



BOIS FORTE

NEWS



NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - JUNE 2006

VOL. 20 NO. 11

NETT LAKE WINS \$10.7 MILLION BONDING APPROVAL FROM LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In the early morning hours of Sunday, May 21 both the Minnesota House and Senate passed the bonding bill for state spending projects that includes an important initiative for the Bois Forte Band and the entire community: an expanded Nett Lake Public School Building.

renovate existing spaces, and put safeguards in place to protect students and staff. Although the House of Representatives initially recommended only slightly more than half that amount, in the end the bonding proposal included the full \$10.7 million.

"This is fantastic news for Nett Lake students, teachers, staff and parents – and for so many more people in our community," said Band Chairman Kevin Leecy.

"People of all ages, Indian and non-Indian, are going to benefit from the many programs and services that will be housed in the new 'one-stop' educational center we plan to create."

In addition to more classrooms for educational programming, the expanded building will house services for all district residents, including Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education, a new mothers' program, after

school programs, the Boys and Girls Club, GED and interactive TV college courses, and cultural classes.

"The building will also have an attached health clinic," said District I Representative Mark Drift. "This will benefit all community members and allow us to better educate our students on healthy living, exercise, and good nutrition.

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INSIDE

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Serious Construction Problems Discovered in Homes Built for Band Members

➔ RTC, Environmental Services, & Housing Collaborating to Fix Current Problems & Ensure Future Construction is Done Properly

Serious heat loss problems have been uncovered in 20 new homes built for Band members in 2004 and 2005. Homeowners, who moved into the houses between January and April last year, noticed their furnaces were running continually and their energy bills were high, yet their homes were cold and drafty.

After hearing the homeowners' concerns, the RTC asked the Band's Environmental Services (ES) Department to test the homes to determine just how energy efficient they are. Working closely with the Housing Department, ES staff assessed the homes using two technologies: blower doors

and infrared cameras. "A blower door is equipment that fits a fan in a

"This is a serious problem we've inherited. We're grateful to ES staff for their expertise, and we are going to fix these houses." - Carol Burr

door frame to depressurize a house," said Darin Steen, ES Director. "The instruments on the

machine provide readings that accentuate air leaks. The staff then goes through the house with an infrared camera, which identifies temperature differences around windows and doors."

Steen said the scientific tests showed the

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!

GENERAL ELECTION JUNE 13!

NOTE
POLLING STATION is ONLY at the Vermilion Center 8am - 8pm

NLS 10.7 Million

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When completed, the new Nett Lake School building will allow the Band to keep up with rising enrollment, which has increased from 45 students in 1998 to 85 today and is projected to reach nearly 200 students in several years.

"The expanded building will also provide the space we need for the educational programming that has helped our students make great progress, including strong gains in reading proficiency and a near-perfect attendance record," said school Superintendent Teresa Strong.

The state bonding funds will be supplemented with money the school district and Bois Forte Band are contributing and with a grant promise it recently received from

the new Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation. "This foundation is a great example of the ways Indian gaming revenues can be used to improve communities and lives across Minnesota," said District I Representative Ray Villebrun. "We deeply appreciate the foundation's vote of confidence in our project and our children's future."

The community will also benefit from the increase in employment that the expansion project will generate, Leecy said. "We expect that construction on the new school building, coupled with work on the new C store, will create dozens of jobs and make Nett Lake a very busy place this summer and fall. And long-term, there will be new jobs for people who want to work at the store and the school and in the many programs the building will house."

"There are so many people who deserve a huge 'Mii Gwetch' for their hard work on this important initiative," said Band Secretary Treasurer David Morrison and District I Representative Mark Drift. "Former School Superintendent and grant consultant Ray Toutloff coordinated the entire project; the Band officials and staff who planned the project and traveled to St. Paul to lobby legislators; the school officials and students who hosted the Bonding Committee last fall; Superintendent Teresa Strong and 6th graders Marissa Mason and Darian Morrison – who testified before the House and Senate Education Committees; Senator Tom Bakk, Representative David Dill and our top notch lobbying team from Robert Johnson and Associates; former Senate Tax Committee Chair Doug Johnson who was inval-

able as a consultant on the project; our School Board and especially the school district voters, who gave the expansion

project their resounding support in last November's referendum. Thank you everyone for a job well done!"

Three Indian Tribes Approve Significant Funding for New Nett Lake Building

The Minnesota Tribal Government Foundation notified Bois Forte on May 5 that they are approving a grant to help pay for the new Nett Lake school construction project. The amount of the grant had not been determined, pending the outcome of the legislative bonding bill.

"We are extremely grateful that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux and the Prairie Island Dakota Tribes were so generous in establishing a foundation that provides Bois Forte and other Tribes with funds

for economic development and educational programs. This is an exciting new way to help us provide an excellent education for our children," said Ray Villebrun, District I Representative.

Beverly Steele, Vice Chair of the local school board praised the cooperative effort of the tribal governments and the school district governing board. "What a unique effort this has been to work so closely with the Bois Forte Tribal Council who in turn secured the financial support of other Tribes in Minnesota."

Housing Problems

Continued from page 1.

homes were leaking three to five times more heat than is acceptable under the Energy Code portion of the current Minnesota Building Code. Searching for reasons why this was the case, ES staff discovered a large number of structural problems in the homes, including missing or poorly installed insulation, heat vents that were covered, code-required air sealing that was not per-

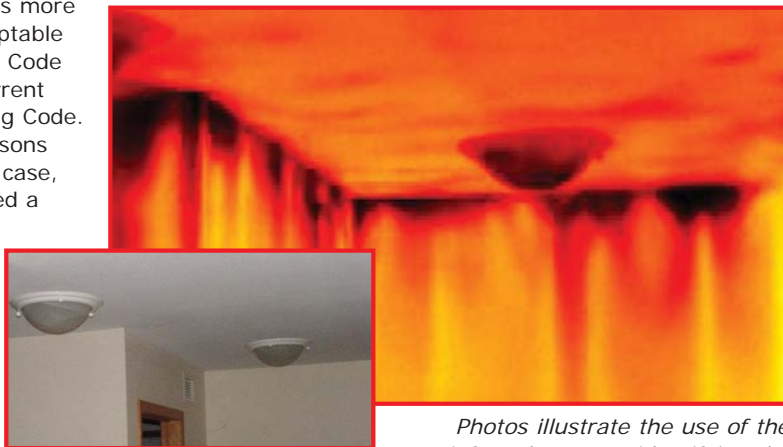
formed, and wall penetrations created for plumbing and duct work

that were not sealed properly.

"This is outrageous and unacceptable," said Band Chairman Kevin Leecy, who was presented with the findings by Steen and Environmental Health Specialist Kevin Koski at a May 4 RTC meeting. "I am furious that these problems occurred and that they have resulted in increased heating and other costs for some Band homeowners."

"We have made sure all of the people in the affected homes know about the problem," said District II Representative Kevin Strong, who was briefed on the situation along with the rest of the RTC at the May 4 meeting. "The RTC members are angry, but we're channeling that anger into something positive: a plan to fix these problems."

The RTC has withheld final payment from the contractor who built the homes and payment will not be made until a plan is in place to fix the



Photos illustrate the use of the infrared camera, identifying the areas that are below acceptable levels of heat loss. Photos courtesy of Bois Forte Environmental Services.

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BOIS FORTE EARNS \$740,000 GRANT FOR NEW INDIAN POINT SEWAGE SYSTEM

▶ Band to Leverage USDA Funds for Innovative Wastewater Collection & Treatment System

Cleaner water is in store for residents of Indian Point, thanks to a major national grant the Bois Forte Band recently landed. The United States Department of Agriculture is giving the Band a \$740,000 grant and \$247,000 loan from its Rural Development Program, enabling Bois Forte to build a wastewater collection and treatment system for the 40 homes and seasonal cabins lodged on Indian Point peninsula, bordered by Pelican Lake.

"I'm really excited about it," said Darin Steen, Manager of Environmental Services at Bois Forte, who applied for the grant in 2005. "In my 11 years here, this is by far the largest and most significant grant I've worked on." "It's also sorely-needed", said Tribal Chair Kevin Leecy. "The Tribal Council directed our Environmental Services staff to survey 36 on-site sewage treatment systems on Indian Point in 2004 and discovered that 30 were failing or non-compliant with state and county regulations." The systems include property leased for year-round residential homes by Bois Forte Band members and seasonal/recreational lots that are non-Indian leases. Few met

the set-back requirements from the lake and

"It will bring a better quality of life to the people with access to these essential services." - David Morrison Sr.

many were not properly treating sewage which can lead to public health and water quality problems for Pelican Lake. "But there is literally no room to fix each septic system on each lot," Leecy said. "So we identified the need for a community system."

Steen was asked to apply for a USDA grant to fund the new system. With today's tight federal budgets, it would be difficult to obtain such a large fund, but Steen and his staff presented compelling evidence of the need.

At a community meeting, local residents expressed strong support of the project. They voiced an overwhelming preference for the Septic Tank Effluent Pump and Recirculating Gravel Filter system the Band's Environmental Services staff explained to them. The STEP collection system calls for a two-compartment septic tank at each lot which collects the sewage then pumps the settled water to the central treatment site. The waste water will then be circulated

through a gravel filter to treat and clean the water before discharging it into the ground through a drip dispersal system.

"It was the most cost-effective, state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly alternative we identified," Steen said. And unlike the common lagoon sewage system, he pointed out; it doesn't discharge any water back into the lake which requires costly monitoring and regulatory permitting.

Implementing Indian Point's community sewage project is a wise measure, District I Representative Ray Villebrun explained. "It's being more proactive and preventative rather than waiting for more serious problems to occur."

More specifically, Villebrun explained, the system:

- **Protects the water quality of Pelican Lake.**
- **Brings all of Indian Point into compliance with septic system regulations.**
- **Allows for more residential lots.**

Construction is slated to begin in spring of 2007. Secretary Treasurer David Morrison praised the work of Darin Steen and the Environmental Services staff. "Darin and his team went above and beyond their usual great work in securing this grant and working with the community to plan a solution to the problem. We are all eager for it to be implemented. "It will bring a better quality of life to the people with access to these essential services."

When it comes to that land and lake, Morrison added, "There couldn't be a more beautiful place to protect."

The Bois Forte Environmental Service's mission is to provide technical support and compliance assistance to the Tribal Government and Bois Forte community to solve environmental problems and concerns in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



Aerial view of Indian Point.

BOIS FORTE HELPS CREATE INDIAN VILLAGE AT 4H CAMP TO HONOR AREA'S NATIVE HISTORY

▶ Together Bois Forte & St. Louis County 4H Camp Dedicate One-of-a-Kind Indian Village

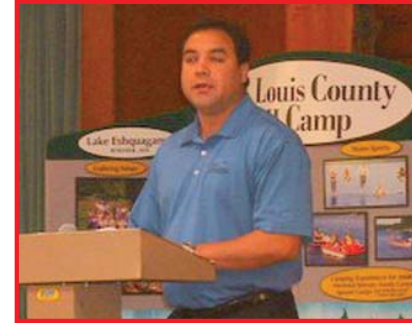
Bois Forte members lent a helping hand to create a day of celebration and education for area school children, during a ceremony at the Indian Village on the grounds of St. Louis County's 4H Camp. Bois Forte donated \$8,000, plus cultural expertise, to help them put together the one-of-a-kind Indian Village, dedicated on May 5th.

The camp is located on Lake Eshquagama that translated means, last lake in a chain of lakes or the land of divided water. This lake has long been considered a vital transportation waterway for Native Americans. The Eshquagama River flows into Sabin, which continues on to Lake Embarrass (also known

as Embarritt). Then it makes its way into Cedar Lake, which empties into the Eshquagama River, then onto the St. Louis River in Duluth. This cluster of lakes and rivers proved to be an effective route for early fur traders and Native Americans to meet and trade wares.

St. Louis County hold 4H Camp there, just south of Gilbert, off Highway 135 and Highway 4. While building the camp's main lodge, numerous arrowheads and hatchets were discovered. Walt Hautala, the Executive Secretary of St. Louis County, wrote to County Commission Nelson who advised him to seek the guidance of the Bois Forte people.

the construction of another Waaginogaan at the Indian Village. This summer she will mentor the young people from the Iron Range Youth in Action Volunteers on the



Chairman Kevin Leecy speaks at the Indian Village dedication. Photo by Jan Dzwonkowski, Range Times.

Housing Problem

Continued from page 2.

problems that the Band has discovered. Koski and fellow Environmental Health Specialists, Tara Geshick and Robbie Goggleye are currently going through each house again to make sure they've identified all the problems and created a comprehensive list of the items that need to be corrected.

Leecy said the RTC is also looking internally at the Band's operations to prevent something like this from happening again. "That might mean changing staff responsibilities, not doing business with certain construction contractors and their subcontractors, or going after them for negligence," Leecy said. "We want to make sure that in the future, contractors who work on our housing and other projects adhere to tighter standards than they did

when this housing project began two to three years ago."

Carol Burr, who has been the Band's Housing Director for the past year, said, "This is a serious problem we've inherited. We're grateful to ES staff for their expertise, and we are going to fix these houses. We are also going to make sure that as we move forward, construction contractors are carefully supervised by a general contractor or by our own inspectors to make sure they are doing what we hire them

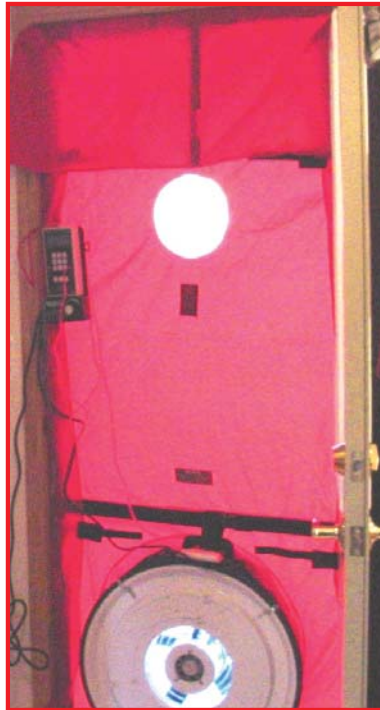


Photo of the Blower Door equipment that fits a fan in a door frame to depressurize a house. The instruments on the door helps locate leaks with the infrared camera.

to do – provide quality work for the Band and Band members."

The RTC listened to Hautala's idea for an Indian Camp and sought the guidance of the Elders before moving forward. Walt met with the Elders on three occasions. The Elders Council carefully reviewed the proposal and made some suggestions. Then the Elders agreed to pass on their knowledge with the understanding that it would be part of a larger educational effort, and the idea of an Indian Village was born.

The Heritage Center was contacted, who in-turn put Walt in touch with Gene Goodsky, Hank Goodsky and Kathy Levings Peterson. Kathy had worked with the Heritage Center staff and other volunteers two summers ago to help build a Waaginogaan, a Bois Forte style dwelling, which is on the grounds of the Heritage Center. Kathy graciously volunteered to help coordinate

construction.

The morning dedication ceremony included 110 elementary school students comprised of 5th graders from Eveleth Gilbert Consolidated and the 4th graders from Mesabi East. Walt Hautala was involved in the creation of the Indian Village from the beginning and was also a former 4H camp worker. He arose as a natural choice for event coordinator. He shares, "We were pleased with the good turn out. I have never seen so many excited people in one place. It was really a wonderful day of celebration."

Chairman Leecy spoke to the group and Secretary Treasurer David Morrison and District 1 Representative Mark Drift participated in the dedication ceremony. Drift

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KEVIN LEECY ELECTED VICE CHAIR OF NIGA

▶ Tribal Leaders from Across the Nation Vote Leecy, Vice Chair of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Bois Forte's Kevin Leecy was elected Vice Chair of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) on April 4 at the annual gaming convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Delegates from Indian Tribes around the country elected Leecy to work with their Tribes in developing public policy positions before other state legislatures as well as Congress.

"We are very proud that a Bois Forte band member has been elected by other American Indians from across the country to such a significant national leadership position. Kevin's presence will ensure Minnesota and the Midwest Tribes are well represented on the national scene." -District 1 Representative Ray Villebrun

In a strong speech to the voting delegates from the Tribes, Leecy said, "Indian gaming has one purpose and one purpose alone: to help tribes build stronger economies, communities and governments. Not to bail out governors and state legislators who can't balance their own books. Not to enrich crooked lobbyists. And not to serve as a scapegoat for reporters looking for a sensational story. Indian gaming is meant to help Indian people. Period."

John McCarthy, Director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association said, "Many of the voting delegates were impressed with the concise, focused agenda that Leecy articulated. He was very clear about the purpose of gaming and what NIGA's priorities should be."

NIGA is a non-profit trade association comprised of 184 American Indian nations and other non-voting associate

members. Its mission 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 and tribal community development.

This year's convention drew over 5,000 attendees and 400 vendors. NIGA's Chair Ernie Stevens Jr., a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin was pleased with the election results, "Kevin Leecy is a great example of the new generation of bright, articulate young Indian leaders. Kevin's work ethic and commitment to building coalitions to strengthen local economies will serve him well as NIGA's Vice Chair."



Bois Forte Chairman Kevin Leecy being sworn to office as the new Vice Chair of the National Indian Gaming Association.

4H Camp

Continued from page 4.

said, "This was such a positive thing, a real opportunity to teach our neighbors how the Anishinaabe respect Mother Earth and use her gifts wisely. We live on a small planet and this camp will provide those who visit a good education about Native culture, beliefs and respect for nature. The more we learn about one another, the more we can respect differences and appreciate the gifts varied cultures provide. I thought the whole experience was great

and from all indications our Spiritual Advisors and the many Elders in attendance seemed to agree." Gene and Hank Goodsky lead a dedication at the ceremony and after the construction is completed in late July or early August, and the Waginagon has been built, they will return to hold another ceremony. Walt is working on a grant to hire a graduate student to write about Native history in the area, and in time, hopes to employ a counselor from the Tribe to work at the camp.



Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Gene Goodsky shares his knowledge with the people at the dedication. Photo by Mark Sauer, Mesabi Daily News.

BOIS FORTE ELDER ADVENTURE TO WASHINGTON D.C.

APRIL 8 - 14, 2006

DEPARTURE...

The Bois Forte Elders and staff arrived bright and early at Fortune Bay Casino. Though the morning was chilly everyone seemed to be warmed by each others smiles and the excitement in the air.

Along the way time was spent reading maps, watching movies, quick cat-naps, and the exchanging of stories and family photos.



ARRIVING AT THE CAPITOL...



As the buses headed downtown Washington D.C. the excitement was high. Everyone had smiles as they took pictures of the buildings, trees, traffic, sighs and of each other. After piling out of the buses everyone geared up for the first tour of the trip, the Russel Senate building and Capitol.

REST STOPS... The buses stopped every so often to allow everyone to stretch and get fresh air.

At one rest stop in West Virginia the Elders spent time admiring the trees and picking nuts.



TOURING THE RUSSEL SENATE BUILDING...

As the Elders walked through the grounds of the Nation's Capitol they stopped to take in the view; photos, flowers, immigrant protesters and just to relax and enjoy the wonderful weather.

The ladies posed for a group photo before everyone was divided into groups to tour the buildings, which included a short train ride. The train ran under the streets connecting the buildings making access to the buildings easier and safer with out fighting the traffic.



MORE HOUSING, NEW REVOLVING ACCOUNT

Bois Forte Plans to Build More Homes by Creating a New Revolving Account

"Home sweet home." "There's no place like home." "Home is where the heart is."

Owning a home is central to the American Dream. Unfortunately, home ownership has been just that – a dream – for too many American Indians. That's why the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is working to develop a creative new revolving account to build more homes for its Band members.

The Band's Housing staff, with help from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Housing Division, sought and received a \$340,000 loan from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to build three new homes. Bois Forte Housing Commissioner Carol Burr and MCT's Vern Barsness are now working to set up the money as a revolving account. That will allow the Band to build a home, sell it to a Band member who qualifies for a loan from the MCT Housing Corporation, then take the proceeds from the sale and build another home to start the process over again.

According to Reservation Tribal Council (RTC) District I Representative Mark Drift, "Using this

approach, we hope to build six homes with funds originally designated for just three houses and still repay the MHFA in 20 months, as required by the loan terms."

Drift continued, "As we create more jobs in and around the reservation, more Band members are moving home. This is a great place to live and raise a family, but more houses are desperately needed. Programs like this are a creative way the RTC is trying to meet the needs of band members."

"Affordable housing for our Band members is a critical issue," added Kevin Strong, the Band's District II Representative. "To ensure more Band members qualify for home loans, we are also pursuing a program with the MCT and Bremer Bank in Minneapolis that will help Band members with poor credit histories clear up their debts so they can move toward home ownership."

Strong also said, "Thanks to our Housing team, we are one step closer to our goal: opening up the American Dream of home ownership to all families."

MGCP BUSY... BUSY...

The Multi Generational Culture Program Keeps Families Busy

The past few months have been busy as the Multi Generational Culture Program (MGCP) has held many activities for Bois Forte families to attend. In January grandparents and their grandchildren enjoyed a private show at the Paulucci Space theatre in Hibbing. Also in January the elementary students at the Nett Lake school enjoyed making an after school craft.

In February several families attended another show at the Paulucci Space Theatre. During this month the Headstart children also made crafts that had been donated by the MGCP. The elementary students got together again to make canvas totebags on February 22. Several families enjoyed learning about scrapbooking by an Independent Scrapbook Consultant while making their own scrapbooks.

The month of March brought several things for families to do. On March 5 families were invited to watch "Curious George" at the Comet Theater in Cook. Everyone had fun at the Swimming party held at the Orr AmericInn on March 12. A flower class was held on March 19 and everyone made a fresh floral arrangement with the help of Sarah Niska from Cook's North Country Floral. The head-start children and day care children enjoyed making more crafts with the MGCP.

April kicked spring off with a cooking class held on April 2 in Nett Lake. Teresa Drift from Health Services provided all of the supplies needed for

the day. Everyone enjoyed "Fruit & Veggie" Bingo and made a delicious dinner to take home. A coloring contest was also

held in honor of the Easter holiday. Please watch for flyers and check your child's school papers for more activities sponsored by the Bois Forte MCGP. If there are any questions regarding the MGCP please contact Vondalee Carr at Bois Forte Human Services (218)757-0111.



EASTER COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

	Nett Lake	Vermilion
Kindergarten:	Savanah Isham	No Participants
1st Grade:	Milla Carr	No Participants
2nd Grade:	Tea Drift	Travis Runningbear
3rd Grade:	Johnathan Lambert	No Participants
4th Grade:	Felicia Mason	No Participants
5th Grade:	Summer Isham	Devon Stillday
6th Grade:	Owen King	Anton Buckanaga

Each received a \$10.00 gift card and a free 'French Fries' card for McDonalds.

Congratulations Winners!

VOTE

RAY TOUTLOFF

for

District II (Vermilion) Representative

VOTE: JUNE 13

Paid by candidate on his own behalf.

Bois Forte TERO

Updates, Training Information, Career Fair ... More

It's been awhile since I've submitted an article to our Editor, so I thought that I better get an update in on the happenings in the TERO Office.

We currently have a couple of projects going on and they are:

Completion of the Vermilion Family Wellness Center and the 'Fortune Bay Expansion Projects'.

The Fortune Bay Expansion Project has three (3) phases and they are as follows: First was the Resort Hotel Front Desk Renovation with 'Lenci Enterprises' receiving that bid, this is near completion. Second is the Hotel Parking Lot Site Work with Ulland Bros. receiving that bid. Third phase is the Major Expansion Project, which will include additional room & office space, etc., this phase is still in the process of being bid out, with the bid opening to be held on May 23rd, 2006.

I would like to extend a big 'Mii-Gwetch' to the Tribal Council and Barb Brodeen/Executive Director for being so supportive of the TERO Program. Without their support, TERO would be non-existent.

The Tribal Council approved the TERO Commission and I to attend a TERO Training in

Phoenix, Arizona on April 11 – 13, 2006. This was sponsored by John Navarro/Council for Tribal Employment Rights. The training was beneficial and needed for us to conduct our roles for the TERO Program.

We have a **new commission** and they are as follows:

Chair

Geraldine Polasky

Vice-Chair

Jim Morrison

Secretary

Ellen King

Member

Geraldine Hanks

Member

Sharyn Strong

Alternate

Sidney Adams

Alternate

Darla Flett

We've been conducting our quarterly meetings on schedule, with the next one being in July. 'Chi-Mii-Gwetch' Commissioner's for your in-put and interest.

On April 20, 2006 we had a Union **Career Fair** for the High School Students up at the Nett Lake School, unfortunately the Tower students were unable to attend, but the Orr School students were present. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated.

Mark Drift, District-I Representative gave the welcome and a speech about his experience in working with the Unions.

Craig Gilbert-Bois Forte Band Member also gave a speech about his experience in joining the Union. Craig was working on our current projects as an Apprentice for Nelson Collie up until a few weeks ago when he was in an automobile accident in which he is now recuperating. 'HAVE A SPEEDY RECOVERY CRAIG'

There were several different trades that had their booths set up and gave a brief review of what they have to offer. The Union Guys are already talking about the next fair.

On April 21, 2006, John Lavato from the Tribal Technical Assistance Program/Michigan came and presented a

'Flagger's Training' at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Those that attended earned a certificate.

Carl Dagen – Public Works informed me about an **upcoming training** to be held on June 15 & 16, 2006 in Nett Lake and this is 'Welding.' Questions should be directed to Carl at Public Works (757-0193.)

For those of you who haven't come in to **update** your file or fill out a new **application**, please do so as soon as possible. **Projects are about to start.** If I'm not in the office, applications are available in a bin right outside of my office door, please



help yourself.

Band Member Businesses:

Applications for Certification as an Indian Preference Firm with our TERO Office have to be renewed. For those of you that haven't been in lately, please stop in to update your file.

Until next time,
Gii-Gah-Wah-Bah-Min.

Submitted By: Dawn Benner, TERO Officer

Wildfire Safety Tip

Creating a defensible space of 30 ft or more around your home will create a buffer between your home and a potential wildfire. In order to keep a wildfire from burning to your home consider doing the following:

- **Keep the lawn mowed low a maximum of 4 inches**
- **Remove junipers and other fire-prone vegetation from against the home**
- **Reduce ladder fuels (fuels that lead continuously from the ground to the tree tops) by keeping trees trimmed up from the ground at least 6-10 feet and clearing brush. This will keep a fire out of the tree crowns and prevent it from becoming more difficult to control**

Remember to review your defensible space annually and take action to keep it survivable. Call the Bois Forte forestry @ 218-757-3177 for further information or any questions.

BOIS FORTE HUMAN RESOURCES

Early Phase of Addiction

Boozoo, Its been several years since I've done an article for the Bois Forte news. I look forward and plan on doing a series of articles with a small focus on oppression and trauma. I also want to relate these articles to chemical addictions. With this first article I would like to just take a look at the early phase of addiction. I'll discuss seven phases, if you have experienced any of these, it would be wise to talk to someone in recovery from addiction or a licensed counselor.

1. Increase in tolerance. Four bottles of beer used to get us high, now it takes six or seven beers to get the same effect. One line of meth once did the trick now we need to snort three lines our tolerance continues to grow).
2. First Blackout. After a night out drinking or drugging, we cannot recall parts of the night. We do not remember going home, wake up at someone else's home, get confronted on how we behaved and do not remember, or even wake up in jail and get informed we are there for killing a family while drunk.
3. Sneaking Drinks or Chemicals. We don't want others to know we are using so we drink, smoke pot, or snort in the basement, out in the car or garage, woods.
4. Preoccupied with usage. Can't wait to get off work, out of school, you find your-

- self increasingly thinking of usage.
5. Rapid Usage. Drinking fast to get high, hurrying to snort or smoke that first joint.
 6. Blackouts Increase. Forgetting becomes more frequent and length of time increases.
 7. Loss of Control. Your intent is to stop and have one drink, but end up having more. One joint or snort turns into three day binge or more.

This is the first phase of addiction. The second and third phase get more intense. If you have the symptoms of the first phase you will progress to the second and third phase. The phases for some come slowly, and quickly for others. If you drink, your children will, if you smoke pot, your children will, if you snort, guess what!

One client said chemical addiction is a fire that has raged through my family for generations. We've all been burned. We all carry its scars. Parental addiction seriously affects our children's developmental stages. A family that has adapted to this addiction doesn't realize their system has become distorted. The roles, rules, rituals, relationships and sub-systems all have become negatively and seriously impacted by the addiction.

-Gary W. Adams, Director of Bois Forte Human Services.

BOIS FORTE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Underage Drinking

The news has been flooded with information about methamphetamines and by now I'm sure everyone is very aware of how dangerous it is. In the midst of the methamphetamine epidemic has the news of the enormous danger of underage drinking been lost?

Alcohol is the drug of choice among youth. Many young people are experiencing the consequences of drinking too much, at too early an age. The average age of first use of alcohol is now 13. People who start drinking before the age of 15 are five times more likely to become chemically dependent at some point in their lives. As a result with 3 to 4 million teen alcoholics in our country, underage drinking is a leading public health problem everywhere, and especially in northern Minnesota.

Every year in the United States, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a

result of underage drinking; this includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide, as well as hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns and drowning. In Minnesota St. Louis County ranks 7th in the state for frequency of alcohol related deaths and injuries.

Yet drinking continues to be widespread among adolescents, as shown by both nationwide and local surveys. According to recent surveys, 20% of all alcohol consumed in the U. S. is consumed by underage drinkers. And when youth drink, 90% of them tend to binge drink, that is, five or more drinks at one time. Underage drinkers are on the road too with 28% of youth reporting that they have driven under the influence and 4% reporting that they have been in a vehicle with an underage drunk driver. Alcohol plays a vital role in other crimes statistic too, as 95% of all violent

crime committed by youth involves alcohol.

So where do they teens get alcohol? From adults. Teens say that adults are their primary source of alcohol. Also 50%-75% of youth reported having a fake I.D. the state of Minnesota regularly makes compliance checks and reports that many establishments made alcohol sales to minors without checking their I.D.

Underage drinking is illegal and unsafe as everyone knows, but what can we do as an adult?

Never buy for anyone under the age of 21. Talk to your teen about the rules of alcohol use. Be straightforward and honest about the real consequences of alcohol use. If you choose to use alcohol, use responsibly. Remember, you are your children's most important role model. Let law enforcement know about any establishments or people providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

- Dana Erikkla – BFCO Program

ANNOUNCING A NAME CHANGE! BOIS FORTE NATIVE ARTS IS NOW CALLED NATV BEADZ & THINGZ

Nativ Beadz & Thingz will be holding an OPEN HOUSE Friday, June 2nd.
DRAWINGS, PRIZES, GOODIES

Everyone is invited to attend & help celebrate the new name & new store!

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The ONLY bead store in the Northland!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Heritage Center Gives Miller Mid-life Education

Bev Miller is catching up on the cultural lessons she had missed as a girl. The Vermilion native is one of Molly Wahwegan Lightfeather Anderson's 12 children. At age 3, Bev was transferred to an orphanage, and she proceeded to move to a variety of foster homes during childhood.

There were some lonely years growing up. "I think they tried to keep me away from my people," Bev said. Social Services wouldn't allow her to visit her Mother. But Bev was determined that one day she would reconnect with her birth family.

Attending Aurora Hoyt Lakes High School didn't grant her an education on Indian culture or traditions. "I didn't have a chance [to learn about my heritage] when I was growing up because I was almost the only Native American in our school."

After graduating from high school, Bev went on to study a field she had explored in foster homes, hair styling. As one of the older kids, Bev would "monkey around" with her foster siblings' hair. She had an obvious talent as anyone can see when they look at how well groomed Bev is each and every day. And so, Bev attended Virginia's school of cosmetology and then worked at a beauty shop in Hibbing.

In 1986, Bev and a friend traveled to Seattle, where she trained to be a Certified Nurse's Aid. "I liked the idea of helping people and working with the elders," she said.

Next she and friend traveled to Salt Lake City, where Bev worked at a hospital for three years. In 1994, after her finances and lonesomeness had both grown, Bev decided to return to northern Minnesota.

Bev, as industrious as ever, took on a number of jobs when she returned. She served as the Elders cook at the Vermilion Community Center, worked as a custodian at Fortune Bay, and also used her cleaning skills as an employee with Merry Maids during her first year back. The following year Bev moved once again. But this time she was following her heart. She moved up to International Falls to live with her husband Clint Miller, a fellow Band member. At the Falls, Bev resumed the work she loved in Seattle working once again as a Nurses Aid.

By 1997, Bev and Clint moved back to Vermilion and she was back at Fortune Bay where her work ethic helped her advance to several positions. Bev began again in housekeeping and was soon promoted to a managerial position. In



Bev Miller shows photo of inventory.

2003, she began working as a cashier at Fortune Bay and then tried her hand at bartending.

The work bartending was enjoyable but Bev sensed the noise and constant activity of the casino and hotel were not the peaceful atmosphere her spirit craved.

That's when she applied to be the Gift Shop Supervisor at the Heritage Center, a position she began last June. The peaceful atmosphere suits her much better, Bev said. And what bet-

ter place to finally learn about her heritage!

"It tells me a lot about my history and my people," she said. "Bill [Latady, the Center's Curator] is teaching me about working with the artifacts."

He's also teaching her how to examine excavation sites. She studied the pictographs at Crane Lake last year and may attend a class on database management for museums and heritage centers this year. Bev is also photographing the artifacts for record keeping and maintenance. "I love it!"

The work is in her blood, Latady said. "Bev has a natural affinity with the artifacts. What's she's learning in a few weeks took me a few years."

Roze Berens, the Heritage Center Director shares Bill's appreciation for their colleague. Roze said, "Bev is a very dedicated employee and a joy to work with. She has a wide range of duties here at the Heritage Center and she does them all with energy and enthusiasm. We are so glad Bev is part of our Heritage Center team."

Even when she's off work, Bev's hobbies reflect her beloved heritage. She enjoys beading, walking in the woods and attending Pow-wows. (Bev is a jingle dress dancer and her husband Clint is a traditional dancer.)

"This is a dream job for me", Bev says. "The Heritage Center is an inviting and peaceful place to be. I love to learn and I'm finally having an opportunity to learn day by day about my culture."



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BOIS FORTE CHAIRMAN PARTICIPATES IN BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY... TRIBAL ISSUES FORUM

▶ Chairman Kevin Leecy Discusses the Benefits of Tribal Gaming.

Bemidji State University American Indian Week, the Native American Indian Alumni Chapter sponsored a forum on Tribal Issues. Chairman Kevin Leecy was invited to be a member of the distinguished panel of tribal leaders that included Chairman Floyd Jourdain, Red Lake and Chairwoman Erma Vizenor, White Earth. Each Tribal Leader discussed an important issue pertaining to Native country. Kevin Leecy presented issues and benefits of tribal gaming. The following is a brief overview of Chairman Leecy's presentation.

The benefits of tribal gaming can be seen and heard by people all across Minnesota. But even as the success stories of tribal gaming and the positive impact it has had on communities is becoming more popular, there are many who still have questions and concerns. Why do Indian tribes have casinos in Minnesota, and in other states? The answer is tribal sovereignty. Our sovereignty is the foundation for everything we do, the lifeblood that nourishes our culture, our economy, and our sense of self. Sovereignty is not something that anyone gave us, or can give us. It is inherent."

The U.S. Supreme Court re-affirmed the tribes as

sovereigns that have the inherent power to regulate gaming on their own lands in 1987. The following year Congress passed the Indian Gaming Act (IGRA), which was signed into law by President Reagan. The purpose of IGRA was to help build stronger economies, communities and governments.

Over the years people had the misunderstanding that IGRA actually expanded the rights of tribes, but it had the opposite effect. Actually IGRA required that tribes negotiate agreements with states before any casino could be opened, even through the Supreme Court had affirmed that tribes had the right to regulate their own gaming on their own lands. Of course with all the bountiful opportunities that Indian gaming had to offer, tribes agreed to negotiate with the states.

IGRA seems to be doing what it was designed, to

help build stronger economies, communities and governments. Since the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa opened Fortune Bay Resort Casino, revenues from that business have helped us improve life tremendously. On our reservation, we have better homes, better



Anita Fineday, Chief Judge for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and Associate Judge for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe introduces Bois Forte Chairman Kevin Leecy.

health and fitness facilities, and better infrastructure like roads, water and sewer systems.

Indian gaming does not only help natives but non-natives as well. For example three quarters of Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees are non-native. But

over the past few years the native employee rate has increased significantly. Besides being a high employment facility, gaming helps boost the local economy by the purchasing goods and services from local vendors.

The Minnesota Indian Gaming Association

(MIGA) took a look at the overall effect of Indian gaming in Minnesota and according to the numbers the positive impact that Indian gaming has provided is impressive.

"Since the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa opened our Fortune Bay Resort Casino, revenues from that business have helped us improve life tremendously." - Chairman Kevin Leecy

Indian Gaming is working... we believe that Indian gaming – coupled with ongoing efforts to diversify tribal

economies into other industries – can do the job.

We believe we can continue to lift Indian people out of poverty and into new lives. The positive numbers that have grown over the past few years is proof that Indian gaming does work.



Distinguished Panel

Kevin Leecy, Chairman Bois Forte; Erma Vizenor, Chairman White Earth; Floyd Jourdain, Chairman Red Lake

TRIBAL MINUTES

▶ RTC Minutes: March 16 - April 21, 2006

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held March 16, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barb Brodeen; Mark Anderson; Vicki Holmes; Henry Goodsky; Shirley Benner; Marge Holmes; Mary Strong; Corey Strong; Lorna Landgren; Carol Burr; Dave Villebrun; Robbie Goggleye; Chester Graue; Edith Villebrun; Pete Drift; Dawn Benner; Jeneal Goggleye; Leo Vidal; Rose Lien; Lela Goodsky; Ellen King; Brad King; Billie Mason; Marilyn Geshick; Kristal Strong; Bill Latady; Denise Friend; Kim Greiner; Shawn Villebrun; Harold Goodsky; Donald Dupree; Clint Miller; Rose Berens; Marcus Knifechief; Carl Dagen; Rosemary King; Chris Holm; Miranda Lilya; Randy Long; Effie Drift; Jane Villebrun; Louise Isham; George Strong; Tara Villebrun

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve the agenda with the addition of an out of state travel request for Dave Larson and Chris Cox. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held February 16, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to table the minutes of a special meeting held February 22, 2006 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota, to correct the wording. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a special meeting held February 24, 2006 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Elders Committee: Marge Holmes states the Elders Committee does not have anything for the meeting. Mary Strong thanks the Council for the elders trip to Washington, D.C.

Corey Strong gives an update on the elders firewood program. The wood for next year has been cut. He also has a map where other individuals can cut firewood.

Mark Drift informs the Council the residents at the Kallio apartments want to use tables from the community center for a rummage sale which will be held in July. Mark is informed they can talk to Mavis Drift at ENP about the tables.

Carol Burr is asked about a door for one of the elder's apartment at the Assisted Living Center. Carol states the door has been ordered and just needs to be installed.

New staff introduced are: David Villebrun, Maintenance I Worker at Housing; Ellen King, Admissions and Occupancy Coordinator at Housing; Brad King, Lab Technician for the DNR Department; Donald Dupree, Custodian at Vermilion; Clint Miller, Elder Maintenance Worker at Vermilion; and Leo Vidal, Federal/BIA Police Officer.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to adopt resolution #131-2006, authorizing the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum to enter into agreements with tribal, state and federal governmental entities, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), for the purpose of collaborative cultural resource management on BLM islands in Lake Vermilion and other sites in northern Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to adopt resolution #132-2006, Bois Forte Cultural Resources Code. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to adopt resolution #133-2006, lease cancellation – Denise Morrison. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to adopt resolution #134-2006, residential lease – Lela M. Correa and Wilfredo

Correa. Carried 4-0-0. Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the 2006 Bois Forte Reservation Hunting & Trapping Seasons & Bag Limits. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #135-2006, re-authorizing United States Fish and Wildlife Service to perform contract services for fishery/waterfowl surveys as part of Bois Forte's Tribal Landowner Incentive Program. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to appoint Dr. Charles Helleloid as alternate to the Workers Compensation Appeal Board to represent the employees of the council. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve the following individuals to act as trainers under the Blandin Foundation Grant: Francis Goodsky, Donna Hoffer, Dave Chavers and Maggie Lasley. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve opening two bank accounts for stumpage on band owned land (the RTC can designate the use of ninety percent and ten percent will be administrative fee for forestry). Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #136-2006, amendment to the Bois Forte Indian Business Development Tax Rebate Program to allow for arrears collection for

money owed the reservation, and that the amendment shall be effective beginning with the 2005 rebate. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to table the Professional Development Consortium Agreement for the grant St. Scholastica is submitting to assist students with supplemental funding. Billie Mason is waiting for more information on this. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve out of state travel for Dawn Benner to attend the TERO Compliant Investigation Workshop to be held April 11-13, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Officer Justin Wendland to provide transportation for one male prisoner from Thief River Falls, Minnesota to Eagle Butte, South Dakota from March 17-21, 2006. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve out of state travel for Judge Margaret Treuer to attend the Federal Bar Association Fourth Annual Judicial Forum and the 31st Annual American Indian Law Conference to be held April 6-7, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; to approve out of state travel for Barb Brodeen

continued on page 13.

Minutes

Continued from page 12.

to attend the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Indian Gaming '06 Trade Show & Convention to be held April 2-5, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Kevin Strong withdraws his motion.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Barb Brodeen, Shaw Guelcher, Kristal Strong, and Louise Isham to attend the NIGA Indian Gaming '06 Trade Show & Convention to be held April 2-5, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Carried 3-1-0. Mark Drift against and states for the record he feels there are too many people going to this.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve out of state travel for Eddie Chavers, Randy Long, and Ira Isham to attend the WatchGuard Firewalling Basics course and the Virtual Private Networking course to be held March 28-31, 2006 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by David Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Kim Greiner to attend the 2006 Self-Governance Conference to be held May 8-12, 2006 in Acme, Michigan. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Dave Larson and Chris Cox to attend the BIA Forestry Timber Sales on Indian Lands in the Lake

States training/meeting to be held March 28-29, 2006 at Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Carried 4-0-0.

Marilyn Geshick asks if there will be a closer watch on the individuals who will be netting this year at Lake Vermillion and if anything happened to the individuals last year who had left some fish to rot. Corey Strong states the conservation officers and the 1854 Authority officers will try to be there everyday in the morning and the evening during the netting season, and that the offenders last year received a fine and their netting privileges were suspended.

Mary Strong states at the elders meeting the consensus was to only allow Band member elders to attend the elder's trip to Washington, D.C., but it was announced that others could go also. The elder's feel their decision should stand, that only Band members can attend. Barb Brodeen is to have the elders handle this. The Council is informed that some of the elders did not receive their letters about the trip yet, and some of them received it on Friday and the deadline to sign up was on Monday. The Council schedules a meeting for tomorrow, Friday, to discuss the trip. Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.

|END 3.16.06 |

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held April 21, 2006 at the Lake Vermillion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barb Brodeen; Vicki Holmes; Patti Wilkie; Kim Greiner; Andy Datko; Jim Tolan; Bill Spang; Mike Lettig; Ben Rechkemmer; Wendy Thompson; Gary Gotchnik

Chairman Leecy dispenses with the minutes.

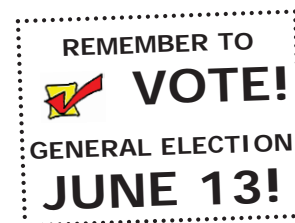
Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of 1) Andy Datko with the Hotel Expansion Project Financing, and 2) discussion on license plates. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to approve the agreement with Key Bank Native American Financial Services for the financing for the Hotel Expansion Project and the refinancing of a current loan, with the addition of language on tribal court jurisdiction on page 5, and pending Mark Anderson's review and any changes he makes to the agreement, and to authorize Chairman Leecy to sign the agreement. Carried 4-0-0. Dawn Benner is to draw

up a report on how TERO will be implemented (including training for the workers and how the workers will get to work).

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Chris Holm to attend a BIA Midwest Region Tribal Water Program Stakeholders meeting to be held May 10, 2006 in Ashland, Wisconsin. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve out of state travel for the following individuals: 1) Marcus Knife Chief to attend the Firearms Training Course to be held April 25-26, 2006 in Aberdeen, South Dakota, 2) Lance Hardwig to attend the 21st Annual Alaska Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Congress to be held June 15-18, 2006 in Homer, Alaska, 3) Carol Burr and Lela Goodsky to attend the 2nd Quarter Great Lakes Indian Housing Meeting to be held May 2-3, 2006 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, 4) Geraldine Hanks, Geraldine Polasky, Jim Morrison, Sharyn Strong, Darla Flett and Sid Adams to attend the TERO Compliant Investigation Workshop held April 11-13, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona, 5) Edith Villebrun, Lorraine Villebrun, Geraldine Hanks, Frances Isham, Frank Connor, and Robbie Goggleye to attend the 32nd National NAIHC Convention to be held May 20-27, 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii, 6) Leo Vidal to attend the Basic Police Officer Course at the Indian Police



Academy from April 30 to August 19, 2006 in Artesia, New Mexico, 7) Dave Danz to attend the pre-application meeting for the FY 2006 Indian Community Development Block Grant program at the HUD Office of Native American Programs held April 11-12, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois, 8) Darin Steen to attend the Multi-Agency NEPA & Phase I Contaminant Survey Training held April 19-20, 2006 in Ashland, Wisconsin, and 9) Louis Drift and Frank Villebrun, Sr. to travel to Pickett, Wisconsin between the dates of April 13-17, 2006 to conduct contractual weed-cutting services. Carried 4-0-0.

Ray Villebrun, Sr. asks if it is possible to get Band license plates for the veterans, and if so, maybe have a contest to design them. Discussion was held on whether individuals who have dishonorable discharges could get them or not. Patti Wilkie is to get the honor guard's recommendations on honorable and dishonorable discharges for the plates and forward to the Council.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.

|END 4.21.06 |

BOIS FORTE ARTS & CRAFTS STORE TAKES ON NEW LIFE AS NATV BEADZ & THINGZ

▶ Small Store Gets Bigger & Better

Loretta Knutson knows a little something about beads, both as beadwork and as beads of sweat. This Bois Forte member is living a life she loves, by combining her respect for Native American arts and crafts with her entrepreneurial spirit in the retail industry.

As the owner of NATV BEADZ & THINGZ, Loretta has recently finished a complete overhaul of her building at 4542 Lake Street in Orr, and she couldn't be happier. "My late husband Howard and I bought this location next to the fire station in 2001. We used half of the space for Bois Forte Arts & Crafts and rented the other half. It worked well for years and then beading just exploded nationally. I had to start thinking bigger."

What Loretta imagined came to light when her renters the "Timberjay Newspaper" decided to relocate to Cook. Now she could take over both spaces and make a store people, far and wide, would make the drive to patronize. But this would be no easy task. Behind the scenes a dual heating systems was added which includes three electrical heating units and a new propane furnace.

Now, visitors are beckoned into the large space by a new sign with colorful native symbols



announcing the store's new name, NATV BEADZ & THINGZ. Immediately underneath is a custom wooden overhang, and a huge mural on the wall, lovingly hand-painted by Loretta's son Neil.

The interior greets people with new tile flooring, freshly painted walls and new shelving and display cabinets. All of this increased space will come in handy for Loretta's vastly expanded selection.

"The Bead Shack in Hibbing was going out of business," Loretta explains, "and it just made sense for me to purchase their inventory. So in December, I took the leap and bought \$24,000 worth of sewing goods, beads, and fixtures, which greatly improved the layout and increased my offerings."

NATV BEADZ & THINGZ provides a colorful assortment of beads, beading supplies and finished beadwork, leather

goods, native music and cards, birch bark baskets, artwork and clothing items. Loretta is a Mary Kay makeup consultant and can provide interested clients a full line of Mary Kay products. She is also a big believer in the healing power of Ningxia wolfberry dietary supplements and carries several Ningxia products to aid people in feeling better and help ward off colds and flu. The products provide natural antioxidants and an abundant combination of vitamins and minerals.

Loretta is well known for her abilities as a crafter. Her first exposure to art was from her mother when she was young. As an adult, she had the good fortune of learning how to bead from Roze Berrens, Director of the Heritage Center.



As Indian tradition encourages, Loretta passes on what she has learned to the younger generation. She shares,

"I have really enjoyed volunteering to teach at Gene Goodsky's annual gatherings of students from Orr, Cook and Nett Lake during the fall rice camp and spring sugar bushing. They are so eager to get started and many of them show great promise."

Loretta is always interested in expanding her knowledge base into new art mediums. "Awhile back, I took some leather classes and adapted what I'd found beneficial into my own style and technique," Loretta recalls. "When I'm able, I offer Community Education classes to encourage people to explore their own creative side. This November and March, I offered classes at the store on making Mukluks. The learners



To celebrate the expanded inventory, remodeled location and new store name, NATV BEADZ & THINGZ will have its grand opening on Friday June 2nd, just before the Nett Lake Powwow. Loretta's brother Edwin Porter and his wife Lillian are coming in from Roanoke, Virginia for the event.

In closing Loretta adds, "My hopes is that all the folks who come for the Powwow, especially Band members, in town for the gathering, will stop in and visit the new store. There will be refreshments, prizes and great buys at the grand opening celebration; something for everybody and every budget."

NATV BEADZ & THINGZ summer hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Those who want to learn more are encouraged to contact Loretta at 218-757-3430 or by e-mail at lknutson@cpinternet.com.

DISTRICT II CANDIDATE

▶ Ray Toutloff - District II Representative

Dear Vermilion Voters:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vermilion voters for helping me to win the District II Representative primary election held on April 4. I need to humbly ask for your vote one more time in the general election to be held on June 13.

My primary election letter and brochure addressed my past experience and accomplishments while working for the Bois Forte Reservation. In brief summary I would like to point to my educational background that prepared me to serve as the Superintendent of Schools at Nett Lake and Ely, Minnesota. That same education, work and experience has prepared me to work on behalf of the Vermilion people. My grant writing skills and administrative skills resulted in the construction of the medical and dental clinics for Bois Forte, an \$8 million education complex at Nett Lake and the soon to be completed \$400,000 Vermilion walking trail grant.

My heart is in the Vermilion community. I have built my home here and intend to live out my remaining days on the Vermilion Reservation. My father, Andrew was born, on what is now Whiskey Point, to *Tah mush ka wa see* in 1909. His family moved to Ely, Minnesota where he raised seven (7) children. I have brought his spirit home. The circle has been completed.

I feel an obligation to use my background and skills to better the lives of the Vermilion people. My track record speaks to my ability to do so. There are many things to do to improve the lives of the people of Vermilion. I will itemize some of those that I feel



are important and need to be addressed during my four year term. *However, I believe in taking guidance and direction from the people I represent, including special consultation with elders before undertaking major changes that impact the community. It must be understood that my "to do list" is lengthy and comprehensive and many of the projects will take time but you have my assurance that they will be worked on during my four year term. Some may be started in my four year term but perhaps not completed until a future term. However, it is the people that will decide who will see these projects through.*

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

I will: -encourage language and cultural training of our youth in collaboration with local elders
-assure that any excavation sites are surveyed for ancestral graves and any remains are dealt with respectfully and according to tradition
-consult regularly with elders and listen to their views and opinions on major tribal decisions. (including their guidance on blood quantum issues)

FIRE AND AMBULANCE

I will: -assure that Fire Protection and Ambulance Protection Agreements are ratified, signed and paid by the Tribal Council for the

full protection of our people.

EDUCATION

I will: -work to enhance opportunities for our children in school district extra-curricular activities.
-work to lessen the drop out rate for Indian students that attend area high schools.
-develop a meaningful education program for Indian students identified as needing an alternative educational program.

EMPLOYMENT

I will: -work to diversify the Bois Forte economy with jobs that provide a wage that our people can live comfortably on.
-involve band member voices in the operation of Fortune Bay and other tribal business enterprises.
-work to develop a training program to prepare more band members in upper level management positions at Fortune Bay.
-bring back day care to make it easier for young parents to maintain their jobs.

GOVERNMENT

I will: -initiate the study of our election system in attempts to simplify it for voters and make it less cumbersome.
-work to have two (2) representatives from Vermilion to the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

HEALTH SERVICES

I will: -work to simplify the prescription drug delivery program from the Nett Lake pharmacy.
-review the medical and dental clinic schedules to assure Vermilion residents are getting the best service possible.
-initiate a feasibility study for the development of a secure, staffed, elderly living facility.
-assure that programs for healthy life styles are in place at the new wellness center.
-assure that the Vermilion people and all Bois Forte people are well prepared for

the "bird flu pandemic" if it becomes a reality. Should a vaccine become available I will work to assure that Bois Forte people are at the head of the line for protection.

-assure that non-resident band members are made aware of health services available to them through tribal programs.

HOUSING

I will: -work to provide Fortune Bay employees housing (apartment style) with a live in building superintendent and maintenance person.
-assist the Housing staff in securing funding for additional housing units for families.

RECREATION

I will: -follow through on the completion of the Vermilion walking trail that will parallel Vermilion Reservation Road from HWY 77 to Eagle Point Rd. and from the Wellness Center to Farm Point.
-develop a youth golf program at the Wilderness Golf Course. Vermilion and Nett Lake should have some of the best young golfers in our area with this facility in our back yard. We must remember that this is our golf course on our land.
-continue to support and develop programs through the Boys and Girls Club facility.

POLICE PROTECTION AND SAFETY

I will: -work to develop a full time police force at Vermilion to assure safety and security of our population. We have a small population, but with the casino occupying our land there is activity twenty-four (24) hours a day.
-work to develop alternative activities for our young children, teenagers and young families to eliminate the use of the drugs and alcohol that create chaos and problems within our community.
-assure the establishment of a process to notify reservation residents of convicted sex offenders living with-

in our communities.

-work with area jail facilities to develop jail agreements that are less distant than Thief River Falls and International Falls.
-establish a transportation plan for court days at Nett Lake.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

I will: -examine the feasibility and research funding sources for an Indian child foster care facility for Nett Lake and Vermilion.
-encourage the further development of an alcohol and drug treatment facility and/or programs that will work with patients in our community.

I realize that I have outlined an ambitious agenda but I will by no means be limited to only what I have written here. There are many additional issues that will come to the forefront while I represent you on the Tribal Council. Those issues will come from you the voters, from other Tribal Council members, the federal, state and other tribal governments. The Vermilion people can feel confident that someone with my background, education, and professional track record will deal with all issues with their benefit in mind.

Please contact me if you have any comments or questions on what I have presented here. I respect all opinions and would like to hear from you. I want to be your representative from District II. I will be the "voice of wisdom and experience for the Vermilion people". Don't forget to exercise your right to vote in the Tribal Election to be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

Me gwetch, Giga wa ba min,

Ray Toutloff
Candidate, District II
(Vermilion)
Bois Forte Tribal Council
218-753-8051
raytoutloff@hotmail.com

**ad space paid by candidate.

HELP WANTED

- Ever want to work in the world of radio?
- Do you love your Aniishinabe culture?
- Are you creative, adventurous, independent?
- Do you like to teach and learn?
- Do you enjoy telling stories?

If you answered YES to any of these questions you are exactly what we are looking for.

WELY end of the road radio **WELY** radio is searching for a Bois Forte Band Member to create and run an hour-long show, which will run either weekly or monthly. The program will feature Native American culture, music, artists, crafts, humor, and language. It is a cultural program designed and created by you, where the creative possibilities are endless. Help make your new radio station a bit hit.

If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity contact Bill Roloff 218-365-4444 or Rose Berens, Heritage Center at 218-753-6017.

Congratulations!

Jessica Ruth Smith
Graduate of Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
A honor Roll

Jessica Plans on attending the Fond du Lac Community College in the fall to participate in the Law Enforcement Program.

Congratulations & Good Luck!

-Bruce Smith-



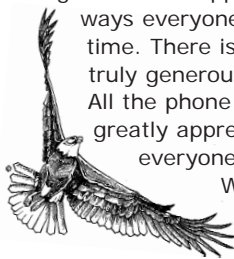
Happy 2nd Birthday Jacey!
Love Mom

CORRECTION

Correction: Dorthea Kletchka-Boney - title noted "Bois Forte Family Base Advocate" was incorrect. Correction: Thank you letter by Dave Morrison Sr , Title states "District I" and should be "Secretary-Treasurer".

A Special Thanks...

Thank you much from the families of Danny Boy "Mutt" Morrison
We would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped out during the wake and the funeral of Mutt. A special thanks goes to the pall bearers and the honorary pallbearers, the Bois Forte Honor Guard, the Orr Honor Guard, Reverend Lasley, and Wally Olson, Gene and Henry Goodsky, Gilbert Smith, the Nett Lake Drum Group and the PowWow Committee. We also want to acknowledge the fine works of the food donations and the clean up crew and the people who helped with setting up before the wake. The Forestry Crew, we thank you for keeping both wood fires with wood both at Cisco's house and Priscilla's. Thanks community for all the help you gave us. We appreciate very much all the ways everyone helped to comfort us at the time. There is no way to express all the truly generous ways everyone has help us. All the phone calls, cards, and cash were greatly appreciated. The beautiful flowers everyone sent were great. Thank you Warren and Betty Mlacker for all that you did to help us.



Century 21
Edwards & Associates

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Office: 218-749-4050 ext. 16
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Fax: 218-749-1018
Toll Free: 877-361-0728
Email: janet@century21edwards.com

Proud Bois Forte Band Member

FREE GOLF ACADEMY FOR JR GOLFERS!

The Wilderness Golf Course and Kemper Sports Management are offering a **Free Golf Academy for Junior Golfers at the Wilderness Golf Course.** This is a great way to learn the fundamentals and etiquette of golf, while meeting new friends and enjoying the outdoors. Participants will receive a shirt and cap along with a copy of

Summary of the Rules of the Game.

The first session begins June 12 from 1-3 pm and runs for 4 Tuesdays.



For more information or to register for this **FREE** academy call the Wilderness at **218-753-8917** or **1-800-992-4680** ext. 7803.

FOR:

- HONESTY** **OPENESS**
- ABILITY** **ENERGY**
- PROVEN LEADERSHIP**

VOTE:

RAY
TOUTLOFF

Paid for by candidate on own behalf.