



BOIS FORTE

NEWS



NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - APRIL 2006

VOL. 20 NO. 9

BOIS FORTE ELECTION

Candidates Certified for 2006 Election

The Bois Forte RTC met at Fortune Bay on February 22 to certify candidates for the 2006 election.

Incumbent David Morrison, Sr., Carol Burr, J. Kay Davis and Shane Drift were all unanimously approved to run for Secretary Treasurer.

In District I, the candidates who were certified are incumbent Mark Drift, Troy King, Lorna Landgren and Gordy Adams Jr. One candidate dropped out. Dawn Benner, who had originally filed for office announced that she was withdrawing her name as a candidate prior to the certification vote.

The candidates certified to run for the seat in District II are incumbent Kevin Strong, along with Jim Deegan, Christy Runningbear, Daniel James Morrison, and Ray Toutloff.

The certification process was watched more closely this year because of the recent change in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution. Last November voters amend-

ed the MCT Constitution to impose restrictions on individuals running for Tribal Office if they had prior felony or certain other convictions. Two of the candidates had a prior court record that the RTC needed to thoroughly review before deciding if they could be certified to run in the Bois Forte primary and general election.

Band Attorney Mark Anderson explained to the Council the exact details of the change. Anderson said, "The Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, as amended, and Election Ordinance #10 provide that no person otherwise qualified as a candidate for tribal office (by reason of age, membership and residency) is eligible if he or she has ever been convicted of a felony of any kind, or if he or she has ever been convicted of a certain kind of lesser offense. The category of lesser offenses that disqualify a candidate are "theft, embezzlement, or misappropriation of money,

funds, assets, or property belonging to an Indian tribe or tribal organization."

In the end the RTC voted

other than a felony. To be disqualified there must be (1) clear and convincing evidence that the candidate had been convicted of a potentially disqualifying offense; and (2) the offense had to result in the loss of tribal money, funds, assets or property."

Anderson went on to say, "Applying that standard to the candidate, it was found that there was clear and convincing documentary evidence that one candidate had been convicted of a potentially disqualifying offense, i.e. attempted theft. However, that crime did not lead to the loss of tribal money, funds, assets or other property. Because only the first part of the test was satisfied, there was no basis for denying certification."

With respect to candidate Kevin Strong, the RTC had only uncertified documents that were not retrieved from Court records but from a secondary source. In addition, Strong asserted that the nearly 19 year old records were to have been sealed as part of a

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2006 ELECTION CERTIFIED CANDIDATES

Secretary-Treasurer

David Morrison Sr. (incumbent)
Carol Burr
J. Kay Davis
Shane Drift

District I Representative

Mark Drift Sr. (incumbent)
Lorna Landgren
Troy King
Gordy Adams Jr.

District II Representative

Kevin Strong (incumbent)
James Deegan
Christy Running Bear
Raymond Toutloff
Daniel Morrison

to approve certification for Mark Drift and Kevin Strong, who were the two candidates in question. All of the other candidates, except Benner, were also certified.

On the vote to certify Mark Drift, Anderson explained, "By a majority vote, the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council determined that it would apply a two-part test in order to disqualify a person as a candidate by reason of an offense

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Elections

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plea agreement that all parties agreed to as part of his plans to enter military service.

Anderson explained, "Because of the uncertainties about the records, the RTC found that it lacked clear and convincing evidence of a potentially disqualifying offense and that the candidate should be certified."

Tribal Chairman Kevin Leecy said, "I'm proud of the fact that the RTC members don't always agree unanimously on issues, it's a true representation of the people -

it's democracy and it's working. The charge one candidate was convicted of doesn't violate Election Ordinance #10. In the second case, there simply wasn't enough documented proof from the court to do anything but to certify." He went on to say, "This is only the certification process, voters will make the final decision."

Ray Villebrun, the other member of the RTC who is not a current candidate for office said, "Two things influenced my voting to certify both men.

2006 ELECTION QUICKVIEW

- **April 4: Primary**
- **April 21:** Decision on Contest
- **April 24:** Deadline for Appeal to Tribal Court of Election Appeals
- **May 1:** Last Day for Hearing on Appeal
- **May 10:** Last Day for Decision on Appeal
- **May 12:** Notice of Regular Election & TEC provides ballots
- **June 13: General Election**
- **July 18:** Winning candidates assume office by operation of law, unless sooner seated, or the election is subject of appeal on the Tribal Court of Election Appeals.

One, the evidence wasn't conclusive that they

shouldn't be allowed to run. And two, our tradition is one of people working together. To me this means giving individuals the benefit of the doubt. I think both individuals deserve a chance to run their campaigns and let the voters decide."

Chairman Leecy added, "Political campaigns and elections can be pretty divisive in any community. We've got to stay focused on moving forward. I expect all of the candidates to run

good, clean campaigns and the voters will select the ones they think will do the best job of continuing the progress we are making."

The RTC also selected Leif Rasmussen and Cindy Miller to serve as election judges. Rasmussen is an attorney and has served as an election contest judge before with the Lower Sioux. Miller, also an attorney, is a member of the Lower Sioux who practices in the Twin Cities.

District I Representative Ray Villebrun Sr, Receives Glenn Miller Award from The Great Lakes Region of Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

At the February 16th RTC meeting Ed Fairbanks, founder of the Great Lakes Region of Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and Tribal Liaison for the Minnesota Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Corey Strong Commissioner of Bois Forte's Department of Natural Resources presented District I Representative Ray Villebrun Sr. with the Glenn Miller Award



Ed Fairbanks, Ray Villebrun Sr., Corey Strong

The Glenn Miller Award is presented to a Tribal Leader who has contributed and continuingly been active in the Great Lakes Region of Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. The Great Lakes Region

of Native American Fish and Wildlife Society encompasses 34 tribes from Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and

Michigan. Members from the 34 tribes nominated Ray Villibrun for the award, and the Great Lakes Region of Native

American Fish and Wildlife Society Committee voted on the winner. Congratulations Ray!

NOTICE

With spring fast approaching, the time of water shut offs will be here before you realize it.

To all those with a water bill over the amount of \$100.00 now is the time to decrease that amount.

If you are currently working for the Bois Forte RTC or Fortune Bay Enterprises you still have time to take payroll deductions.

Sincerely,
Bois Forte Water & Sanitation

Contact:
RTC - Accounting 757-3261
for payroll deduction.

Bois Forte Water & Sanitation
757-0193 for other questions
and information.

BOIS FORTE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

▶ Powerain Systems, Inc.

Editor's note: This month, we begin a new series that will profile Bois Forte Band businesses. We look forward to keeping Band members up-to-date on how the Band is diversifying its investments, building the economy, creating jobs, and generating revenue.

Jack DeMarre isn't easily amazed by business success, but he's amazed by Powerain.

DeMarre, a 30-year veteran of the water and wastewater treatment industries, is the Director of Sales and Marketing for Powerain Systems, Inc., the car wash equipment company that the Bois Forte Band purchased last September.

"I have never been involved in a business that has seen such a remarkable upsurge in sales leads as Powerain has seen since being purchased by the Band," said DeMarre. "We increased sales orders for the fourth quarter of 2005 by 25% over the same period in 2004, and we are very close to completing our first sale to a tribal entity, which is a new marketing focus for us. I think we could sell five to ten systems to tribes this year."

Powerain designs, manufactures, markets and services touch-free car wash equipment at its facility in Tower. Jim Tolan, Chief Financial

Officer for Bois Forte Development, said the purchase of the company was made only after the Band carefully examined the business and its potential to create jobs and revenue.

"Powerain was a great business acquisition for Bois Forte because it has excellent management and they've made significant investment in research and development so their product has been well received by customers."

"We made this investment for the future," he added, "but the future has come quickly – the investment is already beginning to pay off."

Why? Tolan explained: "Usually when you purchase a business the size of Powerain, you need to pay a substantial amount of money to the investors for the cash and sweat equity they put into building the business. But with our purchase of Powerain, all of the money Bois Forte put in went to building the company and not to buy out investors."

Unique opportunities to sell to other tribes

That meant the Band was able to concentrate on creating a new sales arm for Powerain that focuses on tribal markets, a decision DeMarre said is yielding tremendous results.

"In the first two weeks of this effort, we started by simply calling tribal entities, concentrating on those in the Midwest. This generated significant contact with 16 tribes that had a collective need or interest in 25 car wash systems."

Then in February, Powerain hosted a booth at the Res2006 American Indian Business Trade Fair in Las Vegas. That generated several more leads with potential tribal customers in a broader geographic area, especially the southwest and northwest. Also in February, DeMarre met with six Wisconsin tribes, which led to eight requests for specific proposals about purchasing Powerain products.

"In my 30 years connected with this business, I have never seen such an amazing response," said DeMarre. "We are generating interest in our product through phone calls, trade shows, and face-to-face meetings and presentations. The tribes are interested in our product as a way to increase their cash flow and as an amenity for their other businesses, and they are very interested in purchasing goods and services from another tribe."

Tolan concurs. "We expect sales to continue to increase, because we have an inside track in marketing and distribution to tribes."

DeMarre and Tolan anticipate that sales will take between 6 and 18



Jack DeMarre and the Powerain booth at the 2006 State of the Band.

months to complete. "With non-tribal customers, that will likely be because investors will need to acquire the property for a carwash site," Tolan explained. "Tribes usually already own the needed property, but they will have to work through the processes and procedures each tribal government has in place before resources can be spent."

More jobs, and more expected in the future

"Bois Forte bought Powerain as a solid investment for the future not only because the company will generate revenue for the Band, but because it will also create jobs," Tolan said. And those jobs have already begun to materialize.

In the past six months, Powerain has hired two more native employees besides White Earth Band member, DeMarre: Bois Forte's Gordy Adams Jr. is working with DeMarre on marketing and sales to tribes, and Leech Lake Band mem-

ber Chad Roy is working at the plant in Tower assembling new orders and testing the equipment before it is shipped out.

Roy said he loves his new job. "This is by far the best job I've had since I worked at the air force base in Minot, North Dakota. And the benefits at Powerain are terrific: I have health care and a 401k retirement plan. Plus I really enjoy the people here; they welcomed me in a big way. I'm a people person, and I like the work and atmosphere here in Tower."

As the company grows, more job openings will be posted on the reservation, DeMarre said. "We are going to need people interested in careers in car wash systems, and also people who want to develop expertise in the areas of waste water treatment and water reclamation. There will be wonderful opportunities."

TRIBES BECOMING SCAPEGOATS IN ABRAMOFF AFFAIR

Chairman Leecy Responds to Abramoff

EDITORS NOTE:

In 2005, Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff became the focus of a Congressional investigation stemming from his lobbying work on behalf of several clients, including a handful of Indian tribes in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Abramoff charged the tribes millions of dollars in fees, then illegally funneled much of that money to organizations and individuals close to various members of Congress, including former Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Evidence presented during Congressional hearings revealed that Abramoff had referred to his tribal clients in e-mails as "monkeys" and "troglydites."

Numerous members of Congress appear to have received illegal gifts from Abramoff, some funded by his tribal client fees. Predictably, when these campaign abuses became public, media and some members of Congress launched a "spin" campaign to blame the tribes--the victims of Abramoff's crimes--instead of the criminal.

When national publications began promoting this "blame the tribes" spin, officials and tribal leaders of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association felt compelled to respond.

Below is a letter

Chairman Kevin Leecy wrote that appeared in the Bemidji Pioneer Newspaper on March 2

RESPONSE TO BEMIDJI PIONEER EDITORIAL

Dear Editor:

Your recent commentary on tribal political contributions (February 9, "Make tribal contributions accountable") contained several factual errors which, unfortunately, have been widely repeated in most major national media.

First, your comment that Indian governments are "corporations in their own right" is incorrect. There is not a single area of federal law in which tribal governments are categorized as corporations. When it comes to political contributions, tribes are not considered as corporations but are treated as other unincorporated entities such as cooperatives, limited liability companies such as law firms, partnerships, state and local governments. The Federal Elections Commission (FEC) issued an advisory to national media on February 2 in which it clarified this status and noted that tribes are held to the same political giving rules as these other entities. The famous "tribal loophole" simply doesn't exist.

Second, you note the

need for transparency. Where exactly is the transparency problem? The media have reported every dollar contributed by tribes to political candidates and causes because those donations already have been fully disclosed. Under the existing FEC rules, all political contributions, including those from tribes, must be disclosed by the candidates, parties and political committees that receive them. Disclosure has always been the burden of the recipient, not the donor. If the rules are changed to make the tribes responsible for disclosure, then those same rules should apply to all other political donors as well.

There are always a few people, both on and off the reservation, who complain that they don't know how government is

spending their money. This is not unique to Indian tribes. In most cases, these people lack information because they do not attend government meetings, read reports or take advantage of the sources of information that are provided. Today virtually every political contribution made by any entity, including Indian tribes, is available for review on at least a half-dozen campaign finance tracking web sites. There is no excuse for anyone claiming that they are "kept in the dark" about these contributions.

One final word about the Jack Abramoff scandal, which has been the impetus for dozens of editorials similar to yours over the past few weeks. No Indian tribe or tribal leader has been charged with any violation of the law or wrongdoing. The

worst that can be said of the tribes that hired Jack Abramoff is that they were naive to believe that such huge political contributions were necessary in order for their voices to be heard. It is Abramoff and his cronies in and out of Congress that committed the crimes. So why are Indian tribes about to be punished? Back before our society became more enlightened, rape victims were often put on trial and blamed for the actions of their attackers. Let's stop blaming the victim, and put the focus back where it belongs—on the handful of people that abused the system and so egregiously violated the trust of their tribal clients.

Kevin Leecy
Chair, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

BOIS FORTE - BLOOD QUANTUM

Ancestry from More Chippewa Bands in the Region Should Be Recognized

Editors Note: The following press release appeared in several local newspapers.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Chairman Kevin Leecy has announced a major initiative to change how tribal enrollment is determined for some Minnesota Indians.

The Bois Forte Band is one of six Indian bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), a federally

recognized tribal government that provides services and unified leadership for its members. Besides Bois Forte, the MCT includes the Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth bands.

For persons born after July 3, 1961, the MCT requires an applicant for enrollment to demonstrate that he or she has at least one quarter degree "Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood" derived from one or

more of the six MCT bands.

However, the heritage of Chippewa people in Minnesota (also known as the Ojibwe) includes other bands that are not members of the MCT, including the Red Lake Band in northern Minnesota, and other Chippewa Bands in Wisconsin, Michigan, the Canadian First Nation Ojibwe, and North Dakota and Montana.

"The current system of determining blood quantum is deliberately narrow, because it was

continued on page 5.

NETT LAKE SCHOOL TESTIFIES AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Encourages Support for the School Expansion Project

On Thursday March 2nd, two sixth graders Darian Morrison and Marissa Mason accompanied their Superintendent Theresa Strong, to the State

Capitol to testify before the Minnesota House of Representatives Education Finance Committee.

Representative Barb Sykora, Chairwoman of the Minnesota Education Finance Committee visited Nett Lake on January 23, 2006 to see first hand the education accomplishments and needs of the Nett Lake School.

As a brief update, the Nett Lake School is seeking approval of a \$11 million bonding initiative to fund a major renovation and upgrade of the school. This initiative will expand classrooms, create space for community education, increase security and a lot more.

The process is still on going and the Bois Forte News will keep you updated as the Legislative session continues.



Marissa Mason-6th Grade Student, Representative Barb Sykora, Darian Morrison -President NLS Student Council and NLS Superintendent Theresa Strong.



Darian Morrison & Marissa Mason testified with local Representative David Dill.

HUMAN SERVICES

Victim Services Supervisor - Shane Drift

Bho-zhoo! Bois Forters, My name is Shane Drift and I am the Victim Services Supervisor (I work with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault) with the Bois Forte Human Services. I was asked to write this article a while ago but my job keeps me busy so I hope you can forgive me on this. I started on July 26, 2005 and I really enjoy working with people and helping them as best as I can. Before I get into what my job entails I would like to

talk a little bit about myself so that you may get to know me a personal level.

I am happily married to my loving and wonderful wife Theresa. We just celebrated our 3rd anniversary on March 1st. We have a beautiful 2 year-old daughter, JessieAnne. We also have a baby boy due in April. I have lived here on the Reservation my whole life. I was raised by my grandmother, the late Margaret "Jessie" Drift.

I dropped out of High School for 3 years but went back and graduated from Orr high school. I have been alcohol and drug free for 12 years. I graduated with honors from Mesabi Range Community & Technical College with a Liberal Arts Degree with an emphasis is Business Administration, Business Management, and Economics.

My job experience includes working with the Americorps program, which I successfully completed. My work site was

continued on page 11.

Blood Quantum

continued from page 4.

forced on tribes by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the early 1960s when the federal government was trying to reduce the services it provides to Indian people and even eliminate tribes from existence," Leecy said.

The Bois Forte Band wants the MCT enrollment criteria expanded to recognize ancestry from additional Chippewa bands in the region, so it plans to introduce a resolution to the MCT's Executive Committee calling for an amendment to section II of the tribe's

constitution, which deals with membership requirements, including the blood degree requirement.

"The practice of refusing to recognize the blood of these other Chippewa bands when determining quantum needs to be addressed. We simply must have more accuracy in determining membership," Leecy said in his annual State of the Band address in January. "Bois Forte will work with others Bands to correct this situation and strengthen the unity within the great Ojibwe nation.

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Christy Running Bear - District II Representative

Boo-zhoo Tribal members of Bois Forte!

My name is Christy Running Bear. I live on the Lake Vermilion Reservation. My parents are the late Daniel and Carol Isham.

Over the last few years my neighbors have expressed their concerns regarding which direction the current leadership is taking our community. There are many issues here in Vermilion that run very deep. Employment is a big issue. No more family dynasties. Time and time again we see the same families handed all of the tribal jobs. I have no family here in Vermilion to create a dynasty with. How are we to truly better ourselves when our own Tribe will not hire us? Everyone deserves an equal chance. We need to hire people who live on the

reservation, to keep our economy strong. Not everybody wants to work at the casino. With all this construction going on why is the unemployment rate so high on Vermilion.

Housing is a big issue also. My plan is to bring a Housing Division here in Vermilion. People from Vermilion should be deciding who lives on Vermilion, which will end all preferential treatment regarding all of housing decision on Vermilion.

I will do all I can to find the funding to construct a new Elderly housing unit that will actually house our Elders. We need to treat our Elders with the respect they deserve. Resources also need to be found to possibly build an apartment complex for our younger



*Christy Running Bear
For
District II Representative*

band members. I will also advocate for change in the land lease policies. We need to stop all non-band member recreational leases. We need change, so more Band members can enjoy the land.

We all want fairness and equality. We have been treated like second-class citizens long enough. One voice may not be much, but if we all stand together we will be heard. Of course our problems

here in Vermilion will take more than 500 words. These topics are just the tip of the iceberg. With all these ideas and concerns, I plan on involving the community on a 100% basis. If we are to truly be a community then we need to decide the future of Vermilion on a community basis.

I am a very outspoken person. I will give results not excuses. I will bring honest government back to the

people it's time for Vermilion to shine.

I am always home if anyone would like to stop by and talk, my home address is 1576 Farm Road, Tower MN, 55790, or you can give me a call at (218) 290-8054.

Lastly, I do not make promises. Only crooked politicians make promises. I am not a politician, but merely a frustrated band member tired of watching my own people be neglected time and time again. I truly plan on bringing the District II Committeeman position back to the people.

Lets all stand together and get what we deserve. Please vote for me on Tuesday April 4th, 2006.

Chi Migwetch!
Christy Running Bear

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Lorna L. Landgren - District I Representative

My name is Lorna L. Landgren. I am single mother with two sons. I am the daughter of Ernest C. Landgren Sr. and Adeline (Sheehy) Wooster. I am 37 years old and lived most of my life on the Bois Forte Reservation. My grandfather is Gerald Sheehy, who was on the tribal council and was an aggressive leader during his time. He was a role model who inspired a few of our most successful tribal leaders of Bois Forte and taught them a lot about tribal politics. I have earned to date, 59 credits from the Mesabi Community College in Virginia and the Fond Du Lac Tribal & Community College. I have worked in various positions on the Bois Forte Reservation to include Conservation Officer, Clerk of Court, Truck Driver, Blackjack dealer and Surveillance Operator at the

Fortune Bay Casino.

My main reason for seeking a position on the Tribal Council is very simple. Receiving political backlash and ridicule for voicing opinions and questioning the activities of the Tribal Council is intolerable. It is my belief that the elected body has a duty to know and act on behalf of the people, and the people have a right and duty to participate in the government. My overriding goal to put into place policies that protect the rights of the people; laws and procedures to ensure that our government is accountable to the people now and in the future.

Other goals include but are not limited to:

- New Police

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

*Lorna L. Landgren
for
District I Representative*

Department/jail & Courthouse.

- Career/ college counselor for high school students.
- Year-round day care.
- Removal of the employee-at-will policy.
- Change/ revise Data Privacy Ordinance to enable a truly open government.
- Absentee ballot requests provided to members by Council.
- Part time positions.
- Better use of Bois Forte News and website.
- ...continuation of meeting elderly needs and concerns.

- ...continuation of language and cultural value revitalization

Other topics I would like to discuss and solicit Band member input include but are not limited to:

- Health Care costs- Ways to lighten the burden?
- 1866 Treaty Rights.
- Expanding services of Clinic to generate revenue- Eye doctor, orthopedic surgeon, etc?
- Government and corporate structure- Advisory Council to the RTC? Board of Directors?
- Social Service outreach worker that provides various program information and assistance to on and off reservation Band members?
- Education- Scholarship amount granted according to level of education? Stipends for completion of level of education?

I have heard a call for a return to a leadership that will be "role models" for our children. This means to me leaders that are among other things, honest, fair and unselfish. If you are looking for Council members that are not seeking office for the money, prestige or power, I am the candidate to choose for District I Representative.

My contact information is as follows:

Lorna L. Landgren 1290 Palmquist Road, Nett Lake MN 55772 Phone: (218)-757-3385 Email: lornal@cpinternet.com Website: lornalandgren.tripod.com

ELECTION CANDIDATE

Kevin Strong - District II Representative

STRONG UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH OF SERVICE, FACILITIES, COMMUNICATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP!

Boozhoo!

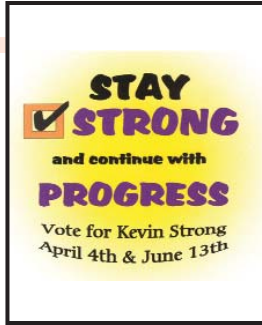
It has been an honor to represent the people of Vermilion. Wow! I can't believe this term is nearly complete. As I take a look at some of the accomplishments that have taken place during this time I must say, this is more than I could have ever imagined for our community!

One of my main focuses was providing a safe place for our youth. We struggled through the beginning stages of a youth program but thanks to hard work, dedication, and perseverance we now have a fully operational unit of the Boys & Girls Club of America

right here on our own reservation!

The need for a place where our band member could increase their physical health has been in existence for a very long time. The grand opening of the Vermilion Wellness Center is lined up to occur within the next couple months. This center comes equipped with a full-court gymnasium, fitness center, locker room with showers, and sauna. Our children can be proud to call this facility the new home of their Boys & Girls Club!

The low rate of band member occupancy of lease lots has always been a concern of mine. A fair "phasing out" of non-band member leases has increased the percentage of band member occupancy. This number is



*Kevin Strong
for
District II Representative*

not at its full potential. Solutions to this problem are still in the works; I would appreciate the opportunity to return these lakeshore lots to the people of the reservation!

I would also like to comment on the battles with the state to defeat the bill introducing tribal/state casinos. This process can be overwhelming for some, but I will stand strong and not

sell out to anyone encouraging me to endorse this nonsense.

In the next four years I will not be sitting back in my office worrying about day-to-day operations. We have policies and procedures in place for this. My attention and energy will be focused on working side-by-side with our Tribal Council as well as other tribal, local, state, and national leaders to obtain affordable housing, home loan programs for our working families, and securing funding for side walks and waling paths for our band members that talk the roads of Vermilion.

The opportunity for a better Vermilion is so much greater if we, District II voters, work together with a level-headed approach while keeping the lines of communication open.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I wish good luck to all of the other

candidates that are running for the three open seats on the Council.

Remember, District II, this is not just my campaign; this is a campaign for the progress of our memberships and the Bois Forte Nation.

There is so much more progress to talk about and I would like to do that. Call me at 218.753.5332 (home) or 218.248.0042 (cell) or e-mail me at kevinstrong2006@yahoo.com so we can make those arrangements.

Migwetch!
Kevin Strong

ELECTION CANDIDATE

Shane Drift- Secretary-Treasurer

Boozhoo Bois Forte Band Members!

My name is Shane Drift and I am running for Secretary-Treasurer in the upcoming primary election, April 4, 2006. I am asking for your support and vote but as time goes on I hope to also earn your confidence. I would like to stress that my door is always open to you to share your ideas, thoughts and concerns. It is good to reflect on the accomplishments of the past but not at the expense of the future...our future. Your vote will shape our future.

First off I would like to address the enforcement of the personnel policy in our Tribal Government. I sometimes sit back and shake my head in disbelief at what happens. It seems that too

often a select few are exempt from the personnel policy, especially when those employees violate the policy and it appears they do not have to face the consequences. It is not right and is unfair. Should you elect me, it will stop.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate what I have already told some Vermilion band members, I will be over at the Vermilion sector at least once week or as needed to be more accessible.

At our town meeting at Fortune Bay: I stressed the fact that we need to set aside money from Fortune Bay for future expansion projects. This way we do not have to pay back loans with high interest rates, or worry about possible strings attached to monies given to



*Shane Drift
for
Secretary-Treasurer*

us. On a similar note, with the State of Minnesota wanting a casino, I am a strong advocate for Indian Gaming and protecting our resources.

I also stressed at the town meeting that there should be an account set up for casino revenue to be used for a second per capita payment. I am still in favor of this. I will keep you informed on this by providing financial reports on this account.

When the Americorps Program ended it left a huge gap in services for our Elders: lawns mowed, water hauled, wood split and stacked, windows weatherized, porches, roofs and walk ways shoveled, and someone just to talk with. I am in favor of setting up a similar program. This would create jobs for our youth and fulfill services greatly needed by our elders. I am committed to helping all band members.

We need to assess where we are strong and where we are not to ensure a better future for all band members. Ask yourself: what do you want in a Secretary-Treasurer? What do you want in our Tribal Council? What do you want our future to hold? With your support and vote on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, working together, we will start to build a better and brighter future for all band members. I would also like to personally thank you for your support and voting for me. Remember to vote Shane Drift, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mii-gwetch,

Shane Drift,
Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer
Home Phone:
218-757-0105
* Email: shaned@2z.net

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Troy King - District I Representative

VOTE FOR TROY KING
DISTRICT I REPRESENTATIVE

WHO IS TROY KING?
Troy is the Son of Annabelle (King) WhiteCrow. Grandson of Melvin (RIP) and Jennie King. Graduated from Orr in 1987. He joined the Air Force in 1988, where he was honorably discharged in 1992, after serving in Operation Desert Storm.

Troy married Ellen Morrison shortly after returning home and they have 4 beautiful children, aged 11 years to 10 months.

Troy continues to show his pride in his Military service as a proud member of the Bois Forte Honor Guard.

Troy currently works as a Security shift supervisor at

Fortune Bay Resort and Casino.

WHY VOTE FOR ME?
I want to serve our community. I won't make promises that I cannot keep, what I can promise is that I will bring my strength of character; my work ethic; and my moral code to work for Bois Forte. I am a team player, and my goal will be to keep the Band moving forward while maintaining integrity. Some of the issues I feel are important include:

Elderly – They paid a price for us to be here now, we must honor and respect that and care for them.

Natural Resources – Ensure programs stay in place for the preservation of our resources. What would our



*Troy King
for
District I Representative*

life be like without the lake? Education - The children are our future. We must pursue all avenues of education for our members, whether it be on-line or on campus.

Housing – Increase lease lots, update water and sanitation facilities to allow more housing units, self-sustaining home loan program. We should be able to provide home loans to our Band members; we should

not have to ask the Tribe or the State government.

Health/Human Services – Bring Services to more members or members to the Services.
Business And Job Opportunities – We should be bringing business to Bois Forte, therefore creating more jobs. I support a small business loan/grant program so members can employ members, while giving them the opportunity to own their own business. Win Win.

Gaming – Maintain good communication with the governments to protect our right to have gaming.

Fortune Bay Resort and Casino – Continued excellent decisions such as the addition of the Golf Course, to ensure our economic growth. We want it to be the ultimate vacation destination vs. just a casino.

Vote for Troy!

Remember to exercise your right to Vote. When you are making this important decision; please investigate the candidates and vote for who you think will be the best Representative for our Band.

Vote for Troy!

You can contact Troy at troyfordistrict1@hotmail.com or you can call 218-757-3669.

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Gordon Adams Jr. - District I Representative

Boo-zhoo members of the Bois Forte Band, most of you know who I am, and what was accomplished during my tenure as the District I Representative. Leadership, knowledge, and experience are what sets standards that are difficult for others to achieve. The Bois Forte Band has a history of leadership that sets us apart from other Reservations. I am proud to be part of that leadership that has set new standards for other Tribes to see what can be accomplished through teamwork and dedication to the tasks at hand.

The road to self-sufficiency has many obstacles and barriers to overcome, those being economics, education, jobs, equality, dependence, and legislation, to name just a few. With your support we can overcome most

of these difficult barriers by diversification of our economy, providing jobs and better education opportunities for our young. The Tribal Council must remain strong by treating everyone equal both on and off the Reservation.

Our voices must be heard throughout the halls of Congress, as well as the State Legislature. I have been told by many well respected Senators and Congressmen, that they should fear our presence when we are in D.C. and that is not happening! Our presence at our State, and Nations capitols need experienced leadership and knowledge of the issues that are effecting us not only today but in the future as well. We should not become dependent on other organizations to do this for



*Gordon Adams Jr.
for
District I Representative*

us, because we are a unique Tribe with different needs, with other issues that are priority.

Experienced leadership cannot be replicated, and can only be reinforced! My past performance as the District I Representative stands above and beyond the call. This has been proven by our Mid-west regional Tribes confidence in my leadership abilities by electing me to

the National Congress of American Indians as the Mid-west Regional Vice President. My past performance as a staunch defender of Indian Gaming propelled me into the office of Vice-Chairman for the National Indian Gaming Association. This gave me the opportunity to voice our concerns over legislation that was trying to curtail our sovereign rights to Indian Gaming. NIGA gave me the opportunity to speak at many functions, and organizations that did not fully understand our inherit sovereign rights to gaming and to dispel many of the myths that were perpetuated by anti-Indian gaming organizations. I was, and am still proud of all those speeches, and testimony.

As Chairman of the Nett Lake School Board, we have come a long way in the betterment of education our children. It is our goal as a school board to ensure that our children receive the

best education possible, so that they will become future leaders for our Tribe. We have advocated this for many years and will continue to do so!

I have served on numerous boards at various capacities throughout my life and have dedicated my life toward the enrichment of our lives as Indian people. My faith in our success as an Indian Nation can only be strengthened by proven leadership.

In closing, you have that choice of which direction our Band can take, and with your support we can do many progressive and positive things. Me-gwitch!
Gordon Adams, Jr. –
Candidate for District I

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Ray Toutloff - District II Representative



Ray Toutloff
for
District II Representative

Service to the People
Ray Toutloff

One of the things I am most proud of in my life is being a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians. I have always felt blessed that my ancestry qualified me for State and Federal Indian Scholarship Programs. Out of gratitude for this opportunity, I decided at a young age to dedicate most of my professional career to working for my people.

I'm writing to ask for your vote for District II (Vermilion) Representative on our Tribal Council. With your support, I can continue to use my education and professional experience to help the Bois Forte Tribal Council make sound decisions regarding economic development, education, health, safety and, overall well being of the Bois Forte people.

Below are a few of the

accomplishments that I humbly present as testimony to my dedication and sincere desire to work with and for Indian people:

---reorganized the health and human services programs into one administrative department for Bois Forte.
---initiated the administration of the Bois Forte Contract Health Program
---led the initiative and wrote the grants to obtain funding for the construction of the

Bois Forte Medical & Dental Clinics at Nett Lake to benefit all band members.
---led the initiative to co-locate services to children in one school complex at Nett

Lake through an \$8 million State funded program.
---led the initiative bringing the Nett Lake Sch. Dist. out of operating debt and left in 1998 with a budget that reflected a nearly \$1 million fund balance reserve.

Fund for a pedestrian/bike trail that will run parallel to Lake Vermilion Reservation Road.

The second is an \$11 million expansion of the Nett Lake School. This vital project, which was overwhelmingly supported by local voters last November, will include larger classrooms; tribal education offices and learning areas; space for Boys & Girls Club activities; expanded areas for Head Start and Day Care; renovated offices for Human Resources programs, and new Medical and Dental clinics.

District II (Vermilion) voters and all Bois Forte Band Members can count on me to be as diligent in my efforts to improve their lives and communities as I have been as an employee of the Tribal Council and the Nett Lake School District.

In talking to voters, the major goals I plan to work toward are: more jobs, increasing educational opportunities, defending treaty rights, assuring efficient and

high quality health care delivery, open government, safe and drug free communities, preservation of Ojibwe culture, amending the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution to include all Ojibwe blood in determining tribal enrollment and using my experience and good judgment in regard to tribal expenditures.

Throughout my life and long professional career I have always done more than what is expected of me. Be assured that I will continue on that path for the people of the Vermilion Sector and all Bois Forte Band members as your District II Tribal Council Representative.

Megwetch, Giga wa ba min,

Ray Toutloff
District II Candidate for Bois Forte Tribal Council

P.S. Please be sure and contact me if you have questions or concerns. You can reach me at 218-753-8051. I also invite you to visit my website at www.raytoutloff.com

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

▶ Jerome Whiteman

If you talk to Jerome Whiteman for just a few minutes, his love of tradition soon becomes obvious. Jerome recently took on a new job in the Department of Housing as a maintenance worker with a special focus on serving the elders. Although this position working with the elders is new, his knowledge of the elders, their needs and the culture all go way back.

"I know most of the elders because they watched me grow up," he explained. "I'm not coming in from some outside maintenance company, which could make them uncomfort-

able. I think you need to look at this job from a cultural perspective – the communication issue can be far more important than whatever housing issue we're dealing with."

Of course, Jerome is also very comfortable with the housing issues. "I do a bit of everything," he said, "including electrical and plumbing work, snow removal, fixing furnaces – all the maintenance elders might not feel comfortable doing or can't do." He said he learned many of these skills from his father, who was a carpenter. "I watched him doing stuff and was his 'gofer.' He'd tell me, 'This is what

that's for, this is what that does.'

Apparently I was paying attention – I was probably one of the only teenage kids who knew the difference between a 16-penny nail and an expansion bit!"

In the past Jerome has traveled and worked in various places like Colorado, California, Oklahoma and Virginia before returning home to the Bois Forte. "I have some experience in life," he said, "so my jaw

doesn't drop if I see something new. And I'm not afraid to ask for help when I need it."

All that life experience – plus a liking for how-to-do-it-yourself television

shows – made him an ideal candidate for the new maintenance worker position, according to District I Representative

continued on page 10.



Jerome Whiteman - Housing Maintenance Worker focused on Elder Services.

HEALTH SERVICES

▶ Minnesota Gets a "C"; Mental Health Care and Disaster Planning

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) recently released a report card on America's health care system for serious mental illness. The state of Minnesota received a C, above the national average of D. Minnesota was commended for its collaboration between the Department of Human Services and multiple agencies, its use of evidence-based practices, increased supportive housing options, and mental health courts. There are still many unmet needs for people with serious mental illness.

Bois Forte Health and Human Services staff are meeting the challenge of providing accessible mental health services. This includes services in emergency situations. Thanks to a grant to Health Services from the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, mental health services are being increased for the Bois Forte elders. Michele Gordon and Babette Sandman will be coming to the elder meetings at least once a month in a collaborative effort with Bois Forte to address mental health issues and educational sessions that elders have requested. These two professionals came to the February Elders' Committee meeting and asked the elders for direction in providing services. Among the

topics that Michele and Babette will talk about is mental health services for elders following a crisis or disaster. Other topics the elders want to discuss include raising grandchildren, depression, and grief.

Another effort that is being made to improve mental health services is the implementation of the Psychological First Aid program (PFA). On February 22nd, a workshop was held at Fortune Bay to train health providers how to teach Psychological First Aid. Almost 40 people attended. Bois Forte is one of the first areas in the state and nation to provide this training, which was developed by a team of local professionals who attended a three-day disaster mental health training program in Duluth in March, 2005. The North East Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team (NEBHERT) is in the process of training PFA-trainers in northeastern Minnesota. NEBHERT is also developing a behavioral/mental health disaster response plan.

Bois Forte has a member on NEBHERT, Honoré Lehtinen. Honoré is also a "master trainer" and can train mental health providers in a day-long disaster response training that includes the PFA-training segment. We currently have five

providers trained to teach Psychological First Aid: Lester Drift, Lisa Anderson, Teri Morrison, Biana Deegan, and Hellen Wykstra. Community members and employees of Bois Forte who are interested in learning how to do Psychological First Aid are encouraged to call any of the trainers. PFA is based on skills that many people already have, and it is a practical, coherent, and useful response. It is, in a way, similar to CPR and First Aid techniques – and it doesn't require mouth-to-mouth resuscitation! Northeastern Minnesota is one of the first places in the United States to implement PFA.

Trainings have been done in Lake and Cook counties, at Fond du Lac, in Duluth, at Carlton County, and now at Bois Forte. Teams of trainers are beginning to teach PFA to community members. More trainings will be held, with the goal of having most people in a community prepared to provide intervention in case of a disaster. A chain of command has been set up, and typically will consist of first-line responders being supervised by their trainer, who in turn is supervised by a master trainer, who in turn responds to the designated emergency coordinator in the area, and so on. In case of a disaster, 9-1-1 is the reporting entry point, and a call to 9-1-1 will activate the behavioral health emergency response plan.

Jerome Whiteman *continued from page 9.*

Ray Villebrun. "Keeping our elders' homes in good repair is a top priority for the Bois Forte Band. Plus it's equally important to have someone who can talk knowledgeably and respectfully with our elders. Jerome can do it all. He's an excellent choice for this job."

Jerome's conversation is always full of respect when he talks about the elders and the Band's special culture. He started to become more interested in the culture and powwows years ago when his now-grown daughters began dancing. He eventually became a traditional dancer who is highly respected throughout powwow country.

One of the advantages of PFA training is that it can also be used in localized emergencies. PFA teaches skills that can be used during any emergency, no matter the size. For example, if a family member is in a car accident, PFA skills can be used as effectively in that situation as in a mass disaster. Although we all hope that no major disasters will strike our area, it is well to be prepared. Lessons that have been learned from the Asian tsunami, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina have been incorporated into the disaster mental health plan. It has been found that preparation and teamwork are crucial

Among the many hats he wears, 'father' is one of them. He is the father of seven children, in which many of them have served in the military. Currently his son, Jarrod Whiteman is in the Army National Guard who is graduating in March and will be deployed to Iraq the first part of April. Jerome also serves as the commander of the Bois Forte Honor Guard, which he helped create, and he respectfully speaks about veterans' issues during various events around the community. "We must look as sharp as possible to portray the role of veterans and the Bois Forte Band properly," he said. "I always try to do the right thing and conduct myself in a positive manner at all times, on the job and off."

components of a disaster response. Our goal is to be prepared for disaster in any form, including disease pandemic, terrorist strike, or natural disaster.

We have also found that it is more practical to send a trained "Go Team" to the site of a disaster rather than deploying mental health professionals, who frequently must remain in their practice locales. NEBHERT is planning separate "Go Team" trainings.

Bois Forte can be commended for being in the forefront of providing PFA training! Let's hope we never have to use it.

Human Services

continued from page 5.

the Headstart and Day Care center. After Americorps program I went to work with the Headstart and Day care as a bus driver, janitor, teacher aid, and sometimes I would fill in as the cook. During this time I also worked at a homeless shelter and a halfway house in Virginia. After 7 years, I returned to the Americorps program as the Supervisor. I left Americorps when I went to college. During this time I worked for RSI, a residential facility for disabled adults, and I also worked at Lucky 7 in Cook.

As for my job, I am an advocate for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault victims. I completed both training requirements this past fall. The Sexual Assault training was very intense. I work with victims who may want/need help in filing an Order for Protection, Harassment Restraining orders, talk with them, assist them financially, and I also help them navigate through the legal system. Most importantly, I advocate of their behalf.

The Victim Services program had 5 individuals complete domestic abuse advocate training this past January. We are looking to hire another domestic abuse/sexual assault advocate in the near future.

I advocated to the tribal

council our need to update our juvenile code and the need to create an elder abuse code. The Juvenile code needed to be updated to address two important issues: truancy and when a woman who drinks or uses drugs while pregnant. The Council has presented these issues to the Band's legal counsel to write the laws dealing with these issues. The Elder Abuse Code is a proposal to instate codes to protect our Elders from financial exploitation, verbal, physical and emotional abuse, neglect and sexual harassment/assault. This proposed our legal counsel is currently drafting code as well. My goal is to see what laws are already on the books and what issues we need to address pertaining to the Elders.

I have been getting acquainted with the Violence Against Women Act 2000 (VAWA 2000) and how it pertains to us here on the reservation. When Congress enacted the VAWA 2000 Act, reservations and tribes were included in the act. We as a tribe, in order to assert our sovereignty and protect our band members, must switch the violation of an Order for Protection from a criminal violation to a civil violation. Currently our dilemma is when a band member files an OFP against his/her partner who is a non-Indian, we cannot prosecute because it is a criminal matter and we do not have jurisdiction. I have advocated to our Tribal

Council regarding the VAWA 2000 Act that it spells out a specific relief for this murky situation. It states that we must switch the criminal violation over to a civil violation so that we will have jurisdiction.

On the horizon for Victim Services: We will be setting up a 24 hour crisis line for domestic abuse and sexual assault. I will be going into the Elementary and High Schools Bois Forte children and youth attend, to talk about good touch & bad touch, bullying, and teen violence. I have expressed to my supervisor that we as a program will need to add a Child/Elder Advocate in the future.

In closing I would just like to say that this job has given me greater knowledge and experience working with individuals, Tribal Government, the State system and various Victim Services programs. I would like to say thank you to the Human Services staff for their advice and support.

If you need assistance, want help, or just need someone to listen to you call Victim Services at 1-218-757-0111 or 1-800-747-1218. All call are strictly confidential.

Kne-cah-kne-gee-cah-nah (May you travel a long road),

Shane Drift,
Victim Services
Supervisor

BF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAM

Ready-Set-Grow Your Small Business

Do you have a passion for a product or service? Do you persevere when presented with a challenge? Would you like top be your own boss? Run your own business? If you answered yes to some of these questions you may be a good candidate to start your own business. But where do you begin?



Bois Forte's new Business Development Coordinator Steve Peterson hosted a booth to provide information on business planning and answer Band member's questions at the State of the Band event in January.

The answer to that question begins by contacting Steve Peterson Sr. the new director of the Bois Forte Small Business Development Program (SBDP).

The SBDP was created to assist Band members interested in starting or expanding their own small business either on or off the reservation. The program includes a combination of classes, workshops, one-on-one meetings and micro loans.

The support and services provided by the program are threefold. Training and Coaching will help people with a dream turn it into a goal, help them better understand how business functions and what it takes to create a profitable venture. It also helps people expand their knowledge of business finance and credit.

Business Technical Assistance will help in creating a business plan. It will show band members how to investigate their marketplace and competition, as

continued on page 16.

Victim Services

*Are you being abused?
Have you been abused?*

Call: 218-757-0111 or 1-800-747-1218
We want to help because we care.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

TRIBAL MINUTES

▶ RTC Minutes: January 20, 2006.

Minutes of a special meeting of the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council held January 20, 2006 at the Lake Vermilion Sector of the Bois Forte Reservation, Minnesota.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Kevin W. Leecy; David C. Morrison, Sr.; Ray Villebrun, Sr.; Mark Drift, Sr.; Kevin Strong

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barb Brodeen; Henry Goodsky; Vicki Holmes; George Mihelich; Edith Villebrun; Kim Greiner; Lester Drift, Sr.; Pete Drift; Carol Burr; Marcella Connor; Marge Holmes; Wendy Thompson; Brad Anderson; Nikki Klakoski; Patti Wilkie; Carl Dagen; Millie Holmes; Marilyn Geshick; Mary Strong; Corey Strong; Kristal Strong; Harold Goodsky; Stan Day; Frank Villebrun, Sr.

Invocation by Henry Goodsky.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve the agenda with the deletion of the discussion on the trust management reform regulations. A conference call with Mark Anderson is scheduled for 10 a.m., January 23, 2006 to discuss this

item. Carried 4-0-0. Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held January 4, 2006 at Nett Lake, Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0.

Elders Committee: Mary Strong states the elders concern about an incident that happened at Vermilion involving people fighting and the response time of the police department to respond. Also, that where the fighting took place was at the elder unit where there is not supposed to be drinking. She states the elders are afraid to move in that unit because of the drinking. Carol Burr, Housing Director, states no elders wanted to move in so the younger people were allowed to move in, and those individuals were told and also given a letter there was to be no drinking in that unit (a copy of the letter is to be given to the Nett Lake Police Department). Carol also states that people should report to the police department when there is drinking so it can be documented because with enough documentation tenants can be evicted. Pete Drift, Commissioner of Law Enforcement, states the officers will check the units more often.

Marge Holmes requests a credit card for the elders committee because it is

hard to purchase concert tickets without one. The Council agree they are to have a credit card or a debit card and ask that they designate someone to be the card holder. Marcella Connor is designated as the card holder and Kim Greiner will get either a credit or debit card and develop a policy for the use of the card.

Marge Holmes states the elders want to know who is doing the shoveling for the elders because they want them to keep a path shoveled to their propane tanks also. Discussion is held on the Maintenance Worker for the Elders position. This position is being held up because of the wait for the new insurance policy. About half of the applicants would not be eligible under the old policy and might under a new policy. Because of the urgency of the position, Human Resources is directed to interview all the eligible applicants. Patti Wilkie also asks about the 2 Housing positions that are being held up for the same reasons. She is told she can wait on those because those are not as urgent as the other ones.

Mary Strong states the elders voted to not have any non-Indians who are not married to Band members participate in the elders Bingo. She states their decision was overturned. They feel the non-Indians are working and getting paid for playing Bingo. Barb Brodeen states there is a policy that any elders working for the RTC can

attend the elders functions on work hours, it doesn't distinguish between elders. The Council state they did not overturn any decision on this and feel if the elders decide something at their elder meetings those decisions should be abided by.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to appoint Mary Strong as Vermilion Representative to the Wisdom Steps Board with Caroline Boshey as Vermilion Alternate; and to appoint Myra Thompson as Nett Lake Representative to the Wisdom Steps Board with Mary Porter as Nett Lake Alternate. Carried 3-0-1. Kevin Strong silent.

The elders request step stools for their homes. Marcella Connor thinks there might be grant money to pursue for that and she will check on it. If there is no grant money available, Carol Burr who is already working on getting fire extinguishers, will get the step stools.

Mary Strong informs everyone present there is a fund raiser for John Boshey at the Venture Inn in Fort Frances and the cost is \$10.00. She also requests a van to use because there are some individuals she will be taking with her.

Mary Strong asks if the trip is still on that the elders are taking to Washington, D.C. She is informed that Shaw Guelcher has been work-

ing on this and after the State of the Band Address she will have more time to work on this.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve the cost of \$534.00 plus shipping to purchase 50 pairs of handicapped license plates. Carried 4-0-0.

Marge Holmes informs the Council the elders are complaining about the meals served at the ENP. The nutritionist that came said to serve smaller servings but the elders want bigger servings. This will be taken care of.

Either Mavis Drift or Shirley Benner is to be present at all Council meetings that the elders attend.

There are no new staff to be introduced.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to adopt resolution #112-2006, residential lease – Lucille Stepec. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to adopt resolution #113-2006, residential lease – Adrienne R. Zapata and Rudy U. Zapata. Carried 4-0-0.

The development of the land use plan is to be expedited so there will be a policy in place to address issues such as lot size of the leased lots.

continued on page 13.

RTC Minutes

continued from page 12.

Discussion is held on the term employee policy and three employees who think they were let go because of it and are telling people the Council terminated them. Carol Burr explains her two temporary employees appointments ended on December 31 which unfortunately January 1 was when the term employee policy started. Corey Strong states his temporary employee was laid off due to the budget because they felt more could be accomplished in the summer months than now. Carol and Corey are to explain to those individuals what happened so they don't think the Council terminated them. (Corey's temporary employee is also ratified as a seasonal employee who works during the summer months and that part is not affected by the term employee policy).

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Mark Drift, Sr.; to approve the amendment to the Bois Forte Personnel Policy Manual to post job announcements for term employees for three (3) days rather than ten days. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve a letter of support for the grant application to the State which will address homelessness in Northeastern Minnesota. Carried 4-0-0. There was discussion regarding the letter of agreement

but no action is taken at this time in order for the tribal attorney to review it.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; to adopt resolution #114-2006, requesting the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe send the Bois Forte Forestry a non-editable database of all MCT members with the most current address available, for the purpose of administering allotment timber sales. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Ray Villebrun, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to adopt resolution #115-2006, appointing Angela Wright as Bois Forte Representative on the American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council for 2006. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #116-2006, appointing Gary W. Adams as Bois Forte Representative to the American Indian Advisory Council (on alcohol and drug abuse) for 2006 with Carol Driscoll as Alternate. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adopt resolution #117-2006, appointing Lester Drift, Sr. as Bois Forte Representative to the American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council for 2006 with Honore Lehtinen as Alternate. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by Mark Drift,

Sr.; to approve out of state travel for Janice Connor to attend Water Disinfection and Fluoridation for Small Water Systems training to be held February 7-9, 2006 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mark Drift, Sr.; seconded by Kevin Strong; to approve out of state travel for Les Connor to attend the Surface Water Monitoring and Standards Meeting to be held January 31 – February 2, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois. Carried 4-0-0.

Mark Drift, Sr. states there are Band members calling him in regard to tribal court which is scheduled for the same day as the State of the Band Address. The State of the Band Address starts at 5:00 p.m. and Wendy Thompson states they will try and get through court as soon as possible.

Mark Drift, Sr. states there are Band members calling him asking when the W-2's will be out, that Fortune Bay already got theirs. Kim Greiner states there was a problem with the software, the W-2's are not due until January 31, and accounting is working on them.

Moved by Kevin Strong; seconded by David Morrison, Sr.; to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m. Carried 4-0-0.

| END |

CORRECTIONS - CLARIFICATIONS

CORRECTION -
Our February/March edition story on Gary Gotchnik's new position as General Manager of Fortune Bay mistakenly referred to former "CEO Andy Datko as the Director of Bois Forte Development Corporation". Andy is in fact the CEO of the new Development Corporation.

Our apologies for any confusion caused by this error.

CLARIFICATION -
Some of our readers asked why we didn't carry the story that appeared in the February 9 edition of the Mesabi Daily News on the Mdewakanton Sioux giving another \$1 million grant to the Vermilion Wellness Center.

The reason was the \$1 million dollar grant was not another contribution from our generous neighbors from Shakopee, but rather the second half of their original pledge to support the Wellness Center.

Last year the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux pledged \$2 million toward the \$3.5 million project.

LET'S RECOGNIZE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Every community's success depends in part on volunteers: the men, women and young people who give of their time, talents, energy and enthusiasm to make life better for others. Our community is no exception – we are fortunate to have people who volunteer as emergency medical technicians, ambulance drivers, fire fighters, powwow committee coordinators, youth group chaperons, and more.

Please help us celebrate the extraordinary work of these great volunteers. We'd like to recognize the volunteers and the services they provide by featuring them in the Bois Forte News.

If you'd like to nominate a volunteer for us to profile, please contact Shawmarie Guelcher or Barb Brodeen at 800/221-8129, or e-mail us at sguelcher@boisfortensn.gov, barb.brodeen@boisfortensn.gov, or bfnews@boisfortensn.gov. Miigwetch.

ELECTION CANDIDATE

J. Kay Davis - Secretary-Treasurer

After giving thought to what I would like each of you to know about me, I realized most of you received my campaign material from the District 1 primary last summer. Since every member votes for the office of Secretary-Treasurer, my platform is the same: to listen to the elders; the preservation of the tribe and its rich history; and accept new ideas for progress.

As a member of the Tribal Council, and as Secretary-Treasurer, I would continue those ideas. As a Secretary-Treasurer, I would intently monitor the monies spent by the council. That is something that I do not believe has been done in the recent past. I have owned my own businesses while I was living off-reservation. I owned both chil-

dren's clothing stores and daycares in my lifetime, and know how to read balance sheets and quarterly financial reports. As an employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, DC, I remained within the governmental budgets required. In addition, I have been taking contracts with other Indian Tribes in the past 10 years and have had opportunities to work along side other Tribal governments, and am aware of the programs that they and we monitor.

Our Constitution states the person in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer have duties that include:

The Secretary/Treasurer of the Reservation Tribal Council shall:
 a. Cause to be made, certified, and maintained a

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

J. Kay Davis for Secretary-Treasurer

- complete and accurate record, by means of minutes, of all proceedings of and actions taken at all meetings of the Reservation Tribal Council and provide such minutes to other members of the Reservation Tribal Council;
- b. Issue such notices as may be required by Band law;
- c. As directed by the Reservation Tribal Council and with the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, sign, execute, and deliver official documents, including warrants drawn against funds of the Band;
- d. Accept, provide receipts

- for, and safeguard all funds and property of the Band; acquire and maintain appropriate bonds for such purposes; and cause to be kept complete and accurate accounting records of Band funds in accordance with Reservation Tribal Council policies or procedures;
- e. As instructed by the Reservation Tribal Council, procure an independent audit of the accounting records of the Band at least once each fiscal year, provide audit reports to the other members of the Reservation Tribal Council and make such audit reports available for public inspection by Band members as authorized by Band law;
- f. As instructed by the Reservation Tribal Council and as necessary to monitor the financial condition of the Band and its programs, require periodic accountings and reports and be prepared at meetings of the Reservation

Tribal Council to report the financial condition of the Band

If you need an absentee ballot, please write to: RTC Election Board; Box 16; Nett Lake, MN 55772 and request an absentee ballot for the upcoming Primary Elections.

May our voices be heard, and one way to do that is to vote. Thank you.

ARTISTS BE SEEN!

Are you a Bois Forte artist looking for a terrific new way of promoting your painting, sculpture, crafts, music or other art works? Do you know a Bois Forte artist whose work deserves to be better known? The Bois Forte Band wants to help!

The Band would like to add a new feature to the Bois Forte News this summer to showcase Band member artists. Each artist would be featured in a separate story to draw attention to his or her work. Bois Forte artists could also be featured in the 2007 State of the Band event. And we would like to promote Band members artists on the Band's website, www.boisforte.com, to help them reach a wider audience.

We'd love to hear from you with the name of your favorite Bois Forte artists. Please contact Shawmarie Guelcher or Barb Brodeen at 800/221-8129, or e-mail us at shawglchr@hotmail.com, barb.brodeen@boisfortensn.gov, or bfnews@boisfortensn.gov. Tell us the names of the artists (remember, one of them can be you!), the type of work they do, and how to contact them (phone numbers, mailing addresses, or e-mail addresses). Mii gwetch for your help!

ELECTION CANDIDATE

Jim Deegan - District II Representative

Boozhoo, my name is Wazhaawashkobenaigowboo. My dodaim is the makwa. My English name is Jim Deegan and I am running for District II Representative.

So many people have shared their concerns with me about the empty promises being made to us. There are many issues that need immediate attention such as; housing, home lots, jobs/training, a new elderly/handicapped complex, improved services to those who receive commodities and medications. We need to start taking better care of our people who live off reservation and who desire to move back here.

Being a hard worker all my life, I know what it is like to struggle while trying to

raise a family. My vision is to get more of our own people into the workforce and improve their financial future for the sake of their families. Apprenticeship training for band members will enable them to become eligible for skilled labor jobs. We need more leadership positions to be held by band members at Fortune Bay; if elected I will work to strengthen this area of concern right away. I feel that we are not supporting band member owned businesses as much as we should; we are utilizing some at a very minimum rate, while there are others that are being forgotten.

Our elders are a valuable resource of wisdom/experience and we are fortunate to have many retired professionals from different



Jim Deegan for District II Representative

backgrounds with so much to offer; we need to pay attention to them. If elected, my first step will be to form a committee of elders to advise me on many important issues such as; brainstorming on the blood quantum, preserving our Traditions, Native Language and other major issues involving our future. No final decision will be made without their input.

The only promise I can realistically make right now is to start working hard with my team and put together a Master plan with new ideas and to move forward. I always make time to listen to problems and concerns that you, the people, may have. The voice of the people is important to me; everyone here knows that Jim Deegan is not afraid to speak up! If elected as a leader, my voice will become even louder. There will be equality amongst the residents on the Bois Forte Reservation.

If you want your voice to be heard, vote for Jim Deegan on April 4th, 2006 during the Primary elections for District II Representative.

Thank you for your support.

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ David C. Morrison Sr. - Secretary-Treasurer

Boozhoo, I'm writing to announce my candidacy for re-election as Secretary Treasurer of the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

My parents are Dan (deceased) and Priscilla Morrison of Nett Lake, which is where I was born and raised. My brothers (Dan & Johnny) and sisters (Wendy & Terrie) and I remain close, thanks to the strong family values taught by my parents.

Many of you knew my father Dan, who passed away this past year. Dad served 20 years as Secretary Treasurer for Bois Forte. His hard work and love for our people earned him great respect in our community and I have been honored to follow in his steps as you, the voters have supported me in the past four elections. The values Mom and Dad instilled in me since child-

hood are honesty, sincerity, dedication, loyalty and love for the Bois Forte Reservation. I've tried to live by these values as I've served the people of Bois Forte. My rock has been the love and support of my best friend and wife Teresa (Day) of 28 years. Together we have three children and four beautiful grandchildren: David (Jen, Calandra, and Stacie), Erynn (Angelo) and Darian.

I have a proven record of getting the job done for both the Vermilion and Nett Lake sectors of the Bois Forte Reservation. Improvements such as the new Public Safety Building, Sand and Salt Shed, Physical Fitness Center, Vermilion Family Wellness Center, a nationally recognized Wilderness gulf course, new businesses such as WELY, Powerain and the Y-Store as well as the upcoming expansion at



David C. Morrison Sr. for Re-election Secretary-Treasurer

Fortune Bay are concrete examples of my ability to work professionally with other council members to bring improvements to our people.

I'm also proud of our award winning Heritage Center and Cultural Museum which accurately tells the story of the Bois Forte People and works to preserve and promote our heritage and language for generations to come.

Improved housing, health services, increased education scholarships, Boys & Girls Club activities, more law enforcement officers and the newly established Burial Fund are a few of the improvements that I and others worked on to improve the quality of life during the past few years.

In addition to all these improvements, I have used my position as Secretary Treasurer to make sure our financial business is in order resulting in the Tribes continued growth to a stronger economy.

Under my watch, we have become more financially secure. Proof of this is the distribution of 100% of the Band 1854 Treaty Funds, our new business acquisitions and the creation of a small business development program to help Band members start their own business and become self sufficient.

As an officer of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, I am

in a position to fight for Constitution Reform in matters relating to the blood quantum issue that will ensure that all Chippewa blood is counting in the enrollment process. I will advocate for more tribal/non tribal lands returned to the Bois Forte Reservation ownership status and work to protect our natural resources and inherent rights both on and off the reservation.

Preserving our culture, improving the quality of life for Band members, accountability and financial strength for Bois Forte are my priorities if you choose to re-elect me to serve as Secretary Treasurer.

I ask once again for your vote in the upcoming Primary and General Elections of the Bois Forte Tribal Council.

Mii gwetch

ELECTION CANDIDATE

▶ Mark E. Drift Sr. - District I Representative

Dear Fellow Band Members: I want to thank you for your support and confidence in voting me into office as your District I Representative in 2005. I'm honored to be representing you, and respectfully ask for your continued support in the upcoming election.

Foremost and first, I am for open government. I am for fairness. I will be positive. As a Nation, we all have a vested interest in our government. I want the members of this Nation to be more involved in their government, which in turn gives your elected officials direction. There is a trickle down effect - what happens at the top eventually comes down to affect each and every Band member. As your District I Representative I take my job as a public servant very seriously. Your opinion does count.

As your most recently elected member of our Tribal Council, I can gladly say that I am making progressive efforts towards some positive changes for both on and off reservation band members.

Jobs, creation of jobs so band members can support their families. There will be jobs created when we expand our hotel, add onto the "Y" store and build a "C" store.

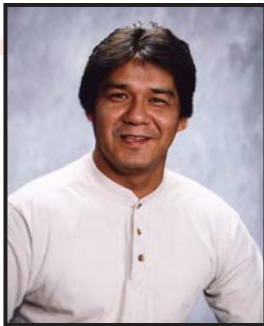
I also support giving two per capita payments. Along with our regular 100% 1854 per capita, I will push to see the Nelson Act monies distributed as per capita.

Housing. There currently is a housing shortage on Nett Lake and Vermilion. I will continue to work with the Bois Forte Housing Program to address the need of more homes to be built. I know a lot of members want to move back home. I will continue to be a strong voice to building more homes for our members.

When I ran for District I Representative earlier, I shared some clear goals on what I felt we need to accomplish together.

The challenges I plan to work on continue:

- Education: A nation is only as strong as its weakest link. In order to change things, we



Mark E. Drift Sr. for Re-elect District I Representative

need to educate our people in the law of the land, and then seize hold of the change. We need to provide equal opportunity through education to our young people, regardless whether they live on the reservation or not - it affects us in the end. We need to provide equitable education funds to all of our Band members.

- More programs for our Elders. Currently, we have an employee (there could be more) whose job is to coordinate programs to ensure Elders needs are cared for such as they delivery of clean water, shovel-

ing and lawn cutting, garages, a long-term care center and more. Our Elders are our most precious resource, we wouldn't be here today with out them. We need to pass down their knowledge of our history to our upcoming generation. We need to communicate more with our Elders. I want to increase more benefits to all our Elders on and off reservation.

This brings me to another related concern: Revitalization of our Anishinabe language. We need to increase support for educational programs that are already in place. We need to tap more resources for teaching preschool and elementary students our language early on.

Additionally, I have taken a personal interest in strengthening TERO.

- Strong TERO efforts and improvements in our roads system. A strong TERO program means more jobs for our band members. We are currently utilizing more band member businesses in construction projects and other related fields.
- An Adolescent Treatment Center. We need to encourage our youth and direct them in a right way. We as officers of the Bois Forte Band Reservation must also be role models to

look up to - our actions, conduct, conversation must reflect what our ancestors would be well pleased with.

- Changes in the MCT Constitution to adjust the inequity in the way we determine Blood Quantum.
- Business Opportunity Awareness for Band Members: Many members are not aware of the fund for small business - up to \$20,000. This fund is available to all members.
- Awareness of Support of Burial Fund to help ALL Band members who have lost a loved one. Families can access up to \$5500 to cover the cost of funeral expenses of a band member - to a funeral of their choice.

Obviously, there is more to do.

I will continue to work with the RTC to accomplish these and other priorities. I will continue to seek more benefits for all Bois Forte Band members. Today, I ask for your commitment to our Band - Bois Forte, and a willingness to roll up your sleeves for tomorrow and work harder to make the changes necessary to make life better for all Bois Forte Band Members. Please Vote For Mark E. Drift Sr. on April 4, 2006 Mii Gwetch Mark E. Drift Sr. 218-757-3217

Its A Boy!



Nasir Khalil Dotts-Wakemup

Name meaning

Nasir intelligent and compassionate

Khalil handsome and compassionate

9lbs 4ozs 22inches

Time of birth 10:55am 02/06/2006

Parents Toni Wakemup & Stacy Dotts

Small Business DP *continued from page 11.*

well as linking them with trade organization and professional associations in their field of interest.

The third area of service is essential to the business behind the business: record keeping; regulatory information; feasibility and financial analysis; contracts; licensing; etc. All these topics will be covered as needed, as well as information on the Federal, State and local support that is already out there.

Okay, so what happens if you've done your homework and you have a plan? You're confident this product or service will make money, but you need money to get things started. Often this is when good ideas get shelved and begin to collect dust.

"New businesses often need a hand getting off the ground." Steve explained, "So the RTC established a micro-loan fund to help Band members jump-start their business ideas. Bois Forte Development Corporation will administer this loan fund on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with our small business assistance program. This can be their sole source of funds or may be used to leverage other funds available in the area."

This micro loan program and assistance with planning and financial analysis was established as one way to reach the RTC's goal of improving career prospects for unemployed and under-employed Band members. Steve's background and experience is a great fit for the job.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 8TH: MCT First Time homebuyer Education Class. 8:30am-4:30pm. MCT Cass Lake. Call 218-335-8582 or email cindyb@paulbunyan.net for more information.

APRIL 11TH: Bois Forte Housing Finance Summit at Fortune Bay. Two sessions. Call 218-757-3253 for more information.

APRIL 12TH: Bois Forte Health Services **TEEN CONFERENCE** at Fortune Bay. Starts at 9:30am. Call 218-757-3295 for more information.

APRIL 27TH: Sobriety Feast at Fortune Bay. Everyone is welcome. Starts at 4:30pm. Call 218-757-0111 for more information.

WILDERNESS GOLF DATES:

MAY 21: Band Member Golf Day

AUGUST 24: Lake Vermilion Boys & Girls Club Charity Golf Tournament

SEPTEMBER 25: 2nd Annual Indian Summer Classic. For more information, call the Wilderness at 800-992-4680 or visit www.wildernessgolf.com

HEADS UP!

BOIS FORTE HEALTH SERVICES WOMEN'S WELLNESS, COMING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION NEXT ISSUE.



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