

NAhtAsuutaaka' (white shield) Newsletter

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LOCAL NEWS

Three Arikara travel to the Middle East to share the Sahnish culture



Arab student, Loren Jr, Patrick and Loren Yellow Bird Sr in classroom at Doha.

Doha Qatar – Loren Yellow Bird Jr. and his two sons, Patrick and Loran Jr., traveled from their home at Trenton, ND (Loren is an Arikara Historian/Cultural Resources Liaison, Ft. Union, Williston, ND) to the Middle East (Doha Qatar) to share the culture of the Sahnish to the Arabic people of Qatar. This ten-day journey began April 18 and concluded April 27. Some of those days, however, were spent in the air in their journey halfway around the world.

Yellow Bird talked with the Qatari people about Sahnish culture change in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the stresses of assimilation experienced by the tribe that resulted in a near total loss of language, history and cultural practices, he said. He explained that the Sahnish cultural and traditions were not totally forgotten.

The Sahnish survival became the seeds of contemporary culture and language - Sahnish values and beliefs - were rediscovered by a new generation- specifically, “Corn, the Office of the Chief and the secrets that were revealed in the medicine lodge. ***(Story continues on page 3)***



From the desk of Fred Fox, Vice Chairman & Councilman for White Shield

I would like to give a few updates on what's been happening with the MHA Nation. The tribe recently negotiated a new Oil & Gas Tax agreement with the State of North Dakota. The original agreement had the Tribe sharing 50% of the tax revenue with the state on trust minerals. The Tribe also earned 20% on fee minerals. Last week the agreement increased the share on the fee minerals to evenly split the tax 50% on the fee minerals. It was approved by the State Legislature in the last hours of the session, but it wasn't easy getting it through the legislature. The increased tax percentage will give the tribe an additional \$315 million based of the current trend in pricing and the current production history. These tax dollars supplement the tribe's infrastructure which are roads, water, law enforcement, health care, housing, and regulatory enforcement with oil & gas development.

Roads are the tribe's main priority. We have seen the tribal roads deteriorate over the past couple of years in the Mandaree and New Town segments. It is very expensive to rebuild these roads to meet the safety needs of our tribal members. Also trying to recruit law enforcement officers and health care professionals to our reservation is difficult without increased housing development.

I recently traveled to the Navajo Nation and visited with President Ben Shelly. We discussed the Navajo Nation's energy development history and future energy projects on their reservation. I met with departments that are similar to MHA Nation such as Minerals Department, Navajo Oil & Gas, Tax Department, OSHA, EPA, and Water Resources. We shared ideas and strategies on energy development and infrastructure needs for both Nations. The trip was a learning experience and the hospitality from President Ben Shelly was humbling.

We have the White Shield staff currently working on projects such new Segment Administrative offices and meeting rooms as well as housing development for law enforcement officers; that also includes housing for our community members. But before we start these projects, the infrastructure in White Shield needs to be addressed. We are in the planning process for a new lagoon that will meet the needs of our community. Our current lagoon system cannot hold the increased load. The age of one of them is also a concern.

Another concern is the tribe's solid waste. We are coming up with a few ideas on how we can address this build-up of trash every day and will present some plans soon.

I would like to wish everyone a good start on up and coming summer and wish you safe travels if your making or planning any trips. Thank you.

About Qatar, the Middle Eastern, oil-rich country (story from page 1)



Dr. Van de Logst and Loren Yellow Bird walk among Qatari people and city buildings.

Qatar, the country visited by the Yellow Bird family, is a country off Saudi Arabia just below Iran. It is a sovereign Arab state, located in Western Arabia occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeasterly coast of the much larger Arabian Peninsula.

Islam is the predominant religion. The government uses Sunni law as the basis of its criminal and civil regulations.

In March 2008, a Roman Catholic church, Our Lady of the Rosary, was consecrated in Doha. No missionaries are allowed in the community. The church has no bells, crosses or other Christian symbols on it and its premises. Arabic is the official language of Qatar. English is also widely spoken reflecting the multicultural make-up of the country.

Qatar has been ruled as an absolute and hereditary emirate by the Al Thani family since the mid-19th century. Formerly one of the poorest Persian Gulf states, the mainly barren country, was noted mainly for pearl hunting. It was a British protectorate until it gained independence in 1971. Since then, it has become one of the region's wealthiest states due to its enormous oil and natural gas revenues.

In 1995, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani became Emir when he deposed his father, Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, in a peaceful coup d'état.

Qatar has proven reserves of oil and natural gas. Qatar tops the list of the world's richest countries by *Forbes*. In 2010, Qatar had the world's highest GDP per capita, while the economy grew by 19%, the fastest in the world.

Yellow Bird family experience different cultures yet see similarities

While temperatures in the White Shield didn't reach 32 degrees, it was 93 degrees when the Yellow Bird family reached sandy, warm Qatar.



Mark Van de Logt, who is from Holland, was their host and guide. He invited Yellow Bird (through Texas A&M) to Qatar because his class was working on a project about American Indian History.

Loren presented to Van de Logt classes and was amazed by the overwhelming response to the family. The classes had read materials about Indian people as well as the Sahnish tribe. They were interested

in how Indian people were treated in this country because they had heard Indians were alcoholics, didn't like to work, and in poverty. Loren said he explained historically American Indian problems but, using his own life as an example, he said "I don't drink, use drugs and work for a living as many Indian people do." Another student asked why Indian people participated in the military, supporting a country, they thought, didn't support them. He said "We serve in the military to protect our way of life because we've already had too much taken from us." They worked hard to make sure the language and cultural ways aren't forgotten, Yellow Bird said.

There were many differences in the cultures of Arabs and American Indians, but many similarities also. There were students, for example, dressed in the traditional garb of the Middle East, white cloth and black head bands. The woman, he said, wore black covering called "burkas." There was a strong smell of spices and they saw different people working, making things. There were exhibits of rugs, olds vases, scripts, tools and so on.

There was also the familiarity of malls. They ate at Pizza Hut one day and found many of the same stores in the United States that were popular in Qatar.

Loren said as they drove to Souq Waqif or the "sook" a place where they pray. He found they pray five times a day, he added. The religion fascinated Loren. Their lives revolve around the religion and they seemed to be guided by it. While there, Loren said, they never heard sirens or disruptions you hear in cities back home. They were treated to an Italian meal by a man from Africa who spoke Swahili.

Sunday, Yellow Bird said, was the beginning of the work week at the university and they were in a place called "education city." The campus contained many different colleges like Texas A&M, the university that sponsored Loren. Next to Texas A&M was Georgetown University (Washington D.C) and Cornell University that had an emphasis on medical education and finally Northwestern University for journalism. Van de Logt was from the Liberals Arts department.

Patrick and Loren Jr. found young people responded to them. In fact, Patrick said, some of the women in Burkas came over to them and wanted to take pictures with the two Sahnish men. Van de Logt said that never happens.

They were taken out to places in the dessert, to the mosques, had meals in the homes of some Qatari. At one of the meals, they had bread was similar to fried bread. They found the people there likeable and friendly.

Oil Refinery to begin construction at Makoti in August

Ground breaking phase one



MAKOTI – Wednesday’s bone chilling wind didn’t put a damper on the excitement and smiles among those gathered for the groundbreaking of the Three Affiliated tribe’s Thunder Butte Oil Refinery, something that will increase the tribe’s ability to move ahead with oil development.

Construction is expected to begin the first phase of a truck-to-rail crude oil transloading tribal facility that later turns into the refinery this summer, said Rich Mayer, CEO of Thunder Butte Petroleum Services.

The Thunder Butte Refinery, located 2 ½ miles west Makoti, isn’t the first refinery.

Dakota Prairie Refinery near Dickinson broke ground in March.

People from the reservation, surrounding towns, and out-of-state attended the event. Dignitaries including Bernice Larson, who sold land to tribe; Oil companies, legislatures and the Three Affiliated Business council spoke their piece giving praise to Tribal Chairman, Tex Hall and those who pushed the refinery forward.

The refinery is conservatively estimated and projected to cost \$450 million. Hall said the tribe has set aside \$350 million for the first phase. The refinery is being planned as a facility that would be capable of refining 20,000 barrels per day of

Bakken Formation crude oil into diesel fuel, propane and naphtha products.

Tony Mandan, tribal elder and spiritual leader, asked blessing of the Creator for this new project and he asked that the project help the people toward better lives.

The tribe is finalizing a contract with Chemex LLC, which will construct a modular refinery in Bakersfield, Calif., and ship it to North Dakota for assembly. Once the contract is finalized, construction is estimated to take 18 to 24 months, Rich Mayer said. He was selected CEO of the new refinery project.

It is estimated that the Refinery construction should provide 300 local construction jobs and 75 to 100 full-time jobs after its operational, officials said.

At the Refinery groundbreaking, three groups of protesters with signs stood at the turnoff of the road to the groundbreaking and waved protest signs.

Marty Young Bear, who followed the events, speaking out to the tribal council and attended Oil Conference held at the tribal casino, objects to the refinery. He said the refinery should have been put to a vote of tribal members.

Another outspoken member of the protesters is Theodora Bird Bear of Mandaree. She said she worries about the effects oil development on the air and water.

Another group protesting at the groundbreaking is SOAR (Save Our Aboriginal Resources).



Three Affiliated Tribes invests in Bismarck hotel project

BISMARCK, N.D. (UTN) – The Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara (MHA) Nation is the lead investor in new hotel project planned for Bismarck.

The tribe, headquartered at Four Bears, ND, has provided the equity commitment necessary to proceed with development and construction of a hotel on the campus of United Tribes Technical College.

The United Tribes of North Dakota Board of Directors approved the financing structure March 26, accepting the equity investment of the MHA Nation in a facility estimated to cost approximately \$33 million. MHA Nation is one of the college's five governing tribes.

“The MHA Nation feels it’s a good opportunity to be involved with a franchise name-brand hotel on the UTTC campus,” said Tex G. Hall, MHA Nation chairman. “And with UTTC near the Bismarck airport, it makes great business sense. It’s the kind of investment the tribe is looking for.”

Other tribal investors are also being invited in, said David M. Gipp, United Tribes Technical College president. “It’s open to other area investors too, although we’re looking to create a program funded primarily by Native or Tribal investors.”

TRAINING & EDUCATION The hotel will be affiliated with a major chain. Operations will include an educational component for United Tribes college students. Training will focus on hotel management, business administration, security, and food service, said Gipp.

“In the long term we see this as a revenue source to help support the

The hotel site is located in the northwest corner of the United Tribes campus, just off University Drive adjacent to the Bismarck International Airport.

“The energy boom offers a good opportunity to serve travelers coming into the area by air,” said Gipp. “Our location is ideal for meetings and conferences and convenient for corporate and leisure travelers alike.”

As planned, the six-story hotel will contain 160 rooms with a 10,000 square foot conference center, restaurant, business center, fitness center, pool, gift shop, and other state-of-the-art amenities for meetings and conferences.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The development is led by All Nations Development Alliance, Mortenson Development and Thor Construction. The three were selected by the college in fall 2012 to lead the development, design, financing and construction.

“Together, this team brings a unique blend of Native American hospitality development and construction experience,” said Mark Sweet, Managing Director of All Nations Development Alliance. “The equity commitment by the MHA Nation represents the final piece of the puzzle, college,” he said. “That is one of our primary motives, along with training and education.”

Groundbreaking is expected as early as July with completion in summer 2014.

Article from the Bismarck Tribune.

N.D. lawmakers vote to close oil industry loophole

BISMARCK, N.D - The North Dakota Legislature voted Friday to close a tax loophole used by the oil industry that the Tax Department says is costing the state \$50 million each year. The measure that passed the Senate and House on the last day of the 80-day legislative session also gives the Three Affiliated Tribes a greater share of the taxes collected from reservation oil production. Gov. Jack Dalrymple still must approve the measure.

Stripper wells

The exemption for so-called stripper wells was intended to keep low-volume wells producing in times of depressed prices, providing jobs and at least some tax revenue for the state. It also advanced technology in the oil patch over the past three decades by allowing companies to experiment with new drilling techniques. But the 1980s-era law also excuses higher-producing wells from paying extraction taxes because they are near the weaker wells and drilling in the same oil pool. Stripper wells are exempt from the state's 6.5 percent extraction tax, but not a 5 percent production tax. North Dakota has about 8,100 wells and 2,800 of them are classified as stripper wells, according to the state Department of Mineral Resources. Of that sum, about 500 are higher-producing wells but carry the stripper well designation.

Tribal agreement

The measure that passed both chambers Friday also modified a revenue sharing agreement the state has had with the Three Affiliated Tribes since 2008 to give more money to tribal governments. The agreement limits oil tax rates on Fort Berthold Reservation land and spells out how the state and tribal governments will share oil revenues. North Dakota currently gets 80 percent of tax collections from private land on the Fort Berthold Reservation and 50 percent of the taxes from lands that are held in trust by the federal government to benefit the tribe and individual tribal members. Under the measure, a 6.5 percent extraction tax and a 5 percent production tax from private or "fee land" would be split equally between the tribe and the state. The Fort Berthold Reservation is in the heart of North Dakota's oil country and accounts for about 20 percent of the state's oil production. Drilling has skyrocketed since the original agreement was signed and tax collections have been healthy, with the state pocketing the bulk of the revenue. Through mid-April, the state has collected \$315 million, with the tribe getting \$201 million, according to tax records. The state's share is divided among counties, cities, school districts and a number of state funds and programs.

Price triggers

The reworked tax structure does not remove price triggers that would lessen state taxes for companies if the price of oil falls below a certain level. The concept, adopted in the 1980s during a time of depressed oil prices, adjusts the state's oil extraction tax if a barrel falls below a certain price.

The so-called trigger price currently is set at about \$52 a barrel, and the state could see tax revenue decrease by at least \$2 billion if oil falls below that, state tax analysts have said. *(Some information from Bismarck Tribune)*

Our Environment: Birds, Animals and Pets



North Dakota's crocus are beginning to peek through winter grasses in White Shield. This amazing little, wild plant that never disappoints, is wondrous. No matter the weather or its home, it bravely pushes out of the ground and stands tall.

In a spring when summer seems to evade us, the crocus never fails. It will stand, head above the coldest snow, in lavender wearing a furry coat. Our home, the prairie, is blessed with beautiful and healing plants like this flower.



Photo by Karen Lone Fight taken near White Shield.

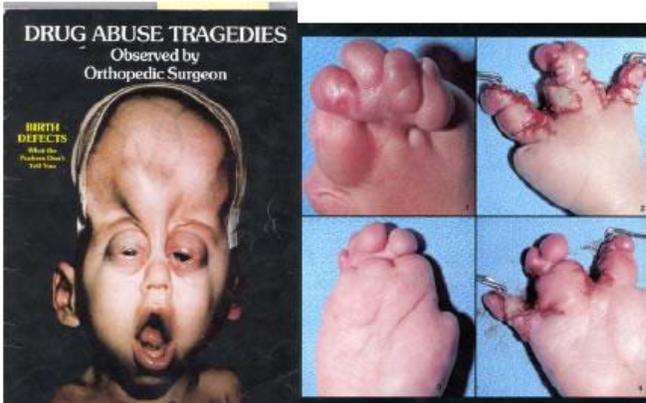
New Town Students participate in the war against drugs



New Town students are warriors in the war on drugs. They particularly are targeting meth. Three students presented to the Three Affiliated Tribal council meeting using words and graphics to show the dangers and damage that meth can do individuals, families and the community, specially the Three Affiliated Tribal communities.

Below are some of the photos used by educators who try to present the real problems of meth use. It affects the individual user, yes, but children born to meth users are in critical danger as the students demonstrate with the show graphics.

In New Town Elbowoods Clinic reports there were 32 “meth babies” born to women here. It is one of the most horrendous problems they have today, said health educators and staff.



This is one of several articles that will appear in White Shield newsletter to support the tribe's War on Drugs.

2013 White Shield Graduation is May 24

White Shield – Students of the class of 2013 will walk across the stage in the White Shield gym Friday at 7:00 pm. The speaker for the event is Jasper Youngbear, a spiritual and cultural leader in the community. This year there will be no Valedictorian or Salutarian.

Graduates are: Jon Howling Wolf, Layne Lewis, Virgil Wilkinson, Colette Youngbird, TaNiesha Gonzalez, Tashena Bird and Topi Perkins

Motto: Go not where the path may lead; instead, go where there is no path and make your own.

Colors: Red/White

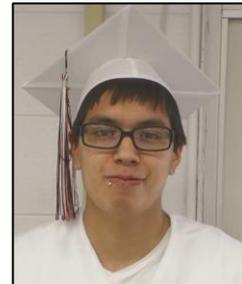
Robes: Red girls white boys

Tassels: Red/White

Sashes in class colors Red/White "Class of 2013"

Flower: Red Rose

Song: Little Wonders by Rob Thomas



Joseph Young Hawk/Elmer Bear American Legion Post 253 & Auxiliary attend Veteran's Conference



RAPID CITY, SD - Young Hawk/Bear Legion Post 253 & Women's Auxiliary attended a Veteran's Conference Rapid City, SD on April 30 and May 1.

Legion members attending were Jason Morsette, President; Belinda Running Wolf and John Red Hawk. Women's Auxiliary members attending were Madonna Azure, president, Gerilyn Yellow Bird, Vice President and Jean Red Hawk.

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Veteran's Affairs/Office of Tribal Government Relations.



One of the photographs show a flag which was flown during the attack of September 11. The Post and Auxiliary participated in the ceremony.

The conference topics included aspects of Healthcare, Eligibility, Women Veterans, Housing, Education, and Employment & Training Services.

The Post and Auxiliary received funding from the Three Affiliated Tribal Business Council.

Photos taken by Sierra Abe at this year's annual Easter Celebration



OBITUARIES



Phyllis Elaine Hand (White Plume), 64, New Town, passed into the Spirit World on Wednesday,

May 8, 2013.

Phyllis was born in Fort Yates on July 20, 1948, to Phillip and Rose (Hopkins) Hand. She was the youngest of nine children. She was raised in the Niishu area, and then when the flooding came, the family moved to the country 10 miles west of New Town. After the passing of her father, the family moved into New Town. Phyllis attended school in New Town and graduated in 1966. She attended Nursing School for a short time in Dickinson.

Phyllis was united in marriage to Matthew Foolish Bear in 1967, with whom she traveled and was active in the rodeo circuit; they later divorced. In 1984, she met Lyle Danks, to this union, her only son was born.

In 1970, she started work at Northrop Grumman, as a line assembler. She retired, due to health, after 35 years.

Phyllis loved to tease and laugh; she shared her wonderful sense of humor with

everyone she met. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, listening to music, and sewing beautiful star quilts and shawls. Not only was she known for her cheerful and easy-going nature, she was known to be respectful, considerate and a very giving, generous woman.

She was a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes and the New Town United Church of Christ; she served as president of the church council. She was a proud and influential member of many church and social organizations including: Northern Plains Conference, Council of American Indian Ministries (CAIM), Charles Hall Youth Services, Alanon, AA and OA.

Phyllis is survived by: her son, Sheldon Hand, New Town; sister, Madeline Bruce, New Town; kids (dogs), Oliver, Gus, Ginger and CoCo; and extended family of aunts, sisters and her many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Welcoming Phyllis into the Spirit World are her parents; and sisters, Rosalie, Ida, Fern Sitting Crow, Alfreda Good Bird, and Merle Bruce.

Burial: Snowbird Cemetery, rural New Town.

Donald P. White Bear was born November 15, 1926 in Nishu, ND to Joseph White Bear Sr., and Mae (Red Bear) White Bear. He grew up in the Nishu area and entered the US Navy during WWII serving overseas. He returned to ND and later moved to Fort Kipp, Mt where he

married. Donald moved to Forsythe, MT where he broke horses for area ranchers including the Charles DeKoch Ranch for several years. He returned to Fort Kipp, MT and was employed with a manufacturing plant in Poplar, MT. In the 1970s, Donald worked as an iron worker and welder in Colstrip, MT for several years and also lived in many other communities in Montana. Donald also worked as a school bus driver and a backhoe operator.

He lived a cowboy lifestyle. He was a good saddle bronc rider and an excellent ranch hand. He enjoyed working with leather and was a very good singer. He was taken to the drum at age nine by his grandfather and followed the Arikara customs. He mentored many younger singers. He sang with the Fort Kipp Singers and attended many pow wows in his lifetime.

Survivors include three daughters, Carol Bemer, Poplar MT; and Donetta White Bear, Culbertson, MT; Amber White Bear, ND; three sons, Maynard and Marley White Bear, Fort Kipp, MT; Paul White Bear, Great Falls, MT; and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and a great, great grandson; many cousins, nieces and nephews; one brother, Virgil Chase, Sanish, ND and one sister Yvonne Chase, New Town, ND.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph White Bear Sr.; mother, Mae White Bear; Caroline, Genevieve and Athelia; and brothers, Joseph, William and Alton.

There have been questions asked about the charter and business of the Arikara Development Cooperative. Councilman Fred Fox asked that the Charter and documents of this organization be placed in the White Shield Newsletter (see below).

There isn't enough space to print the entire article in this issue which is ready for print, therefore, part of the charter will be printed in this May issue. The rest of the charter will be printed in the June issue.

If you have questions about the charter after you've read it, you can contact Fred Fox, someone on the ADC committee, or David Blacksmith.

BYLAWS OF
ARIKARA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OF
WHITE SHIELD, NORTH DAKOTA

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - Name: The name of the corporation shall be Arikara Development Corporation of White Shield, North Dakota. It shall be a nonprofit organization organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of North Dakota.

Section 2 - Purpose: Arikara Development Corporation of White Shield, North Dakota is organized exclusively for charitable purposes that will improve the lives of the citizens of the community of White Shield, North Dakota. The specific purposes of the corporation are to provide resources for programs and services that will develop and maintain partnerships, investment opportunities and economic resources that will lead to greater opportunities for business, housing and education for the citizens of the White Shield community.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership: The Corporation shall have no members. All powers, obligations and rights of members provided by law shall reside in the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 - Board role, size and compensation: The Board is responsible for the overall policy and direction of the association. The Board will delegate responsibility of day-to-day operations to the staff and committees. Initially, the number of directors on the Board shall not exceed three (3). The Board, at any time after these bylaws are adopted, upon a two-thirds vote, may expand the Board to include up to five (5) members. The Board receives no compensation other than reasonable expenses and a \$100.00 stipend for each Board meeting and each special meeting.

Section 2 - Terms: All Board members shall serve two-year terms, but are eligible for re-election for up to five consecutive terms.

Section 3 - Meetings and notice: The Board shall meet at least quarterly, at an agreed upon time and place. An official Board meeting requires that each Board member have written notice at least five (5) days in advance, but such notice may be waived by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board.

Section 4 - Special meetings: Special meetings of the Board shall be called upon the request of



|||Shoni Schimmel, sister, mother, father are presented a star quilt from the tribal council to honor Schimmel's talent on the basketball floor. She plays for the University of Louisville. Schimmel is from the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Eastern Oregon. Newspapers called Schimmel a no look, behind-the-back passing, three-point bombing basketball wizard.



||Ariana Lieberman, Naomi Fox and Karilee Lieberman (granddaughter-in-law and daughters of Duane and Bonnie Fox), participate in Grand Forks Shimmy Mob (a national dance group).