



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 46 NUMBER 7

## BOIS FORTE CLEAN UP CONTINUES!

If you are in need of getting rid of unwanted items, make sure to partake in the Bois Forte Community Wide Cleanup that continues through early August.

This is your chance to get rid of wood, tires (with or without rims), metal (all types), appliances and mattresses.

Remaining areas to be picked up include:

- Sugarbush-Indian Point (July 5-19)
- Vermilion (July 25-Aug. 9)

Once an area is visited, you may not put your items out! For more information, contact Frank Villebrun at 218-757-3261, Ext. 307.

## Moyer, Jr., Drift and Geshick to be sworn in July 8th

The 2022 Bois Forte Tribal Council General Election could be dubbed as the “Comeback of all comebacks” as all three candidates who trailed after the primary election, rallied to win their respective seats for a four-year term.

Longtime Secretary-Treasurer David Morrison, Sr. was narrowly defeated by political newcomer Tara Geshick by a 258-255 count. The arrival of Geshick ends a 32-year run by Morrison, who first took office in 1990. During the primary, Morrison held a 165-149 advantage over Geshick, but Geshick turned the tables this time around.

“He is an icon of Bois Forte and deserves the respect he’s earned, so it’s very humbling to succeed his seat on the Tribal Council,” said Geshick of Morrison, Sr. “It’s extremely honoring and very exhilarating at the same time. I can’t wait to see what steps we can take next to improve Bois Forte as a whole.”

For Geshick, winning the election was a long, hard battle. She did a lot of legwork and that meant making sacrifices on the home front by perhaps not always being able to make a home-cooked meal or watch a movie with the kids.

“I got on the phone and called concerned band members,” said Geshick of her strategy to win the election. “Since I was still unemployed at the time, I made a goal for myself:



Shane Drift

contact at least 30 people per day with my platform message and ask for their vote.”

In Geshick’s opinion, band members deserve to be talked to one-on-one, be given their undivided attention, and be personally asked by the candidate for their vote. In taking this approach, Geshick said she was able to reconnect with voters who hadn’t cast a vote in many years.

“I was able to give them a reason to be excited again for our reservation and listen to their ideas,” said Geshick.

Winning the election meant a lot to Geshick and she is ready to make a difference. She sincerely appreciated all the support she received along the way and realizes her work is just beginning.

“I would like to thank the band members who came out once again and exercised their right to vote... I know change is scary but so is staying the



Robert Moyer, Jr.

same,” said Geshick. “I’d like to thank the many strong women and men who gave me advice, guidance, referrals, and continual support— it means so much.”

First-term District I Representative Shane Drift finished second to Simona Benner in the Primary by seven votes but ended up winning a second term by outdistancing Benner by a 168-142 tally.

Drift attributed his comeback win to a variety of factors, including holding Meet and Greets, giving campaign updates on his Facebook page, and Bois Forte Tribal Affairs. He also sent out campaign brochures and request cards to various band members.

“I also recorded my platform on our radio station (KBFT 89.9 FM) and ran my platform from time to time,” said Drift, who also had other band members help with his



Tara Geshick

campaign and took out campaign ads in the Bois Forte News.

In the race for District II Representative, Robert Moyer, Jr. defeated Hannah Chosa by a 103-99 count. Chosa held an 86-70 advantage over Moyer in the primary election.

“First off, chi-miigwech to the voters of Vermilion,” said Moyer, Jr. “I will work vigilantly to see that Vermilion is well represented within Bois Forte. Our community is built of strong, hard-working individuals that I look forward to seeking wisdom from. I am a firm believer in listening to the voters of Vermilion, together we can make a difference.”

Moyer, Jr. said the keys to his win were to listen to band members in his district, as well as being available to answer questions completely and honestly.

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“It was also about having great support from the people closest to me,” said Moyer, Jr. “As a new member of the council, I would like to get myself better acquainted with the rest of the council. There are still some projects around Vermilion that I would like to see come to completion. In turn, I would like to encourage community members to reach out with their ideas.”

Moyer, Jr. was humbled by the support he received from people who helped him throughout his campaign.

“Each one of you graciously took time out of your schedules to bring your unique skills and wisdom. I appreciate all the hard work you did,” said Moyer, Jr. “Thank you to all my family and friends for your en-

couragement and support.”

When asked his thoughts about the biggest challenge facing the council, Moyer, Jr. said he would like the tribal council to focus on doing its best to serve all Bois Forte band members.

“Whether using social media or door-to-door conversations, we need to keep the line of communication open so that each band member who wants to share their opinion has a way to reach out,” explained Moyer, Jr.

For Drift, earning a second term means he’ll continue to work on behalf of all band members to ensure their concerns are addressed. He said the same message he kept hearing was that better communication was needed between band members and

the tribal council.

“The tribal council needs to reestablish a connection with band members,” said Drift, who also credited his girlfriend, Christina Premo, with helping him out with his campaign. “I think that the tribal council should put out a survey from time to time asking the band members how the tribal council can better serve them.”

Aside from seeing through current projects, Drift said some of his new goals will be pushing for the tribe to either create and/or buy into a marijuana and/or medical marijuana business.

“I believe a marijuana business will be able to generate the revenue that it will need,” said Drift.

Other long-term goals for

Drift include creating Section 8 housing in the Twin Cities and Duluth, along with establishing an urban office in Bemidji.

“I will be pushing for a traditional roundhouse. I will push for anything and everything regarding our language and culture,” said Drift. “I will also be pushing for the tribe to create a “Bois Forte, Inc.” similar to “Ho-Chunk, Inc.” I will be pushing to find additional funding so that the tribe can increase its elderly needs service area. I’ve always said the tribe cannot stay the same business-wise. Bois Forte can be just as successful as the other reservations.”

Meanwhile, Geshick wants to get up to speed with current projects and use her positive influence to make Bois Forte an attractive place to work, live and thrive. That means assessing where Bois Forte is financially and seeing where it can grow.

“It’s a monumental task, but fixing and filling the homes we have, attracting

Bois Forte families back to the area, and providing great educational support systems and schools for Vermilion and Nett Lake are other areas I want to look at,” said Geshick. “I also want to make Anishinabemowin a first priority for the band.”

Now that the election is over, Drift looks forward to getting back to focusing his efforts on doing the job voters elected him to do.

“I would like to say a special thank you to all the band members that voted for me,” said Drift, who also took out a thank you ad in this month’s issue to show his gratitude. “I will always be forever grateful to the band members for giving me another four years to serve you—I will never forget who put me in office and why, Mii’iw chimiigwech!”

Drift, Moyer, Jr., and Geshick will be sworn into office on Friday, July 8th at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. in The Woodlands Ballroom. Coffee and cake will be served.



**BOIS FORTE BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

**GENERAL ELECTION**

June 14, 2022

**OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS**

SECRETARY-TREASURER	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	TOTALS	%
DAVID C. MORRISON	69	88	16	14	68	255	49.71%
TARA GESHICK	63	94	20	28	53	258	50.29%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	TOTALS	%
SIMONA BENNER	62	22	13	20	25	142	45.81%
SHANE G. DRIFT	69	12	9	9	69	168	54.19%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

DISTRICT II REPRESENTATIVE	DISTRICT I NETT LAKE	DISTRICT II VERMILION	URBAN SITE (MPLS)	URBAN SITE (DULUTH)	ABSENTEE	TOTALS	%
ROBERT H. MOYER JR.	0	84	3	3	13	103	50.99%
HANNAH CHOSA	1	63	10	11	14	99	49.01%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
BLANK VOTES	2	1	1	1	1		

**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 General Election held on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022. We further certify that said election was held in accordance with the Election Ordinance # 10 of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

SIGNED

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*



**CHEERFUL CREW!**— The Boys and Girls Club of Bois Forte had a great time working the 2022 Rendezvous Car Show that took place Saturday, June 11th at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. The club was selling tickets to attendees who then put them in a bucket for their favorite automobile in the show. The club raised \$865 for the afternoon— not bad for a three-hour show! Pictured, left to right, are: Nai’Lee Moyer, Hayden Klassy, Jessi Lambert and Orion Dagen.

# Historic day for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

## Partnerships enable Bois Forte to reacquire over 28,000 acres of land

NETT LAKE—One by one, members of the Bois Forte Tribal penned their name to a ceremonial document that in reality was about to restore over 28,000 acres of land taken from their ancestors over 100 years ago.

It marked a historic day for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers spoke eloquently about how significant, Tuesday, June 7, 2022, would become for the next seven generations of band members. She explained how the land was taken away during the allotment process and talked about the long road traveled to get the land back with the help of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, Indian Land Capital Company, and The Conservation Fund.

“It’s a very good day for Bois Forte and our band members,” said Chavers. “It’s also a note for others to show that anything can happen and anything is possible.”

However, Chavers admitted that during the arduous process, she and others on the tribal council doubted the land reacquisition would happen. But they persevered and reclaiming the 28,089 acres of rich forest land on the Nett Lake Reservation and Deer Creek Reservation finally became a reality.

“We never dreamed this would be possible, but this has been on the radar for this tribal government,” said Chavers to the estimated 150 in attendance for the event. “One of our goals was land acquisition, we want to get our land back because that is who we are as Native American people.”

Chavers said Bois Forte may not be rich financially, but added that Bois Forte is rich in its resources.

“And our resources are what our creator, Mother Earth, has given us,” continued Chavers. “Our water, our lake where our beautiful wild rice is grown, our trees, our forest, the earth we stand on, the sky—everything that is living to us.”

And for Chavers, that is what is

what’s most important to her and the Bois Forte people.

“To me, that’s the best thing in the world,” she said about our natural resources. “Not all the money in the world could have a better feeling than having all of our resources.”

Secretary-Treasurer Dave Morrison, Sr., talked about the importance of reclaiming the land as well. He talked fondly about how this acquisition would have a lasting impact on all Bois Forte band members.

“It’s a very historical event for us at Bois Forte,” said Morrison, Sr. “It’s very historical for our young children who are just learning to hunt, fish, and trap. The land that we are getting back is also going to help our spiritual people with medicines and plants that are grown in parts of our reservation. It means a lot to every one of us at Bois Forte—and I am proud to be a part of this process.”

Morrison’s words echoed the sentiments of others who made the trek to the Nett Lake Reservation and the beautiful calm waters of Nett Lake served as a wonderful backdrop to the day’s activities.

Many dignitaries made the trip to celebrate the special occasion including Executive Director Melanie Benjamin from Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa, Robert Deschampe from the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Gary Frazier from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Karen Driver, who is the senior advisor to the president for Native American Affairs at the University of Minnesota; representatives from Minntac and KeeTac, plus the offices of Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Tina Smith. Former Bois Forte Council members Kevin Strong, Floyd Morrison, and Gordy Adams, Jr. were also in attendance.

The event included an Invocation by Bois Forte Spiritual Advisor Vernon Adams, Sr., drum songs by Bois Forte’s Drum Group, which included Adams, Dave “Squidg” Morrison, Jr., Bois Forte



**SIGNING OFF ON AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT FOR BOIS FORTE’S FUTURE**— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers signs off on the paperwork that marks the restoration of 28,089 acres back to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Looking on is The Conservation Fund President and CEO Larry Selzer, left, and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation President Cris Stainbrook, right.

District I Representative Shane Drift, Angelo Kingbird, and Lance Kingbird. The songs included a pipe song, honor song, healing song, and at the end of the event, the traveling song. The day also includes a traditional feast of walleye, wild rice, buttered corn, and everyone’s favorite—fry bread. The latter came from Karen Drift and Nikki Irving, who prepared the fry bread to perfection. Public Works Director for the Tribe, Joel Astleford served as the emcee for the day.

Chairwoman Chavers talked about how Bois Forte had tried to acquire the 28,089 acres from PotlatchDeltic in years past, but the asking price was just too much. That’s where The Conservation Fund and Indian Land Tenure Foundation came in. Both organizations work with tribal leaders from reservations across the country to return land to tribes. The work these organizations do on behalf of Indian tribes is extremely complex, but at the end of

the day, the hard work is worth it.

Larry Selzer, who serves as the President and CEO of The Conservation Fund, spoke about how hard it was for him to sleep the night before this historical moment, which marked the largest reacquisition of land they had ever done with a Native or Ingenious community. He talked passionately about how honored he and his staff, including the Fund’s Minnesota State Director Kim Berns-Melhus, were to be on hand for this momentous occasion. He expressed regret that another key player from his staff, the Minnesota Associate State Director Emilee Nelson, was not able to attend.

“It is such an amazing feeling to be here today to honor and celebrate your vision and your courage to bathe in the glory of these lands and waters that are now rightfully returned to the Bois Forte Band,” said Selzer. “While we must not forget or overlook the

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injustices suffered by the Band in the past, we are here to celebrate a brighter future in the return of these historical lands.”

Selzer talked about how important it is for The Conservation Fund to restore the land to tribes to make sure that forests remain forests that provide clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and a habitat for wildlife. He

talked about how working forests play an important role in addressing climate change. To date, Selzer said, The Conservation Fund has impacted nearly one million acres of working forests across 19 states. He also talked about how Tuesday, June 7, 2022, marked 32 years of working for the Fund and joked that his father never would have thought he could hold a job that long. He said he has worked on many suc-

cess stories during that time, but added, that this one was right at the top.

“Together we have accomplished something profound, something permanent, and something to cherish for all future generations,” said Selzer. “Thank you for allowing us to be part of the process and today’s celebration.”

While Chavers said the original game plan was for Bois Forte to buy back 100 acres at a time, that would

have taken far too long and cost too much money. Instead, Bois Forte, along with the work of tribal attorneys Joe Halloran and Jeff Holth, worked closely together with The Conservation Fund and the Indian Land Tenure Foundation and its subsidiary the Indian Land Capital Company to return the land to the Tribe.

“We are making history and our ancestors are looking down on us,” said Chavers, who added that the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Nation did provide a \$500,000 grant to cover closing costs, “They are very happy because this land is coming back to us.”

As mentioned earlier in her speech, Chavers said land and natural resources are very important to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.

“That’s our priority and it never would have happened without the partnerships and collaboration we’ve developed,” said Chavers. “We want Bois Forte to be a leader and that is the goal of this tribal council.”

Like other key players on hand for the day, Cris Stainbrook, who is the president of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, said he was humbled to take part in the celebration. He too mentioned the long, hard road it took to reacquire such a large piece of land and return it to its rightful owners.

“We, along with the Indian Land Capital Company, which is our subsidiary, are honored to be invited into this project,” said Stainbrook.

He said that having the band’s trust in being able to put together this project financially is a great honor for his agency and added that this acquisition is truly a model for most of Indian Country.

“Thank you for having the confidence in us for doing this work with you and allowing us to join you in this historic event and what it does for all of Indian Country,” said Stainbrook. “It says these large-scale transactions can, should, and will be done—thank you.”

## Congratulations to these wonderful students!



“Congratulations and keep up the hard work!” said Indigenous Support Advocate | Amanda Koivisto of the Tower/Soudan Elementary & Northeast Range School of all of the students who graduated.



FRIENDS FOREVER!—Here are the Tower/Soudan Kindergarten graduates— Cody Chavez, Kai’Lee Moyer, Reese Connor, Elius Strong, Cameron Villebrun, Mateo Medicine-Perez and Brayden Purkat. Submitted photo.



GREAT WORK!— Here is the Tower/Soudan 6th grade graduate—Arlene King. Submitted photo.



GREAT JOB!—Here are the Northeast Range 6th grade graduates—Destiny Koivisto-Boshey, Arturo Cameron, Shaye Isham, Sophia Medicine and Damien Medicine-Strand. Submitted photo.

# Bois Forte Museum and Cultural Center kicks off 20th anniversary celebration

While the Bois Forte Museum and Heritage Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary all summer long, the big kick-off took place Saturday, June 18th.

The day's activities included a run down by Kyle Littlewolf of all the activities planned for the summer, a congratulatory speech by District I Representative Shane Drift commemorating the day, songs by the Bois Forte Drum group, lunch, and tours of the museum.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Jaylen Strong, Payton Counts, and Kyle Littlewolf for doing an amazing job," said Drift to the crowd gathered outside the museum. "Your hard work and dedication to our heritage center and cultural museum is awesome."

Drift said that when visitors step inside the museum, they will see and feel the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's history come alive.

"You will see the exhibits that show our migration," he continued, "You can hear the sounds of the paddles as they paddled the waters to get here. You can hear the old ones talking."

Drift also talked about the boarding school exhibit where you can hear little kids whispering and little kids crying.

"When you stop by to look at the Veteran's Wall, you will see our Ogichidaa and Ogichidaa-kew," said Drift. "You can hear sounds of war, the sounds of battle... you will meet some of our chiefs, like Chief Drift, Chief Bust-a-cog-gin."

Littlewolf talked about how privileged he felt to be able to work at such a historic museum where he continues to learn more about the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's history on a daily basis. He encouraged those in attendance to take part in activities that he and Strong have set up throughout the summer months.

"There is still a lot of knowledge I'd like to obtain and share with our people," said Littlewolf. "We do not just want to celebrate today—we want to

celebrate all summer long."

Littlewolf talked about planned movie nights throughout the summer, along with a Flint Knapping Class on July 22nd and 23rd and a pontoon trip to Wolf Island on Lake Vermilion, on August 12th and 13th.

"It has a lot of historical meaning to us," he said about Wolf Island. "It is known for a lot of hunting spots and fishing spots. There are a lot of historic sites on the island."

Reconnecting with the past is something that Littlewolf and Strong hope to do as the 20th anniversary unfolds. Strong talked about building on the history that is already part of the museum and adding to it so that the Bois Forte stories continue to be made.

"It's important for us to recognize all the directors and workers that were here before us," said Strong, who paid tribute to all the hard work they did in collecting documents and artifacts.

Strong also shared his vision about starting a new family tree for the museum so that the history of the Bois Forte people continues to be told. He added that he'd like to talk to families and get their oral stories documented so those stories are not forever lost.

"We want to continue building memories for the next generation," said Strong.

And that will involve making a new mural of Bois Forte band members within the walls of the museum. Strong said the current mural on the wall show kids who were five or six-years-old, but are essentially frozen in time. His best example of that is Taneesha Dupree who is shown in a pink dress on the mural as a young child, but now she is a proud mother of two children herself.

"I'd like to get pictures of the current Boys and Girls Club members or the Nett Lake Elementary School children," said Strong. "It will show that we are still utilizing the land that boarding schools were on. Not only to show that we are resilient as people, but we are

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SPECIAL DAY— Members of the Bois Forte Drum group play a song as Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Visitor Services Manager Kyle Littlewolf looks on.



TALKING ABOUT FUTURE PLANS—Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Director Jaylen Strong makes a point during his speech that kicked off the museum's 20th anniversary, Saturday, June 18, 2022.

# A look back at a historical day for the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa



**KEY PLAYERS**— Here are some of key personnel that led to the reacquisition of over 28,000 acres to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Pictured left to right are The Conservation Fund President and CEO Larry Seltzer, The Conservation Fund State Director (Minnesota) Kim Berns-Melhus, Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers, Indian Land Tenure Foundation President Cris Stainbrook, and The Jacobson Law Group Attorneys Joe Halloran and Jeff Holth.



**DRUM GROUP**— Members of the Bois Forte Drum group performed during the historic land reacquisition event on June 7th. Pictured, left to right, are: Lance Kingbird, Vern Adams, Sr., Angelo Kingbird, Dave “Squidg” Morrison and Shane Drift, back to the camera.



**LONGTIME FRIENDS**— Gloria Love and Bill King enjoyed the lunch that was prepared by Bois Forte staff and Fortune Bay staff. Bois Forte Elder Karen Drift and Nikki Irving also chipped in by making some very tasty fry bread for the special occasion.



**HISTORIC SIGNATURE**— Bois Forte Secretary-Treasurer David Morrison, Sr., left, watches as District I Representative Shane Drift signs a ceremonial document in which Bois Forte reacquired over 28,000 acres of land on its reservation.



**STANDING AT ATTENTION**— Bois Forte District II Representative Pete “Chief” Boney looks on as the Bois Forte Drum group performed a song during the June 7th ceremony at Nett Lake celebrating the return of over 28,000 acres of land to Bois Forte.



**POWERFUL SPEECH**— Bois Forte Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers gave a powerful speech talking about the significance of Bois Forte reacquiring over 28,000 acres of land that had been taken away over 100 years ago. That land was officially given back to Bois Forte on June 7, 2022.



**READY TO ENJOY!**— Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Director Jaylen Strong poses for a quick photo at lunch after the June 7th ceremony at Nett Lake.



**OVERVIEW**— Bois Forte District II Representative Pete “Chief” Boney points to the map that outlines the 28,000+ acres that were returned to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Looking on is Secretary-Treasurer David Morrison, Sr. and District I Representative Travis Morrison, along with two guests who showed up for the festivities.



**LUNCH IS SERVED!**— Erynn Morrison and Lance Kingbird get ready to enjoy a nice lunch of walleye, fry bread and buttered corn after the official program concluded.



**READY TO SERVE!**— Willie King, left, and Dave Villebrun, right, enjoy a laugh after getting things ready to go for the fish fry that was a big hit for all those who attended the historic event.

# Let's take pride in our communities!

Taking pride in our community was the driving force behind the Bois Forte Tribal Council's decision to pass a Blight Ordinance earlier this year.

"It was something we felt was needed," said Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers. "The intent wasn't to punish homeowners, rather it was to have residents be mindful that we want our communities to be clean and ones we can be proud of. That means keeping a clean yard, mowing the grass and not letting junk accumulate."

Here are examples of what would result in a homeowner being cited for violating the Blight Ordinance:

- Storing abandoned/junk automobiles; junked/inoperable motorized farm, lawn and

garden or recreational equipment and machinery; accumulated trash, rubbish or refuse; stoves or appliances; furniture; wood or wood remnants; scrap metal or metal remnants; structurally-failed fences; constructed buildings that are structurally compromised, pose a safety hazard situation, and/or no longer habitable as dwellings or use for any other purpose; noxious or poisonous vegetation such as poison ivy, ragweed; other weed and grasses over six feet in height that pose potential visibility and fire hazard issues.

According to Bois Forte DNR Director Chris Holm, the need for this ordinance is not necessarily driven by any specific problem areas, but is

a generally maintained interest on the part of the Tribal Council to maintain its properties.

"They want to make sure the Bois Forte communities are orderly, have a neat appearance, and protect community members from potential safety hazards that accumulated non-functional household items, non-operable automobiles, or unkempt vegetation might impose," said Holm.

The inspection and notice of violation of the Blight Ordinance is the responsibility of the Bois Forte DNR Environmental Services Manager. If upon inspection it is determined that a violation exists, a notice shall be delivered to the property owner

or occupant identifying the blight conditions noted, with request to the owner or occupant to abate the condition(s) within thirty (30) days. If the owner or occupant is not personally available to receive the notice, the notice will be posted on the front door of the occupants' home.

The occupant receiving notice of blight conditions will be offered an opportunity to request a court hearing to contest the notice conditions. The occupant has 30 days to schedule a hearing. If the occupant does not request a hearing within 30 days, the violation conditions described in the notice will be considered admitted. If the owner contests the violation notice, Bois Forte Tribal Court must

schedule a hearing of the violation issue(s) within 30 days.

Upon the hearing, the court will determine by preponderance of evidence if the violation notice will be upheld or dismissed. If the blight condition is upheld, the owner will be issued a decision to abate the conditions within 15 days, or pay costs for the Band to abate. The Court may extend the time period for the owner to abate the blight conditions existing up to 45 days. The Tribal Court decision will be final, with no right of appeal.

Within these time periods, and pending court decision, that owner must abate the blight conditions, if conditions are not abated, the

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## Mother Nature moves Sunday's Lake Vermilion Powwow indoors



**HAVING A GOOD TIME**— Unseasonably cool and wet weather dampened the 2022 Lake Vermilion Powwow, which was held June 24th-26th. However, those in attendance made the best of it as evidenced by this young dancer, Ari'Nova Gould, who was getting into the spirit of things at the Vermilion Wellness Center on Sunday, June 26th.



**ALWAYS BUSY HELPING OUT!**— Bois Forte's George Mihelich arranges the flags prior to the start of Sunday's events in the Vermilion Wellness Center. The Powwow had to be moved indoors Sunday due to the unpredictable weather that brought cooler temps and rain to the area.

## Chief Lynn Malerba becomes the first Native American to serve as Treasurer of the United States

WASHINGTON—President Joe Biden announced the appointment of Lynn Malerba, Lifetime Chief of the Mohegan Tribe, to serve as Treasurer of the United States. Chief Malerba is the first Native American to serve as the nation's Treasurer. To underscore the Department's commitment to Tribal nations, Treasury also announced the establishment of a new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs. The new office will be led by the new Treasurer and coordinate Tribal relations across the Department.

Chief Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe in 2010 and is the first woman to serve in this position in the Tribe's modern history. She previously served as a member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee. Chief Malerba's appointment as Treasurer of the United States will also mean that for the first time in U.S. history, a Native woman's signature will soon be seen on the nation's

currency.

"I am deeply honored that Chief Malerba will serve as the nation's Treasurer and spearhead the department's new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs. This is an historic appointment," said Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen. "Her leadership and experience will deepen our commitment to help expand economic opportunities for all Tribal communities."

"I am honored and humbled by Secretary Yellen and the Biden Administration's commitment to ensuring that all voices are heard by Treasury as we work together to create an equitable and just society," said Chief Lynn Malerba. "It is especially important that our Native voices are respected. This appointment underscores this Administration's commitment to doing just that. I am excited to serve our communities as Treasurer and for the work ahead."

As Treasurer, Chief Maler-



ba will also oversee the newly established Office of Tribal and Native Affairs that will house staff directly dedicated to communication with Tribal nations and the hub for Tribal policy. Treasury previously created a Tribal team in 2021 as part of its efforts to develop the department's growing relationship with Tribal nations and to help administer \$30 billion in programs directed towards Tribes through the American Rescue Plan. The new Office of Tribal and Na-

tive Affairs will work across Treasury's portfolio on issues related to Tribal nations, and Treasury intends to work with Congress to ensure this office has the resources it needs to carry out its mission.

In addition to leading the Office of Tribal and Native Affairs, the Treasurer of the

United States directly oversees the U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Fort Knox, and is a key liaison with the Federal Reserve. Chief Malerba will also serve as a senior advisor to the Secretary in the areas of community development and public engagement.

### Learn how to speak Ojibwe through a free program!

Attention all Bois Forte band members—please check out this service that will help you learn more about the Ojibwe language.

"Please note that this program is created in SOUTHWEST Ojibwe Dialect, primarily based in Mille Lacs," said Bois Forte Heritage Center and Cultural Museum Director Jaylen Strong. "Bois Forte may have different ways of pronouncing or conjugating words and sentences, but we feel it's best to provide the opportunity to start speaking at any level."

Strong said this is program FREE for band members and added that the Tribal Government will pay for subscriptions for people who don't have one yet OR will reimburse band members who have already purchased subscriptions.

"We would like to thank the Mille Lacs Band for offering other tribal communities' subscriptions for their citizens," said Strong.

### Continued from page 8

Tribal Council will take steps to schedule and clean up the conditions, and bill the owner or occupant for the costs for clean-up. If costs are not recovered, the Tribal Council will garnish per capita payments to settle the debt.

Furthermore, the ordinance states that the owner or occupant may also be subject to additional costs for failure to abate, which may include a fine of up to \$500; real or rental property lease enforcement action which may include lease termination; disqualification from obtaining real or rental lease property with the Band for a time

period up to 10 years. Time period is subject to extent of blight, costs to remediate the blight incurred by the Band, and safety hazards deemed to be incurred as a result of the blight condition(s).

•If abatement is considered by the Tribal Council to pose extreme safety-related, emergency conditions, the Council may order an emergency abatement without notice or other processes; or may request abatement to be completed by the owner or occupant within a 48-hour time period. If abatement is not completed in this time frame, the Tribal Council will direct entry to the premises by des-

ignated remediations persons or agencies to address and abate the condition(s).

•The Tribal Council reserves the right to exempt an owner or occupant from provisions of the Blight Ordinance for a reasonable time, upon expressed special circumstances as provided by the owner or occupant.

While it can be costly to violate the blight ordinance, Holm reminded community members that help is available via the ongoing community-wide cleanup program that recently finished up in the Nett Lake Village, Highway 65 and Palmquist. The Sugar Bush and Indian Point

begins July 5th through July 19th, while the Vermilion Reservation pickup begins July 25th and runs through August 9th.

"This a free service for our community members, so we encourage owners of unwanted items to put those items out for collection per the published route schedule," said Holm. "Please note that after crews collect items in an area according to the schedule, they cannot return to that area. Therefore, any items left after the crews leave an area after designated time will not be collected."

Even if you may have missed the community clean

up, Holm said that an additional junk car removal service, which is separate from the standard Community Cleanup, is being scheduled.

"The Environmental Service Manager (Frank Villebrun) will be identifying abandoned/junk cars and will approach owners with request to transfer the vehicles to the removal service and they will then be removed at no cost to the owner," said Holm.

If you have any questions about the cleanup, please call 218-757-3261, Ext. 307.



# Bois Forte Museum and Cultural Center kicks off 20th anniversary celebration

*Continued from page 5*  
still here.”

Strong also talked about getting out into the communities around us to tell the story of the Bois Forte Band.

“We want to build relationships with people off of the reservation,” said Strong. “One of the other projects Kyle is working on is expanding our library to include not only non-fiction, but

also fiction books from native authors and native, modern-day philosophers.”

Following Strong’s presentation, Littlewolf did a tobacco offering where attendees were asked to put their offering into a small fire that he had lit. The drum group then performed another song and guests were treated to a meal that was prepared by Fortune Bay’s culinary team.

Guests were then invited inside to take a tour of the facility and to partake in a Scavenger Hunt where Strong

had hidden cards with a percentage off for purchases made that day in the museum’s gift shop.

“As you walk through our heritage and cultural museum, you will not only learn part of our heritage, culture, history, and ways of life, you will be taking it with you,” said Drift during his speech earlier in the program. “I would like to thank you for coming to celebrate our 20th anniversary with us. Mii’iw Miigwech.”



**Gabriel King** - Cherry

**Matayah Porter** - Cherry

**Tristian Johnson** - Cherry

**James Brown II** - North East Range

**Jezlyn Abramowski** - South Ridge

**Pipe Barcus** - South Ridge

**Emily Fall** - South Ridge

**Gavin Lawrence** - South Ridge

**Dylan Morneau** - South Ridge

**Grace Simek** - South Ridge

**Maddily Ward** - South Ridge

**Jan Villebrun** - MJB

**Maleah Milton** - MJB

**Rachael Lillegaard** - MJB

**LaPrairie Zachary** - Mesabi East

**Parker Lehti** - Mesabi East

**Shyla Adams-Lightfeather** - North Woods

**Bryce Chosa** - North Woods

**Anthony Drift** - North Woods

**JessieAnne Drift** - North Woods

**Christopher Fairbanks** - North Woods

**Aayanna Goodsky-Spears** - North Woods

**Joseph Hoagland Jr.** - North Woods

**Drayvin Isham** - North Woods

**Reuben Isham** - North Woods

**Katrina Jackson** - North Woods

**Sierra Jensen** - North Woods

**Angelo Kingbird** - North Woods

**Timothy Lilya** - North Woods

**Francis Littlewolf III** - North Woods

**Sean Morrison** - North Woods

**Tessa Porter** - North Woods

**Arianna Swinson** - North Woods

**Brianna Whiteman** - North Woods

**Jaden Whiteman** - North Woods

**Niamoni Kingbird** - NLC

**Anneliese Isham** - NLC



*The Bois Forte Tribal Council  
invites you to the Swearing In of*

**Tara Geshick**  
as Secretary/Treasurer

**Shane G. Drift**  
as District I Representative

**Robert H. Moyer Jr.**  
as District II Representative

Friday, July 8, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
Woodlands Ballroom  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino

# Band member departures at FBRC is alarming

Not only is Bois Forte's flagship business struggling to find employees, but band members are also leaving Fortune Bay Resort Casino at an alarming rate.

Some of them are by choice as they wanted to go elsewhere, but in the past month, there were numerous terminations due to a variety of reasons.

"It's really scary," said Director of Human Resources Beth Adams at a recent meeting. "We are terminating faster than we can hire and many of those employees are band members, who have either resigned, had attendance issues."

In April, there were 11 terminations, but only two were band members. However, in May there were 15 terms and six were band members, while the month of June (through the 28th), saw 19 more terminations with 12 of those being band members.

Director of Gaming E.J. Deegan said more needs to be done to not only hire more band members but to pre-

pare them for employment in general. She told stories of band members who showed up for an interview and when asked why they were applying, they came back with a simple response: "I need a job."

"Maybe that's on us," said Deegan. "We need to do a better job of giving band members resources so that they are prepared to enter the workforce and the reason they are wanting to get hired holds more meaning to them."

Deegan surmised that management could offer courses on how to interview, how to create a resume, and other job-related skills to help band members find gainful employment and be a contributor to the success of Fortune Bay for years to come. As it is now, many band members recirculate from one job to another and then go through the rehiring process numerous times. Not only is this a waste of Fortune Bay's resources given the time needed to train employees, but it causes other problems as well.

Given the current opportunities

and dire need for employees, Fortune Bay management has made it a point to devise a plan to do what it takes to retain band member employment. After all, that is a big reason why Fortune Bay Resort Casino was created way back in 1986.

GM and CEO Mayan Beltran opined that it's time to look at career development and even life skills to help retain band members working at Fortune Bay and other BFDC businesses.

"We can't let this continue," said Beltran, who asked for more input from Fortune Bay directors and add-

ed that he'll broach this subject with the tribal council in the coming weeks. "We'll have to take a closer look as to how we can make sure we are doing what we can to retain band member employment."

One positive that came out of another meeting is that Bois Forte band member employment is slowly on the rise.

"It was at 25.3%, but now it has gone up to 26% so that's a good thing," said Adams. "We just need to keep focusing on doing what we can to get that percentage even higher."

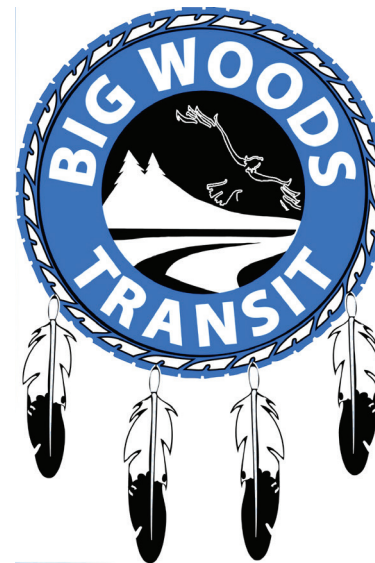
## Nice addition to the Big Woods Transit fleet!

Big Woods Transit just took delivery on a new bus. It has seats for 20 passengers and places for 6 wheelchairs. We are very pleased to add this to our current fleet providing services to our communities. For more information about Big Woods Transit and the services it offers, please check out or visit:

[www.bigwoodstransit.com](http://www.bigwoodstransit.com)

[www.facebook.com/bigwoodstransit](https://www.facebook.com/bigwoodstransit)

To call for a ride, Big Woods Transit's number is  
**1-888-757-1540.**



## Boozhoo, Bois Forte Band Members!

First off, I would like to say "chimiigwech" to all the band members that voted for me in the June 2022 general election. I will be forever grateful to you for giving me this unique opportunity to serve you for another four years as the District I Representative. I would like to congratulate Tara Geshick and Robert Moyer. I am looking forward to working with the new tribal council. I would also like to thank Simona Benner and Hannah Chosa for stepping up and running for tribal council. I would also like to say a special thank you to the General Election Board and the elections boards for their long hours and hard work.

I would like to say a special "chimiigwech" to my girlfriend/campaign manager, Christina Premo. She helped me get my campaign organized, proof read my campaign material, and she was right by my side throughout the campaign. I couldn't have done it without Christina!

I would also like to say a special thank you to Dave Morrison for your dedication and service to our Band Members, Employees, Tribal Government, and Tribal Businesses. We attended many meetings together and shared a lot of laughs together. Once again, thank you for your dedication and service howah!

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



**JULY 19TH, 9-3 PM**

in Nett Lake at the ENP

**JULY 21ST, 9-3 PM**

in Vermilion at the Social Center



Donations are accepted now through the day of the sale.

**IN NETT LAKE:** Please drop them off at the Nett Lake DNR building or the Nett Lake Human Services Behavioral Health Department.

**IN VERMILION:** Please call 218-753-4542 to coordinate drop off.

All proceeds will go to the Menochigeyang Committee for future Employee Morale Boosting Events/Activities.



SAVE THE DATE

Elders & Caregivers  
Gathering

*"Sharing the Care"*

Fortune Bay Resort & Casino  
1430 Bois Forte Road - Tower, MN 55790

JULY 27, 2022

9:00AM - 2PM

For more info:

Elderly Nutrition Program  
218-757-3261 ext. 105

MN Indian Area Agency on Aging  
888-231-7886



**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.



**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)

**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 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