



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 46 NUMBER 2

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Nett Lake students craft snow snakes for winter game

Nett Lake students will soon participate in an old traditional game. Gooniikaa-Ginebig Ataadiiwin- or the Snow Snake Games - will take place on February 1, and the K-6th graders are competing.

Ryan Bajan, the Culture teacher at Nett Lake Elementary, explained the history of the game. "We started playing this game over a thousand years ago when we were still in the Northeast," he said. "The Iroquois still play snow snakes in New York. They have a competition every year in Buffalo. The Seneca play it, too. Lacrosse is a summertime game, and Snow Snakes is a wintertime game."

The game involves throwing long wooden poles in the shape of snakes down a snow track. A wide log is pushed through the snow to carve out the track. The players shoot their "snakes" as far as they can down the track, competing to see how far the snakes will slide. Bajan's students are learning all about this tra-

dition, starting with the carving of the snakes.

For the past few classes, students have been working on carving their very own snow snakes, using wood that they chose themselves.

The kids have been having a lot of fun learning how to carve snow snakes. In a recent class, they whittled away at their wooden poles, smoothing them out with sandpaper and beginning to carve the tip to an aerodynamic point - the rough shape of a snake's head. The floor was decorated with ever-growing piles of wood shavings until clean-up.

Bajan said for most of history, kids would learn how to use knives at a young age. Especially young girls, who would have been learning how to do a variety of important tasks that women did, including cooking, butchering, building lodges, processing hides, and other skills where knives are crucial tools. The youngest students participating in the Snow Snake

crafting are kindergarteners, and according to Bajan, they are doing a great job being safe with their tools.

This game is not as common in our region, but it's popular across Wisconsin and further East.

"The movement imitates the way hunting used to be done with a throwing spear or arrow. Instead of having to run at a deer, moose, etc., they'd throw the spear through the snow to get it to spook. It was turned into a medicine game, like lacrosse," Bajan explained.

The students' cultural lessons follow the turn of the seasons. They will do sugarbush for a week in spring, they will cut and create a longhouse, they will tan hides- but right now, it's snow snake game time.

This bibooni ataadiiwin - or winter game - proves that the coldest part of winter can be a time for fun!



The Ojibwe Culture Class poses with their snow snakes for the Gooniikaa-Ginebig Ataadiiwin, or Snow Snake Games.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo

Since my last article we have seen the Omicron variant increase dramatically at Bois Forte. It has impacted our tribal government employees, our children, elders and adults. We hear that there are more breakthrough cases, which means that the people who were vaccinated with all the shots still can get the virus but with less symptoms than those who do not. We have heard of our relatives and friends who have passed or are in the hospital trying to recover from this terrible virus. We must be vigilant, get vaccinated if you are not and help those that need our help. We would have never thought that we would be on year two of such a pandemic, but we will get through this.

We have also been busy on various projects and issues as we still need to do our jobs. All the tribes in Minnesota are meeting regularly with regard to possibly looking at legislation for sports betting in Minnesota. There is brick and mortar and mobile. The tribes currently have a workgroup looking at the options that would work

for everyone.

You all should have received a mailing from us in regard to a proposed business venture with a C store in Eveleth. We have enclosed information (see page 11) on this along with a voting card to mail back into us as soon as you can. To date I can assure you that Bois Forte has not spent any money on this project. The mailing was covered by a grant through the Northland Foundation as we have many partners out there willing to help us with this possible venture.

We continue to meet with our departments regarding the U.S. Treasury money that was received through the ARPA money. Two projects that are part of the list are the new Elderly Housing and Vermilion Maintenance Facility, which will include a food shelf. These two projects may include competitive grant funding to fund these facilities. We are just awaiting to see if we will get awarded funding for these important projects. There will be a community survey sent out that will allow our band members input on this process as well. We will keep you updated on this.

Our annual State of the Band has been rescheduled to April due to the pandemic. We are currently looking at holding it virtually, but depending on the Covid numbers it may still be in person. We will begin working on an annual written report that will be mailed out to all band members. This report will also have the completed CARES Act report for the funding that was initially received by the U.S. Treasury along with other program information as well.

Please everyone be safe,
Miigwech



Savannah Benner sands her snow snake so it will coast smoothly on the ice.



Ojibwe Culture Teacher Ryan Bajan shows AJ Jones how to shape the head of the snow snake.

Visit Bois Forte Band of
Chippewa on these social
media outlets.



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Play it safe—stay home if you are sick!

Rather than possibly contribute to the never-ending Covid-19 pandemic, Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers once again reminded employees to stay home if they are feeling sick.

“We understand that work has to get done, but we need to keep each other safe because cases are still on the rise,” said Chavers during a recent Public Information Officer’s meeting. “Everyone is tired of this pandemic, but we need to take steps to keep it under control on the reservation.”

And one way to do that is to make sure sick employees aren’t “guilted” into coming into work. That dilemma surfaced during the meeting as some directors on the call had heard supervisors were essentially forcing some employees to go in.

Yes, work needs to be done, but Chavers suggested that supervisors allow some latitude to their employees, i.e., letting them work remotely if possible.

However, those in attendance at the meeting said that employees have also contributed to the problem.

“You can tell them to stay home

if they are sick, but they don’t listen,” said Chavers. “We need to get the message out there for employees to be considerate for everybody else.”

Especially given the fact there were 13 active Covid cases for a one-week period in January, while the month of December only had 12 total cases reported.

“Within the past week, we have had 14 employees test positive and several others are out awaiting test results,” shared Fortune Bay Director of Human Resource Beth Adams in an email sent out to staff. “This new variant is highly contagious so please take any and all precautions with social interactions at this time.”

Experts predicted that the week of January 24-31 was going to bring even more troubling news as that is when the omicron variant is supposed to be at its peak in Minnesota. Couple that news with high influenza rates and the perfect storm for more doom and gloom could be brewing.

To complicate matters even more, newly hired employees who become sick with Covid do not qualify for

Covid pay, which will cover two weeks of pay.

“They have to be employed by us for at least 30 days before they qualify,” said Teri Morrison, RN and Lead Community Health Nurse for Bois Forte Health and Human Services at the meeting. “If not, they have to stay home for 10 days. They are not getting paid and those are our band members.”

This news prompted Chavers to ask fellow council members to lose the 30-day minimum and allow employees to earn Covid pay from day one.

By doing so, those employees who literally can’t afford to stay home, will now get paid if they are sick. The council also agreed that it was not right for employees to have to use paid time off to get tested for Covid.

“They shouldn’t have to use an hour of leave to go get tested,” said Chavers. “That’s not right.”

Since these decisions were made, the Bois Forte Tribal Council also approved the adoption of the most current CDC quarantine guidelines. This means that employees who test posi-

tive may end their quarantine and return to work after a five-day period vs the 10-day period we have been using up until now.

In order to return after a 5-day quarantine period, employees must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and have significantly lessened symptoms. Additionally, they must wear a mask in all public settings and refrain from eating or drinking around others for an additional five days.

Given the uptick in cases, Chavers is hopeful that employees will do their part to combat this pandemic and the quickly spreading omicron variant, which can mimic the common cold as the symptoms can include a cough, fatigue, congestion/runny nose, sore throat or a headache.

“We also need to make another push for our band members to get vaccinated and get the booster shot if they are already vaccinated,” said Chavers. “Yes, you can still get sick if you have the vaccine, but you don’t get as sick. You’re playing Russian Roulette if you do not get vaccinated.”

Canadian national pleads guilty to sexually abusing minors on the Bois Forte Reservation

MINNEAPOLIS – A Canadian national recently pleaded guilty to abusive sexual contact with two minors at the Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Indian Reservation, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Charles J. Kovats.

According to court documents, on June 22, 2018, Brady John Hillis, 32, a citizen of Canada, was at the Fortune Bay Resort Casino on the Bois Forte Indian Reservation. Hillis was captured on Fortune Bay’s security surveillance video engaging in sexual contact with two minor victims who

were under 12 years of age.

“We are truly appalled by his behavior, especially given the fact that he was a police officer in Kenora at the time of his actions... our hearts go out to the minors who crossed paths with Hillis that day in June of 2018,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers.

As stated previously, Chavers said Bois Forte will not tolerate any child being mistreated or abused.

“The most fundamental duty we have is to protect our youth and the

vulnerable,” stated Chavers.

Hillis pleaded guilty before Chief U.S. District Judge John R. Tunheim to two counts of abusive sexual contact with a child under 12 years of age. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled for a later date.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the FBI and the

Bois Forte Police Department.

“It’s a grave disservice to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa that Hillis’ actions have stained the reputation of Fortune Bay Resort Casino,” said Chavers. “Rest assured he is banned from ever stepping foot on our reservation again.”

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Legal Notice**In the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Children's Court**

In the Matter of the Welfare of D.W.J., DOB: 02/18/2017, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Patricia Lien and Darrin Jenkins, Parents. Court File No. JV-2022-0013

To: Darrin Wayne Jenkins,

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on November 29, 2021. A hearing on the above petition will be held on **February 8, 2022 at 11:40 a.m.** Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Children's Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Nett Lake, MN 55772. All appearances will be by telephone or Zoom.

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

By the Court

Megan Treuer, Chief Judge
Janell Smith, Clerk of Court
Rebecca McConkey-Greene,
Attorney for Petitioner, ID
0388656
12907 Palmquist Road | P.O.
Box 25
Nett Lake, MN 55772
218-757-3462

Legal Notice**In the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Children's Court**

In the Matter of the Welfare of D.W.J., DOB: 02/18/2017, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Patricia Lien and Stephen Boshey, Jr., Parents. Court File No. JV-2022-0012

To: Stephen Boshey Jr.,

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Child in Need of Protection or Services petition was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on November 29, 2021. A hearing on the above petition will be held on **February 8, 2022 at 11:40 a.m.** Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Children's Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Nett Lake, MN 55772. All appearances will be by telephone or Zoom.

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Attorney for Petitioner, ID
0388656
12907 Palmquist Road | P.O.
Box 25
Nett Lake, MN 55772



MORE IMPROVEMENTS?—MnDOT might be taking another look at the Y Store intersection to make it safer. Despite changes made already, MnDOT officials said the intersection still has accidents above the statewide “critical” rate.

MnDOT may make additional improvements at Y Store intersection

Even though safety precautions have been taken over the years to reduce the likelihood of accidents at the Y Store intersection, MnDOT officials feel more can be done.

And thus the reason MnDOT held a public hearing and subsequently sent out a survey to get more feedback on how to make this well-traveled roadway on Highway 169 safer.

“Right now, we are just looking over feedback and concerns from the people who drive the intersection most,” said MnDOT Public Engagement & Communications Director Pippi Mayfield. “Some of the concerns we have been hearing are regarding people turning, the proximity of roadways and business accesses and speed.”

Early on, Mayfield said people have suggested things like a traffic signal, a roundabout, building a new road, and simply leaving the intersection as it is.

She added that survey results are still being worked on and that information will be utilized with their traffic analysis to help draft potential concepts for the intersection.

Mayfield added that over the last 20 years or so, MnDOT has done several improvements to enhance safety at the intersection. Those improvements included adding stop signs with flashers on the side roads, new turn lanes, roadway lighting, and a rural intersec-

tion conflict warning system.

“All these improvements have helped, but we are continuing to see accidents in this area above the statewide “critical” rate, explained Mayfield. “We want to use this project to further improve safety at the intersection, understanding that the previous improvements have not addressed all the safety concerns.”

While the process to possibly make additional improvements have begun, Mayfield said that MnDOT currently does not have a planned project for this intersection.

However, Mayfield added that MnDOT does understand the safety need in this area. The study portion of the project, which includes gathering information, soliciting feedback on alternatives, and presenting the preferred alternative is scheduled for now through June 2022.

“The final goal of the study is having a final approved layout. Having a layout will help determine the cost, which in turn will help us determine possible funding avenues to pursue to develop a project,” said Mayfield.

Given how busy the intersection is, especially during the summertime, Mayfield opined that there will be plenty of advance notice before any new improvements begin.

(continued on page 7)

District 1 Representative Shane Drift

Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members! I sincerely hope that this article finds you well! My intention with this article is to share traditional teachings in hopes of making them common knowledge. A lot of our traditional teachings were common knowledge before the boarding school era. I think that the more we share our traditional teachings openly this will help them become more common knowledge.

The first teaching is offering asemaa (Tobacco). I have seen people offer tobacco to a medicine man/woman first then state their request second. I have seen people state their request first then offer their tobacco second. What happens if someone offers you asemaa and states their request, and you cannot fulfill their request. Well you could offer the asemaa to someone who can fulfill the request. If someone states their request then offers me a cigarette as their asemaa offering. Do I have to smoke the cigarette? No, I will tear the paper apart to get the tobacco out. When an elder or someone shares a story and/or traditional teaching with me, I will give the elder or someone asemaa and say "miigwech" for the story/teaching. Also, when offering someone

asemma, it's good to give him/her a good pinch full of tobacco.

Is it okay to put tobacco on the face of a drum? Well, it depends on the drum and drumkeeper. As for some of the drums at our pow-wows here at Bois Forte, I do not recall seeing anyone put tobacco on the face of the drums. I have been to other pow-wows where people put tobacco on the face of the drum. I remember when we were drumming over at the Lake Vermilion Pow-Wow and we just finished singing a song when someone walked by and threw tobacco onto the face of the drum. The drumkeeper did not like that, the drumkeeper asked us to remove the tobacco off of the face of the drum. I am pretty sure that the individual meant no disrespect the individual was just following what he was taught.

As for praying with asemaa (Tobacco) I will hold the asemaa in my hand as I say a prayer. I will say what words I can in the Anishinaabemowin (Indian language) then go and place the tobacco out by a tree. I put the tobacco either on the east or south side of the tree. An elder told me that I could say a prayer and leave the tobacco on my

nightstand then go put the asemaa out in the morning. An elder also told me that I could sprinkle the tobacco on top of an eagle feather. I would sprinkle the tobacco onto the entire length of the eagle feather. I would say a prayer as I held the eagle feather and with the tobacco on the eagle feather. I would let the eagle feather and tobacco sit over night. I would go fan the tobacco into the wind the next morning.

As for dreams, have you ever dreamt of a place and time, then we you get to that place and time, you stand back and say "Hey! I dreamt of this!" A teaching given to me by an elder is that when this happens to go and put asemaa outside. When a person dreams of a place and time and gets to that place and time "Hey, I dreamt of this" is point A. Then the person dreams of another place and time "Hey, I dreamt of this" is point B and put their asemaa down. Then point C and then put their asemaa down. The elder told me, what this signifies is that your life is on path; you're going where you are meant to go.

Please keep in mind that I am not a medicine man, nor a spiritual advisor. I am just sharing some traditional teachings about asemaa in hopes of



making them common knowledge once again. I am always interested in learning about other traditional teachings I am respectful of other people's teachings. Various elders have told me, if you don't know, ask. That's the only way you're going to learn.

In closing, if you would like to share a traditional teaching with me, please feel free to give me a call at 218-404-8220 (My council cell phone) or you can email me at sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov. I also have my "Shane Drift District 1 Representative updates" Facebook group, or send me a friend request on my regular Facebook. Mii'iw miigwech!

PLANTS, HERBS, AND WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT: CEDAR

During this, the coldest part of the year, few plants are still green. One of these plants is the cedar tree.

Cedar, or Giizhik, is a wonderful and exceptionally important plant. As one of the Sacred Medicines, it is a well-known and well-loved tree that is commonly found everywhere in the region— from deep in the forest to the front yards of the Twin Cities, in teas, and hung over doorways. Cedar wood, oil, sap, bark, and leaves are used for a vast array of things, including ceremonies, food, and building. Everyone knows and loves Cedar. It is sometimes called Nokomis Giizhik, or Grandmother Cedar.

In our region, the variety of cedar we have is Eastern White Cedar, also called Eastern Arborvitae. In Latin, Arborvitae means "Tree of Life." Eastern White Cedar has scaly leaves and fan-like branches. It grows naturally in wet forests and coniferous swamps, which are abundant in Minnesota. It is an important winter food for deer, who nibble on the soft evergreen leaves. The leafy canopy also provides protection for birds and small animals trying to stay warm in the winter. The oldest living cedar tree is well over 1,000 years old!

When we say "cedar," we usually mean Eastern White Cedar. However, another common plant in this region bears the name Eastern Red Cedar. What's the differ-

ence?

Well, Eastern Red Cedar is actually another name for the plant we know as Juniper!

According to Mary Siisip-Geniusz's book, *Plants Have So Much To Give us, All We Have To Do Is Ask: Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings*, "One can always tell the difference between junipers and cedars because juniper foliage is razor sharp, and Grandmother Cedar has the softest of needles. This is easy to remember because 'Grandmother would never hurt you.'"

The wood of cedar is resistant to decay. It's a favorite of craftsmen. It also has anti-termite properties.

Geniusz describes the centrality of Giizhik to the lives of Anishinaabe people throughout history: "Grandmother Cedar cradled the People all of their lives, from the time her wood was used to make their dikinaaganan, cradleboards, until her bark lined their final homes."

Cedar trees have certainly been an important part of life for both humans and animals in North America since prehistoric times. What an amazing plant!



Omicron infections on the rise

Hospitals are strained to the brink. On January 7th, the Minnesota Hospital Association pleaded with Minnesotans not to go to emergency rooms for coronavirus tests.

“We have run out of words to describe what we are undergoing — a crisis does not even come close. Hospitals are literally full,” a statement from the group said. “We urgently need the public’s help to keep our emergency departments available for medical emergencies.”

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is the latest variant of concern, and you have likely heard about it. It is believed to spread 3-4 times more quickly than the Delta variant, which caused Minnesota’s fourth and longest surge in coronavirus infections. The Delta surge started in the summer of 2021, and never truly subsided before the Omicron surge began in December. By mid-December, the Omicron strain was believed to be the source of most new Covid-19 infections in the state.

As of January 20, there were 37 active cases of Covid-19 at Bois Forte. Bois Forte has had a total of 238 active and recovered positive cases of Covid-19.

By January 9, Minnesota’s test positivity rate on a seven-day rolling average was 23.7%, a record high. An average of 10% or higher puts Minnesota in the high-risk threshold for community transmission.

On January 19, the number of people with Covid-19 hospitalized in Minnesota was 1,629 – up from 1,592 the day earlier. 247 people are in intensive care and 1,382 are in non-ICU care, both totals climbing higher than they had been one day prior.

Hospital capacity data on the January 19th showed that there were only 31 adult ICU beds available in the entire state, and only 15 pediatric ICU beds available.

In the wake of this severe short staffing and the strain on health services, Governor Tim Walz announced a plan last Wednesday to spend \$40 million in American Rescue Plan funds

to bolster staffing, primarily with registered nurses. He also announced a plan to expand access to rapid tests with another \$40 million in ARP funds.

“I don’t think Covid cares that we are tired. It doesn’t care that we are sick of masks,” Walz said. “It doesn’t care. It simply is infecting folks. We’ve got the tools now, for the most part, to prevent the most serious illness. We have the capacity to turn the corner on this.”

U.S. households can now order four free Covid-19 rapid test kits through the United States Postal Service’s website.

Breakthrough cases are on the rise. A major reason for Omicron’s rapid transmissibility is that it may be resistant to vaccines. However, people who have been fully vaccinated are far less likely to develop critical symptoms that require hospitalization.

Children may be at greater risk for contracting and spreading the Omicron variant as well. Pediatric hospitalizations have been on the rise during the new Omicron wave. Some health officials attribute that both to children’s low rate of vaccination and the tendency of Omicron to attack the upper rather than lower respiratory tract, which is narrower in children.

Bois Forte adopted the quarantine guidelines from the CDC and MDH starting January 18. If you have contact with a positive case and your Covid vaccines are not up to date, you must quarantine.

Teri Morrison, the Band’s Community Health Nurse, writes “what that means is: If you had Pfizer or Moderna and it’s been longer than five months since your last shot OR you had Johnson & Johnson and it’s been longer than two months you are DUE NOW FOR A BOOSTER!”

Vaccines are available at the Nett Lake Clinic (218-757-3650) and Vermillion Clinic (218-753-2182). If you have any questions regarding the Band’s public health efforts, please contact the Band’s Community Health Nurse, Teri Morrison, at 218-750-2227.



See the new billboard on Highway 53, going North from Virginia, on the left! It’s just past the two bridges. Miigwech to the Goodsky family for starring in this photo shoot!

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Fortune Bay Resort Casino loses one of its finest

The Fortune Bay family received some devastating news over the holidays when it was announced that former General Manager Norm Adams had died unexpectedly on December 30th.

Adams, a proud Bois Forte Band member, and U.S. Army Veteran, had worked at Fortune Bay for several years as Director of Human Resources and then General Manager. He was 68 at the time of his death and was enjoying retirement by filling his days surrounding himself with a loving family, including many grandchildren.

Adams was a stoic figure at Fortune Bay and he commanded your re-

spect as he did what he felt was right for the betterment of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. And when times got tough, it was then that he expected us to rise to the occasion and perform so that we could do our part in helping sustain the long-term success of the Bois Forte Band.

He made it no secret that he would do what it took to ensure Bois Forte Band members received preference when it came to employment opportunities. After all, it was his band membership that afforded him the same while he was climbing the ranks. But he didn't have much patience if you weren't pulling your weight by putting

in an honest day of work. And rather than beat around the bush, Adams would be direct so there wasn't any gray area in his message.

I have a lot of great memories of my time spent working with Norm, but perhaps my favorite "Normism" was when he would gather us in the Fish Bowl for a meeting and then blurt out, "Not to be a boss hole but..."

In other words, he never really let his high rank in our company go to his head, but there were times he had to put his foot down and tell us like it was and that we had better step up our game. True to his modest self, he didn't pull out that line too often because once he said it, we knew our expectations just went a little higher for me.

I always think he felt a tad embarrassed when he had to resort to using that line, but the next morning he could be seen smiling and having morning coffee with his former cohorts, Gary Gotchnik and Jim Tolan, in the Fish Bowl. It was like, he knew he made his point and things were getting back to normal at the Bay.

Again, Norm commanded our respect, but he never was one to pump his chest and flaunt his title. He was one of us and he cared about us. Not just as employees, but as friends.

He also famously told new employees at orientation that we were to leave our bad day behind us when we entered the doors at Fortune Bay—after all, our guests don't care if we're having a bad day. They come here for



OUR LEADER WILL BE MISSED— Former FBRC General Manager Norm Adams recently passed away. Adams was a Bois Forte Band Member and U.S. Marine Corps Veteran.

a memorable experience and that wouldn't be possible if we are telling them the woes of our world.

It was a great lesson that he bestowed in many of us, and I hope his death serves as a reminder that tomorrow is not promised to anyone, so let's make the best of it. As Norm would say with his arms stretched out and that wonderful smile when he knew he just made an excellent point, "You know what I'm saying?"

Rest in peace, Norm—thanks for your passion and loyalty while you guided all of us here at the Bay.

Ininaatig Dibaajimowinan
STORYTELLING : SUGAR MAPLE

join us VIRTUALLY
Tuesday
February 8th, 2022
7pm ET/6pm CT

REGISTER:
<https://forms.gle/tyUM85yDu5VytTxj9>

Community members come together from across sugar maple territory to talk about our relationship with *ininaatig* (the maple tree). A panel of elders, harvesters, and resource managers will share stories, experiences, concerns, and items of importance for the next generation to care for *ininaatig*.

Opomāhtek (Menominee) wāhta? (Oneida) ininaatig (Ojibwe) shokul mtuk (Stockbridge-Munsee)



MnDOT may make improvements at Y Store intersection

(continued from page 4)

"It is too early in the process to understand what the construction impacts would be, including any possible detours," said Mayfield.

That's good news to Y Store Manager Paula Bozicevich, who knows how much business could be impacted should the proposed project result in

a detour that impacts travelers from either direction.

"We went through this before when they redid the road down by the Pike River," said Bozicevich. "However, we are all in favor of MnDOT doing what it can to make additional safety improvements at this intersection."

Obituaries



NORMAN GARY ADAMS, age 68, longtime resident of Embarrass, died Thursday, December 30, 2021, at his home. He was born June 29, 1953 in Fort Frances, Ontario, the son of Gordon and Martha (Burnside) Adams, Sr.

Norm's childhood was short lived as he had to enter a residential Indian school in Canada, with his brother Bill.

The scars from this place, sadly, left their mark on him for his entire life. He was later reunited with his parents and other siblings and continued his education in Orr, where he was a graduate of Orr High School. After graduation, Norm enlisted in the USMC and served proudly and honorably with the 7th engineer Battalion until his honorable discharge in 1974 as a Corporal. He furthered his education

by going on to receive an AA degree from Mesabi Range College, and was employed as a member of the faculty as the Minority Student Services Director. He continued in his education and graduated with honors from Concordia College in St. Paul with a BS degree in Business Management.

Prior to his retirement, Norman was the CEO of Bois Forte Enterprises. Norm, however, decided it wasn't time to just go fishing quite yet and found employment with the Veterans Services Office in Hibbing and Ely. In this position, he was able to help many of the vets, that had come in to the office, to finally be able to receive the benefits that they deserved. Many times, no matter where he was, he was thanked wholeheartedly, for all work that he had put into all their individual cases. This position turned out to be one of the most rewarding and thankful ones he had ever held. He enjoyed woodworking, yard work, fishing, minnow trapping, Sunday morning coffee watching Charles Stanley and his Native American Culture. He also deeply loved all of his children and grandchildren whether they were near or far – they were his life. And as such, "Grandpa" incorporated as much playing, teaching, advising and relaxing as he could.

Norman is survived by his wife: Jeannine; chil-

dren: Rhonda (Brian) Fleck of Cloquet, MN, Norman (Geraldine) Adams of Tower, MN, Alicia (Todd Manninen) Dahl of Ely Lake, MN, Chris (Jenna) Lehti of Tower, MN, Jonathan Lehti of Tower, MN, Hannah (Brent) Chosa of Tower, MN, Emily (Brandon Luoma) Lehti of Britt, MN, and Andrew Lehti of Embarrass, MN; siblings: Gordon (Patsy) Adams of Nett Lake, MN, Vernon (Cindi) Adams of Mt. Iron, MN, Randy Adams of Hoyt Lakes, MN, Sherrie Laitinen of Tower, MN, and Les (Roberta) Adams of Duluth, MN; grandchildren: Brent Bedausky, Taryn Fleck, Alivia Fleck, Norman Adams Jr., Jakson, Parker, Morgan, Max, Liam, Tanner, Kai, Brody, River, Matayah, Emma, Bryce, Brynn, Hayden, Ellie, Ryan, Silas and latise; great-grandchildren: Lyric, Tahlia, Sage, Braxton, River; and his cousin whom he loved as a brother: Dan Lumbar; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Bill, Lester, Lorne, and Bob; and sisters: Carlene and Mary.

A wake was held Tuesday, January 4 at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake. The Tribal Rites were held on Wednesday, January 5, 2021, also at the Tribal Government Center. Spiritual Advisors were Gilbert Smith and Gene Goodsky.



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Business Development Specialist, \$20.50/hr.

Duty Station: Cass Lake, Minnesota

Deadline: February 18, 2022

Background check required for all positions

To view job announcement(s) and to download an application visit
www.mnchippewatribe.org

Send resume, and/or application with references to:

Joel D. Smith • Director of Administration

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

P.O. Box 217 Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633

EEO- American Indian Preference

Quick & Simple Pasta Alla Puttanesca

This is my favorite pasta dish. It was invented by chefs who were trying to make something delicious with whatever they had in their cupboard. It's salty, flavorful, and zesty. Perfect for Valentine's Day, or any occasion when you want a delicious meal without having to do a lot of work!

Makes 2 Servings.

Ingredients:

1/3 cup olives (kalamata or green)	3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 16 oz can tomato purée	2-3 anchovies, chopped
1 tablespoon capers	2 tbsp olive oil
1/2 lb spaghetti	Black pepper
Parsley	Parmesan cheese

Chop the olives, garlic, anchovies, and capers. Fry in olive oil over medium heat for about 2 minutes.

Add tomato purée and black pepper, stirring the sauce together. Simmer on low for about 8-10 minutes.

Boil the noodles according to package instructions. Add the sauce. Top your dish with the parsley and cheese! Add a little lemon zest if you want to get fancy.

If you have a recipe you would like to share, email it to:
news@boisforte-nsn.gov

Storytellers teach language and culture through Zoom events

A group of storytellers recently met to share stories in English and Anishinaabemowin from both ancient and modern times.

This was one of several events put on by the Traditional Healing Program over Zoom. Throughout the past month, events like "Water Walking 101," "How To Ask For an Indian Name," and "Traditional Medicines" invited viewers to learn about all sorts of traditions from members of the Bois Forte community. Some were talking from Nett Lake or Vermillion, while others were coming from across the state. However, everyone was eager to come and share their knowledge and their stories. This event was broadcast over Zoom, on KBFT Radio, and over KBFT's YouTube page. It's available to watch on the KBFT YouTube page, if you would like to see it.

The speakers included Nicholas DeShaw, Perry Drift, Terry Goodsky, Aileen Erler, and Brian Stillday.

"It's hard, with Covid, to make space for everything," said Cultural

Healing Coordinator Payton Counts. "We wanted to find a way to reach people, and have them together at the same time, so we're not feeling so alone in these lonely times."

"One of my missions is to bring in different people and new faces. We have a lot of younger people on here today," said Jaylen Strong, who is the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Director. "Some of the stories you'll hear have been passed orally from generations to generations, some are thousands of years old. Some were recorded in books, some weren't. These stories, aadizookon, can be about anything. Every time you hear aadizookon it's like going to visit

a family member, or someone older, who can teach you something; what you see in nature, or how to act in regular life."

The panelists told all kinds of stories, ranging from their own personal stories to family stories to ancient stories about Nanaboozhoo and his adventures. Some were funny, some were dramatic, some were educational. Terry Goodsky taught language lessons, including how to count, and Nicholas DeShaw told stories about heroic woodpeckers winning their plumage through acts of courage and sacrifice. Some of the panelists were drum keepers, and spoke about the way they care for the drums, as well as some of the signifi-

cance and meaning of the drums.

The discussion and storytelling lasted around two hours. It was great to hear these stories and learn about cultural traditions. Storytelling is a powerful way to teach the language. Traditionally, Anishinaabe would tell stories throughout the winter, gathered together during the coldest months of the year. In modern times, particularly in the age of the pandemic, gathering in-person is not something that is feasible. But the panelists, teachers, and storytellers are finding new ways to bring people together.

"Learning the language can become a little tedious, so you have to make it fun," Goodsky said. "When you want to teach the younger generations, you have to try something new."



Bois Forte Tribal Government proposes to construct a Community Health Building in Nett Lake

Through a request for funding from the American Rescue Plan Indigenous Communities Grant, the Tribal Council has proposed to construct a 10,000 square foot building to house the Bands Community Health Programs at Nett Lake.

Preliminary plans are for the construction of a building that will contain 20 offices for Community Health Staff.

This building will also include:

- Two client meeting rooms with sufficient size for two staff members to meet with a family of six.
- One large conference room that would fit 75 people with a full kitchen on one side that can be partitioned off. It will also have a storage area for cooking class supplies, with at least one additional storage area for other supplies.
- A reception area with a waiting room and space for a receptionist.
- A garage with eight stalls and a 20-space parking lot area.

The preliminary costs associated with this project is estimated at 2.5 million dollars. The planning team for this building are comprised of the Tribal Council, Executive Director, and staff from Community Development &

Planning, Education, Health and Human Services, Public Works, DNR and THPO programs.

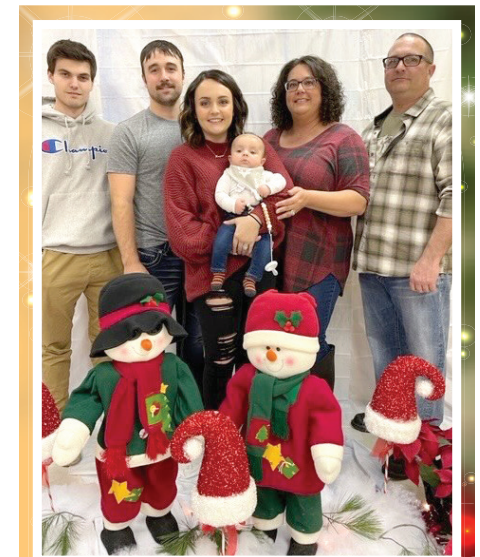
The Tribal Council has retained the services of DSGW as the Architectural and Engineering Firm for the design of this construction project.

The construction site has been identified utilizing the Bands Land Use Plan and is located west of the Native Hearts Fitness Center off from Hwy 23. The goal is to keep the Community Health Building close to the Nett Lake Clinic building and within the communities walking distance for ease of access to those services.

The Indigenous Communities grant through the EDA is designed to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous Communities that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

We are providing you this written notice and request your public comment or question on this project. This comment period will be for a period of 30 days. Please submit comments or questions to Doris Isham at (218) 757-3261 or disham@boisforte-nsn.gov.

Miigwech



Holiday Homecoming
Memories!

The Carr family celebrated Christmas by welcoming their three month old grandson - along with daughter, Milla, and her husband, Air Force Man Tanner - home for the holidays from Arkansas.

ELECTION CALENDAR - 2022 REGULAR ELECTION

December 28, 2021:	Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.	April 22:	Deadline for Decision on Contest
January 7, 2022:	Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.	April 25 (<i>or within 3 days of decision on Contest</i>)	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals. (Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).
January 13:	Election Announcement	April 28 (<i>at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date</i>):	Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
January 14:	8:00 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office.	May 2 (<i>hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal</i>).	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
January 24:	Close of filing period	May 12 (<i>10 days from hearing on appeal</i>).	Last Day for Decision on Appeal
February 3:	Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge (For certification of candidate)	May 13:	Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal).
February 10:	Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC.	May 13:	TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal).
February 14:	Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.	June 14:	General Election (Polling Places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)
February 15:	Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.	June 15:	General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election. Prior to 8:00 p.m.
February 15:	Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.	June 16:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.
February 16:	Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.	June 17:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)
February 18:	Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.	June 21:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)
February 22:	Deadline for Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals.	June 22 (<i>or 21, if request for Recount is filed before deadline</i>):	Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.
February 24:	Notice of Primary Election and Posting.	July 1st:	Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.
February 28:	TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.	July 5th (<i>or within 3 days of decision on Contest</i>):	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).
March 31:	Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.	July 8th (<i>at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date</i>):	Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.
April 5:	Primary (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)	July 12th (<i>hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal</i>).	Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.
April 6:	General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results. (Prior to 8:00 p.m.)	July 12 th :	Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.
April 7:	General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.	July 22 (<i>or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal</i>):	Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.
April 8:	Deadline for Request for Recount. (Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)	Day following Decision of Appeal:	Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.
April 8:	Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary		
April 12:	4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election. (Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).		
April 13: (<i>Results, if Allowed or 11th or 12th If earlier request</i>)	Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.		



Bois Forte Convenience Store

Eveleth MN—Gateway to the Iron Range

We are working in collaboration with the City of Eveleth to build a new state of the art gas station/convenient store. Currently there is only one gas station servicing the City of Eveleth. The City of Eveleth believes that the Highway 53/Highway 37 (East) at Station 44 Road is a prime location and will be located on the proposed new County frontage road that will run from Highway 37 north to Progress Parkway - the entrance to the New Rock Ridge Schools. The City of Eveleth will sell acreage needed for the Cenex Convenience Store to Bois Forte for \$1.00.

Amenities include:

- Fuel and oil for auto/truck/semi-trucks/RVs/ATV/UTV and snowmobiles
- Plug ins for hybrid or electric vehicles
- Car Wash
- Snacks and beverages
- Bait and tackle

Other highlights of this proposed project include:

- Guaranteed sales from Rock Ridge School
- Expected revenue from visiting schools
- Bois Forte band member employment opportunities
- Allows Bois Forte an opportunity to diversify its portfolio and increase revenue that will be invested in band member's services and programs

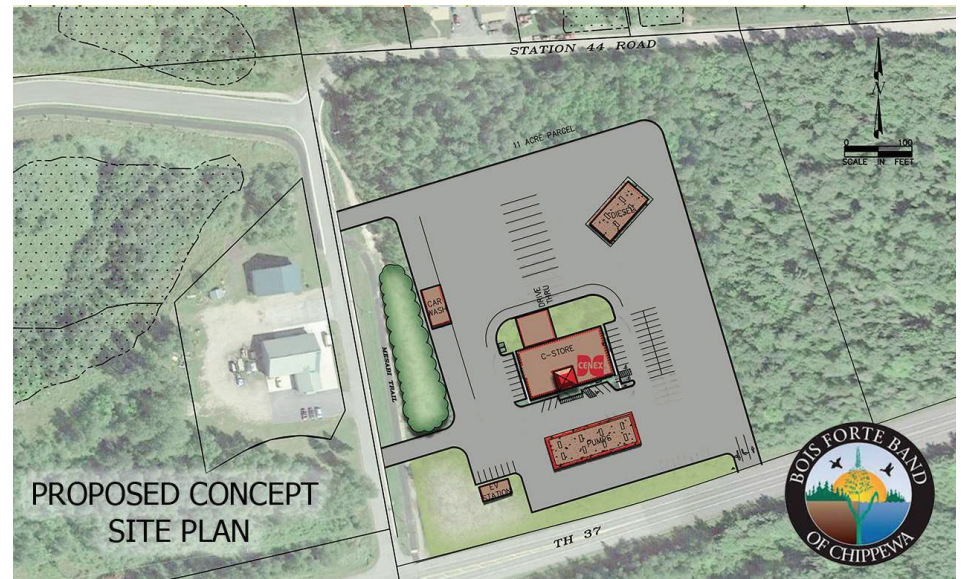
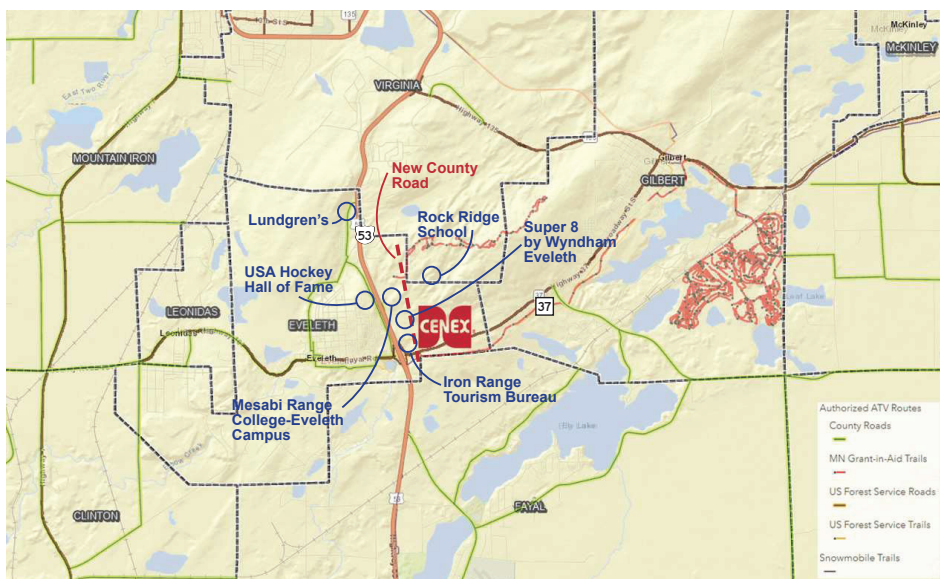


Eveleth MN—Gateway to the Iron Range!



Service area includes:

- Iron Range cities
- Iron Range Tourism Bureau
- Giants Ridge
- OHV Park
- Mesabi Trail
- Snowmobile trails
- Voyagers National Park
- Lake Vermilion
- Fortune Bay Resort Casino
- BWCA
- Rock Ridge High School and Sports Complex
- USA Hockey Hall of Fame
- Mesabi Range College -Eveleth Campus



Bois Forte NEWS



The *Bois Forte News* (BFN) is published monthly by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The BFN encourages submission of articles, community announcements, recipes, and photos.

Send to:
news@boisforte-nsn.gov

Contributions are subject to editing for grammar, length, and malicious/libelous content. BFN will attempt to include all material submitted by Band members and guests. Multiple contributions from the same source may be excluded or rotated to future issues to ensure equal access to all. For information on paid ads, please contact us.

**Deadline for the
 March 2022 issue is
 Feb. 20, 2022.**

From the archives... A look back at the Feb 2002 edition of the Bois Forte News



Bois Forte News

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VOL. 16, NO. 8 NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - FEBRUARY 2002 EDITION OUR SIXTEENTH YEAR

The Chairman's corner...



Gary Donild
 RTC Chairman

Congratulations to the Bois Forte Health Department on a successful Mi-No-A-Yaa Bil-Noo-Gee, Healthy Baby Conference they hosted on January 11 at Fortune Bay.

Nett Lake Registered Nurse, Lisa Anderson and her staff - including Kathy Thompson and Carla Sheehy as well as CHR, Biana Deegan from Vermilion, put together an important program on providing a positive and healthy beginning for new babies.

Infant Mortality for American Indian babies has always been higher than that of the majority of the population. Medical advances are lower the

numbers of infant deaths across the country. However, infant mortality among American Indians is increasing and is higher for Indian babies born in Minnesota.

This is unacceptable. The loss of any child is devastating for the parents and family. The grief and loss is felt by an entire community. We all suffer when our children are not healthy and safe.

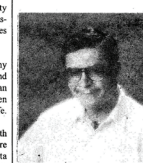
Our Bois Forte and Vermilion Health Clinics and Headstart Programs are collaborating with the Minnesota State Health Department to research this issue and develop programs to ensure a safe and healthy beginning for our children. The education program they sponsored last month was a great effort and an important step in addressing this crisis.

Over 80 participants heard presentations on good prenatal care, healthy living practices for the mother and father, CPR for babies, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, proper use of car seats, prevention of child poisoning, smoking when pregnant and fetal alcohol syndrome.

The people who attended also completed a survey that will add important information to the research effort. This will affect our reservation two-

Continued on Page 15

Jonesy - Funding problems



Gornly Adams
 District I Representative

As we approach the new legislative session, I sit here and wonder what this year will bring for us. In addition to fighting against the anticipated reductions in funding levels for such programs as education, chemical dependency, energy assistance, and etc., we must also fight the expansion of gaming. As you may now have heard, the state is headed for a budget deficit of approximately 1.9 billion dollars, they are now looking for ways to reduce this deficit either by reduction of funding levels for state funded programs, and/or to allow the state to expand directly into the casino business. This will affect our reservation two-

fold, by reducing these programs will mean less services, and may cause lay-offs. As for gaming, again with the state expanding into the casino arena, it will have an adverse effect on our casino by siphoning off our customer base in the metro area. A domino effect will occur! Less customers means less business and so on.

Through our lobbyist, we will keep you informed of any developments. The battle lines have been drawn, and now is the time to defend what we have. We, the Tribal Council will do what we must, including providing testimony, visiting our range legislative delegation, and etc.

Another point of interest is again, the lake. Chris Holm and I met with some people recently to discuss ways of finding funding to help stop the decline of our tree crop. These individuals were professional grant writers who specialize in writing and securing grants from various foundations. What I found most interesting was the fact that they include their fees in the grants, and would only get paid if they were successful in getting the grants. Up front we told them that we would need in excess of close to a million dollars to support

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Wider Gambling to be Debated

Published: Monday, January 21, 2002 and Reprinted with permission of the Pioneer Press. BY PATRICK SWENEY/Pioneer Press.

A budget deficit and a task-force vote last week urging construction of two stadiums have raised the stakes this year in Minnesota's long-running debate over legalized gambling.

State-owned casinos, slot machines in bars, and Las Vegas-style sports betting are proposed in bills that legislators will consider when they return to session Jan. 29.

Enactment of any major expansion of gambling is still less than an even bet, but the odds in favor of passage are increasing, legislative leaders say.

Several developments signal that gambling is likely to be one of the big issues of the session:

— The state's projected \$1.95 billion deficit means some lawmakers are likely to look to gaming profits to help pay for such state services as schools and roads; others see gambling money as the only acceptable avenue to finance stadiums for the Minnesota Twins and Vikings.

— Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, long a defender of the monopoly that Minnesota's Indian tribes enjoy on casino gambling, now says he is willing to consider a gaming partnership that would produce profits for the state and for northern tribes, includ-

ing two in his district, that largely have been left out of a 20-year boom in Indian gambling.

— Gov. Jesse Ventura, who has often talked about taxing illegal sports bookmaking, is exploring how Minnesota might get around a federal ban on state-sanctioned sports betting and use the profits to pay for stadium construction.

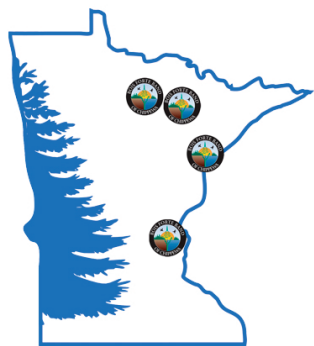
So far, none of the major policy-makers at the Capitol has talked publicly about using gambling money to solve the deficit. But in October, New York legislators filled part of a \$9 billion budget hole by voting to negotiate revenue-sharing agreements with Indian tribes for six new casinos and to

authorize slot machines at five racetracks.

"In a deficit, it's the nature of politicians to try to find easy ways to raise money," said Sen. John Hottinger of Mankato, the assistant leader of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor majority in the Minnesota Senate. "And it's easier to force the pain on gamblers than on the general public."

Rep. Tony Kielkucki of Lester Prairie, an assistant leader of the House Republican majority who is sponsoring a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow the state to license a private company to operate two

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Bois Forte Tribal Council

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- Peter Boney - District II Representative
- Cathy Chavers - Chairwoman
- David C. Morrison Sr. - Secretary/Treasurer
- Travis Morrison - District I Representative