



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 47 NUMBER 12

## RTG HOLIDAY HOURS

The Bois Forte Tribal Government Buildings in Nett Lake and Vermilion will close at noon on Friday, December 22nd.

They will also be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th and Monday, January 1st.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to you all!

## BF NEWS JANUARY DEADLINE:

Please submit any items you want included in the January BF News to [bkanderson@fortunebay.com](mailto:bkanderson@fortunebay.com) by noon on Wednesday, December 20th, thank you!

## Let's make this a Christmas to remember *Fortune Bay to host Santa's Workshop Toy Drive*

TOWER— In these trying times where everything costs more and puts additional financial stress on families, it's comforting to know that Fortune Bay Resort Casino guests and employees will be adding some joy to area children.

"We wanted to do something where our guests could do something to help and, in the process, we are rewarding them with a dollar-for-dollar Fortune Play match for the gifts they buy for children," said Fortune Bay's General Manager and Bois Forte CEO Mayan Beltran. "I have done something similar to this at other properties I worked at, and it was very successful."

Fortune Bay's event is called Santa's Workshop Toy Drive, and it officially kicked off Friday, November 17th. Guests simply bring in a new gift, show the receipt to a Player's Club representative, and get Fortune Play added to their player's card. Up to 100 points can be added to a player's card daily until December 17th.

"Our employees have also stepped up to help with this charitable giving," said Beltran, who added that employees buying gifts for the area kids can get a complimentary lunch for their kind deed. "We've already seen a lot of engagement with this, and I think the concept of helping out area kids really resonates with our employees and, of course, our guests."

Santa's Workshop Toy Drive culminates with a party in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay on Wednesday, December 20th, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., with the dispersal of gifts to area children. In order to ensure the toys are age and gender-specific, Fortune Bay's staff will keep track of the donations leading up to the party.

Fortune Bay's Kirstie Kern and Charlie Riihiliuoma were two of the first employees to purchase gifts for Santa's Workshop Toy Drive.



GIVING BACK!— Fortune Bay employees Charlie Riihiliuoma, left, and Kirstie Kern, right, pose for a quick photo next to the Santa's Workshop Toy Drive. All of the toys will be dispersed on Wednesday, December 20th from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in The Woodlands Ballroom.

"Christmas is always a magical time of year, and we wanted to do what we could to make a difference," said Kern, who is Fortune Bay's Executive Chef and is always one of the first to volunteer her time or resources to events such as these. "Charlie and I had a great time shopping for the kids and would encourage others to do the same. It just feels good to give back to the communities we serve."

Kern posted photos of the gifts she and Riihiliuoma purchased on her Facebook page to raise awareness of Santa's Workshop Toy Drive.

"This prompted several of my friends to say they were going to make a donation

themselves," said Kern. "It's great that they want to pay it forward."

Along with the toy giveaway, a variety of other activities will be taking place during the party on the 20th. It will include pictures with Santa, coloring activities, hot chocolate, cookies, games and even a visit from Bois Forte's K9 dog.

"We're very excited about this, and we worked hard to get this concept off and running in a short time frame," said Fortune Bay's Director of Marketing Hannah Lehti. "Our team is very passionate about it. It's very inspiring to see how many of our guests have already donated to this cause."

*See Christmas page 3*

## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo Ahneen!

Winter is now here please be sure to check your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries —by checking and replacing your batteries can save you and your families lives.

The month of November was also very busy as we had a visit in Nett Lake with U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger. He also brought other members of his team

with him. Mr. Luger was pleased to tell us that his office will now have additional staff, specifically for tribal crimes. This is something that has been missing for a long time at this level. It was encouraging to hear Mr. Luger say that Bois Forte, along with other tribes, can now expect more cases and more focus to prosecute more serious crimes on the reservation. The key point is that it is not what the U.S. Attorney's Office views as serious crimes, rather what the tribe feels are serious crimes.

Mr. Luger and his office will also be presenting training, possibly as soon as January 2024, on jurisdiction at Bois Forte with all local law enforcement, conservation officers and others who may be interested in attending.

I was honored to be invited to President Biden's visit to Northfield, Minnesota to talk about the Farm Bill. There are many opportunities, not only for farmers, but for tribes as well. President Biden will also be having his Tribal Leader Summit on December 6th and 7th, 2023 in Washington, DC to meet

with the tribes and his department. I am looking forward to attending this event.

There are many funding opportunities for tribes when it comes to energy. Bois Forte Tribal Council members Travis Morrison, Tara Geshick, Robert Moyer and myself, along with our IT Director Randy Long, met with Minnesota Power officials and representatives in Aurora to see Minnesota Powers Laskin Solar Facility. For those of you unfamiliar with Laskin, it is a rather large solar facility that has panels that move with the direction of the sun. It not only provides clean energy to the area, but also throughout the state in various locations operated by Minnesota Power.

Bois Forte will continue meeting with Minnesota Power on solar facilities and hopefully collaborating on a project in the near future. These types of projects have tax credits that are available with solar that could be used as a potential revenue source as well. I'll share more details as they become available.

I want to commend our staff and our Chief Financial Officer Kim Greiner

for submitting proposals to the BIA for the end of the year funds. Each year, if BIA has not spent all of their funding, i.e. unfilled BIA positions, they notify tribes to submit these proposals. So far, we have received over \$300,000 in additional funding for some proposals that were submitted.

On a separate note, I actually submitted a proposal for new reservation signs as ours are deteriorating and need replacing. The amount I submitted for was \$50,000 and I thought it was a long shot for funding. However, it was funded! I am so happy that we have funding to not only replace our old reservation boundary signs, but we can add signs to Indian Point and Deer Creek. We will be working on this project over the winter to get it completed in 2024. We can all help in whatever way for our communities, even if it seems far-fetched or out of reach. We just need to try and do it!

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Chi Miigwech

## District 1 Representative Shane Drift



Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members!

My apologies for not writing an article in a while. I read an article from Fox9.com "MPCA adds Birch Lake to Impaired waters list. Birch Lake

near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness has been added to the impaired waters list after a study found elevated levels of sulfate in the water."

This is a huge concern for me because our casino and hotel rely on tourism. I have always said that our 1854 treaty area is getting smaller and smaller and becoming more polluted.

If tourism takes a hit, our casino will take a hit. The bottom line being less monies from our casino means less monies for our programs, programs that serve our band members.

This is from the article, "The Minnesota Control Pollution Agency (MCPA) released its 2024 impaired waters list,

which added 199 impairments in 54 bodies of water. For the first time, the list includes Birch Lake and a portion of the Dunkan River after an environmentalist's water monitoring study found sulfate levels were higher than state standards. The data collected by the Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) and the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters indicate every sample taken from the western end of Birch Lake had sulfate concentration levels above state standards."

In previous consultations with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, I have asked for the impaired waters list and asked about lakes that are starting to become impaired. I

have asked them how they are going to fix the problem.

The tribal council had a consultation with the MPCA on Thursday, November 30th, 2023. I asked for a discussion on Birch Lake to be added to the agenda. I also asked to see the MPCA impaired waters list. I also asked what other lakes within the 1854 and 1866 treaty area are in danger of becoming impaired.

I sincerely hope that people don't take this article the wrong way. I must point out that I am not against mining. There are band members as well as others that work in the mines. The band members and other people have good paying mining jobs that put food on

the table and pay the bills. We all contribute to the local economy.

All I am trying to do is protect what little we have left of the 1854 treaty area. I am also trying to ensure that future generations will have an 1854 treaty area.

I must point out that I am not speaking for the tribal council or individual council members. I am only sharing my thoughts as the District I Representative.

I am always posting updates on my Shane Drift District I Updates group page. So, until next time, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Years!



MUCH THANKS!— A guest stopped at Fortune Bay Monday, November 27th to drop three bags of new toys that will go to Santa’s Workshop Toy Drive.



## MARY H. RICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR NATIVE STUDENTS



**Supports higher education for Native people who are members of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, or the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.**

Application open on December 1st  
 Closes on February 15th

Down below is the website for the scholarship when it is open on December 1  
<https://www.dsacommunityfoundation.org/our-scholarships/mary-h-rice-scholarship-fund-for-native-students/>




**Christmas from page 1**

Lehti said she is hopeful this inaugural event can turn into a long standing event like the old Kids’ Christmas Party that Fortune Bay hosted at its property and the Vermilion Wellness Center.

“We want to make it a fam-

ily-friendly event like the Kids’ Christmas party we used to do,” said Lehti. “I am overwhelmed by how many people have brought in toys for this event.”

Lehti said that within a week of rolling out Santa’s Workshop Toy Drive, the designated area to drop the toys was

already running out of space, so additional storage was needed.

“I think that just goes to show how people on the Iron Range want to give back, and we are privileged to play a part in this success story to make this Christmas extra special for area children,” said Lehti.



### 2023 Bois Forte Christmas Toy Program

**Mail Form to:**  
**Bois Forte Toy Program**  
 5344 Lakeshore Drive  
 Nett Lake, MN 55772

- For children that –
  - ✓ you have custody of and that are living in your household **AND**
  - ✓ who are enrolled Bois Forte Band Members **AND**
  - ✓ ages 0-17 (18<sup>th</sup> birthday must be after December 25<sup>th</sup> to qualify) **AND**
  - ✓ are currently living on either Nett Lake, Palmquist, Indian Point/Sugar Bush, or Vermilion Sectors of the Bois Forte Reservation.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY – IF INFORMATION IS NOT LEGIBLE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU.

NAME of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (You must be the parent or legal guardian and the children must live in your home)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Gifts will be dropped off at this address)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If we have questions about your application, where can we call: \_\_\_\_\_

TOYS CAN BE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 17 & UNDER.

*List children up to age 17 living in your home*

Name	Age	DOB	Gender	*Toy Desired (\$40 & under)

### Application deadline is December 13th NO EXCEPTIONS

Scan code to submit application online. Applications can also be emailed to [nirving@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:nirving@boisforte-nsn.gov)

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/u7744/forms/KDmMU>

**\*TOY DESIRED IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF TOY RECEIVED**



# Danielson shares insights on helping those battling mental illness

*Editor's note: We recently had the chance to pose some questions to Bois Forte's Erin Danielson, who has been doing a wonderful job keeping the Bois Forte Community aware of the 988 hotline that was established to help alleviate 911 from getting too many calls as it relates to mental health. Whether it be promoting 988 at her office in Nett Lake or putting out 988 flyers in the community or running them in the Bois Forte News, Danielson is to be commended for the work she does to help raise awareness for mental health. We hope you enjoy this Q and A session and remember, "It's Ok not to be Okay," so if you are ever feeling down in the dumps and need some help, call a family member, friend or simply dial 988.*

**Please give us a quick background on your job. What does a typical day look like for you and what are your main job duties?**

I was originally hired to schedule mental health appointments. Over the course of the last six years, the job duties now include making sure each client has a diagnostic assessment on file every year required by insurances, making sure each client has insurance, keeping track of the encounters done by each provider, coordinating the referrals going out and coming in, doing the records releases, coordinating with the local schools on scheduling the youth that are interested in therapy while in school, advocating for clients that are involved in the justice system, reporting the numbers for grants, and coordinating and planning the mental health activities (ex: May is mental health awareness month, September is suicide prevention awareness month) throughout the year —just trying to Stop the Stigma on Mental Health Services and making it as normal as going to the doctor. In the last year, I was appointed to Acting Mental Health Supervisor until there is one hired, which means I am spending more time in meetings. I am a mental health first aide instructor and people walk in and just need someone to listen and I am that person at the front desk.

**You've helped get the word out on**



**ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS** - Bois Forte's Erin Danielson has always been one to go the extra mile when doing her job for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

***the new simple crisis number to dial for those struggling with thoughts of suicide and crisis. How did 988 come to fruition and what is your impression of the program?***

988 was launched in the summer of 2022 to help alleviate the mental health calls that were going to 911. Law enforcement would do their best, but it became apparent that the fix was to bring mental health calls to the local emergency department (ED). I worked in an emergency department for 18 years, so I understand how understaffed and how mental health isn't their first priority as they deal with heart attacks and car accidents and burn victims. After a patient arrives to the ED, they end up sitting there until a mental health professional can make contact in person or via zoom and some-

times that takes hours. If the person requires inpatient hospitalization, there entails another problem of finding a bed for them in this state. IF they are deemed not a harm to themselves or others, that person is discharged and still in the same boat they were in when law enforcement brought them in – in need to talk to someone about their mental health challenge at the time. 988 provides the opportunity for those that want a mental health professional to listen to them, guide them, or your friend or family member is the one that needs help but is too scared to call themselves and you want to help somehow, and you don't know what to do, you can call stating that you need help navigating this moment in time. They are available 24/7. Anyone can call or text or go on their

website and chat that way.

***What are some tips to help people who are feeling down feel better about themselves and let them know things will get better?***

Just knowing they are NOT alone is the most helpful. We don't always have the answers. I will be the first one to admit it! But I can help people find the resources to find the answers. I always promote sunshine, physical activity, socialization. Being a good neighbor and spreading kindness. Shovel someone's steps. Shoot your Auntie a text saying you're thinking about them. Ask your niece/nephew if they want to go play basketball or cribbage or something. We all have busy lives, yes, I agree. But we can't be so busy that we can't extend a friendly, "hey, how are you?". Volunteering is my go-to. I don't have all the money in the world, and I know I don't do well sitting at home all the time so I find out where I can lend a hand at the school or with Lions Club or coaching the youth.

***People often hear the saying, it's Ok not to be Ok, can you elaborate on that message and how it can be used to help someone who might not be Ok?***

It just means that we don't need to be smiling and happy all the time. Anyone that says that is full of it and this needs to be screamed to world so that those that are not doing OK today, they know this happens to everyone at some point. But it is up to ourselves to find the resources on what can make me better. There is not a person on the earth that is in control of my happiness alone. It could take multiple things. Do I need a sun lamp during these winter months? Do I need to drink more water and drink less pop/alcohol? Do I need to eat more fruit and less candy bars? When I eat unhealthy, I feel unhealthy. Do I need to increase my activity and play on my phone less? Am I practicing my cultural activities? Should I try therapy out? What if all this doesn't work? Then maybe medication is the answer. Unfortunately, taking care of one's health is not a quick fix. It's everything we do every single day that affect our mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing.

**Danielson continued on next page**

*Danielson from page 4***How can a family or friend step in to offer support to one struggling with depression or anxiety?**

Just be there. Call them. Text them. Show up if you can. Offer to help clean their house (I am not saying someone needs to come clean my house but offering to support your loved one while they do it is huge – again knowing they are not alone). Offer to go on a walk with them. May be go to Bingo together or a movie. Support the local sports team and go watch a basketball game. When someone really doesn't know what to do, again they can call or text 988 and ask for guidance.

**In your opinion, what local resources would you recommend people to use if they want a more hands on or local approach to helping them deal with what they are going through?**

It is finding the practices that we do every day and making them a habit. Some people like the morning medita-

tions, some people smudge, some people go to church, some people put a dish out, some people put tobacco out, or some people want to try a new hobby and learn how to bead or sew. If anyone struggles on where to start, we do have Jennalee Porter, our Cultural Healing Specialist that can help navigate through what may work for them. She is also a Mental Health First Aider. She can be reached at 218-404-3059 or [jporter@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:jporter@boisforte-nsn.gov).

**With the holiday season now here, why is it so important for people struggling with mental illness to seek help?**

Mental Health Services are available all over the world, but the problem is the lack of staffing. Organizations are booked out for months to get into their first appointment, so I take pride in Bois Forte because we are only one to two months out. A year ago, we could get someone in the same week, but we also had three times as many providers then. There is so much room for improvement.

I don't know if it is no one going to school to become a therapist or what the issue is, but I work closely with mental health organizations in our area, and everyone has this staffing problem. If anyone is interested in going to school, for anything, I urge band members to contact Vonda Carr with the 477 Program at 218-757-3261 or email her at [vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:vcarr@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Now with holidays so near, we all know growing up we had this mindset of what the holidays meant to us. As we get older, the reality is that it isn't the same as it used to be. We have family mem-

bers that are no longer with us or kids that grew up and moved away and can't make it home or they have a new home with their family they built. It can be a really lonely time. I have been in that exact position. After my mother passed, our whole family dispersed. She was the glue. It sucked. But this is the time that we can start new traditions. It can be opening your heart and your home to your friends and neighbors as well. So, if you think a person doesn't have holiday plans, invite them to yours. They can always say no. But if they say yes, you probably saved their holiday.

## Minnesota North College and The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Program Fair

Friday, January 26, 2024  
11 – 1:00 PM

Hands on Activities | Lunch Provided

BOIS FORTE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CENTER



Minnesota  
North College  
A Member of Minnesota State



Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

#### TICKET DROP, BEFORE THE BALL DROP! \$5,000 SANTA'S SUNNY GETAWAY VACATION

DRAWING @ 10PM

ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE 1 KIOSK TICKET TO DEPOSIT INTO THE BIG DRAWING DRUM, PLUS EARN AN EXTRA 200 POINTS BETWEEN 6PM - 10PM AND RECEIVE AN EXTRA ENTRY! (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

#### SANTA'S NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN PROGRESSIVE!

DRAWINGS EVERY 15 MINUTES FROM 6PM - 10PM  
GRAND PRIZE DRAWING @ 12:05AM FOR \$2,024!

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$8,600!

EARN A TICKET FOR EVERY POINT STARTING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

LIVE MUSIC IN THE LOUNGE! 10:30PM - 1AM  
IRON RANGE FUNK MACHINE

EXPERIENCE THE ENERGIZING BEATS AND INFECTIOUS RHYTHMS! FEATURING AN IMPRESSIVE LINEUP OF HIGHLY SKILLED MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS, GUARANTEED TO GET YOU DANCING ALL NIGHT LONG! MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND. 21+ TO DRINK

#### MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST

GUESTS WHO ARE 21+ MAY RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT.  
NON-ALCOHOLIC CHAMPAGNE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

#### SANTA'S HOLIDAY HANGOVER CASH HOT SEATS!

10AM - 2PM WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$5,000!

# 2024

## RING IN 2024!

OVER \$18,600  
IN CASH & PRIZES!



RESORT CASINO®

MUST BE 18+ TO PARTICIPATE. 21+ TO DRINK. MUST HAVE VALID PHOTO ID.  
SEE FORTUNEBOY.COM FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

# There's still time to get a free tablet with internet capability!

TOWER— Even though a recently held ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) session that allowed people to get a tablet with internet capabilities was sparsely attended, Shullon Isham and Jess Lambert were not overly discouraged.

They both realize people get busy and can't get to every event they or others put on to benefit members of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

"We've only seen a handful of people, but the nice thing is, they can simply take a picture

of the QR code we provided in our flyer and see what programs are out there to help them," said Isham from the Vermilion Boys and Girls Club as she and Lambert illustrated how easy signing up was.



Once you scan the code, you will be prompted to fill in several fields, including which

program you would like more information on, such as:

- National School Lunch Program
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing (Section 8, HUD, etc.)
- Tribal Benefits (BIA, Head Start, TANF)
- Federal Pell Grants
- Veteran's Pension
- WIC Benefits

Once you select the program you are interested in, you



SIMPLE PROCESS!— Boys and Girls Club employees Shullon Isham, left, and Jess Lambert, right, illustrate how easy it is to sign up for programs available to Bois Forte band members. Please scan the QR code within this story to sign up and once your application is approved, you will receive a free tablet with internet capabilities.

are prompted to fill in other fields, mostly related to your name, email address, phone number, physical address, etc.

"It is really simple to sign up," said Lambert. "Once their application is approved, the tablet with internet capability is mailed to them."

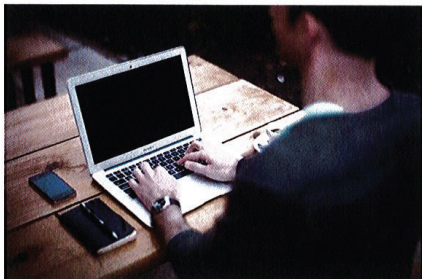
For those of you who still need to become tablet savvy, both Isham and Lambert said they would be more than willing to help guide you through

the process.

"It's not 100% sure yet, but we might offer another community signup," said Lambert. "Our hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday."

The Boys and Girls Club address in Vermilion is 1610 Farm Road South, Tower, Minnesota. For easier reference, it is located at the Vermilion Wellness Center, roughly a half mile past New Moon Housing.

## GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP



December 5 & 6

9:00 to 3:00

Lunch Served

Tribal Government  
Eagle Room

Bring your laptop!

Door Prizes!

The workshop's goal is to prepare individuals with adequate knowledge and skill to fill vacant positions that require grant-writing and to refresh your skill set.

Workshop provided by



*Ganawenimaa Anishaanabeg*



*Bois Forte 477*

**Bois Forte**

**Planning Department**

## ATTENTION NATIVE AMERICAN NATURAL RESOURCES STUDENTS!

If you would like to apply for a 2024 Truman D. Picard Scholarship, ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,500, please call 503-282-4296 for more information. The deadline is January 26, 2024.

# Mewinzhaa Gaazichigewaad Anishaanabeg Feast

BOIS FORTE  
HERITAGE CENTER



SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: VERN ADAMS SR.  
DRUM: BRIAN STILLDAY, LANCE KINGBIRD,  
CHAZ WAGNER  
LANGUAGE PRESENTATION BY PERRY DRIFT  
ELDER'S PANEL WITH Q & A  
DECEMBER 18TH 2023  
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: FORTUNE BAY RESORT CASINO

LET'S HONOR OUR ELDERS AND THE  
LANGUAGE FOR THE PERSEVERANCE AND  
STRENGTH BOTH REPRESENT IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES OF NETT LAKE AND  
VERMILION.

**DO YOU WANT TO DESIGN A PROGRAM  
WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS  
GET CASH DIRECTLY AS A STRATEGY TO EXIT  
HOMELESSNESS?**

**WE WANT TO LIFT UP YOUR  
VOICE AND EXPERIENCE WITH  
THE GOAL OF IMPROVING  
PROGRAMS!**

**Earn \$100  
to share  
your  
opinions!**

**Specifically recruiting young people  
(18-27) who have or had LIVED  
EXPERIENCE of homelessness to design  
this new program!**

**Where:** Zoom - Virtual

**When:** December 7th -  
2:30pm-5:00pm

**Contact:** Jasmine - (218)464-9918  
Quincy - Quincy@youthprise.org

Scan QR Code  
to Register for  
ONE:

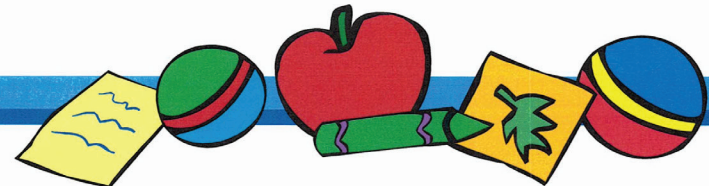


SCAN ME

## Bois Forte Early Childhood Programs NEEDS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!!!!

Vermilion & Nett Lake Centers

Please go to [www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com) to download an  
application and turn into our Human Resources  
Department 218-757-3261. Any questions you  
may contact Christine Lundemo  
@ 218-757-3261 option 3.



**It's not too late to get a great  
HEAD START for FREE!**

The Bois Forte Head Start is accepting  
applications for the current program year.  
Located in Tower & Nett Lake, MN

- ◆ FREE program for ALL children age 3 years old by September 1, 2023 to 5 years old.
- ◆ FREE healthy breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack
- ◆ Open Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
- ◆ Wrap around child care available 8:00 am to 9:00 am and 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
- ◆ Researched Based Curriculum
- ◆ Safe, healthy, enjoyable learning environment
- ◆ Prepares your child for kindergarten
- ◆ Transportation will be provided on Head Start school bus routes

For more information contact the Head Start at (218)-757-3261 option 3 .

# Obituary



**TRAVON RAYMOND BOSHEY**, age 17, of Tower, Minnesota, an amazing big/little brother, son, cousin and friend died Wednesday, November 15, 2023, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was born on April 13, 2006 to Amber Boshey and Roba Mohamed.

He was amazing to everyone he had crossed paths with. We loved to watch you grow into the amazing person you were. Travon was very smart, athletic, funny outgoing; the list will never end. Your laugh would light up the room and make everyone smile. Travon loved to play basketball, any chance he could get, but only with his boys. He had plans on joining the basketball team this year, we were all so excited to cheer him on.

We wish we were able to watch you and your career flourish. We will always cheer for you that will never stop.

We love you so much rest in roses and we will see you again.

Travon is survived by his parents: Amber Boshey and Roba Mohamed; brothers: Davonte Boshey, Omari Mohamed, Hunter Petersen, Esknder Roba, Akram Roba, and Adil Roba; sister: Aiyesha Mohamed; Paternal Grandparents: Ahmed Omar and Amina Adem; Maternal Grandparents: Kim Day and Dale Boshey, Sr. ; numerous extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his Maternal Great-grandparents: Ray and Gloria Boshey.

The wake was held Saturday, November 18, 2023, in the Vermilion Wellness Center. Tribal Rites took place on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Vernon Adams was the Spiritual Advisor. Burial followed in the Bois Forte Vermilion Cemetery.

Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, A Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower. To share condolences online, please see: [www.baumanfuneralhome.com](http://www.baumanfuneralhome.com)

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

**December 4:** Sausage Jambalaya, Cheddar Biscuit, Fruit

**December 5:** Vegetable Beef Barley Soup, Salad, Roll, Fruit

**December 6:** BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Fruit

**December 7:** Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

**December 8:** Spaghetti & Meatballs, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Fruit

**December 11:** Black Bean Burrito Bowl, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream, Fruit

**December 12:** Baked Walleye, Veggies, Roasted Potatoes, Fruit

**December 13:** Taco Salad, Refried Beans, Chips, Fruit

**December 14:** Roasted Chicken,



Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Capri Veggies, Fruit

**December 15:** Chili, Bun, Fruit

**December 18:** Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed/Gravy, Salad, Roll, Fruit

**December 19:** Wild Rice Meatballs with Gravy,

Sweet Potato Fries, Fruit

**December 20:** Split Pea & Ham Soup, Red Cabbage, Salad, Fruit

**December 22:** Pork Loin, Garden Rice, Beets, Fruit

**December 27:** Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Stuffing, Pie

**December 28:** Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Fruit

**December 29:** Grilled Chicken, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Fruit



## Minute with Millie

Ahniin daanaa! Well, friends, neighbors and family, I've been busy the past few weeks. Went visiting family in the cities, attended a couple meetings and got a few more stories written. Working on getting my business details finalized which involves a lot of budgeting, planning and dealing with various government agencies.

One of my teachers calls this part post process. At least I hope that's what she means. She made a recommendation that if one is working an 8-hour day writing that it be broken down into Idea Generation, Story Creation, Story Revise and Post Process. Which I've tried to do.

Key word: Tried.

So, I need to follow Yoda's advice: "Do or do not. There is no try."

And Mom's advice (quoting her grandma): There is no word "Can't."

Well, I've discovered that in order to "do or do not," I must have the skills to "do." And I "do not" have those skills right now. And, for some reason, "Can't" still pops up in my vocabulary. Whereupon I spend a few minutes "trying" to rephrase whatever to something that approximates whatever it is that I "can't" do.



You'd think a writer with my skillset would be able to Plot, Create, Revise or Process something quite easily. Nooo.

My walls are covered with poster boards covered with my to-do's, goals, and future plots, schemes, and revision ideas. Nowhere have I plotted out what it is okay to use to replace "can't."

Well, since I've rambled on to the point of forgetting my original intent for this month's minute, I'll leave you with the "do or do not" of family or other holiday plans you might have for the ending of or the beginning of the year. Gigaawaabaamin Noongom.



## FBRC staff treated to informative training session!



GOOD JOB!— Bois Forte Band Member Taneesha Dupree gave the opening remarks at Fortune Bay's All Staff training this past Monday and Tuesday in The Woodlands Ballroom. Dupree is Fortune Bay's Payroll and HRIS Specialist. The three-hour long training included an informative session by Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum Director Jaylen Strong, who spoke about Native Culture and Traditions. Other sessions that took place included one on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Navigating Conflict in the Workplace. The Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum will hold the Mewinzhaa Gaazichigewaad Anishaanabeg Feast on Monday, December 18th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in The Woodlands Ballroom. Please see page 7 for more details.

# ✓ VOTE CATHY CHAVERS



Boozhoo band members!

This is my second article regarding the progress made since 2016 when I became your chairwoman. I will not take credit for this progress as it was a team effort

among our great staff and former members of the Bois Forte Tribal Council and our current Tribal Council.

We all did the work and effort together. I am a firm believer in the "team" concept. As everyone knows, there's no "I" in the team. We all have different ideas, views, and visions on guiding Bois Forte's direction. I am currently just the "captain" of our team. My job is to ensure we all work together and put our personal differences aside as we move Bois Forte forward, not backward.

Here are some of the highlights of the progress we've made:

- Bois Forte weathered the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history.
- Began using YouTube so that band members could watch our meetings and keep informed on important issues facing Bois Forte.
- Presented a 15-year financial report on Fortune Bay distributions to the Tribal Government.
- Cut Fortune Bay's distribution from \$5 million to \$3.5 million to Tribal Government for programs and services. This enabled Fortune Bay to continue reinvesting in its facilities and workforce to ensure its long-term success.
- Approved life estates for band member leases with non-Indian spouses.
- Approved an updated Code of Ethics since it was first written.
- Ensured Tribal Council salaries remained the same base salaries since 2006 with no salary increases from 2016 to today.
- Began 477 program focusing on education and workforce development for our band members.

- Joined Native American Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Sold WELY Radio station.
- Ended our agreement with Kemper Sports at The Wilderness Golf Course.
- Implemented 1052 leasing under BIA and IHS.
- New Tribal Court Building and BIA conducted Tribal Court Review.
- New homeless shelter in Nett Lake.
- Updated and approved (30 years) of Bois Forte Tribal Criminal Code.
- Worked together with our staff and healthcare experts to keep our band members safe during the historic COVID-19 pandemic.
- Worked together tirelessly in securing over 28 million dollars in CARES Act and ARPA funding.
- Band members received \$3,200 in general welfare payments to help get through the pandemic.
- New dam constructed on Nett River.
- New food shelf in Nett Lake.
- Approved Blight Ordinance.
- Historic 28,000+ acres returned to Bois Forte from the Conservation Fund.
- Historic MOU with U.S. Forest Service, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage.
- First ever increase to base payment of 1854 Treaty per cap payments.
- Implementation of MMIR Tribal Plates.
- Opened CBD shop at Fortune Bay.
- Became the first tribe in the nation to offer Public Health Vending machines—one at the Nett Lake C Store and one at Fortune Bay.

There have been other success stories, too, but as you can tell, we have updated ordinances, are growing in all areas, and will continue to grow under my leadership.

In my next article, I will make you all aware of current projects being worked on. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at my contact information below.

Miigwech!

Cathy Chavers  
218-780-2898  
cchavers07@yahoo.com

**We're Hiring!**

For a list of current job opportunities,  
[www.boisforte.com/jobs](http://www.boisforte.com/jobs)

*This political advertisement was prepared and paid for by Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers.*

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held September 6, 2023, at Vermilion, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.  
 Moment of silence for invocation.  
 Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Travis Morrison, Robert Moyer Jr.  
 Members Absent: None  
 Others Present: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Luke Warnsholz, Pam Hughes, Vondalee Carr, Jaylen Strong, Carol Burr, Doris Isham, Kim Greiner, Josh Villebrun, Vanesa Little, Andrew Little, Peter Boney, Randy Long, Tracey Dagen, Ed Chavers, George Strong, Dave Farmer. See attached for virtual attendance.  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held August 2, 2023. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
 A. Approved to purchase docks from Marnick Docks for \$41,632.00 4-0-0  
 B. Approved Services Contract w/Soaring Bird Solutions, LLC 4-0-0

C. Approved David Farmer proposal to complete New Moon Deficiencies 4-0-0  
 D. Approved Contract amendment for David Farmer from 10hrs to 30hrs 4-0-0  
 E. Approved Resolution No. 12-2024, Band submission 23-26 TTIP 4-0-0  
 F. Approved Services Contract with Red Rock Storage (Head Start) 4-0-0  
 G. Approved Services Contract with Lelan Leecy Mpls Urban Picnic Food 4-0-0 Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the Native One Voice (NV1) FY24 Station Affiliate Program Renewal. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 13-2024, Cancelling recreational lease and issuing Residential lease to Deanna Drift. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to deny the donation request to Heim Medical Foundation based on the Donation Committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the donation request in the amount of \$100.00 to the St. Louis County Extension-Youth In Action based on the donation committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the donation request in the amount of \$500.00 to the Division of Indian Work based on the Donation Committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the donation request in the amount of \$100.00 to the IndiJ Public Media based on the Donation Committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the donation request in the amount of \$500.00 to the Jon Long cancer benefit based on the Donation Committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the donation request in the amount of \$500.00 to Dr. Shanna Vidor based on the Donation Committees recommendation. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the Blue Stone budget modification for Compensation studies. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve Tower Ambulance donations in the amount of \$5,000.00. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 18-2024, Purchase of Wild Rice for 2023 season using ARPA funds up to the amount of \$83,500.00. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table the discussion on the adjudication consultant consideration pending further information on total costs. Carried 4-0-0  
 Comment from audience on tower ambulance donation. Concern over not providing a donation to Orr Ambulance Service.  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 14-2024, Authorizing use of ARPA funds for CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) software agreement in the amount of \$14,000.00. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 15-2024, approving agreement with ROI for HR assessment and authorizing use of ARPA funds to cover the cost of the assessment. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 16-2024, approving the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) membership dues with the correction of number of votes based on enrollment from 130 to 140 votes. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. Carried 4-0-0  
 Prepared by: Frances Irving  
 Approved at Special RTC Meeting: November 1, 2023

**Minutes of a Regular meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held October 4, 2023, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.  
 Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Travis Morrison, Robert Moyer Jr.  
 Members Absent: None  
 Others Present: Regina Howe, Luke Warnsholz, Carol Burr, Doris Isham, Jaylen Strong, Teri Morrison, David Morrison Jr, Kathie Holman, Eddie Chavers, Dan Rabideaux, Vondalee Carr, Lance Hill.  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agenda. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to table the meeting minutes from Special RTC meeting held September 6, 2023, due to not being complete. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
 a) Approved sole source request to Teaching Strategies for HS curriculum \$15,077.00 4-0-0  
 b) Approved the WEX fuel card policy and user agreement 4-0-0

c) Approved authorization to submit 2024 105(l) Lease renewal 4-0-0  
 d) Approved wild rice memo for 2023 ricing season 3-1-0  
 e) Approved FY 24 Head start grant app submission 4-0-0  
 f) Approved Joint letter on school trust land exchange 4-0-0  
 g) Approved HAF policy to remove requirement contractor be licensed & insured 4-0-0  
 h) Approved RFP for home demolition & cleanup svcs for 7 homes in Nett Lake 4-0-0  
 i) Approved to select PSC (Personal Security Consultants, inc) for adjudication Training (ARPA) 4-0-0  
 j) Approved Stop loss renewal rate 6.5% for 2024 calendar year Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 23-2024, lease modification for Gary Donald. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 24-2024, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association Membership (MTERA), appointing Luke Warnsholz, and Tara Geshick as alternate. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the 2024 catering

contract with the Nett Lake School. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the amendments to the Burial Fund Policy, increasing funeral costs to \$7,000.00 and misc. amount to \$750.00, effective 10/01/2023. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Employee ID Badge policy, effective January 1, 2024. Carried 4-0-0  
 Pam Hughes brings up the International Falls Prevention program and there not having any services. Asking if the Regents of the University of Minnesota could assume the grant contract. It is suggested that Pam meeting with Dan Rabideaux, the CEO of Health. Dan requests more time to hire position and connect with Pam and anyone else involved. In regard to the Position for that job, Shane suggests the position be full time and not part time. After a couple months they can reassess and make a determination.  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Application and Guidelines for Bois Forte Community Health home modification program. Carried 4-0-0  
 No action needed on the MDH Tribal Block Grant.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the FY 24 SNAP-ED SEEDS contract with software touch corp. Carried 4-0-0  
 Julie Skoglund, Nett Lake Pharmacist, brings up that FDA no longer considers phenylephrine an effective decongestant and requests to bring a controlled substance into the pharmacy.  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the oral medication Pseudoephedrine (Sudafed) to dispense at the pharmacies as prescription, pending documentation of previous resolution if available. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the 50/50 raffle and raffle for various items donated at Miigwetch Manomin pow wow. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 10:48am. Carried 4-0-0  
 Prepared by: Frances Irving  
 Approved at Special RTC Meeting: November 1, 2023

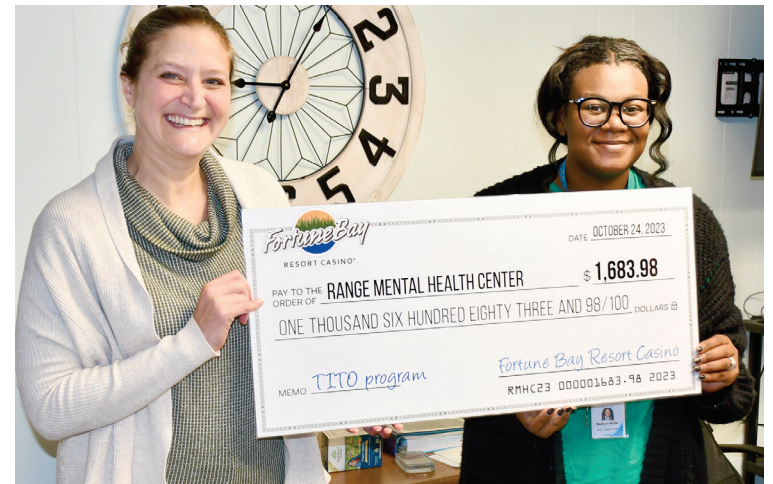
  
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**&**  
**10-11 PM**




Native America Calling

**Native America Calling** is a live call-in program linking public radio stations, the Internet and listeners together in a thought-provoking national conversation about issues specific to Native communities. Each program engages noted guests and experts with callers throughout the United States and is designed to improve the quality of life for Native Americans. Native America Calling is heard on nearly 90 public, community and tribal radio stations in the United States and in Canada. Our program is a production of Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, a Native-operated media center in Anchorage, Alaska.



**ALL SMILES**— Range Mental Health Center (RMHC), Inc. Chief Executive Officer Annamarie Florest, left, and SUD Support Staff team member Madison Wolfe, right, hold a check for \$1,683.98 that was presented to RMHC as part of Fortune Bay's Ticket in Ticket Out promotion. The monies were raised during September, which coincides with Suicide Awareness Month. Both staff members and guests contribute to the fund throughout the month and then Fortune Bay adds \$500 to the final tally.

### *Here to serve up another great meal!*



**ANOTHER DELICIOUS MEAL!**— Bois Forte Elder Nutrition Program's Becky Thompson was busy preparing another delicious meal in Nett Lake recently. For more information on the menus, please call the Nett Lake program at 218-757-3790 or the Vermilion program at 218-753-4542.

## **THE BOIS FORTE ENROLLMENT OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:**

BECK III, JOHN D  
 BOSHEY, MALEENA M  
 CALDER, LUCILLE A  
 CALLICO, BILLIE S  
 CLOUD, RONIN B  
 CLOUD, RONIN B  
 DAY, STANLEY  
 DAYDODGE, CLARENCE R  
 GATZ, TONY E  
 GESHICK, DENNIS W  
 GOODRIDGE, AIYANNA L  
 GRUENHAGEN, STEVEN A  
 HARDING, ALTON  
 HUSMANN, VANESSA R  
 ISHAM, WILLIAM L  
 JENKINS, SUSAN

JOHNSON, CANDICE M  
 JOHNSON JR, JAMES D  
 JORDAN, KRISTINA L  
 KEPHART, BONNIE J  
 KNOWLTON, DEBORAH L  
 LITTLEWOLF, AMAYAH J  
 MCKENZIE, VALERIE E R  
 MYHRE JR, CHARLES W  
 NEVITT, DIANE V  
 PASCUAL, ELIZABETH F  
 PETE, STEVEN B  
 RABBITT, BLY D  
 ROY, CONRAD C  
 RUSZCZEWSKI, DOROTHY  
 SAMM, ALEXANDER O N

SMITH, SKYLER J  
 STRONG, APRIL  
 STRONG, JULIAN M  
 STRONG, ROBERTA A  
 SWAN III, VICTOR J  
 TAYLOR, CARA P  
 THOMPSON, DOROTHY G  
 THOMPSON JR, DARRYL D  
 THOMPSON-ETTER JR, DAITYN  
 VILLEBRUN, VINESSA D  
 WAGNER, LE ANNE J  
 WALLACE, JOSEPH L

DAY-CASTRO, ODonis M

Please contact the Bois Forte Enrollment Department at 218-757-3261 ext. 1162., or email [kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Address Updates can be hand delivered or mailed to:

Bois Forte Tribal Government: Attn: Enrollment  
 5344 Lakeshore Drive • Nett Lake, MN 55772

**All written address updates must contain the following information:**

**Name, Address, DOB, Signature, Date**



### 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

### Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices



#### Nett Lake Sector

5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
Phone: 218-757-3261  
Toll Free: 800-221-8129  
Fax: 218-757-3312

#### Vermilion Sector

1610 Farm Road South  
Tower, MN 55790  
Phone: 218-753-4542  
Fax: 218-753-4055

#### Urban Office - Duluth

206 West 4th Street  
Suite 204  
Duluth, MN 55806  
Phone: 218-336-1048  
Cell: \*218-206-5629  
Fax: 218-336-1049  
\*wdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov

#### Urban Office - Minneapolis

1308 East Franklin Avenue  
Suite 112  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Phone: 612-871-6618  
Cell: \*612-747-5247  
\*urbanoffice@boisforte-nsn.gov

BOIS FORTE

# WARM CLOTHING DRIVE



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THURSDAYS 1 PM - 3 PM



Donate clean jackets, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens. Double check that zippers work please!

contact: jill schuchard 218-410-3293



- From the Bois Forte Tribal Council -  
Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift and Robert Moyer, Jr.