



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 49 NUMBER 4

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We have had numerous subscribers indicate they are not getting their *Bois Forte News*.

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It is cost prohibitive to keep sending out back issues, so please note that the *Bois Forte News* is available at [www.bois-forte.com](http://www.bois-forte.com)

Thank you very much for your time!

## 2025 State of the Band offers hope and promise

LAKE VERMILION SECTOR— Over 250 Bois Forte band members made the trek to Fortune Bay Resort Casino Saturday, March 1, to get updates on programs, the band's financial picture and much more at the 2025 State of the Band (SOTB).

As always, the SOTB served as an opportunity for band members to catch up on one another's happenings from the previous year. Former Tribal Chair and nonagenarian Gary Donald made another appearance as he never misses an opportunity to get out and socialize with his fellow band members.

"This truly is a testament to how we gather as people to rekindle old friendships and strike up new ones," said Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick. "Seeing our elders congregate with one another means the world to me."

As Geshick spoke, Donald was seated next to elder Karen Drift, who is also a staple at State of the Bands and other community events throughout the year. You could see that Geshick was honored to be in the presence of Donald and Drift and many other elders who made their way out to the annual event.

Geshick, who is in her first term as Secretary-Treasurer, spoke about progress that Bois Forte has made over the past year. That progress included its latest business endeavor in the Ishkode Dispensary, which held its ribbon cutting one day prior to the SOTB.

"It was well attended, and you could feel the excitement in



TREASURES OF BOIS FORTE!— Bois Forte's Gichi-Ayaag (Great being) Karen Drift, left, and former Bois Forte Tribal Chair Gary Donald, right, pose for a quick photo at the conclusion of the 2025 State of the Band. The respect shown to Donald and Drift was abundant as it should be given the knowledge and wisdom both have provided to our band throughout their lives.

the air," said Geshick of the dispensary, which sells marijuana flower and a host of other products. "It is the spark we need to diversify our portfolio. I'm very proud of the staff that committed themselves to this endeavor. Let's give them a round of applause."

Geshick talked briefly about Bois Forte's plans to eventually get its own grow operation, which would result in a much larger profit seeing as Bois Forte could grow its own marijuana and not rely on other tribes for product, which is being done under the current Ishkode Dis-

pensary business model. When that time comes to listen to options, Geshick said it will be important for the tribal council and senior management to keep band members in the loop.

"Decisions like that cannot happen overnight," said Geshick. "We need to do our homework and ask ourselves, 'Is that truly in our best interests?' Time will tell and we promise to be transparent as discussions unfold."

With the threats of the new administration making cuts to federal funding, Geshick said it is more important than ever for tribes to work together to pro-

tect its programs and services.

"I don't want to alarm you, but there are some challenges facing Indian country, like Perry said," said Geshick in reference to District I Representative Perry Drift talking about the current administration targeting federal funding for Native American tribes. "This is why we must all unite and come together. There is no time for infighting or being on this side, or that side—we must put aside our differences and work together toward a common goal of ensuring growth and prosperity for the Bois Forte band."

Like Geshick, Perry Drift, who also in his first term on the Bois Forte Tribal Council, talked about the threats to funding.

As previously reported in the *Bois Forte News*, the tribal council and its senior management team, have met to discuss contingency plans should funding cuts ever become reality. Those cuts are currently on hold, but Drift cautioned that Bois Forte and other tribes must not let their guards down.

He spoke of a planned trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators and lobbyists to see what can be done to ward off the threats of cutting federal funding. He added that he feels like the current administration is just launching one attack after another.

"It's rough, but we as a people have been through tougher things, from genocide, losing our language, boarding schools

*See SOTB page 6*

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# Make sure to get out and vote April 15th!

*Editor's note: Below are statements from the six candidates for the upcoming special election to replace former Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, who resigned from office effective January 31, 2025. The primary election will take place on Tuesday, April 15th, and if needed, the general election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th between the top two vote getters. However, if a candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in the Primary, he/she would win the vacated seat. The winning candidate will serve as tribal chair until July of 2028 for the remainder of the current term.*

*The candidate responses appear in the order they are listed on the official ballot, which was randomly determined at a special RTC meeting in late February. Please note that the candidates' responses reflect their own views and do not represent the opinions of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council or its individual members, or general membership of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.*

*Thank you and best of luck to all of the candidates.*

## Pete "Chief" Boney

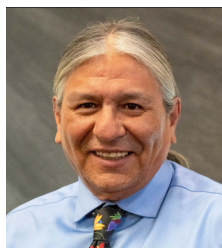
Boozhoo band members, my name is Pete "Chief" Boney, and I am running for

Bois Forte Tribal chairman.

Assets: The Y Store and Nett Lake C Store and Post Office, The Wilderness, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Ishkode, Tribal Clinics, Duluth Urban Office, Minneapolis Urban Office, Nett Lake School, Bois Forte Heritage Center, Housing, DNR, Vermilion Government Center, Nett Lake RTG Building, Wellness Center, Fitness Center, Boys & Girls Clubs, Head Starts, Virginia HHS office, WELY Building, Leander Property, Johnson Lake Property in Ely, Culture and Language. We need to take better care of our community in big and small ways so that all of our assets are working efficiently.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS ARE OUR BAND MEMBERS, OUR ELDERS, OUR MEN, OUR WOMEN, AND OUR CHILDREN.

I am interested in expanding our health and therapeutic clinic services to Virginia. And change the hours to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and have urgent care on Saturdays.



Peter "Chief" Boney

We have to meet with all the directors and managers to do ongoing frugal financial planning considering the political environment at the federal level.

One of my beliefs about the cannabis industry is we need to move forward on it, such as looking into creating oils to sell, food products, health products, selling seeds, and the rest of the stalk of the plant is suitable for hempcrete as a building material, rope, or biofuel for renewable energy. The added benefit of the cannabis hemp industry is that one acre of hemp and cannabis produces oxygen as much as four acres of trees. Cannabis and hemp remove contaminants from the soil. Utilizing the remainder of the plant for the benefit of the Band.

Getting back to our roots, I am out and about as a band member, and I see numerous other band members at the VFW, other bars, and Black Bear Casino to play bingo. We can bring bingo back at the casino and pull tabs at the bar.

If you have ideas for our Band, please let me know.

I am looking for ideas and suggestions from Band members. Please contact me on Facebook (Peter Boney for chairman) or at 218-410-5740 cell.

## Carlos A. Hernandez

Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members!

Indiziniikaaz Carlos Hernandez. I was born and raised in Long Beach, California, and later earned my GED at the Southern California Indian Center in Los Angeles. Wanting to reconnect with my culture, I moved to Nett Lake in August 1999 and began working at Fortune Bay in May 2000. Over the years, I held multiple roles, including blackjack dealer, floor supervisor, pit boss, poker dealer, casino host, and Players Club Representative.

Seeking a new path, I pursued a degree in Wildland/Wildlife Law Enforcement at Vermilion Community College in Ely, with the goal of becoming a conservation officer for the 1854 Treaty Authority. However, opportunities in that field were limited. In 2014, I became a tribal police officer for



Carlos A. Hernandez

Bois Forte and later joined the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a federal police officer in 2015. I proudly served our community in law enforcement for 10 years, always treating people with respect and fairness.

Currently, I work for Bois Forte Housing as a maintenance technician in the Vermilion sector, helping to improve housing conditions for our people. This winter, we were able to plow driveways thanks to new vehicles purchased by the Tribal Council for Housing and Facilities Maintenance—replacing a fleet that was over 10 years old.

I live on the Vermilion Reservation with my fiancée, Rhiannon Strong, and our three children—Carlos Jr., Kayden, and Aolani.

## A Vision for the Future

I know firsthand the challenges Band Members face—both on and off the reservation. In Los Angeles, organizations like United American Indian Involvement and the Southern California Indian Center provided vital social services and employment support. While we may not start with a large facility in downtown Minneapolis, taking steps now to establish services will better support our urban band members.

Housing has been a concern for years. So, let's build our own. With the implementation of a technical school, Bois Forte can provide valuable education and hands-on training—empowering our community with skills for construction, maintenance, and beyond.

## Strengthening Our Culture & Economy

To boost engagement in our cultural events, we need consistency. Offering weekend classes and activities—both in Nett Lake and Vermilion—will increase participation and make our language and traditions more accessible. Our culture and language should always be at the forefront of our community.

We must also expand our economic portfolio and reduce reliance on Fortune Bay. A tribal grow operation can create a highly profitable supply chain—first for our dispensary, then for surrounding businesses. This is a strategic move that will generate long-term revenue for the Band.

## Leadership That Empowers, Not Controls

After 26 years of living on the Bois Forte Reservation, I understand the real

**See Election on page 3**

## Bois Forte is looking to recruit Tribal Monitors.

The work of the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum (BFHCCM) Tribal Monitor will be to Locate, Identify, Document, Cultural Resources during Construction Projects or Traditional Cultural Property Serves. Monitors will work as Independent Contractors with these general requirements:

- Enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band & 18 years of age or older
- Able to walk long distances, stand for long periods of time, kneel, bend, stoop, navigate on various terrains
- Good communication skills, note taking, taking pictures
- Work well with others
- Training provided

Those interested should contact Randy Teboe, Cultural Resource Coordinator, Bois Forte Heritage Center, 218-753-6017.



**Election from page 2**

impact this election will have on our daily lives. Having worked at Fortune Bay for 14 years, I believe the Tribal Council should not interfere in the casino's daily operations. We hire professionals for a reason—let them do their jobs. The same principle applies across all departments: micro-management slows progress.

I am committed to protecting our natural resources and treaty rights, ensuring that we preserve our environment for our children's grandchildren.

**Your Vote Matters**

As you head to the polls on April 15th, I respectfully ask for your vote to help build a stronger Bois Forte together!

Please text me at 218-404-5540 or email CarlosForChair@gmail.com to discuss your concerns or ask questions.

Miigwech.

**Travis Morrison**

Hi, I'm Travis Morrison!

For those who don't know me, my mom and dad are Danny Morrison, Jr. and Cisco Isham. Grandparents are Dan Morrison, Sr. and Priscilla



Travis Morrison

Morrison, Ira and Ruth Isham. I have lived here on the Bois Forte reservation most of my life.

I went to Central Lakes College for Heavy Equipment Operation and have worked in construction most of my life. I've worked in Nett Lake for our Public Works Department for six years.

I also sat on our Tribal Council for eight years. I was the vice-chairperson for two of those eight years, which meant attending most of the same meetings as our former chairwoman. I learned a lot from being a part of those meetings. A chairperson is a very different role from a district representative. The chairperson is the voice of Bois Forte! I've never really been a great public speaker, but I am willing to step out of my comfort zone to learn how to be our voice here at Bois Forte!

**Things I know we can accomplish:**

- A strategic plan—if it is not already done, we need to finish/update the plan. Without a plan in place, we have no direction. Everything we do should be a part of this plan. The plan should have long-term goals and short-term goals. Things that we might need will pop up, so we work on

them.

- Communication—figure out a way to openly and quickly communicate with you, the band members, on what is offered and what the tribal government is doing for the band membership. Not everyone communicates the same. Some like the re-group message, some like the social media messages, some prefer the door-to-door flyers, and some like email. I have heard of a communication specialist position within the tribal government focusing on just communication with the membership.

- Y Store land into trust—I believe this should be a priority (if we are not working on this already).

**Other issues I have heard over time:**

- Housing—we need more single-person living and more family living. Maybe a small apartment building.

- Health care—mental health is a very big issue; we just need more services. Treatment/healing center, offer something here at or near Bois Forte that will help our band members who are struggling with addiction. Dental, we need more than one dentist. Overall, I think we can expand our services, but it should be put in our strategic plan.

- Realty—we need to streamline our processes, acquire more land, put into the trust in the Deer Creek sector, and, most importantly, allocate money into the realty budget.

- Culture and language—this is very important; we have parts of it, and people are willing to share their knowledge. We need the right timing or motivation to bring it all together and make it a normal daily/weekly activity.

- Hunting, trapping, ricing, and netting—these kind of things falls under culture, too. Over the years, I've been seeing a decline in hunting, ricing, and a large decline in trapping. I think we can bring people in to share their knowledge with our younger generations. I have an idea of a medium-sized garage/classroom/kitchen to teach young people, along with adults, to skin and quarter a deer or moose, cut up meat, can foods, tan hides, parch wild rice, and boil sap....we could even teach beading, moccasin making, regalia making, quilt making. The sky is the limit when it comes to learning in this facility. It's an idea that can be put into a plan.

- Off-reservation services—in the eight years on council, this is the issue that I heard the most. And it pained me that we did not have the means to help. I want to set aside unrestricted funds to be able to help in ways that other programs cannot.

Of course, we would have to set up rules to access the funds, but I think we could do something like this.

There is so much more we can do!

Please reach out to me at (I like text messages) or leave a voicemail:

Phone: 218-780-5642

Email: 34mogley@gmail.com

**Rhonda Hoagland**

About myself: my name is Rhonda Hoagland. I come from a large family and have many family members. My family resided in Nett Lake till I was six years old.

My family then relocated to Minneapolis where we spent many years. I moved back to Nett Lake with my children in 1996 and have lived here since. I have lived in the home I am in now for 24 years. I was 18 and received my GED along with a Clerk Typist certificate six months before my high school class graduated.

I later attended the American Indian OIC school located in Minneapolis. I have done some college at Mesaba Range Community College in Virginia under their Business courses. I, at some point, decided to change my career and worked and trained with the Laborer's Union for 10 years. I have had five children and have four living children all adults now.

**Marty Connor**

Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members:

My name is Marty Connor, and I humbly request your trust and support for the vacated position of Bois Forte Tribal Chairperson.

First, let me introduce myself. I am the last child of Leslie Connor Sr. and Marcella (Morrison) Connor. My significant other, Charlotte Jordan, and I have been together for nearly 20 years. We have five children and two grandsons; a third will join the family shortly. I have lived most of my years on the Nett Lake Sector. I grew up at the Forestry and Road Maintenance (CC Camp), where I learned about our land and resources. I graduated from Orr High School. For past employment, I worked as



Rhonda Hoagland



Marty Connor

a Custodian/Bus Driver for the Nett Lake School, Construction Worker, Surveyor, and Director of Public Works. I am currently employed at the Radio Station KBFT 89.9FM as a Programming Manager and have worked there for the past 12 years.

Moving forward, I will address issues that concern us as "we" or "us." Only together can we move ourselves forward for now and future generations.

We need strong leadership to be a voice for our interests and concerns. Communication is important for us to move forward, along with the Seven Grandfather teachings of our culture: Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, and Love. As Band Members, we deserve information regarding Government Business, and more needs to be done to preserve our language and culture. We need leadership to continue championing our rights and sovereignty to Federal, State, and Local Governments. We need to continue the programs and services already provided to our people. We must create new ideas to improve tribal businesses and encourage the creation of Band Members' businesses. We have amazing people with amazing ideas and talents.

Employment was an issue brought to my attention. We have some vacant positions that need to be filled, but some concerns Band Members have faced were: no vehicle, no license, long commute time, lack of housing closer to work, competitive wages, education/training, and childcare. We must find solutions to make these less burdensome for Band Members.

The Bois Forte Band recently opened the Ishkode Dispensary. It currently gets its products from entities that Bois Forte does not own. This is currently necessary because we don't have any facilities for growing and processing cannabis (marijuana) into a salable product or a facility to test cannabis to ensure that it meets the criteria for legal sale. The current Tribal Council wants to invest upwards of eight million dollars for a growing facility, with no plans for a place to purchase and process cannabis crops and no place to test for quality. An idea would be to allow Band Members to grow cannabis. This would help keep inventory stocked, reduce the reliance on outside products, and help minimize shipping costs. It would help create inventory for plans for future dispensaries off the Reservation. It would also bring some pride into creating products we would proudly stand by. It would

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**Election from page 3**

also inspire other businesses to create other products that could be made from the rest of the plants grown. For example, paper, fabric, building materials, and oil. This would utilize the whole plant and reduce waste. Even plants that don't meet the criteria for recreational sale could be used. In doing so, we could use the eight million to make improvements to housing and other infrastructure needs/improvements.

We are facing some uncertainty with the current presidential administration. Now is the time we must come together in unity as sovereign people. Heal past traumas and forgive each other for past grievances with one another because we are strong, intelligent, resourceful, and resilient. It's not about what one person can do. It's about what "we" can do.

Miigwech, thank you for your consideration in helping us move forward.

**Mildred R. Holmes:**

*Editor's note: Due to the length of Holmes' submission, she was charged accordingly to have her entire message printed.*

To Bois Forte Band Members:

This is, essentially, what I posted on Facebook as a video. It gives you a clearer understanding of my position and background.

After watching the video posted on C-Span, the whole video, not just the two minutes most people have watched, I am so very glad that my parents aren't here to see this, especially my father, who fought in World War II against tyranny, bullies. That sort of ganging up on one person is an event I've watched, been in or victim of in one form or another all my life. I've been saying that we're headed for civil war. I've posted comments over to YouTube regarding the reservation land of all tribes being fair game. There's gold in them thar hills.

In 2016, when everyone was heading out to support Water Protectors with money, food, supplies and support, I elected to stay home. Reason: With everyone heading out to other places, who's left at home to defend the home country? With everyone's attention elsewhere, that's the best time to sneak in. What's that called? Bait and switch? Nah, can't think of, oh!



Mildred R. Holmes

Redirect?

T'any rate, these experiences have shaped my beliefs and values. I've learned over the years that I won't stand by or take part in the bullying that happens in front of me. I'll do my best to stand up for and defend someone who's being picked on. I'll offer encouragement to those who are tired of fighting continual abuse, whether verbal, physical, mental or emotional in whatever form the perpetrator commits it.

I've wondered about gas lighting and what it is. Now, I'm beginning to realize that, yeah, I've been gaslighted by others. I've struggled through fog of thoughts, emotions and depression whilst picking myself up after attacks where I've allowed myself to be knocked down. Mind, it's mostly been temporary. As I told my mom and dad on the day I was released from the Burn Unit, I know who I am, I will try to stay away from those who don't accept me for my appearance. Not precisely the exact words as those have been reworded as I've lived my life.

Yeah, I've been down but not out. The same goes for my Band, my Clan, my family. We've suffered heinous crimes and still we are here. Some of us have managed to walk two paths despite being told we had to choose one or the other. We can empathize with Zelenskyy and the Ukraine people.

When the Latinos were being targeted, many Black people were saying "FAFO" and they'd not help until ICE was at their door and they'd react then. It is this attitude that's hurting us. When the Canadian tariffs were first announced by Trump, many Canadian Premiers were interviewed regarding their plans for response and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew commented that they have relatives and friends as well as a shared history of fighting in war together.

The trade war currently has implications of making the EV industry more expensive. With Canada's emphasis on Tesla, their lithium, nickel and cobalt tariffs means nickel will be more expensive, making the PolyMet Mine's value even more important. All the environmental regulations are off and that bill is now in the House of Representatives.

Yeah, more jobs for the area. That's why Trump and Musk have been so aggressive in the trade wars. They're banking on the hope that the NewRange Copper Nickel, formerly PolyMet, mine, will be up and running soon. What do you want to bet that they've been busily setting things up all this time. That big mine equipment

plant in Virginia? What do you want to bet those machines were being set up for PolyMet? They won't need pipelines from Canada anymore. They're hoping to have a self-sustaining business here. Right here on the Iron Range.

An they're already setting the stage for abrogation of treaties, in particular with Tribes here in the States. NATO, NOAA and other organizations were established by treaty. The President is just withdrawing, breaking promises as usual. Tribes here in the USA have long experience with such treatment.

Why, you are probably thinking, are you talking about these things? Well, these issues are affecting us right now. We have to have a cohesive, sustained effort to withstand this uncertainty, this storm of unleashed fury on our emotions, our livelihoods, our culture.

Number one is the very subject of our citizenship in the United States of America. An aside here: I used United States of America in a post on Facebook and it auto corrected to United States. Well, that's not the correct legal name of our country. Though it is heartening to see that some of our habits have been adapted by the larger society, even AI's auto correcting to using nicknames.

It has been argued in 1865 that our allegiance is...first and foremost, to our tribes. And this is the reason that we shouldn't be allowed citizenship despite being born here in the land of the Americas. This is the reason that the words "under the jurisdiction of the United States" was used as the basis for denial of United States citizenship as tribal members are born under the jurisdiction of the tribes.

In 1924, the Indian Citizenship Act was enacted giving us citizenship "Provided that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property."

Indians have been members of two nations, in my opinion. Under various Acts passed since then, tribes, in particular, ours, have been fighting to keep our land, our rights and our futures secure in spite of poor translations of English. In some cases, these translations were made by people who didn't understand English very well themselves.

Many of dominant society's concepts were, and still are, untranslatable. For this reason, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles strongly encouraged us to get an education. Most really wanted one of

us to become a lawyer for specific reasons which they never explained. I knew about the tribal reason for wanting doctors, lawyers. I'd always thought it was for the greater good of the tribe. Which, of course, it was. My parents, my mother in particular, was born a Wakemup and that is the reason they wanted a lawyer.

It wasn't until I started genealogy that I figured out the reason: Wakemup Bay. That incident caused so much heartache that three generations were affected deeply. Our family has strong values regarding land, land management and education.

All during my lifetime, it's been a constant battle with one thing or another obstructing tribal prosperity, not the least of which is defining what prosperity means to us as a tribe. Even within the tribe, there is contention and foremost is consensus. We'll never have it if we rely on the definition as being 100% agreement with plans and outcomes. Some of our tribal ways can and must be adapted to fit the world we find ourselves in.

Now, I don't mean abandon all the old ways. We must adapt, as we did when moving according to the Migizi Shell's vision for us in the past. We must become adept at explaining our concepts and living up to the standards and expectations our ancestors had be us.

Yep, these are some of my beliefs and values that will guide me in leading our Band to a prosperity we will and have defined for ourselves. I will carry these with me as I venture into the future whether I am elected by you to the position of Tribal Chairperson or not. The lessons I've learned have been passed down to my sons, my nieces, my nephews and others who cared enough to ask.

ChiiMiiGwitch.

Mildred R. Holmes

The primary for the candidates will take place Tuesday, April 15th. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center, Nett Lake Tribal Government Building in Nett Lake, the Urban offices in Duluth and Minneapolis.

For those who cannot make it to the polls, they can request an absentee ballot by mailing a request to the Bois Forte Election Board at P.O. Box 23, Nett Lake MN 55772. They can also come to the Election Board in Nett Lake to vote absentee in person if they are not able not able to come to the voting locations on the day of the election.



## New signs to greet visitors to Nett Lake Village and Lake Vermilion Sector

LAKE VERMILION SECTOR—Band members stopping by the informational booths at the 2025 State of the Band were given a sneak peek at new signs that will welcome them to the Lake Vermilion Sector and Nett Lake Reservation.

“We have secured a contractor for the work and met with them to discuss the design, needs, placement, and lighting of the signs,” explained Bois Forte Planning & Community Development Director Carol Burr, who was manning the booth with Project Manager Dave Anderson.

Burr added that the contractor is working on the information her staff provided at the initial meeting and subsequently providing them with the first renderings of these signs shortly thereafter. The Lake Vermilion sign includes walleye images, while the Nett Lake one shows wild rice.

“We requested that the Nett Lake Sign be installed before the first (pow wow) celebration in Nett Lake (Sah gi bah gah) and install the one in Vermilion prior to their celebration,” said Burr. “That is the preferred installation time, but that will depend on construction materials, lighting installation, etc.”

Burr said that the funding for the signs was originally from the BIA End of Year funds. She added that former Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers submitted a funding request for the signs, and she was successful in receiving about \$50,000 for this project, which carries a price tag of an estimated \$70,000 for each one. This includes running power to the signs, which will have a

combination of electric power and solar power.

Once the funding was secured, Burr said a Request for Proposal was created, posted and resulted in three bids being submitted for the signs.

“It was decided to use Woodstone, Inc.,” said Burr of the company that is located in the metro area. “They have a native-owned designer and production company to do the signs for Bois Forte, so that was a determining factor in going with them.”

Burr was also appreciative of Chavers’ efforts to secure funding to help finance the project.

“We were glad that she was able to secure \$50,000 as it will certainly help with the overall cost of this project,” said Burr. “We’re excited to move forward on this sign project as they will be a nice touch to people traveling to our reservations.”



**AT YOUR SERVICE!**— Bois Forte Planning & Community Development Director Carol Burr, left, and Project Manager Dave Anderson, right, were busy at the 2025 State of the Band showing off drawings of new signage that will greet people driving into the Nett Lake Village and the Lake Vermilion Sector.

## Bois Forte Head Start/Early Childhood program kids enjoy Dr. Seuss week!

*Submitted article*

NETT LAKE—The Bois Forte Head Start/Early Childhood program celebrated Dr. Seuss week with several activities that centered around reading, but also included a special meal Thursday, March 5th of you guessed it—green eggs and ham!

Monday was PJ day, while Tuesday was wear a hat and stripes day. Wednesday was Wacky Wednesday where the kids dressed up in a silly outfit and then

they closed out the week on Thursday with wearing something green and enjoying green eggs and ham.

Ashley Pullar, who is a teacher for the Bois Forte Head Start/Early Childhood program, said the kids also brought in their favorite book and the books were read throughout the week. Family Service Manager/Bus Driver Mark Samela stopped in and read the popular book, “The Cat in the Hat.”



**WACKY WEDNESDAY!**— Pictured here are some of the Bois Forte Head Start/Early Childhood kids dressed up for Wacky Wednesday.



**HANGING ON EVERY WORD!**— Family Service Manager/Bus Driver Mark Samela had a captive audience as he read one of Dr. Seuss’ most popular books titled, “The Cat in the Hat.”



*SOTB from page 1*

and violence against our native relatives that go missing every year," said Drift, who mixed in the Anishinaabe language when giving his speech. "We can persevere. We can get through this."

But Drift also cautioned that Indian country must come up with a game plan to be self-sufficient like they used to be. That is why Bois Forte must diversify its portfolio and have a plan in place should the funding cuts ever come to fruition.

Earlier in his speech, Drift gave an uplifting message to the young children

and teens gathered at the State of the Band—and that was to have them follow their dreams.

"Believe in yourself that everything will fall into place," said Drift, who himself is a still a young man in his early 30s. "Learn your language. Get educated. Get that degree—go out and get it. The world isn't going to come to you—you have to go out and get it. I just want to end on a positive note and I want to thank everyone here. The future is bright—it's very bright..."

District II Representative Robert Moyer, Jr. had a previous engagement set

up prior to the SOTB being rescheduled, so he could not be in attendance.

As is tradition, Acting Chair and District I Representative Shane Drift gave the official State of the Band address. He thanked all of Bois Forte's staff who were in attendance and manned informational booths, along with the senior management team and Fortune Bay's staff for all of their hard work in pulling off the event. He also thanked Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams and the drum group for rendering those beautiful songs that truly mesmerized the audience as well as paying tribute to our veterans.

Like the others, Drift expressed concern over the current political climate. He said it was imperative for tribal leaders to stay on its toes and be prepared for any battles that might be looming. He said it would be devastating for cuts to impact programming, especially if programs experienced layoffs or firings. He said the concern would be that those employees left would have to absorb the workload of others let go and that would have many ill consequences.

As he has stated many times in the past, Drift implored senior management and his fellow council members to start building financial reserves. He said he has been talking about that since being elected in 2018 and that something needs to be done.

"With the current situation we are in, that is why financial reserves are so important and so vital," said Drift. "We, as a tribal council, need to continue building our financial reserves. That is why I asked for a meeting with key individuals to discuss financial reserves and how to increase our financial reserves. That meeting will happen in April."

Drift also talked about how he pushed for the marijuana dispensary and as much as he'd like to proceed with a multi-million dollar grow facility, he is not sure that is the route to go given the financial climate and start up dollars needed.

He reported that Ishkode Dispensary made \$15,000 the first day it was open and that was done with little marketing and blizzard-like conditions. He is optimistic that momentum continues, and he is also hopeful that plans for a smaller marijuana dispensary currently being built next to the C Store, will also be a financial success for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

Drift also touched on his work being

done to increase 1854 Treaty payments so that Bois Forte band members continue to see higher per cap checks. He talked about the two-year increase being expired, but added he and others on the council are working with Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, along with Senator Grant Hauschild, to make those increases permanent. He commended Lobbyist Reid LeBeau for his efforts in fighting this battle and also thanked Tribal Attorney Jeff Holth for the work he has done on behalf of the band on a variety of projects, most notably, his work with Ishkode Dispensary.

Drift also reported that progress has been made as it pertains to rights within the 1866 Treaty and that he is also working to ensure that helium is covered under the 1854 Treaty so that any revenue gleaned from those future ventures could be beneficial to our tribe.

As Drift wound down his informative SOTB address, he paused to reflect that this was his first SOTB since he lost his significant other, Christina Hujanen. He choked up a few times before regaining his composure and talked about how many people Bois Forte has lost over the past several months and why now is the time to have Healing Ceremonies and Talking Circles on the Vermilion side and Nett Lake side.

"This would give our communities a chance to come together to grieve together, to support each other and to heal together," said Drift.

Getting back to Christina, Drift said that one thing he knows in his heart is that Christina helped him become a better man—a better father—a better boyfriend—a better tribal leader and a better writer.

"So with that being said, remember to always try and be kind to each other," said Drift. "You don't know what somebody's going through—you don't know if they are dealing with a loss, so please be kind to each other."

*Editor's note: To watch the SOTB program, use this link <https://youtu.be/V4pLLrQiGjw> and you can watch it on YouTube or you can go to the Bois Forte website ([www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)).*

*Great job to all of the speakers! We'll run a feature story on Bois Forte's new Executive Director Miranda Lilya in the May issue of the Bois Forte News.*



**April 19, 2025**

**Registration: 12PM & 6PM**  
**Grand Entry: 1PM & 6PM**  
**Dinner: 4PM**

**Zoongide'ewin**  
**POW WOW**

Host Drum <b>LAKE VERMILION</b>	Co-Host <b>LAC LA CROIX</b>	Invited drum <b>TRIBESMEN</b>	Invited drum <b>KZ BOYZ</b>
Master of ceremonies <b>TERRY GOODSKY</b>	Arena director <b>LANCE KINGBIRD</b>	Head male dancer <b>CURT MOON</b>	Head female dancer <b>ALANNA MICHELLE MOON</b>

**SPiritual Advisor - JULIAN KITTOs**

**Iron Trail motor event center**  
 919 6th St. S., Virginia, MN 55792

**Curt & Alanna Moon tiny tots special ages, six and under**

1st. Prize bicycles  
 2nd. Prize gift baskets, one boy one girl  
 3rd. Prize gift baskets, one boy one girl

**Rules: Must be in Regalia and Dance Unassisted**

**Sponsored By The Minnesota Department of Health Cannabis Prevention**

For more powwow / vendor info please contact Toni at 218-404-8377

Secure your stay for the sobriety powwow with our exclusive room block at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino  
 Booking ID # 2975  
 25 rooms available BOOK NOW!  
 For reservations called 1-218-753-6400 to book your stay today. Cut off dates for reservations are Friday, March 28, 2025.  
 Please bring your tribal identification card for a special rate.

**10 Drum Split**  
**Must Have Drum Keeper and 4 Singers**  
 This is an alcohol and drug-free event, not responsible for any lost or stolen items or property

**Blacklance graphics**





# Wellbeing Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings slated for April 5th

LAKE VERMILION SECTOR—The Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum is hosting a Wellbeing Feast and Traditional Drum Teachings event at the Vermilion Government Center on April 5th at 4 p.m., located at 1610 Farm Point Road S. Tower, on the Lake Vermilion Reservation.

Rebecca Gawboy is serving the feast with deer meat, wild rice, blueberries,

cornbread and a berry desert. David Morrison Jr. will provide traditional drum teachings and will sing songs with fellow singers Lance Kingbird, Angelo Kingbird, and Mark Black.

This event is sponsored in part by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families to celebrate April as Family Wellbeing Month. Bois Forte Community Programs will be on site to

provide information about their services that can assist individual and family well-being, such as Nutrition Education and Energy Assistance.

If you need transportation, you can call for a ride from Big Woods Transit. Their number is 888-757-1540. You can call a couple of days in advance.

You are cordially invited to the

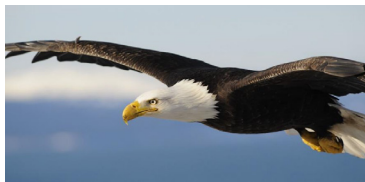
## Bois Forte Tribal Court 50th Anniversary

Thursday, May 22, 2025  
2:00pm

Join us for refreshments as we honor Lucille Morrison by dedicating our court room in her memory and years of service as the Bois Forte Tribal Court Clerk



Bois Forte Tribal Court  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B  
Ort, MN 55771

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



**Bois Forte Tribal Enrollment will be available at the MCT Office 15542 State Hwy 371 Cass Lake, MN to issue Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards on Wednesday April 16th, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 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)**

MCT Office

15542 State Hwy 371

Cass Lake, MN 56633

**WE'RE HIRING**

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



Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's menu for the month of April. Services offered include nutritious meals served daily, Monday through Friday at the Nett Lake and Vermilion Community Centers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with home-delivered meals available to Elders who are unable to get to the ENP sites.

**April 1:** Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 2:** Meatballs with Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 3:** Black Bean Burrito Bowl, Salsa, Cheese, Sour Cream, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 4:** Roast Chicken with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Capri Vegetables, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 7:** Bison Stew/Chili, 7-Grain Bread, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 8:** Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Root Vegetable, Garden Salad, Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 9:** Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 10:** Wild Rice Meatballs with Gravy, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 11:** Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Red Cabbage/Broccoli, Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit



**April 14:** Pork Loin, Garden Blend Rice Pilaf, Diced Beets, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 15:** Teriyaki Chicken, Rice Medley, Green Beans, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 16:** Roast Turkey Slice, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, French Cut Green Beans, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie

**April 17:** Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

**April 22:** Baked Pork Chop, Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower/Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 23:** Beef Lasagne, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Choice of Fruit

**April 24:** Beef/Bean Soup, Potato Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 25:** Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 28:** White Chicken Chili with Beans, Cornbread, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**April 29:** Roast Pork, Baby Baker Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit

# NICC attends SOTB to provide Bois Forte Carbon Project update

*Guest column by Stephen Taglieri  
Marketing Director for NICC*

The National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC) team had the honor of attending the Bois Forte annual State of the Band event this past month to discuss development of the Bois Forte Carbon Project.

Alongside partners from TerraCarbon and The Nature Conservancy, community members engaged with the team to learn more about the project, participate in a trivia challenge, and test their luck at Plinko for prizes. The enthusiasm and support from attendees underscored the importance of this project—not only for conservation but also for its role in financing the land acquisition.

In a major milestone, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa regained 28,000 acres of ancestral lands, reinforcing a commitment to environmental stewardship and cultural preservation. This marks the largest land return to a Tribal Nation in U.S. history using private funding.

On this newly regained land, a groundbreaking 22,000-acre carbon project is also in development to generate income from forest carbon sequestration. Over the next 40 years, the Bois Forte Forestry Department will carefully manage this land to protect wildlife and grow lush, mature forests. By following Improved Forest Management practices and increasing forest health, the Band will generate additional annual revenue which will support Band priorities in the future.

The heart of this project lies in impactful forest stewardship. By comparing the management of Bois Forte's 22,000 enrolled acres to how other forests nearby are managed, NICC can measure how successful Improved Forest Management strategies are. If the forests on Bois Forte land grow more healthily than surrounding forests under different management, the project generates valuable carbon credits—credits that companies can buy and use to offset their own emissions. A carbon credit is equal to one ton of carbon. Each credit is generated when a ton of carbon is absorbed in Bois Forte Forest lands because of tree growth. The NICC team works collaboratively with Bois Forte to track tree growth, ecosystem health, and carbon storage. By focusing on forest health, reducing timber harvests, and letting trees flourish, this project ensures the land absorbs more carbon than surrounding woodlands.

Beyond helping the planet, this project is deeply tied to Bois Forte's cultural heritage. It protects old-growth forests and safeguards resources important to the Band. By generating old growth habitat, the project balances economic opportunity with sustainability, ensuring that the land continues to provide for several generations to come. The reclaimed 28,000 acres are part of a diverse forest landscape across the reservation, creating a haven for countless species to thrive. In recent years, the forests across the Bois Forte Reservation have experienced a 200% increase in



READY TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PLANS!— Here are some of the staff members who took time out of their busy schedules to have an informational booth at the 2025 State of the Band, which took place Saturday, March 1st. Pictured, left to right, are David Ruff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kelly Cain from the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC), Rane Cortez from the TNC and David Shoch from TerraCarbon.

muskrat population, a ~300% increase in moose population, as well as additional benefits for other species. At its core, the project is built on three pillars: Climate, Community, and Biodiversity. Because of this strong foundation, it will also receive Verra's Climate, Community, and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards Certifica-

tion. This certification is reserved for projects that fight climate change, uplift local communities, and protect ecosystems. The project is currently under design and there will be opportunities for Band members to provide input on the design of the project.

## Bois Forte posts for new CEO

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa has posted for a new CEO as Drew Ebert is no longer working for Bois Forte.

Longtime Fortune Bay Director of Finance Brad Anderson will serve as interim CEO until a replacement can be found.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the successful overall direction, administration, and coordination of all business activities of Bois Forte Development Corporation (BFDC) in accordance with the mis-

sions, values, philosophies, policies, and objectives established by the BFDC. The CEO shall provide effective leadership with the ultimate objective of attaining maximum profit on operations and return on investments.

The CEO position will be posted until April 21st. The salary for the CEO ranges from \$123,975 to \$206,625 annually.

To apply for the position, please visit <https://fortunebay.com/careers>

If you have ideas  
for our band,  
please let me  
know by  
contacting me  
on Facebook  
(Peter Boney  
for chairman)  
or by calling  
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# Ishkode Dispensary opens to the delight of our Tribal Council

LAKE VERMILION SECTOR— With a quick downward flick of his hands, Shane Drift ushered in a new era for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

“As we open up, it is a good day for Bois Forte,” said Drift, who is Bois Forte’s Acting Tribal Chairman and District I Representative, shortly before cutting the ribbon to commemorate the February 28, 2025, opening of the Ishkode Dispensary. “It’s a good day for our band members, and it’s a good day for our future.”

Drift was joined by fellow Bois Forte Council members Tara Geshick and Perry Drift at the ceremony, which included an invocation by Bois Forte’s Spiritual Advisor Vern Adams. District II Representative Robert Moyer Jr. was out of state on official business, so he could not be in attendance.

Roughly 20 people turned out for the ceremony, which then transitioned into the actual opening of the dispensary.

“Thank you everybody for coming in,” said Drift as the winds outside howled and blustering snow swirled around. “Thank you to the staff for being here. This has been a long time coming for us. Our tribe and our band members have pushed for this.”

Drift briefly talked about how he had pressed for this marijuana dispensary since he took office in 2018 and said that he was glad to see the day had finally arrived when Bois Forte could get into the cannabis industry.

District I Representative Perry Drift, who gave some of his opening remarks in Anishinaabe, was also glad the day had finally arrived. He joked that his sister asked him if they were “just going to cut the ribbon” or “just take a toké” to ring in the new business venture.

“I am happy,” said a smiling Drift, looking around at those gathered for the occasion. “My heart is really happy—I wanted this really badly.”

Secretary-Treasurer Tara Geshick discussed the teamwork needed to make this venture a reality.

“I backed up Shane when he started talking about cannabis again, so we

worked together,” said Geshick. “It was tough—it was tough getting to know all of these regulations...it took a long time, and we’re sorry about that, but we needed to do things correctly—we needed to do things right.”

Not only that, but Geshick added that partnerships with other tribes to supply production had to be developed to get the best products possible for the Ishkode Dispensary, which is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“We believe in this business—we hired the right people to be here to serve you,” said Geshick as she looked at the Ishkode Dispensary staff working their inaugural shift. “So, let’s get this going—and make it the best premier cannabis shop in Minnesota—Miigwech.”

After the speeches, Shane Drift grabbed the oversized scissors while others held onto the symbolic ribbon.

“Let’s get this rolling,” joked Drift in reference to rolling a joint to commemorate the Ishkode Dispensary opening.

The dispensary, which is located near Fortune Bay Resort Casino’s RV Park, carries a wide array of products, including premium flowers, handcrafted pre-rolls, disposable vapes, cartridges, and concentrate. For the latest product line, please visit <https://ish-kode.com>

BFDC CEO Drew Ebert was equally proud of Ishkode Dispensary’s success story and spoke passionately about the journey at the 2025 State of the Band, which took place one day after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He said opening the dispensary was no small feat as the business was built from scratch in a pioneering industry with a limited workforce and budget—all within six months.

“And we did it for well under \$2,000,000—an amount that covered total product costs, several months of salaries including the next few, and every operational expense to bring Ishkode to life,” said Ebert. “So, while the project may have seemed slow, the reality is that we are like lightning in our budget, timeline, and efficiency. This is not just a business accomplishment; this is a tes-

tament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and strategic execution.”

In his closing remarks, Ebert said to let Ishkode be a symbol of what we can accomplish together.

“Let it be a beacon of innovation, strength, and progress,” said Ebert of

Ishkode Dispensary, which he firmly believes will be the Bois Forte Band’s first successful business product since The Y Store was acquired in 2006. “And let it remind us that when we come together with a shared purpose, there is no limit to what we can achieve.”



**LET’S ROLL!**— Bois Forte Acting Chair and District I Representative Shane Drift gets ready to cut the ribbon at the Ishkode Dispensary, which opened February 28, 2025. Looking on from left to right are Drew Ebert, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Curtis Warren (holding cell phone), Kyle Littlewolf and Paxton Goodsky, far right.



**TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!**— Pictured here are some of the Ishkode Dispensary team members. Picture in the front row, left to right are: Retail Manager Paxton Goodsky, Nikki White, Sam Strong, Keenin Sargent, and Cheyenne Boshey. Pictured in the back row, left to right are: Greywolf Birch, Lucas Isham and Xavier Wakemup.



Tracey Ann Porter



TRACEY ANN PORTER also known as Trasi Porter-Goodsky, 54, passed away unexpectedly in her home on March 14, 2025. She was a loving mother, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, friend of many. Tracey was a skillful licensed massage therapist,

and a culinary maestro. She is survived by her brothers Leon (Yvonne) Goodsky of Forest Lake, Brandon Benner of Duluth; sisters, Lana (Vince) Goodsky of Minneapolis, Tammy Goodsky of Nett Lake, Natalie Goodsky of Nett Lake, Kelly Chosa of Tower, and Kristal Porter of Seattle. She is also survived by her children: Minh Porter known as Jonny, Brianna Proeung (significant other Jonathan LaDuke), Jeydin Proeung (significant other Randii Callan), Deandre Rodriguez, and Valencia Porter.

A traditional wake service was held Saturday, March 22, 2025, at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center in Nett Lake. A traditional funeral service was held Sunday, March 23, 2025, at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center in Nett Lake. Online condolences to [www.mlakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.mlakerfuneralhome.com)

Mark Edward Drift Sr.



MARK EDWARD DRIFT SR., 56, of Eveleth, “Mi-Zin-Ni-Ga-Boo,” his Indian name meaning “walks on clear ice” of the bear clan, passed away on March 2, 2025, at the U of M Hospital in Minneapolis. Mark was born on April 2, 1968, to Karen (Strong) and Lester E. Drift Sr. of Nett Lake, Minnesota. Mark grew up on the Nett Lake Reservation and graduated from Orr High School in 1986. In his spare time, Mark enjoyed watching the Vikings play, listening to music, attending his grandkids’ sports games, ricing—even if he didn’t have a partner! Mark also enjoyed going to the gym and keeping fit. He often enjoyed spending the day at his mom’s house, helping her out and spending time with her. Mark was a family-oriented man and would be willing to help anyone

who needed it. He worked in construction for most of his life and served on the Bois Forte Tribal Council from 2004-2008. He would tell stories of him building numerous bridges and buildings across Minnesota. Mark is survived by his wife, Sandra Drift, of Eveleth, MN; his mother, Karen Drift of Nett Lake, MN. His daughters: Nina (Everett) Villebrun of Cook, MN, Alanna (Josh) Sherman of Tower, MN, Jeanette Long of Tower, MN, and stepdaughter, Kendra Carver, of Eveleth, MN. His sons, Mark (Isabel) Drift, Jr. of Nett Lake, MN and Phillip Long of Hibbing, MN; two sisters, Farrah Drift of Nett Lake, MN and Karlene (Donald) Chosa of Baraga, MI; two brothers, Peter (Lori) Drift of Mahnomen, MN and Bart Drift of Nett Lake, MN. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Kaiden, Colt, Evan, Ellie, Dexter, James and Elora; numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Mark is preceded in death by his father, Lester E. Drift, Sr. in 2014, one brother, Lester “son son” Drift, Jr. in 2008. Traditional services were held at the Nett Lake Government Center at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025, with the wake at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Spiritual advisors were Billy Blackwell and Vernon Adams. The pallbearers were Shane Drift, Brent Chosa, Perry Drift, Erik Halvorson, Josh Sherman, Dexter Sherman, Kaiden Chosa and John Carlson. Online condolences to [www.mlakerfuneralhome.com](http://www.mlakerfuneralhome.com)

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**IN THE BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA TRIBAL CHILDREN'S COURT**  
**MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE**

In the Matter of the Welfare of: AMC DOB 11/01/2007. Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Amanda Rae Boshey (deceased), Cody James Chavez, Respondents. Court File No. CP-2025-0001  
To: Cody James Chavez

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on March 4th, 2025. A hearing on the above petition will be held April 8th, 2025, at 12:00PM. Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard via Zoom, at the Bois Forte Children's Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771. Please contact the Tribal Court at 218-757-3462 or via email at [bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov) for Zoom link hearing information.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED BY THIS SUMMONS AND NOTICE THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE NOTED ABOVE. FAILURE TO ATTEND THIS HEARING MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT JUDGEMENT BEING GRANTED FOR THE PETITIONER.

By the Court,  
Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Melissa Wright, Court Administrator  
Attorney for the Petitioner, Joy Parker  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B  
Orr, MN 55771  
(218) 757-3462

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**IN THE BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA TRIBAL CHILDREN'S COURT**  
**MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE**

In the Matter of the Welfare of: D.E.I DOB 08/23/2016. Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Liberty Lynn Isham, Samuel Vaughn Bryers, Respondents. Court File No. CP-2025-0005  
To: Liberty Isham and Samuel Bryers

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on January 30th, 2025. A hearing on the above petition will be held April 8th, 2025, at 11:00AM. Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard via Zoom, at the Bois Forte Children's Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr, MN 55771. Please contact the Tribal Court at 218-757-3462 or via email at [bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:bfcourt@boisforte-nsn.gov) for Zoom link hearing information.

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By the Court,  
Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Melissa Wright, Court Administrator  
Attorney for the Petitioner, Joy Parker  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B  
Orr, MN 55771  
(218) 757-3462



**Minutes of a Regular meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 2, 2025, at Nett Lake, Eagle Room, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:08 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: Miranda Lilya, Frances Irving, Toni Wakemup, Randy Long, Kim Greiner, Carol Burr, Amy Mason, Dan Rabideaux, Chris Holm. See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held December 4, 2024 with the correction to Vern Adams name.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held December 18, 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) RFP Selection of David Farmer for Pineview home rehab and materials list 4-0-0

b) Authorizing Cathy & Tara to sign ltr to DHS Grants in regard to criminal charges that involve improper use of grant funds. 4-0-0

c) GTAC Letter and authorizing Cathy to sign 4-0-0

d) Resolution No. 55-2025, ARPA SLFRF funds to purchase trucks, snowplows 4-0-0

e) Resolution No. 56-2025, amending Resolution No. 24-2025 to allocate additional ARPA S:-FRF funds for improvement of I.T. infrastructure on Vermilion Sector 4-0-0 Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to table MOU for Tribal Observers Program at NorthMet until start date and total money can be verified and entered into agreement. Carried 4-0-0

Shane leaves the meeting

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the 2025 Nett Lake pow wow's fundraising activities, raffles and lunch fundraisers. Carried 3-0-0

Shane returns to the meeting.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 58-2025, adopting VAWA '22 and Human Trafficking Revisions to the Bois Forte Tribal Code.

Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 59-2025, adopting revisions to the Bois Forte Elder Justice code. Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to rescind Resolutions 63-2020 and 35-2021. Carried 4-0-0

Shane submits documents to Tara to submit to MCT TEC for consideration. Shane not sure if can disclose at this time. Jeff states that he can disclose the basis of the information but not disclose any confidential information. Shane just

states that it involves a tribal council member getting involved in a court case. No other information is given.

Cathy has an announcement to make. Cathy informs everyone that she will be retiring, and her last day will be on January 31, 2025.

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

Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: February 5, 2025

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 5, 2025, at Nett Lake, Eagle Room, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

Members Present: Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Miranda Lilya, Frances Irving, Regina Howe, Robbie Goggleye, Jim Barto, Crystal Royer, Erin Shaw, Jennie Rowland, Will Mantye, Ann Marie Hill, Dan Rabideaux, George Strong, Kathie Holman, Vondalee Carr, William Villebrun, David Morrison Jr., Brian Whiteman, Victoria Villebrun, Mildred Holmes, Carol Burr, Teri Morrison, Randy Long, Kim Greiner, Doris Isham, Renika Love-Virtual. See attached for list of virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with addition of Shane Drift, stop/rescind what he submitted to Tara at last RTC meeting. Move Will Mantye after Crystal Royer. Under Miranda, William Villebrun here to speak with the council. Shane also lets audience know that there will be a recess at 11:00am for a consultation with Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flannigan.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held December 18, 2024.

Carried 3-0-0

Shane requests an update from Robbie Goggleye & Jim Barto on the approval of the RFP selection of David Farmer for the Pineview home and materials list from 02/02/2025 RTC meeting minutes. Robbie and Jim enter the meeting. They inspected his work, all is good. Ran into an unforeseen issue with plumbing. Need to call plumber to fix.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Regular meeting held January 2, 2025.

Carried 3-0-0

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

a) Revised contract for Dell-Comm to do wiring project for Fortune Bay 4-0-0

b) Contract with David Farmer for Pineview Rd Home rehab 4-0-0

c) Final approval of ARPA SLFRF General government Services Reallocation 4-0-0

d) Resolution No. 57-2025, Authorizing us of ARPA Funds for reservation signs by Wood-

Stone 4-0-0

e) MOU regarding intertribal task force on helium extraction 4-0-0

f) LTR of Support to US Secretary of Transportation for the FY 2024-2026 PROTECT Grant 4-0-0

g) Sole Source to Fortune Bay for 2025 State of the Band Event 4-0-0

h) MOU with NewRange Copper Nickel for Tribal Observers Program at NorthMet 4-0-0

i) Resolution No. 62-2025, approving band application for DOE Tribal Clean Energy Planning and Development Grant 4-0-0

j) Whole of State Service agreement and work order contract with State of MN for CrowdStrike antivirus and cybersecurity 4-0-0

k) Approved bid proposal from Patterson Dental Supply for equipment at Virginia Property 4-0-0

l) Resolution No. 63-2025, Authorization to designate Vice-Chair, Shane Drift to serve as an authorized signatory in place of Chair Cathy Chavers on all bank accounts 4-0-0

m) Approval of 105l Leases FY 2023 4-0-0

n) Approval of ISD 707 FY 2026 Impact Aid Waiver 4-0-0

o) 2025 Special Election announcement and

Calendar 4-0-0 Carried 3-0-0

Jennie Rowland introduces Crystal Royer and Erin Shaw with the United Way to give a presentation on the program ALICE. ALICE is Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

Will Mantyh & Ann Marie Hill update on research project on Alzheimer's and brain health. Looking to seek approval for 2 papers prior to publication. Will will provide documentation on what he is requesting to publish.

Moved Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 65-2025, approval of recurring Bois Forte HHS expenditures. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve lease agreement with ISD 707 for noncommercial educational broadcast station. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 66-2025, Appointment of Jennie Rowland to the MIAAA (Minnesota Indian Area Agency on Aging) Executive Board. Carried 3-0-0

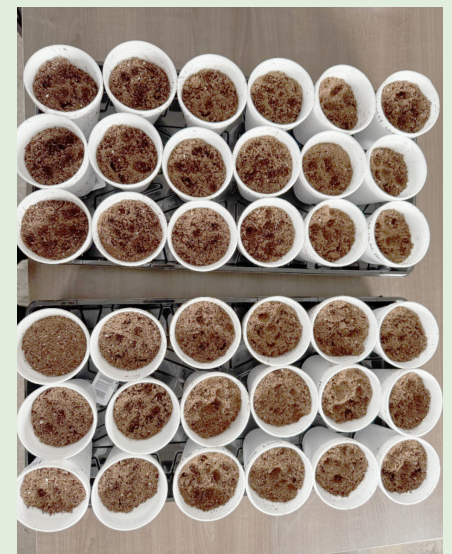
Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the waiver of the \$12 re-issue to the "Policy & Guidelines for Issuance of Tribal Enrollment Picture Identification Cards". Beginning January 29, 2025 for a period of one

## Nutrition Education Program Plans Community Gardens

The 2025 gardening season is underway for the Nett Lake and Vermilion community gardens. The Nutrition Education Program has purchased heirloom seeds and started a selection of seeds to be transplanted when the weather conditions are favorable. Our goal this season will be to supplement locally grown vegetables and herbs for the Bois Forte Community Lunches.

Marissa Rose, Vermilion's Nutrition Education Coordinator, is partnering with Community Wellness Coordinator Rebecca Adams to construct a community garden.

We are excited about gardening season and feeding our communities! Stay tuned to watch our gardens grow. Happy Spring!





year. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the 2025 MIGA fees in the amount of \$27,500 to be paid by Fortune Bay.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 67-2025, 2025 Indian Gaming Association dues in the amount of \$3,500.00 to be paid by Fortune Bay. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to recess at 10:52 am. Meeting reconvened at 12:38pm.

Renika presents on a project (Minnesota Indigenous Paths to Parenthood (MNIPTP)) that she is working on, curricula geared towards the indigenous population within State of MN pertaining to parenting. Project focuses on youth and young adults to: help them prepare for parenthood, educate them on financial and emotional realities of parenting, and support the

economic stability of families and be a resource to the community. Would have focus groups in the urban office in Minneapolis.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to table any approval on this project until all documentation is received (i.e. contract). Carried 3-0-0

Shane brings up mandatory training for council members. Specific training tailored to each of the seats: Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and District I representatives. Shane requests that this be put into a resolution. A little bit of discussion on whether this should just be offered or mandatory.

Shane brings up the ordinance 46-2021 the Bois Forte Code of Ethics and the scope (section 103.b Time: "The standards of conduct contained in this Ordinance apply only to events occurring after the effective date of the amendment". In MCT Constitution there is a five year window. Shane would like the Bois Forte Code of Eth-

ics to be similar to what the MCT constitution says. Also brings up that there is a Civil penalty in code of ethics but not in MCT Constitution.

Shane brings up that he would like resolution for council members, that they cannot bind the RTC or Tribal Government to any contract or project by themselves. Is in code of ethics but would like it in its own resolution. Also asks that resolutions need to be put on the web page.

Shane brings up in the Jan. 2, 2025 RTC meeting minutes, Shane submitted documents to Tara to submit to TEC for consideration and asks that this motion be rescinded. Miranda states that there was not motion on the issue at that meeting. Michael Murphy states that if Shane chooses he can formally withdraw the submission. Robert agrees with Michael and states that he does not know what was it in the documents that were submitted and agrees that if Shane chooses he can withdraw his submission. After some discussion on what the process should be, Shane makes the statement "I formally withdraw the documents that I submitted to Secretary-Treasurer, Tara Geshick".

William Villebrun brings up an issue that in 2022 he sent an email to Tribal Council that no one responded to, regarding Bois Forte Housing. He is asking that he either gets the house back or money back 5 years. He feels they took the house illegally. Housing is to bring the information for this to the Tribal Council for review. William state that he doesn't have any documents because housing threw everything away. He also states that if Tribal Council does not help him, he will go to the FBI, internal investigations of tribal matters. Miranda asks William to submit some documentation (statement of timeline) with this information.

Shane makes some announcements. Free Tax preparation in Nett Lake Feb. 10, 2025. Holiday's and RTC excusals: Presidents Day 2/17/2025 offices closed, Feb 19 RTC meeting, needs to be changed to Vermilion, Feb 19 at Vermilion-Free Tax preparation, Mar 1st-State of the Band event.

Robert lets everyone know that he will not be attending State of the Band.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 pm. Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: March 5, 2025

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held February 20, 2025, at Vermilion Social Center, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:29 a.m.

Moment of silence done for invocation.

Members Present: Shane Drift, Tara Geshick, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Shane Drift chairs meeting in absence of Chair.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Carol Burr, Tom Spears, Jim Barto, Vickey Hackey, Dan Rabideaux, Ed Chavers, Amy Mason, Nikki Irving, Miranda Lilya, Roger Heger, Doris Isham, Brian Whiteman Sr., Pam Parson, Brad Anderson, Heidi Gordon, Jennie Rowland, Marissa Rose. See attached for list of virtual attendees.

Shane addresses everyone and states that there will be an official statement from the Tribal Council regarding the Fortune Bay vault situation.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the agenda with the following additions: 1. Tribal Council unemployment resolution, 2. Resolution that no single RTC does not have power to take action, 3. Ishkode financial update and discussion. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table RTC meeting minutes from Special meeting held February 5, 2025.

Carried 3-0-0

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

a) Resolution No. 64-2025, appointment of Shane Drift, Vice-Chair as successor trustee of the Tribal Government 401K plan, effective 01/31/2025. 3-0-0

b) Notice of Candidacy-Chairperson for special election 3-0-0

c) Amend the Bois Forte SORNA Code, Section 8.03 (Exclusion) and all Tribal Government, Fortune Bay, and enterprises expand backgrounds and effective 8/20/2025 sex offenders may not be employed by Reservation Tribal Government, Fortune Bay or any Bois Forte owned enterprise. 3-0-0

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 68-2025, approving the band's submission of an application for the National Park Service's Tribal Heritage Grant Program.

Carried 3-0-0

Roger Heger, Bureau of Trust Funds and Administration, Fiduciary Trust Officer & Heidi Gordon, BIA, MN Agency, Superintendent provide information on the Bois Forte Tribal accounts and the ILCA funds for Tribal Trust land purchase. They also provide information on the accounts that Bois Forte has with the balances.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded

by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Grant Administration Policy and Grant approval form.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve SRF Consulting Group to use the Bois Forte logo on the Bois Forte Transportation Safety Action Plan.

Carried 3-0-0

Discussion on the feasibility study that was done for a second route out of Nett Lake. Taylor Arriviello goes through the study.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approved the purchase of 3 buses from Hoglund Bus Company. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Independent Services Contract with OJ's HVAC and Refrigeration, Inc for the New Moon air exchanger and duct work replacement. Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 69-2025, Lease modification for Larry Milbridge, Anita Milbridge, and Sharon Milbridge.

Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the purchase of CD's for 1051 lease funds.

Carried 3-0-0

Pam Parson gives a compliance update.

Financial update on Ishkode

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 70-2025, Salary schedule, severance (unemployment) benefits for RTC members, update policies pertaining to unemployment compensation benefits for RTC members into a comprehensive policy as outlined in the resolution.

Carried 2-1-0 (Robert opposes)

Moved by Perry Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to table Resolution No. 71-2025, reaffirm that absent RTC authorization, no single RTC member has the power to take action to bind the Band, until further language can be drafted up. Carried 3-0-0

Paxton Goodsky gives an additional update on Ishkode. Final walk through as been done and approved. Working on getting product.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 pm.

Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: March 5, 2025



## Indigenous Healthcare Career Exploration Day Camp

June 11-13, 2025

Hosted by Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (Cloquet, MN)

Students attending the day camp will:

- Experience cultural activities
- Explore careers in a variety of healthcare fields
- Engage with Tribal community healthcare professionals
- Become CPR and First Aid Certified
- Go on fun excursions and other activities



**Applications are NOW open for Minnesota students entering grades 9-12\*.**

Through the generous support of our partners there is no cost to participants.

\*Preference will be given to American Indian/Alaska Native students

Transportation stipends are available for students residing 35+miles from campus.

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Apply at: <https://bit.ly/SCRUBSCamps>

For more information, please contact:

Brenda Shafer-Pellinen at [bshaferpellinen@ardc.org](mailto:bshaferpellinen@ardc.org)



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