



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 47 NUMBER 4

BIG WOODS OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY ROUTES!

NETT LAKE— Aside from its traditional runs, Big Woods Transit also has free complimentary bus rides from Nett Lake to Cook for bingo at the local VFW Club every Thursday. The bus leaves the village at 5 p.m. and returns after bingo.

Big Woods has a route for elders to the Cook Food Shelf on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The route starts pick up at 11:30 a.m. in the Nett Lake Village.

Big Woods also offers Vermilion elder's shuttle service to the Tower Food Shelf the third Tuesday of the month. The bus does door to door service on this route and the route begins at 2 p.m.

To sign up for these routes, please call Big Woods Transit at 888-757-1540.

Band member Retention Committee is off and running

TOWER— The last time an attempt was made to ensure everything possible was being done to hire Bois Forte band members, the goal focused on employment at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and its enterprises.

Those attempts were made in 2021, and a Task Force was established to accomplish the abovementioned goal. However, the Task Force eventually disbanded, and now efforts are being made to not only revamp the measures but to expand the plan to include employees working at the Reservation Tribal Government (RTG).

Currently, Bois Forte band member employment is right around the 25% mark at Fortune Bay, while that percentage is 56% at Bois Forte. Fortune Bay and its enterprises, including the Y Store, C Store, and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, have 369 employees, 92 of whom are Bois Forte band members. Meanwhile, the RTG has 259 employees, 146 of whom are Bois Forte band members.

"We're taking a collaborative approach by including members from the Tribal Government," explained Fortune Bay's Director of Human Resources Beth Adams. "I think we're inviting the right people to the table who are prepared to have some honest discussion. We've also had greater access to the data we need to measure our efforts this time



REVIEWING MEETING MINUTES— Fortune Bay's Director of Gaming E.J. Deegan, left, and Employee Training Manager Alicia Williamson, right, look over minutes from the March 6th Band Member Retention Committee meeting.

will be critical."

The kickoff meeting was held in early March, while the second one took place on March 30th, which was after the *Bois Forte News* deadline.

"We need to make sure to keep the momentum going and make sure you are showing up if you are on the committee," said Fortune Bay's Director of Gaming E.J. Deegan of the recently established Band Member Retention Committee, which is a reboot of the former Task Force. "We need to make sure we set goals and follow through on the goals we set."

Those sitting in on the first meeting included: Adams, CEO/GM Mayan Beltran, District I Rep. Shane Drift, Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick, and Bois Forte Human Resources Director Miranda Lilya. Fortune Bay employees included: Deegan, Taneesha Dupree, Bridgette Burr, Alanna Sherman, and Alicia Williamson. Fortune Bay's Wes King and Bois Forte's Barb Brodeen were added to the committee via a request from Drift.

At the March 6th meeting, Adams provided an overview of the inaugural committee set

up. She said that it originated as the "Band Member Recruitment and Retention Task Force" in February of 2021 and was disbanded in October of 2021 because attendance had dropped off and they could not get the data needed to establish goals. The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis from the former Task Force was shared, as well as a copy of the accomplishments from 2021.

Adams said there was a discussion about the community survey sent out in 2021 for which "Fortune Bay specific" questions were asked to try to gain a better understanding of band members' perceptions of us as an employer. However, those survey results were never received, so it was suggested that 477 Director Vonda Carr conduct another survey to help answer that question.

"We need to start by looking at the data and identifying realistic goals," said Adams. "Once we have goals identified, we plan to come up with strategies to meet those goals."

And again, this would include both Fortune Bay and RTG employees.

Although it has not been discussed yet, Adams said she would be willing to look at providing incentives for band members to begin or renew their careers with Fortune Bay or the RTG.

"We've been working hard
See Committee page 4

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo!

There was an event that happened within the State of Minnesota, and it was called Sovereignty Day at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

In 2019, Speaker of the House

Melissa Hortman began the first Sovereignty Day with the House of Representatives and all 11 tribal leaders in the state. It was an event that had never been mentioned or accomplished before and was a great success. At this event, the tribes get to educate our legislative leaders on who we are and provide some history teaching regarding all eleven tribes. These are state leaders who make decisions regarding funding within the various departments, laws, or statutes that need to include tribes, etc. While it was just the House of Representatives, it was a start. Then the pandemic came and put a hold on this event from continuing.

On March 13, the Speaker of the

House, Melissa Hortman, hosted another Sovereignty Day at the State Capitol. However, this year's Sovereignty Day also included the Senate leaders and the House of Representatives with all 11 tribal leaders. Each tribal leader spoke of their tribe and reminded the legislators that we are dual citizens of our tribe and state and are not invisible. Our message reminded them of our need to be included and be at the table when decisions are being made that affect tribes. Some statutes include cities, towns, local governments, and counties; however, tribes are not mentioned, therefore, not included in possible funding streams or legislation impacting our tribal members.

In the afternoon, an educational session was done by Professor Tadd Johnson, Bois Forte Band member,

and Rebecca Crooks Stratton, Secretary-Treasurer from Shakopee, on all the tribes in general. Then there were breakout sessions for the following topics: Environment, ICWA, Education, Law Enforcement, Gaming, and others. All breakout sessions were well attended by all. There was much dialogue and questions asked.

It was a historic day for everyone involved. Even though one day really isn't enough, it is a start, and something is better than nothing.

As an added note, the Speaker of the House Hortman and representatives of the house attended Tribal State Relations training as well! This is a 2- and 1/2-day training on Indian Law and history. The first-ever training for the House of Representatives was at Bois Forte with the Tribal State Relations!

District 1 Representative Shane Drift



Boozhoo,

Zagaawiniwag Band Members! It has been a while since I submitted an article for the Bois Forte Newspaper. I sincerely hope that this notation finds you well. I have been posting my schedule and providing weekly updates on my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page on Facebook.

During the 2023 Bois Forte State of Band, I talked about various topics. One topic that I would like to follow up on is the Eveleth gas station. I was on board with the Eveleth gas station because of its first location. The Eveleth gas station location was at the corner

of Highway 53 and Highway 37, by the off-ramp. The feasibility study that was conducted was based on the first location. The map I have included with my column shows a circle with a "1" in the middle, which was the first location. The circle with a "2" in the middle that's the second location. I got the map off the internet.

Well, since the Eveleth gas station location was moved down Highway 37 (please see map). The reason why the gas station location was moved is because the land base was too small. The road that goes by the second location, they may put in a road that goes to Rock Ridge School. I went and looked at Rock Ridge School. It is more convenient to go by the Slumberland furniture store at the north end of Eveleth.

I informed the other council members that I was no longer in support of the Eveleth gas station. I also stated this at the 2023 Bois Forte State of the Band that I am no longer in support of the Eveleth gas station.

I sent the following email to the other council members, executive director, and tribal attorney on Friday, 3/17/2023 4:02 pm.

"Good afternoon! Jeff Holth sent

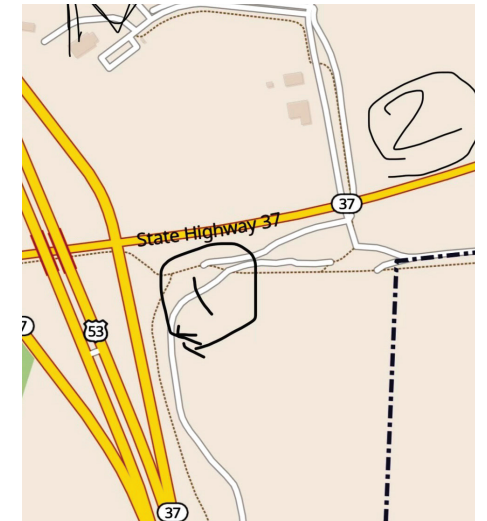
us (Tribal Council) a copy of the 5 Star Feasibility study Eveleth, MN gas station back on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 4:19 pm. I am resending the 5 Star feasibility Study again for your review.

This feasibility study was based on the first location which was located at Hwy 53 & 37, Eveleth, MN 55734, Longitude: -92.51832, Latitude: 47.46122, Radial Trade Area, 1 mile (Section 3: Site & Market Assessment of the Feasibility Study). In my humble opinion, since the Eveleth Gas station was moved to the second/current location there should be a new feasibility study and our band members should be able to vote on the new location. I know that this is not in the resolution but it's in our band members and tribe's best interest.

If the Council is going to proceed forward with the Eveleth gas station as is all I can do I respect your decision. My stance is still the same, I am against the Eveleth gas."

Furthermore, I sent an email to the other council members on Tuesday, March 21st, asking for another feasibility study on the second location.

Now, should the Eveleth gas start to fail, the tribe cannot, must not use Fortune Bay Resort Casino to keep the Eveleth gas station afloat.



Please keep in mind that I am not speaking for the tribal council or individual council members. I am only speaking for myself. I am keeping you informed as the District I Representative.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please feel free to stop by my office. You can also call me at the office at 218-757-3261. My council cell phone is 218-404-8220, my personal cell phone is 218-750-2552. My email address is Sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov.

Until next time, take care, mii'iw miigwech!

New Big Woods Transportation route being explored

TOWER— While the remote location of Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Lake Vermilion is seen as a big plus when tourists look to book their trip, it's not necessarily a selling point when trying to attract employees.

After all, many employees have to drive to work from all communities across the Iron Range, including Babbitt, Ely, plus the Quad Cities, which include Virginia, Eveleth, Mt. Iron, and Gilbert. This doesn't include those traveling from Nett Lake, Cook, Angora, Buhl, and Hibbing.

"Transportation can be a struggle for employees," said Fortune Bay's Director of Human Resources Beth Adams. "Driving 60-plus miles to and from work every day can be expensive. Not only for fuel but wear and tear on vehicles."

Adams said Fortune Bay still offers a ride-share program where employees with reliable transportation can get paid a stipend for picking up a fellow employee.

"But," Adams stressed, "with our business being 24/7, it's not always easy to match schedules. There are always logistics you have to sort out to make this effective."

That is where a proposed Big Woods Transportation route can be a game changer for those working at Fortune Bay as discussions are now taking place to add a Virginia route to its schedule.

"We're asking managers and directors to weigh in on what shift makes the most sense to reach the most possible employees," explained Adams. "Early indicators have been pointing to adding an afternoon route as that looks to be the greatest need."

That will especially ring true during the upcoming summer months when an uptick in business will be felt.

"We can only do one run," said General Manager Mayan Beltran at a recent meeting regarding Big Woods' capability to add another route. "Nights and weekends will be the greatest need during the summer. But

right now, we are trying to figure out a time (for the run). Obviously, it won't fit perfectly, so we'll need to do some critical thinking and problem-solving to make it work."

And that could mean managers and directors having to alter the typical start and end time for the afternoon shift to make this new Big Woods transportation route work. Adams said two options are still on the table, including the traditional 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift and a 4 p.m. to midnight shift.

"We also have to take into consideration that some departments work 4, 10-hour shifts," said Adams. "We'll just gather as much information as possible and figure out a schedule to make this new route possible."

Currently, Big Woods Transportation has three routes, seven days a week that bring employees to Fortune Bay from Nett Lake and make stops in Cook and other remote areas on the way to and from the property. The proposed Virginia route would be operated seven days a week, but Big Woods Transit still needs to amp up its staffing to make this route feasible.

There is also a commuter bus that runs from Vermilion with pick-ups in Cook, at the Dam Supper Club just outside Orr, and then to the Nett Lake Village for those who work at the Reservation Tribal Government offices.

"It is just a very short survey," said Adams in her efforts to collect information that would help nail down the new Virginia route. "Feedback would be greatly appreciated because we'd like to see if this new route is feasible."

Beltran concurred.

"We're just trying to lock down a time as adding a route will help us transport employees from that area," said Beltran to those gathered at the meeting. "We understand that this is not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but please respond as we want to get that route going."

Beltran said that once a timeline is locked in, he will work with Big Woods

Transit to get the route going.

"That will be the next step," said Beltran. "Again, we are doing everything possible to show prospective employees that we offer many benefits,

and this can be yet another benefit we offer that separates us from the competition."

Career Day held in Nett Lake



HELPING OUT — Bois Forte RN Melissa Hawk interacts with students from the Mt. Iron-Buhl School during Career Day, which took place in Nett Lake in early March. There were several presentations in the Bear room during the day, as well as informational booths in the Eagle room. If you are looking for a job, make sure to check out the Bois Forte website (www.boisforte.com) or stop by Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We're Hiring!

For a list of current job opportunities
www.boisforte.com/jobs

BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA

Boys and Girls Club receives HERO award

NETT LAKE— The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bois Forte received a HERO of Youth award from the National Boys & Girls Clubs of America for their advocacy on behalf of Minnesota's youth.

"Clubs like ours have a unique role as community leaders in providing valuable afterschool programs to our country's youth that enable them to achieve great futures," said Travis Vake, CEO. "We are wholly committed

to raising the visibility of the needs of our community youth, especially the ones who need us most, and show what we can accomplish with the support of our elected officials and our community."

Boy & Girls Club advocates are guided by the Agenda for America's Youth, an advocacy platform outlining the pressing problems facing our nation's youth as well as solutions that

will make the most difference in our young people's present and future. Boys & Girls Clubs' advocacy builds upon a commitment to increasing opportunities for all young people by ensuring their voices are heard in communities and at the state and federal level as Boys & Girls Clubs champion policies and solutions that will have the greatest impact on the youth of this country.

"Because of the steadfast advocacy of leaders like Boys & Girls Club of Bois Forte, our nation's youth have access to skills and experiences that can put them on the path to great futures," said Jim Clark, CEO & President of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "These successes aren't possible without a strong partnership with elected officials at the local, State, and Federal levels. I commend the Boys & Girls Club of Bois Forte for their tireless work on behalf of their community's

youth and congratulate them on this much-deserved recognition."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Club Advocacy Engagement Recognition Program recognizes the advocacy work Clubs and Alliances do every day, with a major emphasis on impact, creativity and innovation. The program consists of three tiers for Clubs: Advocate, Hero and Champion. Clubs get points for impactful engagements and those points determine what tier a Club is placed.

"Boys & Girls Clubs champion opportunities for all youth, equipping young people with the experiences and tools they need to succeed," said Vake. "Our advocacy isn't just a one-day event. We are raising our voices every single day, to ensure top issues and solutions impacting young people are prioritized in our community, our state and at the national level."



Volunteers in Education returns!

Volunteers in Education (VinE) is a nonprofit educational organization that provides volunteer tutors to K-8 students. Teachers refer students for tutoring support, and the program pairs them with an appropriate tutor to match their unique needs. VinE has been an important presence in schools since it began supporting students in 2009. Covid-19 restrictions caused the program to suspend services for an extended time, but we are back and ready to help students succeed!

There is an increased need for additional student support after the Covid pandemic. Virtual learning posed difficult challenges for many students and compromised their learning. Teachers now see learning losses sustained during this difficult time and express the compounding challenges this could create for students moving forward. VinE's tutoring program addresses this challenge by providing academic support by a trained volunteer. This can also lead to students feeling an improved sense of self-confidence and increase their classroom engagement.

VinE is currently working in North Woods School, NE Range School, Tower-Soudan Elementary School, Mt. Iron-Buhl Schools, and Cherry School. If you want to make a positive difference for students, please consider volunteering with VinE. Volunteer community tutors are the heart of this program. Sharing your time and talents with students needing extra support is a wonderful and fulfilling way to contribute to the community!

If you are interested in volunteering as a tutor with Volunteers in Education, please visit our website or contact us by phone or e-mail. You can also use the QRL code for Volunteers below. If you are interested in providing financial support to Volunteers in Education, please use the contact information below or the QRL code for Financial Giving.

vine-mn.org/volunteer
218-404-5742
info@vine-mn.org



Volunteer



Financial Giving

Committee from page 1

at FBRC to enhance our rewards and recognition effort over the past couple of years for all employees," said Adams. "These efforts include the development of the Pathways Program, investing more money for longevity gifts, and acting on the feedback we receive from stay interviews. I'm sure the committee will be looking at things we can do specifically for band members."

During the March 6th meeting, Geshick shared that the Tribal Council is meeting with every department on the government side to hear their ideas and concerns. They also have sent out a QR code to employees to allow them to voice concerns anonymously. It was suggested that FBRC consider doing the same.

While it is still early in the process, Deegan, a Bois Forte band member and longtime employee at

Fortune Bay, is hopeful good things will come from this latest endeavor. She understands the need to fill many positions at both Fortune Bay and the RTG but doesn't want to lose focus on perhaps a bigger goal.

"I think that we sometimes get so bent out of shape on hiring that we aren't really focusing our attention on our current employees and fixing issues those employees have," said Deegan.

However, Adams is fully aware of that concern, and she plans on doing just that.

"Retaining band members has always been a concern and a priority," said Adams. "That is something we'll always keep at the forefront in determining how we can best move forward with this new committee. As mentioned earlier, we've invited the right people to the table to make a difference for us."

Community meeting slated for Leasing Policy

NETT LAKE— The RTC is currently seeking comments from Bois Forte members and Bois Forte Tribal Government Departments and employees on the attached draft Bois Forte Leasing Policy.

Please review the draft Policy and submit any comments to Executive Assistant, Bois Forte Tribal Government, via email at executiveassistant@boisforte-nsn.gov or mail at 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772, **or SCAN THE QR CODE on the ad on this page** to submit electronically, no later than April 17, 2023.

The RTC will also hold a community meeting during the comment period to discuss the draft Leasing Policy and allow Band members to pose questions and offer feedback on the Policy.

The community meeting will take place at Fortune Bay Resort Casino in the Birch room, which is a part of The Woodlands Ballroom, on Wednesday, April 12th at 4 p.m. Coffee, water and pastries will be served.

Summary of Draft Leasing Policy

The Leasing Policy outlines the Band's policies related to leasing of trust lands. The Policy was developed to:

1. Provide clarity as to what the leasing policies are;
2. Provide transparency so that leasing policies are applied and enforced consistently;
3. Provide structure to leasing processes for the benefit of the Band's Realty Office; and

4. Ensure that the Band's leasing process complies with applicable laws.

The Policy addresses a variety of leasing-related processes, including the lease application process and management of waiting lists, key terms and requirements for residential and recreational leases, processes for obtaining business and agricultural leases and how those leases are defined, obtaining loans for purchase or construction of homes on leased lands, transferring or selling homes on leased lands, enforcement processes in the event

of non-compliance with lease terms, and Zoning Ordinance and land use requirements. Addendums A and B also outline terms that are required for leases under federal regulations.

A clear, fair, and comprehensive Leasing Policy will greatly benefit the Band and its members. The RTC welcomes and appreciates your comments and feedback as it finalizes this important document.

The current leasing policy can be viewed at www.boisforte.com

BOIS FORTE 477 PROGRAM

Helping you with Education, Workforce, and Training Needs

Contact Vonda Carr 218-757-3261 Ext. 1400

vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov

or

Leanne Hoffman 218-757-3261 Ext. 1401

lhoffman@boisforte-nsn.gov



- Tuition Assistance/Scholarships
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- GED Classes
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- Skill Enhancement
- Tools
- Child Care
- Rental Assistance
- General Work Skills
- Auto Repairs
- Financial Education
- Youth Mentoring

GIVE US A CALL
218-757-3261



COMMUNITY MEETING

Topic: Draft Leasing Policies

APRIL 12TH

04.00 PM

FORTUNE BAY RESORT CASINO
1430 BOIS FORTE RD



Scan Here to view
memo & Policy

Q & A with Reid LeBeau from the 2023 Legislative Session

Editor's note: The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is fortunate to have Lobbyist Reid LeBeau working on its behalf, not only at the 2023 Minnesota State Legislative session— but year-round, to ensure our rights are protected.

Here is a Question and Answer session we recently conducted with LeBeau, who, along with his law firm, is also a staunch supporter of our annual Indian

Summer Classic, which raises money for the Bois Forte Scholarship Fund and our local Boys and Girls Club as well.

Please give us a little background on yourself so our readers get to know you a little better.

I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, originally from Pierre, South Dakota. I came to Minnesota for college and law school, and

I started working for the Band in 2011 as an associate for Mark Anderson at the Jacobson law firm. I am married to Leah, who is from St. Cloud, and we have three boys.

Please tell our readers what your job as our lobbyist means for the Bois Forte people.

I am the representative of the Band at the state capitol and to congress. I work with elected officials and their staff on the band's issues. From gambling to specific governmental program funding, we do it all. We also monitor other proposals that appear at the state legislature and in congress. My team and I work at the direction of the Tribal Council to make sure that the Band's voice is heard in all halls of government.

How long you've been working on behalf of Bois Forte, and what are some of the more significant victories you've been part of over the years in conjunction with the work you do for us?

On the federal side, I was the lead lobbyist on the Nelson Act. We were able to finally have congress approve the distribution plan for the Nelson Act litigation money. Since then, I have worked on many issues, most recently ensuring that federal COVID funding was able to be flexibly spent by the Band.

On the state side, I was the lead lobbyist in procuring \$1 million in grants from the state of Minnesota to the tribes to help offset the COVID closures. Since I started as a lobbyist,

I have worked to protect tribal gambling and have successfully blocked expansion by outside interests.

What are some of the bigger ticket items being discussed at this year's legislative session that will impact Native people?

Sportsbook betting is one of the biggest issues being discussed. As of right now, we have a firm commitment from legislators that it will have tribal exclusivity, but there is a long way to go to the end of the session.

How are those issues moving forward, and what work

is left to be done to get the results you are hoping for?

At this moment, the legislature is compiling its omnibus bills and is scheduled to take an Easter/Passover break next Tuesday. We will break for a week, and when we return, bills will be sent to the floor. Following that, we will be in conference committee for a few weeks until the final passage in the last days of the session.

Native American gaming is constantly being threatened. Is it frustrating to keep having to fight off those challenges?

I don't find it frustrating. It's an honor to be the next person in a long line of people who have fought for Indian tribes and Indian issues. Who we are and what we have, has always been under attack. It's up to us to show vigilance, commitment, and hard work to ensure anything worth having, and protecting, is worth fighting for. It was something my late friend and mentor, Mark Anderson, instilled in me.



Lobbyist Reid LeBeau

Mark these dates down for the Bookmobile!



When you can't come to the library, your library on wheels will come to you. The Arrowhead Library System bookmobile will be stopping by these locations every three weeks in your area:

•**Nett Lake at Community Center on Thursdays at 9:30-10:30 on April 13, May 4 & 25, June 15**

•**Crane Lake at Ranger Station on Thursdays at 12:30-1:15 on April 13, May 4 & 25, June 15**

•**Orr at Lake Country Remax building on Thursdays at 3:15-4:00 April 13, May 4 & 25, June 15**

The Bookmobile offers print books, cookbooks, large print books, DVDs, audiobooks and video games. In addition, you can renew your library card, update your library account information, learn how to use library services and participate in special programs. Learn more about what your library can offer you at our website, alslib.info.

For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, please contact the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, 218-741-3840.

You can also see us on Facebook or check our website at www.alslib.info

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

Tribal Court brings on new staff members

NETT LAKE—Bois Forte Tribal Court has seen several changes in staff. Kristina Isham joined the Judicial team and will be working on the Tribal Court Strategic Planning project made possible through a grant by the Department of Justice Office. Community surveys will be conducted through this project to gain community and stakeholder input on strategic planning for the judicial system sometime this summer.

Melissa Wright joined the Court in November as the new Judicial Services Director. Janell Smith moved into the Probation Officer position in January, and we welcomed Ellen Little in February as the new Court Clerk. Our

Chief Judge is Megan Treuer and Associate Judge Chris Allery.

Court is currently held virtually via Zoom. Criminal/Civil court occurs every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and CHIPS court is held every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Court Clerk filing hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. You may contact the court at 218-757-3462.

If you have any past due fine payments, you can contact the probation officer Janell Smith to arrange to make a payment or set up a payment plan at 218-757-3462. We now offer online payment abilities as well as in person and we also have a credit card terminal at the Tribal Court Building.



WELCOME!— The Bois Forte Tribal Court has several new faces who have recently joined their team. Pictured, left to right are: Kristina Isham-Tribal Justice Grants Coordinator. Melissa Wright-Judicial Services Director. Janell Smith-Probation Officer, Ellen Little-Court Clerk.

Congratulations to Tony Mason!



GREAT JOB TONY!— A Conversation Officer Oath Swearing-in ceremony took place for Anthony "Tony" Mason, who recently completed training at IPA in Artesia. The ceremony took place at the Bois Forte Tribal Court on February 22nd. Pictured with Mason is Bois Forte Tribal Court Chief Judge Megan Treuer.

Land Owners Workshop

★ **WHAT?** A **FREE** workshop designed for owners of Indian trust land. Learn how individuals acquired fractionated land interests, options available to land owners, Real Estate transactions to include Leasing, Rights of Way, Acquisition & Disposal, Family Land Consolidation Plans, Sources of Revenue, Estate Planning, and the Federal Probate Process.

★ **WHEN & WHERE?** Three sessions to pick from!

April 17 & 18, 2023

6:00—9:00 PM

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Great Lakes Agency
916 Lakeshore Drive West
Ashland, WI 54806

April 19 & 20, 2023

6:00—9:00 PM

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Minnesota Agency
2225 Cooperative Court NW
#300
Bemidji, MN 56601

April 22, 2023 (2 Sessions)

10:00 AM—1:00 PM

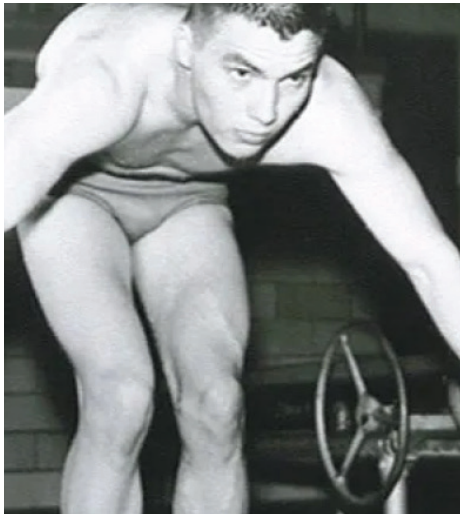
Or 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
Leech Lake Twin Cities Office
2438 27th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Reserve your seat now!
Seats are limited!

★ **HOW?**

Reserve your seat today by calling: **1-218-206-0265**

Bois Forte's Bob Gawboy inducted into North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame



The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame announced its second class of inductees earlier this month.

Founded in 2022 by Dan Ninham, Oneida, and his wife Susan, Red Lake Ojibwe; this year's class features more than 75 new athletes, coaches and

teams to receive the honor for their athletic achievements and contributions to their respective sports.

The North American Indigenous Athletics Hall of Fame recently announced its second class inductions.

Robert 'Bob' Gawboy
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Induction Category: Athlete
Year Inducted: 2023
D.O.B. June 28, 1932
D.O.D. July 15, 1987

Although the sport of swimming isn't often associated with Native Americans, Robert 'Bob' Gawboy became an aquatic sensation, setting high school and collegiate records, eventually going on to break a world record in 1955.

Bob Gawboy was born on the Vermilion Lake Reservation on June 28, 1932. At the age of 14, his family moved to Ely where he attended Ely High School. Bob joined the swim team because it practiced at noon and he could then take the bus home after school, instead

of walking 10 miles.

In 1949, Ely High School won the state championship. Bob placed first in the 100-yard breaststroke. The following year, he broke a state record in the 200-yard free, and set national high school records in two IM events. He went on to Purdue, placing first in the 150-yard IM at the East-West collegiate competition. In 1952, at the NCAA Nationals he placed second in the 150-yard IM.

Suffering from coordination problems, and a congenital arterial condition of his left leg, he was forced to stop swimming. After surgery on his leg, he started working out again in February, 1955, at the University of Minnesota, on a scholarship.

Despite the two year hiatus and short time training, Bob shocked the sports

world on April 1, 1955 at the AAU Indoor National Championship at Yale, where he swam the 220-yard breaststroke in 2:38.0, cracking the world-record.

The pain in his leg was so severe during the race and the pent-up emotion over two years so great, that, upon winning, he erupted in whoops and hollers that was called war-whoops by the press with celebratory splashing around the pool.

Bob Gawboy passed away on July 15, 1987 from multiple sclerosis, but not before he was inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame in Lawrence, Kansas, as the sole swimmer.

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BOIS FORTE LANGUAGE OFFERS

OJIBWE ROSETTA STONE

Good for 2 years!
Free for Band Members,
Descendants, and BF
Employees

App available on iOS,
Android, and computers

Good to start for any level
*South West Ojibwe Dialect

If already signed up, no
need to fill it out again
Type link in below



2023 Garden Class

Join us in the Migizi Room at the RTG and Vermilion Social Center from **12-1** for gardening classes.

Grant Sponsored:



* Participants must attend **ALL FOUR** classes to receive a voucher to The Watering Can.

Class dates:

**April 4th, April 18th, May 2nd,
and May 16th**

Reserve your spot via email or telephone
Call or text Amber Zapata at 218-248-0148
Email: amber.zapata@boisforte-nsn.gov

Tuesday at Noon

April 4 & 18

May 2 & 16

Nett Lake and Vermilion

Topics: Planning your Garden, Soil Conditioning, Composting, Traditional Tobacco, Transplanting

<https://forms.gle/ngjnur6E7LGAm3Eo6>

**QUESTIONS?
JAYLEN.STRONG@
BOISFORTE-
NSN.GOV
218-753-6017**

Benefit slated for former Tribal Council member



Brandon Benner

COOK— Bois Forte band member Brandon Benner was always quick to lend a helping hand for those in need and now those roles are reversed as he now needs our support.

Benner, who served as District I Representative on the Bois Forte Tribal Council and most recently worked as a radio host for KBFT Radio, has been hospitalized in Duluth since January 16th. While he has made some strides to recovery, it is unknown when

he will be released. Friends and family have been making trips to Duluth to show their support for the gregarious Benner and that has definitely helped improve his spirits.

In light of expenses associated with those trips for Benner's family, Tina Villebrun is working with others to put on the Brandon Benner Family Medical Benefit at the Cook VFW on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

The event will take place

from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the cost for the lasagna dinner is \$10 per plate. The meal also includes garlic bread, green beans, dessert and a drink. There is a dine in or to go option as well.

There will also be a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. Many local businesses have stepped up to the plate to help Benner, whose radio show was widely popular with listeners due to his ability to get those businesses to donate to

his show.

If you cannot make the event but still want to help out Benner, you can send a donation on behalf of the Benner family to the Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union.

All proceeds from the benefit will go to Benner's family to use for travel and lodging expenses.

If you have any questions, please contact Villebrun at 218-780-9390 or via Facebook Messenger.

C-STORE
218-757-3268

Y-STORE
218-753-3868

NETT LAKE
PHARMACY
218-757-0230

VERMILION
PHARMACY
218-753-2182



Bois Forte Tribal Government
5344 Lakeshore Drive
Nett Lake, MN 55772
(218)-757-3261, Ext. 1162



Sah Gi Bah Gah Pow Wow
JUNE 2, 3, & 4, 2023
Nett Lake, MN

Bois Forte Tribal Enrollment will be available at the Sah-Gi-Bah-Gah Pow-Wow to issue Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

PLEASE BRING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO RECEIVE A TRIBAL ID:

- Original Certified Birth Certificate (no photocopies)
- State Issued Driver's License
- State Issued Identification Card
- Valid Passport

For replacement Tribal ID Cards or for any changes made before the expiration date, there will be a \$12.00 fee (cash or check).

Any questions, please contact Kathie Holman, Tribal Enrollment Coordinator at (218) 757-3261, ext. 1162 or kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov

FORTUNE BAY
JOB FAIR!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
10AM - 3PM
IN THE WOODLANDS BALLROOM

ON THE SPOT INTERVIEWS
YOU COULD WALK OUT WITH A JOB!

Fortune Bay
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Minute with Millie

Well, friends and neighbors, I had quite the winter. Trying to keep one's house warm can be frustrating at times. Downright exhausting even.

I generally take care of my heating source which was upgraded by the good folks over to the AEOA a few years ago. Every year, I get furnace filters and change them out every three months, including the summer. Hec...I even put up plastic over the windows facing north.

Why? Well as some few of you know, my house's foundation tends to shift lots during winter and yep. Problems with shifts around the windows. Hence, my diligence in getting such things taken care of as it takes time to get funds for fixing the greater problem. Ahh, well, the joys of home-owning.

T'any rate, in the fall of this year, I remembered to buy a furnace filter (only one left there in the size I needed) during one of my many jaunts to town before snow fall. When I got home, I changed out the furnace filter making a mental note as I counted out three months for the next change. Yeah, I even bought a couple though they weren't the usual HEPA rate for fine whatever. I just know I try to make sure dust and other things don't float around in the house during the coldest part of the year.

This year...house was still cold enough to need blankets most of the time and this spurred me on to greater efforts at garnering funds for home improvements. Thought once or twice bout changing out



the filter. Nah, it wasn't time for it. Well, the first week of March saw me ordering propane for the rest of the winter. Well, I changed out the filter whilst wondering where the HEPA filter I usually buy came from. Hmm, old age is creeping up sneaky as usual. And therein was the cause of our cold house for the winter. Nooo, not old age. The filter was, first of all, arrow side down, then had a slight problem getting it out of the furnace.

My eyes beheld the sight of hair entangled with foam and stuck in where the steel..aluminum mesh was covered with, not three, but six month's worth of dust.

Yepper, yours truly should have spent less time gazing out the window and more time checking the furnace filter. The reason I had the usual HEPA filter was cause I reinserted the old one. Thought the new one setting by the wall was part of a previous "two set" and thinking "well, why did I buy just the one when this was here?"

Spring netting reminders!

1854 Officer Leo Vidal wants to remind Bois Forte band members to make sure to have your 1854 ID card (or Tribal ID) and netting permit with you when going out this spring.

He also noted that Personal Flotation Devices are required for each person while on the water.

"Mark your buoys legibly so they can be ID'd by Law Enforcement," wrote Vidal in the 1854 newsletter. "Each member can have no more than 200 feet of net per person and know your netting zone boundaries."

Any questions can be directed to 1854 Conservation Officers or Bois Forte Conservation Officers as well.

For the latest in 1854 news, please check out their website at www.1854treatyauthority.org



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!!ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS 17 AND UNDER!!

**APRIL IS NATIONAL CREDIT
UNION YOUTH MONTH
and EMBARRASS VERMILLION FCU is celebrating!**

**We invite you to visit one of our offices in April to
participate in fun events and win prizes, with a
special activity the week of 17-21.**

**We're looking forward to helping you become
financially strong for your future!**



News for Bois Forte Elders

By Millie Holmes

Well, things are slowly coming to a set schedule for Elders.

Jaylen Strong or Perry Drift leads the first Monday of the month for the Elders Round Table.

Wednesdays are weekly Exercises led by David Morrison, Jr. at 10 a.m. Lunch is available at 10:30 a.m. for dine-in, and meal pickups are from 11 a.m. to noon. Home Deliveries start at

11 a.m. in the village ending out in the Indian Point area round about noon or so.

The second Wednesday of the month is for Elder Wellness, where we are treated to delicious meals and get new recipes to try.

We have a permanent cook over to Vermilion, who will also be coordinating the Elder Activities.

We are still looking for a volunteer

driver to do the home deliveries. As of this writing, we are still looking for a cook and cook's assistant and an Elder Activities Coordinator.

I've finally found the by-laws for the Elder Activity Committee. We'll soon be back in business. I am working on the Activity Calendar for Nett

Lake and will be getting that ready to send out monthly.

Thanks to all the people who have helped with the program in the past few months. I've received some suggestions, which will be incorporated into the daily, weekly, and monthly activities.



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

For more information, call 218-757-3790.

April 3: Sliced Beef with Gravy, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables, Tossed Garden Salad, Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 4: Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli Florets, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 5: Wild Rice Meatballs with Gravy, Sweet Potatoes Fries, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 6: Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 7: Pork Loin, Garden Blend Rice TWC, Diced Beets, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 10: Teriyaki Grilled Chicken, Brown Rice, Oriental Vegetables, Green Beans, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 11: Roast Turkey Slice, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, French Cut Green Beans, Pumpkin Pie

April 12: Beef Pot Pie, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 13: Grilled Chicken Breast, Spanish Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 14: BBQ Pork Ribette, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 17: Baked Pork Chop, Rosemary Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 18: Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast

April 19: Cabbage Beef Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 20: Stir Fry Chicken, Brown Rice, Stir Fry Vegetables

April 21: Bison Stew, Multigrain Bun, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 24: Shepard's Pie, Biscuit, Broccoli Florets, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 25: White Chicken Chili, Cornbread, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 26: Roast Pork, Baby Bakers' Potatoes, RSTD Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 27: Chicken and Wild Rice Soup, Tossed Garden Salad, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

April 28: Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice Assorted Fruit

WINNER!

THAT'S THE TICKET!

SATURDAYS, APRIL 8 THROUGH MAY!

UP TO \$167,000 IN CASH & PRIZES!

MORNING QUALIFIERS
10AM - 2PM, UP TO \$6,750 WEEKLY!

EVENING QUALIFIERS
6PM - 10PM, UP TO \$9,000 WEEKLY!

EVENING FINALES
10PM - \$41,000 TOTAL!

APRIL 8
\$5,000 CASH!

APRIL 15
\$5,000 TECH PRIZE PACKAGE!

APRIL 22
\$5,000 DREAM VACATION!

APRIL 29
\$5,000 LAWN CARE PACKAGE WITH RIDING MOWER!

MAY 6
\$5,000 HOME IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE!

MAY 13
\$5,000 LUXURY HANDBAG PACKAGE

MAY 20
FORTUNE PLAY FOR A YEAR! \$500 PER MONTH!

MAY 27
\$5,000 CASH!

RECEIVE 1 ENTRY TICKET FOR EVERY POINT STARTING MARCH 26.

MUST HAVE VALID PHOTO ID. VISIT FORTUNEBOY.COM FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

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 May 2023 issue is April 20, 2023.

From the archives... A look back at the December 1995 edition of the Bois Forte News



Bois Forte News

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VOL. 14, NO. 10

NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - APRIL 2000 EDITION

OUR FOURTEENTH YEAR

Doris reports on important Legislature activities



Doris Isham, RTC Chairwoman

With approximately one month to go in the 2000 session of the Minnesota Legislature, I wanted to provide you a brief update on tribal-related issues that we have debated the present session. As we move closer to the close of the legislative session, I may be sending you action alerts asking for your assistance via telephone calls or letters to urge action on particular tribal-related measures.

Expanded gambling measure fails: Legislation, introduced by Senator Bob Lessard, to create a "gambling pilot project" in a number of Minnesota cities has failed to receive committee support in both houses of the Minnesota Legislature. Had the measure been successful, it would have meant the first full-scale effort by the State of Minnesota to expand gambling in the state. Meanwhile, Senator Dick Day, the Republican Minority Leader, has announced that Don Laughlin, owner of the Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino will be

touring the state to public and legislative support for putting a non-tribal gaming facility in Minnesota. We will be closely following Mr. Laughlin, monitoring his activities and meeting with those officials he meets with. As you may recall, Dick Day has long been an opponent of tribal gaming and a supporter of expanded non-tribal gaming in Minnesota, including gaming at Canterbury Park.

Measure eliminating Indian Affairs Council fails to move: After extensive meetings with both the leadership of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives, we have received assurances that legislation, which would eliminate the Indian Affairs Council, will not receive a hearing in either body. The measure, introduced by Sandra Erickson, became extremely controversial after we pointed out the racist nature was pointed out to members of the Legislature.

Tribal police to receive sales tax rebate: After being overlooked in last year's Minnesota tax rebate program, tribal members will be eligible for this year's rebate, if the Senate provision is adopted in the conference committee. We won't know for several weeks. Last year, you were eligible for a tax rebate only if you filed a Minnesota income tax form, a requirement that excluded, not only tribal members, but many of Minnesota's senior citizens from the rebate. The new law will make anyone who receives income that is federally taxable, eligible for a rebate.

Tribes removed from gambling cheating bill: Legislation designed to address the issue of cheating and gaming will not reference tribal

gaming. The issue of such language conflicting with tribal sovereignty was successfully addressed through the assistance of MIGA. Committees in both the Senate and House of Representatives have approved the bill.

Victim programs to be restructured: Programs dealing with the rights of victims and battered women are in the process of being restructured by the Ventura Administration. The programs, which receive tens of millions of dollars annually, impact Indians and non-Indians alike. We are in the process of monitoring the restructuring process to determine what, if any, impact the changes will have on tribes. The restructuring process may present us with an opportunity to provide better services in these areas to tribes and tribal members.

Indians overlooked by authors of "abandoned baby act": Legislation designed to address the issue of the adoption of abandoned babies has overlooked the impact of that measure on the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Federal Indian Family Preservation Act. As is so often the case, the authors of the measure simply forgot to consult with tribal officials concerning the impact of the proposal on Indians and federal law. A reversion amendment which encouraged officials dealing with abandoned babies to consider the federal laws and a child's heritage were withdrawn when State Representative Hishop

Ten hopefuls file for Council Election Boards named

In other action, the RTC made the following appointments:

General Election Board: Mildred Holmes, Judge; Shelly Strong, Clerk; Sharon Wagner, Teller; Joyce Day, Alternate.

Precinct I Election Board: Terry Connor, Judge; Merrilee Lintewick, Clerk; Ellen King, Teller; Deanna Drift, Alternate.

Precinct II Election Board: Geraldine Hanks, Judge; Christina Deegan, Clerk; Alec Pete, Teller; Eugene Boshey, Sr., Alternate.

Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices



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Bois Forte Tribal Council

- Robert Moyer, Jr. — District II Representative
- Tara Geshick — Secretary-Treasurer
- Cathy Chavers — Tribal Chair
- Travis Morrison — District I Representative
- Shane Drift — District I Representative