



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 11

## STOP OUT FOR THE INDIGENOUS CELEBRATION EVENT!

Fortune Bay Resort Casino will be sponsoring an Indigenous Celebration on Sunday, November 17th in The Woodlands Ballroom.

All are welcome to enjoy local Bois Forte community members selling handmade crafts, food, beadwork, regalia and more! There will also be performers, including the Rez Reporter and an appearance by Sad Evil Author Shane Drift.

The event runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

## Bois Forte anxiously awaits the opening of Ishkode Dispensary

VERMILION SECTOR— Good things come to those who wait and that's exactly what Bois Forte Tribal Council District I Representative and Vice Chair Shane Drift is banking on.

"I am very excited about the Ishkode cannabis dispensary. I have been pushing for the tribe to get into the cannabis business since the latter half of my first term in office," said Drift, who commended Director of Marketing Hannah Lehti for coming up with Ishkode, which means fire in Ojibwe. "Ishkode has so much potential for generating revenue for the tribe."

The Bois Forte Development Corporation's latest business venture is located near Fortune Bay Resort Casino's RV Park. The expansive 2,000 square foot building features a

spacious floor plan with office space, retail space and will include a large deck where guests can enjoy the products they purchase.

Construction crews have been working feverishly putting the finishing touches on the new Ishkode (Ish-ka-day) Dispensary. That included getting the new \$318,000 building situated once it arrived from Mississippi October 9th. Prior to the building's arrival, crews had to prep the site, which entailed running electrical, sewer and water to the site.

Now that the building is in place, crews have painted the exterior and will be doing the same to the interior prior to getting furniture and cabinets in place for the products that will be sold. While a full list of prod-

ucts is not yet known, it is expected that real cannabis flower, pre-rolls and gummies will be sold once the store opens at a yet to be determined day later this month.

Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO Drew Ebert said that in addition to the construction and unit placement updates, he and others have also been coordinating amongst dozens of vendors to supply other goods to ensure the Ishkode retail experience is welcoming and smooth.

"Keep in mind, when a new business unit of any type is first raised there is typically an established team of a dozen or more people," said Ebert, who has also been juggling a number of other duties while overseeing the Ishkode Dispensary project.

"In the case of cannabis, and for a dispensary, we are seeing teams of over 20 to establish business, but we are hyper focused on this being created by two people: Taneesha (Dupree) and I. We have help from partners within our organization, but it has been somewhat limited due to everyone's capacity."

Aside from the much-needed revenue, Drift said he is proud that the new Ishkode Dispensary will provide good paying jobs for band members and other employees. He also had many people to thank for seeing the project through, including Ebert, Dupree, Lehti, Kim Greiner, Randy Long, Luke Warnsholz, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Cathy Chavers, Robert Moyer, Jeff Holth, and the rest of the Bois Forte team.

"I would like to say thank you for all their hard work and long hours they put into making Ishkode a reality," said Drift, who also thanked Minnesota Roots for their guidance and work they've done on behalf of Bois Forte. "I would like to thank the band members who voted and approved to move forward with the cannabis business. I would also like to thank the various band members for their input, suggestions, and comments. If I forgot anyone, please forgive me."

As Drift noted, a lot of hard work and planning has gone into this project and he is confident that this business will

*See Dispensary on page 3*



LOOKING GOOD— The Ishkode Dispensary near Fortune Bay Resort Casino is getting prepped for its planned opening later this month. Crews were busy doing a variety of work inside the structure Tuesday, October 29th including wiring the security system, installing cameras, prepping for painting and other tasks.

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## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo!

The days and nights are getting colder and soon winter will be here. I hope that everyone has checked their smoke alarms and hopefully have also checked carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working.

I had the opportunity to attend the Sobriety Feast at Fortune Bay. It was a well-attended event. I am so proud of everyone who has overcome their challenges with substance use. We as a community need to support and uplift these individuals as they have shown that you can get sober and maintain your sobriety but at times it can be challenging.

I also attended the MN Board on Aging meeting at Fortune Bay as I am a member of the board, and Sherry Goodwin from Red Lake spoke about appreciative inquiry. Appreciative inquiry is an approach to problem solving and change management that focuses on finding the strengths and positive aspects of a situation and organization. It aims

to foster positive relationships, boost innovation and build on existing potential. When Sherry spoke, you could tell that she is a very passionate about all the tribes and our people. It was uplifting to hear her speak.

So many times, we focus on the negative and spend way too much time on trying to point out what we are doing wrong rather concentrating on all the good and positive things we do or have done. If we focus so much on the negative, we will not move forward in a good way.

Hopefully, we can instill this approach at Bois Forte to bring a positive light to our communities and workplace.

Just some quick updates, we are moving fast with the Ishkode

Dispensary, which will hopefully be open soon in Vermilion. This is very exciting for the band. We have had two consultations with the MN Department of Health and DEED. It was a good meeting with both, and we discussed their programs, funding and more. We have out for public comment the Conservation Code and the RTC bylaws. Please comment on these, your input is important.

We are currently also working on the Probate Code as well. Once that is finalized it will be out for public comment. We are working with our lobbyist on the upcoming legislative session in January 2025. Of course, one of our main goals is the 1854 Treaty and ensuring that this is included in the DNR and Governor's

budget for the continued funding with the base amount that was adjusted within the past two years. We will keep you updated on these efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Chi Miigwech" to our Ogichidaa, our warriors.

Those people who have or are still serving in our armed forces we salute you. We also must remember that we have our freedom today because of our Ogichidaa, our veterans, past and present. When you see an individual wearing attire indicating that they are a veteran, please thank them for their service. Show that they are appreciated. We cannot forget them.

Miigwech!



### Join us for a whitefish/cisco demonstration: **NETTING AND COOKING**

Consider filling your belly, freezer and cabinet with *adikameg* and *oodoonibiins*! Participation in fall whitefish/cisco netting is not currently popular or widely practiced. However, it's a delicious meal if you need a break from deer meat.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**  
**SPACE LIMITED TO**  
**10 YOUTH + CHAPERONE PAIRS**

All equipment, materials, meals, and an overnight at Grand Ely Lodge included!



**Questions? Contact Marne:**

mkaeske@1854treatyauthority.org  
414-550-8757

Shagawa Lake, Ely MN  
Grand Ely Lodge  
Vermilion Country School

## Food shelf transport service begins!

VERMILION SECTOR— 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. Big Woods will offer free transportation from Vermilion to the Nett Lake Food Shelf.

Please call 1-888-757-1540 on the third Wednesday of the month to reserve your ride.

This route will run every third Thursday of the month from Vermilion to the Nett Lake Food Shelf up time will begin at 11:30 a.m. and should arrive at the Nett Lake Food Shelf at 1 p.m.



YOU ARE CODIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN

## HONORING OUR OGICHIDAA

★ BOIS FORTE ANNUAL VETERAN'S CELEBRATION ★

Friday, November 8, 2024  
10:00am  
Woodlands Ballroom  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino  
Tower, MN

ALL WELCOME! VETERANS, FRIENDS, FAMILY, RELATIVES, COMMUNITY



### Sign up for Northspan's Conducting Business

#### 101: Basic Cash Flow

If you ever wanted to learn how to stretch your dollars further, then you'll want to stop by the Sumac room at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Saturday, November 9th for Northspan's Conducting Business 101: Basic Cash Flow course.

Pre-registration is required, so please type in this Live Link registration:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConductingBiz101>



*Continued from page 1*

reverse the trend of operations that have not gone so well for Bois Forte, including the much-hyped smoke shop that closed its doors less than one year after opening.

“When the smoke shop idea was presented to the council, it looked like it was going to be a money maker for the tribe,” said Drift. “I kept asking for financial updates on the smoke shop. I saw that the smoke shop wasn’t doing as well as expected, I urged the tribal council to close it down ASAP.”

Drift added that he is still worried about the success Ishkode will have because the state is still in the process of opening dispensaries as early as 2025.

“It is going to be interesting to see how Ishkode does once other dispensaries open on the Iron Range,” said Drift. “Ishkode has a tax advantage so hopefully that will play into our favor. We need to keep a close eye on Ishkode’s expenses, revenue, and business overall.”



**BUSY, BUSY** — An installer from People’s Security Company in Brainerd was busy outside the Ishkode Dispensary installing cameras. The crews inside were installing other cameras, door access and a fire system.

Ebert reported on Monday, October 29th, that interviews for Ishkode took place last week and job offers have now been extended to seven agents, four security guards and a new manager, Paxton Goodsky, who will oversee the Ishkode Dispensary



**MORE WORK TO BE DONE**— This is a glimpse inside the Ishkode Dispensary. Since the photo was taken, much work has been in anticipation of the opening later this month.

near Fortune Bay as well as the smaller dispensary being built next to the C Store in Nett Lake (See related story on page 4).

Ebert said the staff will be taken on tours of other Native-owned dispensaries to see how their day-to-day operations go before coming back to Ishkode for additional training and “role playing,” so they are ready to serve customers once the doors open.

Although subject to change, the tentative hours at Ishkode will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

“Bois Forte is experiencing major growth right now,” said Ebert. “And we are excited for the future opportunities this will bring for band members.”

Drift is also excited about those opportunities—especially when Bois Forte dives into its own growth operation so that it can eliminate paying an outside entity for its cannabis.

“I sincerely believe that once the tribe builds its own growing facility, the tribe’s cannabis business has the potential to surpass our casino revenue wise,” said Drift, who wants to make sure monies used to help get Ishkode running are not only paid back, but that a reserve is built up and payments are made to band members and other profits are put into the children’s trust fund. “If done right, the cannabis business could be the game changer for our tribe and our future.”



### COVID-19 TESTING

Bois Forte Medical Clinics  
Nett Lake & Vermilion Clinics

If you are sick and need to be tested for COVID-19 both clinic PHARMACYS have FREE home covid-19 test kits available for you.

You may come to the clinic to pick up your free home test kit during clinic hours. We ask that you please **MASK** upon entering the clinic, so you do not spread the virus to others.

- It is possible to spread the virus to others even if you are vaccinated and up to date with your vaccines.

Please follow the **MDH recommended GUIDELINES** that our clinics follow:

- If you test **POSITIVE** for Covid-19 **with symptoms**  
Stay home and away from others for **5 full days** since you felt sick.  
**Day 0** is the day your **symptoms started**.
- If you test **POSITIVE & no symptoms**  
Stay home and away from others for **at least 5 full days after your test date**.  
**Day 0** is the day you **tested positive**.  
Day 1 is the first full day after the day of your test.  
**IF you develop symptoms during this time, you must start over.**  
**Day 0** is the day your **symptoms started**.
- You can resume most activities on **day 6 & follow the recommendations through day 10**.  
~Continue to wear a mask, avoid travel, and stay away from others who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 until day 11.



Nett Lake Clinic Pharmacy (218) 757-0203    Nett Lake Clinic (218) 757-3650  
Vermilion Clinic Pharmacy (218) 753-2182    Vermilion Clinic (218) 753-2182  
Clinic Hours: Mon- Fri 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Closed from Noon – 1:00 PM

**\*\* IF YOU FEEL YOU NEED TO BE SEEN PLEASE SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A PROVIDER \*\***



# C Store continues to make progress

NETT LAKE— The Nett Lake C Store was already making a financial comeback, but the forthcoming addition of the Ishkode Dispensary next door will be yet another boost to the bottom line.

For the past 20 months, the C Store was averaging a loss of \$35,102 per month.

However, under the arrival of Manager Jeff Mattson this past June, that figure has dropped to a loss of \$12,640 per month.

“Labor and extra expenses were drawn back approximately 45% together,” explained Mattson in how he has been able to control the monthly loss at the C Store. “Eventually offering promotions to the community from promo packages to boost sales along with the dispensary sales we are expected to relieve a large cost to Fortune Bay.”

And this is great news in the eyes of Bois Forte Tribal Council District I Representative and Vice Chair Shane Drift.

“I pushed for a small dispensary to be put into the Nett Lake C Store,” said Drift, who has also been a proponent of having a grow operation built in Nett Lake to further boost the economy in the village. “The reason why I pushed for this was because our Nett Lake C Store has always operated at a loss. Our casino must absorb the difference. I sincerely hope that our Nett Lake C Store dispensary will be self-sustaining while helping to increase the Nett Lake C Store’s profits.”

Construction crews have been busy repurposing the former laundromat at the C Store to allow space for Ishkode Dispensary products to be sold.

The manager of this venture

will be Paxton Goodsky, who will also oversee the Ishkode Dispensary near Fortune Bay. Goodsky was a longtime Fortune Bay Resort Casino employee, who most recently served as interim Director of Gaming.

The hours at the Nett Lake operation will mirror those of the C Store, which are currently Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and then Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“It would be awesome if the Nett Lake C Store broke even, this would take the financial stress off our casino,” added Drift of reducing the financial reliance on Fortune Bay Resort Casino. “It would be great if the Nett Lake C Store made a profit and continued to make a profit. We need to keep a close eye on the Nett Lake C store dispensary.”

As previously reported, the C Store was never meant to be a money maker like the Y Store, which relies on a steady flow of daily traffic and then increased traffic spurred on by tourism. Given its remote location, the C Store has always been seen more as a necessity for those living in the remote village, which is 16 miles off Highway 53.

Even so, the arrival of Mattson as the new manager of the C Store and mentorship of longtime Y Store Manager Paula Bozicevich, is paying dividends.

“One of the biggest things we needed to start doing was taking advantage of the promotional packages that were always offered to the store from the vendors,” said Mattson on what has been done to increase revenue at the C Store, which opened in 2006. “We were missing out on many rebates, gift cards, and promotional packages.”

Mattson said streamlining



IT’S GETTING THERE— Construction on a room inside the former laundromat at the C Store is moving along at a quick pace. The products from the Ishkode Dispensary near Fortune Bay Resort Casino should be available for sale in mid-December. Submitted photo.

staffing levels has also helped the bottom line. He added that the staffing level has been healthy and the store is at an opportune level for advancement. He has also seen success in changing the culture by promoting a more family-friendly atmosphere where the staff is excited about coming into work.

“Working with the staff to implement the changes has been an incredible improvement,” said Mattson. “One large aspect that helped with implementation of varying procedures was promoting one of the night shift cashiers to a supervisor.”

Making that change has been well received by the staff and the new supervisor, Tom Sheffield.

“Tom has been with our company a long time and has proven to be a great asset to our team,” said Mattson. “I also spend time talking to the team on a daily basis to get to know them, understand what is going on in their day to day lives, as I know that everyday cannot be the easiest for everyone.”

He added that redesigning the floor plan to a more wel-

coming atmosphere has also been a big driver of revenue.

“We’re also working with vendors and looking at our contracts to keep prices competitive,” said Bozicevich, who has continued to help Mattson with any assistance he may need.

While not set in stone, the products from the Ishkode Dispensary should be available in mid-December.

“The dispensary that will be attached to the C Store hopefully will increase revenue for our store whether it’s more foot traffic, increased sales, or larger orders from our deli,” said Mattson.

While Drift is happy with the direction the store is going, he does wish the positive changes being made now were done sooner.

“I have pushed for various ideas that would have decreased the Nett Lake C store expenses while also increasing profits,” said Drift. “I recommended changing what is offered at the deli.”

Bois Forte Business Development Corporation CEO Drew

## Round House Survey

**Elders & Knowledge Keepers.**  
**We need your feedback!**



The Bois Forte Heritage Center is collecting community input on a potential Round House project. They are developing plans to build one in Nett Lake and one at Lake Vermilion.

**Please complete the survey  
using the online form below.**

<https://bit.ly/RoundHouseSurvey>



Questions? Call us at 218-753-6017.

Jaylen Strong,  
jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov, or

Dani Pieratos,  
danielle.pieratos@boisforte-nsn.gov

*Continued on page 9*



# Bois Forte explores Carbon Banking program

VERMILION SECTOR— DNR Programs Director Chris Holm and Bois Forte Carbon Project Steering Committee members recently kicked off community outreach meetings in Vermilion and Nett Lake for what's known as the Bois Forte Carbon Banking program.

In layman's terms, the program would result in Bois Forte retaining its forest land in undamaged conditions and generating money that would be given back to Bois Forte from large companies that want to lessen their carbon impact on the world.

Carbon neutral credits are a way of compensating for emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. It is a reduction, avoidance, or removal of emissions to compensate for emissions released elsewhere.

Leading up to the first of several community meetings that will take place, Holm and Forestry Programs Manager Cody Swanson were fairly novices on the Carbon Banking program.

"We were called in and they said we're requested by Council to do Carbon Banking, make it work," recalled Holm of how the process began with a directive from the Tribal Council. "We looked at each other and said, 'How do we do that?' So, we reached out to the National Indian Carbon Coalition, The Nature Conservancy and Terra Carbon, which is a carbon modeling data group. They have done this sort of thing before with other communities. They told us how we get it started and work with us on its development."

At the Vermilion meeting, roughly a dozen people showed up to look over information on future plans of what a Carbon Banking program could look like. The driving force behind the program is the 28,000 acres of pristine forest land that was given back to Bois Forte in June of 2022.

According to Holm, the Buy Back land acquisition for the 28,000 acres came with a 50-year conservation easement. Easements like this are offered to landowners through the state's Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA). The easement allows property tax waiver for condition of no development. Since the land is still fee status, the Band avoids property tax payments on this land by accepting the



**LOOKING THINGS OVER**— A community meeting took place in the Vermilion Sector to talk about a Carbon Banking program. Pictured, left to right, are Milton (Beanie) Barto, Lance Hill, Brian Whiteman, Jr. (seated), Kyle Littlewolf, Dylan Day and William Isham, Jr.

easement. Since full development or harvesting isn't allowed, the idea emerged to enroll the land in a carbon banking program to generate carbon credits. These credits could then be sold to giant companies under the voluntary credit market who want to be socially responsible and lessen their greenhouse gas emissions.

"Businesses in the voluntary carbon market, are not required by federal cap-and-trade laws to buy carbon credits to offset emissions that they are producing. They do it because it's socially responsible," said Holm, in giving examples of who Bois Forte might do business with, but stressing that no conversations have taken place yet.

Given that the program is still in its infancy and public input will continue to be gathered, Holm was hesitant to throw out any numbers on just what the program could bring to Bois Forte. However, he said it is possible that the Carbon Banking Credits could generate significant revenue for Bois Forte.

"The final carbon credit numbers aren't out there yet, but it looks like the potential revenue could be very high," said Holm. "It's vague because we don't yet know what we can get per credit. A carbon credit is equivalent to one metric ton of carbon conserved by the trees."

"Businesses are going to buy credits at some rate. The rate is a lot like a stock market, some days its up and some days its down, just supply and demand. It could be \$15 a credit, \$30 a credit, maybe more," explained Holm. "There are several 'banks' very similar to the stock market central bank. One is called VERRA (which is a combination of the terms verification and terra). VERRA is a certifier of voluntary carbon offsets). VERRA sets the carbon standards, manages the transactions, and keep track of the rates."

"If we get a buyer, say it's Meta, and they say we want to buy \$10,000 worth of your credit, so we talk to Verra and they name the price and then they pay it," said Holm in explaining how Verra helps set the prices.

The money would then get sent to Bois Forte where Holm said it would be up to the Tribal Council to see how it is spent or invested. Again, Holm pointed out, the process is just beginning so it could be years before the program is off and running.

"The Council governs how the revenue will be used. They could build schools, medical facilities, other infrastructure, give it to the members," said Holm. "Part of the revenue will also likely be used to maintain and monitor and protect the

land to ensure it continues to sequester carbon effectively."

Holm said information gathered from the two outreach meetings will be looked at by the DNR Steering Committee, which includes DNR staff and community members.

"We will review the information that's been gathered, look at the comments, find out what we had for numbers of the people that attended, and then fine-tune our outreach," explained Holm.

He said the next steps will be more focused as they have been specifically asked to talk to the elders and the schools.

"There will be more major community meetings, but the idea is to get as many people in the know about it in the community as we can," said Holm. "We're about two years out from completing this initial planning process, called Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB). CCB is a value-added addition to the basic carbon banking process. Because we chose to undertake and complete this additional plan, that makes Bois Forte unique, the first Native American organization ever to undertake what carbon banking people refer to as the "gold standard" planning process. It is a very comprehensive, time-consuming process. We have to provide this plan to VERRA and get it approved. Then it becomes part of the larger carbon banking plan."

DNR Realty Manager Lance Hill said he is excited about what this Carbon Banking Program can bring to Bois Forte and encourages people who did not attend the community meetings to share their thoughts with the steering committee members.

"What I like about this program, is that we're going to want to do it for 40-50 years," said Hill. "We're going to want community input, because we need to know what they want—what's valued by them? Some examples could be to protect the red pine—to provide cultural education."

As for the program itself, Hill said it is very important to Bois Forte because it gives them a chance to show how they are being responsible stewards toward their resources and about the world's carbon output.

*Continued on page 9*



# Bois Forte's Trunk or Treat was a Spook-tacular event!

VERMILION SECTOR— Community members and Bois Forte programs pulled out all the stops for its Trunk or Treat event Monday, October 28th which drew over 200 attendees during the two-hour showcase.

Kids, both young and old alike, were greeted with many smiling faces and even some scary ones as they made their way around the Vermilion Wellness Center parking lot.

Perhaps the biggest scare of the eve-

ning was the Evans family who lured kids into the back of their trunk to pick out some candy only to be met with a scare from the clown from the well known horror movie, "It."

Not only were vehicles lining the parking lot, but there was also a Smores station set up outside the Boys and Girls Club where kids could roast their own marshmallows before adding graham crackers and a Hershey's bar to complete their concoction.

A lot of behind the scenes work took place to ensure the kids had a wonderful time. A similar event was scheduled for Halloween evening up in Nett Lake.

"I would like to thank all the community members who showed up to hand out candy and/or play games with the kids," said Bois Forte Health and Human Services Nutrition Education Coordinator Marissa Rose. "I also want to thank the programs and employees who all participated as well."

Rose said the Trunk or Treat was a very fun event and added that she was really pleased to have seen the community come together.

"The Boys and Girls Club, as well as Earl Villebrun (Tobacco Cessation Program) did a tremendous job setting up this event and collaborating with me to make this possible!" said Rose. "We had around 200 people that attended this year, myself, the BGC and Earl look forward to continuing throughout the years!"



BOO!— The Evans family was just one of many community members who came out to show their support for Bois Forte's Trunk or Treat event. Pictured, left to right, are: Vinny Evans, Jeremy Evans, Bill Evans and Zach Evans.



ENJOYING THE NIGHT!— Members of the Greenwood Fire Department came out Monday evening to take part in Bois Forte's Trunk or Treat event outside the Vermilion Social Center. Pictured left to right, are: Brenda Weiss Edmundson, Peggy Nelson and Kristal Strong.



QUITE THE CROWD— Bois Forte's Trunk or Treat event was a huge success! Roughly 200 people came out for the event on Monday, October 28th that was put on by the Vermilion Boys and Girls Club, Bois Forte Health and Human Services Education and Bois Forte's Tobacco Cessation Program.



SMORES ALL AROUND!— The Smores station outside the Vermilion Boys and Girls Club was a big hit with the kids, including seven-year-old Karmina Chosa, who was a pro at toasting marshmallows to perfection!



# *New technology is a timesaver for Bois Forte Judicial Services*

NETT LAKE— Thanks to assistance from the Tribal Access Program (TAP), Bois Forte Probation Officer Janell Smith will now be able to have access to and capabilities share pertinent criminal information with outside agencies in just minutes, instead of days and sometimes, weeks.

The partnership with TAP helps the tribe get much needed access to criminal records and data and therefore they don't have to rely on state systems in order to conduct judicial business.

"It will be a big improvement," said Smith, who is also the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA) Compliance Officer. "We will get criminal history background information back right away. Before it would take a lot of manual work to get reports back. This new system will allow us to get checks back in within 5-10 minutes (and share it as needed)."

The system Smith was talking about is a new kiosk that the Bois Forte Tribal Court recently received from TAP. The kiosk allows the tribe to comply with fingerprinting requirements for the Sex Offender Registry Program, storing data electronically and sending it directly to the FBI and other state agencies. Additionally, Bois Forte Human Resources,

Bois Fort Housing, and the ICWA department will also benefit from this program and kiosk. They will be able to run background checks on potential employees, tenants, and potential foster care applicants.

According to Judicial Services Director Melissa Wright, Bois Forte applied for the Tribal Access Program roughly one year ago and we were approved which aided in getting access to these data systems and the kiosk.

"Through this program, they provide what they call a BRM, Business Relations Manager, to each tribe to aid in support through this project," said Wright. "They assist us through the entire process, there is significant amount of paperwork to fill out to gain access to these systems. Our BRM will continue their support and on-boarding will be there for as long as we need it and again, at no cost."

Previously, fingerprinting was done manually and mailed out for sex offender registry and HR and the other departments have to go through other state programs to get reports that often take days to get back. This new kiosk will allow all for these departments to access this data within 30 minutes and at a much less reduce cost, saving the tribe money.

"This allows us to get information more quickly and it's less expensive than the current systems that are being used right now," said Wright. The access to these systems helps connect her department with state jurisdictions and will help increase public safety.

"We recently underwent two days of extensive training getting up to speed on its capabilities and how to use it," said Wright.

While the kiosk was provided free of charge from TAP, Wright said the Department of Justice (DOJ) was the agency providing the training. This program is open to all federally recognized tribes across the nation to provide much needed criminal history data access. In turn pending Tribal Council approval, we will soon also be able to input our criminal history such as as our Tribal Court warrants, criminal charges, and orders for protection. Currently, state jurisdictions do not have the ability to see our criminal information which can pose public safety concerns when band members leave our jurisdiction.

Bois Forte will also be getting mobile scanners so that Smith can travel to do fingerprints for Sex Offender Registry and Bois Forte Human Resources Department will also receive one so that they do

not have to drive out to the Courts to do employment fingerprinting for covered positions.

"It's convenient for the person so they don't have to drive all the way up here from Vermilion," said Wright of the mobile units. "It will make it so much easier for them to be in compliance with sex offender registry requirements. Transportation is a huge issue up here so it will be nice to say I can bring registration to you."

Wright is very impressed with the new kiosk due to its multiple use and functionality.

"With the sex offender registry, it will obviously be used for fingerprinting, taking pictures, side profiles, frontal, and also take pictures of tattoos and scars. From there, it will be sent electronically, whereas we used to do it manually," said Wright. "It's going to be a significant time saver."

Wright said the new technology will help close that gap of no communication on our criminal matters with the state—especially in cases of domestic violence and assaults.

"Currently, that information kind of stays locally because we don't have the capability to share it statewide or nationally," said Wright.



EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGY— Bois Forte's Melissa Wright, left, Cecile Schauer, center, and Janell Smith, right, stand by a new kiosk that will allow fingerprints and other pertinent information to be shared in a much faster timeframe than the old way of doing business. "It's a godsend," said Schauer, who is the new Judicial Data Entry Clerk and will be assisting with data entry of criminal matters with Tribal Court offenses. "The TAP has been excellent, they have sent some very good trainers and teachers and they are readily available for us."

## SAVE THE DATE

Annual Diabetes Awareness Conference

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER  
Iron Trail Event Center, Virginia, MN

When: 9 AM-3:30 PM

RSVP TO: Melissa Hawk, Julie Skoglund, or David Morrison Jr.  
218-757-3650 or 218-757-0230

**Lunch will be provided, door prizes, and fleece athletic jackets for all who attend!!**

Transportation provided by Big Woods Transit to and from Nett Lake and Vermilion please call 1-888-757-1540 to reserve your spot!



# Sign on bonus offered to help fill positions at FBRC

VERMILION SECTOR— While Fortune Bay Resort Casino is still struggling to find employees to fill openings at the Gold Mine Grill and Resort Housekeeping, good news is on the horizon as General Manager E.J. Deegan recently announced that a \$1,000 sign on bonus is now in place.

Deegan is hopeful this incentive will help fill staffing gaps that have plagued both departments that are so vital to Fortune Bay's success.

The sign on bonus will be given in increments of \$500 over the course of two

quarters, or six months. Deegan said rehires in housekeeping and the Gold Mine Grill would be eligible for \$500, which would be given in increments of \$250 over two quarters, or six months.

"This is great news for Jess's (Simon) department and Pam's (Nelson, who is the Gold Mine Grill Manager)," said Director Hospitality Rebecca Stahl after the meeting. "I am optimistic this will help resolve some of the staff shortages both departments are feeling."

In fairness to Gold Mine Grill's existing staff, Director of Food and Beverage

and Executive Chef Kirstie Kern said an attendance incentive is being proposed.

"They would get \$50 for the first 30 days of perfect attendance," said Kern. "If they go another 30 days without missing a shift, they will get \$100—and if they go a third month with perfect attendance, they will get another \$150."

The Gold Mine Grill employees would continue to get the \$150 for every 30 days they go without missing a shift.

"If they do miss a shift, they would then have to start over," said Kern.

Meanwhile, current housekeeping staff have their own incentive in place by getting \$1 for each room they clean on a Saturday or Sunday or an additional dollar for each room they clean above and beyond their normal slate of rooms they

are tasked with cleaning.

This incentive, which has been in place since 2017, has been a good tool. However, Director of Human Resources Alanna Sherman said the addition of two recruiters will be a boost in filling vacant jobs.

One of the new recruiters is a familiar face in Tammy Goodsky, who most recently served as the Executive Assistant to Bois Forte Development Corporation CEO Drew Ebert. Goodsky began her new duties Monday, October 7th. The second recruiter, Rochelle Hanson, started Monday, October 21st.

"I think this is really going to help us," said Kern of having two recruiters work to fill jobs.

## HEAD START KIDS HONORS EVERY CHILD MATTERS

VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Head Start kids did their part in spreading the message that "Every Child Matters." September 30th was the day set aside to honor the lives of Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools in the United States

and Canada. The orange shirt represents the loss of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children. Bois Forte staff as well as Fortune Bay Resort Casino staff also wore the shirts to commemorate the day.



SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT— Bois Forte Head Start kids were proud to show their support for Every Child Matters Day. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are: Ivy Adams, Gabriel Gillson, Sara Black, Elora Drift, and Myles Boshey; pictured in the front row, left to right, are: Delvin Morrison, Camilla Villebrun, Celina Morrison and Aleena Wakemup. Photo submitted by Ashley Pullar, who is a teacher for the Bois Forte Head Start/Early Childhood Program.

# \$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

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## C Store from page 4

Ebert is obviously pleased with the changes being made.

“Jeff Mattson and the entire C-store staff have organized the store’s retail (space) so well that it allowed for just enough space to install a dispensary next door,” said Ebert. “We’re optimistic

that this will drive more traffic and revenue to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.”

Drift had similar praise.

“I would like to say thank you to Jeff and our Nett Lake C Store employees for all their hard work and dedication,” said Drift.

## Carbon Banking from page 5

“This allows us to responsibly manage our resources in an efficient manner, too,” said Hill. “It allows us to see what Mother Nature wants to do. The land will tell you what it wants to do in about 30 years, if not sooner. It allows us to hand off our resources to capable and good hands to

future generations. It’s a sustainable way to track our way back to our roots.”

The bottom line, Hill said, is that the DNR wants to hear what Bois Forte band members want out of this program.

“We welcome their input as it is very important to this process,” said Hill.

**Here is the Elder Nutrition Program’s (ENP) menu for the month of November. 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.**

**November 1:** Bison/Beef Chili, Corn Bread, Whole Fruit

**November 4:** Goulash, Peas, Breadstick, Fruit

**November 5:** Beef Frito Pie with Corn Chips, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad

**November 6:** Wild Rice Meatballs, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef’s Choice of Fruit, Fruit Parfait

**November 7:** Breakfast Hotdish, Potato Wedges or Tots, Muffin, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 8:** BBQ Pork Riblette, Au-Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 11:** Holiday

**November 12:** Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 13:** Turkey Roll, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Carrots, Fruit

**November 14:** Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 15:** Bison/Beef Stew,

7-Grain Bun, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 18:** Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 19:** Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 20:** Black Bean Burrito

Bowl, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream, Fruit

**November 21:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup of Hotdish, Garden salad/Coleslaw, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 22:** Bison/Beef Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 25:** Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit, Steamed Broccoli, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 26:** Breaded Chicken Patty, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Fruit, Dinner Roll

**November 27:** Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef’s Choice of Fruit

**November 28-29:** Holiday



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS!

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

Thank you and thank you to all of our veterans!



## Minute with Millie

As some of you may know, I’ve been teaching down to the cities. As this necessitates traveling 4 hours one way, I go down a day or two ahead of the time on Sunday mornings at 10:00 til the afternoon of around 4. I stay overnight with my sister and my niece seeing as how I no longer acclimate to less than 16 hours between drive times without falling asleep at the wheel. This, of course, is frowned upon by the various local, county, state and federal constabulary who are much concerned for the safety of their various charges in this great state of ours.

My sister does her part to help me save on drive time by driving me down to the Office on Sunday morning and upon occasion to the closest thrift store and rummage sales during the season. So, you’d think I’d be used to her driving as she has adjusted to the fast city life.

I, being the country mouse visiting the city mice in all their finery, still cling to one or two country habits whilst visiting. One of these is my morning meditations. Yep, I still meditate, even in the hustle and bustle of the city, managing to hang unto my calm, cool, collected demeanor I have striven so hard for the past 820 (at last count) days to attain.

So, every Sunday morning, my sister and I get in the car, make a fast left turn at the nearest coffee shop on our way over to the Office. Then we proceed, calmly, coolly through numerous stop signs, and traffic lights. Then....



We come to the infamous left turn onto the last important street before hitting the straight shot to the office.

Yep, in less than one minute (which to our minds by this time anyway is about 5 minutes long) my sister has quit mumbling under her breath and a few choice words are tossed about in the hopes that the driver ahead of us will hear and move the critical 3 feet to the white line thereby tripping the signal light to change to green.

And I too, I must confess, having been spurred to the dire strait by the enormous amount of caffeine from the highly energized coffee we’ve been sipping, have also lost my calm, cool, collected demeanor and cheer my sister on in her venting of frustration.



**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held July 16, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m. Moment of silence for invocation. Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr. Members Absent: None Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agenda with the addition of SSBCI revisions and Cannabis update. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the RTC Special Meeting, regular session, meeting minutes held June 5, 2024. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to table the RTC Regular Meeting, Regular session meeting minutes held July 2, 2024 due to not being ready. Carried 4-0-0

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

Approved Resolution No. 92-2024, submission of DOI Tribal Electrification Program full grant application for the FY 2024-2025 award cycle. Carried 4-0-0

# Bois Forte Tribal Council Minutes

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to table recommendation of hydration trailer until further information can be presented on warranties, parts and lifespan of the trailer. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the 2024 Bois Forte Election bonuses. Carried 2-0-2 (Tara & Robert silent)

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the sponsor of two teams for the 2024 Indian Summer Classic. Carried 4-0-0

Jessa Boyer brings up some discussion/concerns on the following topics, a) Banishment of Non-band members with violent orders for protection b) handling of registered sex offenders c) Immediate housing needs d) Employment e) Communication f) Enrollment for our people and g) Economic Development. Perry Drift nominates Shane Drift for Vice-Chair. Tara Geshick seconds nomination for Shane Drift for Vice-Chair. No other nominations. Carried 3-0-1

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Conservation code revisions with regard to aircraft and watercraft in Nett Lake. Carried 4-0-0

Luke Warnsholz gives an update on

the Cannabis project.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the SSBCI loan program revisions. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Carried 4-0-0 Prepared by: Frances Irving Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 4, 2024

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held August 7, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. Invocation done by Vern Adams. Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr. Members Absent: None

Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of Dan R. with HHS update and language/culture discussion from Shane D and move Doris Isham item to executive session. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded

Bois Forte Leasing Policy. Carried 3-1-0 (Tara opposed) Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 16-2025, Approving the contract with Tyler Technologies and authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds. Carried 3-1-0 (Shane opposed)

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the authorization for Cathy to sign letter, RE: FY 2025 Section 105(l) lease renewal request for eight (8) leases. Carried 4-0-0

Kim Greiner, CFO, gives a presentation on Accounts Receivable, ARPA Funds and the IHS 105(l) lease funds. Dan Rabideaux, HHS CEO, gives an update on HHS.

Shane brings up discussion on creation of position for language coordinator. Revitalization committee sign up was sent out by Jessica Anderson. Grand Portage did share their language strategic plan. Tara asks if any unused ARPA funds can be used for language and elders.

Luke Warnsholz gives an update on strategic plan.

*Minutes continued on page 12*



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



Vermilion Government Center  
 1610 Farm Point Rd  
 Tower, MN 55790

**Bois Forte Tribal Enrollment will be available at the Vermilion Government Center to issue Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**

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

- Original Certified Birth Certificate (no photocopies)
  - State Issued Driver's License (Not Expired)
  - State Issued Identification Card (Not Expired)
  - Valid Passport

**For name change please bring legal documents.**

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

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

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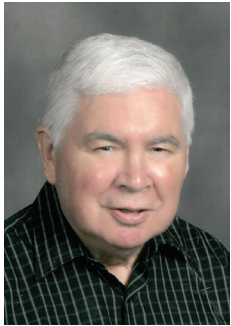
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## John E. Anderson



John E. Anderson, 76, died Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Cherrywood Advanced Living in St. Cloud, MN, with his wife, Lee, by his side. A celebration of John's life took place at Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell, MN, on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM with Pastor Jeff Sackett and Pastor Russ Britton officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Arrangements were entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids, MN.

John was born in Virginia, MN, to John A. and Eleanor (Berg) Anderson. He spent his childhood on the east end of beautiful Burntside Lake at Echo Trail Lodge, enjoying the lake and the outdoors with his brothers, cousins, and the many resort guests who became lifelong friends. He graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1966. John attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, where he met Lee Blanc, whom he married on campus on May 29, 1970, two days prior to his graduation. Together, they made their home and raised their three boys JD, Brad, and Marty in Ely, MN, where John was a mathematics teacher, coach of numerous activities, and the Athletic Director at Ely Memorial High School. While in Ely, John was an active

member of Grace Lutheran Church, and more recently, John was a member of Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell, MN. Throughout his life, John was also a proud member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe.

In 1990, John and Lee purchased Anderson's Resort on Burntside Lake in Ely to carry on the family tradition of hosting families in the north woods. John enjoyed hunting, fishing, and waterskiing at the lake. John loved hockey and was an avid Minnesota sports fan. He especially loved his boys, his grandchildren, Gustavus, the University of Minnesota, and Burntside Lake.

John is survived by his wife, Lee of Sartell/Ely; sons, John "J.D." (Holly) Anderson of Sartell, Brad (Gina) Anderson of Eveleth, and Marty (Stacy) Anderson of Sartell; brothers, Rick (Polly) Anderson of Ely, Dan (Lucy) Anderson of Cloquet, and Robert (Marilyn Heiman) Anderson of Alaska; sister-in-law, Jill Anderson of Farmington; and grandchildren, Buddy, Alexa, Connor, Cally, Brady, John, Gavin, and Gracie. John was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Mark.

The Anderson family is grateful for the compassionate and wonderful care shown to John from everyone at Visiting Angels, Good Shepherd Community, St. Croix Hospice, and Cherrywood Advanced Living. The family requests that memorials be sent to Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell.

Obituary, Guest Book and video tribute available online: [www.williamsdingmann.com](http://www.williamsdingmann.com)

## Board of Directors is needed for the Bois Forte Heritage Center

The Bois Forte Heritage Center is recruiting members for its Board of Directors. For those interested in joining, preferred candidates are Bois Forte tribal or community members. Please see a related advertisement on page 12.

Ideally, board members reside on or near either of the Nett Lake or Lake Vermilion Reservations. Board members will provide Heritage Center staff with direction on strategic planning and advising on specific projects.

Staff include Jaylen Strong, Director; Jessica Anderson Ojala, Language and Culture Coordinator; Morgan Olson, Tribal Archivist; Randy Teboe, Cultural Resource Specialist; and Dani Pieratos, Visitor Services Manager.

Please submit your application by December 1, 2024 using the online form: <https://bit.ly/HCBOD24>.

Questions? Call Jaylen or Dani at the Heritage Center at 218-753-6017. Miigwech!

## Ready for a long winter's nap!

VERMILION SECTOR— The Wilderness at Fortune Bay closed in early October so that crews could start prepping the course for the 2025 campaign.

This past year marked the 20th anniversary of the award-winning

course and to say it was a successful year would be an understatement! Hats off to the entire crew for such a great season and here's hoping 2025 will be even better!



SO TEMPTING!— Pictured here is a part of the par 5, 8th hole at The Wilderness. The course closed in early October and if Mother Nature cooperates, it should be ready for play again in mid-May.



ENJOYING ANOTHER DAY AT WORK!— Bois Forte's Steve Boshey was in a great mood as he worked to put up snow fence behind the 11th hole at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay. Boshey, an avid golfer, was sad to see the course close, but was excited about the prospects for the 2025 campaign.



**Minutes from page 10**

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. Carried 4-0-0  
 Prepared by: Frances Irving  
 Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 4, 2024

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held September 4, 2024, at Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. Invocation done by Verm Adams.  
 Members Present: Cathy Chavers, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.  
 Members Absent: None  
 Others Present: Luke Warnsholz, Regina Howe, Randy Long, Sara Kinnunen, Theresa Drift, Jane Lawrence, Bob Degross, Dan Rabideaux, Vanessa Little, Carol Burr, Vondalee Carr, Pete Drift Sr., Miranda Lilya, Kim Greiner, David Morrison Jr., Doris Isham, Tracey Dagen, Malita Spears.  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the addition under Shane a discussion on council salary. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Regular

meeting held July 2, 2024. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held July 16, 2024. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held August 7, 2024. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the consent agenda as follows:  
 a) Approved authorization for chair to sign letter for request for voluntary compliance agreement for FY 2023 audit. 4-0-0  
 b) Approved conservation committee appointments 4-0-0  
 c) Approved contract with Native Strategies for feasibility study for 2nd exit out of Nett Lake 4-0-0  
 d) Approved contract with White Earth for FHPAP program 4-0-0  
 e) Approved contract with St. Louis Cty-Renewal for New Moon COC Program 4-0-0  
 f) Approved Resolution No. 19-2025, app submission for IHBG competitive grant to expand affordable housing for elders/handicapped individuals 4-0-0  
 g) Approved Resolution No. 20-2025, app submission for IRRR for food shelf expenses 4-0-0  
 Carried 4-0-0

Jane Lawrence, Assistant Coordinator from the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative, Christina Olson, Coordinator from Minnesota Tribal Collaborative, and Joy Parker with Jacobson Law Group gives a presentation on the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative and the proposed legal status.  
 Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Shane Drift; to support the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative in their efforts to become a political subdivision. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve becoming a part of the Co-Stewardship opportunity with the National Park Service. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Vickey Hackey to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Shannon Geshick to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Jaylen Strong to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Sidra Eaves to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to appoint Linda Thompson to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint

Jeff Mattson to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Anna Sherman to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to appoint Joanna Boyer to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to appoint Taneesha Dupree to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Reyna Davelia-Day to the code of ethics committee for a term of two years. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 21-2025, Contract with Docks on Wheels, Inc. authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for purchase and installation of docks at Vermilion and Indian Point. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 22-2025, authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for installation of electrical utility infrastructure to support bands new maintenance garage and food shelf facility in Vermilion. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 23-2025, authorizing allocation of ARPA SLFRF funds for Government services expenditures from FY 2022 to present. Carried 4-0-0

Kim Greiner gives a presentation on budget timelines and updates. Kim Greiner gives a presentation on the audit timelines and updates. Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve authorization for bank functions for Vanessa Little, Comptroller and Erynn Morrison, Accounting Manager. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; for authorization to become a member of NAFOA (Native American Financial Officers Association). Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve Resolution No. 24-2025, authorizing use of ARPA SLFRF funds for improvement of I.T. infrastructure on the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation. Carried 4-0-0  
 A 5-minute recess was taken. Meeting reconvenes at 12:01 p.m. Discussion on sacred sites recognized with the State of MN. Suggested to Luke to task tow work with the Heritage Center, DNR and possibly the Voyageurs National Park and elders. Discussion the kids trust accounts. Moving accounts to money markets or CD Accounts and Luke gives an example what the accounts could earn. Kim gives some background and suggests working with financial planner. Meeting with financial planner is to be scheduled. Discussion on another ARPA payment for band members for possible date of November. A meeting with Kim to go over ARPA funds is to be scheduled. Discussion on council salaries. Some history is given. Proposed salaries based on Bluestone Max for compensation. \$145,000 for Chair, \$135,000 for Secretary-Treasurer and \$125,000 for District representatives with a cap of \$200,000 for all. Kim states that is should be put in resolution as there is already a standing resolution. Tara states that until budgets are approved, know where Fortune Bay is at after recovering from COVID, until audits are complete, and implementations of new software, she votes no on any kind of Council salary increase. A resolution will be drafted and presented at the next RTC meeting. Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table proposed council salary increases until resolution is drafted and information from Kim Greiner, CFO. Carried 4-0-0  
 Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 pm. Carried 4-0-0  
 Prepared by: Frances Irving  
 Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: October 2, 2024

**The Bois Forte Heritage Center is creating a Board of Directors.**



We need your help to guide us in strategic planning and advising. If you're interested, please apply! Open to Bois Forte tribal and community members.

**Apply by December 1st using the online form below:**

<https://bit.ly/HCBOD24>



Questions? Call us at 218-753-6017.

Jaylen Strong,  
 jaylen.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov, or

Dani Pieratos,  
 danielle.pieratos@boisforte-nsn.gov

**Bois Forte Substance Use Program Services provided include:**

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- Cultural Teachings • Grief Counseling
- Historical Trauma • Community Gatherings
- Sobriety Feasts • Outreach • Referrals
- Prevention services and activities, referrals Mental Health Therapy

Contact: Heidi Hansen, Katherine Laitinen

Bois Forte Substance Use Program  
 1195 County Road 77  
 Tower, MN 55731  
 Phone: 218-753-2347  
 Fax: 218-753-3711

Bois Forte Substance Use Program  
 13071 Nett Lake Rd, Suite B  
 Nett Lake, MN 55772  
 Phone: 218-757-0233  
 Fax: 218-757-0109