



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 1

SOTB SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

TOWER— Make plans to attend the Bois Forte 2024 State of the Band (SOTB), which takes place Wednesday, January 31st.

This annual event is a great way to catch up with old friends, while learning more about all of the programs that Bois Forte has to offer.

Please see page 11 for more details on the 2024 State of the Band.

Beltran bids farewell to Bois Forte and Fortune Bay Former CEO/GM to begin a new career in Traverse City, Michigan

TOWER— After a two-plus year stint leading Bois Forte and Fortune Bay, CEO/GM Mayan Beltran has decided to take his talents to Michigan to serve as



BEST OF LUCK - Mayan Beltran is leaving Bois Forte for a new job.

the GM for the Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel near Traverse City.

Beltran gave his two-week notice at the December 12th BFDC meeting at Fortune Bay.

“It was an honor to work with the Bois Forte Band and Fortune Bay Resort Casino,” said Beltran, a U.S. Veteran and a proud member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. “As a leader, we always try to leave a place better than when we arrived. I believe we made a lot of beneficial changes for the team members, the businesses, and the Bois Fort Band.”

If Beltran could offer any advice, it would be to encourage Bois Forte’s leaders to continue to make a concerted effort to communicate and lead progres-

sive growth for the future of the Band.

“We can’t just put things on the back burner and not address them in a timely fashion, continued evolution is paramount for diversification,” said Beltran. “Hopefully, that will improve as we live in a fast-paced world where decisions must be made to keep progress moving forward.”

Given how Beltran was serving in a dual capacity as CEO for Bois Forte and GM for Fortune Bay, the Bois Forte Tribal Council has decided to separate the two positions. This will allow the person hired as CEO to focus on new business opportunities while the GM will oversee the daily operations of the casino and resort.

“Having two separate positions would give one of the leaders the ability to concentrate their efforts solely on economic development and/or casino operations,” said Beltran, who provided input to the council on how to best move forward with these critical positions for the tribe. “In order to diversify, that must be the sole focus as it’s not a part-time job.”

The two positions will be posted until January 12, 2024. Fortune Bay’s Director of Finance, Brad Anderson, will serve as interim CEO until Beltran’s replacement can be found. The GM position will be vacant until a new one is named. The current management team at Fortune Bay will

continue overseeing the day-to-day operations under the guidance of Anderson.

Beltran believes he and his team made incredible strides in updating policies and procedures. He was also pleased with enhancing team member benefits, namely a comprehensive study done by a third party with

input from employees and management.

That Blue Stone Strategy Partners study ensured that Fortune Bay employees were fairly compensated based on compiled local, regional, and national data. The study carried a projected \$1.1 million in

See Beltran page 2

Santa doesn't disappoint!



HO, HO, HO!—The inaugural Santa’s Workshop Toy Drive was a resounding success at Fortune Bay Resort Casino! Here Santa holds court with two youngsters who were eager to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Hats off to Fortune Bay’s Marketing team and the Promotions team for all of their hard work, plus all of the other departments that chipped in as well! Thanks also to all of Fortune Bay’s guests for donating toys to this worthwhile cause. Look inside for more pictures from the event!

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo Ahneen!

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday with their families and friends.

It has been a very busy winter so far, I am glad that here in Minnesota that we have a mild winter, with almost no snow, which makes traveling easier.

I had the opportunity to attend the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) meeting in New Orleans. At this meeting, all the tribal leaders attend and elect officers for the NCAI along with representatives from each region. We are in the Midwest region and our former representatives, Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Shakopee and Shelley Buck, Prairie Island are not running for reelection of their terms, so our region needed two new representatives.

The Midwest held our caucus and elected Lenny Fineday, Leech Lake and alternate is Michelle Beaudin, Lac Courte Oreilles. I know that they will both do a great job! There is one item that I wanted to let our veterans know is that veterans can apply

for the VA Loan Program and either get financing for a home or refinance their existing home under this program and the interest rate is at 2.5% interest! There are also no co-payments for Native American Veterans as they are exempted from co-pays at VA facilities. They realize there are homeless veterans out there who need some help. The telephone number is 1-877-424-3838 to call if you know of someone who is a veteran and homeless. These are just some of the issues that were brought forward at this conference. Great information.

Also, Tara Geshick, Secretary-Treasurer, and I attended the Tribal Leaders Summit in Washington, DC. They only allowed one tribal leader per

tribe and Tara represented Bois Forte and I represented the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) as I currently serve as President of the MCT.

President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris gave speeches, and all the department heads addressed the Tribal Leaders as well as attending some of the breakout sessions as well. It was unfortunate that Deb Haaland could not attend due to being ill, however, she did virtually attend! Assistant Secretary of the Interior Bryan Newland was also present and talked with us about issues that we are experiencing here in Minnesota as well as Bois Forte.

One issue that is crucial right now is the federal listing of the six Minnesota Chippewa Tribes. Currently, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, Leech Lake and

White Earth are listed as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

We were made aware that Tribal Economic Development funding is going to be distributed to the Tribes listed in the federal register. This means that the MN Chippewa Tribe will be funded and the six bands would then have to split that funding rather than being funded directly. All six bands agreed to be listed individually under the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in the federal register, but the BIA needs to make this happen or we need to pursue it legislatively. What a nightmare! We currently do not know what direction we have to take, but our elected officials in Washington DC are well aware of this important issue! We will keep you updated as these progresses.

Chi Miigwech

BOIS FORTE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES - COMMUNITY HEALTH PRESENTS:

2024 CAREGIVER & ELDER EXPO

Experts with solutions and information to age in place

FEBRUARY 6
10:00 - 2:00

FORTUNE BAY RESORT CASINO

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Beltran from page 1

crease in employees' wages over the next fiscal year. This study also gave Bois Forte Tribal Government employees a boost.

"We began Leadership and Development training and hired a training manager to develop and implement customized training," said Beltran. "We've procured a Feasibility study for the possibility of a Cannabis operation if approved by the Bois Forte Band."

Beltran also oversaw the opening of the Smoke Shop at Fortune Bay, which has seen mixed results due in large part to how many other businesses in the area have opened similar operations and staffing shortages. He worked to make sure the Bois Forte Band re-invested into Fortune Bay's and the other business's infrastructure with many capital improvements.

"Time takes a toll on any business and renovations, up-

grades or simply replacing equipment has to happen," said Beltran. "You must set aside rainy-day funds to make necessary improvements here at Bois Forte."

Like any leader, Beltran said he regrets not seeing some projects through but is confident the management team will do just fine after he leaves. He said he believes Fortune Bay has a great team that will only improve as they continue through their leadership development.

"When leaders learn the tools necessary to be an effective, proactive team member, it will positively impact any growth of the individual, the team, the businesses, and ultimately the Bois Forte Band," said Beltran. "I believe sometimes people need to get out of their way to be able to understand that change equals growth."

Museum does its part to keep Bois Forte traditions alive

TOWER—If you have ever attended a Bois Forte community meeting, the conversation typically involves ensuring that band members honor their culture, respect their elders, and retain the language essential to the Bois Forte people.

These key elements took center stage at the Mewinzhaa Gaazichigewaad Anishaanabeg Feast, which took place in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay on Monday, December 18th. There were roughly 50 band members in attendance for the event, which was sponsored by the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum and KBFT Radio. Funding for the event came from Living Language Grant Program, Minnesota Indian Affairs Councils and ANA-ARPA.

“This was something new that we wanted to do,” said Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Director Jaylen Strong. “It was part of a grant that Perry Drift worked on and it might be something that we would like to do in the future, should it be something that people are asking for.”

Attendees were treated to a dinner of baked chicken, wild rice casserole, garden salad, mixed vegetables, and dessert. Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams, Sr. gave the invocation, while The Bois Forte Singers, including Brian Stillyday, Lance Kingbird, Dave “Squidg” Morrison and Chaz Wagner sang the opening drum songs.

The event included a language presentation by Perry Drift and a Question-and-Answer session with Bois Forte Elders. Drift’s language presentation was entitled “120 Years of Language Loss: What Are We Doing About It?”

In an interview after the event, Drift said language and culture are important to future generations because the studies have shown that SLA (Second Language Acquisition) has plenty of memory, self-esteem, and neurological health benefits.

“Plus, the culture can help people sustain and grow with them in ways that complement their heritage and identity,” said Drift, who is the Language and Culture Coordinator at the Museum. “Everyone can learn Anishaanabemowin, and that is the most important aspect of

our way of life.”

For Strong, holding such an event was very important, and he is hopeful more events like these can be held so the momentum is not lost. He said having such an event provides an identity and a voice to who we are as native people.

“There are things we do differently or think about things differently than the non-native people, and to understand why that can provide an identity and answer for those who are wondering,” said Strong. “We can see some of those ideologies and purposes that some of these items play in our lives.”

As an example, Strong said *gichi-ayaa* is the word for an elder. But breaking it down, *Gichi* = great or big, and *ayaa* = a being or to be. So, when we think of elders, Strong continued, we think of them as great beings that hold so much knowledge and should be held in high regard.

“I think, if people don’t know the language or know the culture, it can feel like they don’t really know or understand their native side of their identity,” added Strong.

Regarding Respecting your Elders, both Strong and Drift spoke of how important that is—they agreed that it should be an easy concept to grasp, but sometimes it is forgotten, which can be frustrating.

“As mentioned before, traditionally, our elders were our teachers and held the knowledge for all these different values and were the ones who would guide us as a community,” said Strong. “Now, I think it can become more common to forget that part, especially with the changing world. With people moving more away from the traditional values or cultural teachings, in exchange for a faster-paced world and experiences, there isn’t as much teaching that is getting passed on.”

For Drift, he said “Respecting Your Elders” is a core teaching. He said that long ago, when the Anishaanabeg children were being cared for by their grandparents because their parents were doing daily life tasks, the grandparents (elders) would teach them language, star knowledge, and life teachings about



GOOD JOB PERRY!— Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Language and Culture Coordinator Perry Drift, far right, goes over his PowerPoint presentation on “120 years of Language Loss: What are We Doing About it?” Submitted photo.

many topics.

“That’s where that core belief in respecting your elders comes from,” explained Drift. “Honoring those who have walked this path of life long before we were born.”

When asked what motivates him to keep events like these going, Strong said it’s inspiring and brings people closer to knowing that other people are working on Language and Culture.

“It also is a place to recognize the younger folks who are going to be our next leaders for these issues,” said Strong. “We hope to help continue these

efforts and provide a space for people to network to help with their efforts as well.”

Drift had similar sentiments and added that what motivates the Museum to keep these discussions at the forefront is our families, friends, and fellow Anishinaabe people.

“We must preserve and honor this knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation,” said Drift. “We love what we do, and that makes us content to keep going and pushing the next generation to step up to help the language and culture.”

Now **HIRING**



Bois Forte always has job openings, so make sure to check thge out on the Bois Forte website! As of press time, there are two jobs currently available.

1. Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute
2. Bus Driver in Nett Lake

Go to: www.boisforte.com/jobs for more information.

Catching up with Bois Forte's Frank Villebrun

Let's start by telling our readers a little bit about your background. Where were you born, where did you grow up,



schooling, family, etc.?

I was born in the Cook Hospital, and grew up in Nett Lake. I attended Nett Lake elementary school until 6th grade, attended Orr School, 7th grade to 12th grade and graduated. My parents are Frank Sr. and Elaine Villebrun, I have 3 siblings, Donald, Lynette, and Leighann.

How long have you been working with the Bois Forte as the Environmental Services Director and what keeps you motivated to stay in the field?

I have worked for Bois Forte Environmental services for 8 years. I started and worked 6 years as a solid waste collections technician, and over the past year and a half I have worked as the Environmental services Manager. Keeping things good and providing good services to the

community of Bois Forte-Nett Lake, Indian Point and Vermilion. It keeps me motivated.

Tell our readers what your job entails and what are some of the primary duties you do on a day-in and day-out basis?

On Mondays and Fridays, Environmental Services has a recycling route that is picked up in Nett Lake (Monday), and Vermilion (Friday). Pick up routes start at 9am. I am in charge of the Blight Ordinance Program and so inspections are often needed. I also coordinate the annual Bois Forte Community Clean-up Program, and have been involved a lot in brownfield contamination program development. I also help other departments here at the DNR as needed. Teamwork is the way to success.

What are some of the biggest challenges facing your department and how do you and your department work around those challenges?

Environmental Services has a big project coming up with a which involves coordinating a Phase I and II Environmental Contaminant Assessment and

removal of 2 underground tanks from the old sawmill site here at Bois Forte. I have been coordinating this project with MPCA, and EPA. I have also been assisting with removals of burned houses on Nett Lake. All these projects are challenging for one person, but coordinating with other agencies, other programs and DNR staff for assistance helps me work around the challenges.

How are things going with the Blight Ordinance that was passed last year? Is that still a work in progress or have strides been made to clean up the Nett lake and Lake Vermilion sectors?

The blight ordinance program work is going well here at Nett Lake and Vermilion. Environmental Services has had to issue 3 violations to date. But we work directly with the home owners, and so all the issues were resolved. Most issues involve having junk, junk cars and undisposed garbage.

Are there any projects that might have taken a back seat this past year that still need to be completed?

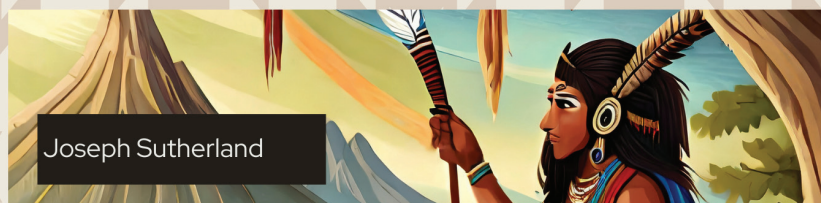
All projects are completed and on time. Community clean-up is the bigger project that environmental services coordinates, and this project is always completed on time. This project is put out for bids every year around springtime.

What are some of the bigger projects you and your team will be working on in 2024?

Community clean up and contaminant survey projects are two major projects coming up for environmental services, along with the residential bin rental services for the residents of Bois Forte and Vermilion sectors.

And finally, what is the best advice you ever received, and how do you incorporate that advice to help you continue the successful career you've built for yourself?

I receive lots of great advice from the residents and the community all the time. The community members who Environmental Services is here for. I'll keep doing my best to keep Bois Forte moving forward in the areas of environmental safety and compliance for the Band Members' health and safety.



Joseph Sutherland



ANISHINAABE STORYTELLING



About Ogimaawab

Joseph Sutherland, a proud member of Nishinawbe Aski First Nation, passionately serves as an Anishinaabe Language and Cultural Teacher. His dedication extends to bridging generational gaps, imparting valuable knowledge, and fostering a deep understanding of Anishinaabe language and customs. Joseph's commitment to cultural education plays a vital role in preserving and enriching the Anishinaabe heritage. Additionally, he shares indigenous insights into the night sky's perspective.

1/10/24

1pm - Bois Forte Heritage Center

1500 Bois Forte Rd, Tower, MN 55790

5pm - Bois Forte RTG

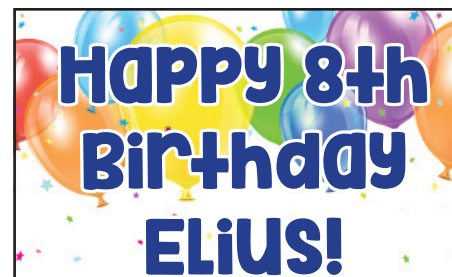
5344 Lake Shore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772

Come enjoy an evening of tales, teachings and more from Ogimaawab (Joseph Sutherland) as he tells Naanaboozho stories, and shares his knowledge of the Anishinaabe.

FREE ! All are welcome!

MORE INFO

www.kbft.org



Love, Mom, Dad & Hazel

Winter tips for Bois Forte Solid Waste Bins

Although Ol' Man Winter has yet to bear down on us with a large snowstorm, or any snow for that matter, we all know that it is just a matter of time before the elements will test our patience.

And for the Bois Forte Solid Waste Department, the first large storm of the year will put them to the test as they are out and about removing garbage from both the Nett Lake and Lake Vermilion Sectors.

Please use these winter tips when placing your Bois Forte Solid waste bins out for collec-

tion:

- Clear snow or other obstructions at least 5 feet on each side of bin.
- Make sure the wheels of the canister are NOT facing the road.
- No personal cans or extra bags next to the green canister, operator does not get out to collect trash bags. Only the green canister gets picked up & dumped.
- Place your canister opposite mailboxes or any other object that may block the truck from picking up your canister.

Even a high snowbank could interfere with pick up.

- Remove Bin from the

curb/roadside AFTER your solid waste pick up date to avoid getting buried by snowplows.

Thank you for your cooperation and Happy New Year to you all!

PROGRAM FAIR

*In Nett Lake at the
Bois Forte Tribal Government Center*

Friday, January 26

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Discover programs offered at area Minnesota North College campus locations.

Lunch provided.
All are welcome to attend!



Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg



Bois Forte 477

Contact Vonda Carr @ 218-757-3261 for questions.

"Giwii
maawaniidiwag
naanawe-oog

We heal together

ART CONTEST

ART CAN BE
AN ORIGINAL HAND DRAWN
OR DIGITAL CREATION



3 Winners per category!

12+, 18+ & Elder (55+)

1st- \$250

2nd- \$200

3rd- \$150

Sponsored by:
Bois Forte Community Health
Winners will be selected at the Elder Expo
on 2/6/24

Winners art will be used in a variety of promotional materials such as t-shirts, bags and waterbottles for the community.

Mail or Drop off submissions to: OR Email

HHS c/o Art Contest

5344 Lakeshore Dr

Nett Lake, MN 55772

By January 31, 2024

Irosier@boisforte-nsn.gov

*Include name, age, contact info and tribal affiliation (enrolled, descendent or enrolled elsewhere)

Mason gives in-depth update on Conservation Law Enforcement Division

*By Conservation Officer
Tony Mason*

NETT LAKE— The Bois Forte Conservation Law Enforcement division of Bois Forte DNR would like to thank everyone for the safe year you all had during the past seasons.

It was a pleasure to work



for Bois Forte Reservation for another year. We would mention a few things to all Bois Forte Band Members.

I want to mention that we have begun to implement the DOJ-CTAS grant that DNR pro-

cured this fall. This is a three-year grant program. I am starting to apply for funding to build infrastructure support for Conservation Officers in their efforts to protect the Bois Forte Band's Natural Resources.

The Conservation Law Enforcement Officers will do their part to help develop MMIR awareness and abatement programs. We will also be developing monitoring programs for remote area human trafficking, drug abuse, and the abuse of Bois Fortes' Natural Resources.

As Conservation Officers, we believe we can help and assist not just our youth but also our older people to rekindle and/or find value in our natural resources and use those resources appropriately and with great honor and respect. I believe that Conservation Officers are the first line of defense to help and protect human life and natural resources.

We at the DNR are looking forward to the challenges and rewards of CTAS for the community and for us implement-

ing the program.

Last year, we saw a huge reduction in nuisance animal calls. We still have work to do to reduce these calls further. As most know, the DNR was able to enlist animal support services with Contented Critters out of Ely, MN. This has been huge for Bois Forte.

To keep progressing forward, it is important that everyone takes responsibility for their pets. It isn't the job of a Conservation Officer to euthanize an animal because a person chooses not to take care of their pets.

At Contented Critters, any person can bring an animal in for treatment or for re-homing. Contented Critters is a no-kill shelter. Animal surrenders from Bois Forte do not need to be done by the Conservation Officers. If it is a mean and dangerous animal, contact the Conservation Officers, and that animal will be taken care of. I ask everyone to do the right thing. Contented Critters will treat these animals well and find them a home. It's amazing how many homes they have found for our pets.

We Conservation Officers are very grateful to everyone who brings them in on their own.

This next topic is a disheartening one for me personally. Unfortunately, our deer season harvest will turn out even worse than last year. Some attributing factors have come into play. I am certain there will be many discussions in the upcoming months on how to improve our deer herd and what steps need to be taken.

I will say that I was happy to see the number of hunters that were out this season. I truly enjoyed that. I want to congratulate Richard O'Shea on his first deer ever. He has spent many hours deer hunting these last three years, and he finally harvested his first deer, a very nice 8-point buck. Congratulations.

As a note to all, it would be a great help to DNR Conservation if those who did get deer called in and let us know what they shot and how many. It would also help us get a more accurate account of what was harvested. Currently, we have also not harvested a moose

within the Bois Forte Reservation, but that, too, isn't because of lack of effort. But moose are not being very cooperative.

Our trapping season is underway as we near the end of deer and moose season. We do have some band members out harvesting some animals. It's very nice to see them out there. Fur prices may be low, but one can always use their fur for regalia or other personal use. Nothing is warmer than our northwoods furs made into mittens, hats, or mukluks. Plus, it gets people outside and active during our long winters. I encourage people to take our youth out and try to get them into trapping and snaring rabbits. If you cannot do so, I'm sure the Conservation Department would also be able to help.

Again, thank you for the great year. We appreciate each one of you and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have any questions, contact Conservation Officers Tony Mason and Brian Whiteman Jr. at the DNR building.

Thank you!

The family of Terrie Morrison would like to thank both Twin Valley Assisted Living of Twin Valley, MN and Chestnut Grove Assisted Living of Virginia, MN for the care they provided her.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed food, everyone who helped in the kitchen, for everyone who gave or sent cards, money and flowers.



Be prepared to renew your health care coverage



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Look up your renewal date.



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Wisocki placed on unpaid administrative leave

Manager at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay is facing five felony Theft by Swindle charges from his former employer

TOWER— The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Manager Joe Wisocki IV has been placed on unpaid administrative leave after being charged with five counts of felony Theft by Swindle in Minnesota state court for actions taken during his tenure as Director of Golf at the Willmar Community Golf Club.

Wisocki, who was hired to oversee The Wilderness at Fortune Bay this past spring, worked at the Willmar Community Golf Club from February 2019 until his dismissal on January 3, 2023.

Bois Forte Secretary/Treasurer Tara Geshick informed the council of the criminal complaint against Wisocki late Saturday evening, December 16th.

At a special meeting Monday, December 18th, the Bois Forte Tribal Council voted 4-0 to place Wisocki on unpaid administrative leave.

“We take this very seriously, and we’re doing our internal investigation at this time,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers Monday afternoon, shortly after the council’s decision was made.

According to a criminal complaint filed in Kandiyohi County District Court on December 14, 2023, Wisocki allegedly stole nearly \$28,000 from the Willmar Community Golf Club.

Four of the felony counts alleged that Wisocki “obtained possession of property or services from another person of a value of more than \$5,000.” Those four thefts by swindle each ranged from \$5,100 to \$6,959.64 in funds stolen. Each of those counts could result in a maximum sentence of 10

years imprisonment, a \$20,000 fine, or both. The fifth felony count alleged that Wisocki stole \$4,100, which is punishable by up to five years imprisonment or a \$10,000 fine, or both.

According to the criminal complaint, the Willmar Community Golf Club fired Wisocki in December 2022 due to poor performance and also indicated that the volunteer board discovered over \$100,000 in invoices that the club owed money on.

The complaint also indicated Wisocki opened a company credit card that was not reported to the Willmar Community Golf Club Board. The board found dozens of credit card transactions unrelated to the golf club. Instead, the complaint indicated that Wisocki used the credit card to pay for services expended on his side business, Joe Wisocki Golf.

According to the complaint, credit card charges were also being paid to youth hockey associations, hockey training facilities, hockey-related purchases, and a fitness director for training Wisocki’s son.

According to the criminal complaint, one of the first questions Wisocki asked the chair of the Willmar Community Golf Club Board after he was terminated was if they had found any financial impropriety and at the time he was told no. However, after the club looked into its books further, they did find financial impropriety and the investigation ensued.

Wisocki, who lives in Eveleth, has maintained his innocence and has retained an attorney. He will make his first appearance at a remote hearing on Wednesday, January 17,

2024.

Geshick, who is in her first term as Secretary/Treasurer, said she was very disappointed to hear about this case as re-

gardless of the outcome, it can negatively impact The Wilderness at Fortune Bay brand.

“One of the things that really disgusts me is if somebody

tries to take advantage of the band,” said Geshick after Monday’s meeting. “As secretary/treasurer, I can’t ignore that.”

BOIS FORTE BEHAVIORAL PRESENTS: CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING GROUP



ABOUT THE COURSE

Circle of Security is a relationship-based parenting program. The class will include videos, reflection, and discussion.

Who should attend? Parents of children, foster parents, anyone raising children. Its never too late to find new ways to connect!

This group will help you to:

- Learn how to provide a loving, safe, and secure base for your children
- Understand your child’s emotional world by learning to read emotional needs
- Support your child’s ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child’s self esteem
- Learn how parenting choices impact your relationships with your children and your children’s behavior.

WHEN:

Group starts **Thursday, February 29th, 2024.**

Group will run from **2:00p.m.-3:30p.m. for 8 sessions.**

Attendance is required to receive certificate of completion.

WHERE:

Group will be held Virtually *Via Zoom*

Zoom meeting information provided at registration.

Register by Friday, February 16th, 2024 by Calling Erin Danielson
218-757-3295.

8 WEEK CLASS

Must hold active health insurance

Recent Diagnostic Assessment required at start of group

For any parent(s) who are eligible for Bois Forte Services

Starts

February 29th, 2024

for 8 sessions every Thursday

2:00p.m.-3:30p.m.

Group Facilitator:

Michelle Long, MS

**REGISTER BY
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16TH**

Obituary



JOHN C. LEHTI, left this world on November 29, 2023, at

the age of 68. Born in Winton, MN, in 1955, to Gustoff Lehti and Emma (Columbus) Lehti. John grew up surrounded by the beauty of nature in Isabella, MN and Nett Lake, MN with time spent on Lake Vermilion with family.

John started his education in Silver Bay and graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1974. He entered the logging industry as a self-employed entrepreneur, but later shifted to becoming a heavy equipment operator at North Shore Mining, where he worked until his retirement.

John had a strong passion for the outdoors. He enjoyed

traveling, hunting, fishing, and ricing. These activities became more than hobbies for John; they were his way of connecting with the world around him, his family, and appreciating God's creation.

John's life revolved around his deep, personal faith in Jesus. This strong belief gave him strength, comfort, and a sense of purpose beyond earthly existence. He viewed himself as a traveler on a temporary journey, anticipating eternal life with the Lord. Eager to share his revelation, he invited others to experience the fulfillment and hope he found in his faith.

His childlike spirit and

light-hearted nature endeared him to everyone he encountered. His family, friends, and community will always remember his steadfast presence, unwavering ability to tell a joke, and his ability to make everyone feel special.

He was a proud father to his six children: Alicia (Todd), Chris (Jenna), Jonathan (Allison), Hannah (Cheyenne), Emily (Brandon), and Andrew; and stepdaughters: Angie and Rachel. He was even more overjoyed to be a grandfather to his 17 grandchildren: Jakson, Ellie, Parker, Bryce, Matayah, Morgan, Emma, Ryan, Brynn, Hayden, Max, Liam, Tanner,

Kai, Brody, River, and Nora; and the mother of his children and friend: Jeannine Adams (Norm) of Embarrass. Sisters: Stella and Denise and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held from 10 a.m. until the Memorial Service at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023, at Grace and Truth Bible Church in Virginia. Pastors Joe and Randy Reed officiated.

Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home, in Virginia. To express condolences online please see: www.baumanfuneral-home.com.

Save the Date

Bois Forte Mid Winter Powwow

February 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2024

Bois Forte RTG – 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

Table/booth space are available for programs and

organizations to reserve please email:

kristen.holmes@boisforte-nsn.gov

Powwow meetings held every Tuesday at 5PM starting December 19th, 2023 at the RTG

Questions?

Call Toni Wakemup at 218-404-8377

David Morrison Jr 218-757-0087



Minute with Millie

These days during January are bitter cold sometimes. Upon occasion I hear a Skidoo roaring by in the dead of night. Reminds me of the days back when Skidoos were first invented and handed out to the public for the first time.

My father had gotten two of them. A yellow Skidoo to which my sisters and I were consigned to driving. (Mind, He grew up in an even older generation as he fondly reminisced about his first experience with the telephone back in the 1920's. Whoa, a hundred years ago, my father was nine months old. Gob smacking that is. T'any rate that explains his belief that women were the gentler sex and needed to be protected. Where, why, and what me and my sisters constantly argued about as we were on the tag end of the hippie generation.)

And a more powerful model of snowmobile, the brand name of which escapes my memory as I was more concerned with the mechanics of driving the Skidoo, and was only reserved for him and my brother who was younger than us.

And that year was the first year we had running water in our house, an indoor toilet, a warm house no matter where in the house one was. A refrigerator. Oh and a TV. Lamps



one didn't have to be careful around. Overhead lights. OH, to be sure, washing dishes was a bit easier.

The life one has lived goes by in a flash. My mom and dad lived through walking everywhere to flying around in a plane to far reaches of our country. I and my sister were amazed when we actually flew over the ocean to another continent. Well island just off the continent. Whoa. What a trip down memory lane for sitting here listening to a snowmobile roaring by.

Rowland is the new ENP & Food Shelf Supervisor

Quick introduction—my name is Jennie Rowland and I am the new ENP & Food Shelf Supervisor.

Please share the new Bois Forte ENP Facebook page, we will be uploading Karen Drift's monthly Elder Newsletter every month as well as posted other news. Thank you, Jennie

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554106087915>

Jennie Rowland
ENP & Foodshelf Supervisor
Jennie.Rowland@boisforte-nsn.gov
218-410-5054 cell
218-757-3261 ext. 1501

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's (ENP) menu for the month of January. Services offered include nutritious meals served daily, Monday through Friday at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Community Centers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with home-delivered meals available to Elders who are unable to get to the ENP sites.

January 2: Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 3: Beef/Bean Soup, Potato Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 4: Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Role, Stir Fry Vegetable's, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 5: Bison Stew, Grain Bun, Chef's Choice Fruit

January 8: Shepherd's Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef's Choice Fruit

January 9: White Chicken Chili w/ Beans, Corn Bread, Chef's Choice Fruit

January 10: Roast Pork, Bakers Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 11: Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 12: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 15: Sausage Jambalaya, Cheddar Biscuit, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 16: Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 17: BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked



Beans, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 18: Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

January 19: Meatballs w/Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 22: Black Bean Bowl, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 23: Walleye Chowder, Mixed Vegetables, Whole Grain Crackers, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 24: Taco Salad/Chef Salad, Refried Beans w/Chips, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 25: Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Capri Vegetable, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 26: Bison Stew/Chili, 7-Grain Bun, Chef's Choice of Fruit, Whole Fruit

January 29: Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes or Roasted Root Vegetables, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 30: Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

January 31: Wild Rice Meatballs w/Gravy, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef's Choice of Fruit

YOUR VOTE Counts



As those who have read my articles know, I have decided to run for Chairwoman once again. Some people do not want to vote, but it does matter. What I have stated in my previous articles is that I cannot take credit for all the good things happening at Bois Forte because it is our great staff who does the work. I do not even vote at Tribal Council meetings, unless there is a tie and then I cast my vote.

It is not only this current council who has paved the way, but previous councils and administrations as many of these projects take some time to develop and

then obtain the funding to making the project a reality. The tribal leaders past and present have constantly and consistently made sure that Bois Forte's voice and issues are heard. I know there are individuals that at times think I am just doing this for myself and also using staff for political gain. However, that has never been my way of conducting business.

I truly want Bois Forte to be a leader in Indian Country and to help address our band members issues and concerns.

We, as tribal members, need to work together and be open to new ideas. We, at times, are our own worst enemy by not being open minded.

On a positive note, Bois Forte currently has projects such as the Vermilion Maintenance/Food Shelf building, new DNR building and the new Transit Facility. The latter will hopefully begin this spring.

We need to keep moving forward together, work together for the betterment of our reservation and band members. I look forward to that work if you choose to re-elect me as your Tribal Chairwoman. Again, please vote!

VOTE CATHY CHAVERS

Memories from Santa's Workshop Toy Drive!



HERE'S WHAT I WANT— Six-year-old Giselle Rose Benner, lets Santa know what she wanted for Christmas. Giselle is the daughter of Kenda Benner and granddaughter of Dawn Benner, who took her out for the event. "I think I might want an LOL doll—it has tiny hands and a big head," said Giselle after visiting with Santa.



HELPING OUT— Fortune Bay's Josh Sherman and his wife, Alanna, manned the hot chocolate station at Santa's Workshop Toy Drive, which took place Wednesday, December 20th in The Woodlands Ballroom. Both Josh and Alanna, who are Bois Forte Band Members, are key players within the Fortune Bay operations and always are one of the first ones to step in and help out as needed. Great job, Josh and Alanna!



JUST STARTING OUT— Tara Wagner and her son, Ray Boshey, Jr. poses for a quick photo before taking in all of the activities at Santa's Workshop Toy Drive. Ray, who is nine, said he wants "Teenyumates" for Christmas. "This is awesome," said Wagner of The Woodlands Ballroom, which was decorated in a wonderful Christmas scene and had plenty of fun and games. "Thanks to Fortune Bay for doing this. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Sign up for fast, reliable INTERNET!

SIGN UP TODAY AND GET FREE INSTALLATION!

CTC is installing a state-of-the-art fiber optic network in Bois Forte! You can count on CTC's ultra-fast fiber internet for all of the "ings" in your life - like streaming, shopping, surfing, working, and more!

1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) **\$99.95**

500 Mbps **\$84.95**

250 Mbps **\$64.95**

CTC'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA

For the past few years, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa has been working alongside CTC to plan, engineer, construct, and maintain a high-speed fiber optic network.

Over 400 homes and businesses in and around the Bois Forte community will have access to reliable internet, landline phone, and business solutions for years to come.

WHO IS CTC?

CTC is a full-service technology provider and advisor for fiber-to-the-premise and wireless networks. As a member-owned cooperative, we understand what it means to work towards a broader mission. We want to help connect your community.

With over 70 years of experience in telecommunications, CTC has evolved into a complete communications provider offering telephone, high-speed internet, and IT services to businesses and individuals throughout central and northern Minnesota.



Connect with us!
218-454-1144 | goctc.com/boisforte

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR SIGN UP EVENT!

January 10 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bois Forte Tribal Government Center
5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

January 11 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bois Forte Tribal Government Center
1610 Farm Road South Tower, MN 55790

See if you're eligible for FREE INTERNET!



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband internet they need for work, school, healthcare, and more.

This benefit provides a discount of up to **\$75 per month** for households on qualifying tribal lands.

Learn more at getinternet.gov or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

The ACP is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

THE MCT ELECTION CALENDAR: 2024 Regular Election

December 27, 2023 Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.

January 8, 2024 Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.

January 11 Election Announcement

January 12 8:00 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office.

January 22 Close of filing period

January 31 Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge
(For certification of candidate)

February 12 Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC.

February 14 Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.

February 15 Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.

February 15 Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.

February 16 Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.

February 18 Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.

February 22 Deadline for Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals.

February 24 Notice of Primary Election and Posting.

February 28 TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.

March 29 Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.

April 2 Primary (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

April 3 General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results.
(Prior to 8:00 p.m.)

April 4 General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.

April 5 Deadline for Request for Recount.
(Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)

April 5 Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary

April 9 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election.
(Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

April 10: (Results, if Allowed or April 8 or 9 If earlier request) Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.

April 19 Deadline for Decision on Contest

April 22 (or within 3 days of decision on Contest) 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals.
(Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa on Contest) Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).

April 29 (at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date) Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.

May 1 (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal) Last Day for Hearing on Appeal

May 11 (10 days from hearing on appeal) Last Day for Decision on Appeal

May 12 Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal).

May 12 TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal).

June 11 General Election
(Polling Places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

June 12 General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election.
Prior to 8:00 p.m.

June 13 General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.

June 14 Deadline for Request for Recount.
(Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)

June 18 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest.

(Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)

June 19 (or 18, if request for Recount is filed before deadline) Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.

June 28 Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.

July 1 (or within 3 days of decision on Contest) 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals.
(Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).

July 5 (at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date) Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.

July 8 (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal) Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.

July 8 Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.

July 18 (or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal) Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.

Day following Decision of Appeal Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

Bois Forte Tribal Council
cordially invites you to the
2024 STATE OF THE BAND

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Woodlands Ballroom
Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Tower, MN

12:00pm-3:00pm
Registration and Informational Booths
(Resort Lobby/Pre-function Area)

1:00pm
Special Financial Presentation
Administrative Conference Room
(Bois Forte Tribal ID Required)

3:30pm-6:00pm
Formal Program and Dinner
(The Woodlands Ballroom)
(Seating begins at 3:00pm)




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Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held November 1, 2023, at Vermilion, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at p.m.
Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer Jr. virtual.

Members Absent: None
Moment of silence for invocation.

Others Present: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Luke Warnsholz, Miranda Lilya, Josh Villebrun, Jaylen Strong, Erin Danielson, Randy Long, Daniel Rabideaux, Doris Isham, Evertt Huisman, Kim Greiner.
See attached

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the agenda with the addition of the 5242 proposal from Dept. Of Revenue and Jaylen Strong with Voya-

geurs education and community engagement discussion. Remove Toni Wakemup.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held September 6, 2023 and Regular RTC meeting held October 4, 2023.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

A. Approved bid for Heritage Center repairs to Valiant Construction
4-0-0

B. Approved Resolution NO. 19-2024, agreement w/PSC for Background Adjudication Training
4-0-0

C. Approved Resolution No. 22-2024, changing the Wilderness Bank account sig-

natories 4-0-0

D. Approved Resolution No. 26-2024, Housing Trust Fund Grant
4-0-0

E. Approved RFP for legal services for Bois Forte Family Health Services
4-0-0

F. Approved sole source request to Bob Cat of Duluth for repairs
4-0-0

G. Approved RFP selection for home demo clean up to Udovich Enterprises
4-0-0

H. Approved the suggested campaign contributions from the Jacobson Law Group
4-0-0

I. Denied donation request to Anne Cook for memorial services
2-3-0

J. Approved \$500 donation to each comm. Halloween Party (NL & VERM)
4-0-0

K. Approved sole source request to Docusign for annual renewal
4-0-0

L. Approved payment for the veterans in the amount of \$50/per person
4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0

Pam Parson gives the monthly compliance update.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to table the Bois Forte Housing Essential Housing Policy and the Bois Forte Housing Law Enforcement Family Policy, until further review and make it more clear on which housing is eligible.

Carried 4-0-0

Erin Danielson presents Range Mental health to present on crisis services offered. Mobile Crisis Program 1-844-772-4724, 24 hour coverage. CCRT, community crisis response team.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the Grant submission amendment 11 for the MH Block grant.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to rescind sole source request to Custom Theaters, in for key card system at Fortune Bay. Will submit RFP and post on website.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the 5242 removal of the Tribal Reporting requirement of enrollment numbers in Statewide Affordable Housing Aid.

Carried 4-0-0

Voyageurs Conservancy presentation by Christina Howsman Brody and Larissa Juip.

Motion by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve collaboration with Bois Forte and Voyageurs Conservancy through the Heritage Center.

Carried 4-0-0

Daniel Rabideaux gives an update on the Wilder Homelessness survey.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm.

Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: December 13, 2023

SAVE THE DATE



• **January 26th, 2024** •
Youth Prevention Conference
9 AM – 3 PM

• **January 27th, 2024** •
Sobriety Powwow
Grand Entry 1PM & 6PM

• **Iron Trail Motors Event Center** •
919 6th St S Virginia, MN 55792

Table/booth space are available for programs and organizations to reserve. Booths can be set up at 2pm after grand entry. Please email: kristen.holmes@boisforte-nsn.gov

Questions?

Call Toni Wakemup at 218-404-8377
David Morrison Jr 218-757-0087



These young ladies, including Eileen Barney, Marybelle Isham and Rose Lien, shared their stories, laughs, and creativity while crafting winter porch pots during the December Elder crafting class at the ENP in Nett Lake. Submitted photo.