



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 46 NUMBER 6

## 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](mailto:simona.benner@bois-forte-nsn.gov) PHONE: (218) 757-3295 Ext. 278.

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

## Rising Covid cases forces Bois Forte back to Step 2

### Indoor gatherings are limited to 30 attendees and masks will be required

When it comes to a pandemic that has killed over one million Americans, it is better to be safe than sorry.

And hence the reason, that Bois Forte Tribal Government Officials agreed to go back to what's known as Step 2 in the battle against Covid.

"We're seeing a trend where cases are going back up so we need to do this," said Bois Forte Health and Human Services RN and Lead Community Health Nurse Teri Morrison at a recent PIO meeting.

By going back to Step 2, the biggest change is that all events at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake will have a maximum capacity of 30 attendees and those in attendance must social distance and wear masks. It is permissible to serve food, but tables should be properly spaced out. For those planning an event, a two-week notice must be given to Damon Day, who can be reached at 218-757-3261 or via email at [damon.day@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:damon.day@boisforte-nsn.gov)

Step 2 does not apply to events held outdoors or at Fortune Bay Resort Casino.

Before this decision, Bois Forte was at Step 3, which allowed up to 60 people in attendance at the Eagle Room at the Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake or the Vermil-

ion Social Center or Wellness Center Gym in Vermilion.

"It's so hard going back to this," said Morrison. "So many people are done with it, so it's hard to walk this line. People want their lives back and want to slam their doors shut against this pandemic."

Even so, Morrison said going back to Step 2 was necessary as Covid cases rose above 25 new cases per 100,000 people per day in St. Louis County. In fact, those numbers were at 57.5/100,000 as of May 19th.

To date, Bois Forte has had a total of 292 cases—163 in the Nett Lake Village and 129 in the Vermilion Sector. The good news is that only one new case has been reported in Nett Lake for the month.

Morrison said these new precautions are not being put in place for the general population, rather it is to protect the highest risk community members.

"That means our elders, immunocompromised and those with chronic health conditions," said Morrison. "My thinking is the majority will survive having Covid, but the worry is who we could give it to that maybe won't. That's why we continue to monitor the situation, interview and contact trace every case on the reservation and have restrictions in place."

## It was a great day to get some work done!



NICE WORK GUYS!— MB Customs employees Willie LaRoque, left, and Donny Villebrun, right, were busy working on the casino canopy at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The crew did some touch up work on the resort canopy as well.

And to make matters worse, Morrison recently reported that some band members who had Covid are experiencing lingering effects from the illness.

"We don't know who will have long-term effects from having the virus, but even people who have mild symptoms can have long term effects," said Morrison.

Some of the long-term ef-

fects Morrison has seen are: long term oxygen use, brain fog, difficulty remembering or saying words, heart attacks, heart arrhythmia including atrial fibrillation, blood clotting issues, loss of taste or smell for months, neurological problems, tremors, intense fatigue for weeks to months, and chemical smells or taste.

"These are just the ones  
*continued on page 4*

## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers



Boozhoo!

Spring has finally arrived and we can now go outdoors without winter gear. It sure is nice. However, this spring we have had a huge amount of rain and water for our rivers, lakes, and streams which is causing flooding, etc., in our area. The Nett River Dam is also impacted by this. The berm that was put in last fall is now gone and we announced at our Tribal Council meeting a state of emergency for our dam as water levels are extremely high. If water levels continue to rise, there is a possibility that the dam would not hold and this would be disastrous for Bois Forte. We are meeting with local emergency officials in St. Louis County, Koochiching county, FEMA, and the Army Corp of Engineers to get a plan into action. We will keep you updated on this on the boisforte.com website and social media as things progress.

With spring, comes all of our graduations with Head Start up to post-secondary schools. It has been extremely hard on our students and parents these past couple of years and I want to take this oppor-

tunity to congratulate all the Class of 2022 graduating students! We are extremely proud of all of you!

I had announced in my State of the Band speech that we would be having a special dedication of our community room at our Tribal Government Building for Gene Goodsky, our spiritual advisor who recently went on his journey. This was an error on my part and due to our traditions and customs, we must wait one year for this dedication, so it will be held in 2023. My apologies for this error.

As we know, Covid numbers are rising again and hospitalizations are creeping up. We must be resilient and cautious yet. We need to watch over each other, our children, elders, and those with underlying health conditions as well.

Finally, the Nett Lake and Vermilion communities as well as surrounding communities are seeing an increase in overdoses from fentanyl and fentanyl-laced drugs of our band members and family members. This is a community issue and problem. The Tribal Council will be working with our programs and community members to have some type of presentations soon on how we as a community can begin working together on how to address this issue. The drug issue is not going to go away until we begin taking a stand and saying no more. We will get more information out on this so please watch for it. Remember, it will take all of us together, for we are stronger together!

Chi Miigwech

## Bois Forte Physical Therapy

You may have seen some new faces around the clinics. We'd like to take a moment and formally introduce ourselves. We are the Bois Forte Physical Therapy Department located at both Nett Lake and Lake Vermilion clinics. We are officially open and ready to see patients! Nett Lake is staffed Tuesday and Thursday and Vermilion is staffed Tuesday and Friday. Evaluations are performed by Kevin Schulte, PT on Tuesday morning in Nett Lake and Tuesday afternoon at Vermilion. Contact Nett Lake at 218-757-3650 or Vermilion at 218-753-2182 to schedule an appointment or contact your Primary Care Provider or Specialist for a referral!



### Kevin Schulte, PT

Kevin was born and raised in Hibbing, MN. After receiving his Physical Therapy degree from the University of North Dakota in 1978, Kevin has spent the last 25 years serving the Hibbing area. Kevin has a special interest in orthopedic post-surgical rehab and sports & occupational medicine and has STAR certification in oncology rehab. In his free time, Kevin enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing.

#### Areas of Specialty:

- General practicing PT for 38 years (a great deal of experience in all aspects of PT)
- Special interest in orthopedic post-surgical rehab, sports medicine and occupational medicine
- Back and neck pain
- STAR certification in oncology rehab
- Balance issues and generalized weakness



### Jamie Vesel, PTA (Vermilion)

Jamie Vesel is from Virginia, MN. He graduated from Lake Superior College in 2016 with an AAS degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant, and in 2020 as a Massage Therapist. Jamie is also a NCSF certified Personal Trainer. Jamie enjoys running, and is often marathon training during the summer months. Jamie is located at the Vermilion clinic Tuesday and Friday.



### Whitney Finco, PTA (Nett Lake)

Whitney Finco is a Hibbing High School Graduate. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science from Minnesota State University, Moorhead in 2014 and obtained her Physical Therapist Assistant degree from Northland Community and Technical College (NCTC) in East Grand Forks in 2017. Whitney enjoys being at the lake and spending time with her family, two goldendoodle pups and friends. Whitney is located at the Nett Lake clinic Tuesday and Thursday.

# Make sure to get out and vote Tuesday, June 14th!

Come June 15th, the makeup of the Bois Forte Tribal Council could have three new members take office later this summer.

There will be one new face for sure as District II Representative incumbent Peter "Chief" Boney was ousted in the primary by top vote getter Hannah Chosa (86 votes) and second place finisher Robert Moyer, Jr. (70 votes).

District I Representative Shane Drift finds himself in a tough battle against Simona Benner. In the April primary, Benner held an 87-80 advantage over Drift, who is in his first-term.

Meanwhile, longtime Secretary-Treasurer Dave Morrison, Sr. is facing some stiff competition from Tara Geshick. Morrison collected 165 votes, while Geshick had 149 votes.

To find out more about the six candidates, please refer to the May issue of the Bois Forte News, which can be viewed on the Bois Forte Tribal Government website ([www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com))

Polls for the June 14th General Election open at 8 a.m. and stay open until 8 p.m. Each position up for grabs is for a four-year term.

"The election count will once again be televised and can be viewed on the Bois Forte website shortly after

the polls close," said General Election Board Chair Ryan Isham.

Isham said the General Reservation Election Board will then certify the results of the election by 8 p.m. on June 15th. The results will then be published on June 16th.

If a candidate requests a recount, that must be done by 5 p.m. on June 17th. If a candidate chooses to contest the election result, that needs to be filed by 4:30 p.m. on June 21st with the Reservation Election Judge and Executive Director of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Depending on other variables, the winning candidate could take office in early July or as late as July 23rd.

Polling places for the 2022 Bois Forte General Election are as follows:

- District I— Bois Forte Tribal Government and Community Services Building—Nett Lake, 5344 Lakeshore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772
- District II—Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices—Vermilion, 1610 Farm Road South, Tower, MN 55790
- Urban Office—Minneapolis—Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Office, 1308 East Franklin Ave., Suite 112, Minneapolis, MN 55404
- Urban Office-Duluth—Damiano

Building, 206 West 4th Street #204, Duluth MN 55806.

To request an absentee ballot, please visit the Bois Forte Tribal Government website ([www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)). District I in Nett Lake is the designated polling place for absentee ballot voting. Please note that in order to receive an absentee ballot, you must provide your

name, physical address, your birthdate and your voting District.

"We will be open Saturday, June 4th during the Sah-gii-bah-gah Powwow in Nett Lake for those wanting to get an absentee ballot," said Isham.

Congratulations to those who have advanced to the general election—and best of luck to all of the candidates!



## SAHGIIBAHGAH POW WOW

SAVE *the* DATE

RAIN OR SHINE 

JUNE  
3RD, 4TH, 5TH  
2022

5344 Lake Shore Drive, Nett Lake, MN 55772

Questions? Call Ashley Goodsky @ 218-248-0780

## SAHGIIBAHGAH POW WOW

Absentee Voting for  
2022 General Election



**VOTE**

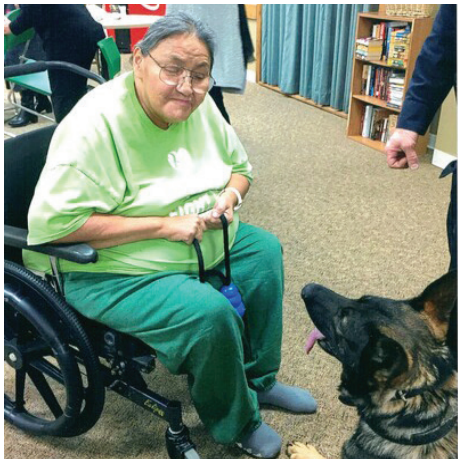
ID REQUIRED

Tribal ID preferred but State ID will be accepted for ballots. Notary will be on site.

Saturday, June 4th  
9am-4pm

Located in Bear Room at  
RTC Government Center

## Obituaries



**LOIS JEAN THOMPSON**, 61, of Eveleth and former resident of Nett Lake, passed away on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Lois was born to Leonard and Myra (Drift) Thompson on May 3, 1960. She attended school in Nett Lake and Orr. Lois met Knute Graue and together they were blessed with four children. Lois lived her life doing what she loved, homemaking and taking care of her children.

Lois enjoyed many hobbies and activities. She was always busy crafting, beading, putting puzzles together or writing letters to her family. Although Lois was confined to a wheelchair in later years, she enjoyed cruising around in her power wheelchair while listening to country rock and her earphones. Lois was kind and friendly to everyone. She

**LONNY WARREN BENNER**, 46, of Orr, MN passed away on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Lonny was born to Shirley Benner and Carroll Drift on November 24, 1975 in Virginia, MN.

Lonny loved adventure; hunting with his cousin and fishing with his nieces and nephew. His pastimes were playing scratches offs, going to the casino with his mom and sitting around with Buzz, Cowboy and Vern listening to tunes.

Lonny was a quiet selfless person who always took his nieces and nephew for walks; playing with them and letting them "raise hell" by painting his nails and face or fixing his hair. He was a really great father figure to them. He loved watching wrestling; his favorite wrestler was "Andre the Giant"

He took great care of his mom; their playful banter will always be remem-

bered. loved to joke around; always smiling and laughing and having a good time. She loved spending time with her children and she cherished her grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Leonard (Wendy) Thompson and Curtis Thompson; sister Janet Thompson; uncles Lester Drift Sr. and Raymond "Diggy" Drift; aunt Marsha Drift; cousin Lester Drift Jr.; and niece Elizabeth Thompson.

Lois is survived by her children: Marsha (David) Villebrun, Katherine Thompson, Curtis (Leda) Thompson, and Samantha Thompson; grandchildren: Bridget, Cassandra, Davis, Jennifer, and Jasmine; sister Muriel Thompson; uncle Harvey (Rachel) Thompson; father of her children Knute Graue; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A wake was held at the Bois Forte Government Center on May 3, 2022. Traditional services were held on May 4, 2022 also at the Bois Forte Government Center.

Casket bearers were: Raymond Thompson, Henry Thompson, Nick Thompson, Michael Thompson, Orion "OJ" Thompson, Charles "Chewy" Goggeye, Allen "Theodore" Goggeye, Shane Drift, David H. Villebrun Jr., Ablaza Chavez. Honorary casket bearers were Floyd Morrison, Allen "Buzz" Connor and Harvey Thompson.

bered.

Lonny volunteered at the Elderly Nutrition Center. He loved visiting with the elderly gentlemen he delivered to.

He is preceded in death by his father Carroll Drift and nephew Leondre Adams.

Lonnie is survived by his mother Shirley Benner; brother Brandon (Nicole) Benner; sisters Simona Benner and Sharon Adams; nieces Monique and Makayla Benner and Vanessa and Teresa Adams; and nephews Kalvyn and Benjamin Benner. Along with aunties Mavis Drift, Margaret Benner and Dawn Benner and numerous cousins.

A Traditional Wake was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 starting at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. The Traditional Service was held the next day, Wednesday, May 25, 2022, also at the Government Center.

*continued from page 1*

I've seen," said Morrison. "There are many more that have been seen globally."

In light of the disappointing news, Morrison reminded Bois Forte Tribal Government employees, as well as employees at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, plus the Y Store and C Store, to stay home if they are sick.

"And if they feel they are getting Covid symptoms, they need to get tested," she said.

Morrison will keep an eye on the reported cases in St. Louis County and on both reservations to see if any other changes will be forthcoming.

Given it will soon be time for graduation parties, weddings, and other social functions, Bois Forte Tribal Chair

Cathy Chavers urged band members to play it safe.

"We understand people want to get their normal lives back, but we are not out of the woods yet," said Chavers. "We can't let our guards down."

In an effort to slow down the spread of Covid, Morrison reminded band members to get vaccinated or to go in for a booster, especially if it has been over four months since their last one.

"We have them available at both the Nett Lake Clinic and the Vermilion Clinic," said Morrison, who added that the numbers to call are 218-757-3650 or 218-753-2182. "It's never too late to get vaccinated. Also, the third booster is available to at-risk people, so people need to stay current with their vaccinations."



## CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF 28,089 ACRES OF RESERVATION LAND

The Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council invites you to celebrate the Band's historic purchase of more than 28,000 acres of Reservation land from The Conservation Fund - the largest restoration of Bois Forte Reservation land since the allotment era.

Please join us in Nett Lake

**Tuesday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m.**

*on the*

**Nett Lake Powwow Grounds  
5344 Lakeshore Drive  
Nett Lake, Minnesota**

Lunch will be served.

## Thanks for all that you did Wicko!

It was an end of an era when longtime Bois Forte Tribal Government Secretary Victoria “Wicko” Villebrun walked out the doors one last time on Friday, May 6th.

“Wicko has been working for the Tribal Government many years,” said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. “You could ask her where a resolution was or where a certain document was and she could find it.”

Staff sent Villebrun out in style as they threw her a retirement party and encouraged her to leave a tad early so she could spend the rest of the day with her family, who also stopped by to join in on the festivities.

“It was a good time,” said Villebrun of her party. “We did a lot of reminiscing that day talking about the great times we all had together.”

Villebrun began her career at Bois Forte in 1989 and spent the next 32 years as a faithful employee everyone could count on. Her early years were spent being the secretary at the health office before making the transition to being the executive secretary for the RTC.

“I enjoyed my time here,” said Holmes. “The staff were always so awesome—I had the best co-workers a person could have asked for. All of my bosses were great too.”

Holmes was known for her dedication, infectious smile, and all-around great personality.

“It is a sad time for Bois Forte because Wicko was our go-to person but we are extremely happy for her to be able to spend time with her family,” said Chavers. “We wish her all the best.”

Holmes’ longtime friend Jacque Wilson, who works at

the Urban Office in Minneapolis was unable to attend the party, but that didn’t stop her from sending Wicko a heartfelt message on Facebook.

“Happy, Happy Retirement my lifelong friend!” wrote Wilson. “I am with you in spirit as you celebrate your career serving our nation so well! Covid has me quarantined for now, but it won’t keep me down forever! Hope to see you soon.”

Holmes was touched by Wilson’s message as well as many other friends who did the same.

“I’m blessed to have such a great circle of friends,” she said.

Holmes plans on visiting her family for the first couple months of retirement, but then will busy herself on some home projects. It’s not as easy as it once was when her husband was around to help her out.

“I miss him, said Holmes of her husband, Ray, Sr., who was a BIA officer, Conservation Officer and then a member of the Bois Forte Tribal Council, “but I’m also fortunate to have five great kids, who I can count on.”

Holmes children are, in her own words— Nicole “Coco Bean” Fairbanks, who works at Fond Du Lac Casino; Ray, Jr., who works at the Nett Lake C Store and is her “momma’s baby.” Then there’s Aaron “Supe,” Villebrun, who works at Canterbury Park, Ryne Earl Villebrun, who works at Fortune Bay and then Marjorie Jane Villebrun, who works at Discount Tire in St. Paul.

“By the way, when you write this story, make sure the readers know that I am younger than my sisters, Millie (Holmes) and Marian (Holmes), but older than Vera (Branstrom),” said the 63-year-old Holmes with a hearty laugh.

It’s that special type of humor that Executive Director Robbie Goggleye will miss from Holmes.

“Wick is a great person to work with always happy and she always treated everyone so nice and could find anything from the minutes of meetings from a long time ago,” said Goggleye. “I wish her the best in retirement as she has earned it and thank her for all the years of dedication to the Tribal Government.”

And like Holmes, Goggleye also has a sense of humor by getting in the last word on his longtime co-worker and friend.

“So even if you won’t cheer for the better team, which everyone knows is the Vikings,” said Goggleye of Wicko’s love for the Green Bay Packers. “Here’s one last time for Wicko— “GO PACK GO!”



YOU’LL BE MISSED!— Victoria “Wicko” Holmes is pictured here at her retirement party with her daughter, Marjorie Jane Villebrun. Submitted photo.

**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](mailto: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

# Public Health vending machines to be implemented at Bois Forte

Submitted by: Melissa Walls, Ph.D., Sean Allen, DrPH, Laura Palombi, PharmD, & Pamela Hughes

On May 18th, 2022, the Bois Forte RTC issued a resolution supporting the implementation of public health vending machines at Nett Lake and Lake Vermilion. These machines are an evidence-based tool for promoting public health within communities and were first launched in Denmark in 1987. Since that time, public health vending machines have been implemented in at least 14 countries across the world, including the United States.

Public Health vending machines may provide community members with access to a variety of health supplies and resources.

For example, some public health vending machines offer first aid kits, hygiene kits, pregnancy tests, the overdose reversal medication naloxone,



Melissa Walls, Ph.D.

fenentanyl test strips, sterile injection supplies for HIV and hepatitis prevention, sharps containers for safe disposal of injection equipment, and infor-



Sean Allen, DrPH

mation about how to access health and social services, including substance use treatment.

Our team plans to explore ways to Indigenize the public health vending machines with resources including lessons about traditional medicines, Elder teachings, ways to engage with cultural traditions, and so forth. The implementation of these machines is a collaboration between the Bois Forte Band, the Johns Hopkins Center for



Pamela Hughes

American Indian Health Great Lakes Hub, and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

Because of supply chain issues affecting the production of vending machines, we anticipate launching these resources in the next 8-12 months. Community members are welcome to provide feedback about the machines by contacting Melissa Walls via email at [mwalls3@jhu.edu](mailto:mwalls3@jhu.edu)



**UNIQUE VENDING MACHINE**— If all goes according to plans, Bois Forte will have public health vending machines at Nett Lake and Lake Vermilion. Due to slower production time, the vending machines won't be expected for another 8-12 months.

## Legal Notice

### In the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Children's Court

In the Matter of the Welfare of M.L.W.M-P., Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Department of Family Health Services, Petitioner, v. Cheyanna Medicine and Armando Perez, Parents. Court File No. 20 795JV

To: Armando Perez,

It is Ordered and Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody was filed in the Bois Forte Tribal Court on April 22, 2022. A hearing on the above petition will be held on July 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, at the Bois Forte Children's Court, Bois Forte Reservation, 12907 Palmquist Road, Orr, MN 55771. All appearances will be by telephone or Zoom.

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

By the Court Megan Treuer, Chief Judge  
Janell Smith, Clerk of Court

Rebecca McConkey-Greene, Attorney for Petitioner, ID 0388656  
12907 Palmquist Road, P.O. Box 25, Orr, MN 55771, 218-757-3462

# Head Start program to roll out Summer Enrichment Program



Bois Forte's Early Childhood Programs Director Christine Lundemo is thrilled to announce that the Head Start program will be implementing a Summer Enrichment Program for 3-5 year-olds in Nett Lake.

The teachers will be Ashley Pullar and Stephanie Werd-

ier and they are very excited to offer this wonderful program to our children and families.

"Your child will be building on their skills and enriching their education goals. We will be having a lot of extra activities and be outside as much as possible," said Lundemo. "We are happy to add this

new program and have some summer fun."

The program will be starting on Monday, June 6th, so please contact Bois Forte's Early Childhood Program at 218-757-3261 (press option 3) if you would like your child to attend.

There will be a schedule

for parents to know when there will be closures. We will be operating Monday through Thursdays, 7:50 a.m. to 4:40 p.m., and meals will be provided.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lundemo at 218-757-3261, Ext. 1430.

## Successful day of netting!



NICE HARVEST!— Bois Forte Band Member John Lehti is all smiles as he shows off his fish that he netted in Pike Bay. By all accounts, Bois Forte Band Members fared very well even though the late ice out on Lake Vermilion delayed the start to the season.

## Happy 20th anniversary to the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum!

The staff at the Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum continues to be busy planning out their events for the summer in recognition of its 20th anniversary.

Here is what is in the books thus far. Please note these are subject to change. Please check out the Museum's Facebook page for more specific details.

- June 10th & 11th: Sports Car event
- June 18th: 20th Anniversary celebration event will begin at 11 a.m.
- June 25th: Movie Night at the Pow Wow grounds will start at dusk.
- June 30th: Vermilion State Park Pontoon Trip will start at 11 a.m., but you must call the

Museum to reserve a spot.

- July 9th: Movie Night at the Museum will start at dusk.

- July 22nd & 23rd: Flint knapping Class will start at noon on the 22nd and two sessions on the 23rd from 10 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. You must sign up for this class.

- August 6th: Movie Night will start at dusk.
- August 12th and 13th: Wolf Island Pontoon trip will start at 11 a.m., but you must call the Museum to reserve a spot.

The Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 218-753-6017.



Friday Saturday  
When: July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022

**Must Sign Up before July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Call (218) 753-6017

Ask for Kyle

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

30 spots available

2 Sessions: Friday: 12pm-3:30pm

Saturday: 10am-noon

1pm - 3pm

## Flint Knapping Class

## Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members!

I am humbly asking for your support and vote in the incoming general election on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022.

I had some of our elders ask me if I was in favor of bringing back the Elder's trips. Yes, I am in favor of bringing back the Elder's trips. Listening to some of the Elders talk about past trips, I could tell that they had a lot of fun. These trips allowed our Elders to get together with their brothers, sisters, and cousins. I remember listening to my dad, Gary "Squeak" Strong talk about the Elder's trips. He talked about the Branson, Missouri trip and the Niagara Falls trip. I could tell that he really had a good time on those trips.

I was informed by another Elder, who informed me that she applied for the Elderly Needs Program but was turned down because she lives outside of the service area. The Elderly Needs Program did not create the service area rule, this is a grant requirement. The tribe needs to assess the number of applications it receives from outside the service area, what is being requested, and the cost amount of the items. This will give the tribe an idea of how much funding is needed to help elders with their requests.

I would like to congratulate all the graduates: Head Start, Elementary School, High School, Trade & Vocational Degrees, 2-year Degree (AA, AS, AAS, other), 4-year Degree (BA, BS, other), Master's Degree, Doctorate Degree. I will push to create an incentive program that gives an incentive to all band members that graduate from High School, Trade & Vocational Degree, 2 Degree (AA, AS, AAS, other), 4 Degree (BA, BA, other), Master's Degree, and Doctorate Degree.

Another band member stated, "The only time we are important is around election time." Every band member is important to me! If I am reelected, I will set up meetings at various locations like International Falls, Virginia, Duluth, Bemidji, Brainerd, and the Twin Cities to talk with band members that live in those cities and surrounding areas. I will bring back to the tribal council any concerns, issues, problems, or ideas shared at these meetings!

A concern was also raised about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects. The concern is that once the ARPA projects are completed and the ARPA period is over how is the tribe going to pay to keep these projects going? I must say that is a concern. I see two businesses that can generate the type of revenue the tribe will need: a small casino and a marijuana dispensary.

If the tribe builds a small casino, I would recommend building it in Nett Lake. The casino would also help increase sales at the Nett Lake C Store. The casino needs to be small enough so that it can still generate revenue, but not too big where it loses money.

As for a marijuana business, the tribe needs to buy into, or become partners with a marijuana dispensary business in another state. The reason why I say in another state is that the state of Minnesota or the federal government hasn't legalized it.

Please keep in mind that this is just an example: Let's say the tribe owned 40% of a marijuana dispensary business in another state and that business generated 9 million dollars in profits. The tribe would get 3.6 million. The tribe would receive 40% of the profits every year.

The extra revenue could help pay for the Elder's trips, the incentive program for all Bois Forte graduates, the ARPA projects, and other projects. The tribe could reinvest some of the profits and continue to build a healthy financial reserve.

If you would like to share your concerns, thoughts, or ideas please feel free to call me on my personal cell phone at 218-750-2552. You can also message me on Facebook and/or join my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page.

In closing, it has been my honor and my privilege to serve you as the District I Representative for the last four years.

If I am reelected, I will continue doing business the same way that I have been doing. I will continue looking out for the band members, employees, tribal government, and tribal businesses' best interests. I will continue to speak up for band members and employees. I will also continue to keep band members informed by posting updates on my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page. If I am reelected, it will be my honor and my privilege to serve you for another four years!

Please remember to vote for Shane Drift District I Representative in the upcoming general election on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022.

*Mii'iw chimiiigwech!*

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





## WELY to remain on the air until September 1 Decision had been made to close down June 1

ELY— It's not the end of the road for WELY after all as the Bois Forte Tribal Council announced a three-month extension to keep the radio station on air.

"We are going to continue as is until September 1, 2022 due to numerous interested parties that are inquiring about the purchase of WELY," said Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers Tuesday, May 24th.

The council had previously voted to shut down the station June 1. While the reprieve does not guarantee a buyer will be found, it will give Bois Forte an opportunity to work out a deal for the station it has owned since 2005.

Bois Forte sent out a press release in early May after the April 27th unanimous vote was taken to close and that resulted in many media outlets either running the press release or heading up to Ely to do a story on the station. This resulted in many inquiries on seeing what could be done to keep the station alive.

"This buys us additional time to work out a deal with one of the interested parties," said Chavers of the three-month extension.

The plan is to also work with a Commercial Real Estate broker to handle the sale. It is unclear if the station will remain as is, or if a buyer will downsize operations.

The building includes two studios on the main level, along with an expansive office space and a large one-bedroom apartment upstairs. It also includes a spacious basement that has been used for storage. Bois Forte also owns the tower on the outskirts of town that allows the station to be transmitted. AT&T also pays Bois Forte a monthly fee to use the tower for its wireless services.

The radio station is located on historic Chapman Street in downtown Ely and its AM and FM studios have a bird's eye view of the street where radio talent has been known to wave a

friendly hello to folks walking past the station.

WELY was first broadcast in October of 1954. It remained on the air until 1987, but then closed due to financial struggles. New life was pumped into the station when famous CBS Broadcaster Charles Kuralt bought the station in 1995 and operated it until he died in 1997. Bois Forte eventually purchased the station in 2005 and has run it for the past 17 years. The AM station is broadcast on 1450 AM, while the FM station is broadcast on 94.5 FM.

During that time, staff worked extremely hard to make the station profitable, but despite those efforts, the venture lost over \$1.7 million. That includes the purchase price when Bois Forte took ownership of the station in 2005.

WELY has been a place for Ely residents and tourists to stay connected via our FCC granted Personal Emergency Messages. It has also been home to local sports broadcasting, Minnesota Twins baseball, and Minnesota Vikings football.

Furthermore, it has been a station where folks tuned in every Saturday morning for polka and the ever-popular Trader Craig show during the week, and Saturday Night's All Request Show. The latter brought people back in time as it allowed listeners to call WELY and request their favorite song as they reminisced about days gone by.

Although closing the station has been staved off until September 1, Chavers realizes there's more work to be done.

"Let's just hope a buyer steps up to the plate and saves the station," said Chavers. "Bois Forte has done all it can to keep the station alive, but now it's time for someone else to keep WELY—The End of the Road Radio on the airwaves."



REPRIEVE— WELY— End of the Road Radio station in Ely was due to close its doors June 1. However, due to outside interests expressing interest in purchasing the station, a three-month extension was granted Tuesday, May 24th.

### Boozhoo Bois Forte Anishinabeg:

With the election right around the corner, I wanted to take the time to thank everyone who came out to vote in the primary election. I especially want to thank those who have supported and encouraged me along the way. I value your continued support through this journey.

It has been an honor and privilege speaking to many band members about their thoughts and ideas to help move the reservation forward. It has also been a very eye-opening experience talking with many of you and seeing the inequality that people feel as band members. This inequality touches many areas including jobs, services/programs, and housing. Reviewing some of our policies and programs to ensure we, as band members, are always a priority on our own land is vital to the sustainability of our tribe.

If elected, it would be an honor to represent and work with the people of Vermillion to ensure our community thrives. We, as band mem-



bers, have an obligation to create positive changes to our community by taking care of ourselves and each other.

Remember to vote on June 14th, 2022 in the General Election. Please reach out to me at 218-780-1676 if you have any questions or concerns. You can also follow my Facebook page for more of my platform information and updates: Hannah Chosa – Bois Forte District II Representative Candidate

Miigwech!  
Hannah

## Culturally-based recovery

Opioid prevention and recovery in tribal communities is supported by programs that recognize the root causes of substance use disorder and address recovery from a cultural lens.

### American Indian Resource and Resiliency Team

The American Indian Resource and Resiliency Team (AIRRT) supports the needs of tribal communities. Tribal members on the AIRRT use their trusted relationships within their communities to build community strengths in culturally informed and appropriate ways.

### Healing programs

- Remembering Resilience Podcast
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Mending Broken Hearts
- Healing through History
- Mind Body Medicine



Visit the AIRRT webpage to learn more  
<https://z.umn.edu/airrt>

## Community engagement

Helping community members engage with their strengths and ideas has resulted in the development of programs supporting opioid recovery in their own communities.

### Community Partners



- Aitkin County Health & Human Services  
<https://z.umn.edu/aitkinco>
- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa  
<https://z.umn.edu/bois>
- Itasca County Health & Human Services  
<https://z.umn.edu/itascaco>
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
<https://z.umn.edu/millelac>
- Pine County Public Health & Human Services  
<https://z.umn.edu/pine>
- St. Louis County Public Health  
<https://z.umn.edu/stlouisco>
- UMN Extension - Family Development  
<https://extension.umn.edu>
- UMN - Duluth, College of Pharmacy  
<https://www.pharmacy.umn.edu/>

The **community forum** series brought community members together in collaboration with healthcare professionals, law enforcement, social services, and individuals in recovery to raise awareness for substance use disorders, provide education, dispel stigma, and share messages of hope.

Visit the community forums webpage to learn more  
<https://z.umn.edu/opforums>



**Changemakers** are community members with innovative ideas about how to address the opioid crisis and help build community-based supports for recovery. Changemakers attended a leadership retreat and received support to make their ideas, like a low-cost car repair shop and trauma informed yoga recovery, a reality.

Visit the Changemakers webpage to learn more  
<https://z.umn.edu/opcm>



This project is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, under award number 3H79T1083262-01  
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# University of Minnesota does its part to tackle Opioid problem

With Opioid use on the rise, MPH Epidemiology Student and Graduate Research Assistant Deirde Sperry has been busy working up flyers/resources to help spread the word of the work she has been doing for the University of Minnesota.

The work is especially important in Tribal Communities due to the following facts:

- American Indian people make up 1% of Minnesota's population, but make up 15.8% of admissions for opioid use disorder.
- American Indian people are seven times more likely than White people to die due to overdose.
- American Indian children are more likely to experi-

ence drug-related separation from their parents than White children.

Furthermore, the Landscape of the Opioid Crisis in Rural Minnesota is as follows:

#### Opioid use:

- Deaths due to opioid-related overdose have increased almost every year for 20 years.
- Most overdoses in 2019 involved synthetic opioids, including fentanyl.
- Each case of opioid use disorder costs Minnesota roughly \$180,000 in reduced quality of life.

#### Rural Communities:

- Rates of death due to overdose are higher in rural Minnesota counties.
- Rural areas have fewer options for recovery services

than urban areas.

- Opioids are overprescribed in rural areas.

Given these facts, the University of Minnesota is stepping up its efforts to get control of the problem.

One such project they have established is called C.O.P.E. (Community-based Opioid Prevention and Education, which brings together existing partnerships at the local, regional, state and national level to prevent opioid use and enhance opioid recovery efforts in rural Minnesota.

Project goals include Information and Skill Building by bringing in education and training efforts that focus on building individual and community understanding of addiction by reducing stigma and increasing the knowledge and skills need to support strong recovery communities.

It also includes community engagement whereby communities work together to address the problems opioid abuse partners include the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Aitkin County, St. Louis County, Itasca County, Pine County, and U of MN College of Pharmacy-Duluth.

One other element is Culturally-based recovery — Opioid prevention and recovery in tribal communities is supported by programs that recognize the root causes of substance use disorder and address recovery from a cultural lens.

For a list of project accomplishments tied to these goals, please go to (<https://z.umn.edu/opioidrecovery>)

## Information and skill building

Education and training efforts focus on building individual and community understanding of addiction by reducing stigma and increasing the knowledge and skills needed to support strong recovery communities.

### Website

The project website provides education and resources for a variety of audiences to help increase knowledge around substance use disorders, specifically opioid use in rural and Tribal communities in Minnesota. The website includes an overview of the project and its partnerships as well as educational videos and both virtual and in-person trainings options.



### Web-based Resources

- Video series to better understand opioids, stigma, overdoses, and treatment
- In-person and virtual trainings include Naloxone, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), suicide prevention, Mind Body Medicine, Historical Trauma, Adverse Childhood experiences

### Education and Trainings

The program has offered live trainings about Naloxone, finances, parenting skills, vaping, and medication assisted treatment (MAT). These trainings have been offered in-person and virtually (after the COVID-19 pandemic).

Visit the website to learn more



<https://z.umn.edu/opioidrecovery>



# Don't encourage any unwelcome visits and respect our wildlife!

By Tony Mason, Bois Forte DNR

Now that Mother Nature has finally given us an enjoyable spring, bears will once again be roaming around looking for food after a long winter's nap.

I would venture to say that we very well may have more bears in our area this year than last year, considering that there was a very poor berry and hazelnut crop last year, which made natural forage for them hard. I'm certain most of the bears in our area went to the Schute bear sanctuary to get food to get them through the winter. I have several helpful hints that should help discouraging the bears to come in your yards. The Schute bear sanctuary feeding program that continues, and people continue to go there to watch bears in their "natural environment." So, this makes it a little tough for the community for two reasons: lack of fear of humans, and last year's lack of natural forage. Some helpful hints for probable upcoming bear encounters include, but are not limited exclusively to these:

- 1—Take bird feeders down
- 2—Don't keep pet food outdoors
- 3—Keep grills cleaned and/or indoors
- 4—Keep fruit and berry bushes cleaned up. Don't leave fruit on the ground or unpicked once ripe
- 5—Compost barrels- bring indoors or cover securely

If we do our best at these items and ensure we keep our areas clear of garbage, we will limit the chances of bears entering your yard.

The Bois Forte DNR and the Conservation Committee would like to inform everybody that July 1st, 2022 will be due date for all the special permits that people wish to apply for.

As most hunters are aware of, last shinning season was one of the worst that Nett Lake has seen. Much of the deer that were harvested were taken in December when deer were on their migration to their wintering area on

the upper wood duck area. The majority of the deer during this time are not local deer, but rather deer from surrounding areas, we have low deer numbers in Nett Lake currently. There are several attributing factors to this. Habitat has changed, due to the logging by some bigger paper companies. Large areas of poplar with age class of 20 years old and less are a common stand of timber. These may provide huge food resource but lacks edge lines and cover for deer. Also, we have predators that also are setting our deer herd to all-time lows as well.

With the abundance of wolves and bears, they are making it hard on the deer to populate as they should be able to. We at the DNR have some ideas that would possibly work, but we would also like to hear some input on what our band members see out there and which direction Bois Forte should do to help not only the deer herd, but also all our game animals that we harvest from year to year.

With that said, we had a great moose survey, a total of 38 moose were located within the boundaries of the reservation. Right now, is great habitat for moose, they thrive in the ecosystem that we have in Nett Lake currently. The moose herd is healthy in Bois Forte at this time and should continue for the next several years to increase in numbers. Granted, at some point it will level out; we don't know when or what that will be.

Last week I was informed that there was a moose illegally harvested. I verified this after doing some field work. There were moose legs in the village and a kill sight. This is a very unfortunate incident. Since shining season of last year, four moose have been killed— all within a six-month period. Earlier in the article I spoke of how healthy our moose herd is, but with four moose poached in six months, it is apparent that our moose herd will decline at a rapid rate if our band members continue to poach at

this rate!

This is also a good time to address continued harvesting of deer after the Dec. 31 season deadline. There were several deer taken out of season. Illegal taking of game seriously impacts dwindling number of game animals that so many of us need every year to supply food for our families.

As such, I'll soon be proposing a policy to the conservation committee for a Turn in Poachers law. There would be an award for each convicted crime committed. This reward program would include not just illegal animal poaching but also illegal birch pole harvesting, which is currently rampant in Nett Lake; illegal harvesting of any game; littering; illegal bough

picking, and more.

All of these offenses are unfortunately happening far too often within the reservation. I have an open-door policy; I am open to ideas and views. If anyone would like to get ahold of me my number is 218-404-3955 and my email is tmason@boisforte-nsn.gov.

I am here to help all Bois Forte band members have successful, fun, safe and memorable adventures in our wilderness. Whether you are heading to the woods to make an offering, to camp, hunt, berry pick or just walk please know that if we continue to do what's right spiritually and culturally, we will ensure that there will be necessary resources left in the future for our youths.

## UPDATED BOOSTER INFORMATION

Ages 5 through 11 years



### Booster Dose of COVID-19 Ages 5 – 11 Years

**\*\*\*Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine ONLY\*\*\***

As of May 17, 2022, the FDA, CDC, and ACIP have endorsed, recommended, and approved for a SINGLE BOOSTER DOSE of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children aged 5 through 11 years of age. The FDA has authorized the (EUA) emergency use authorization for this single booster dose information and fact sheets for recipients, caregivers, and healthcare staff administering this vaccine.

The CDC and ACIP recommend that children in this 5 through 11-year age group SHOULD receive a single COVID-19 booster, according to the details below:

- For children aged 5 to 11 years with **healthy immune systems**, boosters should be administered **5 months after the 2-dose primary COVID-19 vaccine series**.
- For children aged 5 to 11 years who have **weakened immune systems** should also be offered boosters.
  - In this scenario, **immunocompromised** children are recommended to **complete a primary 2-dose series followed by an additional dose 4 weeks later**. A **booster dose** should be offered **5 months after the additional dose**.

**Vaccines are administered on the following days at each clinic location.**

**Nett Lake Clinic Tuesday & Wednesday 218-757-3650**

**Vermilion Clinic Thursday & Friday 218-753-2182**

**Call to schedule your child's COVID-19 Vaccine primary series or Booster dose today! Both Nett Lake & Vermilion Clinic have these in stock.**

# 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  
July 2022 issue is  
June 20, 2022.**

## PER CAPITA REMINDER!!!

**July 31st** is the deadline for any  
**Per Capita Address Updates.**

All address updates are accepted only by mail or in person.

Address Update forms can be downloaded from [boisforte.com](http://boisforte.com).

Band Members may submit an address update in writing to the Bois Forte Enrollment Office, please have the letter include the following information:

\*Name \*Address \*DOB \*Signature \*Date \*OID (if applicable)  
\*Phone Number \*any address updates missing  
*this information will not be updated.*

Any questions regarding address updates or to check if you have your correct address on file, please call the Enrollment Office at 218-757-3261, ext. 1162.



**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

## Bois Forte Tribal Government Offices

**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](mailto: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](mailto:urbanoffice@boisforte-nsn.gov)



### 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