



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 10

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

NETT LAKE— The Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices and both clinics will be closed on Monday, November 11th for Veterans Day. They will also be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving.

Thank you and sorry for any inconveniences this may cause.

Meeting scheduled to resolve current transportation issues and to address future needs at Fortune Bay

Realizing the urgency to resolve ongoing concerns with transportation issues, a meeting with Bois Forte's leadership team, Big Woods Transit officials and members of Fortune Bay's leadership team will be held October 10th.

As its stand now, Big Woods Transit provides complimentary round-trip service for Fortune Bay Resort Casino employees from Nett Lake to Fortune Bay for the morning and afternoon shifts, seven days a week. In exchange for these

services, Fortune Bay pays Big Woods Transit \$150,000 per year.

Preliminary plans had called for Big Woods Transit to provide an additional route from Virginia to Tower in the hopes of attracting new employees with a "Park and Go" type of transportation alternative.

However, that concept never got off the ground and in the eyes of Fortune Bay's Director of Human Resources Alanna Sherman, that idea should be shelved until current transportation issues get resolved.

"We to have to fix what's happening now because there are a lot of issues," said Sherman at the Bois Forte Development Corporation (BFDC) meeting, which took place September 25th.

According to Sherman, the issues include drivers not picking up employees or picking them up late, both of which have ramifications for Fortune Bay department heads that are counting on them showing up for their shifts.

"And we pay a lot for this service," said Sherman. "It really hurts our housekeeping department, so before we do the Virginia route, we need to fix what is going on."

Currently, Big Woods Transit drivers have to make door to door pickups throughout the Nett Lake village before making

its way up to Fortune Bay, which is roughly 55 miles away.

"I think what's happening is that a driver goes to pick someone up and has to wait five to 10 minutes and then goes to the next house and has to wait another five to 10 minutes, that's a reason why they are late," said Bois Forte's Executive Director Luke Warnsholz, who added that miscommunication has also been a problem. "If we just had a structure and SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) on the tribal government side, that would tremendously help."

Some suggested that it might be a good idea to have a central pick-up point to save on so many individual stops, but Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick said it's not feasible because some band members do not have the luxury of having a vehicle to drive to a central location such as the Reservation Tribal Government Building.

"We don't have the resources that a lot of other people have," said Geshick.

While that is true, BFDC CEO Drew Ebert expressed concern that nothing was ever finalized or even followed up on in regard to the Virginia route—especially given how Fortune Bay struggled to find employees throughout the busy summer months.

See Transportation on page 2



ENJOYING THE DAY!— Bois Forte band members Maleah Boshey, left and Nitanis Strong, right, were having a fabulous time at the Nett Lake Pow Wow, which took place September 20-22. For more stories about the pow wow, please see pages 8 and 13.

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo,

Happy fall to everyone! This fall has proved to be another let down for our ricing this year, but we can hope that next year will be better.

Bois Forte is one of the 11 tribes that are going to be a part of a Grand Council for the tribes in Minnesota. Our first gathering was at Lower Sioux Indian Community in Morton, Minnesota on Monday September 23. The tribes have talked about this for about the past four years or so and it has now become a reality. This Grand Council will be strictly run by the tribes and will not have any agencies involved with it.

In our first meeting, there were eight (8) tribes in attendance and all tribes are welcome to attend. Each tribe mentioned what some of their issues are

and discussion points. The outcome of our first meeting is that we will have sub-committees on wild rice, legislation/policy, and cannabis. This Grand Council will not replace the Minnesota Indian Affairs Committee or the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee, rather it will be an avenue for the tribes. We will be meeting quarterly, and our next meeting will be in Hinckley in December.

I really want to stress the importance of voting in this upcoming election. There is a slogan in Minnesota to "Make voting traditional." For us to receive funding from the federal government and have the U.S. uphold its trust responsibility to all tribes, we need people who have been voted into office whether on a federal level, state, local etc. because they are making decisions

concerning tribes. We also need more Native Americans running for any type of offices. Our voices need to be heard, and we need to be at the table because decisions need to be made for us and not against us. Every vote matters, especially the native vote. Please register to vote!

On October 16 in Nett Lake, St. Louis County will have a polling place for anyone native or non-native to register to vote if they haven't registered yet and to get their ballot that day to vote. You must reside in St. Louis County to vote but you do not need to reside in St. Louis County to register that day. Please mark this date on your calendars!!!!

I would also just like to wish all the Trick or Treaters a safe Halloween as well!

Miigwech!

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IN THE EVENT OF RAIN IT WILL BE INSIDE THE RTG IN THE BALLROOM

OPEN FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE.

Transportation from page 1

He feels it is imperative that a "Park and Go" option in Virginia is rolled out sooner than later to help alleviate the stress that departments are feeling by being short staffed.

"Toni said they were going to work on it, but nothing has come of that, and I suspect that has to do with the timing of grants," said Ebert of Toni Wakemup, who oversees Big Woods Transit. "But if we cannot find a solution with Big Woods, we'll have to do something ourselves and buy our own bus."

Based on some preliminary number crunching, Ebert said he would envision needing two drivers and a newer bus/van to make the round trip, two times a day, up to seven days a week.

He estimated the costs would be \$220,000 the first year, which would cover the two salaries and a vehicle that could last three to five years before needing to be replaced.

"It's right around \$70K for a decent vehicle," said Director of Marketing Hannah Lehti, who helped work on a survey with the HR team this past summer trying to glean information from current and potential employees who would benefit from a Virginia route.

While the "Park and Go" option is still on the table for Fortune Bay to provide this service or to let Big Woods do it, Ebert agreed that a meeting is needed to figure out how the current set up can be improved upon.

"To be clear, Big Woods Transit is necessary—that's my opinion on it," said Ebert. "Are there areas where things can improve? Yeah, but Big Woods is dealing with the same things we are dealing with (staff shortages). Ultimately, we have to find a solution to help us out."

After the meeting, Sherman said she had met with Wakemup and a few others earlier in September and went over some of the issues. She said

some changes were made including having the driver email her when they will be late and provide her with a list of No Call No Show employees.

Sherman said more information, i.e. a slide show showing the services Big Woods Transit provides, will be given out at new employee orientation, plus informational cards being handed out to new employees.

"We (Fortune Bay) also need to make sure our employees understand that this is a service Fortune Bay is providing for our employees, therefore it is a privilege to ride," explained Sherman after the meeting. "So, we need to make sure we do our due diligence in helping employees have good communication when calling to schedule a ride."

Department of Interior awards Bois Forte nearly \$6.5 million

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior recently announced a \$71 million investment from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to electrify homes in 13 Tribal communities across Indian Country, helping to close the Tribal access-to-electricity gap.

Bois Forte will receive nearly \$6.5 million as a part of this investment. The Red Lake Band of Chippewa will receive \$8.7 million from the program.

"The award amount is a little less than half of what was asked for, so we will be scheduling time to discuss modifications and or other funding that can be used to help with the project," said Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason.

Mason said the second-round funding was awarded to support the building of a solar array in the Vermilion sector. With site selection a key component to the project, the proposed site provides a good interconnection point with Lake Country Power.

Power generated from the project will help Bois Forte offset energy costs for Band Members. The timeline and planned start of the project will be announced at a later date.

According to a press release from the Department of the Interior, this investment from the Inflation Reduction Act — the largest ever investment in climate — is a critical step toward the goal of electrifying all homes in the United States with clean energy sources and advances the Biden-Harris administration's work to reach a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035.

This second and final round of funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Electrification Program, is part of an overall \$150 million commitment to provide financial and technical assistance to connect homes in Tribal communities to transmission and distribution that is powered by clean energy; provide electricity to unelectrified homes through zero-emissions energy systems; transition elec-

trified homes to zero-emissions energy systems; and support associated home repairs and retrofitting necessary to install the zero-emissions energy systems. In addition, the program supports clean energy workforce development opportunities in Indian Country.

"Every family deserves to have access to reliable, affordable electricity. Now, with historic investments from President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we're honoring our commitment to deliver clean energy to Indian Country to electrify more homes," said Secretary Deb Haaland in the press release. "This new program is building reliable, resilient energy that Tribes and communities can rely on, and advancing our work to tackle

the climate crisis and build a clean energy future."

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland added that Indian Affairs Tribal Electrification Program continues to provide Tribes with the assistance they need to ensure their communities have safe, reliable electricity, which is essential to daily living.

"Working with Tribal governments on developing clean energy sources and bringing the benefits of dependable electricity to their communities is part of our mission of service to federally recognized Tribes," said Newland.

The recent announcement follows the program's first round of funding of \$72 million awarded to 21 Tribes and Tribal organizations, which

Secretary Haaland announced this past March during a visit to the Hopi Tribe in Arizona. By recognizing that each Tribe has its own energy— and electrification-related needs and implementation capacity, the Tribal Electrification Program is meeting the unique needs of individual communities.

In 2000, the Energy Information Administration estimated that 14 percent of households on Native American reservations had no access to electricity, which was 10 times higher than the national average. In 2022, the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy issued a report citing that 16,805 Tribal homes were unelectrified, with most being in the Southwest region and Alaska.

THE BOIS FORTE ENROLLMENT OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO UPDATE ADDRESS OR SEEKING INFORMATION REGARDING:

Lucille A Calder
Billie Sue Callico
Maurice Jerome Champagne
Dustin Chapman
Russell Columbus III
Jack Dudley Curran
Doninique Vardon Curry
Lawrence Dale Irving Day
Clarence Raymond Daydodge
Garrett A Dorsher
Taneesha Sue Dupree
Crystal Ann Farquhar
Douglas Jerome Fineday Jr
Tony Edward Gatz
Dennis Wayne Geshick
Derrick Allen Geshick
Carlos Alonzo Glass
Cody Allen Goggleye

Steven Andrew Gruenhagen
Alton Harding
Carlos Alberto Hernandez
Vanessa Renee Husmann
Eric Wayne Isham
Isham, John Edward
Susan Jenkins
Bonnie Jean Kephart
Channon Gabriel Kirchner
Deborah Lee Knowlton
Joshua Michael LaBarge
Kenneth Dean Lien Jr
Valerie Emma R. McKenzie
Gary Allen Menor
Sean Daniel Morrison
Diane Vaughn Nevitt
Brandon Joseph Omaha
Elizabeth Francine Pascual

Kathryn Diane Paugh
Steven Bruce Pete
Chance Buchanan Potter
Gillian Nicole Rabbit
Emily Arica Rock
Dorothy Ruszczewski
Jean Rose Schell
Sabra Mae Shevich
Bernice Valerie Smith
April Marie Strong
Jason Guy Strong
Julian Michael Strong
Victor Joseph Swan III
Dorothy G Thompson
Vinessa Derae Villebrun
Le Anne Josephine Wagner
Amanda Dawn Webb
Saijen Day Weihe

Please contact the Bois Forte Enrollment Department at 218-757-3261 ext. 1162, or email 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**

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• MEET THE NEWRANGE TEAM

NEWRANGE
COPPER NICKEL

Plenty of exciting updates for our treasured Heritage Museum

*Submitted by Jaylen Strong
Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural
Museum Executive Director*

Boozhoo Indinawemaaganiidog.

It's been a busy summer for the Heritage Center. Here is a general update as to the projects we are working on, as well as some new faces that you'll see around our events.

First, our new staff, we were looking for and have hired three people this summer. Our Language and Culture Coordinator, Jessica Anderson Ojala, started in May.

Jess is a descendant of Bois Forte and is an awesome asset to our organization. Her job will be around planning a strategic plan for language revitalization for the tribal government and planning programs throughout the year. Jess wanted to let the community know she is hoping to offer bi-monthly Ojibwe Language classes and to create more accessibility to traditional teachings and cultural knowledge within our community.

The Tribal Archivist was our next hire. Morgan Olson, started at the end of

July. Morgan is enrolled in White Earth and grew up in Grand Rapids. She has already made a positive impact to the Heritage Center in the short time she's been here. Her main job responsibilities will be organizing and digitizing our current collections, updating our disaster planning, as well as documenting community events throughout the year.

Our most recent hire is for the Visitor's Services Manager position. Dani Pieratos started at the end of August and has hit the ground running in this position. She is currently working on getting our cash deposits and inventory in order.

Dani said, "Boozhoo everyone! I'm Dani Pieratos, the new Visitor Services Manager at the Heritage Center. I started the last week of August and am so grateful to be here. I've been working on an operational procedure for managing the gift shop and ordering new items like tote bags, ribbon skirts, jewelry, and books. If you are a Bois Forte artist looking to sell your goods, stop in to see me Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m."

As for the large projects that the

Heritage Center has been working on throughout the Summer. The building itself is 23 years old this year. As with any older buildings, it has been in need of some repairs, including a new HVAC system, roof replacement and waterproofing membrane to the exterior walls. In fall of 2023, we put all of the repairs out for bids. The winning bid was estimated to be at \$1.1 million, and we have been working to find funds to help pay for this cost to alleviate strains on tribal funds. I'm happy to say that we were able to do just that, and some extra just in case the project runs over budget or if we decide to fix other issues that weren't originally identified as critical for repairs.

Another project has been the repatriation of Nett Lake items from the Canadian Museum of History (CMH). Around 160 items were taken from Nett Lake all the way back in the 1910s. Half are identified as Mide, ceremonial or burial related items, while the other half are everyday items. Things like games, blankets, bead work, and even a canoe! We met with council, the elders committee, and had

two community meetings. District II Representative Robert Moyer Jr. and I went up to Ottawa in June to meet these items. While there, we feasted, offered tobacco, and talked to these beings throughout the week-long consultation. We are still in the early stages of the repatriation process. We will be sending a repatriation request to CMH before November to start the process for bringing them back home. An anticipated time for return will be summer or fall of 2025.

Along with the repatriation process, we will be looking at purchasing some new storage shelving for our artifacts room. As of right now, we are starting to run out of storage space with the current shelving in place. We will be identifying possible grants to apply for but will ultimately be able to purchase and set up this shelving prior to the items from Canada being returned.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of the other staff with questions or just to say hello. The Heritage Center phone number is 218-753-6017.

Public input wanted as Bois Forte Reservation updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

NETT LAKE— Bois Forte Reservation residents, community leaders, business owners, area agencies and organizations now have an opportunity to share how severe weather events impact their property and lives. There is also an opportunity to share their ideas on how to reduce local impacts in the future.

The Bois Forte Reservation Office of Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the tribe's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the reservation, such as tornadoes, straight line winds, ice storms, blizzards, wildfire, flooding, and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. As the tribe works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Bois Forte Reservation Hazard Mitigation Plan is a plan that covers all of Bois Forte Reservation, and includes considerations for other stakeholders

within the tribal planning area.

The plan will be updated by a planning team made up of representatives from tribal government and departments in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions and related agencies or organizations. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Bois Forte Reservation Emergency Preparedness Specialist Teresa Knife Chief. "Understanding the kinds of hazards that can cause serious impact to our residents, natural and cultural resources, economy, and identifying how to take action to reduce future impacts makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and se-

vere wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety within the reservation."

Examples of hazard mitigation include:

- Conducting public outreach on severe weather awareness and preparedness
- Improving stormwater management systems to better handle high-rain events
- Removing existing buildings from flood or erosion prone hazard areas
- Increasing defensible space around homes in high-risk wildfire areas
- Constructing tornado safe rooms in vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks
- Burying overhead powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or wind storms

Some mitigation activities may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

Public input is an essential part of

the plan update. As part of the planning process, Bois Forte Reservation is seeking feedback from residents and businesses to incorporate into the plan.

Your input will be recorded and incorporated into the planning process:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to the Bois Forte Reservation?
- Are there specific populations or assets (including natural or cultural resources) within the reservation that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your area or the reservation as a whole?

Your feedback is wanted. Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and your ideas for mitigation projects should be submitted to

See Public Input on page 9

King excited about new changes at Fortune Bay Resort Casino

TOWER— Giving back to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is something Wes King has always strived to do and that won't change now that he has been officially named as the Director of Surveillance at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

"I've always said I just want to help Fortune Bay in any way I can, which at this point of my career, is now Director of Surveillance," said King, a Bois Forte band member, who grew up in Nett Lake and graduated from Orr High School before attending college for Paralegal Studies and Business Management.

King got his start at Fortune Bay at the young age of 15 where he worked in the old deli, which was still attached to the old bingo hall. He eventually left, but then came back to embark on a new chapter at Fortune Bay, this time as a Surveillance Operator.

"I told myself it was going to be a summer job and I've been here ever since," said King, who eventually transitioned from Surveillance to a Manager on Duty (MOD).

He fondly recalls working with the likes of Kevin Harrington, Julie Norman, Brian "Griff" Griffith and Shannon Strong. He stayed in that role for many years before being asked by former FBRC General Manager Jenna Lehti to serve as the Interim Surveillance Director until they could find a permanent one.

"I became Lead MOD before I was asked by our current CEO Drew Ebert to be the interim Director of Surveillance again and now, I have been named permanent Director of Surveillance," said King. "I would like to say thank you to the council for giving us the ball and allowing us to run with it. Wait and see what big things are in store for not only Fortune Bay, but the reservation as a whole."

Bois Forte District I Representative Shane Drift was very pleased with the hiring of King, along with two other band members, Elizabeth Deegan and Alanna Sherman, who will be featured in the November issue of the *Bois Forte News*.

"First and foremost, congratulations to EJ, Alanna, and Wes. It is really good to see that our band members are being put into top level positions within For-

tune Bay Casino. Especially when they have been working there for years," said Drift, who also serves as the Vice Chair of the Bois Forte Tribal Council. "I know that they (EJ, Alanna, and Wes) will do an awesome job for our casino, employees, and our tribe!"

For King his new job will mean spending a lot less time on the floor working with staff and addressing any problems that may arise and more time in an office setting, overseeing his staff. He said it was a very difficult decision to leave his MOD team as he loved working in the department, along with all of his employees.

"We are very much a cohesive team and were always there for each other. Things I will miss the most is the time shared with my fellow MODs and the time out on the gaming floor with our guests and team members," said King. "I very much enjoyed interacting with them and all of our frontline staff. We have a very good team here."

However, King looks forward to making an impact on his new team in the Surveillance Department. He has been spending a lot of time getting up to speed on things, while also figuring out a game plan to get his team fully staffed. His plight is much like other departments struggling to be fully staffed.

"It's a lot of learning and relearning," said King of being back in the Surveillance Department. "I've had a lot of face-time with computer screens—to keep it short, I've been busy. It just seems like there is not enough time in the day to get everything done, but we'll get there."

King said he would like to say thank you to everyone who has been patient with him and others that have recently been promoted at Fortune Bay.

"Leadership and the entire team have been great during this transition," said King. "I'm excited to see what positive direction the company is going to go under this new leadership."

Given the plethora of job openings at Fortune Bay, King encouraged band members to apply and begin their career at Bois Forte's flagship business.

"I've always been an advocate for band members," said King. "I think Bois Forte band members who don't work

here as of yet, and are thinking about applying, need to know we are under new leadership that is very pro band member

and going forward I'd like to see more band members applying for positions here."



TEAM PLAYER—Wes King has embraced his new career move at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and encourages other band members to pursue a career at the Bay to help lead Bois Forte into the next generation. King was recently named the Director of Surveillance after serving many years as a Manager on Duty and eventually the Lead Manager on Duty.

We're **HIRING!**



For a list of current job opportunities,

go to: www.boisforte.com/jobs

Anderson uses her skills to help band members live a healthier life



LOVING HER JOB— Bois Forte Community Health Nurse Dawn Anderson loves helping out Bois Forte band members and is blessed to have so many great co-workers who share the same passion that she does.

TOWER— As a descendant of a Bois Forte band member, Dawn Anderson always knew that someday she wanted to work for the Bois Forte Band of Chipewa.

And that day arrived nearly one year ago when Anderson gladly accepted a job offer to be a Community Health Nurse on the Vermilion Sector.

“I am so excited to be working for Bois Forte,” said Anderson from her office recently. “I have always wanted to use my skills as a nurse to help our people live healthier lives.”

Anderson, who was born and raised in Ely, is the great-granddaughter of Mary Anderson and John Anderson, both of whom have many ties to the large Bois Forte family tree, including families like the Toutloffs, Strongs, Bosheys, Geshicks and others.

“I am the oldest of five siblings, both of my parents were from Ely and my dad (Bill Anderson) was a Bois Forte member,” said Anderson, who graduated from Ely High School and attended Vermilion Community College and then earned her nursing degree from Hibbing Community College in 2005. “I spent many summers at our great-grandparent’s resort on Burntside Lake.”

Prior to earning her nursing degree, she was the Indian Education Coordinator at the Ely schools for 12 years.

“This December I will be completing my BSN with a Public Health endorsement,” said Anderson. “I have mostly

worked in Critical Access Hospitals for most of my nursing career.”

As the Community Health Nurse, Anderson helps coordinate a variety of services aimed at improving the health of Bois Forte Elders, including the setup of weekly medication boxes, home visits after a hospitalization, home visits of Elders, educate on diagnoses, reviewing medications, vital signs, and other assessments as needed.

“I have a passion working with and for elders,” said Anderson. “Working as the Community Health Nurse allows me to have a positive impact on the Elders and the community members we serve.”

Anderson said she is blessed with three quality Community Health Representatives (CHR) that she supervises in Bessie Medicine, Jim Morrison and Rae Ann Debeltz. She said the CHR’s are able to deliver medications, give rides to medical appointments, and help set up medical alert systems for those who need it.

“They also provide housekeeping, meal prep, respite care for caregivers, check vital signs, bring Elders shopping or run errands, too,” said Anderson as she rattled off a bevy of good deeds her staff provides. “They also help with physical therapy exercises and help with any activities of daily living that may be difficult. These same services are also available to those living in the Nett Lake Village as well.”

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- Vermilion to Duluth ROUND TRIP 182mi X .67 = \$121.94
- Nett Lake to Cook ROUD TRIP 66mi X .67 \$44.22

Total Reimbursement for the week = \$249.24

Hello from Community Health!

We want to let you know about new services that are available for our elders. We hired new Community Health Rep/ Elder Caregivers. Nett Lake and Vermilion each have a person for this position.

The Elder Caregiver can assist Elders in their home with activities of daily living. These activities of daily living can include bathing, meal prep, light housekeeping, occasional respite care for family members who are caring for a homebound relative, and other duties that may be needed that are assigned by the Community Health Nurse.

If this service is something that you or a relative may be interested in, please contact the Community Health Nurse or your provider.

The contacts are as follows:

Garret Landgren, RN in Nett Lake at 218-404-9419
Dawn Anderson, RN in Vermilion at 218-404-3729

Bois Forte Heritage Museum hosts Baby Moccasin Class

*Submitted by Dani Pieratos
Bois Forte Heritage Museum Visitor
Services Manager*

Jessica Anderson Ojala, the Language & Culture Coordinator at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum, recently hosted a Baby Moccasin class where attendees were instructed step-by-step how to make their own baby sized puckered moccasins.

Ojibwe people are known for the puckered style where at the toe of the moccasin, the leather is held together tightly at the toe to create ruffled look at the seam. Workshop participants included grandparents to new moms and dads who were really excited about the new babies coming into their lives.

Jess used a moccasin making design book that she displayed to the class which had moccasin patterns for all sizes. The first part of the process after cutting out patterns is called basting, where you connect a piece of leather to

the “tongue” or “vamp” (top) part of the moccasin.

The next was to use the lock-stitch sewing technique to connect the vamp to the bottom part. This is where Jess assisted the class individually to create what she called “hills and valleys” while doing a lock-stitch to create the puckered style at the toe. The time to create one moccasin while taking breaks for instruction was about three hours. Participants were sent home with extra supplies to finish the second moccasin, and additional materials as some wanted to make more.

For more information on Ojibwe lifeways, please visit the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum down the road from Fortune Bay. The museum and gift shop are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at 1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790. They can be reached at 218-753-6017.



ENJOYING THE CLASS!— Participants had a wonderful time making baby moccasins at a class recently taught by Jessica Anderson Ojala, the Language & Culture Coordinator at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum.



Minute with Millie

Hmmm, since our brain and body are made up of water (not sure of the degree) and the moon causes tidal flows, shouldn't it affect our brains too?

Now why, you are very likely thinking, is this coming up this month?

I was pondering this very question last month after something came across one of my many newsfeeds having to do with... hmm. Now, methinks it was watching something on YouTube or even, perhaps, Netflix. As some of you may know, I am prone to watching odds and ends on one or t'other of the many streaming services that have sprouted since the glory days of Blockbuster.

Most of the time, it's something to do with documentaries with the occasional action movie or even a reality show or two sprinkled in. These choices, na'trally, provoke the weirdest “things we think you might like” offerings in an attempt to entice me to watch the small, little, medium sized screen available to my limited time, space and money.

Now was it one of the cold cases solved, murder mayhem causing years of obsession for several detectives or the solving of centuries old cases that inspired my current pondering predicament? Or perhaps the viewing of one of the many flyby's of the Hubble, the James Webb telescope image captures of various heavenly bodies I espy on the rare evenings/mid-nights or dawn hours I happen outside to be standing in amazement of the brightness of the stars. Or the lack thereof.

Perchance, there are clouds blocking my view of the moon or one of t'other nightly, yearly or even once in a lifetime views which brought the moon and the tides



to my attention by the scientists at NASA or the Griffith Laboratory getting excited about something or other. Hmmm. Thus, I decide to venture outside.

Or...Something about the full moon and lunacy abounding with crimes of passion being committed sort of involuntarily due to the moon's influence in one of those enticing trailers. (Hmmm...trailers... this might send me down another rabbit hole.) This theory was instantly rebutted by those who say the moon doesn't influence our brains, emotions or behavior. These discourses came to my attention sometime during the amazing Northern Aurora Borealis displays as one or two of the physicists I follow were expounding on their philosophies and the subject of the moon and lunacy came up.

And therein was the gist of my ponderings for the past month. This still captures odd moments of reflection as I sit, looking outside my window in predawn hours waiting for the sun to rise. A bit long winded this month. But...you must admit, this is a fascinating subject.

Lyons has a knack for making creative dishes

NETT LAKE—The allure of fry bread permeated the air at the Nett Lake Pow Wow on a recent fall day and at the helm of this delicious smell was Corinna Lyons who was busy catering to several guests standing in line at her booth.

“This one has been the favorite,” said Lyons as she put the finishing touches on her homemade creation of pumpkin frybread that was served with pumpkin puree, cinnamon sugar butter and drizzled with powdered sugar icing. “People have been talking about it a lot.”

And with good reason, as several others listening to her describe how she made it quickly got in line and ordered one.

“It’s tremendous,” said Steve Hertig-Goodsy, who had already ordered one of the pumpkin frybread, but was now enjoying another homemade dessert that Lyons had prepared for the pow wow. “It has a lot of flavor—it’s very tasty.”

Lyons smiled and thanked Hertig-Goodsy for the compliment and then went about talking about her other creations for the weekend.

Unlike some vendors you see at pow wows or other fairs, Lyons made most of her items from scratch. Some were sweets, like another crowd favorite, Apple Cinnamon Dessert and Cinnamon Crisps, that were freshly made in the deep fryer, while others were more traditional favorites, including burritos, walking tacos and soft tacos.

“I made enchilada bake and traditional goulash, too,” said Lyons, who also made her own fresh Mexican hot sauce prior to making the drive up from Vermilion.

While Lyons has always had a love for food, it wasn’t something she immediately pursued. In fact, she spent 16 years working in a variety of jobs at Mystic Lake Casino after receiving her BA in Business Administration and Econom-

ics at Augsburg College in 2004.

Lyons, who grew up in the Twin Cities, moved up to Lake Vermilion with a strong desire to work for Bois Forte and to help band members. She began as the Director of Operations for the Vermilion sector of the BFTG, then took the opportunity to work for Planning and Community Development as a Grant Writer, and later transferred to New Moon Supportive Housing as a Case Manager/ARMHS worker.

“Each of these positions were very rewarding, but there became a point where I needed to make a change and that’s when I decided to utilize my cooking skills,” said Lyons, who also had stints as Cultural Affairs Specialist and American Indian Education Coordinator for both Mystic Lake Casino and Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools.

Lyons said she hadn’t planned on showcasing her talents at the Nett Lake Pow Wow, which took place September 20th through the 22nd, but when the Pow Wow Committee reached out, she couldn’t say no.

“I wanted to help them out,” said Lyons, who also sold her food at the Vermilion Pow Wow this past June. “I started dabbling in this this past spring and have really enjoyed it. I might even make this more of a permanent, part-time job.”

Lyons said she has also been asked to prepare food for other events, such as the ones the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government puts on as well as special events that KBFT Radio does. While the Nett Lake Pow Wow provided a steady flow of traffic, it paled in comparison to the 1,200 meals she was asked to put together for the early June Pow Wow in Nett Lake.

Depending on her clientele, Lyons said she tries to make sure that she meets everyone’s dietary needs. She loves the ability to come up with new items thanks to her garden, which opens a whole new slew of options when it comes to making salsa and other dishes.

She is also partial to her homemade scalloped potatoes and ham, beef stew, lasagna, enchiladas and other comfort foods.

As for her long-range plans, Lyons may make a part-time career out of this latest venture, which she calls not only therapeutic, but challenging.

“Cooking and creating different dishes is something I’ve always enjoyed doing,” said Lyons, who has her food license through Indian Health Services, but would need a state license should she venture off the reservation. “I’ve had some discussions to open up my own business, but the talks are pretty preliminary.”

Regardless of what the future holds, Lyons said she will continue to answer the call when Bois Forte needs her culinary talents.

“I will do this whenever they want me to,” said Lyons. “I definitely see this as something I can make a career out of—and as long as I have the time and energy, it will be something I continue to pursue because I get so much enjoyment out of it.”



HAPPY CUSTOMER— Corinna Lyons hands Steve Hertig-Goodsy an Apple Cinnamon dessert during the Nett Lake Pow Wow. Lyons said she will continue to do special events, but added she might make her venture into a permanent, part-time business. She said she doesn’t have a name yet for her venture, but a simple sign indicating it was “Corinna’s Food Stand,” is good enough for now she said.

Virtual Ojibwe Language Classes

Wednesdays in October from 12-12:30 Starting Oct. 2 and ending Oct. 23

October 2024 Introduction to Ojibwe Language Cohort

Make plans to attend the “Trunk or Treat” event on October 31st!

NETT LAKE— Nett Lake community members are coming together to try something new for Halloween this year. They are organizing a “Trunk or Treat” event to be held on Halloween in the



Bois Forte RTG parking lot.

A trunk or treat is where community households gather in a parking lot to hand out candy. This makes it easier on families with young ones not having to get in and out of the car multiple times to knock on doors for trick or treating.

People can decorate the back of their vehicles to make it fun for the children. The folks organizing this event would like to welcome those that want to set up and hand out candy, families to come trick or treating and most importantly the community members that no longer have young ones but want to enjoy the excitement of Halloween.

The event will run from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bois Forte RTG in Nett Lake. If you have any questions you can contact Mari Barto at 218-780-3796.

Public Input from page 4

Bois Forte Reservation Emergency Management by phone, email, or in person.

There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be made available for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota.

Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the

public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every five years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

For more information, contact Knife Chief at 218-750-7632 or via email at tknifechief@boisforte-nsn.gov

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

October 1: Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Fruit
October 2: Bison/Beef Chili, Corn Bread, Whole Fruit
October 3: Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 4: Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Red Cabbage Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 7: Goulash, Peas, Breadstick, Fruit
October 8: Beef Frito Pie with Corn Chips, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad
October 9: Beef Frito Pie with Corn Chips, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad
October 09: Wild Rice Meatballs, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef's Choice of Fruit, Fruit Parfait
October 10: Breakfast Hotdish, Potato Wedges or Tots, Muffin, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 11: BBQ Pork Riblette, Au-Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 14: Turkey Roll, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Carrots, Fruit
October 15: Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables, Garden Salad, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 16: Spaghetti & Meatballs,



Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Fruit
October 17: Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 18: Beef/Bison Stew, 7-Grain Bun, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 21: Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 22: Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 23: Tuna or Chicken Pasta, Salad, Capri Vegetable Blend, Corn Muffin, Fruit
October 24: Chicken Wild Rice Soup or Hotdish, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 25: Bison/Beef Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 28: Garden Vegetable Soup, Chicken Salad Croissant, Fruit
October 29: Philly Steak & Cheese Bun, Tator Tots, Creamy Cucumber Salad, Fruit
October 20: Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit
October 31: Breaded Chicken Patty, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Fruit, Dinner Roll

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 9:45AM - 2:00PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 IN GRAND PORTAGE, MN
 9:45AM - 2:00PM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024 IN TOWER, MN

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Joseph Delano Gonier



Joseph Delano Gonier, 83, of Nett Lake, Mn passed away on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Joseph was born on January 3, 1941, in Nett Lake, MN to Joseph and Evelyn (Wein) Gonier.

He attended school and then entered the Marine Corps in 1960, serving his country honorably until 1964. After his service, he attended Dunwoody College where he became a computer technician. Soon after graduating Dunwoody, he gained employment with Honeywell where he remained until his retirement.

Joseph was always a straightforward guy but loved his family very much. He loved traveling with his longtime love and life partner, Laura. He especially enjoyed flying his gas-powered RC air-

planes and helicopters and building them. His greatest joy in life was his great-grandkids; Shaye, LaNara and Kye. He loved doing everything with them. From schoolwork to watching them play at the park, until the girls got older and started playing volleyball. Joseph's family and his special granddaughter Ashlee will miss him very much. However, they will still remember that he is with them in spirit from morning till night.

Joseph is preceded in death by his parents; son Dean Gonier; brother Knute Gonier; sister Bertha Gonier; step-daughter Loralee Isham;

Joseph is survived by his brother, Chester Graue; his lifetime partner of 48 years, Laura Isham; step-daughter Lori Connor; granddaughter Ashlee Isham; great-grandchildren: Shaye, LaNara, and Kye Isham; niece Sheryl Gonier; and nephew Chuck Gonier.

A wake was held on Friday, August 30, 2024, with the Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 31st at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Online condolences to www.mlakerfuneralhome.com

Ellen Adams

Ellen Jean Adams, age 86, began her journey to the spirit world on Thursday,



September 19, 2024 at her home in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Ellen was born on February 23, 1938 in Nett Lake (Sugar Bush), Minnesota to

Henry Goodsky Sr and Helen (Burnside) Goodsky Strong. She grew up in Sugar Bush and attended Orr School. She married Allen Adams in Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. She taught at Head Start in Nett Lake and went on to pursue her education at Bemidji State University later in life. Her dream became a reality when she began her career as a Kindergarten Teacher at the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School for 40 years. Ellen loved bingo, basketball, baseball, the Vikings, powwows and she was a jingle dress dancer. In earlier years, to make extra money on summer breaks from school, she had a food stand at the powwows. Her strength, determination and resilience helped her through the challenges she encountered during in life.

Ellen is survived by daughters Fran

King and Sharon Adams; 16 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Goodsky Sr. and Helen (Burnside) Goodsky Strong; sisters Bonnie Guenther, Donna Smith, Diane Morrison, Cindy Councillor and Alma Lumbar; and brothers Eugene Goodsky and Hank (Whiz) Goodsky; and grandsons Leondre Adams and Nolan Windigo.

A wake was held on Monday, September 23, 2024 at the Mission Community Center (the Old Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School) in Cass Lake, MN and continued on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 with Spiritual Leader Allen Hardy. Active Pallbearers were Nathan King Jr, Ernie Jay Morrison Jr, Victor Morrison, Chad Smith, Dillon Smith, Paxton Goodsky, Gavin King and Todd Goodwin Jr. Honorary Pallbearers were Vanessa Adams, Teresa Adams, Krysta King-Merrick, Desirae Smith, Kim Councillor, Lorenzo White, Teryn Adams, Mia Lussier and Sadie Seelye. Burial was held at Sugar Bush Family Burial Grounds on the Nett Lake Reservation.

Arrangements by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service of Walker & Hackensack, Minnesota.

IN PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING



for ALL St. Louis County Residents
Will be available in Nett Lake

Wed. October 16, 2024, 12pm - 6pm
at the Tribal Government Building
5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake

Eagle Room

Cast your vote in the
Nov. 5, 2024
General Election



Are you registered to vote? If not,
scan code or you can register on site.



Please be sure to bring a photo ID with your current address.

Need to register by mail? Download an application at
<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-paper/>

Heritage Center & Cultural Museum remains open during renovations

Submitted by Dani Pieratos
Visitor Services Manager

The Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum is undergoing renovations but is still open to the public.

Archives are being carefully moved to another location while the HVAC system is being replaced over the course of several months.

You can still visit the Heritage Center, which is located at 1500 Bois Forte Road. They are open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. There are extraordinary exhibits such as the Mural of Migration by Carl Gawboy that tells our

migration story, a full size Waaginaagan (birch bark house), Lake Vermilion Indian Boarding School exhibit, and more exploring the customs and lifeways of Ojibwe people. They are also looking to purchase hand-made items from Bois Forte Band members.

Please call ahead for group tour reservations. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and children, and free for Bois Forte Band members.

The Heritage Center is located at 1500 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790, and the phone number is 218-753-6017.

Dear Vermilion Community Members,
 Exciting news for the Vermilion Community! Big Woods has been relieved of delivering food shelf boxes to Vermilion. Instead, we are pleased to announce the introduction of a food shelf transport service from Vermilion to the Nett Lake Food Shelf. Commencing on October 18, 2024, Big Woods will offer free transportation from Vermilion to the Nett Lake Food Shelf.

Please call **1-888-757-1540 ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH TO RESERVE YOUR RIDE.**

THIS ROUTE WILL RUN EVERY 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM VERMILION TO THE NETT LAKE FOOD SHELF up time will begin at 11:30 AM and should arrive at the Nett Lake Food Shelf at 1 PM.

Big Woods is not affiliated with food shelf box delivery orders to Vermilion. Contact the ENP program at 218-757-3790 for information on how to get food shelf boxes delivered to you.

Groundbreaking ceremony held for new dispensary



READY TO GO— Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams recently took part in the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Bois Forte Dispensary that is expected to open in late October. Shortly after the groundbreaking ceremony took place, construction crews were busy prepping the land and bringing in water and sewer to the business, which will be situated just to the north of the RV Park. Pictured left to right, are: Taneesha Dupree, who will manage the dispensary, Director of Facilities Charlie Riihiluoma, Adams, and Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO Drew Ebert.

Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot

 An infographic titled "Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot" from the CDC. It is divided into two main sections: "Core Prevention Strategies" and "Additional Prevention Strategies".

- Core Prevention Strategies:** Includes five categories: Immunizations (illustrated with a woman), Hygiene (illustrated with people washing hands), Steps for Cleaner Air (illustrated with a window and plants), Treatment (illustrated with a man on a phone), and Stay Home and Prevent Spread* (illustrated with a woman sitting at a desk).
- Additional Prevention Strategies:** Includes three categories: Masks (illustrated with a person wearing a mask), Distancing (illustrated with people standing apart), and Tests (illustrated with a person getting a test).

***Stay home and away from others until,**

- Your symptoms are getting better **and** You are fever-free (without meds) **for 24 hrs**
- Then take added precaution for the next: 5 days

The infographic also features a CDC logo and a warning icon.

Layering prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- ✓ Respiratory viruses are causing a lot of illness in your community
- ✓ You or those around you have risk factors for severe illness
- ✓ You or those around you were recently exposed, are sick, or are recovering



Bois Forte Carbon Project Stakeholder Meetings

Nett Lake Government Center October 8, 2024 12:00 PM

Vermilion Social Center October 9, 2024 12:00 PM

Lunch Provided

Bois Forte employees will be holding meetings regarding the new Carbon Sequestration project that the tribe has started. Open to all community members who wish to attend.

Looking to educate and inform stakeholders of the project as well as receive feedback and comments. This project is based around a cleaner climate, strengthening and building our community, and increasing biodiversity.



Bois Forte Medical Clinics
 Nett Lake & Vermilion
 (218) 757-3650 (218) 753-2182



Indigenous Celebration planned at Fortune Bay Resort Casino

TOWER—In recognition of Native American Heritage month, Fortune Bay's Elise Grabowski is pulling out all the stops to make it a memorable celebration!

The big event is an Indigenous Celebration, which takes place on Sunday November 17th in The Woodlands Ballroom from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

"Currently, we have over 15 local artisan vendors selling homemade goods and food," said Grabowski, who is the Promotions and Entertainment Manager for Fortune Bay.

If you are interested in showcasing your goods or food, please email Grabowski at egrabowski@fortunebay.com by October 8th. Preference will be

given to Elder and Veteran Vendors.

Aside from the vendors, Grabowski has also booked Rob Fairbanks, who is known as "The Rez Reporter," for two, 45-minute shows.

"He is a popular Native comedian from Leech Lake," said Grabowski, who added that she lined up Bois Forte's very own author Shane Drift, who will be on hand to talk about his recently released book titled, "Sad Evil."

Grabowski has also been working with the staff at the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum to expand on the Indigenous Celebration.

"I've collaborated with Jaylen Strong,

Jennalee Porter, Danielle Pieratos, Morgan Olson, and Jessica Anderson Ojala," said Grabowski, who has also been in touch with Toni Wakemup and Bois Forte District I Representative Perry Drift to get their input on the Indigenous Celebration. "This includes other artist presentations, and healing. We are also in the infant stages of planning another Round Dance. That was something that was enjoyed in 2022."

Look for more updates on the Indigenous Celebration in the November issue of the Bois Forte News and if you want to have a booth, please reach out to Grabowski by October 8th!

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



www.boisforte.com

2024 LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTION

GET OUT & VOTE ...AND PLAY BINGO!

VERMILION CENTER
Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024
4:30 - 6:30 PM

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*DINNER
*BINGO (FOR PRIZES)



NETT LAKE RTG
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16, 2024
4:30 - 6:30 PM

*CAST YOUR VOTE
*DINNER
*BINGO (FOR PRIZES)

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CALL BIG WOODS TRANSIT
1-800-757-1540



QUESTIONS CALL
TERESA KNIFE CHIEF @
218-248-0599

VOTING ON WEDS. OCT 16TH IS OPEN TO ALL
ST. LOUIS COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM
NOON - 6:00PM AT THE BOIS FORTE RTG
(5344 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NETT LAKE)

MINO MASHKIKI MUSIC FEST



KEITH SECOLA

ANNIE HUMPHREY

WAR BONNET

War Bonnet is a Native American rock band bringing awareness to Native American issues and events. The band has been Nominated for 2 Native American Music Awards. Founder Chaz Wagner is a member of Bois Forte band of Chippewa.

IT'Z LIL LEE

Ojibwe Native American rapper. Bois Forte Producer of Sota Pop Productions. Albums: Bimaadiziwin & Bawaajige Single "Frybread Booty" & latest single "Flow"

BOB VILLEBRUN

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Nett Lake Pow Wow means so much to so many people

NETT LAKE— With plenty of time to sit and visit before the evening's Grand Entry at the Nett Lake Pow Wow, Rose Berens and Jerome Whiteman simply took it all in.

They both sat quietly under the arbor near the shores of Nett Lake and were gracious enough to talk about what a pow wow means to them. For them, it brings up a variety of emotions and words to describe just what they feel as the normally quiet Nett Lake community comes to life.

"It's like re-charging your batteries," said Berens, a well-known drum keeper at many pow wows and other events that take place in both Nett Lake and Vermilion. "It's everything here. It's the drums, the arbor, the singers and the dancers."

Whiteman, who served on the Bois Forte Tribal Council in the 1990s, said it's also about running into old friends and making new ones.

"I just enjoy getting out and seeing all the people too," said Whiteman as he enjoyed a cup of coffee and took in the atmosphere around him. "There is so much positive energy here—it's a special place."

Berens, who was the former executive director at the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Museum, drew an analogy between going to a pow wow and what going to church does for non-natives.

"This is how we pray," said Berens in explaining her comment. "When the guys are singing, they are not just singing, they are praying. And when they are dancing, they are not just dancing. They are praying—it's the purest form of prayer that there is..."

For Whiteman, the pow wow serves as a reminder for him to embrace his community and to spend time with family and friends. He enjoyed the hub bub of activity as Bois Forte youth were walking around handing out complimentary meals to Elders, while others flocked to vendors to order a cup of coffee or a delicious dessert.

It was also a time for Whiteman to re-energize himself given all of the negativity our country has endured with social unrest, heated elections and even

the world's changing climate.

"When people come to these pow wows they go away with a good feeling," said Whiteman. "With everything going on, we need to sit back and enjoy special events like these."

And whenever possible, Whiteman said, we need to add more humor in our lives. He said people being able to laugh is one of the best medicines we can have.

"That's one thing we don't do enough of these days," said Whiteman in referencing to laughing and just enjoying life. "You need to enjoy yourself and like yourself. People who come here, come for spiritual help—it helps them with their connections and to see if they are on the right road."

Whiteman said he recalls lessons his grandfather, John Whiteman, instilled in him many years ago. Whiteman said the lesson was to always try to stay in the middle of the road so that you don't veer off to the left or the right because if you get off center, you lose focus.

"We need to start accepting people the way they are," said Whiteman. "That's the problem with today's world. We're always trying to influence people with my way, and it shouldn't be that way—it needs to be us, we need to forget the I or my. It needs to be us or we."

He added that when people come to listen to the drums, they need to pay attention.

"They are talking to you as an individual," said Whiteman of the drums. "What you do with that (message) is up to you."

For Steve Hertig-Goodsky, coming to the Nett Lake Pow Wow was something he wouldn't miss. Like Berens and Whiteman, the pow wow re-energized him and it served as a chance to also re-connect with the Nett Lake community.

"I have a lot of friends up here and they all treat me like I am family," said Hertig-Goodsky. "So, when I come up here, I feel a lot of positive energy and it feels good."

And for Hertig-Goodsky, it wasn't just a short trek he made to enjoy all of the festivities as he drove up from Missouri.

"When I come up here, I get regenerated," said Hertig-Goodsky. "The community's got a lot of energy and I feel like I get something out of it just by being

here. And I give it back. It's a win-win situation for everybody and it's worth the 10-to-12-hour drive that it takes to get here."



SO PEACEFUL— Jerome Whiteman, left, and Rose Berens, right, fondly talked about how special the Nett Lake Pow Wow is to them. Both Whiteman and Berens talked about how all of the activities associated with the pow wow re-energizes them.



JUST CHILLING!— Racquelle Morgan, left, and Jane Drift, right, were enjoying the beautiful weather at the Nett Lake Pow Wow. Morgan is a 7th grader at North Woods School, while Drift is an 8th grader at North Woods School.

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38th

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- AND A FORTUNE BAY COOLER!

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 15
FROM 5PM - 8PM

MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND

Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held May 15, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. Moment of silence for invocation. Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Travis Morrison, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer Jr.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Vondalee Carr, Carol Burr, Doris Isham, Kim Greiner, Theresa Drift, Sarah Kinnunen, Tracey Dagen. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Robert Moyer J.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the agenda.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the RTC Special Meeting, regular session meeting minutes held May 1, 2024.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Approved donation request -\$500 to White Earth Urban Community Council Pow Wow

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve 2024 EMS Appreciation checks, remove law enforcement personnel.

Carried 3-0-1, Shane abstains.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 83-2024, Bois Forte Housing rehabilitation program-IR-RR funding application submittal.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the Lake Country Power service line agreement for new public works and food shelf facility in Vermilion.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the DSGW service order agreement PH 1 & PH 2 for Nett Lake Food shelf renovations.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve and accept the MN Tribal Nations FHPAP direct allocation set aside funding and grant agreement.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Tyler Technologies proposal for new HR/

Bois Forte Tribal Council Minutes

ACCT software.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve CLA's proposal for the GASB Statement 87 Compliance services for Tribal Government leases.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the sole source request to Avenue Insights & Analytics annual payment in the amount of \$18,453.53.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 85-2024, Tribal State of Emergency for Anishinaabemowin.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Special RTC Meeting:
June 5, 2024

Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held June 5, 2024, at Vermilion, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:14 a.m. Vern Adams does invocation.

Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Travis Morrison,

Members Absent: Robert Moyer, Jr. (excused)

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Carol Burr, Sarah Kinnunen, Gloria Love, Randy Long, Evertt Huisman, Lance Hill. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Travis Morrison.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda with the following additions, Sarah Kinnunen, update on the Youthprise grant & Luke Warnsholz, Minneapolis election board, and Luke will present for Jaylen, Gloria Love-Wisdom Steps. Shane Drift would like to discuss the resolution on getting Nett Lake as a no landing zone. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the RTC Special Meeting, regular session meeting minutes held May 15, 2024. Shane brings up at a previous meeting that he requested a resolution for Secretary-Treasurer to request audits without tribal council interference. Jeff states the res-

olution was sent to Tribal Council for review. Shane also brings up the language/culture meeting and if that has been scheduled yet. Luke states yes.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Approved Resolution No. 86-2024, submission of letter of intent & app for the home electrification and appliance rebates program grant fund through DOE.

4-0-0

b) Approved RFP for Cannabis Regulatory Commission Director

4-0-0c) Approved change order for Northland Metal exteriors (LE Roof) (\$7,713.05)

4-0-0

d) Approved 105L lease modifications for International Falls Ambulance Facility, New Moon, HHS & Garage, and Leander house.

4-0-0

e) Approved contract with DSGW, renovation of Virginia property (PLESHA)

3-1-0

Shane denied.

f) Approved Resolution No. 87-2024, contract with HAWK Construction and use of ARPA funds for construction of Vermilion Maintenance Garage & Food Shelf Building

4-0-0

g) Approved 105L lease modification for Vermilion Center

4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0

Sarah Kinnunen & Kristine Snyder give an update on the Youthprise Grant. Awarded \$339,300 for direct cash transfers for youth 18-24 years old. Will be working with EVCU to create accounts if they do not have one. Estimated start date Jan. 1, 2025. 30 youth, Bois Forte band members and descendants. North St. Louis County would receive \$5,000 up front payment and \$900 per month and Southern St. Louis County would receive \$3,000 up front and \$1,000 per month and if parenting it would be \$1,200 per month. No Match and not going to be counted on their taxes.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the Head Start Early Head Start center licenses.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve

Resolution No. 89-2024, authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for Foundation Services Corporation for Geopier installation.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 90-2024, permit submitted by Arvig to lay fiber on non-trust land in the Deer Creek sector of the Bois Forte Reservation.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve sole source request to Innovative Office Supply to purchase 2 fire king cabinets in the amount of \$14,219.00 for Tribal Court.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 91-2024 and letter of support, submission of grant to Shakopee Mdewakanton for Heritage Center improvements.

Carried 3-0-0

Cathy Chavers leaves the meeting. Travis Morrison takes over as Vice-Chair.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve and appoint Charles Holmes as the chair of the Minneapolis Urban Office election board.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve and appoint Darian Morrison as Clerk of the Minneapolis Urban Office election board.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve and appoint Kristen Holmes as the Teller of the Minneapolis Urban Office election board.

Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve and appoint Samiarya Strong as the alternate of the Minneapolis Urban office election board.

Carried 2-0-0

Cathy Chavers re-enters the meeting and takes over as Chair.

Gloria Love gives and update on Wisdom steps and what it is. Glora would like assistance in helping get the information out to the elders.

Shane brings up the issue of getting a resolution to list Nett Lake as a no landing zone. Jeff states that it is a work in progress and will get a draft resolution that would incorporate

those restrictions and other rules into the conservation code directly, such as no dipping, motorized use restrictions. The incident of the plane landing on the lake led to a broader discussion of a variety of restrictions that would make sense to have in writing for the lake's protection.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving
Approved at Special RTC Meeting:
July 16, 2024

Minutes of a Regular meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held July 2, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. Invocation done by Vern Adams.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Drew Ebert, Taneesha Dupree, Kim Greiner, Dan Rabideaux, Randy Long, George Strong, David Morrison, Jr., Carol Burr, Lance Hill. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Travis Morrison.; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the removal of Dan Rabideaux moving to Executive Session, Resolution No. 9-2025, George Strong, equipment recommendation approval, MCT subcommittee appointments, Chris Holm with a bear update, and Resolution No. 10-2025.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table the RTC Special Meeting, regular session, meeting minutes held June 5, 2024, due to not being ready.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a) Approved renewal of professional liability insurance for clinic (\$26,069.12) 4-0-0

b) Approved community clean up contract to Frances Irving (\$25,000.00) 4-0-0

c) Approved Resolution No. 88-2024, addendum to Tribal State compact for control of class III Blackjack 4-0-0

d) Approved additional time for 4th

of July Holiday for employees

4-0-0

e) Approved submission of SFIA certification form

4-0-0

f) Approved Letter to HUD for Voluntary Compliance agreement for FY 2021 audit extension until July 31, 2024

4-0-0

g) Approved IRRR to use Bois Forte logo for tribal relations business development and book

4-0-0

h) Approved delegation of authority for secretary-treasurer until 06/21/2024

4-0-0

Approved Electronics Policy & Procedures for Quest grant hires to borrow Electronics

4-0-0

i) Approved transfer of government relations work from Jacobson Law Group to Capitol Hill Associates

4-0-0

j) Cyber Security insurance

4-0-0

k) Sole Source Request-Property coverage insurance renewal (\$157,235)

4-0-0

l) State Small Business credit initiative (SSB-CI) Policy

4-0-0

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve the grant contract agreement with IRRR for the Bois Forte Housing Program (\$356,579.00)

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 1-2025, to appoint Amy Mason, Energy Director to the Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE), and appointing Randy Long, IT Director, as an alternate.

Carried 4-0-0

Shane Drift leaves the meeting.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 3-2025, authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for the cost to SRF Consulting Groups development of a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) action plan.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 4-2025, authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for the Energy Department expenditures.

Carried 3-0-0

Shane Drift re-enters the meeting.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 5-2025, amending the Delegation of Authority and adopting formal RFP (Request for Proposal) procedures.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Chair to sign the FY 2022 indirect cost rate.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve authorization of BIA

end of the year fund requests.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Travis Morrison; to approve Resolution No. 9-2025, approving amendment #1 to MHFA Grant agreement for Housing trust fund operating subsidy (2022-2026).

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the Lake Country Power service line agreement for a resident lot on Lake Vermilion.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 6-2025, Issuance of a residential lease to Lela Correa.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Ambulance Meds Policy and agreement for EMT's to carry meds in their response bags.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the quote from Broadcast Supply Worldwide to purchase equipment for KBFT in the amount of \$95,888.97.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the quote from SCMS Inc (pending legal review), to purchase equipment for KBFT in the amount of \$15,466.00.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 10-2025, adopting guidelines for reporting and investigating alleged financial violations within the Bois Forte Tribal Government.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Shane Drift to the Finance Corporation MCT Subcommittee.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Robert Moyer, Jr. to the Education/Health & Human Services MCT Subcommittee.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Perry Drift to the Natural Resources/Environmental MCT Subcommittee.

Carried 4-0-0

(Tara will remain on the Legislative MCT Subcommittee)

Chris Holm gives an update on bears. High increase in calls received compared to previous years.

Moved by Travis Morrison; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 4-2024

HALLOWEEN PARTY NIGHT BOO-FAY!

8PM - 1AM
\$20

BURGER BAR
CHICKEN WINGS
JALAPENO POPPERS
POPCORN SHRIMP
MAC N CHEESE BITES
CHICKEN STRIPS
JO-JO POTATOES
ASSORTED PIZZAS
*DINE IN ONLY

FESTIVAL OF FRIGHT HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST!

LIVE MUSIC POP ROCKS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 FROM 8PM - 11PM

VISIT FORTUNE BAY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND