwow grounds.

The apple trees had some small fruit growing when they were purchased and there may be a very limited harvest this year. The fruit plants have blossoms, but there won't be any fruit to harvest until next year. By then the Health staff will have devised a plan for sharing the fruit first with the Elders and then with the broader community.

Make us laugh!



It's been said that 'humor is the best medicine.' So you are invited to help *Bois Forte News* readers live healthier lives by submitting your jokes or humorous stories.

They don't have to be original. Share a good laugh you heard on TV, the internet or from a friend, coworker or family member.

One new joke or story will appear in each issue of the paper. (See page 16 for the monthly newspaper deadline and where to send your joke or story.)

A drawing will be held among all those who send in ideas.

A donation to the Bois Forte Scholarship fund will be made in the name of the winning writer at the end of each year.

Fond du Lac Band buys sacred Ojibwe island

Reprinted with permission

By Jana Hollingsworth, Duluth News Tribune
8.16.11

A sacred Ojibwe island on the St. Louis River is now in the hands of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Spirit Island, the sixth stopping place in the migration of the Anishinaabe people from the northeastern part of the continent, was purchased by the band Monday.

“There isn’t an Anishinaabe person in Canada or the U.S. who will not feel this is significant,” said Karen Diver, chairwoman of the band. “It’s such a significant reclamation of our land and culture it’s almost like healing ... like plugging a hole in our cultural spirit.”

Hundreds of years ago, it was foretold through prophecy that the Anishinaabe people had to

move west to survive, Diver said, and they would know when to stop during the migration because food (wild rice) would grow on the water.

The seven stopping places during the gradual migration were present-day Montreal, Niagara Falls, the Detroit area, an island in Lake Huron, Sault St. Marie, Spirit Island in Nett Lake and Madeline Island in Lake Superior. The ancestors of the Fond du Lac Band stayed in the area.

There is evidence that until the early 1900s, the Ojibwe held ceremonies on the island.

The band will use the island for conservation and cultural efforts. It’s located near Clough Island on the Minnesota side of the river in Spirit Lake, which is a widening in the St. Louis River. The 5.9 acres with 2,200 feet of shoreline was purchased from Duluth resident Steve Filipovich for \$150,000.

Wayne DuPuis, environmental program manager for the band, said having control of the land for preservation is important to the people of Fond du Lac. Because of the years of pollution in the river, “it was almost akin to having a Superfund site in Jerusalem,” he said. “It was a holy land to the people.”

The island is nearby the former U.S. Steel site, which is a heavily polluted federal Superfund site.

The band will seek to have the island put into trust to become federal Indian land, because it’s “about the restoration of our homeland,” Diver said. “It’s a protective factor for us.”

The purchase ensures the island will never be developed, and is “something we’ve wanted to do for quite some time,” Diver said.



Nett Lake C Store serving up fresh pizza! Home delivery coming soon

The Nett Lake C Store staff is always looking for new food offerings that satisfy customer’s cravings. Expanding the deli services to include ‘ready made’ or ‘take and bake’ pizza with fresh toppings is the newest addition to their lineup. And soon hungry customers can call ahead and place their order for pickup or have it delivered to their home in the village.

Customers are already seeing a difference in both size and ingredients. The same quality pizza dough is used for crusts, but now toppings will be fresh ingredients and the size of a large pizza will increase from the old 12” pie to a delicious 15” family portion.



More lunch specials are in the works as well as strategies to offer online ordering.

Stop in and enjoy the customer friendly environment and stay tuned for more specials and the start of home delivery.

Contract Health renewal applications have been mailed



Contract Health Renewals Applications have been mailed out to Bois Forte Band Members living in St. Louis, Koochiching and Itasca Counties.

If you did not receive an application and would like one or if you have questions about the applications, contact Connie Harju or Trudy King at 218-757-3295 or 1-800-223-1041 or by email at charju@boisforte-nsn.gov or tking@boisforte-nsn.gov.

2011 Hunting Seasons

Deer

Limit of 4 either sex

Bucks only- July 1 to Dec.31

Does - Sept. 1 to Dec. 15

Shining - Oct. 15 to Oct. 31

Small Game

Grouse 5 Daily

Sept. 1 to Dec. 31

Trapping

Oct. 1 to Sept. 31

Bull Moose

Limit 1

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

Bear

No Season

Waterfowl

Reservation Season

Aug. 20 to Dec. 31



Change of Address Form

Bois Forte regularly sends out important information in the mail. Per capita checks, community meeting notices and the RTC quarterly letters are examples of items that are regularly mailed. It is essential that we have your correct mailing address so that you can receive this information.

If you have moved recently, or are not receiving regular mailings, please fill out the change of address form below and mail to:

Toni Wakemup
Bois Forte Enrollment Coordinator
5344 Lake Shore Dr
Nett Lake MN 55772.

Please note, you must check the box below your signature if you want us to give your new address to the Bois Forte Newspaper.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Yes, I would like this new address shared with the *Bois Forte News*

Please send us your email address if you'd like to begin receiving the *Bois Forte News* in your email box:

September Powwows

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>2-4 Leech Lake Labor Day Powwow
Cass Lake, MN
218-760-3127</p> | <p>2-5 Ashland Labor Day Powwow
Ashland, MT
406-784-2883</p> | <p>15-17 Wellbriety Powwow
Great Falls, MT
406-231-6146
info@
sacredwerecovery.com</p> |
| <p>8-10 United Tribes Powwow
Bismarck, ND
701-255-3285
rkoch@uttc.edu</p> | <p>16-17 Battle Point Powwow
Battle Point, MN
218-368-4070
Diane.Smith@llojibwe.com</p> | |
| <p>9-10 North American Indian Alliance Powwow
Butte, MT
406-782-0461</p> | <p>16-18 Mankato Traditional Powwow
West Mankato, MN
952-496-6120
MahkatoWacipi@
aol.com</p> | |
| <p>9-11 Indian Summer Festival
Milwaukee, WI
www.indiansummer.org</p> | | |



Tune into KBFT radio



89.9 FM on your radio dial or streaming over the internet at KBFT.org

The Bois Forte News

The Bois Forte News (BFN) is published monthly by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The BFN encourages submission of articles, guest columns, community announcements, photos and personal announcements. Contributions are subject to editing for grammar, length and malicious/libelous content. BFN will attempt to include all material submitted by Band members and guests. Multiple contributions from the same source may be excluded or rotated to future issues to insure equal access to all. Paid ads are accepted. Visit www.boisforte.com for rates and insertion order.

The BFN is distributed for free to Band members and is available to others for \$10 per year.

Deadline for October issue:

September 9

Submit material to:

Bois Forte News
1101 Sibley Memorial Hwy. # 507
Lilydale, MN 55118
651-260-2420 phone; 651-365-1349 fax
Helenwilkie@ccomcast.net

Tribal Council

Kevin W. Leecy
Chairman

David C. Morrison, Sr.
Secretary/Treasurer

Cathy Chavers
District I Representative

Brandon Benner
District I Representative

Ray Toutloff
District II Representative