



# Bois Forte NEWS

VOL. 45 NUMBER 12

## **Don't Wait..VACCINATE**

The Bois Forte Clinics have openings for the following vaccinations:

- Pfizer -available to ages 5 and older
- Moderna-available to ages 18 and older
- Johnson/Johanson-Available to ages 18 and older

**Call and schedule your appointment today!**

### Nett Lake Clinic

Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
5219 St. John Drive  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
(218) 757-3650

### Vermilion Clinic

Thursdays & Fridays  
1613 Farm Road South  
Tower, MN 55790  
(218) 753-2182



DOING THEIR BEST TO INCREASE RIDERSHIP! - Big Woods Transit employees Bradley Day and Jennie Rowland had a good time working their informational booth at Fortune Bay's Health Fair this past week.

## Take Big Woods Transit for a test drive!

With the cold wintery temperatures moving in—not to mention high gas prices—now might be the time you left the driving to Big Woods Transit.

After all, how can you beat getting a ride to and from work? And best of all—there is no charge for this service!

“The biggest leap is to get people to try it and see how convenient it is, especially

during the winter months,” said Big Woods Transit Transportation Manager Jennie Rowland during Fortune Bay's Health Fair this past week. “Once they try it, they really seem to like it.”

While Big Woods has offered door-to-door rides from Nett Lake to Fortune Bay for several years, a new “Park and Go” route has been established in Ely. This route departs from

the Ely Recycling Center Parking Lot at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and leaving Fortune Bay at 4:30 p.m. with an ETA back to Ely at 5:05 p.m.

“We have a new driver, Bradley Day, who handles this route for us,” said Rowland. “We hope that we can find a Park and Go spot in Babbitt to bring those employees to and from work.”

Day, who grew up in Nett

Lake and now lives in Babbitt, said he enjoys working for Big Woods Transit.

“It's a good job,” said Day from his informational booth set up at Fortune Bay. “We added this new route about a month ago and it has been a little slow, but we're hoping it picks up.”

The other Fortune Bay routes that depart from Nett

*(continued on page 11)*

## Chairwoman Cathy Chavers —



Boozhoo,

Bois Forte along with many other communities local, statewide and across the nation have been on a roller coaster ride with the COVID 19 virus. Just when it seems that we are out of the woods with this pandemic, the numbers start spiking again. The Tribal Government and our businesses are vaccinated or have an exemption and now the 5-11 year old children can also receive the vaccine. Our clinics have the vaccines available so please call them if anyone needs the vaccine or booster. I have heard too many stories of those individuals who have not been vaccinated, contracted the virus and have passed away. Please don't take that chance.

Also, the Tribal Government is

currently working with a consultant, Blue Stone Strategy to put forth a plan to maximize the funding sources, along with ARPA funds and the new Infrastructure Bill to move forward with projects for Bois Forte that will impact the next seven generations, our future. There will be a community survey from Blue Stone for the plan where your input is needed. This is crucial that you respond. This survey gives you, the band member, the opportunity to have a part in progressing forward.

Just some background on Blue Stone Strategy is they have been in existence for 15 years and have worked with over 200 tribes in the country. They have a board of tribal leaders that keep them informed of issues happening from around the country so that they can assist tribes in various matters. For our area, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin of the Mille Lacs Band is our area representative. We are looking forward to working with Blue Stone Strategy on this very important project with the funding resources coming from the state of Minnesota and the federal government.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please be safe, social distance and get vaccinated if you haven't yet.

Chi Miigwech  
Cathy Chavers

### Do you care for someone with memory loss?

A free workshop may help you!



UCSF  
University of California  
San Francisco

BUILDING BETTER  
CAREGIVERS.



The Rural Dementia Caregiver Project seeks to help caregivers of people with memory loss from rural or farming communities learn new skills and improve their health. It is a research study of the University of California, San Francisco

#### If you join the study, you will receive, for free:

- Access to an 6-week online workshop—any time, day or night (no Zoom or video required)
- Workbook to keep—on skills and resources for caregivers
- Support from trained staff and other caregivers
- Up to \$80 in cash for completing 4 surveys

#### Am I eligible?

You may be eligible if you:

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Able to access the internet
- Provide care for at least 10 hours per week

*By "care" we mean assistance with dressing, meals, transportation, medications, appointments, or similar support*

See privacy information at: <https://caregiverproject.ucsf.edu/have-questions>

**Check if you are eligible! [caregiverproject.ucsf.edu](https://caregiverproject.ucsf.edu)**

For other questions call toll free at 1-833-634-0603

### Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Stay Safe While Staying Warm

With frigid weather on the way, it is important to stay safe while staying warm. Carbon monoxide (CO), produced by furnaces, vehicles, portable generators, stoves, lanterns, gas ranges, or burning wood can make you sick and even be life threatening. Protect yourself by taking the following simple steps:

- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each Spring and Fall.
- Leave your home immediately and call 911 if your CO detector alarm sounds.

- Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you feel dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated and suspect CO poisoning.
- Do not heat your house with a gas oven.
- Never run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Do not burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented.

If your power goes out, remember—never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or outside less than 20 feet from a window, door, or vent.

# U of M Announces free tuition for tribal members

## Tuition waiver a step toward reparations for university land taken from tribes

The University of Minnesota made a radical announcement at the start of November: starting in the fall of 2022, the University will offer free or reduced tuition on all of its five campuses to enrolled members of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribes.

Students seeking to attend college on any of the University's campuses—Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester, Morris, or Crookston—can now benefit from the University of Minnesota Native American Promise Tuition Program.

“For 170 years, our University has focused attentively on the needs of all Minnesotans. Today we are taking a positive step forward in addressing the needs of indigenous peoples with a history that predates this state and institution—a step I sincerely hope will have a lasting impact on Tribal communities,” said University President Joan Gabel in a press release. “We have been very honest from my first days as president that we need to better serve citizens of our Tribal Nations and their communities. This program is a meaningful step to increasing access and continuing to improve retention and graduation rates while closing opportunity gaps, all of which aligns with our mission and our systemwide strategic plan, MPact 2025.”

According to the University's press release, the program will specifically provide a scholarship covering full U of M tuition at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester or Twin Cities campus for first-year or Tribal college transfer undergraduate students with an annual family income under \$75,000. Students from higher-earning families (up to \$125,000 annually) will be eligible to receive highly discounted tuition through the program, as much as 80 to 90 percent in many cases.

Students who want to use this program must come to college straight from high school, or transfer from a



Minnesota Tribal College. There are other stipulations, such as that a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA and apply for Federal Student Aid. The full list of requirements is available on the University's website.

The University of Minnesota Morris campus has waived tuition for Native American students through many iterations of the institution, going back to its days as the Morris Industrial School for American Indians, which was run by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1896 to 1909— one of many residential boarding schools tasked with culturally assimilating Native American people. The tuition waiver has attracted many Native students, who currently comprise over 25% of the student body. While the campus is a place of historical trauma for Native people, the free tuition for Native students has also turned it into a place of opportunity, collaboration, and community.

While the Morris campus has unique ties to the local Native com-

munity, the University of Minnesota as a whole is also historically indebted to tribes, due to its status as a land grant institution. In the mid 1800s, four bands of Dakota people were forced to cede territory under threats of violence and forced starvation. The Dakota fought back in 1862, which caused Governor Alexander Ramsey to call for the forcible removal of the Dakota from the state, and end their treaties. The Federal Government gave the land they took from the Dakota to the University, in an effort to revive the failing institution, which succeeded.

This story of broken treaties and unethical government practices is far from surprising to Minnesota's Native people, since iterations of the same story have happened time and time again over the course of our history. The tuition waiver is certainly a step in the right direction, answering one of many calls for reparations to Minnesota's Native Americans made by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the American Indian Tribal Relations

office.

“Tuition benefits for Native American students will provide more access to the University of Minnesota than ever before. This level of financial assistance—along with the necessary support systems to help Native American students find a welcoming place within our University so they can complete their degree and graduate—can dramatically alter the course of an individual's life,” said Karen Diver, the University's senior advisor to the President for Native American Affairs, in the University's press release. “Educational attainment is critical to sustaining healthy and prosperous communities, as well as self-determined citizens. This is a significant step toward more equitably offering the access and opportunities that our students and communities need.”

The University website has the full guidelines and instructions at [system.umn.edu/native-american-promise-tuition-program](http://system.umn.edu/native-american-promise-tuition-program).

## District 1 Representative Shane Drift

Boozho, Bois Forte Band Members! I sincerely hope that this brief notation finds you well! First off, we had Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11th, 2021! I would like to say a special thank you to all our Veterans for your service, and your sacrifice. Also, thank you to all the men and women in uniform!

As I sit here in my office writing this notation, I realized that the month of November is hopping away like a deer

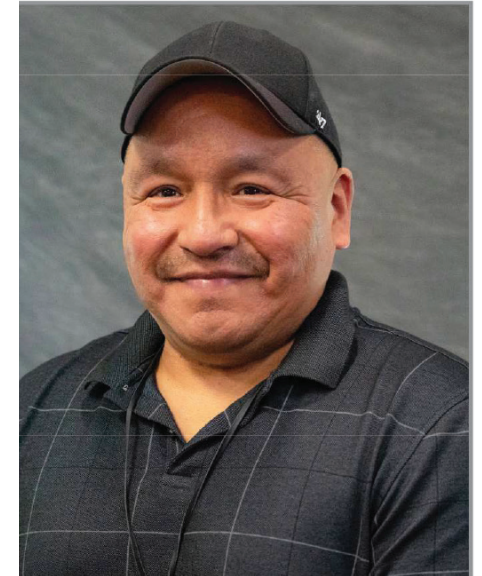
during shining season, pun intended aye! And Christmas and New Year's next month wow, seems like this time of year goes by fast, too fast. We will be putting up the Christmas tree soon! I sure am looking forward to it! I like listening to Christmas music, my favorite song is the Little Drummer Boy by Bob Seger and Silver Bullet Band, howah!

I remember when I used to work for the Housing Department as the Elderly

Maintenance Worker. My son, Sean was still in Elementary School at the time. I went to the Elementary School to watch Sean in the Christmas play. Anyway, the Elementary School staff was looking for someone to dress up as Santa Claus and hand out Christmas bags to the kids after the play. One of the teachers asked me if I would dress up as Santa Claus, I said sure. Well as the play was ending one of the teachers came and got me. I went and dressed up as Santa Claus. I really got into playing Santa Claus for the kids, I was giving a "Ho-Ho-Ho!" here and there, belting out a "Merry Christmas!" every now and then. I must say that I gave an Oscar worthy performance playing Santa Claus aye! Anyway, the kids were trying to guess who was playing Santa Claus they kept looking at me. I remember one young kid saying, "Santa is brown!" made me laugh! My son Sean and his classmates gathered around me, I said "Ho-ho-ho, Merry Christmas!" and my son, Sean, says "Hi, Dad!" And the rest is an awesome memory!

As I wind this notation down to the last note, I would like to mention the second ARPA financial assistance checks for band members. The amount is \$1,800.00. Now, if a band member applied for the first ARPA check (\$1,400.00) then the band member will not have to apply for the \$1,800.00, it will be automatically sent out the second week of December. If a band member did not apply for the first check of \$1,400.00, then the band member can apply for the \$1,800.00, and the band member will get the full \$3,200.00.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or thoughts that you want to share with me please feel free to email me at [Sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:Sdrift@boisforte-nsn.gov). You can also call me on my council cell



phone at 218-404-8220. I'm also on Facebook. I must mention that I have my "Shane Drift District I Representative Updates" group page on Facebook. If you cannot find my group page please message me on Facebook or send me an email and I would be glad to add you to my group page.

I am always here for you the Bois Forte Band Members! Please remember to practice social distancing, wear your face mask, wash your hands, and stay safe out there.

Once again, I would like to say, "Thank you!" to all our Veterans! Also, thank you to all the men and women in uniform and those working the front lines! And thank you to our tribal government, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and store employees for your hard work and dedication!

In closing, from our family to your family, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!



SKOL!— Bois Forte's Tracey Dagen shows off her love for the Minnesota Vikings during the Fortune Bay Resort Casino Health Fair. Pictured next to Dagen is Bois Forte's Kristal Strong, who also had an informational booth set up. The traffic was brisk most of the day for this popular event that included a free flu clinic and tons of great information!

If you have a news item or announcement you'd like put in the Bois Forte News, please send it to: [news@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:news@boisforte-nsn.gov)  
**Our deadline for the January 2022 edition is December 15, 2021**

# COVID-19 vaccine available for children

Coronavirus vaccines are now available for children ages 5 and up.

Like the vaccine for older children and adults, this vaccine is comprised of two injections given three weeks apart. The vaccination will hopefully slow the spread of infection among children, and prevent the spread from children to adults as well.

A COVID-19 vaccine can not only reduce a child's likelihood of getting the virus, but it can also prevent them from becoming severely ill or experiencing short-term or long-term complications. Children with other health conditions, like obesity, diabetes and asthma, may be at higher risk for serious symptoms and hospitalization from COVID-19. The vaccine will significantly mitigate the risks for these vulnerable children.

The vaccine will also allow children to have more play dates, spend more time with friends and relatives, and ensure they can participate in school.

Much like the vaccine for adults,

the vaccine can cause headache, chills, and other flu-like symptoms for a short period (one or two days) after the injection. More children have reported these symptoms after the second dose. This is a normal reaction. The immune system is learning how to fight the disease, and children may feel under the weather for a day or two. Some people experience no symptoms at all.

The Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine for children contains the same active ingredients as the one for adults, but in smaller doses.

With holidays coming up, it's important for children to get vaccinated, especially if they will spend lots of time with their families during the holiday season. Vaccinating children will help to protect vulnerable family members, such as elders, who are at greater risk for serious symptoms.

According to the CDC's website, "COVID-19 vaccines are being monitored for safety with the most comprehensive and intense safety monitoring

program in U.S. history. CDC monitors the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines after the vaccines are authorized or approved for use."

The opportunity for children to get vaccinated comes as a welcome relief to many. By Mid-November, Minneso-

ta was reported as having the highest rate of new COVID-19 infections in the nation.

Contact the Vermillion Clinic or Nett Lake Clinic if you have questions or would like to make an appointment.

WANT A CHANCE TO SHARE  
YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT  
CULTURE AND LANGUAGE?

Scan Me



Take ten minutes to  
fill out this survey!

Scan Me



The Bois Forte Language Revitalization Committee is conducting a **survey for Cultural Healing Events and Anishinaabe Language Classes for the Bois Forte tribe**. Your answers will help bring more cultural and language activities to the tribe. Please use the following link to access the survey or scan one of the QR codes above using the camera on your smartphone.

[HTTPS://PORTAL.LASERFICHE.COM/U7744/FORMS/SURVEY/CULTURALLANGUAGESURVEY](https://portal.laserfiche.com/u7744/forms/survey/culturallanguagesurvey)

If you have questions please call Payton Counts at 218-404-3059 or email her at [pcounts@boisforte-nsn.gov](mailto:pcounts@boisforte-nsn.gov).





# Minnesota House of Representatives learns tribal history

In late October, members of the Minnesota House of Representatives gathered at the Fortune Bay Casino Resort to learn about the history of Minnesota's tribes.

"Despite being 'Removed,' we are still here," said Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Secretary/Treasurer of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. "How many Minnesotans speak Dakota? You all do!" She said, explaining that many of the State's place names (including the name 'Minnesota' itself) are Dakota in origin.

Professor Tadd Johnson, who

gives the historical lecture at all these Tribal-State Relations Trainings, explained the events and changes which took place from first contact to modern times that led to the current way Federal and State governments relate to Tribes. Johnson explained eras of warfare, removal, treaties, and assimilation, describing how tribes maintained their sovereignty throughout all of these periods. This is the same training that Johnson and the others involved with Tribal-State Relations Training give to State employees every year. All State employees in agencies



## Positive Covid test?

We want to make sure you are ok.

**If you test positive and reside within reservation boundaries, we'll be in touch.**

**Community Health conducts the COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing. This interview gathers data to inform you of what you need to do, but also to ensure that you are safe in your home and have all necessary items while you are in isolation and quarantine. We are concerned for your health while you must stay at home.**

**If you test positive Terry Defoe or Teri Morrison will be in touch with you to see how you are doing. Please answer their call!**

Teri Morrison (218)750-2227.

Terry Defoe (218)410-9108

which work with tribes must complete this training.

House Speaker Melissa Hortman was credited with bringing the House of Representatives to the training.

"Not only do we have the House of Representatives here today, but we have our tribal leaders, our elders, everyone who needs to be here right now. I am happy that speaker Hortman has set this training up," said Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers, addressing the audience.

Hortman reciprocated this happiness. She has attended trainings in the past, but stated that she appreciated revisiting the information, and considered it important for herself to do.

"I wanted to deepen and strengthen our relationship with MN tribal nations. The key to good relationships is interacting over and over again, and the key to learning is hearing the same material again and again," she said.

There were many speakers and teachers present at this event. Bois Forte Elder Karen Drift spoke about preserving the Ojibwe language. Those who could not be there in-person sent videos. The audience learned

some Dakota language from one of these videos.

Along with some insights into Native cultures, attendants learned about some of the most difficult parts of Native history, including details about residential boarding schools. By understanding how and why laws and protocols came to be, State employees gain a better understanding of how tribes function and how the State interacts with them.

"The more we learn about sovereignty of indigenous people, the better the laws will be in how they effect the same people. We are listening better than we have ever listened before. We know mistakes in law have been made. That has to change," one attendant said.

As Johnson walked the Representatives through these different eras, he explained their lingering importance and effects on modern tribes. "All of these eras carry something in them that you can see on reservations today," he said. Johnson emphasized this with a quote by the author William Faulkner: "The past is not dead," he cited. "It's not even past."

## Mask Mandate returns to Fortune Bay amidst COVID 19 surge

Fortune Bay Resort Casino is once again requiring all visitors to wear masks, regardless of their vaccination status. Staff and guests alike at the Casino and in Bois Forte Development Corporation businesses must wear masks and practice social distancing.

"We need to do this to keep our community and our employees safe," said Fortune Bay General Manager Mayan Beltran during a meeting with the Bois Forte Tribal Council and Government employees. "Until this trend turns around, we need to make decisions like this."

As of November 17, Minnesota's seven-day COVID-19 rate was the worst in the nation. At the time of writing, the seven-day average positivity rate is currently sitting at 10.7%, which is the highest that figure has been since last year. The state is also well above the line of high risk. There are a reported 70.9 daily new cases per 100,000 Minnesota residents. The line of high risk is 10 per 100,000.

The rate of hospitalizations is also the highest it has been since last year.

In total, 9,155 people have died from COVID-19 in Minnesota since the pandemic began.

With the holiday season increasing travel and contact, practicing good hygiene, social distancing, and wearing masks are extremely important.

Fortune Bay and the Bois Forte



Development Corporation businesses are far from the only ones having to reinstate mask mandates this season.

"It's the decision we have to make," said Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers. "I am down at Treasure Island for a conference right now, and they all required to wear masks too."

Bois Forte Development Corporation businesses include The Y Store, WELY Radio, the Nett Lake Convenience Store, KBFT Radio, and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay golf course.

"It's disheartening that we have to make this decision because cases had been going down," said Beltran, "but now that Minnesota is leading the nation with the most cases, it was something that we needed to do and act swiftly upon."

*Now*  
**HIRING**

**For a list of current job opportunities,**

**go to: [www.boisforte.com/jobs](http://www.boisforte.com/jobs)**



I think it's just vapor.  
It won't hurt my kid like  
cigarettes, right?

The vapor that's inhaled from e-cigarettes contains harmful chemicals that can cause irreversible lung damage.

And e-cigarettes have nicotine, a toxin that's addictive and can change your kid's brain. Those are the facts.

Talk to your kid about vaping. Get the facts at

**TalkAboutVaping.org**

**GET YOUR HEAD  
OUT OF THE CLOUD**

# Band member recruitment and retention task force has big goals

A renewed effort by Fortune Bay's HR team and Bois Forte officials to increase band member employment has seen some success stories, but in the eyes of Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers more still needs to be done.

"We're still struggling to find employees and we need to do what we can for our band members to help them find gainful employment," said Chavers. "I know finding employees is difficult all over the Iron Range, so this won't be easy. We just have to do what it takes to fill these jobs."

Chavers said that includes filling openings on the Bois Forte Tribal Government side as well. She would like to see more descendants and band member family members who are not enrolled tapping into these available jobs.

And that is where the Band Mem-

ber Recruitment and Retention Task Force comes in. The name of the Task Force explains what their end result should be, but like Chavers, Bois Forte Tribal District 1 Rep. Shane Drift is also worried about filling jobs in an extremely competitive job market. It's a market where would-be employees have a lot of leverage and employers are scrambling to sweeten the pot to attract those employees.

The Task Force, which meets every two to three weeks, consists of Drift, Barb Brodeen, Wes King and several members of the Fortune Bay HR team, including Beth Adams, Taneesha Dupree, Matt Graves and Lindsay Kinnunen.

"The work that this task force is working on is for the benefit of our band members, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and our tribe," said Drift. "A couple of band member employees

messed me saying that they like what this task force is working on. Once more band member employees hear about this task force is doing, I know it will make a positive impact on them."

Drift said the Task Force is looking at ways to address and resolve the issues that band member employees face. He said one aspect he'd like to see is to have the people that are in the upper management positions train the band member employees that are working within their departments to be able to take over if the manager moves onto another job or retires.

"The various jobs that our Fortune Bay Resort Casino band member employees and employees do benefits the tribe," said Drift. "I mentioned in one of task force meetings that we should put a video together to show new hires how the job that they are hired to do

benefits the tribe."

He added that the money Fortune Bay Resort Casino sends to the tribe each year through its distribution payment benefits many of Bois Forte's programs. Given this fact, Drift is hopeful Bois Forte band members would like to keep that cycle going for future generations.

"I would like to say a special 'Thank you!' to all our Fortune Bay Resort Casino Band Member employees and (non-band member) employees for their hard work and dedication," said Drift.

In regard to challenges the Task Force encounters, Adams said it is hard to affect long-term perceptions and misperceptions that band members may have about Fortune Bay as an employer. She said that one of her department's more recent strategies has involved conducting "stay interviews" with current employees to get their candid feedback concerning what they like and dislike about being employed here.

She said that Matt Graves, the new Personnel Manager, has conducted over 100 stay interviews with employees and is working to compile his findings. She added that he has received a lot of good feedback that will be used to improve our work culture in ways that will positively impact our employees, both band members and non-band members.

"We were pleasantly surprised and grateful for the number of employees who were willing and interested in providing their feedback," said Adams, who is the director of the HR team. "We are hoping that the simple act of listening will be the start of many more good things to come."

And the same can be said of the recently approved \$2 an hour wage

*continued on page 9*



WELCOME! - Members of Fortune Bay's HR Department and newly rehired Safety Manager Jeff Damm greeted attendees with warm smiles and bubbly personalities! Pictured left to right are Nikki Vandervort, Krissi Kotnik, Damm, and Taneesha Dupree.



*continued from page 8*

increase for Fortune Bay's front-line employees.

"To be honest, the recent wage increase was more about retaining our current employees than it was about recruiting new employees," said Adams. "While we are hopeful that we will see greater numbers of applicants for vacant positions, our primary goal was to let our existing employees know that they are appreciated and provide them with a reward for their hard work."

Drift agreed and said the entire council supported the wage increase from the get-go. While it would have been nice to give raises across the board, the financial strain was just too much. Even so, Drift said he is optimistic the first phase of pay increase will pay off. Not only for current employees, but those who he and others on the Task Force hopes will join the Fortune Bay team.

"I do believe that band members will want to work at our resort and casino because of the wage increase," said Drift. "Plus, I think that the employees that are already working there will stay because of the wage increase."

That is a goal of Adams as well.

"The past year and a half has been very challenging for our frontline workers and they deserve to be acknowledged financially," said Adams. "We are grateful to the Bois Forte Tribal Council for supporting the wage increases."

Now it will just be a matter of time if the work the Task Force is doing, coupled with the recent wage increase, will pay dividends going forward.

"It's difficult to measure, though we do report out monthly on the number of band members who apply and get hired," said Adams, whose most recent report indicated roughly 23% of Fortune Bay's employment are Bois Forte band members. "Our overall percentage of band members represented in our workforce has remained fairly consistent from month to month but the process of increasing that number significantly is one that takes some time."

# How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

## Understanding the virus that causes Covid-19

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called spike proteins. These spike proteins are ideal targets for vaccine

### What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

The vaccine DOES NOT contain ANY virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

When your body responds to the vaccine, it can sometimes cause a mild fever, headache, or chills. This is completely normal and a sign that the vaccine is working.

### What is mRNA?

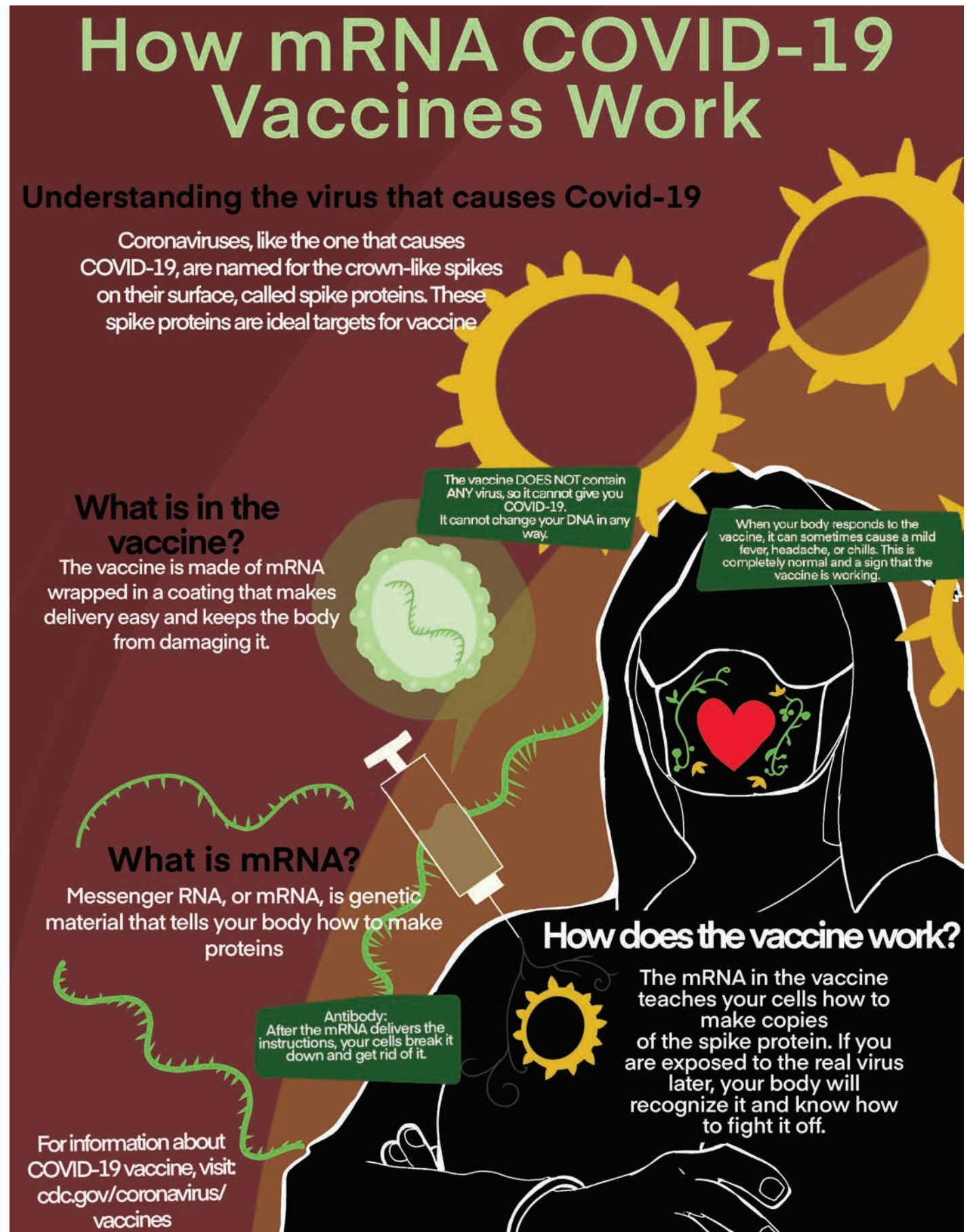
Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins

Antibody: After the mRNA delivers the instructions, your cells break it down and get rid of it.

### How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the spike protein. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)



## MnDOT installs signage acknowledging 1854 Tribal Treaty boundaries

DULUTH, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation has installed the first of 12 signs to permanently mark the boundaries of the 1854 Treaty between the United States and three Anishinaabe Tribal Nations. The sign is located on southbound Highway 61, just south of the Canadian border and entrance to Grant Portage State Park.

MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher joined Tribal leaders from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Nov. 1 to celebrate the sign's placement and honor the Tribal sovereignty and rights of the Anishinaabe Tribal Nations in this ceded territory.

Chairman Robert Deschampe of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa stated regarding the signage installation, "It is something that was long overdue. When people enter the 1854 Treaty area they will know where they are and, hopefully, educate themselves about treaties."

The additional 11 signs will be placed on the following state highways that also cross the 1854 Treaty boundary:

- Highway 53 (near Cook)
- Highway 169 (near Chisholm)
- Highway 37 (near Hibbing airport)
- Highway 2 (near Floodwood)
- Highway 210 (near Tamarack)
- Highway 27 (west of Moose Lake)
- Highway 65 (west of Sturgeon Lake)
- Highway 65 (west of Sturgeon Lake)
- I-35 (near Sturgeon Lake)
- Highway 23 (near Duquette)
- Highway 53 (entering Duluth from Superior)

MnDOT worked with the Advocacy Council for Tribal Transportation – which is made up of 11 Tribal officials representing Tribal Nations in Minnesota – to acknowledge land ceded by Tribal Governments by treaties.



Tribal leaders from Grand Portage, Bois Forte & Fond du Lac celebrated the first of 12 signs on state highways to permanently mark the 1854 Treaty Boundary - on Hwy 61 just south of the Canadian border. A historic day in recognition of tribal sovereignty!

# Merry Christmas

## & HAPPY NEW YEAR

**BOIS FORTE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT  
HOLIDAY HOURS:**

Christmas  
 Thursday, Dec. 23 Closed at 12 noon  
 Friday, Dec. 24 Closed all day  
 Monday, Dec. 27 Closed all day

New Year's  
 Friday, Dec. 31 Closed all day

*continued from page 1*  
Lake, include the following timeline:

**Route 1:**

5 a.m.-Pickups in Nett Lake  
5:45 a.m.-Pickups in Orr  
6:10 a.m.-Pickups in Cook  
6:45 a.m.-Arrive at Fortune Bay  
7:10 a.m.- Bus heads back to Nett Lake

**Route 2:**

1:00 p.m.-Pickups in Nett Lake  
1:45 p.m.-Pickups in Orr  
2:10 p.m.-Pickups in Cook  
2:45 p.m.-Arrive at Fortune Bay  
3:10 p.m.- Bus heads back to Nett Lake

**Route 3:**

9:00 p.m.-Pickups in Nett Lake  
9:45 p.m.-Pickups in Orr

10:10 p.m.-Pickups in Cook  
10:45 p.m.-Arrive at Fortune Bay  
11:10 p.m.- Bus heads back to Nett Lake

As you can tell, Big Woods has several routes that employees can plan their work schedule around. The selling point of trying out Big Woods Transit, aside from saving wear and tear on your vehicle, is that all rides will continue to be free of charge, albeit it is due to COVID-19.

“It’s important to note that Big Woods did receive CARES ACT funding to help make free rides available,” said Rowland. “All riders must properly wear a mask and social distance while on the bus.”

A bigger advantage of the CARES ACT funding is that Rowland has been able to increase wages for staff.

“We were able to raise all of the salaries by \$3 an hour,” said Rowland. “They also receive 25% hazard pay, so now we are finally near the \$20 an hour

mark and that has really made us more competitive.”

For more information on employment opportunities or scheduling, please call 1-877-757-1540 or visit bigwoodstransit.com

**BIG WOODS TRANSIT**

**COMMUTER 2 ROUTE** ELY TO VERMILION  
MONDAY -- FRIDAY

**AM COMMUTER 2**

DEPARTS @ 7:00 AM – Ely Recycling Center Parking Lot

**START DATE NOV 1**

**PM COMMUTER 2**

DEPARTS VERMILION @ 4:30PM

RETURNING ALONG

THE SAME ROUTE

PLEASE CALL 1-888-757-1540

**NO MASK NO RIDE**

TSA (Transportation Security Administration) has extended the public transportation mask mandate through January 18, 2022

**SOCIAL DISTANCE WHILE ON THE BUS**

**No Charge DUE TO COVID**

IT'S SEW EASY!

# Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Workshop

Come learn how to sew a shirt or skirt at one of our workshops!

Vermilion workshop - Saturday, December 11th 11am - 2 pm  
Vermilion Boys and Girls Club

Nett Lake workshop - Saturday, December 18th 11am - 2pm  
Bois Forte Government Building

12 spots available at each workshop. Registration is required by December 3rd, please call Payton at 218-404-3059 or fill out on link:

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/u7744/forms/survey/RibbonWorkshop>



Scan Code with your camera to access registration

Sponsored by  
Traditional Healing Grant  
& MDH Tribal Tobacco Grant

# 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  
Jan. 2022 issue is  
Dec. 15, 2021.**

From the archives... A look back at the December 1996 edition of the *Bois Forte News*



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### Bois Forte Tribal Council

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