



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 3

## SHARE YOUR MEMORIES!

*In preparation of the Bois Forte Tribal Court's 50th anniversary that is approaching, we are looking for anyone who has history about the Tribal Court. This may include but not limited to: stories, pictures, information on the creation/development of the court etc.*

*Please contact the Court at 218-757-3462 or email [bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov).*

## Make your vote count April 2nd! Tribal Chair and District 1 Representative seats are open

NETT LAKE— With two positions to fill on the Bois Forte Tribal Council, band members are being asked to do their civic duty by casting their vote in the April 2nd primary.

This is an important election year, as the Tribal Chair is among the two available spots. While the tribal chair does not vote at meetings unless necessary to break a tie, they play an essential role as they head up RTC and BFDC meetings and often sit on other boards and committees. For example, current Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers is the president of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and she also



sits on different state and national committees. Oftentimes, that work is being done with the long-term success of the Bois Forte Band in mind.

Chavers, who is seeking a third straight term, is facing off against three other candidates, including Hannah Lehti-Chosa,

Brian Whiteman, Sr., and Carlos Hernandez. Ray Toutloff withdrew his name from consideration due to personal reasons.

Lehti-Chosa is currently the director of marketing at Fortune Bay, while Hernandez is an officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Whiteman, Sr. is the acting public works director for Bois Forte.

Chavers and Lehti-Chosa took advantage of the Bois Forte News offer to write a column informing voters why they are the right candidate to oversee the tribal council for the next four years. Whiteman Sr. did not submit a column, and Hernandez chose to direct voters to his social media page. Please see page 4 for the columns.

Meanwhile, the District I Representative in Nett Lake will get a new member as Travis Morrison opted not to seek a third term in office. He cited the difficulty in balancing work and family life as his main reason for not seeking another term.

That leaves the door open for Perry Drift, Robbie Goggl-eye, William Isham, David Villebrun, and Edward Villebrun to be the next District I Representative. Michael Connor announced his candidacy but was ultimately not certified.

Drift, Isham, and David Villebrun submitted columns that can be read on page 5. Goggl-eye, who is the maintenance director for Bois Forte, and Ed-

ward Villebrun, who works for Big Woods Transit, chose not to submit a column.

Once the two vote-getters in each race are certified by 8 p.m. April 3rd, those candidates will face off in the June 11th general election. The only caveat is if Chavers earns 50% of the vote plus one additional vote. If she achieves that, there would not be a need for a general election for the Tribal Chair seat.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. on April 2nd at the Bois Forte Tribal Government building, Vermilion Social Center, and the Duluth and Minneapolis Urban offices.

For those who cannot make it to the polls, they can request an absentee ballot by mailing a request to the Bois Forte Election Board at P.O. Box 23, Nett Lake, MN 55772.

"They can also come to the Election Board to vote absentee in person if they are not able to come to the voting locations on the day of the election," said Bois Forte Executive Assistant Regina Howe. "We will also post the absentee request form on social media and the (Bois Forte) website in early March."

Historically, those running for office have often included an Absentee Ballot card in their campaign letters so voters can also turn that in.

The deadline to turn in your absentee ballot is the day before the primary, which is April 1st.



ENJOYING THE DAY! — Gloria Love, left, and Lawrence "T-Jon" Connor, right, pose for a quick photo at the Bois Forte Senior Expo, which had informational booths in the Pre-Function area and informative breakout sessions in The Woodlands Ballroom.

# 2024 SOTB offers hope and inspiration

TOWER—Perhaps fueled by encouraging words of wisdom from the likes of Gov. Tim Walz, Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, or Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, the 2024 Bois Forte State of the Band was an aspiring evening of hope and inspiration.

Congressman Pete Stauber congratulated the tribal council and all Bois Forte band members. He said Bois Forte plays such an important role in our way of life in northeastern Minnesota.

“The future of the Bois Forte Band is bright,” said Stauber in his videotaped message. “You are all in good hands under the leadership of Tribal Chair Chavers and the tribal council. I look forward to the opportunity to visit with you all, either here in Washington or back home in Minnesota.”

The event included glowing words of appreciation by the tribal council to the Bois Forte staff and all businesses owned by the band, including Fortune Bay Resort Casino, the Y Store, the C Store, and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay.

“I would like to welcome you to our Bois Forte 2024 State of the Band,” said District I Rep. Shane Drift. “It’s good to

see you all. First off, thank you to our Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees, supervisors, managers, directors, and acting general manager for the long hours, hard work, service, and dedication to our casino. It’s all because of you that the tribe is able to fund various programs that benefit and serve our band members.”

During his speech, Drift lightened the mood a couple of times as he told the audience that he had always wanted to take a picture of the group he was speaking to. So, he took out his phone to snap a photo of the 300-plus gathered and deadpanned that everyone on the left side of the expansive ballroom should move over to the other side.

He also talked about how he was a little nervous about his speech, so he called his girlfriend, Christina, for a little advice.

“She told me to try not to be witty, charming, or intellectual—just be yourself, sweetie. Now, in the words of Rodney Dangerfield—no respect, no respect,” said Drift to a thunderous round of applause for his joke.

On a more serious note, Drift re-

minded those gathered that he takes his job and responsibility as District I Representative very seriously.

“I can tell you without hesitation that being a tribal leader is all about you, the Bois Forte band members, our employees, our programs, our services, our elders, our tribal businesses, and our future,” said Drift, who touched on how important language, culture and traditions are to him, “As a tribal leader, my priorities are transparent—I have demonstrated that time and time again through my actions.”

Drift spoke of how important it is for Bois Forte to fight hard so that the 1854 Treaty Area does not lose any more land.

“It has been 170 years since Bois Forte signed the 1854 Treaty and we have lost 80% of the 1854 Treaty area,” said Drift, who also spoke of his efforts to ensure increases made to the 1854 Per Capita checks are permanent, not just temporary. “Looking 170 years into the future, Bois Forte won’t have anything left of the 1854 Treaty Area and that is scary.”

Drift also spoke of the need to do something about homelessness and the lack of housing in general. He envisions buying or building a facility that could house Bois Forte programs, like the Urban offices in Duluth and Minneapolis, and then using upper floors for apartments for band members.

Looking forward, he is hopeful Bois Forte continues to look into business opportunities, i.e., plans for a cannabis operation, so the tribe is not so dependent on its flagship business, Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

“We need to expand beyond gaming,” said Drift.

Drift also said it’s important for the tribal council to work together moving forward. Yes, he understands there will be times when the council won’t always agree on issues, but added working on behalf of all band members is of great importance.

“To my fellow council members, there were times when we worked together and it felt good,” said Drift, who sadly lost his girlfriend Christina less than two weeks after the event. “I sincerely hope that we

as a tribal council can build on that. We need to build on that.”

District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr. thanked the Bois Forte and Fortune Bay staff for making the 2024 SOTB come together.

“All of you make it possible,” he said while looking at the large crowd. “You provide great services to our people. In my eyes, I see Bois Forte with a bright future for many generations to come.”

He also briefly touched on the planned Vermilion Public Works Building and Food Shelf that will be built across the road from the existing building, which has been in dire need of being updated for several years. No timeline has been given on when construction of the project will begin.

“I am very proud that it is going to be here,” said Moyer, Jr. “We need the space—we need the food shelf. I love it... it is going to be an asset for many years to come.”

District I Representative Travis Morrison, who chose not to seek a third term and will leave office this coming summer, kept his comments short.

“It has been a great eight years,” said Morrison of his time in his office. “We had our ups and downs. Our difficulties and our triumphs—it is going to be the same thing going down the road, we’re going to have our ups and downs no matter what. I’d just like to welcome everybody and say Miigwech for being here—Miigwech.”

Secretary/Treasurer Tara Geshick spent time talking about how Bois Forte staff is being offered numerous training opportunities to adapt to the changing times and also spoke of training to rid Bois Forte of any toxic work environments, bullying, and harassment.

She spoke of “Seventh Generation training” and how it can take Bois Forte from a standard approach to a nation-building approach to providing a data collection-driven mindset for leaders and up-to-date software and implementation.

She told the crowd that the band is halfway through a financial software project, including an accounting and HR

*See SOTB page 3*



SHOW OF RESPECT— Bois Forte District I Representative Shane Drift, right, shakes hands with former Tribal Chairman Gary Donald, left, who thanked Drift for his speech during the 2024 State of the Band.

**SOTB from page 2**

platform to provide better real-time data and information. If all goes according to plan, the new program will be rolled out on January 1, 2025.

“Accuracy—efficiency,” said Geshick as she paused for effect. “...it will bring us into a new era of better and enhanced financial capabilities—we need that.”

She also spoke of keeping the language as a number one priority and thanked the likes of Jaylen Strong and Perry Drift for doing their part to keep it alive.

Geshick also talked about how workforce development has taken off like a rocket, thanks to the 477 program, which Vonda Carr heads up.

“The program has had several events providing a much-needed road map incorporating leadership education and real-world skills for our band membership,” said Geshick, who added how important it is for Bois Forte to work on its strategic plan and update its mission and vision statements, which are paramount for the tribe to move forward in the decades to come.

She wound down her speech by saying she’s not one to take credit for a lot, but asked the crowd to indulge her by saying she’s been told she’s the compass that holds the tribal council together, while also staying focused on the task of bringing the tribe back to policy and following resolutions.

“So, in closing, my goals not only focus on bringing us into a new age of technology and being fiscally responsible, accurate, and current, but I also want to create other strong leaders within the band who strengthen our future,” said Geshick, who is in her first term as secretary/treasurer. “I truly believe in our people. Don’t count us out yet—we will be here for the next seven generations.”

Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers repeated the sentiments shared by other council members and commended all staff for their hard work on behalf of all Bois Forte band members.

“They are the unsung heroes in my eyes,” said Chavers. “I wanted to let them know how appreciated you are and keep up the great work.”

As an example of their great work, Chavers said, Bois Forte has received over \$9 million in grants and other funding over the past three years.

“That’s quite an accomplishment for a very small tribe with limited staff,” said Chavers. “Please give them a hand.”

Like Drift, Chavers spoke about the need to protect the 1854 Treaty Area and mentioned a success story when the U.S. Forest Service declined a 600-acre project for Lutsen Mountain as the land being looked at for development was rich in maple sugaring and other unique traditional medicines.

She talked about how the redistricting of District 8 in Minnesota now includes all seven Ojibwe tribes and thus allows a more unified voice when it comes to tackling important issues.

“A lot of you may not know it, but our native vote is very influential in making decisions and helping elect the right leaders to get our laws passed, our amendments passed, and get funding,” said Chavers. “...we can have an impact on all the state and federal levels as well as local levels, even townships.”

By working with other tribes, Chavers said those voices will let leaders know the importance of teaching Native American history.

“We need to have our story told in the schools,” said Chavers. “It will help years down the road for future tribal leaders, as well as others, why our environment means so much to us—and why our land and water means so much to us.”

She also talked about how tribes are now receiving money when the state has a surplus, as was the case last year when tribes received a total of \$35 million dollars.

“...Tribes are finally getting that money, and we’re very thankful for that because it’s been a long time coming,” said Chavers. “The best part of this money is that it has no restrictions or ties to it—it can be spent how the tribes choose to spend it.”

She spoke of how she and Grand Portage Tribal Chair Robert Deschampe successfully testified before legislative committees to increase the base payments of the 1854 Per Capita checks. However, the end goal is to make that increase permanent and not just a one-time deal.

“We will get back to you on that because we’re still in a negotiating process, but you can make darn well sure we’re going to get what’s coming to us,” said Chavers.

Chavers briefly discussed the Nett Lake Dam project being completed, ultimately leading to a very successful year of ricing for band members. She also touched on homelessness, Bois Forte’s successful Fiber to Home project, which not only will help band members, but also offer it to Greenwood Township and other areas to help people stay connected in otherwise remote areas where high speed internet was not available.

She also spoke of Bois Forte being the first tribe in Indian Country to roll out Public Health Vending machines, which not only have essential items but also lifesaving items such as Narcan, fentanyl testing strips, and HIV tests. One of these machines is located at the C Store in Nett Lake, while the other is at Fortune Bay.

Chavers echoed other projects and initiatives mentioned by Drift and Geshick, but added much work to be done to keep Bois Forte on the right path.

She sympathized with those who are struggling with addiction and that Bois Forte has and will continue to offer help to them.

“We all know culture heals,” said Chavers. “I have seen and heard more of our young people and adults who are in recovery from drugs and alcohol. Some have turned to our culture, some have not—but the most important thing is the fact they are in recovery.”

As a tribal government, Chavers added, our programs can give you the tools needed to move forward with your sobriety.

“But it is ultimately up to you,” said Chavers. “I want you all to know there is nothing to be ashamed of and that we care about you—it’s never too late.”

Chavers closed out her address by talking about how Bois Forte needs to diversify its economic development and let band members know that a survey asking them about delving into the cannabis industry was overwhelmingly supported by the 700 band members who had turned in the survey by the January 31st deadline.

“The tribal council put into place a resolution that says you guys decide what businesses we want. We, as a tribal council, should not make that determination. It’s up to you guys. It’s your business; it’s not ours,” said Chavers to those who turned in a survey. “I’m happy to say you passed it. I know some said no, but you know we can’t please everybody as tribal leaders. We know that.”

In an effort to allow more out of area band members to attend this annual event, the 2025 State of the Band will take place Saturday, January 18th.

*Editor’s note: We will run a story outlining Bois Forte’s Cannabis project in next month’s issues.*



PILOTS OF THE AIRWAVES!— KBFT’s George Strong, left, and Marty Connor, right, enjoyed working their KBFT Radio booth at the 2024 State of the Band. Make sure to tune into 89.9FM or visit their website [kbft.org](http://kbft.org), which has a plethora of information!

## Chavers seeks third term, while Lehti-Chosa, Hernandez and Whiteman, Sr. run to unseat her

*Editor's note: All candidates running for the Bois Forte Tribal Chair seat were asked to submit an introductory column for the upcoming April 2nd primary. Here are the candidates who submitted their column. We are running the columns in alphabetical order. The top two candidates who advance in the April 2nd primary, will face off in the June 11th, 2024 General Election. If the incumbent receives 50% of the vote, plus one additional vote, there will not be a need for the General Election and Chavers would serve another four-year term.*

### Cathy Chavers:



### Boozhoo band members:

I am running for re-election as your tribal chairwoman. I am the daughter of Daniel and Doris (King) O'Connell. I have two sons, Eddie and Tim Chavers, along with eight grandchildren, Kyle, Julianna, Hailey, Calyen, Braelynn, Haven, Mason and Sterling. I have one great grandchild, Kieran.

I have been honored and humbled to have been your Chairwoman for the past eight years. I have also been honored by the Minnesota Chippewa tribal leaders serving as the first female President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. My experience working for our great band is one of my greatest strengths that I bring to this position. I have worked for the Band since 1977 in various positions such as Assistant Housing Director, Education Secretary, Home School Coordinator, Teacher Aide, and CHS clerk,

which began my 30+ years career in health care. I have experience in supervision, grant writing, budgets, working with outside agencies, reporting requirements, elderly programs and focusing on services to our band members as a priority, still to this day.

I have served and still currently serve on national committees, and state committees. This involvement in these agency committees etc. allows the band to be able to have our voice heard so they understand the needs of all of our band members young and old and the next seven generations to come.

I am proud to say that since being Chairwoman of Bois Forte, the Tribal Council has not received one raise to their salaries. We have become more accessible and transparent with technology. We have updated policies that were ignored in the past such as the Code of Ethics. We have band members decide on our business ventures and am excited to move forward with even more in the areas of energy and agriculture. We must keep up with the times and not be stagnant in our old way of doing things.

Granted, there will be times that challenge us, but we have gone through the longest government shutdown and COVID-19 under my leadership. We are accessing grants and funding. With the help of our great staff we have received an amount of \$96 million in three years! We know that we must try and incorporate more to our off reservation tribal members in the urban areas. This is a challenge, but we will keep working on trying to provide more services, such as homelessness funding, mental health and more.

My personality is optimistic, caring, and outgoing. I am not afraid to say what needs to be said. I am also proud to be an elder and now learning my culture and language. Even a little at a time is better than not at all.

Last as you are reading this, I have to have surgery on my back and began pursuing this medical issue last fall. I will be recuperating in the beginning of March and hope to get out once I am able to, to talk with you. However, you are always welcome to call me at 218-780-2898 or email me at chaverscatherine@gmail.com. I really want to hear from the band

members on what they want to see from our tribal government and what needs to be improved as well as any ideas you may have as the Tribal Council members represent ALL band members.

Please vote for me to be your Tribal Chairwoman! I would be honored to serve you again! Chi Miigwech. Cathy Chavers

### Hannah Lehti-Chosa:



*Vote for Progress, Vote for Tradition—  
Vote Hannah Lehti-Chosa for Bois Forte  
Chairperson*

Dear Bois Forte Band Members,

My name is Hannah Lehti-Chosa, and I am humbly reaching out our band members as we stand on the brink of a crucial moment in our community's history. Our vibrant culture, the resilience of our elders, the promise of our youth, and the strength of our veterans have always been the pillars upon which our community stands.

However, challenges have never been more significant, and the path forward requires leadership that is both visionary and grounded in our shared values. This is why I am seeking to serve as your chairperson. My campaign is built on improving our lives in tangible ways:

**Tribal Housing:** Addressing the needs of our tribal housing program, ensuring that repairs are completed in a timely manner to maintain the comfort and safety of homes for every tribal member. In addition, we need to explore innovative strategies to minimize the amount of time our housing properties remain unoccupied.

**Culture and Language Services:** Revitalize and celebrate our unique heritage by actively preserving our language and culture. Elevate and engage with our Elders, ensuring their voices are prioritized and heard in our community.

**Education and Training:** It is essential for us to stand behind every member of the band, alongside their children and grandchildren who are eager to advance their educational paths. Not only should our support extend to traditional academic pursuits, but we must also recognize and include vocational training and union-based employment opportunities within our financial assistance programs. These avenues lead to well-paying jobs and are vital components of our comprehensive support strategy.

**Fortune Bay Resort Casino:** The core of our revenue generation overwhelmingly stems from our gaming ventures, and this trend is expected to continue well into the future. It's imperative that we revisit our foundational strategy, emphasizing our recognition as a premier vacation destination as opposed to merely a routine, day-to-day venue that might not fully cater to the desires of our transient guests. Equally important is the necessity to enhance the way we value and treat our employees. Their indispensable role in our operations means that without their satisfaction and loyalty, we are at risk of witnessing a downturn in our business performance.

**Communication:** Openness and dialogue are essential. Our band members have a right to be informed about the activities within our community and business ventures. As stakeholders in Bois Forte Enterprises, the issuance of a comprehensive quarterly report to all members is something I strongly advocate for.

**Off Reservation Support:** To strengthen our commitment to inclusivity and support, it's crucial that we enhance our services for those living off-reservation. By empowering our urban office directors with more resources, we can significantly improve the programs designed to benefit our off-reservation community members. This approach will ensure everyone receives the

*See Election page 7*

# It's a stacked field for the District 1 Representative race

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## **Perry Drift, Sr.:**



Aniin Anishaanabeg, (Hello People) Nashkibinace Indizhinikaaz (Thunderbird Gliding Down from the Sky is my name). Makwa Nidoodem (I am bear clan). Sabikone Zaaga'Igan indoonjibaa (I am from Nett Lake). Nisimidana ashi niizh biboonigiz (I am 32 winters old)

My name is Perry Drift Sr., and I am a candidate for District I. I am humbly seeking your support and vote for the upcoming Primary Election on April 2, 2024. I have three sons and two daughters, who mean the world to me. Growing up, I was blessed with the cultural and spiritual teachings by my grandmother, Karen Drift and my late grandfather, Lester Drift Sr., who are both fluent speakers of the Anishaanabemowin language. I also serve on the Nett Lake Elementary School Board.

I am for transparency, clear communication, full accountability, fair and open Tribal Government to you as a Bois Forte Band Member. Listening to the people and following through with important subjects is key in tribal leadership. The concerns of every band member must be heard. Your voice will be heard because I will be a voice for you.

Bois Forte has a long history of caring for one another. We must always honor and cherish that tradition. My platform will solely be based on open communication. Growing up with the language and being around my grandparents shaped the entire way I communicate. Listening and responding in English and Anishaanabemowin is quite different and complex but has its benefits when covering a person's intellectual and communicative skills. I plan on using that skill as a tool to truly listen and cooperate with our band membership.

Talking with Band Members regarding their concerns about our future, I will work for a healthier, financially secure future. Every business decision that I will make will be with you, the Bois Forte Band members and future generations in mind and I am very adamant about that. It's the focal starting point to a good business strategy. I was the forefront for creating and establishing my grandmother's game board business. We sold over 400 language game boards across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The feedback that was given was phenomenal.

A main business venture I would like to see our tribe pursue would be the cannabis dispensary business. One of my goals would be to establish payments from this business to our band membership with trust funds for our members that are under the age of 18, the same way our 1854 trust accounts are set up. Feeling a sense of purpose in what you are creating or trying to sell, truly drives a business a long way.

If elected, I will address the homelessness situation that affects our Band Members on and off the reservation.

I care deeply for the language and culture but also the financial status of our tribe. Those two go hand in hand. As people, it's a core value to who we are as Anishinaabeg. Always looking to make good decisions. My email is driftperry653@gmail.com and my personal cell phone number is (218) 404-8634. Please feel free to reach out to me via email, social media or in person.

Miigwetch and I hope to have your vote in the upcoming primary election on April 2, 2024. I welcome all questions

and feedback regarding my tribal election campaign. Engaging with as many Bois Forte Band Members going forward genuinely sparks my interest and enthusiasm about filing for this position.

## **William G. Isham, IV:**



Boozho, I am William G. Isham IV, I am 54 years old and have lived on the Bois Forte Reservation all my life. My parents are William M. Isham and Grace E. Isham. I have been happily married for 30 years and have five children and nine grandchildren.

I have owned and operated my own timber business for 20 years; The Bois Forte, Natural Resources Department, has employed me for the past 16 years; I've also served as a seat on the Conservation and Wild Rice committees for 12 years. I have volunteered for the Boys and Girls Club from 2013 to the present.

People who know me know that I get right to the point and will not sugarcoat anything; these are the following issues I will address if you elect me as District 1 Representative.

Fair and equal treatment for all, no matter what side of the tracks that you come from.

Tribal Business – I have 20 years of experience operating and owning my own business, and I would want to bring that to the tribal council. I want to lessen our dependence on the State and Federal Government monies.

Housing – The lack of housing opportunities for our young people. This, I believe, is detrimental to our young people and those who have left the res-

ervation to become educated and have returned home to better our Tribe.

Drug Addiction – This is something that we, as native people, all have dealt with either personally or in our families; I am no exception to this as I have had family of my own who have struggled through this. I have personally seen the lack of help that the people who are struggling with addiction get. This needs to change. We need to find a way to better our people. We need to research opening a treatment center on our reservation like other tribes have done in Minnesota.

Youth Opportunities – Education in trades and having internships and apprenticeships would be a positive for youth interested in going into the trades. Also, a harder push on funding language and culture programs would greatly benefit our youth and our people.

Elders – Finding more funding or holding more fundraising events to bring back the elder's trips. Also, emergency funds for medical emergencies. Lawn care and snow removal for all elders, not just those living in housing houses.

There are many more issues that I want to address, but I don't want to make this letter too lengthy. If you have any questions, problems or suggestions that you believe need to be addressed, contact me at WilliamGIsham@gmail.com.

Miigwetch, for your time, and I hope I have your vote as District 1 Representative. William G Isham IV

## **David H. Villebrun Jr.:**

Boozhoo fellow Bois Forters, I am David H Villebrun Jr., the oldest child of David (Fox) Sr., and Edith (Morrison) Villebrun.

I have a brother John, and a sister, Miranda, as well as my three awesome kids, Bridget, Cassandra, and Davis. I have lived in Nett Lake most of my life and have worked in the various departments that make up the Bois Forte Government for almost 30 years.

I would like your support in the upcoming election for an opportunity to serve on the Tribal Council to help shape the future for our Bandmembers.

*See Race page 7*

# Catching up with Forest Programs Manager Cody Swanson

**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 Hibbing on July 27, 1998. I spent my whole childhood growing up on the Cook end of Lake Vermilion, and my parents still reside there. I went to Cook High School until it was combined with Orr and became Northwoods in 2012. I graduated from there in 2016. I pursued an NRT (Natural Resource Technician) degree in my junior year of high school as a post-secondary student at Vermilion Community College. I now live in Hibbing and have a beautiful wife and the sweetest little boy, who turned three this winter.

**How do you like to spend your free time when you are**

**not working?**

I love to spend time with my wife, Alicia, and my son, Luca. We try to take many trips around the state each year, going to the Cities and the North Shore. I enjoy golfing and disc golfing in the summer. I like to spend time with my parents out floating on the pontoon.

**How long have you been working with Bois Forte as the Forest Programs Manager, and what keeps you motivated to stay in the field?**

I have been working as the Forest Program Manager for Bois Forte for six months, but I have worked for the Forestry for four and a half years. I have always had a deep love and respect for the natural world and have always been amazed by it. I started working in 2014 in the Superior National Forest in



a summer youth program and realized I wanted to spend my life working and coming home happy and excited about each and every day.

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

**and day-out basis.**

My primary duties are to manage and sustain Bois Forte's Natural Resources in a way that is ecologically, culturally, and economically focused. As a Forestry employee, I take on a lot of different projects, and many of these projects are driven by the seasons. When the ground is frozen in the winter months, I spend time managing Timber Sales in the wetland areas and have been conducting CFI (Continuous Forest Inventory) across the Reservation Trust lands. In the warmer parts of the year, we are actively staffing and providing Wildland Fire suppression across the Nett Lake sector of Bois Forte. As Program Manager, I assess the local Fire danger with up-to-date weather and coordinate staffing reports across other agencies. This leads us to set our Fire signs at different levels and provide higher staffing levels. During extreme conditions, I have to coordinate with out-of-area resources and increase man and engine capacity for the likelihood of a fire quickly becoming very large. Weather patterns have been changing drastically in the last few years, and it has been common for the fire season to last up to 5-6 months of the year— 2021 was our longest at eight months.

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

One of the biggest challenges the Forestry faces is the remoteness of some of our land. Access to some sites takes up to 2 to 3 hours of truck, then ATV or snowmobile use. In these circumstances, we rely on many map applications and GPS systems to travel efficiently and safely across the Reservation. Another challenge we face is

an increasing amount of land to manage and new-age Forestry management methods. As a department, we have been learning and beginning to understand how to manage these new lands in a Carbon sequestration project.

**How can the public help you and your team do your jobs more efficiently and effectively?**

Please love and respect the natural world. We run into instances where Tribal lands are littered, or the natural resources have been improperly harvested or destroyed. Please help keep the Forest healthy for the generations to come.

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

The Forestry is actively working on a Carbon Credit project. We are in a review and planning stage now and have a lot of coordination to do with assisting agencies. We are facing an interesting weather year, and concerns are high for a long fire season starting in early spring and extending into fall. If conditions allow, we will conduct prescribed burns to achieve our cultural and safety goals.

**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?**

The best advice I received was in my early teens when a U.S. Forest Service employee told me that a day spent working and doing something you truly love really isn't like working at all. So, to this day, I spend my time doing something I truly love, and I'm lucky to call it work.



## 2-DAY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT WORKSHOP

**Saturday March 9, 9-5:30**  
**Sunday March 10, 9-5:30**

**LOST FORTY STUDIOS,  
Chisholm, MN**

**\$50 (Scholarships Available)**

Scan for details







**Big Woods Transit will provide transportation.**  
Transportation paid for by the 477 Department.

Please call 1-888-757-1540 for a ride.  
If nobody answers leave a message.



*Ganawenimaa Anishnaabeg*  
*Bois Forte 477*



**Race from page 5**

There are many issues that we have to address in order to preserve our culture, our history, our language, our way of



life. I want our grandchildren to experience everything that we and our older generations have enjoyed in the past. Ricing, netting, hunting, gathering, teachings, stories, everything that makes us who we are.

We have a good start with what's been implemented so far by valuable members of our Band, but the job is far from over. They need more of a commitment from us, to keep the past from being forgotten, the language from disappearing, and the history of our people to

endure.

I think we need more housing available, more job opportunities, more businesses to generate revenue for the benefit of our Band members. If we can accomplish those ideas, we can pave the way for more of our family, relatives, and friends to move back to our community. I think that would be amazing, but there are many more issues that I haven't mentioned that need to be discussed but I only have so much time for this article.

I am naturally a very shy person. I don't have an outgoing personality, but I can listen very well. I am looking forward to try and visit with as many of you that I can. I believe a good leader listens to those around him before making any decisions.

If anyone would like to reach out to me to schedule a good time for us to meet and discuss topics that are relevant to all, I would love that, my phone number is 218-404-3945 and I hope to hear from a lot of you. Mii iw!!

**Robbie Gogleye and Edward Villebrun:** The aforementioned candidates did not submit a column.

Best of luck to you all in the April 2nd Primary!

**Election from page 4**

support they need, regardless of their location.

Our future calls for leadership that not only dreams big but also puts those dreams into action. Together, we can shape a future that honors our past, cherishes our present, and builds a resilient foundation for the generations to come.

I pledge to listen, to understand, and to act. But to make this vision a reality, I need your support.

On April 2, 2024, for the primary election, and on June 11,

2024, for the general election, you have the power to choose a path of unity, progress, and prosperity.

Vote Hannah Lehti-Chosa for Bois Forte Chairperson. Together, we are unstoppable.

Chi-Miigwech!

**Carlos Hernandez:**

For information about Carlos Hernandez please visit @VoteForCarlosBF on x.com

**Brian L. Whiteman, Sr.:** No article was submitted.

Best of luck to all of the candidates running for the Bois Forte Tribal Chair!

**Minute with Millie**

Ahniin! Joy of joys! One of my short stories has been accepted. Yepper announcing it to all and sundry. Then I bounced off the walls as my excitement got the best of me. I was visiting my sister when I got the news late at night.

I had just returned from a late night out to you know where, cept down in the cities. I turned my laptop on to check that my alarms were set for the following morning as I had a workshop to attend.

Got a message notification asking if I'd received an email. Promptly checked my regular email and also included that folder to which all unsolicited mail gets sent just in case. Ordinarily it wouldn't end up there. Suspect the tech gremlins have been busy lately as many of my regularly received emails have been ending up in that seldom opened folder.

T'any rate, I notified the sender that I hadn't received it, sent a refreshed email address. Within moments, I was reading the news that got me jumping for joy. Even my sister couldn't keep me quiet for long. Kept bouncing around like Tigger.

Suffice to say, she'd finally had enough and put on noise cancelling headphones just so she could catch a few zzz's. Surprised I



didn't wake up the household with all the bouncing and jumping on the stairs. I did, however have the restraint to not holler and scream even if it was a Saturday night with no school or work. 'Cept for me and my sister who was happily snoozing by then.

Managed to settle down and catch a couple hours sleep. Still so excited. Man, it's hard to think that the first one to know and get my call would have been my Mom and then my Dad. Dreams turned to Goals Can Be Accomplished! She would have been so proud.

**Vermilion Social Center continues busy schedule**

**TOWER—** The Chair Exercise program will continue to take place every Monday in March at 1 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

The program will include roughly 25 minutes of exercise that you also try at home. Once the exercise is over, stick around for a little social time where light snacks and beverages will be available.

On Wednesdays, participants can play some bingo, cards, and other board games. Light snacks and beverages will be available. This ac-

tivity is also slated for 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the Vermilion Social Center.

There will be a prize drawing at each event every week, so make sure to stop by the Vermilion Social Center Mondays and Wednesdays in March.

Also, on Friday March 15th at the Vermilion Social Center, a St. Patrick's Day Party will take place. Crafts, drinks and snacks will be provided.

If you need a ride, please call Bessie Medicine at 218-404-6138 or Jim Morrison at 218-404-3755.

*Due to the Primary Election coverage, the Bois Forte News will not go to press until April 4th, 2024. Thank you for your understanding.*

## News from the Bois Forte Water & Sanitation and Vermilion Water & Sewer

In 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has required ALL Community Water Systems complete a Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory by October 16, 2024. The Community Water Systems of Nett Lake, Indian Point, Palmquist, and Ver-

milion need the homeowners help with this project. Please fill out the survey that was mailed to you regarding your plumbing inside your home and return it to either the Bois Forte Water or the Vermilion Water Departments. We thank you in advance for your help.

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's (ENP) menu for the month of March. 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.



**March 1:** Pork Loin, Garden Blend Rice, Diced Beets, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 4:** Teriyaki Chicken, Rice Medley, Green Beans, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 5:** Roast Turkey Slice, Mashed Potatoes/Turkey Gravy, French cut Green Beans, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie  
**March 6:** Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 7:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 8:** BBQ Pork Ribblett, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slw, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 11:** Baked Pork Chop, Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower/Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 12:** Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 13:** Beef/Bean Soup, Potatoe Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 14:** Stir Fry Chicken, Egg Role, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**March 15:** Bison Stew, 7-Grain Bun, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 18:** Shepherd's Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 19:** White Chicken Chili w/ Beans, Corn Bread, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 20:** Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 21:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 22:** Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potatoe, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 25:** Sausage Jambalaya, Cheddar Biscuit, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 26:** Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 27:** BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit  
**March 28:** Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

### LEGAL NOTICE

In The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Court Civil Division  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

In the matter of Guy Edward Ragsdale, Petitioner vs Renika Love, Respondent.  
 TO: The above-named respondent, Renika Love.  
 You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given that a Zoom hearing will be held on the 13th day of March 2024, at 10:00 a.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771, on the civil matter for restitution filed in this court on December 29th, 2023. This hearing is to determine if the request for restitution should be granted or denied.  
 You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you and the civil matter for restitution being granted.  
 To join Zoom meeting go to <https://boisforte.zoom.us/j/3054161983>  
 Meeting ID: 305 416 1983 (there is no passcode)  
 Or to join via telephone only dial 1-877-853-5247  
 By The Court  
 Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
 Kristina Isham, Clerk of Court  
 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B • Orr MN 55771 • Tel: 218-757-3462

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

## Boozhoo! We're Hiring!

### Summer Temporary Transportation Associates

(Anticipated to run April 24, 2024 – October 8, 2024)

**SALARY: \$21.84-\$22.50/hr.; \$45,601-\$46,980/yr.**

**Locations:**

- **Truck Stations:** Duluth (Pike Lake/Nopeming), Grand Rapids, Floodwood, McGregor, Sandstone, Pine City, Virginia, Cook, International Falls
- **Traffic Services:** Duluth (Pike Lake) & Virginia
- **Bridge Maintenance:** Carlton & Virginia

**Hours of Work:** 6:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday

**Examples of Work:** Assist with performing roadway maintenance, operating heavy equipment, traffic control, repair of guardrail and signs, performing maintenance on bridges and other related structures. (See complete job posting for more information).

**Must have a minimum of a Class B Commercial Driver's License with no air brake restriction at the time of application** (Please see job posting for other minimum qualifications)

**To view the posting and apply:**  
<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>  
 Search on Job ID# 73555

Applications will be accepted and continue to be reviewed until all positions have been filled or the job announcement reaches the end of the posting period (04/23/2024).

**\*\*Note: If you do not have a Commercial Driver's License, please see Job ID# 73556 for more summer opportunities!**

**INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION & RESUME HELP IS AVAILABLE!**  
 Contact: Lena Garcia, MnDOT Recruitment Specialist  
 Phone: (651) 366-3406  
 Email: [Lena.Garcia@state.mn.us](mailto:Lena.Garcia@state.mn.us)



## Bois Forte Tribal Council Minutes

### Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held December 13, 2023, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation done by Vernon Adams.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer Jr. virtual.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Vern Adams, Erin Danielson, Doris Isham, Randy Long, Kim Greiner, Miranda Lilya, David M. Morrison. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the agenda, with the addition of Shane Drift, roll call audits and feasibility study for cannabis. 105(l) Lease modification under Kim Greiner. Removed item VII. a) & b). and Under Item VIII. b), c) & d). Miranda Lilya will be presenting for Kathie Holman. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held November 1, 2023. Carried 4-0-0

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

a) Approved selecting SRF Consulting Firm for Transportation Planning RFP 4-0-0

b) Approved the 2023 Holiday memo 4-0-0

c) Approved contract with Martinson Electric to complete work for New Moon 4-0-0

d) Approved sole source request to C & C Winger, Inc for fire hydrant repairs 4-0-0

e) Approved contract for demo & cleanup services to Udovich Enterprises 4-0-0

f) Approved Resolution No. 27-2024 agreement w/Udovich Enterprises for home & demo clean up services part of contract being paid out of ARPA Funds 4-0-0

g) Approved Resolution No. 28-2024, SRF task order 16171.03, grant writing services related to the MNDOT Active Transportation grant & authorizing use of ARPA funds 4-0-0

h) Approved proposal for DiSC Communication Skills Training 4-0-0

i) Approved RFP for strategic planning services for 5 year plan for Tribal Gov't 3-1-0

Shane Drift denies

j) Approved contract with Native Pride Productions for KBFT Event 4-0-0

k) Approved grant submission of carry over funds for Behavioral Health 4-0-0

l) Approved to use left-over urban offices food assistance program money to purchase holiday food boxes for MPLS Urban office. 4-0-0

m) Approved to hold raffle to raise money for M. Goggleye 4-0-0

n) Approved conservation fund joint letter re: mtg with bands on MN School Trust project 4-0-0

o) Approved annual renewal of Laserfiche Subscription for \$60,100.00 4-0-0

p) Approved sole source request to Sundancer Solutions MLR Prodigy for annual fee 4-0-0

q) Approved FCC Biennial ownership report for KBFT 4-0-0

r) Approved to support the HHS CEO to continue pursuing a model of deliver of Mental Health services 4-0-0

s) Approved the amount of \$50/elder for the 2023 Holiday gift. 4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve Resolution No. 31-2024, Residential Lease for Donald Villebrun Sr. and Tina Villebrun. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the sole source request and contract for to First Day Learning, Inc. for 2-day head start training, in the amount of \$9,940.00. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the following donation committee recommendations:

\$500 to 2023 North Woods Cheer

\$500 to 2023 Iron Range Cheer Booster

\$500 to 2023 North Woods School for streaming services. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 34-2024, approving submission of Electrifying Tribal Communities Grant App. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the contract for SRF agreement for SS4A Action Plan. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the waiver of ID fee to correct Tribal ID cards to correct information. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the updated Burial Fund Policy, effective 12/13/2023. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the 2024 Employee Christmas Club program. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the ability to seek costs of additional appraisals. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve authorization for Cathy Chavers to sign the 105(l) lease request for 2 additional buildings at forestry. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drive; to approve Resolution No. 36-2024, moving funds into Certificate of Deposits (CDs) at Park State Bank. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the lease modification for 105(l) lease for Nett Lake Health Services Building. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 37-2024, Appointing Jennalee Porter to serve on the American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No.

38-2024, appointing Erin Danielson to serve on the Region III Adult Mental Health Initiative. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: February 7, 2024

### Minutes of a Regular meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 3, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Vernon Adams does invocation.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer Jr. virtual.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Randy Long, Ed Chavers, Carol Burr, Dan Rabideaux, Vondalee Carr, Miranda Lilya, Vern Adams, Will Mantyh, Doris Isham, Anna Marie Hill, Pam Parson, Jaylen Strong, Simona Benner. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to table the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held December 13, 2023, due to not being complete. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Approved contract with Lelan Leecy for MPLS Urban Office meals 4-0-0

b) Approved Resolution No. 39-2024, Appointing Justices to the Bois Forte Court of Appeals 4-0-0

c) Approved Tribal Opioid Settlement agreement-McKinsey 4-0-0

d) Approved Head Start/EHS budget modification 4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Nett Lake pow wow's raffles & fundraising for 2024. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the contract with Becky Schueller for training. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve collaboration with Youth Prize for direct cash transfers for youth experiencing homelessness/housing instability. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the contract with the Nett Lake School and Boys and Girls club. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the personnel policy revision, section 3-Employment, effective im-

mediately. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the proposed new background process. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to table the Social Media Policy, until the next meeting to review policy Nikki Irving had shared. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 40-2024, Indian Gaming Association Tribal membership dues (to be paid by Fortune Bay). Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: February 7, 2024

### Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 17, 2024, 2023, at Vermilion, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Vernon Adams does invocation.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer Jr. virtual.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Randy Long, Ed Chavers, Carol Burr, Dan Rabideaux, Vondalee Carr, Miranda Lilya, Vern Adams, Will Mantyh, Doris Isham, Anna Marie Hill, Pam Parson, Jaylen Strong, Simona Benner. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held December 13, 2023 and Regular RTC meeting held January 3, 2024, due to being incomplete. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Approved follow ltr to BIA corrections RE: VAWA Detention 4-0-0

b) Approved updated DOI Consultation Ltr RE: Consultation on Critical need for Protection of Treaty-Reserved Usufructuary Rights 4-0-0

c) Approved to confer final jurisdiction on the MCT Tribal Election court of appeals for all BF initiated election appeals during the 2024 Regular election 4-0-0

d) Approved Resolution No. 43-2024, to appoint Christopher Anderson as the BF representative on the MCT Election Court of Appeals 4-0-0

e) Approved Resolution No. 44-2024, to appoint Tadd Johnson as Election contest judge and Sara Van Norman as alternative. 4-0-0

f) Approved the BF Housing-Essential Family Policy & the BF Housing-Law

**See Minutes Page 10**



ENJOYING A LITTLE VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY!— The Vermilion Head Start Kids enjoyed a little party on Wednesday, February 14th. Submitted photo.

**Minutes from page 9**

Enforcement Family Policy 4-0-0

g) Approved the Executive Assistant as the person responsible for conducting criminal history checks as per the MCT Election Ordinance. 4-0-0

h) Approved sole source request to Cub Foods to purchase gift cards for Tribal Families living in Metro area using ARPA Funds. 4-0-0

i) Approved sole source request to Sams Club to purchase food for food bags 4-0-0. Carried 4-0-0

Will Mantyh gives an update on the Dementia Research project.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 47-2024, approving contract for SHORP (Stable Housing Organization Relief Program). Carried 4-0-0

Presentation on Mayo Clinic Healthy Nations-options for cardiac ultrasound.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve partnership with Mayo Clinic Healthy Nations for cardiac ultrasound at Bois Forte.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Bois Forte Transportation safety plan.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Social Media Policy, option #2, effective 01/17/2024. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the renewal of Imprivata-Multifactor authentication for healthcare.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 48-2024, approving the use of ARPA Funds to cover fiber to home shortfalls. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve sole source request to Electronic Communication, Inc. for key access system at Fortune Bay in amount of \$65,289.00

Carried 4-0-0

Presentation – Update on public health vending machines and SCIBAR project.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 49-2024, "Jeremy's Resolution", for team to collaborate with tribal agencies to possible revisions to the Bois Forte Tribal Code that are evidence-based and intended to reduce substance use harms.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 51-2024, participation in the annual Point in time count for homelessness.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 50-2024, approving appointment of Daniel Rabideau to the MN Tribal Collaborative to prevent and end homelessness.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane drift; to approve the Internship Program Policy, effective 01/17/2024. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table the TERO Commission appointments until the next meeting, to ensure the TERO Ordinance is being followed.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the contract/agreement with State of MN annual plan agreement accepting funds for repatriation funds, with the correction to change Upper Sioux Community ("contractor") to reflect Bois Forte Band of Chippewa as the contractor.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the state of MN grant contract agreement-MIAC, Master Apprentice Language program.

Carried 4-0-0

Pam Parson gives monthly compliance update.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: February 7, 2024



**MARCH IS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

**Bois Forte Medical Clinics & American Indian Cancer Foundation invite you to**

**Please join us for our annual**

**Colorectal Cancer Screening Event**

**Wednesday March 20, 2024 – Vermilion Clinic (218) 753-2182**

**Thursday March 21, 2024 – Nett Lake Clinic (218) 757-3650**

**8:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

**CALL TODAY to schedule your screening with your primary care provider.**

**SCREENING CAN SAVE LIVES**



**Event includes ~ snacks, giveaways, blue bead crafts, educational information, and local resources. Participants who are eligible for screening will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a variety of prizes. WEAR BLUE TO HELP PROMOTE AWARENESS**



# COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS

## **Teri Morrison, RN, Community Health Programs Manager**

Office: (218)757-2395, Cell: (218)750-2227, Fax: (218)757-6782,  
Email: thmorrison@boisforte-nsn.gov

WIC supervisor, Elderly Needs Coordinator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, supervises all functions of the Community Health Department and Staff, including RN's and Social Workers, Grants manager including finding, applying, implementing programming, and managing funding to support and increase Community Health Programs

## **Jill Schuchard, RN, Maternal Child Health Program Manager (MCH)**

Cell: (218)-410-3293 call or text; Fax (218)757-6782, Email: jhorak@boisforte-nsn.gov

Home visiting for families, WIC, car seat safety, Healthy Homes grant,  
Supervises Nutrition Education and Family Spirit Programs

## **VERMILION**

### **Dawn Anderson, RN, Public Health Nurse**

Cell: (218)404-3729, Fax: (218)757-6782, Email: dawn.anderson@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder nurse home visits and care coordination, medication box setups, Vermilion CHR supervisor, PHN supervisor, assists with LTSS Program

### **Bessie Medicine, Community Health Representative**

Cell: (218) 404-6138, Fax: (218)757-6782, Email: bmedicine@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder home visits, care coordination, medication deliveries, transports

### **Jim Morrison, Community Health Representative**

Cell: (218) 404-3755, Fax: (218)757-6782, Email: jmorrison@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder home visits, care coordination, medication deliveries, transports

### **Earl Villebrun, Tobacco Education & Policy Development Coordinator**

Cell: (218) 750-0989, Email: Earl.villebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov

Tobacco education, cessation services and policy work

### **Vacant, Family Spirit Program Manager**

Coordinates Family Spirit program, family home visits

### **April Taylor, Elders Activity Coordinator & Cook**

Office: (218)753-4542, Cell: (218)994-2177, Email: ataylor@boisforte-nsn.gov

Cooks and delivers Elder meals, coordinates Elder activities

### **Vacant, Nutrition Educator Coordinator - Vermilion**

Cell: (218)410-5771 call or text, Email:

Nutrition education classes and events in Vermilion. Promote healthy eating choices and behaviors and living an active lifestyle. Supports wellness, cultural activities and teaching through education.

## **NETT LAKE**

### **Laura Rosier, Licensed Social Worker, Long-Term Services & Supports Specialist**

Cell: (218)410-4502 call or text, Email: lrosier@boisforte-nsn.gov

Manages Money Follows the Person Grant and Long-Term Services & Supports Program for elders and disabled populations.

### **Garret Landgren, RN, Community Health Nurse**

Office: (218)757-3295, Cell: (218)404-9419, Fax: (218)757-6782

Email: glandgren@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder nurse home visits and care coordination, medication box setups, supervises Nett Lake CHR's

## **Amber Geshick, Community Health Representative**

Office: (218)757-3295, Cell: (218)404-6059 Fax: (218)757-6782

Email: argeshick@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder home visits, care coordination, medication deliveries, transports

## **Kristy Rutchasky, Community Health Representative**

Office: (218)757-3295, Cell: (218)940-0208, Fax: (218)757-6782

Email: Krutchasky@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder home visits, care coordination, medication deliveries, transports

## **Lance Kingbird, Community Health Representative, Elder & Caregiver Aid**

Office: (218)757-3295, Cell: (218)994-1749, Fax: (218)757-6782

Email: lkingbird@boisforte-nsn.gov

Assists Elders and Caregivers with coordinating services, provides homemaker & chore services and transports for errands if available

## **Adnan Memon, MB. BS, MPH, Disease Intervention Specialist**

Cell: (218)248-0389, Fax: (218)757-6782, Email: amemon@boisforte-nsn.gov

Education, case management, and testing for transmittable diseases

## **Rebecca Adams, Community Wellness Coordinator**

Office: (218)757-3295, Fax: (218)757-6782, Email: radams@boisforte-nsn.gov

Group and individual nutrition education and wellness activities

## **Amber Zapata, Nutrition Education Manager**

Cell: (218)248-0148 call or text, Email: amber.zapata@boisforte-nsn.gov

Manages Nutrition Education (SNAP-ED) program & supervises Nutrition Education Coordinators. Connect and collaborate with other community programs to implement programming. Promote program outreach activities. Food sovereignty activities. Lifestyle Change Program (CDC Diabetes Prevention Program.)

## **Vacant, Nutrition Education Coordinator - Nett Lake**

Nutrition education classes and events in Nett Lake. Promote healthy eating choices and behaviors and living an active lifestyle. Supports wellness, cultural activities and teachings through education.

## **Jennie Rowland, Elderly Program and Food Shelf Administrator**

Cell: (218)410-5054, Office: (218)757-3790, Fax: (218)757-3723

Email: jennie.rowland@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elderly meals and activities administrator, Nett Lake Food Shelf administrator

## **Ray Thompson, Elder Activities Coordinator**

Office: (218)757-3790, Fax (218)757-3723, Cell: (218)994-2553

Email: ray.thompson@boisforte-nsn.gov

Elder meal delivery, coordinate Elder activities, Elder advocate

## **Becky Thompson, Elder Cook**

Office: (218)757-3790, Fax (218)757-3723

Plans and cooks Elder meals

## **Wendy Zika, Food Distribution Coordinator**

Office: (218)757-3504, Email: wzika@boisforte-nsn.gov

Manages federal commodities program

## **Cherica Villebrun, Food Distribution Clerk**

Office: (218)757-3504, Email: cvillebrun@boisforte-nsn.gov

Clerk for federal commodities program

## Community Development and Planning receives \$175,000 in Federal funding

NETT LAKE—The Pathway to Safety: Envisioning a Resilient Secondary Evacuation Route for Nett Lake Project was selected for an award of \$175,000 in Federal funding to do a feasibility study for the proposed project.

Bois Forte Community Development and Planning submitted a grant for funding offered in the FY 22/23 Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) Pilot Program where they received over 400 applications requesting more than \$127 million, of which only about 3 percent of the requests were able to be funded. We will begin the search for engineering firms to do the feasibility study later this year and will include residents and other stakeholders in the planning process.

The buzz word these days is “renewable energy” or “fossil fuels,” what do these words mean and why are they so important? Basically, fossil fuels emit

harmful chemicals (coal, petroleum, natural gas, oils) into our atmosphere such as greenhouse gases, on the other hand, renewable energy doesn’t pollute the earth. Renewables come from clean sources such as the sun, wind, and water. Recognizing the importance of providing clean energy that is dependable and cost effective is a priority of the Tribal Government.

The Community Development and Planning Department was successful in obtaining two separate grants that will be used to hire an Energy Director who will dedicate their time to the development of a newly developed Energy Program, and work to bring renewable energy resources for the benefit of the Bois Forte residents and the Tribal Government. The advertisement and recruitment of such a position is currently underway.

## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers

Boozhoo!

The Bois Forte State of the Band was a success. We had informational program booths, great food, seeing old friends and relatives and enjoying the evening. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who participated in setting up and planning this annual event! It could not have been done without them. Great Job! We had hooded and regular sweatshirts available and ran out, but we have ordered more.



The Minnesota State legislature began its session on Monday, February 12. One issue that all the tribes are working on is Sports Betting. We are working diligently to have tribal exclusivity in this area and will keep you updated as the session goes on. We are also presenting a bill for first right of refusal for any tax forfeited land within the Bois Forte Reservation boundaries. We are still negotiating with the DNR on the 1854 payment and will let the band members know when that is completed as well.

Bois Forte has hired a new CEO for the Bois Forte Development Corpora-

tion. His name is Drew Ebert and he will start on April 8, 2024. His office will be in both Vermilion and Nett Lake, and he will be working on our existing businesses and possible future economic development ideas and direction. We welcome Drew to our team!

Bois Forte tribal members voted for pursuing a cannabis business! We have met with Minnesota Roots, who we have contract with for technical assistance and guidance in this new business venture. We have some sights that we are looking at in Vermilion and will be hiring a General Manager for the cannabis business. We must say that there can be no monies from the government and casino revenue used in this process at all, as it is still illegal on the federal side. We will be pursuing funding from various entities to build our business and get it going as soon as possible. We are finalizing our cannabis ordinance as well. Tribes are to negotiate compacts with the State however this has not yet begun.

Chi Miigwech!

## ANISHINAABE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT MEETING

An Anishinaabe Community Involvement Meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, March 11th** at the **Nett Lake Reservation Tribal Government Building.**

The purpose of the meeting, which will begin at 5 p.m., is to increase community involvement in Culture/Language/Ceremony.

*There will be a Potluck, so make sure to bring a dish to share!*



**mn** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Boozhoo! We're Hiring!

#### Summer Temporary Laborers

(Anticipated to run April 24, 2024 – October 8, 2024)

**SALARY: \$18.18-\$22.72/hr.; \$37,959-\$47,439/yr.**

**Locations:**

- Truck Stations:** Duluth (Pike Lake/Nopeming), Grand Rapids, Floodwood, McGregor, Sandstone, Pine City, Virginia, Cook, International Falls
- Traffic Services:** Duluth (Pike Lake) & Virginia
- Bridge Maintenance:** Carlton & Virginia

**Hours of Work:** 6:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday

**Examples of Work:** Assist with performing roadway maintenance, debris removal from roadway, right-of-ways and roadsides, traffic control, roadside mowing, trimming and landscape maintenance assist repair of guardrail and signs, assist in bridge maintenance activities (See complete job posting for more information).

**Must have a valid driver's license with a good driving record**  
(please see complete job posting for all minimum qualifications)

**To view the posting and apply:**  
<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>  
Search on Job ID# 73556

Applications will be accepted and continue to be reviewed until all positions have been filled or the job announcement reaches the end of the posting period (04/23/2024).

**INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION & RESUME HELP IS AVAILABLE!**  
Contact: Lena Garcia, MnDOT Recruitment Specialist  
Phone: (651) 366-3406  
Email: [Lena.Garcia@state.mn.us](mailto:Lena.Garcia@state.mn.us)