



Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 46 NUMBER 4

Foster Care Homes are needed!

Foster Care Homes are needed throughout the State of Minnesota. Please consider becoming a foster care parent and open your home to our beautiful children in need.

Bois Forte Reservation residents can contact Simona Benner, Indian Child Welfare Family Support Coordinator at EMAIL: simona.benner@bois-forte-nsn.gov PHONE: (218) 757-3295 Ext. 278.

Off Reservation, please contact the local county agency or tribe nearest you.

Despite pandemic, Bois Forte had many success stories

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has been held in check as of late, the Bois Forte Tribal Council decided to hold its annual State of the Band (SOTB) virtually.

“We wanted to ensure that we protect the health and safety of our tribal members and communities,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers in her welcome speech, which she shared with the Bois Forte News. “We look forward to the time we can all gather and visit together in person.”

Chavers said she misses the days when hundreds of Bois Forte band members gathered at the State of the Band to visit and catch up on one another’s life. In her eyes, the SOTB was more than just checking out informational booths or listening to speeches. It was about reconnecting with one another as another year had passed since their last visit.

“That is who we are as Anishinaabe people and this pandemic has put unwanted barriers and obstacles before us, but we are a resilient people,” said Chavers. “We have proven that for hundreds of years and will continue to do so for years to come.”

Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, Chavers said there were many

accomplishments at the federal, state and tribal level. She said that Bois Forte is making progress as a band and that it is due in part to the strong leadership team currently in place.

That includes Bois Forte band members such as Robert Anderson heading up

can Indian tribes.

“American Indian people are now seated at the top tables of power...” stated Chavers. “By having our people in key positions, these are the people who understand tribal sovereignty and who know the challenges we face. They do not need a history lesson because they are one of us.”

Chavers also talked about a huge victory at the state level when Walz and the state legislature did away with tribal consultation being done through an Executive Order. Prior to this, a governor could have made an executive order, but the next governor to take office could repeal that executive order. That is no longer the case.

“We don’t have to worry anymore about whether the winner of the governor’s race will treat us as a sovereign government,” explained Chavers.

“This is because Governor Walz and Lt. Gov. Flannagan, along with the state legislation, has made consultation with tribes permanent in state law. Let me stress that it is no longer an executive order, but law.”

Chavers also touched on having American Indians serving in key positions at the state level and furthermore is proud of Bois Forte band members serving in important roles such as the executive director of the Minnesota Indian

Helping out with the Primary Election!



GREAT JOB LADIES!—Bois Forte Election judges for the Vermilion Sector did a great job with the April 5th Primary. Pictured, left to right, are: Alanna Sherman, Cheryl Debelak, and Caroline Donald. See inside for full election coverage.

the Department of Interior.

“This Department of the Interior Administration has a cultural understanding of the meaning of what we value most, our land, our water and more,” said Chavers. “Before this administration, decisions were made without consultations with tribes. Now we get the answers and respect that has long been overdue.”

She credited President Joe Biden and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as leaders who truly listened to concerns of Ameri-

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Field is narrowed for three seats on Tribal Council

The field for three open positions on the Bois Forte Tribal Council was narrowed from 12 down to 6 following the April 5th primary.

In the race for the Secretary/Treasurer, longtime incumbent David Morrison, Sr. came away as the top vote getter with 165 votes, followed by Tara Geshick, who garnered

149 votes. The other challenger, Tracey Strong Dagen, had a strong showing with 145 votes, but fell just short of advancing to the general election, which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th.

Morrison collected 59 votes to 52 for Benner in the Nett Lake sector, while Geshick had a 54-47 edge in

the Vermilion sector.

Geshick had a 12-10 advantage at the Duluth Urban office, while they tied with 17 at the Minneapolis Urban office. Morrison had a 31-14 advantage in absentee votes.

In the District I Representative race, challenger Simona Benner tallied 87 votes, followed by incumbent Shane

Drift, who had 80 votes. David Villebrun tallied 51 votes, while Millie Holmes gathered 36 votes.

Benner fared well in the Nett Lake sector by outdistancing Drift 48-35. Benner also won the Vermilion sector by an 11-9 margin, while also taking the Duluth Urban office by 10-5 and Minneapolis

by a 10-8 count. Drift made up ground with 23 absentee votes, while Benner tallied 8 votes.

The five-person District II Representative race was quickly narrowed to political newcomers Hannah Chosa and Robert Moyer, Jr., who collected 86 and 70 votes, respectively.

Moyer had a slim 60-59 edge in the Lake Vermilion sector, while Chosa took a 2-0 tally from the Nett Lake sector. Chosa also held an 8-2 margin in Duluth, 12-3 in Minneapolis, while both candidates received five absentee votes.

Incumbent Peter "Chief" Boney could only gain 28 votes and thus will leave office this coming July after serving a four year term.

"I would like to thank all those who supported me in the election," Boney wrote in a Facebook post shortly after the primary race concluded. "Creator must have a different direction for me at this time... good luck to those who go onto the general election."

Meanwhile, Robin Geshick had 14 votes and Tim O'Leary collected 9 votes to round out the voting for District II Representative.

Please see page 3 for stories outlining each of the three races now set for the June 14th primary election.

BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

PRIMARY ELECTION

April 5, 2022



OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	HAND TALLY	TOTALS	%
MILDRED HOLMES	10	6	10	2	8		36	14.17%
DAVID H. VILLEBRUN JR.	38	1	2	4	6		51	20.08%
SIMONA BENNER	48	11	10	10	8		87	34.25%
SHANE G. DRIFT	35	9	8	5	23		80	31.50%
TOTALS	131	27	30	21	45	0	254	100.00%

DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	HAND TALLY	TOTALS	%
ROBERT H. MOYER JR.	0	60	3	2	5		70	33.82%
HANNAH CHOSA	2	59	12	8	5		86	41.55%
PETER F. BONEY	0	18	4	2	4		28	13.53%
TIMOTHY D. O'LEARY	0	7	0	0	2		9	4.35%
ROBIN GESCHICK	1	9	1	1	2		14	6.76%
TOTALS	3	153	20	13	18	0	207	100.00%

SECRETARY-TREASURER	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	HAND TALLY	TOTALS	%
DAVID C. MORRISON SR.	59	47	17	10	32		165	35.95%
TARA GESCHICK	52	54	17	12	14		149	32.46%
TRACEY STRONG DAGEN	23	79	14	12	17		145	31.59%
TOTALS	134	180	48	34	63	0	459	100.00%

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned election officials of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, do hereby certify the above to be a true and accurate representation of the votes cast in the Primary Election held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. We further certify that said election was held in accordance with the Election Ordinance # 10 of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

SIGNED

NETT LAKE CLINIC SCHEDULING:

218-757-3650

VERMILION CLINIC SCHEDULING:

218-753-2182

Chosa wants to build a better path for future generations



Despite a very successful primary run as the next District I Representative, Hannah Chosa won't let that early success go to her head.

Instead, Chosa offered a sincere Miigwech to those who have voted for her and now encourages that same

support in June's General Election.

"I appreciate each and every one of you," said Chosa, who believes she received the most votes because her platform isn't built on what she thinks people want to hear, rather what she and many others believe the Bois Forte people should be striving for.

And that includes building a better community, making educated business decisions and investments for the Bois Forte people; taking care of elders and veterans; and working to restore cultural and language practices.

"Achieving all these goals will take a lot of dedication and determination," said Chosa, who is Fortune Bay Resort Casino's Assistant Director of Marketing. "If I get

the pleasure of serving as the Onamanii-Zaaga'iganiiing (Lake Vermilion) Representative, I will help lead us there."

If she does get elected, Chosa realizes the work ahead won't be easy. She understands there will be a learning curve, but more importantly, she realizes gaining and keeping trust among the Bois Forte people will be the hardest challenge.

"We've lost trust with many council members in the past," offered Chosa. "My intentions are to create a positive community for all band members, build a better path for future generations, and to change the stigma of the tribal council member. I am not running for income, status, or any malicious intent."

Chosa added that her life

and career experiences, the latter which includes nearly 18 years at Fortune Bay, have prepared her to make the transition to public office a smooth one. She knows she won't have all the answers, but she promises to work hard to get up to speed on pressing issues facing Bois Forte.

"I will continue to listen and gather insight so I can be an unbiased but strong voice for our people," said Chosa, who looks forward to meet and greets, as well as an active social media platform to let voters know of her campaign game plan. "I believe honest, open, unbiased communication is key to a successful relationship with our band members."

And if she does win June's General election, Chosa is

willing to put in the time and effort to truly make a difference for the Bois Forte people. However, Chosa understands that she can only control so much as it is ultimately the voters who will decide who the next District II Representative will be.

"I wholeheartedly believe I can help make a positive change," said Chosa, who invited voters to reach out via her Facebook page: Hannah Chosa - Bois Forte District II Representative Candidate. "Until then, I will work to share my message and hope that others are in support of a positive change as well... If given the opportunity, I will continue to educate myself and others along the way for the betterment of the Bois Forte Band."

Moyer, Jr. feels he has a lot to offer the Bois Forte people



Robert Moyer, Jr. is no stranger to the Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, and he is hoping that familiarity with residents will help earn him a spot on the

Bois Forte Tribal Council.

"Many Vermilion residents know me very well as I have been living on or around Vermilion for roughly 20 years," said Moyer, Jr. "Working for our people through the Vermilion government center for over 14 years has taught me many lessons over the years. I've learned to appreciate Bois Forte for what it has done for me and what it does for our people."

Now he is hoping he can take those lessons to make a difference so that the Lake Vermilion area can grow and prosper.

"No matter what the outcome of this election brings, I

will be here to help in any way I can," said Moyer, Jr., who finished 16 votes behind Hannah Chosa in the primary for District II Representative.

As previously stated in his literature sent out to Bois Forte band members, Moyer, Jr. would like to see a change in the make-up of the current council, which currently consists of a chair, secretary/treasurer, two District I Representatives and one District II Representative.

Instead, he would like to see a chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer being the at-large seats, while having one representative each from District I and District II.

"This would allow all of Bois Forte voters to have a bigger voice on our council," said Moyer, Jr. "I will strive to seek equality and fairness to all band members, by ensuring that your voice is heard."

Moyer, Jr. plans to make himself available to anyone off reservation or on reservation that would like to voice their concerns as to what issues are important and need to be addressed.

"Please feel free to contact me and set up a meeting," said Moyer, Jr. "I can be reached at 218-410-4008 or on my Facebook page Robert Moyer, Jr. or Robert Moyer BF District II candidate. "I will

be campaigning door to door throughout our community as much as possible."

Moyer, Jr. said that he is very honored and thankful for the support shown to him in last month's primary.

"If elected I promise to be a leader who will listen and make the tough decisions based on all the information and data that are presented," said Moyer, Jr., a father of four children and three grandchildren, all who reside on the Vermilion reservation. "Vermilion is my home. I will continue to serve Vermilion and Bois Forte to the best of my abilities."

Benner is ready to make a difference



As a political newcomer, Simona Benner is ready to dive in and work tirelessly on behalf of band members to do

what it takes to make a difference on the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

"I will take the time listen to people, whether they are band members, employees, or community members," said Benner, who is currently working for Bois Forte as a Family Support Coordinator. "If you have an issue, concern, or want to have a discussion with me—I have and always will take the time to hear what you have to say."

Benner fared very well in the primary election as she edged out incumbent Shane Drift by an 87 to 80 margin.

"I would like to thank everyone who voted for me, it is very much appreciated and thank you to those who took

the time to vote," said Benner, who is currently working on her Associated Arts degree in Business Administration. "I hope to have your support in the general election in June."

Benner said regardless of who voters choose, she wants to make sure all council members are listening to the concerns of both band members and non-band members, i.e. those who work at Fortune Bay, the Bois Forte Tribal Government or Bois Forte Development Corporation entities.

"It doesn't and never will matter to me if you can or can't vote for me. I believe the tribal council should be listening and trying to help ALL of our band and community members," said Benner,

who wants to encourage more band member owned businesses and wants to do more for off-reservation band members. "I am a strong female voice that will stand up for our band members, community members and employees."

In an effort to get her message out, Benner would like to see all candidates invited to meet and greet events at various off-reservation locations. She said she believes this would be a positive step in bringing the community together.

"I have stated that in the forums and I believe that our community needs this," said Benner, who encouraged voters to call her at 218-410-9520 or send her an email to

01mone43@gmail.com. "If that's not possible for this election, I would like to see that in the future."

Benner said she is taking her run for the Bois Forte Tribal Council very seriously and is excited for the challenges that lie ahead. She said she is not going to make any promises she can't keep and added that she does not have a personal agenda or is seeking a seat on the council for personal gain.

"I feel that our band members, community members and employees are not being heard and are afraid to speak up," said Benner. "I will be that voice for them."

Drift will continue to work for all band members



District I Representative Shane Drift has not been afraid to stand alone on issues—he went with his heart when it came time to cast his vote and he'll continue

to operate that way if he gets re-elected.

"Band members know that I truly look out for them, that I really care about them," said Drift, who is facing Simona Benner in the District I race. "Band members know that when they bring their issues, concerns, problems, or ideas to my attention, that I will bring their issues, concerns, problems, or ideas forward."

Drift said that band members know that he has their best interests at heart and added that he makes decisions with band members in mind.

"I am here to serve our band members. I have demonstrated that time and again," said Drift, who encouraged

voters to visit the Shane Drift District I Representative update page on Facebook or call his cell at 218-750-2552 if they want to talk about his campaign.

If Drift wins the general election, he said that he will "wholeheartedly" be up to the challenge of serving his people again. He fondly talked about his discussions with some of Bois Forte's elders heading into the 2018 election.

The message they gave Drift was one that still resonates with him four years later and that message was: If you get in there, you're going to have to make tough decisions that some people won't like. You're not getting in there to be liked; you're getting in there to get things done, or

try to get things done...If you know in your heart that you did the right thing then you will be able to hold your head up and look band members in the eyes. Don't be scared to stand alone on issues, remember who put in office and why.

"These words will always be with me," said Drift of the comments made to him in 2018.

He reiterated that he has worked hard for the people of Bois Forte and wants to continue that work.

"I have been serving our people since my first day on the tribal council," said Drift. "If the band members place their trust in me by electing me for another four years, I will continue to serve them. I will continue to speak up for

them and I will continue doing business like I have been doing the last three and half years."

He said that serving on the Bois Forte Tribal Council is a big responsibility and one that he takes very seriously.

"I do not have a responsibility to just one band member or just one group of band members; I have a responsibility to all our band members," said Drift, who added that he is open to Zoom meetings if voters want to meet with him that way. "I have a responsibility to do the right thing, to speak up for band members, employees, look out for the best interest of our tribal government, departments, programs and services, tribal businesses, and our future."

Morrison, Sr. is still passionate about serving on the tribal council



Although Dave Morrison, Sr. has been in office for 32 years, he never takes things for granted and that includes Bois Forte band members who want to see him serve another four years in office.

“Let me start by saying

“Miigwech to everyone who voted for me in the Primary Election, I’m humbled and honored for your support,” said Morrison, Sr. who will face Tara Geshick in June’s General Election. “For those that didn’t vote for me, I pledge to work hard for every band member regardless of who you voted for and hope that you will consider voting for me in the upcoming General Election.”

Morrison, Sr. said he believes the reason he advanced to the General Election is because band members know him and know his record of service to the Bois Forte people.

“Fairness, honoring our

culture and hard work are attributes my parents Dan and Priscilla Morrison, Sr. instilled in me,” said Morrison, Sr. “Whether it’s working on unexpected emergencies — like obtaining funding for care and vaccines against Covid; or continuing the long fight for blood quantum changes in the MCT Constitution — band members know my record of working hard for our people.”

Morrison, Sr. said he is driven to continue looking out for all band members as he seeks to win another term. He said his life has been spent living in the Nett Lake Village and working for the Bois Forte people.

“Primary voters have seen

me use my experience and efforts to collaborate with tribal, state and federal governments to help our people and strengthen the Bois Forte Nation,” explained Morrison, Sr. “That’s probably the reason why they voted for me.”

In an effort to retain his seat on the council, Morrison, Sr. said he will continue to campaign in a variety of ways. That includes using social media, participate in candidate forums, send out more campaign letters and participate in any media requests from the Bois Forte News.

“But my main tool in the campaign is to keep focused on my current job of working hard as Secretary-Treasurer

for Bois Forte and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe,” said Morrison, Sr. “If I do my job well, voters will honor me with their support. A record of consistent service and hard work will mean more to voters than a slick campaign of promises.”

In closing, Morrison, Sr. said it is hard to imagine not serving Bois Forte and its people because that is where his heart is and always has been.

“I’m hopeful that voters will agree that experience, fairness and hard work are important in their leaders and will honor me with the opportunity to continue serving as their Secretary-Treasurer,” said Morrison, Sr.

Geshick promises to be a strong voice for the Bois Forte people



Tara Geshick has never been on to shy away from challenges and that mind set will once again be on display as she works hard to unseat longtime incumbent Secretary-Treasurer Dave Morrison, Sr. in the upcoming June General Election.

“First and foremost, I want to thank all members who voted and to remind them —

your vote does matter, and I look forward to your support in June!” said Geshick. “Band members have shared with me that they want to see change, and I will bring positive change. I am not a politician, but a fresh new voice that can relate to our people’s struggles.”

Geshick said she has resonated with voters by sharing her story of struggling and raising a family on a single income. She said her platform is clear, concise and has measurable and obtainable goals.

“The members want an increase in communication about the Band’s financial status, more involvement with our elders, improved band member employment, defined ways of protecting our language and culture, and to pursue business opportunities such as hemp and marijuana programs,” said Geshick. “I will bring forth a strong voice with-

in a clear manner that will focus on solutions for the Band, these are a few reasons that I attribute as to why I advanced to the general election.”

Geshick said the Secretary-Treasurer position needs an integral member with exceptional focus on the Tribal Council. She believes she holds many qualities that not only make her a qualified candidate, but also one who is eager to make a difference to serve the people when elected.

“I will bring increased communication and integrity back to the Tribal Government. I will also bring organization as well as creating a fair workplace environment and a government that will serve the community well,” she explained. “One important goal that I have is to implement fiscal accountability and share financial information with the members regularly.”

Another goal Geshick has

is to be proactive in exploring business ventures and soliciting Band member’s opinion early in the decision-making process.

“I am ready to serve all band members by moving the Band in a positive direction during the next four years,” said Geshick. “I am excited to produce true progress for you, the band members.”

Geshick said it’s an honor to be heading into the general election for Secretary-Treasurer. Her game plan won’t deviate much from the primary election as she plans on continuing to listen and hear directly from the band members.

“I will share my platform on social media and plan to attend as many meets and greets as possible to continue hearing from members on their concerns and needs for the future,” said Geshick.

While she doesn’t want to cast stones, Geshick said

she has spoken to many band members, who are just plain tired of empty promises and lack of action and support from the Tribal Council.

“I can relate and understand these feelings,” said Geshick. “The Tribal Council members represent the direction for all band members, and I will remember this when elected. I’ve seen it before where absentee voters were the deciding factor in elections, so I will continue to seek out their concerns as well as to take in any of their considerations.”

She added that she will be going door to door, contacting people through social media, and attending meet and greets.

“I invite members’ feedback on my campaign and will use those comments constructively,” she said. “I look forward to meeting you on the campaign trail.”

Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Ahneen Boozhoo:

Even though spring officially arrived in March, here in northern Min-

nesota winter is still trying to hold on. As I write this, it is snowing and some of the local lakes still have at least two feet of ice. We are not sure when a real spring will come but hopefully, it will be here soon. Prospect netting season does not look very promising.

We are now moving forward with our Fiber to Home project as the underground boarding of the fiber has now begun in Nett Lake. It will then go to the Palmquist housing area, Indian Point, and then to the Vermilion sector of the reservation.

This project will allow Bois Forte to have its own telecommunications business with our communities. We will be able to have our own internet, phone, and possibly, in the future, cable television. We want to thank our IT Director Randy Long for getting the grants to pay for this important addition to our communities. Our current providers of

telephone and internet have not been very good, and this project will enhance our communities' opportunities.

Bois Forte did receive a \$500,000 grant from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe for this project along with an additional \$500,000 grant for our land purchase from the Conservation Fund. We want to extend our thanks to the Shakopee tribe for their continued support of Bois Forte for our projects.

We have now begun the Phase II portion of our work with Blue Stone Strategy. This is a Native American-owned business that we hired to assist us in our American Rescue Plan Act funding projects and other funding opportunities. They will be conducting a wage compensation study, a feasibility study for Bois Forte Health and Human Services, economic diversification plan, a new five-year strategic plan, and much more.

As mentioned last month, the Bois Forte State of the Band had to be done virtually this year and was aired in late April on YouTube and the Bois Forte website. We hope that this is the last time we have to do this virtually. Our directors gave their yearly updates as well as tribal council speeches. Please check them out so you can see what your leaders and directors have been working on this past year and their plans for this coming year.

Even though it seems that the pandemic is declining, there is a new variant out there. It seems that every time the numbers go down, there is a huge spike, and we are right back in the middle of it. We still need to be cautious—please be safe!

Miigwech!
Cathy

RTC CODE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE SIGN UP

In 2020, the Bois Forte RTC adopted the RTC Code of Ethics, which establishes a Tribal Ethics Committee to review ethics complaints filed against Council members.

RTC is looking for individuals to serve on the Code of Ethics Committee. The Code of Ethics Committee shall consist of 6 members and 4 alternates. Must be 18 years old and a Member of Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Must have the ability to attend meetings virtually.

[YOU CAN LIVE ON OR OFF RESERVATION TO SIGN UP.](#)

Meetings can take place in-person with a virtual option.

SCAN
CODE TO
SIGN UP



When signing up you will need the following information:

Name, address, email and phone number.

Any questions or to sign up, contact Nikki Irving @ 218-757-3261 ext 1273 or nirving@boisforte-nsn.gov

Being on this committee is on a volunteer basis.

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/u7744/forms/SSKLU>

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP 05/20/2022

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Very informative series

Remembering Resilience Podcast Series

This series highlights Native American resilience through and beyond trauma... exploring concepts, science, history, culture, stories and practices that we are working with as we seek to shape a future for our children and our grandchildren that is defined not by what we have suffered, but what we have overcome.



<https://rememberingresilience.home.blog/>

Visit Bois Forte Band of Chippewa on these social media outlets.



www.boisforte.com

Hackey is humbled by Wall of Fame induction

One of Bois Forte's own was recently inducted into the City of Porterville's Wall of Fame.

"It means everything to me," said Dan Hackey during a recent phone interview from his home in California. "I've seen other people inducted, but I never thought I'd be the one getting this type of achievement."

Hackey, who worked for Fortune Bay from 1990-98 as its bingo manager and later in the HR Department, worked with the Tule River Tribe for 20 years before retiring last year.

Using his vast experience gained from his time spent at Fortune Bay, Hackey helped opened the first Bingo Hall at Eagle Mountain Casino in Porterville. He then served in several other positions within the organization, including Human Resources Director and Marketing Director. He then moved on to work for the Tule River Tribal Council as Public Relations Director. He also worked as Special Advisor to Chairman Neil Peyron of the Tule River Tribe.

"I worked under Dan's wing in public relations for around eight years," said Rondii Nieto, a Youth Outreach Counselor for the Tule River Indian Tribe of California. "We put on the events for the tribe and co-sponsored events with the City of Porterville. Dan was a master at everything. This is a great honor for Dan to be recognized for the work he has accomplished during his 20 years working for the Tule River Tribe."

For Hackey, staying busy and working hard was second nature to him. He enjoyed the challenges put in front of him and met them all head-on with a smile on his face.

"The Tule River Tribe has been very good to me," said Hackey. "They treated me very well. Probably just as good as my own tribe did. That's why I always did my best for them."

Hackey, who is a 1969 graduate of

the former Biwabik High School and a U.S. Navy Veteran, has served on a variety of committees and organizations lending his expertise and support across the valley. He has been on the Tule River Native Veterans Post 1987, which is located on the Tule River Indian Reservation, American Legion, and First Annual Tule River Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Hackey has also been involved in the Chambers of Commerce for several cities including Springville, Tulare, Porterville, and Visalia. He has also been on the Tulare County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Tulare County Fair Board, Tule River Pow-Wow committee, Tule River Rodeo Committee, and Yokuts Foundation Committee.

Hackey is known to go above and beyond in his service. He helped to organize a very successful charity golf tournament that raised thousands of dollars for local nonprofits and connected individuals from all over the state.

While Hackey's professional contributions have been well documented, Nieto said there was also a lighter side to his work.

"He'd dress up for every holiday, giving out gifts and candy to the community," said Nieto, who added that her favorite was when Hackey dressed up as the Easter Bunny. "He loved seeing the kids smile."

Hackey laughed at the Easter Bunny gig but added that Nieto was right that he loved to see kids smile.

"Rondii and I did everything for the tribe," said Hackey of his former co-worker. "She was my right hand. We were busy all the time and did a lot of work for the Tule River Tribe."

During his time with the Tule River Tribal Council, Hackey actively built strong relationships with outside entities within the City of Porterville, Tulare County, and the state in legislative and gaming and beyond. Establishing



GREAT HONOR— Bois Forte band member Dan Hackey is shown here with his wife, Darlene, right, and City of Porterville Mayor Martha Flores, left. Hackey, a former employee at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, was recently inducted in the City of Porterville Wall of Fame. Congratulations Dan and also to Darlene for allowing Dan to give back to his community! Submitted photo.

these relationships became instrumental in securing support for local businesses as well as the relocation of the Eagle Mountain Casino.

"All of my work would not have been possible without the support of the Tule River Tribe," said Hackey. "They kind of let me do whatever I wanted to do to give back to our community. Like I said earlier, they have been so good to me—that is why I treat them so good."

While Hackey has officially been retired for a year, he is still actively involved with the Tulare County Fair. He said he was appointed to County Fair Board by the Governor of California

some 10 years ago and was supposed to be done with his term a couple of years ago.

"But they kept me on," said Hackey of continuing his work on the fair board. "I love to work."

And as the old saying goes, if you love your job, you don't work a day in your life.

"That probably applies to me," said Hackey with another easy laugh. "I just want to thank the Tule River Tribe and say hello to everyone up at Bois Forte—I don't get to go home that much anymore, but I do miss the Bois Forte people."

1854 Treaty Authority provides promising update on moose population

By Morgan Swingen, Wildlife Biologist, 1854 Treaty Authority

Each year, staff from the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to estimate the size of the moose population in northeastern Minnesota.

A subset of the primary moose range is selected for surveying, and observers in helicopters count moose and mark their locations. These data are extrapolated to estimate the total number of moose in northeastern Minnesota.

After the 2021 moose survey was cancelled due to Covid-19, we were excited to be able to conduct the 2022 survey this past January. We had good weather and were able to complete the survey in eight flight days.

The data from this year's survey produced an estimate of 4,700 moose in northeastern Minnesota, which is the highest population estimate since

2014.

After a recent "stable" period, the population may now be increasing slightly, although there is a lot of uncertainty in the data. This is a hopeful sign, but we would like to see a few consecutive years of rising population estimates to be more certain of this increasing trend. More details about the state survey can be found on the Minnesota DNR's website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/moose/index.html>

We have also been conducting aerial moose surveys on the Bois Forte Nett Lake and Grand Portage reservations through collaborative efforts between Grand Portage Trust Lands, Bois Forte Department of Natural Resources, and the 1854 Treaty Authority. The moose counts during both reservation surveys in 2022 were also the highest that they have been in recent years. We plan to continue these surveys annually to track changes in moose numbers on both reservations.



GREAT SIGN!— This is an aerial photograph that the 1854 Treaty Authority staff took while conducting the 2022 moose survey on the Nett Lake Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation. Submitted photo.

Enjoying a lighter moment at work!



SMILE WICKO!— Bois Forte's Brian Porter makes his rounds at the end of the day at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center as longtime Executive Assistant Wicko Villebrun poses for a quick photograph. "We hate the Packers, but we love Wicko," said a smiling Porter as he emptied Villebrun's Green Bay Packers garbage can. Villebrun is set to retire May 6th. Please look for a story in June's Bois Forte News about Villebrun's retirement, thank you!

Boozhoo fellow Band Members,

I want to extend a heart felt thank you to all those who supported me in the recent Primary Election. I am humbled and encouraged. Your vote has demonstrated that Band Members want a Tribal Leader with experience and has a proven record of honesty and open government.

I want to thank all candidates who ran in the Primary Election and congratulate those who will move on into the General Election. I commend you for stepping up and expressing the desire to serve our people.

I now ask for your continued support as we move toward the General Election that is scheduled on June 14, 2022.

Over the next few months, I will be sending you information on my election platform and future goals that I will work toward if re-elected. I welcome your input and will try to meet with as many of you as possible.

For now, please get the word out to VOTE FOR DAVE MORRISON, SR. on June 14th, 2022.

Gigawaabamin (I will see you).

David C Morrison Sr. Cell phone: (218) 780-7147

Paid advertisement. Prepared and paid for by the candidate on his own behalf.





Got Fish?



~ 1854 Treaty Authority needs your help ~



Donate fillets from walleye netted Spring of 2022 and receive a

\$25 VISA GIFT CARD

Size Ranges	12.0-14.9	15.0-17.9	18.0-22	>22
# of Fillets	3	3	3	3

ALL WE NEED IS ONE FILLET PER FISH!

The 1854 Treaty Authority is examining safe eating recommendations for Lake Vermilion walleyes. Donated fish will be tested for mercury. Test results can be returned to those who donated, if requested. Results of all fish tested for mercury will be made available on the 1854 Treaty Authority website.

1854 Treaty Authority Resource Management staff will accompany Conservation Enforcement Officers while checking harvesters - Gift cards will be handed out onsite for donated fillets

For more information, please contact:
Tyler Kaspar, Environmental Biologist
tkaspar@1854treatyauthority.org
 (218)-722-8907

Bois Forte's IT Department is pleased to announce that the Fiber Optic to Home program is underway.

Bois Forte's IT Department is pleased to announce that the Fiber Optic to Home program is underway.

Crews have been onsite in Nett Lake starting to bore innerduct (small tubes) for fiber optic cables that will lay the groundwork for broadband internet service in the village.

A representative from Vantage Engineering will be going home to home notifying residents that fiber optic cabling will be brought to their home and a small electronic box will be installed on their home if they want the service.

As an important reminder, someone 18 years of age or older must be present to sign off allowing Vantage

Engineering to mount the needed fiber box on your home.

The Fiber Optic to Home program is expected to go live within the Nett Lake, Palmquist, and Indian Point areas by late summer. The Vermilion sector is expected to go live by late fall 2022.

Once the project is finished, homeowners will have the option to sign up for broadband services starting at an estimated \$55 per month for 100Mb with wireless; \$65 per month for 250Mb with wireless; and \$99 a month for 1Gb with wireless.

Look for more information soon on how you can apply for this service—thank you!

A good deed will help you net a \$25 gift card

The 1854 Treaty Authority is offering a \$25 Visa gift card to each Bois Forte Band member willing to donate walleye fillets (one fillet/walleye) from nets set in Lake Vermilion this spring for mercury testing.

"Our goal is to collect 12 total fillets, three fillets from each of four length categories (3 fillets/category) to help us examine safe eating recommendations for Lake Vermilion walleyes," wrote 1854 Treaty Authority's Environmental Biologist Tyler Kaspar.

According to Kaspar, an 1854 Tre-

ty Authority staff will accompany 1854 Treaty Authority conservation officers while checking nets (when activity is high) and will provide the \$25 Visa gift cards on site to willing donors.

The staff will also measure each walleye that will have a fillet donated and collect the fillets. If you would like to know more information about this effort, please reach out to Kaspar by calling him at 218-722-8907 or via email at tkaspar@1854treatyauthority.org

Obituary



ERIC STRONG, 49, of Nett Lake, MN passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Eric was born in Virginia, MN to Lewis Strong Jr. and Wendy Morrison on February 18, 1973. Eric was united in marriage to Shelly Villebrun in November of 1996.

He went to St. Cloud State for three years and then attended the BIA Law Enforcement Academy in Roswell, New Mexico, where he became a conservation officer; and was involved in the recovery of shuttle pieces for NASA. He was also a forestry firefighter. He worked for the Bois Forte sawmill and then construction for KGM and maintenance man for RTG and the Nett Lake School. He worked for the state of Minnesota as a DNR inspector for invasive species. He also acted as supervisor for the summer youth program in Nett Lake.

Eric enjoyed hunting, ricing, netting, golfing and fishing. He also loved to play softball. Eric really enjoyed his step-children and grand-step-children and spending time with family and friends.

Eric was a kind man with a soft heart. He would help anyone who needed it.

Eric is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents: Dan and Priscilla Morrison; paternal grandparents: Alice and Lewis Strong Sr.; father Lewis Strong Jr.; Leonard Thompson Jr. step-child Lindsey Moon; uncles: Dan Morrison Jr., Jim Morrison, and Jonathan Morrison; aunt Lucille Morrison; and cousins: Denise Morrison and Chris Morrison

Eric is survived by his wife Shelley Strong; step-children: Brent Villebrun, Ashley Goodsky, and Amanda Quotone; mother Wendy Morrison Thompson; brothers: Corey Strong and Lewis Strong III; step-grandchildren: Aayanna, Anevay, Aki, Adaanis, Aleena, Ayasha, Savannah, Jaxon, Camilla, and Mary Moon (mother Lindsey); mother-in-law Eileen Barney (step father-in-law Ken Barney); and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

A Traditional Wake was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Bois Forte Government and Services Center. The Traditional Service was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 also at Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Spiritual Leader was Adrian Liberty; casket bearers: Donnie Villebrun, Willie LaRoque, Mike Villebrun, Ed Villebrun, Randy Holman, Kent Morrison, Dave Danz, and Ken Villebrun. Honorary casket bearers: Brent Villebrun, Ashley Goodsky, Amanda Quotone and Ed Chavers. Grandchildren: Aayanna, Anevay, Aki, Adaanis, Aleena, Ayasha, Savannah, Jaxon, Camilla, and Mary Moon (mother Lindsey).

Despite pandemic, Bois Forte had many success stories

continued from page 1

Affairs Council. She also mentioned Bois Forte band members as serving as tribal liaisons in the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and the Department of Public Safety.

Other topics Chavers covered were the collaboration amongst the state, MnDOT and the 1854 staff for the installation of signs designating the boundaries of the 1854 Treaty area. These attractive signs can be seen all over the region, including the inaugural one posted in Grand Portage, while others encompass land in the Quad Cities area.

"These signs are historic and symbolic of the long hours worked by past

administrations, 1854 Treaty Area staff, MnDOT and of course, the late Chairman of Grand Portage Norman Deschampe," said Chavers. "Nowhere else in the state can you find any signs that depict a treaty area. What a great and longtime coming accomplishment."

Chavers also talked about Bois Forte getting over 28,000 acres of land back within the Nett Lake and Deer Creek sectors of the reservation. This was made possible due to work done by the Conservation Fund, which is a nonprofit dedicated to making conservation work for all of America.

"We are extremely grateful to the Conservation Fund and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation for their ef-

forts in making this the largest historical land purchase for Bois Forte a possibility," said Chavers, who add that staff members from the group recently visited the area to learn more about Bois Forte's history, culture, and traditions.

On a more solemn note, Chavers touched on the discovery of mass graves at boarding schools in Canada. She said that Minnesota tribal leaders have decided to collaborate and meet on boarding schools that were established in Minnesota as well.

"We need to get answers about what happened to our children at these schools," said Chavers. "The boarding school in Lake Vermilion and those children who attended, many of them our great grandparents and relatives, endured being abused, mistreated, diseased and sometimes dying. Tribal leaders have started the process of finding out the truth."

Chavers talked about an environmental victory for Bois Forte and all tribes when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered the State of Minnesota to include wild rice waters that are polluted in the state's impaired water list.

"They did not just listen to our opinion, but actually studied the tribal research from our scientists and made a decision based on health and science," said Chavers of the EPA's decision. "Chi Miigwech to Secretary Treasurer April McCormick of Grand Portage for leading this intertribal effort."

On a local level, Chavers talked of the Bois Forte Tribal Council updating its Code of Ethics. It was established in 1987 and the intent was to update it every other year, but for some reason, that was never done.

The new, updated Code of Ethics was adopted in 2021," said Chavers. "It puts in place an appointed committee of band members to determine the outcome of a violation under the code, not the tribal council as it was in the past. This process of updating this important code was way overdue. Chi

**The virtual 2022
State of the Band is
available for viewing on
YouTube (simply type in Bois
Forte Tribal Government)
or via the Bois Forte Band of
Chippewa website
(www.boisforte.com).
The 2021 annual report will be
mailed out to band
members at a later date.**

Miigwech to everyone involved with getting this accomplished."

The tribal council also developed and subsequently adopted a blight ordinance for the reservation. She said it was done in response to complaints regarding junk vehicles, excessive garbage and unkept yards.

"In response to your concerns, we felt this ordinance needed to be in place," said Chavers. "We must provide a safe and clean community for our elders and our children."

While not at the center of her speech, Chavers acknowledged the weariness felt by everyone as it pertains to Covid-19. She talked about the loss of many elders and band members due to the pandemic, most notably our longtime Spiritual Advisor Gene Goodsky.

"This past year has impacted us all and made our lives different..." said Chavers, who paid tribute to our elders and veterans during her speech. "We need to focus on we and not me. We must move in a positive way and not be negative. We will not get anywhere if that negativity consumes us."

If we choose to focus on the positives, Chavers is confident good things will continue to come Bois Forte's way.

"This is our time and we must take advantage of all the opportunities out there," said Chavers on behalf of the tribal council. "We will continue to fight for our land and our way of life... we will continue to serve you, the band members, and the band to the best of our ability. Chi Miigwech."

CHI MIIGWECH!

"Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members! First and foremost, I would like to say "Chi Miigwech" for your support and vote in the primary election on Tuesday, April 5th, 2022.

I would also like to congratulate the other candidates who moved onto the June 14th, 2022 general election.

I would also like to say "thank you" to all the other candidates that stepped forward and ran for office. I will be setting up meet and greets soon. I know the pandemic has been hard if not difficult, if you would like to talk with me beforehand you can call me at 218-750-2552.

Also, if you don't feel comfortable meeting in person I can set up a Zoom meeting with you. I am always posting updates on my "Shane Drift District I Representative group page" please feel free to join. You can also message me on Facebook.

If anyone is planning to set up a candidate forum, please let me know and I will gladly show up.

I am looking forward to talking with you about any concerns, issues, problems, or ideas that you may have.

Back in 2018, you, the Bois Forte Band Members, placed your trust in me when you elected me as the District I Representative.

I have honored your trust with how I conducted business while on tribal council. I will continue to speak up for band members



and employees; I will continue to look out for the best interest of our departments, programs and services, tribal government, and tribal businesses.

I have stood alone on issues, and I stood in solidarity with the rest of the council on other issues. I am not afraid to make tough decisions and I have achieved results. I have the experience to get the job done!

I have a lot of knowledge and insight on the issues that the tribe faces on many fronts. In closing, I am asking you for your support and vote in the general election on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022. Mii'w miigwech!"

Sincerely,
Shane

Paid advertisement. Prepared and paid for by the candidate on his own behalf.

Mental health struggles are real—but help is available!

Getting people to talk about their mental health struggles will be at the forefront for the Bois Forte Behavioral Health Department this coming month.

“Every year our department runs a Mental Health Awareness campaign during May,” said Melissa Wright, a supervisor and therapist with the Bois Forte Behavioral Health Department. “We hope that we get people talking about mental health so that going to therapy can be seen as no different than going to the doctor when we are sick.”

With May being Mental Health Awareness month, Wright and her staff will be extra busy planning events and activities that help reduce the stigma associated with Mental Health and increase our community’s knowledge about mental health.

Due to ongoing concerns about the pandemic, Wright said in-person events have been tough to coordinate, so instead, her staff will get creative by thinking outside the box in spreading the message about mental health awareness. These plans include payroll stuffers with information on mental health and stigma that will be going out to Bois Forte employees, a self-care bingo activity, and weekly trivia ques-

tions on The Benner Show on KBFT Radio.

She added that they will once again be hosting a “decorate your office door” competition in which departments are asked to decorate their door with Mental Health Awareness messages.

“We’ll also be encouraging everyone to wear green on Wednesdays to show support for Mental Health and those employees who send their picture in will be entered into the prize drawings,” said Wright. “We will be hosting a presentation on self-care and burnout that will be open to employees and the community.”

The need for services rendered by Bois Forte’s Behavioral Health Department have increased over the past four years. Some of that can be attributed to the pandemic, but Wright said another factor is that people are learning that it is normal to seek out help and get a mental health checkup.

“It is OK to talk to a therapist, it does not mean you are ‘crazy’” explained Wright. “We have been fortunate to not have long wait times to get in to see one of our therapists. Folks who call often can be seen within a week or sooner. However, we do provide folks with outside agency names when needed.”

Wright said her department works hard to raise awareness that it is normal for someone to come in for therapy to talk about how they are feeling. They do not use a cookie-cutter approach, rather they work on individual plans to help those who are struggling with depression, anxiety, or other forms of mental health.

“Our therapists work to meet the person where they are at with their mental health journey by building rapport with the person to get a better understanding of their struggles,” explained Wright. “We develop treatment strategies with the person collaboratively to meet their individual needs. What works for one may not work for the other, so we must work with our

patients every step of the way.”

Wright added that many of the department’s therapists are trained in several evidence-based practices that can be utilized to help clients that are struggling.

And for fellow staffer Erin Danielson, that body of work greatly contributes to the success of the Bois Forte Behavioral Health Department.

“Every single person is different so what may work for me, may not work for you,” said Danielson. “We like to get to know our clients and suggest techniques that may be the perfect fit for them. There is no magic wand—we go through this journey together and people can come to us knowing they are not alone.”

Bois Forte Tribal Identification Cards

Friday, May 13 from 9:00am-4:00pm

Vermilion Social Center - 1610 Farm Road South, Tower

Individuals are encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Please bring one of the following to get a Tribal ID:

(Original Documents, Photocopies will not be accepted)

- Original Certified Birth Certificate
- State Issued Driver’s License
- State Issued Identification Card
- Passport
- For Replacement Cards and for any changes made before the expiration date, there will be a \$12.00 fee (cash or check) *Exact amount. We do not have change.

For a complete list of acceptable forms of identification per our Tribal ID policy, please contact Alanna Sherman, Tribal Enrollment Coordinator or visit www.boisforte.com and click on the enrollment tab to find the full Tribal ID Policy

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness during their lifetime

Stigma and discrimination can also make someone's mental health problems worse, and delay or stop them getting help

Please join us in wearing green on **Wednesdays** in May to show your support to #StopTheStigma



#BeKindtoyourMind

Seeing a therapist for your mental health is no different than going to the doctor for your physical health concerns.

Contact us today:

Bois Forte Behavioral Health

218-757-3295 M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

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

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 June 2022 issue is May 20, 2022.

LAKE VERMILION TRADITIONAL POW WOW

JUNE 24, 25 & 26

Lake Vermilion Pow Wow Grounds
Lake Vermilion Reservation - Tower MN

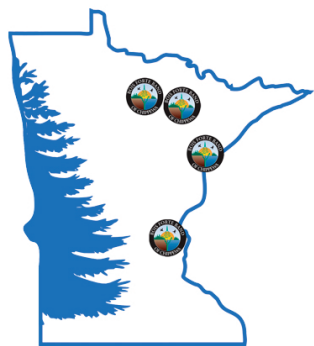
TWO STEP CONTEST - SATURDAY EVENING
Winners will win a big, big Belt & a big, big Trophy plus \$1,000

Co-Host Drums: Lake Vermilion Singers & Burntside Lake Singers
MC: Terry Goodsky
Spiritual Advisor: Darrel Kingbird

FRIDAY: Warm ups
SATURDAY: Grand Entry 1pm & 7pm
SUNDAY: Grand Entry 1pm

Contact Information: Muriel Deegan **218-750-7772** or murieldeegan@yahoo.com
Tracey Dagen **218-780-1478**

CAMPING AVAILABLE
MASKS & TEMPERATURE SCANNING MAYBE REQUIRED
IF LVTPW HAS TO BE MOVED INDOORS BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES. ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ALLOWED.
SECURITY PROVIDED 24/7 from Friday Evening to Sunday Evening



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

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Minneapolis, MN 55404
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Bois Forte Tribal Council

Shane Drift - District I Representative
Peter Boney - District II Representative
Cathy Chavers - Chairwoman
David C. Morrison Sr. - Secretary/Treasurer
Travis Morrison - District I Representative