



BOIS FORTE

NEWS



NETT LAKE, MINNESOTA - NOVEMBER 2006

VOL. 21 NO. 4

BREAKING NEWS

► Ancient Scrolls Returned to Bois Forte

Forty-two birch bark scrolls containing spiritual stories and songs are finally home again with the Bois Forte Chippewa. The scrolls, which are more than 200 years old, were returned to the Band in late October by a Kentucky man whose grandfather once treated American Indians at a Minnesota tuberculosis sanatorium.

"The scrolls are midé," said Band member Rose Berens, the Band's tribal preservation officer and the executive director of the Heritage Center. "I believe this is one of the most important events that has happened to the Bois Forte people in a long, long time because the items are so sacred and so old. In my opinion, the scrolls are priceless – no amount of money could buy them or replace them."

After consulting with the Band's elders, Berens drove the 2,500-mile round trip to pick up the scrolls. Two elders – Phyllis



Vern Adams, Myra Thompson, Phyllis Boshey and Ray Cloutier met at Cloutier's home in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Cloutier found the Bois Forte website on the Internet and contacted the Heritage Center about returning the scrolls.

Boshey and Myra Thompson – accompanied Berens, as did spiritual advisor Vern Adams. Band members from the Midewiwin Society will

soon begin working to decipher the scrolls.

Look for more information on this important story in the next issue of the Bois Forte News.

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ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006
REMEMBER TO VOTE!



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

► How the Fortune Bay expansion project is creating new work for many Band members

Flashback: January 2006. Bois Forte Band Chairman Kevin Leecy, addressing Band members during the State of the Band, says, "Tribal government cannot give everyone money or things. But we can give our people access to the education, the training, the skills, and the employment opportunities they need so they can get the jobs that will allow them to give back to their families and their communities. We'll give you the tools; you see what you can build with them."

Flash forward: November 2006, less than one year later. Thanks to the commitment of Leecy, the entire Reservation Tribal Council, and TERO Director Dawn Benner and the TERO Commission, Band members are advancing their own careers and businesses as they upgrade Fortune Bay Hotel. This month, we take a look at just what the Band and its members are building.

Driving toward economic success

Who would have thought that something as tiny as a golf ball could have such a huge impact on the Band's success? The people who created and promoted The Wilderness golf course, that's who. The course opened in 2004 and quickly

exceeded even the most optimistic expectations, winning numerous national awards and recognition including "Best New Public Upscale Course" from *Golf Digest* magazine and one of "America's Best New Courses" from *Golf Week* magazine.

The Wilderness, along with improvements at the resort's marina, soon drew more and more guests to Fortune Bay, creating a significant increase in the demand for hotel rooms. In fact, the hotel had to turn people away: a consulting firm reported that Fortune Bay lost 10,657 room nights because it simply could not accom-



Dawn Benner, TERO Director

modate everyone who wanted to stay during peak season.

So last year, the RTC approved a 10-year, three-phase expansion plan to give Fortune Bay



a multimillion dollar facelift. The first phase of the plan started in late May 2006 and is expected to be complete next May. Among other things, it includes:

- two new hotel wings and 58 more rooms
- a remodeled hotel lobby and redesigned entrance

the new job opportunities they create, according to Leecy. "We set out to do something important, and that's employ Band members. We are finally starting to bring better-paying jobs here, and that creates hope for a new generation of Band members who want to live, work and raise their families on our reservation. These jobs – and the folks doing them – show that responsibility and hard work pay off."

Working harder for workers

The Band's job creation strategy started with beefing up its Tribal Employment Rights Office, or TERO. The RTC hired Band member Dawn Benner as its new TERO director, devoted more money and resources to the office, and toughened up the ordinance that sets the percentage of Band members who must be hired by contractors working on Band projects.

Benner said "It helps that we have a supportive tribal council that wants to know what's going on. Council member Mark Drift attends the construction meetings on occasion, as well as Chairman Leecy. Everything I've suggested to them, they've taken time to discuss and support."

That includes strengthening the TERO ordinance even more. "Last month, we updated and revised the ordinance again to increase the percentage of workers to 50%," Benner said. "It's getting even better for Bois Forte people."

Band members working on the Fortune Bay expansion project agree. Here is what some of them had to say:

Jon Connor, who works for Rueben Johnson & Sons, is one of three native carpenters on the job. He has been a carpenter for more than 15 years, mostly in the Twin

Just as important as the physical upgrades are

- an expanded parking lot
- more storage, more administrative offices, and electrical updates

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Expanding Opportunities

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Tim Peppenworth & Jon Connor

Cities. But for the last year and half, he has been employed on the reservation: first working on the Vermilion Wellness Center from the very beginning of the project through its completion, and now on Fortune Bay.

"Dawn Benner and the TERO Office are doing a good job representing Band member workers to outside contractors who want to work on the reservation," he said.



Joe Whiteman

Connor is working on installing insulation, siding and will hang exterior and interior doors with fellow carpenter

Tim Pepworth, the son of Vickey Hackey and Norman King. "This is a pretty awesome building," Pepworth said. "I'm impressed and excited that the Band is building a project of this size."

Pepworth, who is also using his 10 years of construction experience to build a home on Duffy Point for himself and his two children, said, "The best part of the job – besides payday – is that you're never in one spot too long. They keep us moving and working on new things."

Joe Whiteman, son of Julie and Bill Whiteman, is "tending mud", the insiders term for preparing and routing cement to co-workers at Duluth-based Harbor City Masonry Company as they construct the walls of the expanded hotel. "I worked for Harbor City last year and I think this job is going as smoothly as can be expected," he said. "The pace of

the job is non-stop, but the pay and benefits are good."

Joe is one of many workers putting in a significant amount of hours, from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm Mondays through Fridays. His boss, Masonry Foreman Tom Appicellie, says Joe is a "hard-working kid" who they like having on the crew.

Ernie Drift Jr. also knows about long hours. Drift, the son of Ernest Drift Sr. and Joyce Connor Skadsheim, is working 10-hour days during the week with Harbor City Masonry and 8 more hours on Saturdays.

"We are trying to get all of the walls up before the snow flies," he explained. "This is hard work, but I like it. It will keep me busy through the winter, and I'm glad because normally I get laid off at the end of August or September."

Ernie has work experience on Asbestos Abatement projects in the Twin Cities. There he belonged to Local 563, a union that includes Masons and Framers along with the Asbestos Abatement workers.

When the hotel expansion is complete, Ernie hopes to stay on with Harbor City and move over to another project in Aurora.



Crocky (David) Farmer

Crocky (David) Farmer has worked in construction in International Falls, Montana, and the Twin Cities, and he's also been an ironworker at Boise Cascade for the past 10 years. "I really like this job – it's a good job, a clean job, with solid pay and benefits," he said.



Ernie Drift, Jr.

Farmer, the son of David and Marlene Farmer, credits the TERO office with bringing Band members home to work on the Fortune Bay expansion. "Dawn Benner let a lot of us know about this project and the jobs the Band was pushing to

create for Band members. I moved down here for the job and to get out of International Falls. I like living on the lake – it's good to be back."

Ron LaRoque is working with the team of Nelson Collie Electric out of Virginia. Ron is working side by side with electrician Len Petroski III. The two work non-stop, both

putting up conduit for the heating and lighting system in the new administration wing, and mercilessly teasing each other.

Ron enjoys the new electrical skills he's learning. The foreman Ed Seliskar and Len are encouraging

Ron to join the union. Most of the Nelson Collie team is part of IBEW Local 294.

Corey King has twelve years experience as a carpenter as well as experience as a foreman at Minntac in the winter months. When the crew at Reuben Johnson and Sons earned the contract on the Fortune Bay expansion project,

the general foreman called Corey and invited him to join the work crew.

Corey says, "This is a good group of guys working on this project. I've always believed you

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Expanding Opportunities

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treat others as you want to be treated. If you treat people well, they'll go the extra mile for you."

Corey thinks the Fortune Bay project is going well. He seems to be enjoying it, knowing this may be one of his final construction projects. "Hopefully I'll be switching careers soon. I'd like to leave construction soon and drive truck for Minntac."

Band member-owned businesses win important contracts

Besides creating jobs for individual Band mem-



Corey King

bers, the expansion of Fortune Bay has also meant new opportunities for Band member-owned businesses in the construction field. Two of them – Drift Roofing and Lumbar Mechanical – won contracts to do important portions of the project. Here are their stories:

Lester Drift Jr., owner



Ron Larouque

of Drift Roofing

Lester Drift first heard about the Fortune Bay expansion through the Band's TERO office last spring. He worked long hours putting together a roofing bid, which he said was a tough

process. "It involved studying and measuring the blueprints, calculating the cost of materials and labor, landfill charges for the old material and having the resources to purchase and deliver new materials up front."

His careful work paid off; he won the contract, and began to purchase and deliver the supplies before his crew arrived for work. This included thousands of pounds of felt paper, drip edge, ice and water shield, flashing, cobra ridge vents, individual shingle tins and starter shingles, felt caps and ridges. The bid had been carefully calculated to include the cost

of materials, labor for both tear off and land fill charges for the old material, and of course, installing the new materials.

Lester's company is based in Michigan. He brings his Michigan based crew, members from the Keewanaa Bay

Tribe to Minnesota every Sunday night and they work four -10 hour days on the roofing portion of the Fortune Bay expansion project. On Monday morning they meet with the local component of the crew – Bois Forte Band members Jason Drift, Frank Villebrun, Jr., Clarence Roy III, and Alden Connor Jr.

Fortune Bay provides housing for the crew during the week at their Hideaway Pines cabin on the resort property. The crew pays Band member rates to stay in the cabin. The Michigan group is there until Thursday when they go home for the week-end. Some nights the Bois Forte workers stay with them in the cabin instead of driving back to Nett Lake, or the other towns where they live.

Drift said he appreciates

how the Bois Forte Band and the RTC stand behind Band members who are small business owners. "I'm grateful the TERO Office was there to support me when I bid the project. TERO made sure both Band members and Band member business owners were part of the Fortune Bay remodeling project."

Drift adheres to the same philosophy. "We as native people need more opportunities to earn a decent wage for decent labor," he said. "I buy quality products, and my crew delivers quality work that is complete and honest. It's just the way we do business: respecting the customer and demanding respect for our labor."

Fortune Bay is the third largest project that Drift's Michigan-based



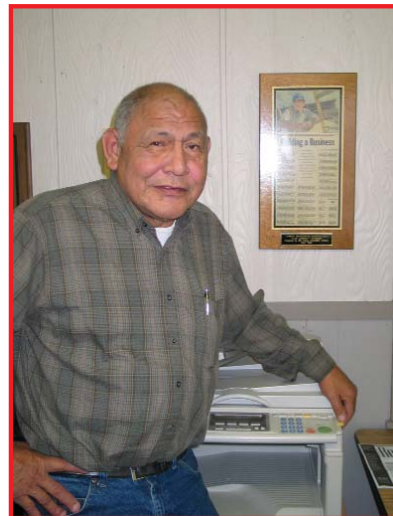
Lester Drift, Jr.

company has handled in the past few years. To undertake it, he is drawing on his 24 years of roofing experience, including seven as the owner of his own firm. (He also holds a Complete Residential Building License.) Drift's family is part of the team, too: his wife, Frances, provides "invaluable" help with the payroll and computer tasks, and his oldest stepson, Alden Connor Jr., is the job foreman. "Everyone on our crew is aware of the Bois Forte tribal government's support for native owned businesses and workers and we appreciate it," he said.

Lyle Lumbar, owner of Lumbar Mechanical

Nett Lake native Lyle Lumbar, the son of Joe and Lucy (deceased) has been in the construction business for 21 years. He attended Silverdale grade school, Orr High School and then headed to the Twin Cities where

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Lyle Lumbar

Expanding Opportunities

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he worked for five years advancing through the Apprentices School with the Minneapolis Pipefitters.

Lyle worked for fifteen years for several union companies before starting on his own. His firm, Minneapolis-based Lumbar Mechanical, specializes in plumbing and piping, mechanical construction, and heating. His work takes him and his crews all over the state, including the Twin Cities, Duluth, Virginia. On every project, Lyle makes sure his company belongs to the local union. He currently is a member of Plumber and Pipefitters Local 589 in Virginia and Local 539 in Minneapolis.

Lumbar Mechanical was involved from start to finish on the beautiful new Vermilion Family Wellness Center and Lyle's company is now busy doing the complete mechanical construction of the Fortune Bay expansion project, including plumbing, heating and sheet metal.

"I appreciate the opportunity to work for the Bois Forte Band," he said. "Being a Band member, it's a good feeling to help my own people. It's a bit inconvenient to have a large job away from our headquarters in Minneapolis. But we get along well with the staff at Fortune Bay and the other contractors, and I have good

people working for me on site."

That includes Bois Forte Band member Matt Whiteman. Lyle hired Matt on The Vermilion Wellness Center and called him back to work when Lumbar Mechanical got the Fortune Bay job. "We helped get him into the union and he is studying to be a plumber. Matt is young but hard working," Lumbar said. "We're committed to training him, as you

need to do with all young people. My company has trained quite a few native people in the cities, and we've gotten several of them into the trades as plumbers and pipe fitters. Down the line, my plan is to hire more native people and keep training them."

Lumbar pointed out that TERO plays an important role in that hiring process. "Dawn Benner is really good to work with. She helps by recruiting and sending us people when we need workers. So far, she has been getting us the right people for the jobs we have."



The Crew of Drift Roofing Company

WILDERNESS GOLF MANAGER ACKNOWLEDGED

▶ Wisocki Is Minnesota PGA Facility Promoter of the Year

Joe Wisocki, General Manager of The Wilderness at Fortune Bay Resort Casino, was voted the "Facility Promoter of the Year" in the resort category, according to an announcement from the Minnesota Section of the Professional Golf Association (PGA).

"Promoter of the Year is awarded to those professionals who provide outstanding contributions to their facility," said Jon Tollette, Executive Director, Minnesota Section of the PGA. "Criteria considered for this award include golf programs offered, tournament operations, mer-

chandising, rules, promotion and history at the facility," he said.

"This is a great honor, to be acknowledged by my professional peers and the great organization of the PGA of America" said Wisocki, "but The Wilderness, which is owned and operated by the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, really promotes itself. If the daring design of this course doesn't take your breath



Joe Wisocki - General Manager of The Wilderness

away, the spectacular Lake Vermilion, north woods setting will. Our job is to crank up the hospitality and customer service so a visit to Fortune Bay and The Wilderness is a lifetime experience," he said.

POWERAIN

▶ Powerain Sells Car Wash System to Mille Lacs

Powerain signed a contract with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to build an automatic car wash bay and a hand-wash system that will be part of a new automotive service center the Mille Lacs Band is building for their hotel and casino guests. The new facility will be located adjacent to the Grand Casino complex in Hinckley and will include the automatic car wash, a hand wash system for both cars and RVs, a drive-in bay for oil changes, and two bays for routine maintenance.

Powerain Director of Sales and Marketing Jack DeMarre said this is the first of what Powerain sees as several sales to other Tribes.

"We believed strongly in the native market when the Bois Forte Band purchased Powerain just a year ago," said Jack DeMarre.

"The Mille Lacs contract and several other projects presently in the works with tribal organizations validate the decision by the Bois Forte leadership to diversify into non-gaming enter-

prises like Powerain." "We were attracted to Powerain because it is owned by another native tribe," said Mel Towle, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band, "but we were sold by their technical expertise, solid customer service, and good reputation." Towle added that the new facility will create several jobs in the area for valets, mechanics and managers. "We hope some of our future employees will also be young Band members interested in learning basic mechanics," he said.

The Mille Lacs contract comes just one month after Powerain announced that it will build a \$300,000 combined car and large vehicle wash (LVW) system for Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

"Gaming is a great economic resource for our people," said Kevin Leecy. "But we would be remiss if we didn't use this resource to build new opportunities for our children and their children. Powerain is just the beginning."

PETE DEFOE RESIGNS AS FOND DU LAC CHAIRMAN

▶ Chairman Peter J. Defoe submitted his resignation as leader of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on September 11. The Reservation Business Committee accepted the resignation and informed staff and the local media without offering an explanation.

Defoe was originally elected as Fond du Lac's Secretary Treasurer in 1986 and served until 2002 when he resigned to run for Chairman. He was elected Chair in 2004 and was widely respected throughout Indian Country. Bois Forte Chair Kevin Leecy said, "Pete shared a lot of wisdom with those around him. He worked hard to unite people. It was always a pleasure working with him and all of us are grateful for his many years of service."



Top Photo: Chairman DeFoe takes the oath of office in 2004. DeFoe poses with his family at the swearing in ceremony.



Janet M. Walter, Realtor

Office: 218-749-4050 ext. 16
Mobile: 218-780-3400
Fax: 218-749-1018
Toll Free: 877-361-0728
Email: janet@century21edwards.com

Proud Bois Forte Band Member



You're Invited to Bois Forte's Annual Veteran's Day Celebration & Feast

When: November 8, 2006

Time: 10:00am

Where: Nett Lake Community Center



Please come and honor our past, present, and future Veterans.

For more information contact Corinne at 218-757-3261.

BOIS FORTE - RECEIVES NEW AMBULANCE

► New Ambulance to Serve Nett Lake and Surrounding Communities

When you or a loved one needs an ambulance, you want it to be there now. The time it takes for the ambulance to reach you can be agonizing. You anxiously await the sound of sirens approaching, confident they will arrive any moment. An ambulance is coming...isn't it?

The answer is Yes. Thanks to the delivery of a shiny new \$90,000 ambulance which was delivered to Bois Forte last month and welcomed with eager anticipation, by our local EMTs.

The vehicle, housed in Nett Lake, will primarily serve the village residents but will be occasionally available for citizens in Orr, Cook and Little Fork, as part of the communities "mutual aid agreement."



Bois Forte Ambulance crew proudly posed in front of their new top-of-the-line ambulance.

The mutual aid agreement will help each community by giving them

access to more vehicles to safely address first response needs. RTC member and EMT volunteer, David Morrison sees the value of working cooperatively. "Last year, we had three occasions which demanded simultaneous runs. In one instance we called Orr for backup and the less seriously ill patient needed to wait. The aid agreement between Bois Forte and our neighboring communities is an important one for everyone. It's great to have new reliable equipment to serve our community and our neighbors."

By September of this year we already have made 66 runs." Bois Forte now has two ambulances which are staffed by thirteen EMTs, one of which is a paramedic and a registered nurse. The ambulance is also staffed with six trained drivers.

EMT Doris Isham originally went to the RTC a year ago and made the case for a new vehicle. "In recent years, the Band has been using a 2002 ambulance. Not old for a standard vehicle, but high mileage made it too unpredictable as an emergency vehicle."

the rig coming to take them to the hospital. But having a reliable up-to-date ambulance can be a matter of life and death. Last summer, there was a fire inside Bois Forte's 2002 rig. The equipment started smoking while transporting a patient, forcing the crew to stop the vehicle and remove the patient.

The new ambulance was purchased from North Central Ambulance in Lester Prairie, Minnesota. The \$90,000 plus sticker price was paid for by the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council (RTC)



Chairman Kevin Leecy signs the paperwork officially making the ambulance the property of Bois Forte.

Calls are going up for service in Nett Lake. Pam

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EMS - NEW AMBULANCE

Continued from page 7.

through a loan/grant arrangement with the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Office (USDA). Pam Barber and Dave Danz worked hard on the grant and the RTC ultimately made it happen.

Response from Bois Forte EMTs has been positive, Barber said, "We are all excited about this new state-of-the-art vehicle.

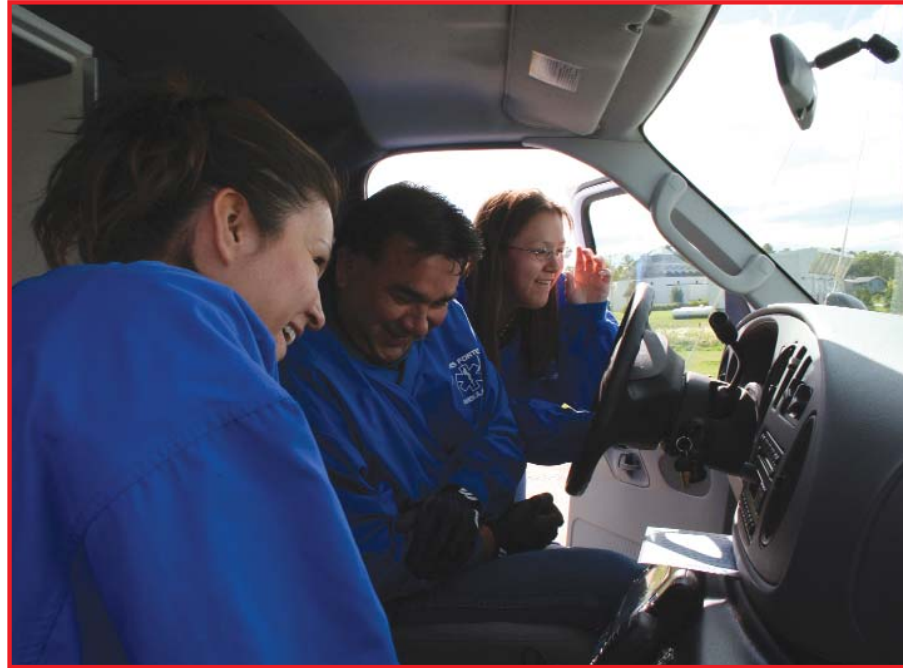
The new ambulance is bigger; more updated and has several new options. In particular, the crew is grateful to have a more updated communication system that enables them to use a touch electronic screen which updates the driver on the patient's condition. The patient compartment also has automatic climate control

system."

The new equipment doesn't change the procedure to follow if you have an emergency. Residents experiencing a life threatening emergency are asked to dial "911."

Each call will be received by a St. Louis County Sheriff Dispatcher, located between Eveleth and Virginia. The Sheriff's Department will then dispatch out the appropriate ambulance based on primary service area.

In the event that the Nett Lake ambulances are busy and cannot respond right away, the mutual aid agreement is then put into a play. The ambulance usually delivers the patient to the closest medical facility in Cook, though sometimes a medical doctor will direct the EMTs to deliver a patient to Hibbing, Virginia, or Duluth.



Like young teenagers with their first car, EMT's Billie Mason, David Morrison, and Erin Morrison check out the new features the ambulance has to offer.



Pam Barber explains a few new features the ambulance offers and how it is beneficial to the patients and crew.

BOIS FORTE DIABETES CONFERENCE

□ *Small Steps... Big Rewards*
Prevent Type 2 Diabetes □

Healthy habits are learned...start now and prevent diabetes from happening to you, your children and family.

*November 9th at Fortune Bay
Registration and booths open at 8:30 a.m.*

Guest Speaker: Dr. Steve Najarian

Everyone welcome !

ELDERS FUNDRAISER

► Elders Raffle Handmade Items to Support Gathering of Nations Trip

The Elders are excited about attending the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow this spring. In an effort to help raise funds they have made and received donated items for a raffle.

The below items will be raffled off during the Mid Winter Pow wow in Nett Lake February 16-18, 2007.

To buy a raffle ticket contact an Elder or call the Tribal Office 218-757-3261 for more information.

All tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 per item. All proceeds go towards the Elders Trip in the spring.



Hand knitted socks made by Rose Lien.



Double size quilt made by Rose Lien.



Shawl hand made by an Elder.



Beaded earrings donated by Kathy Sam.

ORR BRAVES HOMECOMING

The Orr Braves held their first fall Homecoming October 6, 2006.

Queen & King:
Kelsea Ingebretsen & Brandon Anderson

Candidates:
Megan Brockman & Nicolis Isham
Melissa Wright & Andrew Reed
Kelsey Radle & Thomas Radle

Crown Bearers:
Nett Lake Elementary
Savannah R. Parisien
Leonardo Martinez

Orr Elementary
Sabrina Franke
Garrett Abramson

Congratulations!



BOIS FORTE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Behind the Scene with Barb Brodeen

Usually I use my monthly column to report on developments affecting our people from four different sources: our country; our state; our reservation and local community; and Band members living off the reservation.

This month I want to share with you just one simple, but vital message.

VOTE NOVEMBER 7.

The results of the November 7 election are tremendously

important for Indian Country.

By taking time to vote you can make a huge difference in what happens in the Capitol Halls of Washington, DC and St. Paul as well as right in our own backyard.

Please educate yourself about the issues and engage in the process. Believe me when I say that each of us matter and that our voice – and our vote – count.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 2006.

Dear Editor,

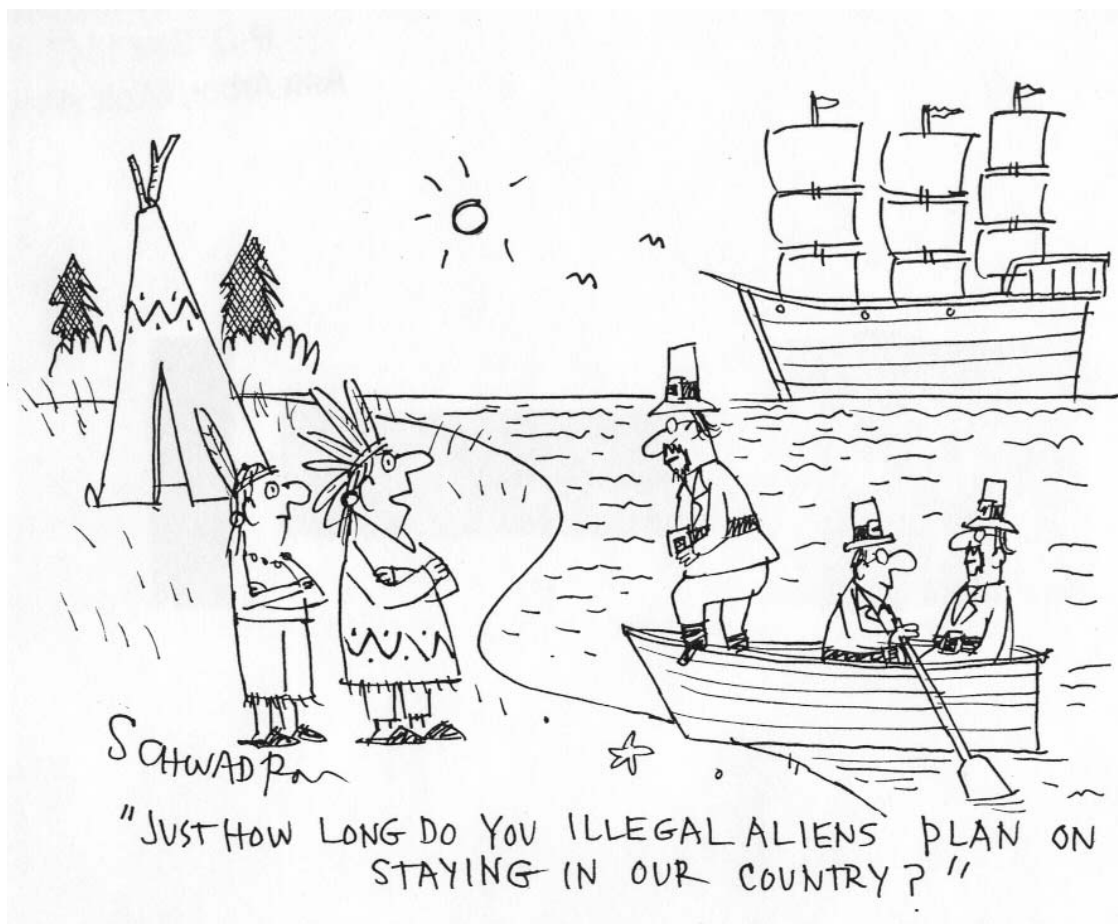
If we as communities are the responsible citizenry, we need to answer the call to action on November 7th and vote YES to the ISD 2142/St. Louis County Schools Special Referendum.

Since the State of Minnesota has drastically cut school funding, our rural district has been suffering. We find our district at the bottom of the scale of dollars received per student because of the small populace. School districts need operating funds to exercise a viable educational experience for their students.

I believe this is a pivotal time in the history of ISD 2142/St. Louis County Schools. We need to collectively support this special referendum wholeheartedly and make an investment in our children's educational system as we know it. Please inform yourselves of this pertinent issue, discuss with your neighbors and exercise your voting privilege on November 7th.

Please join me in giving a legacy of quality education, current technology, safe transportation, buildings maintenance, updated textbooks, and pride in our area schools.

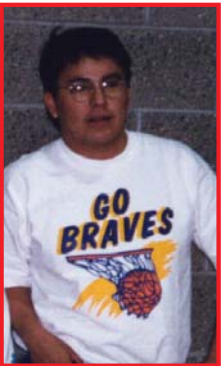
Sincerely,
Judy Koch, Orr



Cartoon by Harley Schwardron.

NATIVE ATHLETES

Brandon Benner



The Bois Forte News invited Brandon Benner, who has been very active in community sports for over decade, to begin reporting on Native athletes in the community.

This is the first, of what we hope will be regular reports from Brandon. Brandon

SMITH'S LEAD BLOCKING A HUGE PART OF THE BRAVES SUCCESS



Michael Smith has a job on the Orr Braves Football Team that may have him wondering, "Why?". On Saturday mornings. He's banged up, sore, and it seems like all anyone is talking about is who scored the

touchdowns, but ask anybody who knows anything about football and they will tell you one thing: It's the guys on the offensive line and the blockers who are the key to any successful football team. Mike Smith's lead blocking is a huge part of the Braves' success. With a very young team his senior leadership is very much needed. Coach John Jirik explains, "He's our most experienced player and our biggest running back. He also anchors our defense as our biggest most experienced linebacker." Coach Jirik's comments about Mike are self explanatory when blocking and tackling are the two things you need to do most in order to be successful in football. His mom Florene Laroque thinks it's great he's playing football and she says, "I get a good feeling every time I watch him play. I understand now that just because he doesn't score the touchdowns, it doesn't mean he's not important to the team. He's a big reason his teammates get to score." Sounds like a lesson learned that will carry on long after the football field lights are shut off. Way to go Mom and Mike!

1ST FEMALE AT OHS TO COMPLETE FOOTBALL SEASON

The term Ogichidaqwe has taken on a whole new meaning this season for the Orr Braves Football Team. It is an honorable word in the Ojibwe language that means- "Lady Warrior or Lady Brave", and honorable is the only word that describes Marissa Goodsky. According to Orr Football Coach John Jirik, "Marissa is the first female at OHS to complete a football season. She's the real deal and everybody knows that. She's at every practice and every game, to me it seems like its her favorite sport." Only Marissa knows the answer, as she is also active in Basketball and Track. When she first decided that she was a football player- Mom and Dad weren't sure. Mom Tara Goodsky explains, "I was worried at first, I didn't want her getting hurt competing with the boys. I was also afraid the boys wouldn't accept her and try discourage her from playing by being mean. But, she has won them over, and her biggest allie on the team is Jimmy Holman. I now think it's great she's playing. It matches her personality...Strong and Crazy." Dad Leon Goodsky adds: "When she approached me and told me she could do it I had to believe her. I think it was better for her to find out for herself, rather than have us tell her she couldn't. We're both proud of her." It seems that the hard work that Marissa is willing to put in, whether it is Football, Basketball, Track, or working two jobs has soothed all doubters. She has other supporters in the community who encourage and are proud of her also. Coach Jirik concludes, "She's just one of the boys."



Marissa Goodsky
"Lady Brave"

SETTING HER TEAMMATES UP FOR SUCCESS



Melissa Wright
"Lady Brave"

The homerun in baseball, the touchdown in football, the kill in volleyball...these are the plays that make fans cheer out loud. There is nothing quite like seeing a young athlete jump high in the air and 'kill' a volleyball, but what about the quiet one that sets her teammates up for the kill. The player that goes about her business behind the scenes. One of those invaluable position players is Senior Melissa Wright. She has been setting her teammates up for success on the Varsity team since 9th grade. The Orr Braves volleyball team has made some huge strides the past five years or so and Melissa is a huge reason why. Her mom Angela Wright is very proud of her daughter, no matter what sport she plays. Angela says, "It's a good opportunity for kids when they are part of a team. They get to meet other kids and learn how to work together. It's a good learning experience for them." In her sophomore and junior years Melissa has led the team in set assists. She is also one of the most reliable and accurate servers on the team. Underneath her quiet demeanor lies a fierce competitor, one who wants things to be done right. And yet through it all she has played quietly, setting her teammates up for glory. Helping her teammates become better players...and as her mom already knows, these are the lessons that will last.

RICING - RICING CAMP - MIIGWETCH MANOMIN POW WOW

► Gathering, Celebration, Study, and Education

The 2006 Ricing season went well. The Bois Forte Tribal Government purchased approximately \$19,000 of green rice from community harvesters.

This ricing season:

- 248 rice permits were sold.
- 228 permits in Nett Lake and 20 in Vermilion.
- 166 were sold to Band members & tribal resident at \$16.00 per permit for a total of \$2,656.
- 82 permits were sold to seniors & students at \$1.00 per permit for a total of \$82.00.



The weather held out for the ricers first weekend. Calm, relaxing water and a cool breeze, a perfect afternoon on the lake.



The lake was full of beginner, intermediate and veteran ricers.

Many took notice and held respect for the skilled seasoned veterans, watching and learning from the best.

Conservation Officer Brent Chosa loading bags of green rice.



RICING - RICING CAMP - MIIGWETCH MANOMIN POW WOW

Gathering, Celebration, Study, and Education

An essential part of the annual wild rice harvest is the Mii-gwetch Manomin Pow Wow. Below are some photos of this year's celebration.



Gene Goodsky's Orr High Cultural students Nicolis Isham and Will Isham assist Elders Marybelle Isham and Alma Lumbar parch the wild rice.

Area students look forward to the annual fall Rice Camp offered by Gene Goodsky, Bilingual, Bicultural Teacher for Nett Lake Elementary and Orr High School. This year students from Nett Lake, Orr, Cook, Virginia, and Fond du Lac participated in the day long camp. High School students from Gene's Anishinaabe Class assisted with the younger students. Nicolis Isham, Will Isham and Jeremy Skinnaway were among those who helped.

Louis Drift and other Bois Forte DNR staff taught the students about the growth of the rice and how to use a canoe to knock and gather.

Other volunteers and Elders worked with the students, teaching them how to make leather bracelets.



BOIS FORTE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

► BUSINESS TIPS from Steve Peterson, Business Development Coordinator

"This is a big jump – how do I know I can make it?"

In August we talked about how to pick a business suited for you: "So you've been thinking about a business that would be fun to do, that you have some knowledge about, and that you have a passion for. You may even have already collected some materials or equipment that would work in this business."

Then we talked about the Business Plan in the September issue: "Now what do you do with your good idea? The term 'Business Plan' usually scares people when they first hear it, because they think there's no way they could develop one, so that's where the good idea ends. But it doesn't have to."

You've followed along, and you've done all the things mentioned above. You know you have the passion for the business you want to start, and you have written the Business Plan (or draft), but a voice in your head says, "Can I make it?" The feeling in your gut says things can go wrong. Things can and will go wrong, but it's your planning and research that can minimize the chance of things happening unexpectedly in your business.

This is where the Technical Assistance (TA) from the Small Business Development Program (SBDP) comes in. TA is reviewing the permits and licenses that may be required. TA is going over the Business Plan and talking about it, sizing up the seasonality issues and the potential sales you are projecting. Together we will review the expenses of the business and have discussions about what makes sense. Read the **Tip of the Month** below to see more about licensing and regulations.

Planning, as in writing your draft of the Business Plan, is where you tell your story of this business. TA is where together we look at each piece of your plan and say, "Is that possible, can you perform those duties?" We perform what's called *Due Diligence*, asking is this business feasible, desirable and viable?

Take any lender out there, and their job is to ask you questions about your loan. The banker has to decide if they want to lend you the money, based on what you know about your business. In asking their questions, they are doing a form of *Due Diligence*. So a part of TA is getting you ready for the lending process as well.

I have a form in my office that is called the Loan Request Check List. On this list are most of the common items needed in starting or expanding a business. There are 20 different items on the list that range from the Business Plan to the business owner's resume to references. Not every business needs to have all 20 items completed, but is a good way for us to get started on the TA for your business.

The numbers is where I can help you the most. When you tell the story about your business, I can turn that story into numbers. The number one TA or Due Diligence question is, "Will the business be profitable?" We will explore month by month the anticipated sales and costs for your business and make sure it will be profitable. These are the cash flow projections we've mentioned. Profitable means, can the business make sales and pay all the expenses and have money left over? All expenses and the loan

payment should come from the business, not the owner's personal finances. The leftover money from the business is meant to go to the owner's personal finances; most people get that backwards.

This whole Business Plan with TA and a Loan Request can seem like a long process. But it's not the process that takes the time, it's the business owner who dictates how fast the process moves. Business owners should determine how comfortable they are with each piece of this "big jump" and then work on it and research

it until they become comfortable enough to move forward. So if it's a new business or one you are expanding, give me a call. My part is the Technical Assistance – helping you ask the questions, the "what ifs," and helping you answer the all important, "This is a big jump – how do I know I can make it?"

Please be sure to let me know if there is a specific small business topic you would like me to address. You can contact me at: 218-753-7805 speterson@fortunebay.com

■ Congratulations

• Mary Strong, Native American Crafts of Vermilion. Her business loan from Bois Forte SBDP helped her purchase some new equipment for her wild rice processing. If you know of someone who would like to purchase wild rice, call Mary at 753-6941.

■ Special Request

• I am looking for Bois Forte Band members who make birch bark baskets or canoes. No matter if you're in business or make birch bark items for a hobby, I am interested in talking with you. I am in need of baskets and canoes for a project I am working on. Please give me a call at 218-753-7805 or 1-800-992-7529, ext 7805.

■ Business Tip of the Month:

Make Sure You Know and Follow the Rules and Regulations for Your Business

As you plan your business, no matter where the location may be, it is very important to research the rules and regulations (which usually come from a government entity) that could shut down your business just as you get started. Sometimes it's the people in the business who need to be qualified to perform the kind of work they do. Examples of this kind of licensing include chiropractors, massage therapists, head chefs and cooks, those in pest control, veterinarians, beauticians and taxidermists. A lot of products we buy these days need also special licensing. Businesses that sell liquor, cigarettes, bait, hunting licenses, ammunition, gas, fresh cut meat or prepared food all have to apply for a license. Then there is the issue of what the business is doing. Businesses need to comply with regulations about getting rid of their waste like oil and anti-freeze, animal fats and greases, old tires, or bi-products from their processes, such as most of the iron ore mines around us. The list is long and it becomes the business owner's responsibility to check it out before someone comes to check on you. The State of Minnesota has a free book or CD called *A Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota*, and you can get your copy by calling the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Small Business Assistance Office at 1-800-310-8323 or 651-296-3871.

BOIS FORTE HEALTH

Ready To Mobilize Medical Supplies

This is the fourth in a series of six news reports, prepared by Teri Morrison, on how northeastern Minnesota organizations have been preparing for emergency situations,

Recent publicity in the media brings up the question, "how ready are we in the case of a major medical emergency?" There is a national system set up to mobilize emergency medical supplies quickly for a wide variety of emergencies, such as an anthrax terrorist attack and the SARS epidemic a few years ago. Locally, a comprehensive plan is in place so these emergency supplies can be distributed throughout the region when needed.

County and tribal public health have worked together with northeastern Minnesota hospitals, clinics, local emergency planners, EMS, Red Cross, law enforcement, military and human services agencies to prepare for all hazards. Public Health has identified distribution locations. Pharmacists and medical personnel have been recruited and trained. Volunteer networks are being set up to help with organizing, setting up medical assistance locations and directing traffic. Emergency messages will be relayed to the media so if antibiotics or vaccines are recommended, directions can be provided to the public.

Medical stockpiles in the US are stored in strategic locations, so when a major disaster strikes, the supplies can be delivered to any area in the country within twelve hours of a state's

request. If the incident requires additional pharmaceuticals and/or medical supplies, they will be shipped to arrive within 24 to 36 hours. These supplies include antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications and other medical/surgical items. Any medicines or medical supplies will be free so as many people as possible will receive protection.

In case of any emergency event, always listen to your local radio or television station for messages on appropriate actions for you and your family. For more information go to the Northeast Minnesota regional website www.NEMNBPrepared.net or contact Teri Morrison Community Health, 218-757-3295 thmorrison@boisfortensn.gov for the "Be Prepared" fact sheet.

OBITUARY

RUTH ANN STRONG (ga shi gii shi gook), 81

Ruth Ann Strong, 81, of Nett Lake passed away Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth.

SERVICES: Tribal Rites were held at 10:00 AM Saturday (October 7th) at the Nett Lake Community Center. Visitation was after 6:00 p.m. Friday at the Center. Gilbert Smith was the Spiritual Advisor. The casket bearers were: Jim Morrison, Clyde Day, Fred Creg, Brian Moyer, Robert Moyer Jr., and Jayson Strong. Burial was in the family cemetery in Nett Lake. Arrangements were with the Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Ruth Ann was born on June 17, 1925, on Indian Island on Burnside Lake, Ely, the daughter of Edwin and Bessie (Mesabi) Boshey. The family spent their summers on the island and wintered on the main

land. Ruth attended grade school in Ely and later went to boarding school in Pipestone. She briefly lived at the Vermilion Reservation before moving to Nett Lake. She was united in marriage to Albert Strong on Oct. 6, 1948 in Orr. They settled in Nett Lake where they resided the rest of their lives. Ruth was a very active volunteer in community activities. She lived and taught her native customs to her family and others. She got the nickname "Mama Bear" by wearing little kids sorrel boots on her tiny feet. Ruth was a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and enjoyed quilting, beadwork, sewing and cooking. You couldn't leave her home without something to eat. She especially liked going to Pow-Wows.

She is survived by her children, Phyllis (Robert)



Boshey, Mary Strong, Gaynard Strong all of Tower and Rodney (Lisa) Strong of International Falls; a sister, Caroline Boshey, of Tower; seven grandchildren, Ken Jr., Kristal, Donovan, Rhiannon, Jayson and Katie Marie Strong and Allison (Jim) Morrison; seven Great Grandchildren, Dylan, Jake, Kaitlin, Ryker, Starlin, Aolani, and Cody; numerous step grandchildren and step great grandchildren; along with numerous nephews and nieces, and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Albert Strong, one son Kenneth Strong Sr.; brothers: Milton and George Boshey, sisters: Barbara Boshey, Mary Jane Lorenson, Rosebelle Chosa, and Elenor (Darlene) Creg, and a step daughter Sara Kochie.



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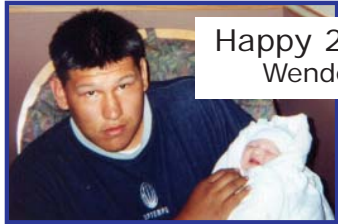
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*** Subscription is Free for All Bois Forte Band Members.**
If you are a BFBM and you're not receiving the paper, please let us know.

Happy 6th Birthday!

Madison Day

Who turned 6 on Oct. 8th.
Love Mommy, Uncle
Wendell, all your
Grandmas & Family



Happy 25th Birthday!
Wendell Hoagland

Who turned 25 on
Oct. 10th.
Love,
Madison & Family



Happy 30th Birthday!
(Nov. 1st)

Love from your
Sisters & Mom

NUTRITION & FAMILY FUN

▶ **Bois Forte's Nutrition Program & Family Base Program Team Up.**

On September 17th the Bois Forte Nutrition Program teamed up with the Bois Forte Family Home Base Program. The two programs invited families and community members to learn how to make homemade salsa and tortilla chips. Each participant made a batch of salsa, a bag of chips and got to take home a cooking utensil of their choice. The afternoon was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

▶ **Pumpkin Fun**

On Friday, October 27th the students of the Nett Lake Elementary School had a good time carving pumpkins for Halloween. The event took place after school until 4:30pm. The Bois Forte Family Base Program provided the pumpkins & carving kits for each child.

Submitted by Vondalee Carr, Bois Forte Human Services Family Base Worker.



Salsa Class participants listening to instructions from Theresa Drift, Community Nutrition Educator.



Jaime Villebrun & Margaret Day prepping vegetables for their salsa.



Jeanine Whiteman offers help to her daughter Jenna.

You're Invited to Bois Forte's Annual **Veteran's Day Celebration & Feast**

When: November 8, 2006
Time: 10:00am
Where: Nett Lake Community Center



Please come and honor our past, present, and future Veterans.

For more information contact Corinne at 218-757-3261.



Big brother Dylan King helps Skylar carve the biggest pumpkin of the group.