



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 48 NUMBER 2

## DUST OFF THOSE SNEAKERS!

TOWER— The Vermilion Boys and Girls Club is hosting a Co-ed Volleyball tournament on Saturday, March 16th beginning at 10 a.m.

All ages are welcome and the deadline to sign up is March 8th. You can register your team by calling 218-753-8934 or by emailing [sisham@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:sisham@boisforte-nsn.gov)

## Morrison opts not to run for re-election

NETT LAKE— When Travis Morrison first took office in 2016, he wanted to be that guy who had what it takes to make a difference.

Morrison was that guy for his first four years as he familiarized himself with issues important to the Bois Forte people and juggled those demands with his family life.

However, growing demands on himself and the rest of the tribal council over the next four years made him realize he had given all that he could.

And hence the reason why Morrison recently decided against seeking a third term as District I Representative.

His decision opened the floodgates for six others to claim his seat. The primary election is slated for April 2nd, and

the top two vote-getters will advance to the general election in June.

“We have so many meetings with state agencies, commissions, and other departments,” said Morrison. “That’s great because it means we are making progress for the band, but it was so time-consuming—it wears on you.”

Morrison, who recently attended an employee party at Fortune Bay, said he misses being able to pop in for events like that more frequently. He did so to let the employees know how much he and others on the council appreciate their hard work within a 24/7 business cycle.

“We would still get the invites every once in a while, but we couldn’t always go because

we were scheduled to be somewhere else,” said Morrison. “That was frustrating because we didn’t have the time to do what we used to do because our job evolved so much.”

As far as offering advice to whoever wins his seat, Morrison said he would tell that person the same thing he told the winners of last year’s election.

“I told Robert (Moyer, Jr., District II Representative) and Tara (Geshick, Secretary/Treasurer) to make sure to have some balance in your life,” explained Morrison, who is married (Teri) and has four boys, Trevor, Sean, Steve, and Scott. “Don’t let this job take everything from you—it can, and will, consume all of your time. You can’t overwork yourself, or you will realize you can’t have that fun, family-work



balance.”

Once Morrison’s term ends this coming summer, he plans

*See Morrison page 3*

## Eleven candidates vying for two seats on Tribal Council Chavers faces four challengers; six to contend for Morrison’s seat

NETT LAKE—It will be a crowded field for the upcoming Bois Forte Tribal Council elections with a total of 11 candidates vying for two seats.

As of press day, January 30th, the candidates are still uncertified, pending background checks and residency requirements. The eligible candidates are expected to be certified as soon as February 7th and at the latest, February 12th.

Incumbent Cathy Chavers will seek another term as trib-

al chair, but will face four challengers, including former tribal council member Ray Toutloff and Hannah Lehti-Chosa, who narrowly lost out to Robert “Junior” Moyer in last year’s race to win the District II seat. The other two candidates for the tribal chair are political newcomers Brian L. Whiteman, Sr. and Carlos Hernandez.

However, if Chavers receives 50 percent plus one additional vote in the primary, there will be no need for the general

election for her seat.

Meanwhile, there are six candidates running for one of the District I seats. The other incumbent Shane Drift is in office until 2026.

The candidates running for the other District I seat are William G. Isham, Perry. L. Drift, Edward Villebrun, Michael L. Connor, David H. Villebrun, Jr. and Robbie E. Goggeley, who previously served as executive director for the Bois Forte Tribal Government.

This seat will be vacated this coming summer when Travis Morrison’s term expires. Morrison, who has been in office since 2016, opted not to seek re-election.

It is unknown if and when any candidate debates will be set up, so please look for more information in the March Bois Forte News, KBFT Radio, or the Bois Forte website ([www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)) and Bois Forte’s social media outlets for more

*See Election page 3*

## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo!

Winter has finally arrived, and the weather has been somewhat confusing to all of us. This can be a result of climate change or other factors.

Throughout the consultation process with all the various departments within the State of Minnesota, Bois Forte expressed the concern they had obtaining and recruiting grant writers to help access all the funding from the State. It did

not fall on deaf ears as there are some agencies that are incorporating a grant writer for the tribes to assist us in accessing funding. This is helpful for Bois Forte and very much appreciated.

The Tribal Council and the Directors along with other management are currently working on our strategies plan for the band. We also want to get community input to see what direction our tribal members want us to focus on. We are also including our urban programs in this as well. This is a work in progress, and we hope to move forward as fast as we can on this.

The Tribal Council is working on getting our policies updated and adopted. We just approved our social media policy, which was started in or around 2010. We are also looking at the comments on the Leasing

Policy to get that policy finally updated and passed. The staff is working on updating the Bois Forte Personnel policies as well.

Bois Forte is getting closer to choosing a new software program for our accounting department. Our request for proposals has been sent out and our goal is to have this new software implemented in January 2025. The software and training for staff will be done this fall hopefully. We are also trying to incorporate Human Resources software and other programs as well. This will be a huge benefit not only for our programs but also for the people who have accounts in water and sanitation, housing etc.

We know that things do take quite some time to get done but once completed it is worth the wait.

We are also looking into energy funding and food sover-



eignty.

There is quite a bit of funding in these areas that we need

to pursue.

Chi Miigwech!

## District 1 Representative Shane Drift



Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members! First off, Happy New Year's!

I sincerely hope that this notation finds you and finds you well. I have talked about the following issues on my "Shane Drift District 1 Representative Updates" group page. When the tribal council met

with Secretary of State Steve Simon on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, I talked about the differences between the state of Minnesota and the MCT/Tribal voting processes.

When the state of Minnesota holds its election, people receive their absentee ballots in the mail. They fill out their absentee ballots and mail them back in. People can also go to their local polling place to vote.

During tribal elections, the candidates must mail out a request card to the band members; the band members must fill out the request cards and mail them back in; once the election board receives the request card, they mail out the absentee ballot. Once the band member receives the absentee ballots, they have to fill it out, get it notarized, and mail it

back. This is time-consuming. I suggested to the other council members that Bois Forte should bring this up at the next MCT/TEC meeting. The MCT/TEC should follow the state of Minnesota's lead and just mail out the absentee ballots. This would make the voting process simpler for you, the band members.

The second issue I am going to address is regarding the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Calendar and the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota. Under the MCT Election Calendar 2024 Regular Election, December 27, 2023: Last Day of sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.

Now under the Revised

Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota, Article XIII – Rights of Members. It reads, "All members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall be accorded by the governing body equal rights, equal protection, and equal opportunities to participate in the economic resources and activities of the tribe, and no member shall be denied any of the constitutional rights or guarantees enjoyed by other citizens of the United States, including but not limited to freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech. The right to orderly association or assembly, the right to petition for action or to redress grievances, and due process of law.

Now, what I am getting at here is that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Cal-

endar and the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe clash. I'll take it one step further: the MCT Election Calendar supersedes the MCT constitution. In my humble opinion, a sitting council member who files for another RTC seat should resign their seat after the filing period closes. The way the system is set up is not equal, fair, or right. The MCT Election Calendar should not supersede the MCT Constitution.

Please keep in mind that I am not speaking for the tribal council or individual council members. I am only sharing as the District 1 Representative. So, until next time, take care and stay safe out there. Mii'iw miigwech!



**GOOD TIMES**— Fortune Bay Resort Casino recently held a Pathway Party for some of its employees. Pictured in the back row are Andrew Lehti and Melissa Barrett, while pictured in the front row, left to right, are Kyja Cain, DJ Thom and Andrew Little. Some of the tribal council members attended the party to thank the employees for a job well done.

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### *Morrison from page 3*

on getting back to his roots, which means he'll be giving back to his community. Perhaps he'll even get back into coaching, which he was able to do in his first term, but not his second term.

"I would like to do more in the community," said Morrison. "When I first got on the council,

I was able to do that. But right now, we have so many more meetings that I can't really push off a meeting to coach, and I miss that. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoyed my time on the council, but the never-ending meeting schedule made it tough—it was like we never knew when our job ended."

District II Representative

Robert Moyer, Jr. said he enjoyed his time working with Morrison these past 18 months.

"He was always someone that I could talk to no matter what the circumstances," said Moyer, Jr. "We also had some great laughs. I wish him well in his future endeavors."

### *Election from page 3*

updates.

The eligible candidates will face off in the primary, which takes place April 2nd. The polling places are the Nett Lake Government Center, Vermilion Government Center, Duluth Urban Office and the Minneapolis Urban Office.

If you will be unable to make it to any of the polling

places, you may request an absentee ballot. Please see the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election Calendar on page 10 for more information on when absentee ballots are available and other important dates for the 2024 election.

As a reminder, we will feature profiles in the March issue of the Bois Forte News. Candidates are encouraged to submit

a column of up to 600 words, plus a photo. The deadline to do so is February 20th. Please send your column and photo to [bkanderson@fortunebay.com](mailto:bkanderson@fortunebay.com) If you have any questions, please call Brian at 218-753-7882.

Best of luck to all of the candidates and thank you for your willingness to step up to make a difference for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa!



VERMILION UNIT  
BGC

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# Geyer wins prestigious Minnesota Trucking Association award

WATERVILLE, MN— Willie Nelson's famous hit song "On the Road Again" perfectly sums up the life that Bois Forte Band member Jeff Geyer has lived since hitting the road some 30 years ago as a truck driver.

"When I first started, I wanted to see the country, and I've pretty much done that," said Geyer, who was recently bestowed with a prestigious 2023 Driver of the Year award from the Minnesota Trucking Association. "I used to drive out to New York City, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, pretty much everywhere."

All told, he has logged more than four million miles and has never had an accident. That may be why he not only won the Driver of the Year Award but also won the Driver of the Month award this past May. He chalked it up to luck, meaning he felt the Minnesota Trucking Association threw his name in a hat, and he won, but one of his friends on Facebook would have none of his modesty.

"...I understand your humility and your heart, but please understand that your name wasn't just picked randomly," wrote Sandra Brakstad on KSTP-Channel 5's Facebook page after the popular Twin Cities news station featured Geyer's accomplishments. "You were given this award based upon your experience, safety record, community involvement and overall values!"

And it probably doesn't hurt that Geyer has a heart of gold who would do anything for anybody. He can credit that to his upbringing with his parents, Donald and Christine (Porter) Geyer.

"My dad used to let me drive around with him when I was a kid, and we'd drive around the lakes of Waterville, which is between Faribault and Mankato," said Geyer, a youthful-looking 60-year-old. "That probably got me interested in becoming an over-the-road driver and led me on this path."

While Geyer used to spend countless hours on the road without coming home, he has now settled into a far more manageable workload.

"I have a dedicated run that starts in Eagan, Minnesota, and then I go down to Des Moines, Kansas City, up to Omaha, and then back again," said Geyer,



**PROUD MOMENT—** Bois Forte Band member Jeff Geyer and his wife, Janet, hold up the awards Jeff received for being named the Minnesota Trucking Association Driver of the Year.

who works for Manning Transfer out of Blaine, Minnesota. "I am only gone four nights a week and do the route twice. I leave Sunday afternoon and then return home by noon on Thursday."

In his younger years, the longer stays on the road made for some challenging times in his marriage to his wife, Janet. The couple had six children, one of whom died as a one-month infant daughter due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). That tragedy, however, opened a new avenue for the couple as they started to adopt children.

"There was a relative that kind of needed help, so we took that child, and through the years, we raised 18 to 20 kids," said Janet in a recent phone interview. "We adopted some Native American kids, and our baby is going to be 16 today—we've had her since she was five months old. We just wanted to provide a better life for these kids."

And that's precisely what they did as Janet made sure she got them to and from

every sporting event or other school activity. Jeff was obviously around, but not enough to equally spread out that workload. All was good though, as Janet knew Jeff's job made it possible for them to provide for their kids and the ones they took in.

"We were always on the go," said Janet. "And it was hard at times. Cell phones have made it significantly easier for us to stay in touch when he's gone. When he first started, he had to use pay phones. Some nights, he couldn't even get a chance to call because either the pay phones were broken or 10 guys were standing in line waiting to make a call."

Those nights when Jeff couldn't get through were stressful, but not as stressful as the inclement weather Jeff faced, where he said he had many "white knuckle" winter trips or even spring ones where icy roads made it difficult to keep his rig on the road. He prided himself on always meeting deadlines, even during those treacherous times.

"My husband definitely takes satisfaction in his work," said Janet. "The only time he couldn't make a stop was when his truck broke down. Other than that, he made it through rain, sleet, and snowstorms. They would ask him how he made it as other drivers weren't able to make their deliveries."

For Jeff, the idea of letting his customers nary crossed his mind. His company entrusted him to make the deliveries, so that is what he did.

"I just make sure to keep alert, listen to music, and drink a Monster drink now and then," said Jeff, explaining how he never took the easy route.

While Jeff never sought out the spotlight for his work, the recently aired KSTP-Channel 5 News feature has changed that. He said he is not on Facebook but added that his daughter kept him abreast of all the comments he's received. Old friends are also seeking him out the old-fashioned way, via phone.

"I'm getting a lot of calls from people I have not seen in 20 years," said Jeff with a laugh. "They are saying, 'Hey, I saw you on TV!'" "It's nice to hear from them and then my daughter is saying there are a lot of people congratulating me on Facebook, so it's nice to get those compliments."

Jeff will even get more publicity as the award means he'll be on the cover of the Trucking Minnesota magazine, and he's also up for the National Driver of the Year. All of these accolades are not lost on the Geyer's daughter, Amber Scholljegerdes. She recalled as a youngster how her dad would take her out on some trips to see the countryside.

"I've been places that I'd never see had I not been able to experience it with him," wrote Scholljegerdes in an email. "Anywhere from New York City to Naples, Florida. And I think he is incredibly skilled at backing up with a 53-foot trailer and a sleeper semi. He's backed into some pretty tight spaces, sometimes on his first attempt. He makes it look easy."

Scholljegerdes wrote that her dad is very deserving of the award, not just for his driving ability but also for his great attitude, safety-first mindset, and amazing work ethic.

*See Geyer page 5*

## Time to stay fit and socialize!

TOWER— If you want to chase away those winter blues, make plans to get fit with a chair exercise program every Monday in February at 1 p.m. at the Vermilion Social Center.

The program will include roughly 25 minutes of exercise that you also try at home. Once the exercise is over, stick around for a little social time where light snacks and beverages will be available.

On Wednesdays, participants can play some bingo, cards, and other board games.

Light snacks and beverages will be available. This activity is also slated for 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the Vermilion Social Center. There is a special Valentine Day's party on the 14th where attendees can make a heart dream catcher. Registration for this special day is appreciated, so please call 218-753-4542 by February 9th to be included.

If you need a ride, please call Bessie Medicine at 218-404-6138 or Jim Morrison at 218-404-3755.

### Geyer from page 4

But perhaps what made her most proud was how her dad could juggle a hectic work schedule and still have time for his family, including doing his part of the household chores.

"He would be out on the road for a week, come home to his family, which was pretty big, and be ready for a weekend full of things to do, from wrestling tournaments to school plays,"

wrote Amber.

For Jeff, he would not have it any other way, as family comes first for him.

"They've always been there for me and that means a lot," said Jeff, who also thanked Manning Transfer for the opportunities they've afforded him. "This award would not have been possible without their support, and I am very grateful for that."

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# Mason gives updates on hunting season and partnership with Contented Critters

*Guest column by Conservation Officer Tony Mason*

The Bois Forte Conservation Department would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Deer and moose season ended on December 31st. We did not harvest any moose this year. I will be contacting 1854 very soon to see if there will be a moose survey again this year and to see how the moose herd is doing.

As everyone knows, we had a very poor deer season. We harvested less than 30 deer this year. I know many Band Members hunted hard to the end of the season. We will have to develop a management plan for next year and the future. I made a trip to Upper Wood Duck on January 16th and was disappointed insofar as I saw one deer; there was likewise not many deer track or trails. Normally, there are many deer there

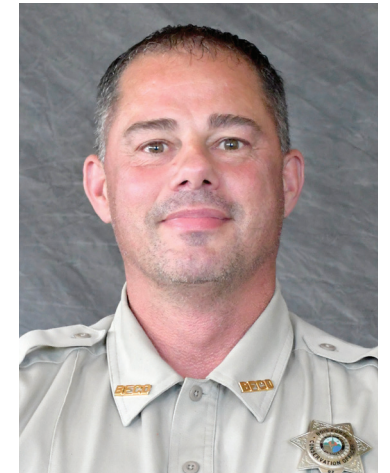
at this time of year. Hopefully, this winter will continue to be an easy one for the deer, without too much weather stress put on them.

I will also mention how nuisance animal/pets calls and issues have been going. The partnership that Bois Forte DNR established with Contented Critters of Ely, MN continues to be a success. Although we still receive a lot of calls about pets running around and pets

that are still being abandoned, we are seeing also that many pet owners are taking more responsible care of their pets. We have had fewer instances of abandonment than we saw just two years ago.

I would like to explain how the process works with Contented Critters. If a person wishes to give up their pet, the animal can be brought by the owner to Contented Critters. Contented Critters will charge you an onboarding fee for this. The fee is for a wellness check-up, any necessary medications, and spay/neuter if needed.

If you find an abandoned animal, you may bring it there. Notify Contented Critters where you found the pet, and Contented Critters will contact us in DNR. Almost every pet that has been brought to Contented Critters has been adopted by another family and has a new home. I believe this is working well and is a good model of how these programs should work. It is far better thing to do than asking the Conservation Officer to euthanize these pets. Keep in mind, if you feel the pet is safe to pick up and bring to Contented Critters, please do so. Anyone can bring these pets



to them. However, if the animal appears dangerous or is behaving strangely, please do not directly engage with the animal, or attempt to pick it up.

Please contact either PD or Conservation Department to assist taking the animal. I personally would like to thank everyone in both Vermilion and Nett Lake for the improvements made to this program. In just the last two months, there 17 pets that have found new homes, instead of 17 pets that the Conservation Officers had to kill. This is the right way to do this, and us at the Conservation Department are very grateful for your help.

Miigwech

Over the course of their training, safeTALK participants will learn to:

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- Participants will receive a certificate of completion

LivingWorks is a company specializing in suicide intervention training.

**Bois Forte Behavioral Health Services & Range Mental Health Center**

would like to provide you with this opportunity to take this evidence-based training at no cost.

**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**4:00pm to 7:00pm**

**Tribal Government Building – Eagle Room**

**5344 Lakeshore Drive**

**Nett Lake, MN 55772**

Questions/Concerns?

Gabby Suihkonen 218-780-4544

Katie Finch 218-404-4363

*Facilitated by Gabriella Suihkonen and Katie Finch, certified LivingWorks Instructors.*

Limited class to 30 people

Registration is required to attend :

Erin Danielson  
[Erin.danielson@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:Erin.danielson@boisforte-nsn.gov)  
 or  
 218-404--9167

**Bois Forte Early Childhood Programs**

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**@ 218-757-3261 option 3.**

# Holm gives update on Carbon Banking and Credit program

*Guest column by Chris Holm, Bois Forte DNR Program Director*

The Bois Forte Carbon Banking and Credit program is moving forward quite rapidly. As you will recall, the Bois Forte Tribal Council purchased land totaling about 28,000 acres that was previously held by outside entities, but within reservation boundaries. Bois Forte re-acquired this land with technical help from the Conservation Fund, the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC) and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation.

After purchase, the Bois Forte Council took steps to enroll the land into a carbon reserve banking program. Bois Forte grows the trees, which capture carbon from the air. The Band identifies how much carbon is available as credits, and then sells carbon credits to industrial producers who emit carbon above federally-allowable levels. When an industry exceeds a certain level of industrial emissions and carbon, they need to offset the extra emissions by paying for equivalent carbon being saved somewhere else. Bois Forte is now a carbon bank where the carbon is saved. The Council has already determined industries to which the Band will and will not sell the

Bands carbon credits.

The process to get to the point where we know how much carbon is actually in the "bank" on tribal lands is a little complex. NICC has stayed on as the liaison between the Band and TerraCarbon, the international company that coordinates the field inventory assessments of the forest stands, validates that the fieldwork and statistical design by which the carbon pool is estimated is done correctly, then verifies the available statistical carbon pool available in the bank. This then becomes the basis for issuing credits to industry buyers.

At this point, the on-site field sampling assessments of the tree/carbon stands are complete. TerraCarbon-assigned forestry crews worked with Bois Forte Forestry crews during the month of December to get 50 site plots with controls across the banking acres assessed. Mild weather let us get this step done quickly.

The data is now back in the hands of TerraCarbon analysts who are matching a lot of co-variables collected for the stands with FIA plots, looking at variability around the data sets, and estimating the carbon contained in the various timber pool types in those sampling plots. Then they can extrapolate that up to the entire acreage area to be used for banking purposes. They are also preparing a risk analysis which assesses the project for risk of carbon loss due to internal and external factors. This assessment looks forward from now to 100 years from now. Because this is a long-term project/venture, there are a lot of inherent long-term risks that we can't predict, such as those possibly tied to climate change. If we lose some stands for some reason, we lose the carbon offsets. So we want to set aside a percentage of new available credits (between 15-

25%, average 12%) as backup reserve so the program can keep running. If some carbon stands suffer some (hopefully temporary) setbacks and carbon holding ability across the acreage is reduced.

When this program goes live with carbon offset sales depends on how fast TerraCarbon assesses the stand data and calculates the carbon availability. There's also a lot of technical detail time still involved in the risk assessment plan setup, but that won't be done until the carbon pool is verified and validated. And there are other associated

management plans, risk assessment questions, and standard legal assessments and documents that the Tribal Council needs to discuss as well. There is already interest being expressed from outside agencies and industries who want to buy Bois Forte carbon credits,

The Tribal Council will be meeting with NICC representatives in the coming weeks for a project update, and the carbon pool assessment is ongoing. To this end, we can report that, at this point in time, the project is moving ahead as planned.



## Minute with Millie

Deep breathing has been coming up in my thoughts recently. Along with fasting techniques. So, upon reflection one morning I took a nosedive into that rabbit hole called "Google Search." Yepper, that turned out to be amongst my more daring excursions into that great unknown. I almost got sucked into the black hole of answers that results in that phenomenon known as curiosity killing the cat.

I was inadvertently dragged happily kicking and screaming into the event horizon when I caught sight of one half formed comment regarding something that science proved wrong. Ya know it! I promptly had to check the time stamp, see what the commenter was referring to and off I went.

Yeah, I was on YouTube after doing my morning meditation. I have YouTube set to autoplay when I am busy with my current searching and don't really want to take the time to restart my computer after it has fallen asleep whilst waiting for me to hit the keyboard. And off course I went after listening to a podcaster interviewing a doctor about mental health, stress and your phone destroying your brain.

No, no, no, I was unaware of the title until my attention was caught by the topic. So, naturally, I checked the time frame of the posting which was recent, in fact had posted



just a few minutes before it showed up on my screen.

Luckily for me, my phone has alarms set to remind me to take my morning meds amongst other things. Yes, I was rescued from engaging in a prolonged study of phones destroying brains by the reminder that I needed to take a fifteen minute break from whatever project I am currently working on. Yep, almost got sidetracked from my current study of fasting techniques by the mention of deep breathing which is what I do during my morning meditations. Now, about deep breathing and fasting....

**Now HIRING**



Bois Forte always has job openings, so make sure to check the out on the Bois Forte website! As of press time, there are two jobs currently available.

1. Early Childhood Program Teacher Substitute
2. Bus Driver in Nett Lake
3. Public Works Director
4. Roadways Maintenance Worker / Wastewater Trainee
5. Water/Wastewater Operator

Go to: [www.boisforte.com/jobs](http://www.boisforte.com/jobs) for more information.

## Obituaries

### June Marie Kendall



**JUNE MARIE KENDALL**, "Mii-Gii-Zii-Quay" (Eagle Woman), age 74, of the "Mukwa Doodem" (Bear Clan) member of Bois Forte Band and of Bemidji, MN,

journeyed to the spirit world on Saturday, January 13th, 2024, at the Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji. She was born on August 26, 1949, in Ely, MN, the daughter of Doris (Columbus) and Wayne Oliver Mock, Sr.

June was a beloved mother, who loved crafting. In her younger years she taught classes in Macrame and other crafts. Her work was exceptional. June was an animal lover, who believed she was an abused animal in a previous life, that's why she loved animals so much. She raised and raced Siberian Huskies as sled dogs.

June worked as an administrative assistant in the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Program at Cass Lake Indian Health Service and the DNR Fisheries in Walker, MN. June was very passionate about her work helping others and spent part of her career ad-

ressing violence against women and children, especially in the Native American areas. She brought knowledge and culture to her coworkers, helping to teach them the Anishinaabe cultures and ceremonies. She had an energy and effervescence that was infectious and made it difficult or impossible to not love her. June had a great laugh; she could be picked out of a crowd just by hearing her laugh. She made the best Indian Fry Bread. She enjoyed eating good food, playing Keno, spending time with friends, family, her cats, and the neighborhood dogs. June was a strong, courageous lady, battled her cancers bravely and never gave up. June will be remembered for her great sense of humor, smart, educational ways, and her will to help keep her Native American heritage taught to the next generations.

Those greeting June in the spirit world are her parents, Doris and Wayne Mock, Sr.; sister, Kay "Sara" Peterson;

and granddaughter, Angela Gallik.

Those June leaves behind are her life partner, Elroy Lightfeather; son, Brian (Barb) Kendall; brothers, Ron Anderson, Gary Bishop, and Wayne Mock, Jr.; sisters, Cheryl (Wayne) Peterson, Margie (Mark) Matchey, and Diane (Jim) Bohn; aunt, Sandy Moats; granddaughters, Blaire Kendall and Jordan McDonald; grandsons, Sean, Brett, and Christopher Kendall; 10 great-grandchildren; and loving cat, Sadie.

A memorial service for June is being planned for a later date. Spiritual Advisors for June are Bonnie Fairbanks Stangel and Frank Boshkabin. Inurnment will be in the Good Shepard Lutheran Church Cemetery in Mondovi, WI, next to her father Wayne Mock, Sr.

June's care has been entrusted to Northern Peace Funeral Home of Walker, MN. Online condolences for the family may be left at [www.northernpeace.com](http://www.northernpeace.com)

### Daniel Earl Hackey



**DANIEL EARL HACKEY**, age 75, of Porterville, California and formerly of Tower and Biwabik died Saturday, January 20, 2024 in Bakersville Memorial Hospital, California.

Dan was born May 3, 1948 in Alameda, CA the son of Margaret and Donald Hackey.

He attended Biwabik High School and some courses at Mesabi Community College.

In 1970, Dan enlisted with the US Navy Submarine Division. After 20 years of service in the Navy, Dan retired in 1990.

Dan was an enrolled member of Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Dan enjoyed hunting, fishing, bonfires, golfing and working.

Dan is survived by his wife Darlene of Porterville, CA.; siblings Pam and Vickie of Tower, MN and Dawn of Virginia, MN. Sons, Daniel (April) Embarrass, MN, Craig (Maria) - Grandchildren Noah, Cora, Shea Richmond, VA, Daughter Leona Hackey Crenshaw (Chris) - Grandchildren Taylor, Matthew, Kelly, Richmond, VA, Bonus Daughter Shawn-telle Weinberg (Keith Browder) - Grandsons Shane Weinberg, Jaison Weinberg.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents, Margaret and Donald Hackey; son, Jesse Hackey; brother, Guy Hackey; stepdaughter, Tammy Dratz; nephew, Timothy Pepworth and great nephew, Starlin Strong.

### Leigh Donald



**LEIGH DONALD**, 66, peacefully departed on January 14th, 2024, surrounded by her family. She is preceded in death by her mother and two sisters. She is survived by her dad, two daughters, and a sister; also survived by cats and numerous other family members. The family has opted out of traditional services at this time -- in lieu of, feel free to stop by her dad's house to share any stories about this feisty woman's life. Online condolences to [www.mlakerfuneral-home.com](http://www.mlakerfuneral-home.com)

**C-STORE**  
218-757-3268

NETT LAKE  
**PHARMACY**  
218-757-0230

**Y-STORE**  
218-753-3868

VERMILION  
**PHARMACY**  
218-753-2182



## Funding available for Babysitting Certification Class and Safe Home Alone Class

If you would like to get reimbursed for an upcoming Babysitting Class or a Safe at Home Class being held at North Woods School, please contact the Bois Forte Early Childhood program.

The Babysitting Certification Class takes place April 8th and 9th at the

North Woods School, while the Safe Home Alone Class takes place April 10th at the North Woods School.

Please call Christine Lundemo at 218-757-3261, Option 3, to discuss reimbursement for those classes, thank you!

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

**February 1:** Split Pea Soup, Country Ham, Red Cabbage Salad, Wheat Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 2:** Pork Loin, Garden Blend Rice, Diced Beets, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 5:** Teriyaki Chicken, Rice Medley, Green Beans, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 6:** Roast Turkey Slice, Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, French-cut Green Beans, Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie

**February 7:** Beef Pot Pie, Salad, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 8:** Grilled Chicken Breast, Yellow Rice, Sliced Zucchini, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 9:** BBQ Pork Riblett, Au-Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 12:** Baked Pork Chop, Baby Red Potatoes, Cauliflower/Broccoli Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 13:** Beef Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 14:** Beef/Bean Soup, Potatoe Soup, Relish Plate, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 15:** Stir Fry Chicken/Egg Roll, Stir Fry Vegetables, Steamed

Rice, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 16:** Bison Stew, 7 Grain Bun, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 19:** Holiday Closed

**February 20:** White Chicken Chili w/Beans, Corn Bread, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 21:** Roast Pork, Baby Bakers Potatoes, Roasted Butternut Squash, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 22:** Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Garden Salad/Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 23:** Bison Meatloaf, Baked Sweet Potatoe, Brussel Sprouts, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 26:** Sausage Jambalaya, Cheddar Biscuit, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 27:** Beef Barley Vegetable Soup, Chef Salad, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 28:** BBQ Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chef's Choice of Fruit

**February 29:** Ham, Baked Acorn Squash, Cauliflower, Berry Yogurt Parfait

**March 1:** Meatballs w/Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chef's Choice of Fruit



## BOIS FORTE BEHAVIORAL PRESENTS: CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING GROUP



### ABOUT THE COURSE

Circle of Security is a relationship-based parenting program. The class will include videos, reflection, and discussion.

Who should attend? Parents of children, foster parents, anyone raising children. Its never too late to find new ways to connect!

This group will help you to:

- Learn how to provide a loving, safe, and secure base for your children
- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read emotional needs
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child's self esteem
- Learn how parenting choices impact your relationships with your children and your children's behavior.

### WHEN:

Group starts **Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Group will run from **2:00p.m.-3:30p.m. for 8 sessions.**

Attendance is required to receive certificate of completion.

### WHERE:

Group will be held Virtually *Via Zoom*

Zoom meeting information provided at registration.

**Register by Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024** by Calling Erin Danielson  
218-757-3295.

8 WEEK CLASS

Must hold active health insurance

Recent Diagnostic Assessment required at start of group

For any parent(s) who are eligible for Bois Forte Services

Starts

**February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

for 8 sessions every **Thursday**

**2:00p.m.-3:30p.m.**

**Group Facilitator:**

**Michelle Long, MS**

**REGISTER BY  
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### In the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Court Civil Division Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

In the matter of Tracy Howg, petitioner vs Tiffany Lind, respondent.

TO: The above-named respondent, Tiffany Lind.

You are hereby notified, and notice is hereby given a Zoom hearing will be held on the 14th day of February 2024, at 11:30 a.m. CST, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Tribal Court, Bois Forte Indian Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771, on the Order for Protection Petition filed in this court on January 17th, 2024. This hearing is to determine if the order for protection should be granted or denied.

You have a right to attend this hearing to either agree or disagree, failure to appear will result in a default against you and the order for harassment being granted.

By The Court  
Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Kristina Isham, Clerk of Court  
12907 Palmquist Road, Suite B, Orr MN 55771 • Tel: 218-757-3462

# THE MCT ELECTION CALENDAR: 2024 Regular Election

December 27, 2023 ..... Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for other RTC office.

January 8, 2024 ..... Last day for sitting RTC member to give notice of resignation to file for vacated RTC seat.

January 11 ..... Election Announcement

January 12 ..... 8:00 a.m. - Opening of period for filing for office.

January 22 ..... Close of filing period

January 31 ..... Selection of Election Court of Appeals Judge  
(For certification of candidate)

February 12 ..... Deadline for Notice of Certifications to TEC.

February 14 ..... Challenge certification or non-certification to MCT by 4:30 p.m. on the second business day following receipt of certification.

February 15 ..... Deadline for appointment of Election Boards.

February 15 ..... Deadline for appointment of Election Contest Judge and alternate Election Contest Judge.

February 16 ..... Complete record of all documents related to challenge submit to Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by 4:30 p.m.

February 18 ..... Answer to challenge from the person whose certification is being challenged to the MCT by 4:30 p.m.

February 22 ..... Deadline for Decision of certification or non-certification by Tribal Court of Appeals.

February 24 ..... Notice of Primary Election and Posting.

February 28 ..... TEC provides ballots for Primary Election.

March 29 ..... Notify MCT on choice of appellate forum.

April 2 ..... Primary (Polling places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

April 3 ..... General Reservation Election Board certifies Primary Results.  
(Prior to 8:00 p.m.)

April 4 ..... General Reservation Election Board publishes Primary Results.

April 5 ..... Deadline for Request for Recount.  
(Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)

April 5 ..... Deadline to Post Regular Election Notice without Primary

April 9 ..... 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Contest of Primary Election.  
(Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

April 10: (Results, if Allowed or April 8 or 9 If earlier request) ..... Deadline for Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.

April 19 ..... Deadline for Decision on Contest

April 22 (or within 3 days of decision on Contest) ..... 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Appeal to Court of Election Appeals.  
(Filed with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa on Contest) Tribe and with Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).

April 29 (at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date) ..... Record of Contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.

May 1 (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal) ..... Last Day for Hearing on Appeal

May 11 (10 days from hearing on appeal) ..... Last Day for Decision on Appeal

May 12 ..... Notice of General Election (or earlier if no appeal).

May 12 ..... TEC provides ballots for General Election (or earlier if no appeal).

June 11 ..... General Election  
(Polling Places open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.)

June 12 ..... General Reservation Election Board certifies results of Election.  
Prior to 8:00 p.m.

June 13 ..... General Reservation Election Board publishes Election results.

June 14 ..... Deadline for Request for Recount.  
(Filed with General Election Board prior to 5:00 p.m.)

June 18 ..... 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for Notice of Contest.  
(Filed with Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)

June 19 (or 18, if request for Recount is filed before deadline) ..... Decision on Request for Recount and Results of Recount, if allowed.

June 28 ..... Deadline for Decision on Contest for General Election.

July 1 (or within 3 days of decision on Contest) 4:30 p.m. - Deadline for appeal to Court of Election Appeals.  
(Filed with Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Reservation Tribunal rendering Decision).

July 5 (at least two (2) days prior to the hearing date) ..... Record of contest forwarded to Court of Election Appeals.

July 8 (hearing within 7 days of notice of appeal) ..... Last Day for Hearing on Appeal.

July 8 ..... Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal to the Court of Election Appeals.

July 18 (or Ten days from Hearing on Appeal) ..... Deadline for decision of the Court of Elections Appeal.

Day following Decision of Appeal ..... Winning candidate prevailing on appeal takes office.

**KBFT 89.9 FM**  
BOIS FORTE TRIBAL COMMUNITY RADIO

# COMEDY Night

**WITH RON KANUTSKI**

RON KANUTSKI IS A COMEDIAN, POW WOW MC, FLUTE AND DRUM PERFORMER, AND AN OJIBWE CULTURE TEACHER, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER TALENTS!

5:30 PM - 6:30PM | BOIS FORTE GOVERNMENT BUILDING  
15 FEBRUARY, 2024 | 5344 LAKE SHORE DRIVE, NETT LAKE, MN

**MORE INFO: WWW.KBFT.ORG**  
VISIT RON'S SITE @ [HTTPS://WWW.RONKANUTSKI.COM/](https://www.ronkanutski.com/)

**VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK****Bois Forte  
Community Listening  
Sessions****INFORMATION AND RSVP:****[WWW.VOYAGEURS.ORG/BOISFORTE](http://WWW.VOYAGEURS.ORG/BOISFORTE)**

Help us determine missing Ojibwe narratives in **Voyageurs National Park's** education and interpretive programs. A meal will be provided.

**Lake Vermilion****Thursday, February 1, 5:30-7:30 PM**

Vermilion Family Wellness Center - Gymnasium

**Nett Lake****Wednesday, February 14, 5:30-7:30 PM**

Government Center - Eagle Room

**Duluth - March 13****Minneapolis - April 10****THANK YOU + MIIGWECH**

**Voyageurs  
Conservancy**


Hosted by Voyageurs Conservancy and the National Park Service. Please join us to give your important input so that we can:

- Modernize our environmental education curriculum so that it accurately represents past and present Ojibwe Lifeways.
- Work to build bridges with Native teachers, parents and students with a connection to, or neighboring the National Park.
- Support and fund Indigenous youth experiences in Voyageurs National Park.
- Support and fund projects that preserve and share Indigenous narratives in the park's interpretation, signage, and visitor centers.
- Partner to build Indigenous cultural connections in our Dark Sky Initiative.

All are welcome to join us for facilitated conversation and a meal at one of these community engagement gatherings.

Questions? Contact Breanna Trygg [btrygg@voyageurs.org](mailto:btrygg@voyageurs.org) or 612-333-5424.



**Bois Forte Tribal Council**

- Robert Moyer, Jr. — District II Representative
- Tara Geshick—Secretary-Treasurer
- Cathy Chavers—Tribal Chair
- Travis Morrison—District I Representative
- Shane Drift—District I Representative

**Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices**



**Nett Lake Sector**  
 5344 Lakeshore Drive  
 Nett Lake, MN 55772  
 Phone: 218-757-3261  
 Toll Free: 800-221-8129  
 Fax: 218-757-3312

**Vermilion Sector**  
 1610 Farm Road South  
 Tower, MN 55790  
 Phone: 218-753-4542  
 Fax: 218-753-4055

**Urban Office - Duluth**  
 206 West 4th Street  
 Suite 204  
 Duluth, MN 55806  
 Phone: 218-336-1048  
 Cell: \*218-206-5629  
 Fax: 218-336-1049  
 \*wdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov

**Urban Office - Minneapolis**  
 1308 East Franklin Avenue  
 Suite 112  
 Minneapolis, MN 55404  
 Phone: 612-871-6618  
 Cell: \*612-747-5247  
 \*urbanoffice@boisforte-nsn.gov

**Bois Forte NEWS**



The *Bois Forte News* (BFN) is published monthly by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. The BFN encourages submission of articles, community announcements, recipes, and photos.

Send to:  
[news@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:news@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Contributions are subject to editing for grammar, length, and malicious/libelous content. BFN will attempt to include all material submitted by Band members and guests. Multiple contributions from the same source may be excluded or rotated to future issues to ensure equal access to all. For information on paid ads, please contact us.

**Deadline for the  
 March 2024 issue  
 is Feb. 20, 2024.**

**Bois Forte Mid  
 Winter  
 Powwow**

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Bois Forte RTG – 5344 Lakeshore Drive Nett Lake, MN 55772

Table/booth space are available for programs and organizations to reserve please email:

[kristen.holmes@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:kristen.holmes@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Powwow meetings held every Tuesday at 5PM starting December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the RTG

Questions?

Call Toni Wakemup at 218-404-8377

David Morrison Jr 218-757-0087

