NOVEMBER 2026

Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 50 NUMBER 11

Honoring our warriors!

VERMILION SECTOR— Bois Forte will be putting on a Veterans Day luncheon for our band member veterans and those veterans working at Fortune Bay Resort Casino and other BFDC businesses. The luncheon begins at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 9 in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay. We hope to see you there!

Deadline reminder!

The December Bois Forte News deadline is Friday, November 20—please send any news item, obituary, photo, etc. to bkanderson@fortunebay.com

Call 218-753-7882 if you have any questions—thank you!

Climate change is not just a theory

Warming climate has not gone unnoticed by Bois Forte band members

NETT LAKE— Community members gathered over a recent weekend to discuss how climate change is altering the way we live and sustain ourselves as a tribe.

The results shared by Seth Spencer from the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative were sobering. Yes, we still have time to flip the script, but unless we, as a society, start reducing our carbon footprint, life as we know it won't be the same for future generations.

Amy Mason, who heads up Bois Forte's Energy program, along with staff from the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative, put on the community event in the Eagle room at the RTG building. The latter brings together several tribes, including Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage, along with counties such as Carlton, St. Louis, and Cook, as well as the DNR, the University of Minnesota, and the Department of Transportation.

Mason said the community event aimed to help Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, and Grand Portage advance their sustainability and resiliency goals while also providing attendees with a wealth of information on energy assistance programs.

With winter just around the corner, attendees were also given a large duffle bag filled with home weatherization and emergency supplies. The kit addressed household preparedness for cold weather and pest intrusion, as mice look for warmer places once the cold sets in; it also included supplies to combat drafts at windows and doors, an emergency flashlight, and a power bank to charge your phone in case of a power outage. The group also handed out literature to give attendees more ideas on how to better prepare for the winter months.



INTERESTING PROJECT— Charlize Lightfeather Spears, left, and Dorothea Kletschka, right, are shown making a do-it-yourself fan that is meant to improve home air quality. Roughly 30 band members showed up for the community event that centered around how climate change is impacting the Bois Forte Reservations.



HEALTHY DISCUSSION— Staff from the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative, along with Bois Forte Energy Director Amy Mason, put on an informational community event centered around climate change on Saturday, October 24 in Nett Lake. Pictured, left to right, are: Doris Isham, Deanna Geelhoed, Seth Spencer, Rhiannon Strong, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez, Tracey Strong Dagen and Amy Mason.

According to Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's Deanna Geelhoed, who was one of the facilitators for the event, the mission of Collaborative is to prepare the region for current and future climate impacts, reduce jurisdictional barriers, and create a comprehensive climate resilience plan made possible by prior plans, specialized working groups, and robust community engagement.

She said the community gathering aimed to discuss people's concerns about climate change on Bois Forte Reservation and the Ceded Territory. She added that it is

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Bois Forte News Briefs

Misaabe Cultural Experience slated for November 12

VIRGINIA—Students, families, educators, and community members are invited to the Misaabe Cultural Experience on Thursday, November 12, at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

Admission is free and open to the public, with programming planned from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The gathering aims to foster understanding, respect, and meaningful dialogue through Indigenous history, treaty education, cultural presentations, storytelling, artistic expression, and music.

Bringing together Indigenous artists, educators, and community voices, the experience seeks to engage youth, strengthen awareness of Ojibwe culture and contemporary Native perspectives, and build community connections.

Preliminary program highlights include: • 9 a.m.–2 p.m. —Student Learning Experience: Speakers, treaty education, cultural presentations, arts, literature, and youth activities.

• 2–5 p.m. —Community Cultural Showcase: Artist exhibits, author presentations, cultural demonstrations, and community dialogue.

• Throughout the day —Treaty History & Indigenous Perspectives: Treaty relationships, Native governance, community history, and educational resources.

• 5-9 p.m. —Evening Celebration & Live Music: Planned keynote presentations, a community reception, and Indigenous musical performances.

Please note the schedule is subject to change, so check out KBFT's website (https:/kbft.org) for the latest schedule, thank you!



WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!—Chief Judge Megan Treuer is shown swearing in new band prosecutor Kylan Hill, who recently graduated from Hamline University with his JD degree and also recently passed the Minnesota Bar exam. Hill works with the Jacobson Law Group, which is the same firm our Tribal Attorney Jeff Holth works for. Hill is a Red Lake band member. Congratulations Kylan and welcome again! Submitted photo.

Save the date for the annual Diabetes Awareness Conference!

VIRGINIA— Bois Forte Health and Human Services is pleased to announce that the annual Diabetes Awareness Conference will be held Thursday, November 19 at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

The schedule of events is as follows, but it is subject to change:

8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.—Booths open.

9 a.m.— Invocation.

9:10 a.m.— Bois Forte Singers—Pipe, Honor & Healing Song.

9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.—Becca Adams (SHIP Coordinator).

10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.— Break & Booths.

10:20 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Dawn Anderson (Diabetes bingo)

11a.m. to noon——April Smith (Diabetes foods & teas)

Noon to 1 p.m.—Lunch.

1 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.—"Squidg" & "Sleepy" (Exercises)

1:25 p.m. to 2 p.m.—Andrea (Nutrition & microbiomes)

2 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.— Break.

2:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.—Diabetes panel.

2:45 p.m.— Wrap up—Travelling song, evaluations, and prizes!

Sobriety/Prevention Support Meetings

VERMILION SECTOR—Bois Forte Substance Use Program, along with a MCT Prevention Grant, are pleased to announce the continuation of a Sobriety/Prevention Support Meeting every Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

Coffee and treats are available.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi or Amy at 218-753-2347.

RTG Office closures for November

NETT LAKE/VERMILION SECTOR— The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Government offices, including clinics in Nett Lake, Vermilion Sector and Virginia, will be closed on the following days in November:

•Wednesday, November 11—Veterans Day.

•Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving.

•Friday, November 27—Native American Heritage Day.

Thank you!

If you have a news item or announcement for the Bois Forte News, please send it to:
bkanderson@fortunebay.com

Bois Forte to host Eveleth Community Connect meeting

EVELETH—Bois Forte band members are invited to a public meeting in Eveleth to connect with local organizations and discover resources that are available for all ages.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Eveleth Community Center, which is located at 801 Jones St.

Stop by for a free meal, hygiene items, housing resources, preventative health service, mental health and substance use resources, warrant resolution and more.

Arrowhead Transit will provide free rides to and from the event on existing bus routes. The phone number to Arrowhead Transit is 800-862-0175.

The free community event is sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield, Essentia Health, Bois Forte 477 Program, Fairview, St. Louis County Public Health, Medica and Arrowhead Transit.

Co-Ed Miigwech Minoomin and Vermilion Volleyball tournament

VEFRMILION SECTOR— If you are looking for a little weekend fun, then you'll want to sign up for the Co-Ed Miigwech Minoomin and Vermilion Volleyball tournament.

The tournament takes place at the Vermilion Social Center on Saturday, November 7th at 10 a.m.

This is a commercial tobacco, alcohol and drug free event.

To sign up, please call, text or Facebook message Earl Villebrun. His number is 218-750-0989.

The tournament is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bois Forte, BlueCross BlueShield and Minnesota Department of Health's Tribal Grants Program.

Minneapolis Urban Office closed due to fire in adjacent building

MINNEAPOLIS— After a major fire in the building adjacent to the Minneapolis Urban Office broke out the evening of October 11, the small staff working on behalf of Bois Forte band members living in the metro area has resorted to working remotely until they can move into a temporary office space.

"We're working barebones right now," said Minneapolis Urban Office Coordinator Jacque Wilson in a recent phone interview. "Both Michelle (Smith) and I are working on our laptops and phones. We have no printing abilities, so it has been tough."

The fire, which started next door at Dollar Plus, 1300 E. Franklin Ave., caused significant damage to a building owned by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe at 1308 East Franklin Ave, which houses urban offices for Bois Forte and Fond du Lac.

Wilson said the fire that broke out at Dollar Plus flooded the Minneapolis Urban Office basement and caused a lot of smoke damage so it is unknown when, and if operations, will resume at the location. She reported on Wednesday, October 28, that a temporary office will be set up for the Bois Forte Urban Office and Housing Stabilization programs at the Minneapolis American Indian Center located at 1530 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN. This move takes place Monday, November 2.

Until then Wilson and Smith will continue working remotely to do their best to help out band members that count on the services the Bois Forte Urban Office and Housing Stabilization programs provide.

"The good news is that a lot of forms that we hand out to band members can be found on the Bois Forte website or a Facebook page we created called the Bois Forte Metro Area, where band members can find forms as well," said Wilson.

However, Wilson said it's not the same as interacting with band members and answering questions they have about programming and services available to them. She said the office also serves as a place for band members to get help with essentials like food and clothing.

The offices also enabled band members to get their Tribal IDs. Due to the office being closed, Wilson said the Duluth Urban Office will be able to handle the issuance of Tribal ID cards. The address of the Duluth Urban Office is 1915 South Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

Make sure to bring another form of identification, i.e., state driver's license, state ID card, or a birth certificate. The direct office line is 218-464-0840 or you can call Urban Office Coordinator Wendy Drift's cell phone at 218-206-5629. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

After the fire was reported, the Bois Forte Tribal Council issued a statement. They indicated the exact nature of the

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damage isn't clear yet and they would await official reports from the Minneapolis Fire Department.

"We will provide updates to Band members when more information becomes available," read the statement, which also included a thank you to firefighters and first responders for their efforts. "Their courage, skill, and commitment to protecting lives and property are deeply appreciated. We are grateful for their service to the Minneapolis community and to our relatives who live and work there."

The statement asked that band members keep everyone affected by this fire in their thoughts.

"We will share more information through official Band communication channels as it becomes available," read the statement. "Chi Miigwech— the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council."

Wilson said she and Smith Although will do their best to provide service to our local tribal members. She added that band members can reach her during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) at 612-747-5247, while questions concerning housing stability can be directed to Smith at 218-410-6400.

"I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we transition into this new normal and special thanks to the Minneapolis. American Indian Center for allowing us that temporary space for us to continue our services to our community," said Wilson. "Please watch the Bois Forte Metro area page on Facebook, as well as the media services of Bois Forte for any future updates or announcements. As of now, no November events are planned."





Senarichi shares her personal journey of perseverance

Submitted by Korrine Star Senarichi

I fought my way here

Today, I get to say something I once wasn't sure I'd ever be able to say: **I completed my GED.**

And this isn't just a piece of paper to me. It represents every hard day, every setback, every time I had to pick myself back up and keep going.

I'm **1,673 days sober.** I have just **three months left of probation**. I'm a full-time mom to my amazing mini-me, and today I'm standing here knowing that I fought hard to become the person I am.

Life has taken a lot from me. I've lost my parents and so many people I loved. Grief became something I didn't really know how to handle, so I pushed it away for as long as I could. I kept moving, kept surviving, and tried not to feel everything that was happening inside of me.

But eventually, there was no more pushing it away.

There was only one option left: **fight**.

So, I fought.

I fought for my sobriety. I fought through grief. I fought through the consequences of my choices. I fought to rebuild my life. And most importantly, I fought for my daughter and for the future I wanted us to have.

This journey wasn't perfect. I haven't been perfect. There were days I doubted myself and days when taking the next step felt impossible. But I kept taking it anyway.

Today, I'm not celebrating because my story has been easy. I'm celebrating because **I'm still writing it.**

I also want to take a moment to give a very special thank you to **Chrissy Fairchild, Accounting Department and all of 477 and the Bois Forte Tribal Government** for giving me this amazing opportunity. I'm truly grateful for the chance to grow, learn, and take another step toward the future I want for myself and my daughter.

The support and all the help along the way made this fight one of my greatest accomplishments. The Quest program helped amazingly. They bought my tests and when I needed a certain calculator to use, they went and got one so I could practice. To have people still cheer me on to keep trying was something I will always cherish. Shout out IT department for always opening their door and helping me with getting the Ged laptop set up each time I had to take a test! I never imagined I would work a job in a cube. I LOVE IT. My coworkers, the sound of fingers on a keyboard, the Community I gained along the way, is priceless to me.

To my **lovely family,** thank you for loving me, supporting me, and standing beside me through all of the ups and downs. I wouldn't be where I am today without the people who never stopped believing in me.

And **Kim G.**, thank you for believing in me and for teaching me more than you probably know. Your support, patience, and belief in me have meant so much, and I will carry those lessons with me far beyond this moment.

Getting my GED is one chapter. Finishing probation will be another. And now I'm looking ahead to what comes next—not as the person I used to be, but as the woman I've worked so hard to become.

I don't know exactly where the road will take me yet, but I know this:

I came from a lot. I survived a lot. I lost a lot. And I fought my way back.

And this is only the beginning.



PROUD MOMENT— Korrine Star Senarichi proudly holds up her GED that she recently completed —congrats Korrine!

BOIS FORTE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Elder and Disabled Maintenance Program

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Bois Forte Elder Members who reside in our reservation boundaries are invited to apply for our annual home elder and disabled maintenance program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:	NOVEMBER 30th, 2026
PICK UP APPLICATIONS:	Vermilion Center and RTG front office
QUESTIONS?	Call: 218-757-1206

Please submit completed applications by end of day 4:30pm on

NOVEMBER 30, 2026

MIIGWECH!

BOIS FORTE HOUSING

Bois Forte 477 program continues to flourish

October event to celebrate 4th anniversary brings in over 100 attendees

NETT LAKE—While bingo and a homemade meal are always a draw, the wide-variety of services provided by Bois Forte's 477 program seemed to eclipse both of those offerings Friday, October 16.

"There would not be a need for the 477 Department without our band members; youth, adults, and elders," said 477 Director Vonda Carr after the event, which drew in 105 attendees. "We can't thank the community enough for the support for our department. It was so special to have everyone celebrate and show their appreciation for the hard work our department does every day."

Traffic was brisk from the outset as band members flocked to the Eagle room at the RTG Building in Nett Lake. Band members were greeted by friendly 477 staff, such as Office Support Specialist Cassandra Villebrun, who was manning the registration desk. Other 477 staff were also working tables as they happily greeted attendees and let them know about the wide array of programs and services available to them.

Carr and Laura Manai were handing out 477 Program Intake/Application forms for attendees to fill out while at the event or on their own time to see what services/programs could benefit them.

The list of services available were many, including:

- •GED/High School Diploma
- •College
- •Vocational Education Certificate
- •Instructional Training
- •General Work Skills
- •Skill Enhancement
- •Youth Mentoring
- •Utility Assistance
- •Rental Assistance
- •Employment
- •Clothing/boots/shows
- •Tools/Equipment
- •School Supplies
- •Transportation
- •Auto Repairs
- •Driver's License
- •Child Care
- •Other (education, workforce, training, related services)

Carr said the 477 program has grown since it was rolled out four years ago and continues to serve more band members with each passing day. She attributes that growth in large part due to the structure of the 477 plan that was originally submitted and approved in October of 2022.

"Being a 102-477 Tribe opened the door for Bois Forte to continue receiving the same workforce, education, and training funding as we had before, but with the plan we are able to tailor the program as we see necessary," explained Carr. "One example is before approval of the plan, band member income eligibility was based at 100% of the poverty guidelines, we've since made a change to 150% of the poverty guidelines."

Carr added that another change is the ability to offer more community trainings whether it be home ownership, financial, or some sort of training focused to our youth, we're now able to look at a bigger variety and offer them.

"Our Quest grant has given other departments an opportunity to hire within their program while our grant pays the $15.00 hourly wage for up to 12 months and offers training and clothing dollars to the employee," said Carr.

Carr said there have been so many success stories since the 477 program's inception and she expects those stories to continue in the months ahead.

"The program's most recent success story is an employee hired through our Quest grant in the accounting department, worked hard to achieve her GED with help from our program," said Carr of Korrine Star Senarichi, who wrote a guest column on page five in this month's Bois Forte News. "We are so

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BUSY EVENT— Bois Forte band member Carita Quan received plenty of great information from 477 Director Vonda Carr, right, and Laura Manai, left. "The program would not be successful without their passion and commitment to our band members and to our community," said Carr.



HELPING OUT— 477 Program's Office Support Specialist Cassandra Villebrun assists Tiandra Holman with registration during the Friday, October 16 event in Nett Lake.



FRIENDLY STAFF—Bois Forte Early Childhood Program's Racheal Howe and Shannon Gillson, who are both teachers in Nett Lake, were happy to share their knowledge about their program. If you would like to find out more about the program, please visit www.boisforte.com

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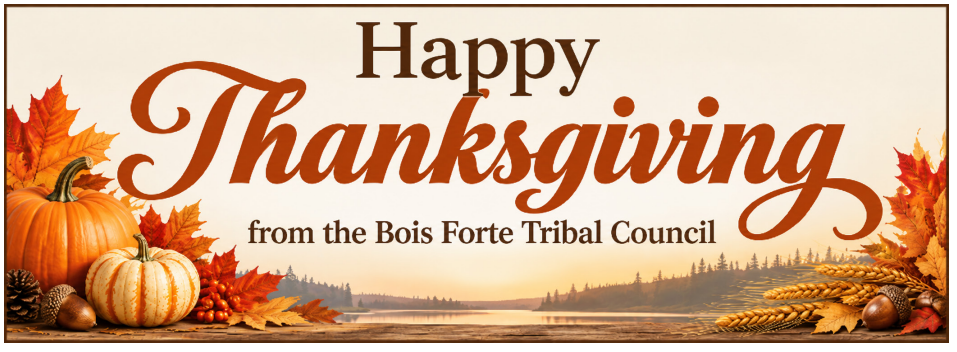
proud of her.

Aside from the assistance they already provide, Carr said staff from 477 help our local school district's students navigate their future education and workforce goals.

"We've held annual MN North College Fairs at the Tribal Government Center," said Carr. "We've also had bi-annual Bois Forte Tribal Government Career Fairs, helping students understand the different positions and education needed for Tribal Government positions."

Carr paid tribute to her staff that worked the event and welcomed the community with open arms. She added that her staff is already brainstorming future events so make sure to keep an eye open for those offerings.

"We have a great team in our 477 Department," said Carr, who added they all work together to ensure quality services are provided. "Sometimes you may have Warren Villebrun distributing your license and registration, Chrissy Fairchild doing intake for the CSBG/MCAG Program, or even Leanne Hoffman getting your TERO application to you. For the first time in several years, our Early Childhood Program is fully staffed. I believe with our team, right now we are able to help assist band members as needed.



Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:

Defendant	DOB
Buckanaga, Christopher Charles	06/26/1969
Butcher, Ryan Allen James	07/29/1986
Deegan, Peter James	08/21/1977
Goggleye, Charles Victor III.	12/29/1980
Chavers, Mitchelle David	09/25/1982
Guenthner Jr., Loren Bruce	10/23/1995
Hartland, Rustin Kent Sr.	12/15/1976
Hughes, Dustin James Lee	06/16/1990

Defendant	DOB
Isham, John Edward Sr.	04/24/1976
Jenkins, Robert Wayne	06/20/1960
Johnson, Robert Gerald Jr.	01/22/1996
Lightfeather, Gewedinodin	02/23/1985
Nelson, Thomas Jr.	06/07/1990
Roybal-Wakemup, Donald	12/01/1992
Strong, George Roy	03/15/1987

If your name is on this list, you have an active warrant for your arrest by our Court. Please contact the Tribal Court to get your criminal matter addressed. Failure to do so could result in your arrest. If you are reading this and know someone on this list, help them to get the information.

Bois Forte Tribal Court now inputs active warrants into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

To address your warrant, call the Tribal Court during business hours Monday- Friday 8:00-4:30 at 218-757-3462 and request to be placed on the docket to address your court matters.

BOIS FORTE TRIBAL COURT

NOTICE OF RETURN TO IN-PERSON COURT APPEARANCES

IN BOIS FORTE TRIBAL COURT

Effective **SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2026**, the Court will return to a primarily in-person model for all court proceedings. Attendance at scheduled hearings, conferences, reviews, and other court appearances will be required in person unless otherwise authorized by the Court. The Court has determined that in-person proceedings promote effective communication, accountability, courtroom decorum, and the efficient administration of justice. Accordingly, virtual appearances will be limited to specific circumstances approved by the Court. Not having a ride will not be considered as a reason for virtual appearance requests. A request for a virtual appearance should be submitted in writing as soon as possible and no later than **10 business days** before the scheduled hearing whenever practicable.

Questions

Questions regarding scheduling or requests for virtual appearances contact the Tribal Court at 218-757-3462

Thank you for your cooperation as the Court returns to in-person proceedings.

INVITATION TO BID
Air Handler Replacement & Makeup Air Unit Installation
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Address: 1610 Farm Point Rd South, Tower, MN 55790

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is soliciting sealed bids from qualified mechanical contractors for the replacement of an existing air handling system and installation of a new outdoor makeup air unit. The successful contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, equipment, supervision, permits, tools, transportation, crane services, testing, commissioning, and incidentals necessary to complete the project in accordance with this Invitation to Bid.
The Bois Forte Band reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive irregularities, request additional information, and award the contract in the best interest of the Band.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The project consists of the removal of an existing air handling unit and installation of a new outdoor makeup air unit, including all associated ductwork, electrical work, controls, startup, balancing, commissioning, and related work necessary to provide a complete and operational HVAC system.

SCOPE OF WORK
The Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, supervision, permits, and ancillary services necessary to complete the work, including but not limited to:
Mechanical
- Furnish and install one (1) new outdoor makeup air unit.
- Provide all required structural supports, curbs, penetrations, flashing, and weatherproofing.
- Remove and dispose of the existing air handling unit.
- Disconnect and remove existing equipment and abandoned materials.
- Provide all new pre-insulated ductwork from the new unit to building connection points.
- Seal and insulate all ductwork joints and penetrations.
- Provide all necessary dampers, transitions, fittings, supports, hangers, and accessories.
- Coordinate all work with building operations.

Electrical
- Provide all electrical work necessary for a complete installation.
- Furnish and install disconnects, wiring, conduit, breakers, and controls.
- Extend and modify existing electrical infrastructure as required.
- Coordinate startup requirements with equipment manufacturers.
- Update panel schedules as required.

Controls
- Furnish and integrate all controls required for proper operation.
- Program sequences of operation.
- Verify all alarms, safeties, and interlocks.
- Coordinate integration with existing building controls, if applicable.

Crane & Rigging
- Furnish all crane services required for removal and installation.
- Provide certified operators and rigging personnel.
- Secure required permits and traffic control, if necessary.
- Protect existing facilities during lifting operations.

Startup & Commissioning
- Manufacturer-authorized startup.
- Testing, Adjusting and Balancing (TAB).
- System commissioning.
- Owner training.
- Warranty support.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
Prior to commencement of work, the Contractor shall provide Certificates of Insurance.
PROJECT SCHEDULE
The Contractor shall submit a preliminary project schedule with its bid. The schedule shall identify the anticipated start date, subcontractor sequencing, substantial completion date, and final completion date.
The successful contractor shall submit a detailed project schedule for 10 business days of contract award.

Schedule shall include:
- Equipment submittals.
- Manufacturing lead times
- Demolition
- Mechanical installation
- Electrical installation
- Balancing
- Commissioning
- Final Completion

SITE VISIT
Contractors are strongly encouraged to visit the site before bidding.
Contractors shall verify:
- Existing conditions.
- Duct routing conditions.
- Crane access.
- Equipment access.
- Electrical conditions.
- Roof and exterior conditions.
- Utility requirements.

Failure to visit the site shall not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for completing the work for the submitted bid amount.
Site Visit Contact
Jim Barto
Project Manager
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Phone: 218-248-0518
Email: Jim.Barto@boisforte-nsn.gov
BID SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Submit:
- Completed Bid Form.
- Lump Sum Base Bid.
- Equipment Submittals.
- Manufacturer Information.
- Lead Time Documentation.
- Proposed Schedule.
- Warranty Information.
- List of Subcontractors.
- References.
- Proof of Insurance.
- Evidence of Bonding Capacity.

Bid submissions shall remain valid for sixty (30) days.

Submit Bids To
Jim Barto
Project Manager
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
Jim.Barto@boisforte-nsn.gov
218-248-0518

PROJECT CLOSEOUT REQUIREMENTS
Final payment shall not be released until all closeout documentation has been received and accepted.
The Contractor shall provide:
Startup Documentation
- Manufacturer startup reports.
- Startup verification by factory-authorized technician.
- Startup performance data.

TAB Report
Provide complete certified Testing, Adjusting, and Balancing report including:
- Airflow measurements.
- Final balancing values.
- Deficiencies identified.
- Corrective actions taken.

Commissioning Report
Include:
- Functional performance testing.
- Alarm verification.
- Safety testing.
- Sequence of operation verification.
- Controls verification.

Electrical Documentation
Provide:
- Electrical test reports.
- Updated panel schedules.
- Wiring diagrams.
- Control diagrams.

Operation & Maintenance Manuals
Provide two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy containing:
- Equipment data sheets.
- Manufacturer literature.
- Maintenance procedures.
- Troubleshooting guides.
- Replacement parts information.
- Recommended service schedules.
- Warranty information.

Warranty Documentation
Provide:
- Equipment Warranty.
- Labor Warranty.
- Controls Warranty.
- Roofing Penetration Warranty (if applicable).
- Extended Warranty Information (if applicable).

Owner Training
Provide onsite training covering:
- Equipment operation.
- Controls operation.
- Preventive maintenance.
- Filter replacement.
- Troubleshooting.
- Emergency shutdown procedures.

Training documentation and attendee sign-in sheets shall be provided.
Final Inspection
Prior to final payment:
- All punch list items must be complete.
- All debris removed.
- Disturbed areas restored.
- Equipment demonstrated operational.
- All closeout documents submitted.

EXCLUSIONS
Please note any exclusions

Community celebration pays homage to sobriety

VERMILION SECTOR— Looking back on his 29 years of sobriety, Bois Forte band member Randy A. said it was never easy, but moving on to a better version of himself was something he felt empowered to do.

That is why Randy was the perfect presenter to host Bois Forte's annual Sobriety Feast, which took place in The Woodlands Ballroom at Fortune Bay Resort Casino on Thursday, October 22.

The event, which included songs by the Bois Forte Drum group and a hearty meal, was an evening of celebration that also touched on the hardships, battles, and struggles people face when they decide to turn their back on a disease that has claimed the lives of so many. Not just through dark times or even death, but every day as they continue their road to recovery.

Randy, who celebrated his 29-year milestone on September 26, spoke of how he overcame alcoholism thanks in part to the Seven Grandfather Teachings and the 12 Step Program.

The former includes Truth, Love, Humility, Wisdom, Courage/Bravery, Honesty, and Respect, while the latter reminds people to follow a 12-step program to stay resilient and laser-focused so alcohol does not control their lives again.

Randy talked about the role the Great Spirit played in his recovery, while also letting those in attendance know the importance of attending AA meetings due to the strong support system it affords to people going through addiction with alcohol or drugs.

Sue S. shared the heart-wrenching story about her grandson, Cole, who grew up in a family that also struggled with the disease before he eventually succumbed to alcoholism.

The story served as a reminder of how innocent that first drink of alcohol can be, while at the same time triggering something in one's mind to take them down a path of regrets. His story included a painstaking web of how alcohol took away his zest for life, including lifelong hobbies that he had so much passion for.

"Every moment, my brain demanded a drink," recounted Sue of Cole's story he wanted to share, but work commitments kept him from attending the Sobriety Feast. "Every aspect of my life was falling apart. Every day spent physically ill. Every emotion buried deep down."

He eventually found the courage and strength to turn his life around and is forever grateful to his support staff, including his grandma, for being there for him when he needed reassurance or perhaps a hug, indicating he will continue his path of recovery.

"I unabashedly confessed my story to these friends and my family, detailing my struggles and releasing all the pent-up emotion that drove me to the point where I can honestly say that the thought of death brought me peace," wrote Cole of meetings he went through with people battling the same demons. "I found that people were willing to discuss the darkness of their own lives with me—I could relate to that... no detail was too personal, embarrassing to share."

Sue talked about how close she's grown to her grandson and how she'll always be there for him.

"He'd come over, and we'd work on the (12) steps, which are vital to recovery," said Sue. "I felt so blessed to have this young man in my life. When I read this story, I couldn't believe the depths he had gone to. It's terrifying."

Randy's story was equally empowering as he opened up to the battles he endured before deciding to turn his back on a disease that tore his world apart. He is forever grateful for the friendship and support recovery meetings, including those at the Vermilion Social Center every Friday, have given him.

"The doors are open for people in recovery," said Randy, who paid homage to his cousin, Gene Goodsky, for his teachings and messages given to him, especially as it pertained to the sacred drum, which is known as the heartbeat of Mother Earth. "You don't have to be an alcoholic to come join us in the meetings. We burn sage, we burn cedar, we pass around a feather, and we talk about recovery."

Randy said that when a person hits bottom, a lot of people commit suicide, or some of them die from other reasons like a car accident or a slip and fall.

"That's the way my life was before I came into recovery," said Randy. "I was powerless over alcohol—alcohol was the number one thing in my life, and it almost killed me. When I came through the doors, I found a power greater than myself—the Creator."

He added that no matter what you call the Creator, whether it be God, the Great Spirit, the Gitche Manitou, Lord, or Christ, you can feel it in the meetings.

"You can't see the higher power, but you can feel it," Randy said, adding that he feels its presence at meetings. "...My life is good today. There's a lot of laughter, and there's a lot of healing. Laughter is healing, just like crying is healing."

Randy said there have been times when he doubted he would continue his journey of sobriety, but he thanked his friend, Kate, for getting him through that period of doubt when he was struggling in rehab. He recalls telling her that he didn't think he could make it and that he thought he was going to die from cirrhosis of the liver, or from alcoholism itself.

"She said, 'You know what, Randy? If you have a fall, pick yourself up and keep going forward," recounted Randy of the message his friend told him. "'You keep going forward because one of these days you're going to get it.'

See Sobriety page 11

Great job to you all!



SUPPORTING THEIR COMMUNITY!— These Bois Forte band members gladly answered the call to help build a new playground near the Vermilion Social Center. Pictured seated, left to right, are Aidan Strong and Tracey Geshick, while picture standing, left to right, are Tim Chavers and Alyssa Littlewolf. We will run a story and photos of the project in the December issue.

Bois Forte Obituaries

Loretta Fern Knutson



Loretta Fern Knutson, 89, of Shelby Township, MI passed away on September 25, 2026, at home, surrounded by loved ones.

Loretta was born on October 11, 1936, in Cloquet, MN to Benjamin and Alice (Roy) Porter.

She was born and raised in Northern Minnesota, near Bois Forte reservation. She was invited to live with Dr. & Mrs. Sommerdorf in St.Paul,MN, to attend school. She found work and lifelong friendships at Anchor School of Nursing, during which time she met her future husband, Howard. They courted and soon got married when he proposed that they move together to Palmer, Alaska to run a boy's home. He was enraptured by her adventurous spirit! They soon gave birth to a daughter (Karla), and moved to Thompson, N.D., to farm and raise a family.

They welcomed life into their home on the farm, including many international students from the University of N.D., where Loretta eventually went back to school to finish a B.S. in nursing and restart her career.

She moved back to Nett Lake to take care of her mother, while taking on the Director of the Bois Forte Clinic position, as Howard sold the farm and built a house next door to her mother's.

Loretta then did home health care work, while starting her business, 'Bois Forte Native Arts and Crafts', which had been a lifelong dream, allowing her the freedom to express herself though the arts she had learned while growing up, such as beadwork, birchbark and quilt making

Loretta supported the local native artists with her business by purchasing their art when they came to sell at her store, and then reselling with pride at pow-wows, whenever she could go. She welcomed tourists to her store in Orr, enjoying visiting with and having them sign her guest book.

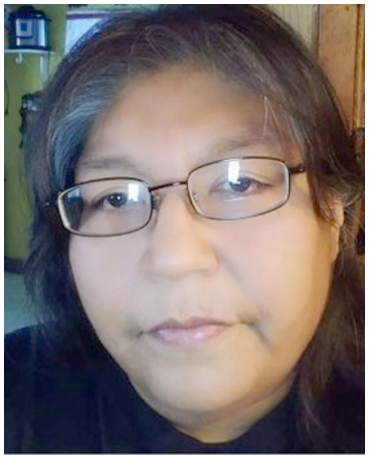
She eventually moved to Michigan to live and be in the care of her daughter's family.

Loretta was preceded in death by her husband Howard; son Tony Knutson; brother Edwin Porter; sister Ina Porter; granddaughter Eowyn den Engelse; nephew Warren Porter; and niece Anita Porter.

She is survived by her daughter Karla (Arko) den Engelse; son Neil (Tracy Benton) Knutson; grandchildren: Anna den Engelse, Elijah (Olivia) den Engelse, Nicholas den Engelse, Gabriel den Engelse, Micah den Engelse, Malachi den Engelse, Sadie Knutson, Nora Knutson, Asa Knutson; and great-grandchildren Gideon den Engelse, Samuel den Engelse, and Eowyn den Engelse.

A Memorial Service was held at the Nett Lake Baptist Church on Monday, October 12, 2026. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

Naomi Marie Hanks



Naomi Marie Hanks, age 45 of Tower, died Friday, October 23, 2026, in Virginia.

She was born November 1, 1980, the daughter of Gene Hanks and Geraldine (Dupree) Hanks.

She is survived by her children: Brandon Hanks and Sophia Medicine; sisters: Christina Dupree Boshey, Angela Buckanaga, and Tara Taylor; brother: Andrew Buckanaga; grandchildren: Ava and Everly Hanks; and uncles: Charles Hanks, Lawrence Hanks, and Calvin Day.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Gene and Geraldine Hanks; aunts: Joanne Hanks, Cathy Johnson, Donna Dupree, and Vivian Buckanaga; a brother: Alan Sam.

The visitation took place Monday, October 26, 2026, at the Vermilion Wellness Cetner in Tower. Tribal rites took place Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at the Vermilion Wellness Center.

Family services were provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.. To leave a remembrance online, see www.baumanfuneralhome.com



Sobriety from page 9

I didn't believe her, but she had seen something in me that I didn't, and the message she gave me was hope."

Randy said he tries to pay that message forward, especially when he sees someone coming into a recovery meeting with a broken spirit.

"I go up, shake their hand or give them a hug," said Randy. "Don't be afraid of hugging someone or telling them that you love them. Express love. You have to learn to love your family or friends that still suffer from being an alcoholic or a drug addict... be there for them, support them, and love them unconditionally."

After Randy's inspiring speech, he and Bois Forte SUD employee Amy Kellogg handed out coins marking an anniversary, whether it was 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, six months, one year, five years, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, or even 45-plus years.

They offered a handshake, an affectionate hug, or words of wisdom as they celebrated the moment together.

"Look at you," said Kellogg as she hugged a band member, who was celebrating five years of sobriety. "Congratulations—keep it up."

For Randy, presenting the coins to fellow band members was the perfect way to let those struggling with alcohol or addiction know they are not alone in their battle and that help is available if they or anyone else needs it.

"I do this work because I love it and it helps keep me sober," said Randy. "Never be afraid to reach out... the service work I do is part of my recovery, carrying the message and helping people there like you."

Minute with Millie

Minute with Millie will return in the December issue—sorry to all of her fans!

Here is the Elder Nutrition Program's 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.

NOTE: Menu is subject to change.

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Nov. 2 Cheese Ravioli, Meat Sauce, Italian Veggies, Breadstick

Nov. 3 Meatloaf, Wild Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Whole Fruit

Nov. 4 Chicken Tenders, Fries, Veggie Cup, Ranch

Nov. 5 Hamburger Mac Soup, Whole Fruit

Nov. 6 Sausage Gravy, Biscuits, Scrambled Eggs, Whole Fruit

Nov. 9 Chicken Wild Rice Casserole, Ww Bun, Fruit

Nov. 10 Chili With Beans, Saltines, Cheese Stick, Whole Fruit

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day

Nov. 12 Tomato Basil Soup, Garlic Cheese Bread, Whole Fruit

Nov. 13 Lasagna, Mixed Veggies, Fruit, Garlic Bread

Nov. 16 Beef Enchilada Bake, Refried Beans, Fruit

Nov. 17 Spaghetti/Meatballs, Italian Veggies, Fruit

Nov. 18 Baked Ham, Mac N Cheese, Glazed Carrots

Nov. 19 Split Pea & Ham Soup, WW Bun, Whole Fruit, Saltines

Nov. 20 Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Fruit, Bread Stick

Nov. 23 Chicken Stir Fry & Veggies, Egg Roll, White Rice

Nov. 24 Wild Rice Meatballs, Mashed Pots/Gravy, Whole Fruit

Nov. 25 Beef Stroganoff, Peas & Carrots, Orange

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving

Nov. 30 Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Whole Fruit

ARE YOU AN AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS OWNER?

HELP US BUILD MINNESOTA AMERICAN INDIAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY!

The Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) is creating a comprehensive directory of American Indian-owned businesses locaed in Minnesota.

We are gathering information to create the most complete list of American Indian-owned businesses, increase visibility, connect businesses to new opportunities, and show our collective economic impact.

Why Participate?

- **Free Business Listing**
- **Increase visibility and customer reach**
- **Easier Product/Service Search**

We will collect:

- Business Name
- Website
- Contact Information
- Location
- Business Type/ Description

Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce

Scan Here to Submit Your Business Information

www.maicc.org

info@maicc.org

New Big Woods Transit facility will be a great addition

NETT LAKE— Progress has been steady at the new Big Woods Transit facility just outside of the village.

The expansive facility will feature three large bays for vehicles and other equipment, office space and other amenities. Currently, Big Woods Transit shares a facility roughly one block away with Bois Forte's Public Works Department. Once the new facility is done, Public Works will take over the entire facility and thus give staff more office space and room for their equipment.

"Construction continues to move forward on the Big Woods Transit Facility in Nett Lake," said Bois Forte Project Manager Jim Barto, who added that funding was provided by the Federal Transit Administration under the Raise Grant. "The project includes the new transit facility with utilities, Bike/walk path to the village, and other supporting site improvements."

As the weather turns colder, construction crews will work to seal up the exterior so that work can continue inside until the project is finished.

Barto said that Big Woods Transit is an important part of our community, and an important investment in the services it provides to the Bois Forte Community.

"With completion anticipated in Spring 2027, we are excited to see the project continue to take shape," said Barto. "A big thank you to the Big Woods Transit Department, project partner, contractors, and everyone working behind the scenes to make this project a reality."



IT'S GETTING THERE!— Construction of the new Big Woods Transit facility is moving along at a steady pace. If all goes well the project, which is being funded by the Federal Transit Administration under the Raise Grant, will be finished next spring.

DNR Building is getting close to the finish line!



SUCH AN ASSET! — The new DNR Building, which is located roughly two blocks away from the current Big Woods Transit/Public Works building, is just awaiting contractors and Bois Forte officials to go through the final punch list. Once that takes place, DNR staff will make the move from its current location (next to the RTG Building) to the new multi-million-dollar facility.

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

In the Matter of the Welfare of: K.J.K. DOB: 07/02/2022 Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Kelly Marie King and Spencer John Burdick, Respondents. Court File No. CP-2025-0001

To: Kelly Marie King and Spencer John Burdick

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition to Transfer Suspend Parental Rights was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on October 19, 2026. A hearing on the above petition will be held November 3rd, 2026 at 03:00 PM 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 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

If you have a news item or announcement for the Bois Forte News, please send it to:
bkanderson@fortunebay.com

Climate from page 1

part of a larger project Bois Forte has been part of since 2024, along with Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, and several counties, including Carlton, Lake, St. Louis, and Cook.

"Representatives from all those places came together and put in this proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to get a grant to start this collaborative," explained Geelhoed. "The name of this project is called the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative."

Attendees were also shown how to build a home purification system, commonly called a Corsi Cube, by taping four heavy-duty air filters around an electric fan to improve a home's air quality.

"It's kind of a do-it-yourself option that you can quickly put together," explained Geelhoed as attendees worked on their project, which was funded by Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA). "The fan on the top sucks the air out of the room and then pushes it out clean. It can really help improve the air quality in your home."

The partnership with MTERA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was designed to address indoor air quality for tribal nations.

Spencer, with research backed by the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, led attendees through an informative discussion of how the changing climate has already impacted the region. He noted that between 1895 and 2024, the average annual temperature on the Bois Forte reservations increased by 4.1 degrees. The statewide average during that time period was 3.3 degrees.

He pointed out that most of the warming occurs during the coldest months, with winter now 6.6 degrees warmer and average winter low temperatures up 8.5 degrees. By mid-century, warming temperatures could result in 19-23 fewer days with a low below freezing (32 degrees) in a given year for the reservations. He added that the region also saw an average increase of 2.3 inches of precipitation per year from 1895 to 2024.

Going forward, Spencer reported that average annual temperature is projected to increase by 3.8-4.5 degrees and average annual precipitation is projected to increase by up to 2.1 inches by mid-century (2040-2059), depending on the emissions scenario. He added that precipitation timing and intensity are also expected to shift, with wetter springs, drier summers, shorter snow seasons, heavier rain events, and longer dry spells without measurable rainfall.

All one needs to do is look at the devastating fires this past summer that wreaked havoc in the BWCA, not to mention more reports of intense fires from Canada, both of which greatly impacted air quality, to see how our warmer climate is impacting us. Poor air quality due to wildfire smoke can exacerbate and lead to diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, heart attack, and cancer.

The warming climate can also affect Bois Forte's water resources: more intense rainfall events can overwhelm stormwater infrastructure and introduce waterborne diseases to people in surrounding areas, and fewer days below freezing will likely shorten the ice season for lakes. Spencer added that studies indicate "cascading effects include an earlier warming of lake surface waters and earlier summertime plankton blooms, which can deplete oxygen and degrade fish habitat."

Forestry and tribal lifeways, as they relate to moose population health, will also be stressed, and seasonal harvesting activities like sugarbush and wild rice can suffer as a result of a warmer climate.

Spencer said that human health can also be at risk as the warming temperatures will expand habitat and life cycles for carriers of vector-borne diseases, such as the black-legged tick that causes Lyme Disease, and have adverse effects on our aging population, as they are more prone to the impacts of heat, flooding, and poor air quality.

Tourism and recreation can also be impacted, since we're expected to receive more rain, which can lead to less snowpack and a shorter snow season. Popular activities like skiing, snowmobiling, and dogsledding will likely be constrained, and the ice fishing season may also be shorter.

"The biggest variable in all of this is the actions that people take," said Spencer, noting that warmer temps are pushing the moose population farther north and that warmer lake water is also affecting lake trout. "If we, unfortunately, keep kind of doing things the way we have been over the last few years, i.e., keep burning gas and oil on every level, it could be pretty bad."

Following Spencer's informative session, he, along with Geelhoed, Mason, and others put roughly 30 chairs in a circle so that the attendees could have an open discussion amongst themselves to answer questions of how the seasons are different now compared to before, what concerns they have about cultural resources, and finally, what their hopes are for the future of Bois Forte.

This led to an engaging conversation as attendees shared concerns about how the warmer climate has already impacted their lives, while also taking a positive approach to discussing their hopes for the future.

Spencer wrote down all the comments and summarized them as follows:

Band members are noticing:

•Shifting seasonal timelines and winters becoming shorter

•Shorter, milder winters: winters start later, end sooner

•Extended warm seasons: summers and falls last longer

•Off-schedule seasonal cycles: Seasons feel fundamentally different or unaligned with historical expectations

•Weather extremes, precipitation shifts & infrastructure impact

•Severe & volatile weather: Increases in extreme seasonal swings

•Precipitation changes (Snow to Ice/Rain): Less overall snow accumulation offset by increased rainfall

•Built-environment impacts: Higher frequency of ice storms causing tangible damage and hazard to roads and buildings

•Ecological disruptions, community health & lifeways

•Wildlife & plant movement— native wildlife shifting habitats

Inquiring minds want to know

Here are some questions posed by attendees that Spencer and Geelhoed answered after the event:

• Are there fewer -40 degree days?

• Yes! While winter temperatures can still get very cold (-40 degrees), our winter lows are not staying cold for multiple days or weeks, as they may have in the past

• Why is there a higher wildfire risk now than in the past?

• There are a variety of reasons. We are having changes to the climate that can dry out the forest, and with warm, dry summer days, this can cause a higher fire risk. Also, we are in a forest cycle with lots of balsam and spruce, which increases fire danger. Forest management can impact wildfire risk, but it can be tricky with so many different jurisdictions managing the forest in northern Minnesota.

• How common is asthma, and is it becoming more common?

• Asthma rates in Minnesota have stayed relatively stable over the last 5 years (about 1 in 11 adults, and 1 in 9 children). Hospital visits for asthma have gone down. However, asthma rates are much higher in urban areas (Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth).

See Climate on page 14



JOYFUL SISTERS!— Doreen Cameron, left and Corrina Lyons, right, have been busy providing food service to several Bois Forte events as of late. The sisters are shown here working the 477 Program event on Friday, October 16. Lyons, whose business is called Creations by Corrina, then worked the community event put on by Bois Forte and the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative on Saturday, October 24. Bison was donated to the event from Nativewise Farm in Fond du Lac (owned by a band member), while Bois Forte and Fond du Lac donated wild rice, which Lyons turned into a fantastic meal that everyone enjoyed—not to mention some of her famous fry bread. We'll run a feature story on Lyons in next month's paper.



Climate from page 13

•Impacts on traditional harvests & living—Decreased wild rice yields on local lakes, with fewer good harvest years compared to historical averages

•Community health changes: Shifting seasonal timing actively impacting community health

The community's hopes for the future are:

•Energy sovereignty & Independent Utility Infrastructure

•Tribal Utility Authority and Grid Independence—Establishing a Bois Forte Tribal Utility Authority and an independent electric grid to gain control over energy pricing, prevent power outages, and achieve complete economic and utility self-reliance

•Solar Integration & Clean Energy Transition—Scaling up solar power through yard/home installations

•Grid Upgrades and Modernization—Conducting residential energy audits, upgrading outdated main electrical panels in older homes, and integrating backup generators and solar systems for emergency resilience

•Sustainable Housing, Clean Water & Food Sovereignty

•Clean Water Systems & Wild Rice Stewardship- Installing high-quality filtration systems for both individual homes and the village, alongside managing lake water levels to sustain, protect, and share wild rice harvesting across neighboring reservations

•Hemp Farming & Resilient Housing Construction—Launching local hemp farms and processing facilities to produce hempcrete and sustainable materials, to construct insulated, weatherized, energy-efficient homes and expanded supported housing for elders

•Local Agricultural Development—Developing diverse tribal farming operations, including tree farms, berry orchards, crop production, organic meat/livestock, and community gardens

•Community Health, Economic Self-Reliance and Cultural Unity

•Economic Growth and Job Creation- Expanding local employment opportunities and creating a self-sustaining economy that provides secure jobs

•Elder Care, Health and Safety—Expanding supported elder housing, providing direct aid to families in need, ensuring community safety and fire prevention, and offering healthy lifestyle activities

•Importance of Maintaining Strong Culture— Uniting as a strong, resilient nation looking out for one another, ensuring no community member is left behind.

Attendees also rattled off things they've noticed in how seasons today differ from when they grew up—some of those highlights included:

•Seasons are lasting longer (summer)

•Winters are shorter

•Moose are leaving the region

•Winters were much longer 30-60 years ago

•More extreme seasons (hotter/colder, bigger storms). More ice storms (noticing more impacts on roads/buildings). Longer-lasting seasons (especially summer and fall)

•Less snow (but colder temperatures), more ice

•Much warmer falls

•Seasons are different (running on Indian time)

•Much hotter summer days

•Not as much rice on the lakes

•Less severe snow days

•More rain

•Change in what plants are around

•One big thunderstorm (region is getting more severe storms)

•Change in seasons (impacting community health)—increase in allergies, more pollen in the air.

Bois Forte Tribal Chairman Carlos Hernandez, who took part in the event, thanked Spencer, Geelhoed, Bois Forte staff and everyone for coming out as it shows they care about the future of the band.

"It was great to see the community come together like that," said Hernandez. "Amy (Mason) has worked hard on this project, and she always does a great job of sharing information with the community and keeping people informed on what is going on. She does a lot of great work on behalf of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa."

Bois Forte Tribal Council Special Meeting Minutes September 16, 2026

Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held September 16, 2026, at the Bois Forte RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.
Invocation done by Vern Adams.
Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, David C. Morrison, Sr., Jeneal Goggleye, Mildred Holmes, Robert Moyer, Jr.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Regina Howe, Frances Irving, Miranda Lilya, William King, Tom Spears, Vondalee Carr, Robbie Goggleye, Randy Long, Brian Whiteman Sr., Simona Benner, Amy Mason, Doris Isham, Carol Burr, Janelle Rost, Teri Morrison.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by David C. Morrison, Sr.; to approve the agenda with the addition of 1854 moose subsistence hunting team.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to approve the meeting RTC Meeting minutes, Regular session, Special meeting held September 2, 2026.
Carried 4-0-0
Introduction of New Employees: ▪ Landa Moore, Comptroller
Moved by Mildred Holmes; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the consent agenda as follows: a) LTR of support for the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC) and their application for funding under the Epidemiology Program for Tribes and Urban Indian Communities 4-0-0 b) 2026 Campaign Contributions 4-0-0 c) State on band member operations at the Y-Store 4-0-0
Carried 4-0-0
Pamela Parson provided an update on ongoing compliance efforts, reporting steady progress in addressing risk areas identified in the compliance work plan. Key initiatives include collaboration with IT on asset tracking software and network mapping, monitoring business associate compliance requirements, tracking employee training completion through MedTrainer, and conducting ongoing cybersecurity awareness training. A final HIPAA training session is Bois Forte T R I B A L G O V E R N M E N T Page 2 of 3 Special RTC Meeting-Regular Session September 16, 2026 scheduled for Nett Lake on October 14, and planning is underway for the 2026 Security Risk Assessment. Parson also reported that she has the resources, support, and authority necessary to fulfill her compliance responsibilities and proposed providing Tribal Council and Health Board members with compliance training at a future meeting. Overall, she indicated that compliance activities are progressing well and that no additional support from Council is needed at this time.
Resolution No. 29-2027, recommendation and support for MN Tier 3/4 American Indian Language, History, and Culture License Application from Krysta King postponed due to presenter being unavailable.
Moved by Mildred Holmes; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the independent services contract with Dynamic Garage Door to replace 6 doors at Public Works.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by David C. Morrison, Sr.; to approve Resolution No. 30-2027, approving SRF Task Order No, 16171.11 for preparation of a Long Range Transportation Plan update for the Band.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by David C. Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to approve the sole source purchase from North Central Bus & Equipment for a propane bus for Big Woods Transit.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to table the Motor Vehicle Policy until criteria is developed for conditional driving approvals and clarity on how the policy will apply to existing employees.
Carried 4-0-0
Recess is taken at 10:01 am. Reconvene at 10:16 am.
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the Cost Neutral Transfer agreement with St. Louis County for FY 2027.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the HUD Coc (Continuum of Care) Program contract grant renewal for New Moon.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by David C. Morrison, Sr.; to approve Resolution No. 31- 2027, supporting participation in the 2026 study of homelessness with Wilder Research.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve Resolution No. 32-2026, amendment for the MHFA Tribal Direct Allocation FHPAP (Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program).
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to appoint Chairman Carlos Hernandez as a member and Teri Morrison as an alternate to the (SCHSAC) State Community Health Services Advisory Committee Board.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by David C. Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the letter requesting government-to-government consultation with Voyageurs National Park for plant gathering agreement.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to approve allowing the 477 Department to share local Indigenous Education job postings through Bois Forte communication platforms.
Carried 4-0-0
Vondalee Carr shared that a program participant successfully completed requirements and obtained their GED through the QUEST Grant initiative.
Moved by David C. Morrison, Sr.; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to approve the purchase of 2 trucks with plows for HHS from Rosedale Chevrolet.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Mildred Holmes; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve the issuance of credit cards to the Executive Assistants, Frances Irving and Regina Howe.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to approve the amendment to the Berkley Risk Administrators service agreement.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Jeneal Goggleye; to approve Resolution No. 33-2027, issuing a tribal land assignment to the Bois Forte Cannabis Corporation.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Mildred Holmes; seconded by David C. Morrison, Sr.; to approve the 1854 subsistence moose hunt to Teague Goodsky, Terry Goodsky and Greywind Boshey.
Carried 4-0-0
Moved by Jeneal Goggleye; seconded by Mildred Holmes; to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 am. Carried 4-0-0
Prepared by: Frances Irving Approved at Regular RTC Meeting: October 7, 2026

CLIP & SAVE CLIP & SAVE CLIP & SAVE

TRACEY'S SCHEDULE

ENERGY ASSISTANCE, LICENCE PLATES, CSBG/MCAG

Do you need a title transfer, license plates, tab renewal?
Would you like to apply for Energy Assistance?

TRACEY'S SCHEDULE:

MONDAY- Vermilion Office
TUESDAY- Nett Lake Office
WEDNESDAY- Nett Lake Office
THURSDAY- Nett Lake Office
FRIDAY (non-payday)- Nett Lake Office
FRIDAY (payday)- Vermilion Office

You may contact Tracey at 218-757-3261 ext. 1197

Now HIRING
For a list of current job opportunities,
go to: www.boisforte.com/jobs
BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA

With deep gratitude, respect and honor to our Warriors on Veterans Day and every day!









BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE— These photos were taken at the Veterans Memorial near the RTG Building in Nett Lake. The memorial pays tribute to band members who served our country. There are also tributes inside the RTG Building as well as the Bois Forte Heritage Center & Cultural Museum. Please take time this Veterans Day to reflect on the sacrifices veterans and their loved ones made for our country.