

NAhtAsuutaaka' (White Shield) News Journal

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Councilman Fox Honored by New Name



(L to R) Dee LaDeaux, Austin Gillette, Alfred Morette Jr. and Councilman Fred Fox, "Eagle Stands Alone" at Appreciation Dinner. Fox wears a new Scout Cap given to him by Gillette and Morsette.

During Fred Fox's appreciation dinner, he was honored with a naming ceremony. Austin Gillette and Alfred Morsette Jr. gave him the name "Eagle Stands Alone" because of his life-time achievements and he was especially honored for his outstanding first four years as White Shield's East Segment Councilman. Councilman Fox said he was surprised and had not been told prior to honoring.

Councilman Fox was unanimously elected to his first term. This year, his second term, the community accepted him for another four years without any challenges.

There was a full house at his appreciation dinner. He told the community how much he appreciated their support throughout the past four years. *(story continues on page 4)*



*From the desk of Fred Fox, Councilman, East Segment, White
Shield, ND 58540*



Christmas is almost here and by now everyone should have received their disbursement checks. The Tribal Business Council wanted to make sure everyone received their checks so they can do some Christmas shopping.

The Elders will receive an additional \$1,000 at the Elders disbursement on December 20th. The party will be held at the 4-Bears Casino.

We are diligently working on the Tribal Budget and should have it approved by the end of this month. We had to make some major cuts in our budget due to the continuing cuts in the price of oil. We will still continue finishing Tribal projects and budget for disbursements and the People's Fund. This past disbursement was \$15.3 million and we have to budget for April and July. The current Tribal projects include - Law Enforcement/Court House (New Town), White Shield School, Veterans Center (New Town), Interpretive Center (New Town), Drug Treatment Center (Bismarck), and Road Construction on BIA 12 in Mandaree. Also in the Tribal Budget is the Health Insurance cards for every Tribal Member who doesn't have Health Insurance.

This past November we had a great turnout for the Thanksgiving and Appreciation dinner at the complex. I want to thank everyone for coming and appreciate all your support.

The Segment/Community Christmas party will be Thursday, December 15th at the complex. We have a lot planned for the evening. Included is Master of Ceremonies, Chance Rush and entertainment by Singer/Song Writer and Tribal Member, Mercedes Gourneau. Our Special Guest is well-known Comedian/Actor "Tatanka Means." We will have gifts for all the children and gift cards for the adults as well as a Prime Rib and Ham dinner. We wanted to make this a special event for the entire community and families.

I want to send my condolences to all the families that recently lost loved ones this past month. I also want to send blessings and prayers to the ones who are in the hospital over the holiday season. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care and God Bless.

***MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL.***





Snow pictures

Snow drifts were so high they covered cars at the Ralph Wells Complex. Snow drifts in some areas blocked roads and nearly covered everything.

On right is Complex parking. All cars are nearly buried. You can barely see top of some cars.



Deer are doing fine in the deep snow - - probably happy they made it through hunting season.

Special announcement: The White Shield News Journal will be changing to e-mail beginning with February 2017 issue. **Reason:** The printed copies are a poor quality, have not been distributed correctly, sometimes it takes the printing office as long as two weeks to print the paper and if you find a picture in the Journal you like, it is easier to copy from an email.

The costs for mail is extremely high and some people are still not receiving the News Journal especially in White Shield.

We are currently collecting e-mail addresses, so if you would like a News Journal e-mailed to you, please send us your e-mail address. We will make an exception for some elders and those who do not have e-mail service and will continue to mail them a copy.

Copies of the New Journal will also be available at the Ralph Well Complex, Nishu Store, Elder Center and Bismarck tribal office. We will identify more sites later.



Autumn Connor wins door prizes.



Yellow Face singers drum and sing for Fred



Yay, I'm ready to eat!!



Liz, Grover, Don Yellow Bird, Deloris Wilkinson, Cleo Charging and others in line at Appreciation dinner.

White Shield Children Receive Coats, Gloves and Stocking Caps from Councilman Fox



Children in Headstart and 8th grade were given coats, gloves and stocking caps from Councilman Fred Fox. Those students, pictured above, are showing off their new winter outfits. With the below zero weather, it has been important that the children are dressed for the weather to keep warm.

Jonelle Abe, Special Assistant to Councilman Fox, stands with four of the Burlington Coat Factory employees who helped with the selection and packaging of the winter clothes for the students.



Inauguration Ceremony for Mayer, Phelan and Fred Fox



Monica Mayer, Randy Phelan and Fred Fox

(More pictures of Inauguration on page 7)



CEO Al Nygard and his staff



Glenda Embry and Nancy Fox



Monica Mayer & her sister Holly Taft



Art Smith, Spiritual leader



New Town Color Guard.

Excess federal land transferred to Three Affiliated Tribes

Saturday, December 10, 2016

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - The Army Corps of Engineers has transferred about 47 square miles of land to the Three Affiliated Tribes.

The property is about 30,000 excess acres that was taken when Garrison Dam was built, and its return has been in the works for more than a decade.

U.S. Sen. John Hoeven says the Corps informed him Thursday that the transfer is complete, and the land will be held in trust for the tribe by the Interior Department.

Hoeven says he and other leaders are worried about preserving Lake Sakakawea access, and that they'll pursue legislation if necessary.

Tribal Chairman Mark Fox has said the tribe will manage the transferred land for the public benefit.



**MHA NATION
SCIENCE FAIR**

Northern Lights Gym
NEW TOWN, ND
Thursday, January 5, 2017
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GRADE DIVISIONS:
Kindergarten through Grade 12

CATEGORIES:
Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science,
Physics/Mathematics, Biology,
Technology/Engineering.



THE MHA NATION EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH FORT BERTHOLD COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WHITE SHIELD, TWIN BUTTES, NEW TOWN, AND MANDAREE, PARSHALL SCHOOLS WILL BE HOSTING THE ANNUAL K-5 GRADE SCIENCE FAIR.

In conjunction with the fair, the Fort Berthold Community College Science Department will also be displaying their research and exhibit their hard work

Every participant will receive a T-shirt and Medals will be awarded to top 3 places in each division

For more information contact:
Francine White 701-421-3791
Damon Brady 701-421-7150

Science is what scientists do, and there are as many scientific methods as there are individual scientists.
-Percy W. Bridgman-
'On Scientific Method' in Reflections of a Physicist



**WHITE SHIELD EAST SEGMENT
&
COMMUNITY BOARD
Christmas Party**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
6PM | RALPH WELLS COMPLEX

DOOR PRIZES! GIFT CARDS!

**PRIME RIB DINNER
HAM DINNER
(SERVED BY "CHRISTMAS ELVES")**

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT BY
MERCEDES GOURNEAU

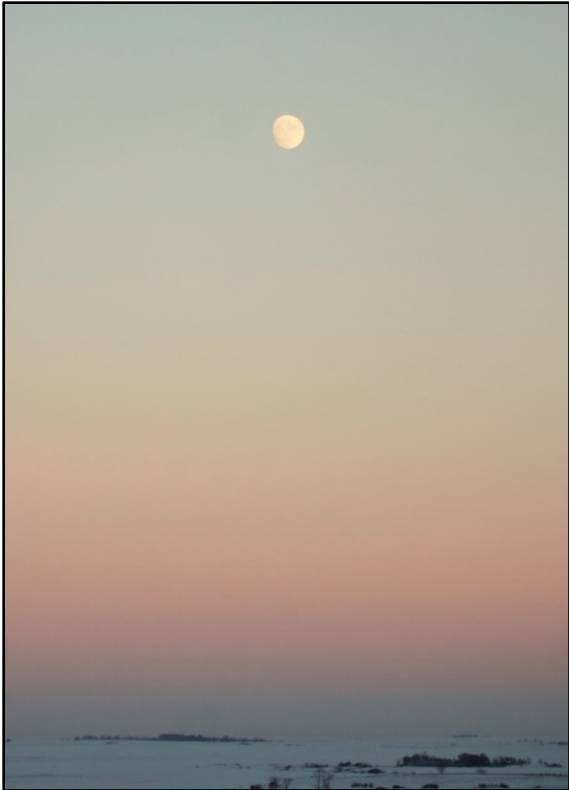


TOYS FOR TOTS

TATANKA MEANS
WWW.DEKANSKAUKAN.COM



Photos taken by Karen Lone Fight near BIA Highway.



The top photo is a good explanation of sublimation which is the conversion between the solid and the gaseous phases of matter, with no intermediate liquid stage.

For those of us interested in the water cycle, sublimation is most often used to describe the process of snow and ice changing into water vapor in the air without first melting into water. The opposite of sublimation is "deposition", where water vapor changes directly into ice—such as snowflakes and frost.

Photo at the right is the evening moon against the cold air and deep snow cover.

Oceti Sakowin Camp just before blizzard.



Judge Hopkins talk about Native Americans in President-Election Trump's World

Here we are folks. The dumpster fire that was 2016 is finally drawing to a close, and in January 2017, the President-Elect, Donald Trump, will become the Commander-in-Chief to the Confederacy Flag waving good ol' boys, Wall Street cronies, and white suburban moms that voted him in, along with everybody else.

I'm an Independent and Bernie was my guy. When he left the race, I became more of an observer to the train wreck that was the 2016 Presidential Election. Did you see Jill Stein come through and spray paint some pipeline machinery? It's been an interesting year.

This isn't a Funny or Die skit, or an episode of *The Simpsons*. This is real. On election night, some cheered; others cried. You crazy Americans crashed Canada's immigration website. Even now, many are still in denial. I'm not exactly banking on an electoral college upset. Surprise! We aren't living in an actual democracy.

What's been at the forefront of my mind is what a Trump presidency means for us NDNs.

History shows that the Donald is not a friend to this country's Indigenous peoples, and I'm not only talking about his insistence on referring to amorphous Cherokee Senator Elizabeth Warren as "Pocahontas" throughout his campaign, or the fact that some of his supporters showed up at his rallies in full warpaint and fake headdresses to revel in his racist, misogynistic taunts.

Donald Trump has a long history of animosity towards us. While at war against the Native gaming industry that posed a threat to his empire, he claimed that NDN reservations are under mob control. He secretly paid more than copy million in ads that portrayed members of a Tribe in Upstate New York as cocaine traffickers and career criminals. He suggested in testimony that

dark-skinned Natives in Connecticut were faking Indigenous ancestry. Oddly enough, while Trump slandered Tribes and the growing Native gaming industry in public, he lobbied behind closed doors to manage a casino for a California Tribe. He failed.

As if to personify ecological disaster, he picked Scott Pruitt to head up the EPA, a man who doesn't believe in climate change. Trump is an avid supporter of the fossil fuel industry. He's an investor in the Dakota Access Pipeline. Yes, the very same project that water protectors at Standing Rock are laying their lives on the line to stop. He's also expressed a willingness to use eminent domain to seize personal property for private (rather than public) interests, an unseemly and illegal practice which flies in the face of the U.S. Constitution.

Now, the Great Orange Father and his administration have said they want to privatize the Rez. When Trumps sees NDN land, his eyes turn into dollar signs. Trump, along with a group of "Native American advisors" (at least three of which are linked to the oil industry) want to free Natives of their abundant resources. You see, while NDN reservations are merely 2% of the U.S., they contain 1/5th of the nation's oil, gas, and coal, potentially 1.5 trillion in reserves. The Federal government holds title to 56 million acres of Tribal lands while Tribes decide how land and resources are allotted among Tribal members. Congress tried privatizing the Rez before. It was called the Dawes Act. Meant to assimilate Natives, it offered individual NDNs private lots in exchange for U.S. citizenship. At the time, Natives were starving and just trying to survive. Many sold their land as a result. By the 1930s, more than 90 million acres of Tribal land was sold to non-Natives, creating an incontrovertible jurisdictional enigma that would give the most inquisitive legal mind a head splitting migraine.

The Dawes Act turned some reservations, like my own, into an impossible patchwork where in some places, you could practically play hopscotch between Tribal land and private non-Native property. This loss of Tribal lands led to the United States Supreme Court ruling that the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe's reservation boundaries had been diminished in *DeCoteau v. District Court* (420 U.S. 425). Diminishment hurts Tribal sovereignty- our ability to manage Tribal lands, govern Tribal membership, and hold criminals within reservation boundaries accountable. Land and language is key to Tribal identity. Tribes without land are not federally recognized. If we are to assert treaty rights, we must hold the land. Our homelands are also where our ceremonies take place.

Those in favor argue that federal regulations for Tribal lands are more burdensome than those applied to private property. This is true; however, privatizing our traditional homelands, especially to sell them to fossil fuel energy corporations as Trump desires, will destroy them forever. Once sold to non-Natives, ancestral lands will not pass down to the next seven generations of Tribal members and they are lost forever. Tribes would lose control over them. Sacred sites will be bulldozed. Waterways will be polluted. Landscapes will be stripped. Wildlife will leave, or get sick and die. Cancer rates and birth defects in surrounding Native lands will soar. We see all of these effects in lands that are fracked, mined, and drilled.

Land privatization is a sovereignty killer, a colonial device used to sever the sacred relationship we have to the land. Greed will cause division within our ranks. We're in for a fight, and losing is not an option.

Ruth Hopkins (Sisseton Wahpeton & Mdewakanton Dakota, Hunkpapa Lakota) is a writer, blogger, biologist, activist and judge.

How to Stop a Black Snake

By LOUISE ERDRICH DEC. 10, 2016



Near Cannon Ball, N.D. — Last Sunday, the Oceti Sakowin camp at Standing Rock in North Dakota was slick with icy, packed-down snow. The mud was glass. Veterans poured in, having traveled all night to support the people protecting their water from the Dakota Access Pipeline.

I linked arms with Loretta Bad Heart Bull, and we teetered up to the central prayer circle with Art Zimiga, an Oglala Hunkpapa Vietnam veteran who had just been gifted a pair of crampons. The sun was still warm, the air scented with burning cedar.

The sudden announcement that an easement to cross the Missouri River had been denied by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, dealing the pipeline an apparent setback, sent roars of joy, waves of song, disbelief, joy again, all through the camp.

Dancers swirled, women gave high-pitched Lakota trills, people roared “Mni Wiconi,” water is life. Some wept, sank to their knees, waved wands of smoking sage. Loretta grabbed my arm and tugged me closer to the circle, into the crowd. She is a no-nonsense, funny, sharply dressed woman. Everybody let her through.

I crushed up next to Vermae Taylor, from Fort Peck, Mont., who had been back and forth to the camp since August. She told me that this moment was the happiest she’d been in all of her 75 years. Mary Lyons, an Ojibwe elder from Leech Lake, beamed and held my arm. She was there for her great-grandchildren.

While the victory strengthens the tribe’s position, most people around me were aware that the struggle was not over. Energy Transfer Partners had [called](#) the denial of the easement a “political action” and said it was committed to finishing the pipeline. People were not breaking camp, but digging in.

My family has been taking turns at Standing Rock, and last weekend was mine, so I drove from Minneapolis. I have poor cold-weather-camping skills, and the Prairie Knights Casino and Resort was bursting, with people slumped asleep in lobby chairs. I felt lucky to be able to stay in Loretta’s home, snug on a windy hill, overlooking Barren Butte. Her house is a tidy haven, often filled with visitors. We got home late, collapsed. I drank glass after glass of water.

It was delicious water. *That’s what this is all about*, said Loretta. She was drying traditional chokecherry cakes in an electric food dryer. The day, with its huge range of emotions over the surprise decision, seemed endless. I had actually come to talk to the veterans, who were still arriving as we left. More than 2,000 had signed on and more were expected along with snow.

The night before, I had been at the first veterans' gathering at Sitting Bull tribal college. There, I met Duane Vermillion, a local Marine and Vietnam veteran who was unsurprised that so many veterans were arriving. "If a call is put out to ask for help, our friends will answer," he said. Native Americans have always maintained an outsize presence in the military, serving on a per-capita basis in higher numbers than any other ethnic group. American Indians fought in the Civil War and World War I before we even had citizenship. Many Native Americans volunteered to serve in World War II and Korea before they were included in the Voting Rights Act, and in Vietnam before the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

That's right. In a country founded on religious freedom, Native Americans were not granted the right to legally practice our own religions until 1978.

Since then, indigenous spirituality has become a powerful uniting force. Each tribal nation has its own rituals and observances, but we hold in common the conviction that our earth is a living mystery upon whose tolerance we depend.

In the Missouri Breaks, you feel that presence acutely. But the flat aqua expanse of Lake Oahe in view of the Oceti Sakowin camp is another story. The lake isn't natural, and was forced on tribal people when the Army Corps flooded the fertile bottomlands of the Missouri River. Up north, the project displaced the Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara people. Down here, the Lakota. After so many other acts of dispossession, it was said that many elders died of broken hearts.

On Monday, I said goodbye to Loretta, who packed me an egg sandwich. I drove home chased by snow. Along I-94 there were the familiar signs, simple black-and-white admonitions, Be Nice, and Be Polite. It could have been the camp motto. So many young non-Native people have been drawn to this cause. I thought about the spindly girl with wild ringlets, smiling as she served me a plate of wontons and strawberries in the food tent. I worried. Did she have wool socks? A subzero sleeping bag? After a blizzard, there is usually deep cold.

Which was how things felt — a storm of emotion and then the glaring truth of our political reality, in which fossil fuel interests expect a presidential blessing.

Still I hope we look back to Standing Rock as the place where we came to our senses. Where new coalitions formed. Where we became powerful together as we realized that we have to preserve land, water, the precious democracy that is our pride, the freedoms that make up our joy.

I hope we look back at the images — the blurred features behind the riot-gear-clad men looming over a praying woman, the costumes of intimidation, the armored Humvees confronting young people on horseback, and see how close we came to losing the republic. But we didn't. We woke up. We understood that the people who had persevered through everything, including Wounded Knee, knew how easily the world could end. So they were fighting for the water of life, for everyone.

Louise Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, is the author, most recently, of the novel "LaRose."

OBITUARIES



Edwin James Benson receives Honorary Doctorate Degree from UND presented by former Sen. Byron Dorgan.

TWIN BUTTES — **Edwin James Benson**, 85, Twin Buttes, passed away Dec. 9, 2016, at his home. Services will be held at 10 a.m. CST Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Twin Buttes Memorial Hall.

Visitation will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. CST Monday at Barbot Funeral Home, Beulah, and continue at Edwin's Home from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. CST. A wake service will begin at 5 p.m. CST at Twin Buttes Memorial Hall.

He is survived by his three daughters, Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, Janet Benson and Heidi (Miguel) Hernandez; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Alice (Bear Ghost) Benson; his siblings, Blanche Benson, Louella Benson Young Bear, Phillip Benson, and Viola Benson-Wilson; his grandsons, Brian J. Eagle and Marcus Carvalho; and his daughter, Paulette Long Chase.

Edwin was very much loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed. Rest in Peace, Edwin. He was an icon and influential figure in the history and culture of the MHA Nation. Benson was also one of the last fluent Mandan speakers.

Russell Everett

Russell Everett, 64, Parshall, died on Thursday near New Town. Wake services will be held on Sunday at 5:00 pm at the Ralph Wells Jr. Memorial Complex in White Shield. Funeral services will be held on Monday at 11:00 am at the complex. Thompson Funeral Home, Garrison.



December 2016						
November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 White Shield Community Christmas Party, Complex, 6 pm	16 TAT Tribal Council Meeting 10 am	17
18	19	20 Elders Christmas Party/Disbursement 11 am to 2 pm. Casino	21	22 MHA Employees, casino, 6 pm. 	23	24
25  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31

Elder Birthdays

Bobby Bear	12- 2
Bobbette Bruce	12-4
Janice Star	12-12
Nancy Fox	12-24

A Very Happy Birthday



Councilman Fred Fox; former Congressman Earl Pomroy and Randy Phelan meet with Congressional staff in Washington D.C.

