



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 49 NUMBER 10

## Important notice!

All Bois Forte Reservation Tribal offices, including both clinics, will be closed on Friday, October 10th for Native American Day and Tuesday, October 28th for the Special Primary Election for the District I seat.

## Conservation Committee discuss bear season

Please see page 11 for more information about the 2025 bear season as presented by members of the Bois Forte Conservation Committee.

## Isham, Goggleye and Morrison face off in special election

NETT LAKE—What started as five candidates running for the District I seat vacated by Perry Drift in August was quickly narrowed to three at a special meeting to certify the candidates on September 8th.

The three who were certified included William G. Isham, Jeneal Goggleye, and Travis Morrison, while an incomplete application turned in by Damon Day made him ineligible to seek office. Meanwhile, Warren Villebrun was not certified due to a past criminal conviction.

The Special Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, October 28th. If one of the candidates receives 50% of the vote, plus one additional vote, that person would serve out Perry Drift's term, which expires in 2028.

If not, the top two vote-getters from the primary would advance to the December 29th General Election. The winning candidate from that election would take office on January 8th, 2026.

All three candidates received a letter in their application to take advantage of an opportunity to let voters know more about them (Please see those answers on page 16). They were also asked two basic questions. One—What was the determining factor in why they decided to run for office? Two—being on the tribal council can be a thankless job—are you ready to make that type of commitment to

serve the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa?

For Goggleye, she believes her extensive experience and deep-rooted knowledge uniquely qualify her to earn a seat on the Bois Forte Tribal Council. She pointed out

standing of our community's needs and deepened my commitment to serving our people," said Goggleye, who currently serves as the Bois Forte Housing Director.

She added that her experience co-owning and oper-

questions, and the courage to speak up when necessary are also traits that make her the right candidate to take over Drift's vacant seat. "My leadership abilities are reflected in both the variety and longevity of the roles I've held. I strive to be honest, trustworthy, respectful, and fair. As a mature elder, I take pride in upholding our community's values and following established guidelines with consistency and integrity."

As to committing to serve on the council, Goggleye said her current role as Housing Director means she's on call 24/7. She carries a work-issued cell phone to respond promptly to calls and emails.

"While this responsibility applies to just one program, the principle is the same: being available whenever I'm needed," said Goggleye, who added that she is ready to bring that same dedication to the tribal council.

She said she understands there will be a learning curve if she wins the election, but added that she is committed to investing her time and energy into understanding all aspects of tribal governance.

"I want to contribute meaningfully—by sharing ideas, offering solutions, and making thoughtful, informed decisions that serve the best interests of Bois Forte," she said.

*See Election page 16*

## Out with the old and in with the new!



NEW SIGN!—Arion Poitra, Sr., left, and Arion Poitra, Jr., right, of Poitra Designs out of Fargo, North Dakota, were busy prepping the land for a new sign that will greet folks as they come into the Nett Lake Village. A new sign was also constructed heading into the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Tribal Reservation. Please see page 12 for a photo of the finished sign in Nett Lake.

that she has had 40 years of experience, much of it in service-oriented roles with Bois Forte. That includes stints as a secretary, food distribution supervisor, acting health director, assistant health director, health and human services director, and emergency rental assistance program supervisor.

"Each of these positions has strengthened my under-

ating Goggleye Logging with her husband, Gerald "Turk" Goggleye, for 25 years has given her valuable insight into economic development, resource management, and the importance of collaboration.

"I am a firm believer in teamwork and have consistently practiced it throughout my career," said Goggleye, who believes her strong communication skills, willingness to ask

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# Bois Forte News Briefs

## ***MIAC names Dechampe and Hernandez to executive board***

MILLE LACS—The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (“MIAC”) is proud to announce the election of its new Executive Board leadership. Chairman Robert “Bobby” Dechampe of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been elected to serve as President of the MIAC Board and Chairman

Carlos Hernandez of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa has been elected as Vice President.

Chairman Dechampe brings many years of leadership and service to his community and to Tribal-state relations. His election as Board President reflects the confidence of Minnesota’s Tribal leaders in his ability to guide MIAC’s work advancing sovereignty, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring

Tribal voices remain central in shaping state policy.

As Vice President, Chairman Hernandez contributes extensive leadership experience and a strong record of advocacy for advancing Tribal priorities in education, health, natural resources, and governance. His election underscores the Council’s continued commitment to building stronger relationships between Tribal Nations and the State of Minnesota.

Together, Chairman Dechampe and Chairman Hernandez will lead MIAC in its mission to protect sovereignty, preserve cultural heritage, and advocate for policies that reflect the unique political status, priorities, and rights of Tribal Nations.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, established in 1963, is the official liaison between the State of Minnesota and the 11 Tribal Nations within its borders. MIAC works to strengthen government-to-government relations, ensure that Tribal voices are heard at every level of state decision-making, and safeguard the rights and heritage of Native Nations in Minnesota.

For more information about the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, visit [www.mn.gov/indianaffairs](http://www.mn.gov/indianaffairs).

## ***Get ready for Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 29th!***

VERMILION SECTOR— It is that time of year again— the Vermilion Trunk or Treat takes place Wednesday, October 29th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Boys and Girls Club parking lot near the Vermilion Social Center.

If you would like to attend the event with a trunkful of treats, please sign up with Marissa Rose at 218-410-5771. If you don’t want to have a trunkful of treats, you can still attend and celebrate with the community!!

Along with treats, there will also be hot chocolate, and a photo booth – hope to see you there!

## ***7 Grandfather Teachings/Lunch Humility scheduled for October 2nd***

7 Grandfather Teachings/Lunch Humility on October 2, 2025 at the Nett Lake Eagle Room or Vermilion Social Center from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Offered In-Person and Virtual Set Up through Teams/ Everyone is welcome to come learn. Meeting: ID 297 604 920699 3 Passcode: c9nZ2EY9.

This will be the third teaching of the seven and will be held the first Thursday of each month.

### **SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE**

A Special Primary Election of the BOIS FORTE Reservation Business Committee a/k/a Tribal Council will be held on October 28, 2025 to fill the position of Committeeman District I Representative.

**ELECTION DATE:** October 28, 2025

#### **POLLING PLACES:**

#### **DISTRICT I:**

Government and Community Services Building  
5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772

#### **DISTRICT II:**

Vermilion Social Center  
1610 Farm Road South  
Tower, MN 55790

#### **BOIS FORTE DULUTH:**

URBAN OFFICE  
1915 South Street  
Duluth, MN 55812

#### **BOIS FORTE MINNEAPOLIS:**

URBAN OFFICE  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Office  
1308 E. Franklin Ave. Ste. 112  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**POLLS OPEN:** 8:00 a.m. **CLOSE:** 8:00 p.m.

#### **\*\*\*ABSENTEE VOTING\*\*\***

In-person voting  
Government and Community Services Building  
Wolf Room  
5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772

#### **GENERAL ELECTION BOARD**


Mail requests to:  
PO Box 23  
Nett Lake, MN 55772

### **CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEEMAN DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE-TERM ENDING 2028**

William G. Isham  
Jeneal Gogleye  
Travis Morrison

Attached is an excerpt from Election Ordinance revised December 11, 2023, which states the voting requirements.

Date: September 9, 2025

DocuSigned by:  
  
0A61AFFBEB24450...  
Miranda V. Lilya, Executive Director

5344 Lakeshore Drive | Nett Lake, MN 55772 | 218-757-3261 | 800-221-8129 | FAX 218-757-3312

Carlos Hernandez Chairperson	Tara Geshick Secretary/Treasurer	Shane Drift District I Representative	Vacant District I Representative	Robert Moyer District II Representative
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# Heggen finds his path with the 477 Quest Program

Submitted by Christine Fairchild

NETT LAKE— The 477 Department's Quest Grant program continues to demonstrate its power in uplifting individuals and strengthening our workforce—one success story at a time. Jacob Heggen is a shining example of what can happen when talent, determination, and opportunity align.

Heggen joined the Public Works Department in a combined role as a Roadway Maintenance Worker and Wastewater Trainee, supported through the 477 Quest Grant. Since the very beginning, Jacob has demonstrated exceptional initiative. He stepped into the position ready to work, learn, and grow—and he hasn't slowed down since.

From operating heavy machinery to tackling complex maintenance tasks, Jacob quickly became a reliable presence on the team. His natural curiosity and strong work ethic have driven him to master a wide range of duties, from roadway upkeep to wastewater treatment operations. His commitment to learning every aspect of the job, paired with his willingness to take on responsibilities without hesitation, has made him an integral part of the crew.

What truly sets Jacob apart is his eagerness to learn from those around him—especially from the seasoned elders within the department. He is always asking questions, observing techniques, and applying what he learns on the job. His respect for intergenera-



KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!— Jacob Heggen has found much success in his career, thanks to Bois Forte's 477 program! Submitted photo.

tional knowledge and his collaborative approach makes him not just a strong worker, but a respected teammate.

Supervisors and colleagues alike praise Jacob for his dependability, strong work ethic, and team-first attitude. He shows up early, stays late when needed, and takes pride in the work he does. Whether it's plowing roads, assisting with repairs, or supporting wastewater operations, Jacob handles each task with care and consistency.

As he continues to build skills and gain experience, Jacob represents

exactly what the 477 Quest Grant is designed to achieve: empowering individuals to pursue sustainable, skilled careers while meeting critical workforce needs in our communities. His journey is a reminder that with the right opportunity, dedicated individuals can thrive—and help their communities thrive alongside them.

We're proud of Jacob's accomplishments and look forward to seeing all he will achieve as he continues to grow in his role. He is not just a great fit for this position—he's an inspiration to others looking to forge their own paths through hard work and dedication.



## A Special Offer for Bois Forte Members & Employees

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- WINTER propane price of **\$1.549/gallon** November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026! \*
- SUMMER/FALL propane price of **\$1.249/gallon** through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025! \*
- **NO** pre-buy is required!!!!
- **FREE** tank switch-out!!!! \*

-  Ferrellgas now offers full Heating and AC services!!!!!!!!!!!!

Receive up to **\$600** Propane Appliance Rebate Program!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*\* Other restrictions may apply. Must be a current Member or Employee of Bois Forte and related entities, and proof of status may be required. Minimum 200 gallons for the summer/fall fill pricing. HVAC services include furnace inspection/maintenance, new furnace installation, fuel oil conversions, and propane appliance maintenance/installation. Propane appliance rebate program administered through the Minnesota Propane Association and is subject to terms and conditions. Call Ferrellgas at 800-450-5701 for more information.*

**CONTACT BRIAN GANDY AT FERRELLGAS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**BRIAN GANDY @ 1-218-244-3285**  
**EMAIL: [briangandy@ferrellgas.com](mailto:briangandy@ferrellgas.com)**

FERRELLGAS, INC.  
 1802 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
 Phone 800-450-5701  
[www.ferrellgas.com](http://www.ferrellgas.com)

## Bois Forte Victims Services to host meet and greets

NETT LAKE— Bois Forte Victims Services is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two informational meet and greet survey events as part of October's Domestic Abuse Awareness month.

The first one takes place in Nett Lake on Thursday, October 16th, while the second one takes place Thursday, October 23rd in Vermilion. Both events

start at 8 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m.

Please come and sign in for totes and free items for Domestic Violence Awareness, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.

The events are hosted by Victims Service Advocate Charity Warrington. Look on the Bois Forte website ([www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)) for more details.

# Porter overcomes suicidal ideation and embraces her Native American culture

VERMILION SECTOR— Sharing your most personal, heart-wrenching thoughts with someone, let alone an audience, is not an easy task, but that's precisely what Bois Forte band member Jennalee Porter recently did as part of a Suicide Awareness presentation at the Vermilion Social Center.

Porter, who is Bois Forte's Cultural Healing Specialist, initially addressed the audience in a meek way, but as she be-

came more comfortable, she spoke with conviction and compassion in telling those gathered about how she planned to end her life in the remote woods outside the Nett Lake Village.

The thoughts of ending her life confused Porter, as she was never one to get so down on herself or life. However, a traumatic discussion with her mother seemingly sealed her fate as she just couldn't get past the hurt her mother caused her.

So, Porter set the plan in motion to head off into the woods where no one would find her and take a bottle of pills that was sure to end her pain and suffering brought on by the cold and ruthless comments made by her mother.

Those hurtful words resulted in Porter drinking heavily nearly every day.

"It was way, way, way bad," said Porter during the Suicide Awareness event "I was almost drunk every day. I would go to work drunk. I started feeling just angry all the time."

Porter said that anger continued, and it too played a role in her spiraling



**HATS OFF TO THESE TWO!**— Fortune Bay Resort Casino Risk Manager Tony Yeley, left, and Bois Forte Cultural Healing Specialist Jennalee Porter, right, are shown chatting after the Suicide Awareness event at the Vermilion Social Center, which took place Monday, September 22nd. Both of their presentations were not only inspiring, but though-provoking as well.

life as she didn't feel like she could share what her mom said to anyone.

"I didn't tell my sisters what my mom had said to me, so they had no idea what was going on, and they didn't know why I was drinking and why I was so angry," said Porter at the event, which also included Fortune Bay's Risk Manager Tony Yeley's renowned 'I'm good' presentation and a short presentation from Bois Forte Health & Human Service Healing Towards Wellness/Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Heidi Hansen.

Leading up to her planned suicide, Porter wrote letters to her sisters, letters that would be hidden so they would not be easily found and thus have her plans foiled.

As fate would have it, one of her sisters reached out to Jennalee to get together for a big party on the weekend. Jennalee loved the idea of getting together one last time before she took her life.

"That was going to be my last hurrah, and I was going to say how much I loved them even though I felt like, you know, no one loves me back," said an emotional Porter, who added she started to drink pretty hard at the party.

However, one thing she didn't count on was the fact that when she drank, she

drank until she was blackout drunk, and in a mysterious way, that poor life choice actually spared her life, as she confided in one of her sisters about her plans to end her life the day after the party.

Her older sister promptly called the police, and they took Jennalee to a psychiatric ward in Hibbing, where she spent the weekend. This gave her time to reflect, and it also showed her that people genuinely cared about her and would be devastated if anything were to happen to her.

"To this day, I still feel so guilty that I put my sister through that, that that's going to be so traumatic for her, so after that, I decided that I was going to be more grateful for the people who are actually in my life," said Porter.

Even though her life was spared that night, Porter said she still suffered with suicidal ideation, which is the thought process of having ideas or ruminations about the possibility of dying by suicide. However, Porter proudly reported that she has been sober for three years and two months, and with that accomplishment, she doesn't even think about the fact that she wanted to kill herself.

*See Porter on page 5*



**POSITIVE REMINDERS** – Here are some of the inspiring messages and stress balls attendees were able to take home.

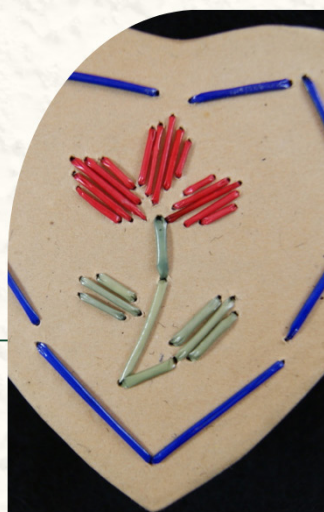
## Introduction to Birch Bark Quill Work

Join us to learn how to quill on birch bark!

Text Jess at 218-235-9891 or follow the link/QR Code to register!

15 OCT  
2025

05.00 PM - 08.00 PM  
Bois Forte Heritage Center



*Porter from page 4*

Her newfound lease on life means she has healthier relationships with those she's closest to, and she is forever grateful for the fact that her older sister called the police on her that one fateful night.

She reported that she is passionate about her Native American culture and language, as they give her the strength to face each day with a fresh perspective on how truly beautiful life can be.

"Talking about it is really healing for me, because it lets me know that I can survive this, and if I can survive this, anybody can survive this," said Porter, who true to her unselfish ways, asked for a moment of silence for her dear friend,

Dani Pieratos, who took her own life earlier this year. "So, if you have somebody who has been thinking about this or you've been thinking about this yourself—it's not as bad as you think—Miigwech."

One day after Monday's September 22nd event, Yeley, Hansen and Porter gave the same messages of hope at the Reservation Tribal Government Building in Nett Lake.

"Jennalee did a great job telling her story about her uncompleted suicide," said Yeley. "It inspired others to share their story and to let them know that talking about their struggles can help them with the healing process and to get the help they need."

## The new Purchased/Referred Care year is beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Attention!

**If you have not done so, please turn in your application and schedule your face-to-face appointment as soon as possible to avoid delay in coverage.**

**New this year! Please send your Urgent Care or ER notifications to [prcnotifications@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:prcnotifications@boisforte-nsn.gov)**

**Applications and questions can be turned into**

**Vermilion Clinic**

1613 Farm Road South

Tower, MN 55790

(218)753-2182

[Kristal.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:Kristal.strong@boisforte-nsn.gov)**Nett Lake Clinic**

5219 St. John Drive

Nett Lake, MN 55772

(218)757-3650

[Ellen.little@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:Ellen.little@boisforte-nsn.gov)

**39<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY!**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO ENJOY A COMPLIMENTARY  
DINNER, MUSIC, AND ENTER TO WIN RAFFLE PRIZES!**

# ANNIVER-SCARY

## GUEST APPRECIATION!

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14  
5PM - 8PM**

### FREE RAFFLE!

- 2 WINNERS OF \$100 CASH!
- 3 WINNERS OF \$100 FORTUNE PLAY!
- 40" SMART TV!
- NINTENDO SWITCH!
- COACH WRISTLET!
- APPLE IPAD!
- \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO THE SUNSET STEAKHOUSE!

### FREE FOOD!

- PULL CHICKEN
- PULLED PORK
- HOMEMADE MAC & CHEESE
- CUPCAKES PLUS MORE!

# Yeley delivers powerful message at Suicide Awareness event

VERMILION SECTOR— Making lasting impressions on a daily basis is something Fortune Bay Resort Casino Risk Manager Tony Yeley prides himself on.

Whether it be sending out an uplifting email to the Fortune Bay team or walking around the administration offices early in the morning before any other staff is around and putting up inspirational messages to his fellow co-workers, Yeley is dialed in on making a difference.

Perhaps that is why Yeley felt

right at home recently as he gave his “I’m good,” presentation just prior to Bois Forte Health & Human Service License Chemical Dependency Counselor Heidi Hansen had put out messages of hope on tiny cardboard circles and also some stress balls with inspiring inscriptions, such as “Take a Deep Breath,” and “Be Happy, Be Bright, Be You.”

The tokens were put out as a reminder that it’s okay not feel okay, but to make sure if you are having mental health issues, help is avail-



INTERACTING WITH THE AUDIENCE—Fortune Bay Resort Casino Risk Manager Tony Yeley pauses to listen to a question posed by an attendee at the Suicide Awareness event.

## BOIS FORTE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

Please send me an absentee ballot for the Bois Forte Special Primary Election (District I seat vacancy) scheduled for October 28, 2025, on the Bois Forte Reservation. By completing this form, I certify that I am an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band who is eligible to vote in the Special Primary Election per the requirements of the MCT Election Ordinance.

### DISTRICT DESIGNATION (PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE)

District I (Nett Lake, Sugarbush, Indian Point) \_\_\_\_\_ District II (Vermilion) \_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt from Section 1.6(C) of MCT Election Ordinance: To cast an absentee ballot for Committeeperson, an eligible voter must have resided within that district for a period of at least thirty (30) days as his/her last reservation residence. In the event an eligible voter has never resided on the reservation of his/her enrollment, he/she may declare in his/her request which district has been selected in which to cast the ballot for Committeeperson. If an eligible voter does not and has not previously designated a district, that eligible voter may cast an absentee ballot that includes only the at-large positions up for election. Once a voter has resided in or declared a district, the voter may not thereafter change his/her district for absentee voting purposes without actually residing within a different district on his/her reservation of enrollment for thirty (30) consecutive days immediately preceding the election.

Note: those selecting District II as their designated district will not receive an absentee ballot as there are no at-large or District II positions up for election for the Special Election.

By checking this box, I am also requesting an absentee ballot be sent to me for the Special General Election scheduled for December 29, 2025, in the event that such election occurs.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE include ALL former names)

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(signature cannot be typed – must be your original signature)

Scan to Submit form  
online



Submit this form via U.S. Mail or E-mail to:  
Bois Forte Reservation  
General Election Board  
PO Box 23, Nett Lake, MN 55772  
Email: [electionboard@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:electionboard@boisforte-nsn.gov)

able to you—not just professionally, but also from the likes of Yeley, who continues to make presentations on the struggles he went through due to a life-changing rescue of a five-year-old Native American boy that quickly turned into a recovery effort.

The tragedy of that day sent Yeley on an emotional roller coaster that changed his life forever and he now says April 28, 2021 will live on in as a day of infamy for him. The devastation of dealing with that traumatic event had Yeley planning out his suicide (see story in Bois Forte News May 2025 issue at [www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)) before he finally sought the help that he desperately needed to overcome his suicidal ideations.

Fast forward some four plus years and there are times when Yeley still can’t forget the sights, sounds and emotions of the scene, but thanks to professional help, he has learned to deal with the tragedy that nearly cost him his own life.

He told those gathered at the Sui-

cide Awareness event at the Vermilion Social Center that he is not a professional but added that he can and is always willing to hand out advice to those struggling with feelings of hopelessness and suicidal ideations. He talked about why he puts out his messages of hope and also talked about the words below his signature on any emails he sends out. That message reads “Be Kind. Everyone Is Fighting a Hard Battle You Know Nothing About,” and, “In a world full of noise, be the voice of positivity.”

And words, Yeley said, can have a profound impact on a person and hence the reason, he always tries to be the light of hope to those people struggling with mental health issues. A prime example of that is how Bois Forte’s Cultural Healing Specialist Jennalee Porter planned out her suicide after her mother’s hurtful words almost resulted in Porter taking her own life.

*See Yeley on page 7*

### Yeley from page 6

Since giving his presentation in April to Fortune Bay's leadership team, Yeley has now spoken several times to Bois Forte staff and will be giving his presentation on October 14th to the Fraternal Order of Police at the AAD Shrine Auditorium in Hermantown. After that, he will be giving his presentation at the January 2026 Arrowhead EMS Conference & Expo at the DECC in Duluth.

As Yeley stressed in his original presentation back in April, he told those gathered that suicide is not a weakness, it is not selfish, it is not the easy way out— suicide is the final phase of a health crisis.

Yeley is hopeful his words of encouragement and life experiences can make a difference. He is aware of the recent losses the Bois Forte community has had to endure but wants to remind people that it is a part of the grieving process to make sure those people are not forgotten. He used a quote by Author and Public Speaker Jameson Arasi, who lost his brother to suicide.

"Silence doesn't soothe a grieving heart. Remembrance does. Saying their name doesn't reopen the wound, it tends to it. Saying their names says: It mattered. They still do. And they always will."

That quote has had a profound impact on Yeley and it's a quote he wants people to remember, because it is important to remember those who lost their mental health battle to suicide.

"We need to treat somebody who's lost somebody to suicide the same way as somebody who was lost to a car wreck or an illness," said Yeley. "We need to be there for someone who suffered a loss —it's crucial that we support them with the same level

of care as we would if they died by any other means."

That task isn't easy, but Yeley believes it can be done because it is a huge part of the healing process.

He encourages people to seek out help to get through challenges they are facing and inspired them to realize that life is worth living, no matter how bad you think things are going.

"So, what can we do as individuals what we can change how we talk about mental health?" asked Yeley. "For one thing, we can change how we treat people —we can make a difference by showing kindness, compassion, patience and understanding to those who are struggling. Being kind to people is absolutely free— it costs us nothing, but the return on that investment is immeasurable and invaluable."

Like Yeley did, Hansen reminded those in attendance that there is help available for those struggling with suicidal ideations. She also shared a story about her brother, who had a Traumatic Brain Injury and had attempted suicide a number of times when she was a young girl. The memories are painful, but Hansen got through those tough times by remembering encouraging words spoken by her mother.

"Regardless of what was happening in our home or our environment —there is always tomorrow and that's what my mom always said," Hansen said. "That's what I live by and the words I say every day when I come to work and or I do anything else— that even though it might be difficult, that there is always tomorrow."

*Editor's note: For assistance with mental health issues you can call Bois Forte Health and Human Services at 218-753-2347 or you can call 988, 24/7 to get the help you or a loved one needs.*

## Holmes hired by Bois Forte Housing Department

Congratulations to Millie Holmes on her recent hiring to work in the Bois Forte Housing Department.

Look in next month's Bois Forte

News for hearing about some tidbits about the wonderful events and happenings within this great department!

**24K MAGIC**  
The World's #1 BRUNO MARS Tribute Show

**\$20 HALLOWEEN BOO-FAY!**  
4PM - 1AM

**FESTIVAL OF FRIGHT**

**LIVE MUSIC, COSTUME CONTEST & MORE!**

**FREE ADMISSION AND \$3,500 IN COSTUME PRIZE MONEY!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 8PM - 11:30PM**



# Minute with Millie



I attended the Elder Day Picnic down to the cities along with two of my sisters. Well, there was a few other Bois Forte members there as well. Okay, Okay, there were hundreds of others there too. All having great fun.

We checked out the different vendors who were there. Picked up a few goodies and the one that was most appreciated was the fan provided by Hennepin County Sheriffs. The day turned out to be quite hot. And of course, I was wishing for my handy dandy umbrella which was resting in the corner by the door of my house 300+ miles to the north of me.

Next was the caricature pro-

vided by oh wouldn't you know it, I don't have the card. Left the vendors without getting one, being so excited to have one more. And I finally got the chance to get my picture in one of those photo booths, which reminds me. I must get those deleted from that site. By the time I read the release, the pics were already being taken and I couldn't delete them. Dratted. Will not be doing those again.

The highlight of the day was when "Elvis" appeared. Not that many nowadays would understand why even impersonators who are really good can get the applause. Essentially many of our generation and most of my moth-

er's generation were unable to see him in person.

Course there are those who'd argue that the highlight was the Bingo games which closed out the day. Naturally, yours truly had the usual one number away. And there were great prizes like play and stays, gift cards and ribbon skirts among other prizes for the many drawings held.

Another great event for Native American Elder Day: Governor Tim Walz Officially issued a proclamation of celebration for this special day that celebrates Native American Elders.



Bois Forte Victim Services

October is!

## NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



We are stronger when we stand together against Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. Whether you are a survivor, a supporter, or someone who wants to make a difference, your voice and actions matter.

**When:** Nett Lake 10/16/25 (Thursday)

Vermilion: 10/23/25 (Thursday)

**What:** Informational Meet and Greet/Survey

**Where:** Bois Forte Human Services Building 13071 Nett Lake Rd (Nett Lake)  
Vermilion Center 1610 Farm Rd S (Tower)

**Time:** 8:00am-4:00pm

For more information please contact: Victim Services Advocate-Charity Warrington



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

### Free Totes Bags and Fun Items

• Sign In for Event

- Vermilion Center
- 1610 Farm Rd. S.
- Tower, MN 55790
- Phone: 218-753-4542
- Fax: 218-753-4055

- Bois Forte Health and Human Services-Victim Services
- 13071 Nett Lake Rd Suite A
- Phone: 218-757-3295
- Fax: 218-757-3335

# Reminder of per capita payments mailed to incarcerated band members

*Submitted by Kathie Holman, Tribal Enrollment Coordinator:*

We have received notifications from Bois Forte Band Members and Minnesota Department of Corrections regarding changes to deposit procedures for per capita payments mailed to Band Members that are incarcerated in Minnesota jails, prisons, or correctional facilities.

The following information is part of the memo received in the Tribal Enrollment office from The MN Department of Corrections.

“Beginning February 15, 2025, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) will process all incoming money deposits through a central location. This change is part of an ongoing effort to streamline operations and improve processing efficiency.

Funds belonging to an incarcerated person will no longer be able to be processed at individual Minnesota Correctional Facilities. Additionally, OFM is beginning to move to a cashless operation and will no longer process cash. Checks are the only form

of payment that will be accepted and should be mailed to the Central Depository below for Processing:

MN Department of Corrections  
Attn: Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 4719 St. Paul, MN 55101-4179”

It is up to individual band members to notify Bois Forte of the address where specific documents need to be mailed to. We need the following information for the address where Per Capita Payments need to be mailed to: Full Name, OID # Address, City, State, and Zip Code, Date of Birth, Signa-

ture, and date signed. *This is the process for individuals incarcerated in Minnesota only. Please confirm the process with your facility if you are incarcerated in another state.*

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ADDRESS CHANGES VIA EMAIL, FAX, OR OVER THE PHONE.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at (218) 757-3261, Ext. 1162, or at [kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:kathie.holman@boisforte-nsn.gov)

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

- Oct. 1:** Bison/Beef Chili, Corn Bread
- Oct. 2:** Chicken Penne Alfredo, Broccoli
- Oct. 3:** Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Red Cabbage Salad, Wheat Roll
- Oct. 6:** Goulash, Peas, Bread Stick
- Oct. 7:** Beef Frito Pie with Corn Chips, Whole Kernel Corn, Tossed Salad
- Oct. 8:** Wild Rice Meatballs, Sweet Potato Fries, Chef’s Choice of Fruit
- Oct. 9:** Breakfast Hotdish, Potato Wedges or Tots, Muffin
- Oct. 10:** BBQ Pork Riblette, AuGratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw
- Oct. 13:** Turkey Roll, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Carrots
- Oct. 14:** Roast Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables
- Oct. 15:** Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Green Beans
- Oct. 16:** Stir Fry Chicken/egg roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed Brown Rice
- Oct. 17:** Beef/Bison Stew, 7-Grain Bun
- Oct. 20:** Chicken Pot Pie, Biscuit,

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	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	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Steamed Broccoli

- Oct. 21:** Roast Pork, Baby Bakers Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash
- Oct. 22:** Tuna or Chicken Pasta Salad, Capri Vegetable Blend, Corn Muffin
- Oct. 23:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup or Hotdish, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw
- Oct. 24:** Bison/Beef Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts
- Oct. 25:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup or Hotdish, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw
- Oct. 26:** Bison/Beef Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potato, Brussel Sprouts
- Oct. 27:** Garden Vegetable Soup, Chicken Salad Croissant
- Oct. 28:** Philly Steak & Cheese Bun, Tator Tots, Creamy Cucumber Salad
- Oct. 29:** Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast
- Oct. 30:** Breaded Chicken Patty, Poultry Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Dinner Roll

## SURVIVAL SKILLS CLASS

**DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2025**  
**TIME: 5-8 PM**  
**LOCATION: EAGLE ROOM, RTG**  
**5344 LAKESHORE DR, NETT LAKE, MN 55772**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF HANDS-ON LEARNING AND FAMILY FUN. YOU’LL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY OUT BASIC SURVIVAL SKILLS, INCLUDING BUILDING A FIRE, CREATING A SHELTER, IDENTIFYING WILD PLANTS, AND ASSEMBLING A SURVIVAL KIT. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO LEARN TOGETHER, AND STAY FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER.

*Garawenimaa Anishaanabeg*  
 Bois Forte 477

TRAVEL NOTES

1854 TREATY AUTHORITY

• BOIS FORTE  
• GRAND PORTAGE

## Carol Ann O’Connell Alto Dostal

Carol Ann O’Connell Alto Dostal, age 78, of Virginia, Minnesota, passed away peacefully of natural causes on September 11, 2025, in her hometown. Born on December 15, 1946, in Virginia, Carol was the cherished daughter of Daniel and Doris O’Connell and one of four beloved sisters: Janet (Andy) Autio, Cathy Chavers, and Linda (Dan) Manick.

Carol’s life was defined by her deep devotion to her family, especially her children. She often said their births changed her life for the better, and her

love, guidance, and unwavering support were ever-present throughout their lives. Her children—David (Rachelle) Alto, Craig (Dawn) Alto, and Amy (Karl) Gotfredson—were her greatest source of pride and happiness.

A proud Minnesotan through and through, Carol found joy in life’s simple pleasures. She had a sharp mind for puzzles, reading, a love of travel, and a fondness for a friendly visit to the casino. Above all, Carol treasured time spent with family and friends,

sharing laughter, stories, and creating meaningful memories that will be cherished for years to come. Carol was also a member of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

Carol was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert Dostal, and her parents, Daniel and Doris. She is survived by her three children, her sisters, and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and friends who will miss her kindness, warmth, and steady presence.

A funeral service was held

at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook, Minnesota on Monday, September 22, 2025. Visitation was one hour prior to the service.

Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration of Carol’s well-lived and loving life.

Carol’s legacy lives on through the family she so dearly cherished and the memories she created with all those fortunate enough to know her.



## Dorothy Ann Strong

Dorothy Ann Strong, 86, of Nett Lake, MN passed away on Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Dorothy was born in Nett Lake, MN on November 7, 1938, to Annie Goodsky and Robert Strong. She attended and graduated from Orr High School.

Dorothy enjoyed making rugs and dreamcatchers. She was a Jingle Dress Dancer. She loved most any type of music

from country music to ZZ top and Madonna.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents Annie and Robert; siblings: Russell Strong, Nora (Strong) Berlein, Izola (Strong) Mathison, Ruth (Strong) Carlsou-Vnger, Hazel (Strong) Staudohar, Robert Strong Jr., Wesley Strong, Betty (Strong) Amitrano, Thelma (Strong) Morrison, and Mau-

reen (Strong) Daly.

Dorothy is survived by her children: Anna Geshick, Raymond Allen Geshick, Wanda Lee Geshick-Mondragon, and Jeffrey L. Geshick; grandchildren: Martin Mayotte, Danielle Mayotte, Alvin Mayotte, Buddy Mayotte, Tamica Columbus, Sabrina Columbus, Milles Lee Columbus; and special friends Dennis Spotts and David Por-

ter.

A wake was held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held the next day, Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Visitation took place one hour prior to the service.



# Now **HIRING**

**Bois Forte always has job openings, so make sure to check out the Bois Forte website!**



Position	Department	Location	Closes	Classification	Starting Pay
Laboratory Technician	Health & Human Services	NL & VM	10/10/2025	Full-Time	17.02
Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute	477 Program/ Early Childhood Programs	NL or VM	11/3/2025	On-Call	12.00
Receptionist	Human Resources	Nett Lake	12/31/2025	On-Call	12.72
Bus Driver	Public Works/Transit	Nett Lake	Until Filled	On-Call, Part-time, Full-time	16.50/17.25- CDL

# Conservation Committee sheds light on bear season

**Editor's note: We recently reached out to the Bois Forte Conservation Committee to get their thoughts on the 2025 bear season that recently got underway.**

Dear Bois Forte band members:

We have summarized here the various issues and points that the Conservation Committee discussed as it worked toward enacting a bear season at Nett. One major point to reiterate is that Committee did not set a new season. There has been a ratified bear season on the books at Bois Forte for 43 years. Committee only looked at and updated fees associated with that season. That said, there are numerous, important reasons why Committee took steps to activate a season. Some are provided below.

1. Committee realizes that there is a reported 300-350 number of bears at sanctuary at this time. Bear home range is about 67 square miles for males, 16 square miles for females, and Nett Lake village is well within their home range, being located only a few miles from the Sanctuary. Nett Lake population according to census is approximately 326 persons. Habituated bears at the Sanctuary now equals or may outnumber residents at Nett Lake.

2. Bears are breeding and multiplying at a rapid rate due to availability of abundant food provided by the sanctuary. Sows are now seen with four, five or more cubs. One to two cubs are the norm.

3. Sanctuary bears are fed and trained to expect food. They are not afraid of humans. But sows will protect cubs if they sense danger to the cubs. That combination of cub protection and lack of fear of humans is a dangerous combination of characteristics to which Nett Lake community is currently and increasingly exposed.

4. Bears are attracted and are frequenting people's residences and pub-

lic events, like Pow Wows. Bears are scaring people and creating potentially dangerous situations.

5. Bears track and eat fawns in the spring. Bears are one significant cause of low deer population numbers in the Reservation area. Fly-over surveys for moose and deer conducted in winter report low deer numbers.

6. No viable means exist to limit Bear sanctuary feeding and bear population growth. The state of Minnesota will not intervene, as they need direction from the legislature, which will not issue no-feed orders. Federal agencies defer the question/issue to state agencies. Bois Forte is on its own to deal with the situation.

7. Conservation Committee asked for and received information about how other Reservations in NE MN conduct bear hunting seasons. The Committee opted to follow the guidelines and process used by Grand Portage Reservation.

8. The Conservation Committee has discussed the bear hunting season as a viable alternative for controlling wildlife population increases for several years. The Committee requested information from DNR, which was provided. Committee decided on its own, after much thoughtful discussion of points provided here, to enact an existing bear hunting season.

9. Bears cause damage to personal property. Car damage, house damage and personal property damages are recurring issues that Conservation Officers get called on to respond.

10. Conservation Officers have responded to over 80 related calls for assistance in 2025. Last season, approximately 72 calls were responded.

11. Relocating live bears in live traps takes time and energy, and relocated bears simply return to where they were food habituated. Bears can track food scent up to 20 miles.

12. Tranquilizing bears for remov-

al to remote locations requires veterinary training and is potentially dangerous to the animal. Also, the bear must be monitored after relocation to ensure it does not wake up and stumble on to a roadway and create an accident situation.

13. Conservation Committee did NOT establish a bear season. A bear season has been a conservation-committee approved, council-ratified season, approved through resolution, since 1982 (43 years). The Conservation Committee raised fees associated with an existing season.

14. Bear season is not guided because Conservation Committee specifically did not want to monetize the process.

15. Fees collected for bear season will be used for sheltering and re-homing abandoned or forfeit domestic animals and for compensation to resident's property damage that may be incurred by bears. DNR, like the Conservation Committee, has no intent to monetize bear hunting.

16. The Bear Sanctuary is a full-on, for-profit business. Sanctuary is collecting money, buying land (from original 80 acres to now around 600 acres), expanding its boundaries, and actively feeding bears. Sanctuary is using Bear for monetary benefit. The Sanctuary is now run by a board of directors, many not from the area, but all invested in growing that business at expense of bear and the local tribal community. Community should understand that the sanctuary is actively modifying and changing bear behaviors for the sake of making bear a tourist attraction and collecting money. The sanctuary offers this community no help, no recourse, and leaves it to deal with a growing, potentially dangerous problem. A bear season would not have been actively advanced if the Sanctuary had heeded years-earlier requests from the Band to abandon

feeding, allow bears to reacclimate to wild feeding conditions, and reduce numbers of bears at the sanctuary to pre-sanctuary, manageable levels.

17. Bear is considered sacred, as is all nature. The sanctuary is misappropriating/misusing Bear for sake of growing a tourist-oriented business and generating money, at expense of Bear, Bois Forte community safety, and other sustenance wildlife populations important to the Band. Sanctuary behavior and intent is certainly not acceptable to the Committee from ecological, sustenance, spiritual or economic perspectives. So, although it was a difficult determination, Bear Clan members on the Committee (and the full Committee) are in favor of a safe, mindful and respectful hunting season for Bear. Other committee members are from clans that are also hunted and trapped, and they accept that process for their respective clans, if it is done respectfully.

**Signed, Chair Kevin Strong, Vice Chair Jerry Goggleye, Secretary-Treasurer Doris Isham, Committee members Bryan Porter, Tracey Dagen, Edward Villebrun, and Bill Isham, Jr.**

**Editor's note: Committee member Tracey Dagen added these comments as a side bar to the comments made by the Conservation Committee:**

I'm Tracey Strong Dagen. I am bear clan and I see the necessity of a bear hunt to protect our people!! Yes, this was a very hard and difficult decision. Pretty much damned if we do and damned if we don't. I know I value bear grease, my grandpa's grandfather was John Beargrease and have used it in my healings. I believe any bear taken will be harvested with respect and ultimately for the safety of our people.

**Workforce Development Program**

**Build Your Future in Union Trades & Green Jobs**

*Get paid while training for union trades and green energy jobs.*

Join Unidos MN’s pre-apprenticeship program. Designed for BIPOC workers, immigrants, women, and low-wage workers ready to start a career in the trades.

**Program Overview**

**Looking for a new career with good pay, benefits, and long-term stability?** Unidos MN’s Workforce Development Program prepares you for union trades careers and emerging green jobs. You’ll earn a nationally recognized credential, meet union leaders and employers, and get direct support to land a job.

This program is a **pathway to opportunity** for communities too often left out of high-paying careers.

**What You’ll Get**

- **Paid training stipend** (starting at \$900+)
- **Nationally recognized Building Science credential**
- **Hands-on skills** in construction, energy auditing, and carpentry
- **Career support** – resume help, interview practice, job connections
- **Know Your Rights & worker power training**
- **Financial literacy workshops** – budgeting, credit, paychecks
- **Navigation support** – childcare, driver’s license testing, applying for benefits

**Who Can Apply**

This program is for Minnesotans who are ready to start a new, higher-paying career in the trades. **You must be:**

- 18 years or older
- A Minnesota resident
- Able to provide SSN and I-9 documentation
- English-speaking
- **Additional:**
- 8th grade math/reading level
- Ability to lift and do physical work
- Willing to get a driver’s license during or after training

**Commitment**

- **3 weeks of training** (9am–5pm, 30–40 hours/week)
- **Classroom + field learning**
- **Ongoing support** for job placement and retention

For more information, please call (612) 231-9719 or send an email to: [info@unidos-mn.org](mailto:info@unidos-mn.org)



FRESH LOOK!— Here is the finished sign that is located outside the Nett Lake Village. Submitted photo by Alanna Sherman.

**Bois Forte Tribal Court is looking for the following individuals:**

Defendant	DOB
Adams, Michael Lorne	05/08/1974
Buckanaga, Angela Geraldine	09/24/1978
Buckanaga, Christopher Charles	06/26/1969
Burns, Riley William	08/25/1995
Butcher, Ryan Allen James	07/29/1986
Deegan, Nestassja Marie	03/10/1994
Deegan, Peter James	08/21/1977
Drift, Darren Jay	11/28/1971
Guenthner Jr., Loren Bruce	10/23/1995
Hartland, David Russell	01/19/1970
Hartland, Rustin Kent Sr.	12/13/1976

Defendant	DOB
Hughes, Dustin James Lee	06/16/1990
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
Littlewolf, Toni Lynn	01/21/1972
Medicine, Cheyanna Sue Marie	11/09/1981
Medicine, David Kevin	06/24/1985
Nelson, Thomas Jr.	06/07/1990
Villebrun, Jordan Frank	06/24/1994

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 will be inputting active warrants into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system in the coming months. Anyone who does not address their warrants and court matters by September 30th, 2025, their warrant will be inputted in the NCIC system.

To avoid this, contact the courts ASAP by calling during business hours Monday- Friday 8:00-4:30 at 218-757-3462 and request to be placed on the docket to address your warrant.

# Bois Forte Tribal Council Special Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held August 6, 2025, at Tower-Vermillion Social Center, Minnesota-Hybrid.

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

Invocation done by Vern Adams.

Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Tara Geshick-virtual, Shane Drift, Perry Drift, Robert Moyer, Jr.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: See attached sign in for in-person and virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the agenda with the following additions: Shane Drift-Vice-chairmanship, Miranda-Wild Rice update and Resolution No. 20-2026.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held June 10, 2025.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Regular Meeting held July 2, 2025.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held July 16, 2025.  
Carried 4-0-0

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

- a) Cannabis Regulatory Commission-Resolution No. 1-2026, Revisions to bands action limits for cannabis testing 4-0-0
- b) Resolution No. 16-2026, Revisions to the Tribal Traffic Code 4-0-0
- c) Approval of 2025 Per Capita amount and statement 4-0-0
- d) Approval to submit grant application for the AEOA/IRRR BER Grant for Fortune Bay 4-0-0  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the publication of a scientific paper about Alzheimer's research.  
Carried 4-0-0

Amy Mason presented several no-cost technical assistance opportunities: KLJ Wetland Delineation, WSB Solar Feasibility & National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) &

Seneca Environmental.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the contract for MN Board on Aging for Title III funding for Elder meals.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 18-2026, MHFA Housing Trust Fund grant.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve the amendment to lease with Grand Avenue Development Company LLC for the Duluth Urban Office space.  
Carried 4-0-0

Pam Parson gives a compliance update.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 19-2026, Amend RTC Bylaws to report on the state of the band in March instead of January.  
Carried 4-0-0

Perry Drift provides a statement regarding recent code of ethics hearing.

District I Representative, Shane Drift informs the council that he is stepping down as the vice-chairperson. Tara requests that his request be in writing.

Executive Director, Miranda Lilya reads a statement from Chris Holm on rice development stages. Discussion expanded into cultural preservation and traditional ceremonies. Community members emphasized the need to revive and document traditional teachings.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Perry Drift; to approve Resolution No. 20-2026, clarify that the financial information derived from Tribal Government and Band enterprise audits and budgets disclosed to Band members at the financial update meeting scheduled for August 12, 2025 (or an alternative date designated by the RTC), shall remain partially protected member information under the Data Privacy Ordinance that may be inspected but not be copied or otherwise duplicated for Band members, provided that Band members in attendance shall not be required execute a non-disclosure confidential information agreement as a condition of viewing such data.  
Carried 4-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn at 11:56 a.m.  
Carried 4-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving

Approved at Special RTC Meeting: August 20, 2025

## Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held August 20, 2025, at RTG-Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Moment of silence done for invocation.

Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Shane Drift, Tara Geshick

Members Absent: Robert Moyer, Jr-excused  
Others Present: See attached sign in for in-person and virtual attendees.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the agenda with the following additions: Doris Isham, RTAP application; Miranda, wild rice update; DI seat vacancy.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held August 6, 2025.  
Carried 2-0-0

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

- a) Approval of EPA GHG repeal comments letter 4-0-0
- b) Approve submission of USDA RCDI grant application on behalf of Fortune Bay 4-0-0
- c) Approve Resolution No. 21-2026, affirming compliance with the Principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for decisions regarding bands Akiing Azhenan IFM Project 3-0-0
- d) Approve stmt re: DI P.D. resignation, Petition & DI S.D. resignation of vice-chair 3-0-0
- e) Approve to submit for grant, FY 25 Tribal Homeland Security grant program 3-0-0
- f) Resolution No. 22-2026, Article X Petition Moot-Former District I Rep. Perry Drift 3-0-0  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the appointment of Terry Defoe to the University of Minnesota School of Nursing advisory board.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the sub award funding

for use during a community engagement activity.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the request to use the BF Logo for ARDC press release.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the purchase of 3 propane buses from North Central Bus & Equipment.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the bid recommendation for Big Woods transit facility water/waste water tie in to village service, bike path, ground excavation for building footings to Utility Systems of America, with alternatives.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the purchase of 1 transit van from AVAN Mobility. (Approved prior for 2 vans but due to some grant wording only have room to purchase 1).  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Change Order #1 with ArchKey/Town & Country for the BF Housing rehab roof project.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the State of Minnesota Affordable Housing aid use of funds.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the 105(l) lease renewals for FY 2026, Lease modifications for FY 2026 and additions letter, authorizing Chair to sign.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the request for 3 additional 105(l) leases: Sawmill, Quonset Hut and BF Duluth Urban Office.  
Carried 2-0-0

Recess is taken at 9:56am

Reconvene at 10:07am

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift to approve Resolution No. 23-2026, New residential lease issued to Frank Villebrun Jr.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve Resolution No. 24-2026,

*See Minutes page 14*

*Minutes from page 11*

Modification of residential lease for Gary Donald and Joanna Boyer.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the request to use the BF Logo on Sprint Medic vehicles.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the purchase of emergency warning siren system from Federal Signal Corporation.  
Carried 2-0-0  
Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the SRF Task Order No. 16171.06 for Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program RTAP grand application, so long as there were not legal concerns.  
Carried 2-0-0

Miranda reads a memo from Chris Holm on status of wild rice.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to select special election as the process for filling the vacancy under MCT Election Ordinance Section 1.2(B)(2) for the District I Representative seat left vacant due to the resignation of Perry Drift on August 12, 2025.  
Carried 2-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to adjourn at 10:28 a.m.  
Carried 2-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 3, 2025

**Minutes of a Special meeting, Regular Session, of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held September 3, 2025, at RTG-Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota-Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Moment of silence done for invocation.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: See attached sign in for in-person and virtual attendees.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agenda with the following addition: Wild Rice update.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert

Moyer, Jr.; to approve RTC meeting minutes from Special Meeting held August 20, 2025.  
Carried 3-0-0

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

- a) 2025 Special Election-DI Vacancy-Announcement and Calendar 3-0-0
- b) \$250 bonus for election board members for every election day worked 3-0-0  
Carried 3-0-0

Pam Parson gives a compliance update. Key concerns: Cybersecurity awareness and phishing email training. Policy and procedure revisions for 2025. Security risk assessment and HIPPA in-person trainings scheduled for Sept. 16 at Nett Lake and Oct. 22 at Vermilion.

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the recommendation from donation committee of \$500 to St. Louis County Historical Society-Native American Heritage Day.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the recommendation from donation committee of \$500 to Spirit Care Services and DIW for the 2nd annual elders day 2025.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the authorization for chair to sign voluntary compliance agreement for HUD.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the BIA Amendment #9 for Telecommunication improvement and repair, authorizing chair to sign.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the authorization for chair to sign letter requesting a provisional IDC rate for IHS.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the agreement and engagement letter with Wipfli for audit preparation services for FY ending 09/30/2023 and 09/30/2024.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to approve the third amendment with State of MN, MN Dot for T mobile Bois Forte tower lease.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Robert Moyer, Jr.; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the contract with George Bougalis and Sons Co. for Nett Lake pump-house decommissioning.  
Carried 3-0-0

Jacob White and Ginew Benton present information and request for funds for short film production. Film addresses fentanyl crisis and includes Bois Forte Locations. Council expressed support and funding sources to be determined. Further review and community input was recommended.

Recess is taken at 10:29 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

Morgan Olson, Tribal Archivist, Bois Forte Heritage Center, presents an implementation of an Ojibwe home exhibit at the Hull Rust Mahoning Mine view visitor center. Council provided historical and cultural feedback. Emphasis on accurate representation and respectful use of Bois Forte name and imagery. Morgan will revise the exhibit content based on council feedback and ensure representation of Bois Forte history and seek ways to involve the tribe more directly.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the lease with Embarras Vermillion Federal Credit Union for Nett Lake Branch.  
Carried 3-0-0

Wild rice update. Tentative harvest date: September 13, 2025. DNR to purchase up to 10,000 lbs of green rice at \$5/lb. Hand-parched rice only, there will be no machine finished rice. Next conservation committee meeting scheduled for Sept. 4th at 1pm.

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer, Jr.; to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.  
Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Frances Irving  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 17, 2025

**Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Tribal Council held September 8, 2025, at RTG, Eagle Room, Nett Lake, Minnesota, Hybrid.**

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m.

Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer

Others Present: Miranda Lilya, Regina Howe, Ed Villebrun, Warren Villebrun, Marilee Barto, Jeneal Goggleye, Damon Day, David Morrison Jr.  
See attached for virtual attendees.

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick to approve the agenda.  
Carried 3-0-0

Carlos Hernandez calls for a motion to not certify Damon Edward Day for candidacy for failure to submit a completed Authorization and Consent to Disclosure during the candidate filing period, as required under Section 1.3(C)(5) of the MCT Election Ordinance. Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift to approve the denial of certification of Damon Edward Day for the 2025 Special Election for District I Representative.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the certification of candidacy for Jeneal Goggleye for 2025 Special Election for District I Representative.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to approve the certification of candidacy for Travis Morrison for 2025 Special Election for District I Representative.  
Carried 3-0-0

Carlos Hernandez calls for a motion to not certify Warren Villebrun for candidacy due to his prior conviction for theft of property belonging to an Indian tribe or tribal organization, as required under Section 1.3(D)(1) of the MCT Election Ordinance. Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer Jr.; to approve the denial of certification of Warren Villebrun for the 2025 Special Election for District I Representative.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to approve the certification of candidacy William G. Isham for the 2025 Special Election for District I Representative.  
Carried 3-0-0

Lottery draw is held to show how names will appear on the ballots. Results are as follows:

District I Representative  
William G. Isham  
Jeneal Goggleye  
Travis Morrison

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m.  
Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Regina Howe  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 17, 2025

*See Minutes page 15*

*Minutes from page 14***Minutes of a Special meeting, regular session, of the Bois Forte Tribal Council held September 12, 2025, at RTG, Virtual, Nett Lake, Minnesota.**

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Members Present: Carlos Hernandez, Tara Geshick, Shane Drift, Robert Moyer

Others Present: Miranda Lilya, Regina Howe

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift to approve the agenda.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Kathy Strong as Chair of the General Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Victoria Villebrun as a Member of the General Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Bille Deegan as a Member of the General Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Lynda Shykes as a Member of the General Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Debra Thompson as first Alternate of the General Election Board in the event an appointed member is unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Farrah Drift as the second Alternate of the General Election Board in the event an appointed member unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Dawn Benner as Chair of the District I Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Mildred Holmes as Teller of the District I Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Craig Goodsky as Clerk of the District I Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Danny Lambert as Alternate of the District I Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Raymond Villebrun Jr. as the first Alternate to the District I Election Board in the event an appointed member is unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Linda Manick as the second Alternate to the District I Election Board in the event an appointed member is unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Denise Pieratos as the Chair of the District II Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Ruth Connor as the Chair of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Leonard Geshick as the Teller of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Michelle Smith as the Clerk of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Jenny Porter as the Alternate of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Bradley Day as the first Alternate of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board in the event an appointed member is unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Candice Maher as the second Alternate of the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board in the event an appointed member is unable to fill the position.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Sidra Eaves as Chair of the Duluth Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Israel Staine as Clerk of the Duluth Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Terri Drift as Teller of the Duluth Urban Office Election Board.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara; seconded by Robert Moyer; to approve using alternates of the General Election Board and District I Election Board to fill positions at the Minneapolis Urban Office Election Board and Duluth Urban Office Election Board. The positions would be offered in the order of appointment to Alternates:

1. Debra Thompson
  2. Farrah Drift
  3. Raymond Villebrun Jr.
  4. Linda Manick
- Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to appoint Sara Van Norman as the Election Contest Judge for Bois Forte's Special Election to fill the District I Representative vacancy.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Tara Geshick; to appoint Gewaden Dunkley as the Alternate Election Contest Judge for Bois Forte's Special Election to fill the District I Representative vacancy.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to confer final jurisdiction on the MCT Tribal Election Court of Appeals for all Bois Forte initiated election appeals during the 2025-26 Special Election to fill the District I Representative vacancy.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Shane Drift; seconded by Robert Moyer; to appoint Christopher D. Anderson to serve on the MCT Tribal Election Court of Appeals Judge for the 2025-26 Special Election to fill the District I Representative vacancy.  
Carried 3-0-0

Moved by Tara Geshick; seconded by Shane Drift; to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m.  
Carried 3-0-0

Prepared by: Regina Howe  
Approved at Special RTC Meeting: September 17, 2025

# Beaded Pinch Pouch

Join us to learn how to make Beaded Pinch Pouches!

Text Jess at 218-235-9891 or follow the link/QR Code to register!

8 OCT  
2025

05.00 PM - 08.00 PM  
Bois Forte Heritage Center



*Election from page 1*

Like Goggleye, Travis Morrison is well known in the Nett Lake Village thanks to serving eight years as a District I Representative before stepping away in 2022 after his second term ended. He lost a close election to recently elected Bois Forte Tribal Chair Carlos Hernandez and then said he was done running for office. However, once Drift resigned, band members implored him to run again so he felt obligated to heed their wishes.

“I am answering the call again to throw my name out there to represent us again,” said Morrison. “I decided to run again because I feel I am fair and consistent. I have proven that in years past. We’ve been through some tough times, and there are tough times ahead of us. But we can get through it by working together!”

Morrison agreed that serving on the tribal council can be a thankless job as you’ll never be able to please everybody, but he instead chooses to focus on the positives and look to the

future, because anything is possible.

“By having a clear plan of action, we can accomplish many positive things in our communities!” said Morrison. “Please feel free to reach out to me by text or call (218-780-5642) and leave me a message to set up a time to visit. I’m always available.”

Without elaborating, Isham said he decided to run for office because of past council action, and he felt embarrassed and unrepresented in tribal government.

“I wanted to give them fair and

honest representation,” said Isham.

Like the other candidates, Isham feels he is ready to serve the people, no matter how difficult the job can be.

“(With my current job) I feel I’m already at 24/7 demand taking care of our wild rice, our lake, water quality, the animals, and our environment,” said Isham. “I also am on the Conservation Committee and Constitution Reform Board. I want to take care of our people and future.”

# Make sure to cast your vote October 28th!

NETT LAKE— Candidates for the Bois Forte District I Special Primary Election were given an opportunity to write a 300-600 word story about themselves and their bid to earn a seat on the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

Here are the responses. We went in the order their names will appear on the ballot, which was decided at a special Bois Forte Tribal Council meeting, September 8th.

The special primary election takes place Tuesday, October 28th. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at four polling places, including Vermilion Sector, Nett Lake, Duluth Urban Office and the Minneapolis Urban Office.

If you would like an absentee ballot, please see the advertisement on page 6 on how you can have one mailed to you. With recent delays in mail, please make sure you request your absentee ballot as quickly as you can.

Thank you and best of luck to the candidates!



William G. Isham

I am William G. Isham. I am 55 years old and have lived on the Bois Forte Reservation all my life.

My parents are Willam M. & Grace E. Isham. I have been married for 31 years and have five children and nine grandchildren.

I have owned and operated my own Timber Business for 20 years. I am employed at Bois Forte Natural Resources Department for the past 17 years. I’ve also served on the Conservation Committee and Wild Rice committee for 12 years.

I have also volunteered for the Boys and Girls club from 2013 to present.

I hunt, fish, shooting sports, and love the environment.



Jeneal Goggleye

Dear Bois Forte Band Members,

My name is Jeneal Goggleye. I am the daughter of the late Eugene Boshey Sr. and Kathryn Boshey (Day). I’m 70 years old and have been married to Gerald

“Turk” Goggleye for 50 wonderful years. Together, we’ve raised three children—one daughter and two sons—who are now adults. We are blessed with nine grandchildren (six grandsons and three granddaughters) and three great-grandchildren (two girls and one boy).

Over the years, I’ve proudly served on several committees, including:

- District 707 Nett Lake School Board
- Bois Forte Conservation Committee
- Bois Forte Utility Advisory Committee

On September 4, 2025, I officially

filed my candidacy for the District I Representative vacancy on the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

12997 Palmquist Drive, Orr, MN 55771

218-780-4589

jagoggleye@yahoo.com

I was encouraged by a group of concerned band members to run for this position. After thoughtful conversations with my family and careful reflection, I made the decision to file.

My vision for our band is rooted in unity, collaboration, and accountability. I believe we must work together—as one team—to strengthen the services we already have and to find meaningful solutions to the challenges we face. I am a strong advocate for teamwork, where every voice is heard, every member is engaged, and the outcome benefits all Bois Forte tribal citizens.

If elected, I commit to the following:

- Regular Communication: I will provide updates on council decisions, initiatives, and progress through community meetings, newsletters, or social media.
- Open Door Policy: I will make myself available to hear concerns, suggestions, and feedback from tribal citizens—your voice matters.
- Follow-Through: I will track the issues we discuss and report back on actions taken, so you know where things stand.
- Collaboration: I will work closely with other council members, departments, and community leaders to ensure decisions reflect the needs and values of

our people.

Accountability is more than a principle—it’s a promise. I will be transparent in my actions, responsive to your concerns, and committed to follow-through. When leadership is accountable, trust grows—and with trust, we can accomplish great things together.

I am committed to serving our community with integrity, dedication, and respect. I humbly ask for your support in my candidacy for District I Representative. Please help spread the word to your friends, family, and neighbors—I would be honored to receive their vote in the upcoming primary special election on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

I welcome your thoughts, your questions, and your hopes for our future. Let’s talk, let’s listen, and let’s build together.

With gratitude,  
Jeneal Goggleye



Travis Morrison

Hi I’m Travis Morrison.

My parents are Dan Morrison, Jr. and Cisco Isham. Grandparents are Ira and Ruth Isham and Dan and Priscilla Morrison.

I grew up here on the Bois Forte Reservation. I lived here most of my life. I’ve been married to my wife Teri for 25 years and we have four boys Trevor, Sean, Steve, and Scotty!