

West Segment News

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Mandaree High School 2023 Graduates

Photo by Norma Flying Horse



Quotes for The Heart & Mind:

- * "Believe you can and you're halfway there" ~Theodore Roosevelt~
- * "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." ~Jimmy Dean~

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From left to right: Elmer Flying Horse Jr., Tianna Lester, Bailey Chase, Brandee Rae Mays, Skylar Newman, Jewels Lone Fight, RaeJean Young Bear, Aaron Wolf, Alano Antonio. Not pictured: Anthony Starr Jr. Evelyn Marvel.

Proud parents, grandparents, and extended relatives all gathered at the 2023 graduation held at the Mandaree School. Before the graduation commencement began a prayer was offered by one of our prominent elders Lyda Bearstail. The welcome and introductions were given by Skylar Newman, the Class President. The Salutatorian address was given by Elmer Flying Horse Jr., the Class Treasurer. Valedictorian address was given by BrandeeRhae Mays, Student Council. The commencement address was given by Ms. Trena Baker and Jason Cummins, Doctorate of Education. The Presentation of Diplomas were handed out by Carolyn Bluestone, Superintendent/HS Principal and Ms. Kelly Bradfield, School Board President. The Recessional was by the Mandaree Singers.

Continue on page 4.

Councilwoman Turner-Long Fight Update



Greetings to you all. I want to take a moment and thank each of you for your patience as our Editor of this paper was on leave due to loss of her sister. My sincere condolences to the Connie Fox Twins family and to those who recently lost their beloved ones. May you all find comfort and peace as

you continue to move forward in your lives.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate each graduate we had this year. I wish you all the success in your future plans.

We are moving along slowly in our community. I am proud to mention we recently purchased a van for Post 271. In receiving this van Millard Hale Jr., stated; This is so generous of the community. I am very proud to be from Mandaree, even though I stay in New Town, That's my dad that's my country is over there. Thank you so much I have a lump in my throat. Our community thinks a lot about us. I didn't tell the boys yet but I'll have to pick them up and take them for a ride. Again thank you Sherry, when I see you I will give you a big hug. Jimmy Johnson states; for myself and the rest of Post 271 we want to thank you so much.

Pictured below is the Van for Post 271 from West Segment community.



This is the emblem that is placed in the back of the van.

Groundbreaking for our new community center which is named Swift Eagle James G. Johnson Wellness Center will be on Thursday,

July 27th for the ground breaking ceremony. So come and join us to this ground breaking ceremony.

Our Mandaree Celebration is here so with that in mind we would like everyone to know that West Segment will have our Clanships parade again this year as we did last year. The Hidatsa Clanship parade will be on Friday, July 14, 2023 at the 4pm at the Mandaree Celebration grounds. Clan t-shirts and child of Clan bracelets will be distributed behind the flags. 7pm Parade of Clans will follow the Veterans.

Three Clan-Naagiraawi

Low Cap- Apuhkawigaa: Yellow t-shirt

Knife-Mecirooga: dark blue t-shirt

Salted Alkali Lodge- Maxooxadi: blue t-shirt

Four Clan: Naagidooba:

Water Buster- Miribaadi: green t-Shirt

Wide Ridge- Indishuga: red t-shirt

Prairie Chicken- Ciicga: purple t-shirt

Dripping Dirt- Awaxe: lime green t-shirt

This is all I have for now, keep reading our monthly newspaper for what's been happening in our community.

Thanks for being a good reader

GoWids

Inseparable Montana couple battle cancer together

Reprinted with permission By: [Dianne Parker](#) and KTVO



Billings— Bob and Melva Meiwald have a health story you may not believe until you hear it. They are an inseparable Montana couple from just outside Lodge Grass. They love traveling together, exploring the great outdoors of Montana together and soaking up all that life has to offer together. “We love riding the Indian Motorcycle to go through the mountains. Like last year we were in Glacier, so that was

awesome being there for the summer,” says Melva. “We do everything together,” added Bob. But this March, they began a new adventure they never expected, temporarily moving to Billings to fight cancer together. Both were diagnosed with stage two cancer. Melva is battling colon and rectal cancer, and Bob has larynx cancer. “It’s slowly getting worse and worse and they said I’m going to lose my voice,” says Bob. Bob gets radiation treatments every afternoon. “They put a mesh over my face and they tie me down and they radiate. They shoot me right here and it takes about 10 minutes and I’m done, but I have to do that every day, 35 days,” says Bob. Meanwhile, Melva has chemo every other Tuesday at the St. Vincent Healthcare Cancer Centers of Montana, then the next two days at a Billings West End home. “He takes me to my treatment, sits with me and I go to his,” says Melva. “We’re just going to get it done together.” They say it’s a lot, but something about this particular home is making their lives a lot easier during an almost unthinkable time. “Robert and Melva are staying at our Meadowlark House out on the west end of Billings, and it is four units of housing dedicated to patients who are receiving their care at the Cancer Centers of Montana,” says Tyler Wiltgen, executive director of St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation. “So often times patients are driving from all over the state of Montana, hours, hundreds of miles away, and it is not practical for them to drive home between treatments because they are here for 10 days to two months. We really strive to provide a place where they can relax and refresh themselves between cancer treatments and really have their home away from home.” That’s also one of the missions of **Yellowstone Relay For Life**: making life easier for survivors. “Relay for Life funds a lot of our transportation grants, our lodging grants that we provide for our hospital systems across the state of Montana as well as right here in Billings,” says

Andrea Arredondo, American Cancer Society senior development manager. “We provide the grants to the hospitals and then they can take that and then they can get hotel rooms for people.” That kindness, a home away from home, is one of the reasons for Bob and Melva’s latest adventures: walking a survivor lap together at this year’s relay.

“I’m really excited about Bob and Melva coming. This is their first time, their first experience. They haven’t been to a relay before and really the community and the connection and the people you get to meet and stand side by side, because we are all in the same fight together, is something you really can’t put into words. You kind of just have to experience it.” says Arredondo.

“I don’t really know what to expect yet, but we’re going to get involved and see what we can do to help people after us, to help other people get better too,” says Bob Meiwald. Bob is a Desert Storm veteran originally from Rocky Boy and works as a heavy equipment operator traveling the state. He’s now unable to travel or work due to cancer treatment. Melva is a retired purchasing agent for the Fort Berthold tribe, originally from Mandaree, North Dakota. Bob’s oldest daughter Jessica is currently battling breast cancer. **Yellowstone Relay For Life** was July 14 with the survivor lap kicking off at 6:45 pm at the Billings West High School track. A separate survivor celebration was scheduled for July 13. Anyone can register for relay [via this link](#). Family members and friends have set up a **Go Fund Me Account**.

Melva Driver Meiwald is originally from Mandaree, North Dakota. She graduated from Mandaree High School in 1975 and spent most of her childhood here in our West Segment community. Melva is the daughter of the late Francis Driver and Ina Mae Good Bird Driver. Her mother currently resides in the New Town area. Melva married Robert Meiwald from Lodge Grass, Montana and they both made their home there. On behalf of our West Segment Community we wish Melva and Bob the best in their healing journey as we keep them both close in prayer. Special thanks to Dianne Parker, and KTVO who wrote this unforgettable story on them and for allowing our West Segment News to reprint this story.



Mandarø High School 2023 Graduatø

Photo by Norma Flying Horse



From left bottom on up; Elmer Flying Horse, Bailey Chase, Jewels Lone Fight, Alano Antonia, Top Right: Aaron Wolf, BrandeeRhae Mays, RaeJean Young Bear, Tianna Lester, standing in the middle Skylar Newman.

The Class song was Graduation by Vitamin C.
The class flowers were lily and wild flowers, this years class colors were black and gold.
Their class motto; YOLO (You Only Live Once).

The 2022-2023 School Board Members:

Kelly Bradfield, President

RoseAnn Johnson, Vice President

Delaine Clairmont, Member

Brad Sage, Member

Bernadine Mendez, Member

A Special thank you to the staff and representative of TAT West Segment for all the support.

Refreshments were served after the graduation ceremony.

On behalf of West Segment we would like to wish each and every graduate the best of luck in their future endeavors.

2023 Mandaree School 8th Grade Graduation Class



Many parents, grandparents, extended family and friends all gathered to witness the graduation of the eighth grade class. Next year, all these students will be in high school. On behalf of Councilwoman Gladys Sherry Turner-Lone Fight she would like to congratulate the 8th grade class of Mandaree school on their Junior High promotion.

Photos continue on pages 6.7. and 8.



Brandella Davis



Korday Johnson



Alexis Blackhawk



Jalyse Baker

2023 Mandaree School 8th Grade Graduation Class



Sergio Touchine



Brandon Young Bear



Pauline Yellow Wolf



Hayden Sage



Kaleb John



Megan Hunts Along

2023 Mandarçe School 8th Grade Graduation Class



Oray Hall



Keegan Dee



Janet Dawes



Luciano Antonio



Grayson Standish



Beau Robertson Jr.

2023 Mandarçe School 8th Gradçe Graduation Class



Gentry Johnson



Ky Grady



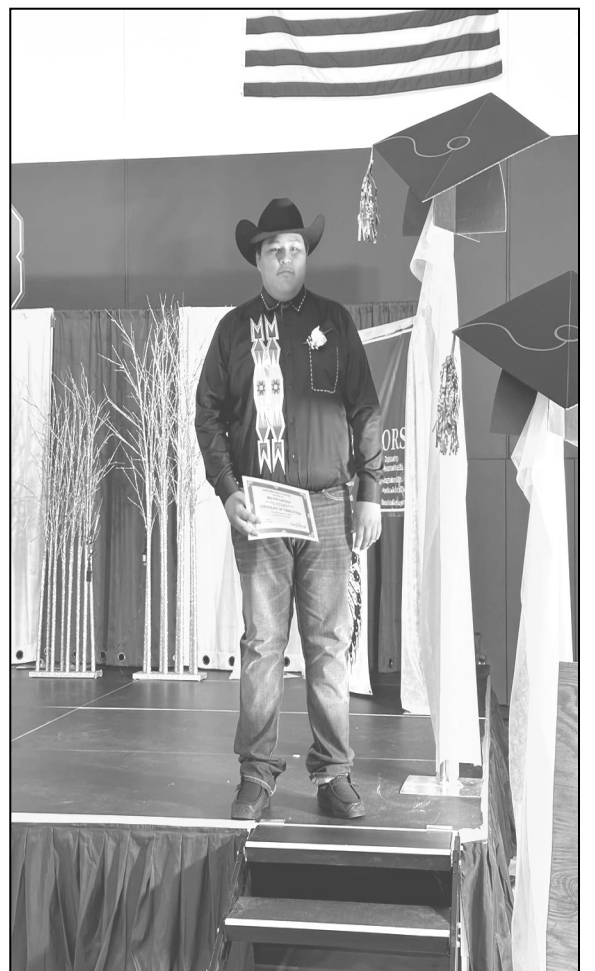
Dedavilynn Dee



Anabel Mendez



Emily Mandan



Brayon Lincoln

Not pictured; Wilbur Hunts Along Jr.

West Segment News



Pictured above is Oscar Knudtson presenting the award to Marle Baker.



Robin Hall proudly stands with his award.

Mandaree Firefighter of the year is Marle Baker. Marle is also the Fire Management Officer for the Three Affiliated Tribes. Award was presented by Mckenzie County's LEPC Chairman Oscar Knudtson. Everyone from our West Segment community are very proud of Marle. Marle is a hard worker and is always on hand to help our community. Congratulations Marle this award well deserved. Marle resides with his wife Mary in our West Segment community.

Robin was recently named Mandaree's Firefighter of the year by the Mckenzie County Emergency Management First Responders at the 2023 Event. Robin is also employed with the West Segment Security. Everyone from our West Segment community are very proud of Robin. He is a hard worker and is always on hand to help our community. Robin resides with his wife and family in our West Segment community.



Mandaree Celebration Hours will be as follows:

**Store Hours : Monday through Sunday
6am to 10pm**



**Café Hours for the
Mandaree Celebration
from Friday to Sunday:
12 Noon to 8 pm**

Thank you

Thank you to the Community for your continued support! I will wholeheartedly do my best to serve our children of the Mandaree School and Community!



Thank you for re-electing me to be your 2023-2026 Representative on the Mandaree School Board.

Rose Ann Johnson

Mandaree One Stop Hours for Mandaree Celebration

One Stop Mandaree Celebration hrs: Saturday: 6am to 8pm

One Stop Mandaree Celebration hrs: Sunday: 6am to 8pm

Mandaree One Stop Normal Hours are Monday-Friday 6am to 8pm and closed on weekends.

West Segment Festival

All Photos by LeeAnna Nation

West Segment recently sponsored the West Segment Festival for everyone to enjoy. There were many events for all ages to participate in. The Festival was set up at the Mandaree Celebration grounds. The West Segment events department were all in charge of getting these events together and making sure everything was taken care of. We would like to acknowledge Renay Brown and all the others who helped her make this festival a success.

Some of the events were as follows;

- * Walk/run t-shirts were given away to the first 75 participants.
- * Rez ball tourney
- * Bounce Houses
- * Face Painting
- * Pamper races
- * Watermelon Eating Contest
- * Tug of War: Must have male and female per team
- * Tire flip (best time)
- * Frying pan toss men and women 18+
- * Cornhole tourney sponsored by the Deville family
- * Dunk tank
- * Water balloon toss
- * Sack races and 9 legged races
- * Mud run Calcutta
- * Women's war whoop contest/Men's tongue rattle contest
- * Fireworks for youth will be handed out at the mud run.
- * Fireworks at dusk.

Registration at 7:30am the West Segment Festival MC is Mr. Charlie Moran.



West Segment Festival had a great crowd of community members coming over to participate in the events that were scheduled. There were many events for all ages and even elders got the opportunity to participate.



Face painting at the West Segment Festival. Pictured above is a cute little boy excited to get his face painted.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



All the events that West Segment Events department sponsors there is always food for everyone to come and enjoy.



We are very grateful to our MC Mr. Charlie Moran who is always so helpful with his great voice in announcing for us at our West Segment events.

West
Segment
Festival

Was a
Success!

Special
thanks to
our
community
for joining
us
& for the
Staff who
all
Worked
Hard!

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



3v3 Tournament Champions "The Gunners". (L-R) Kingman, Flint, Wyonna and Anthony White Owl.



Adult Tug-O-War Championship Pull between Dylan, Ashlyn, Ashton vs Hazeem, Tiffany and Adrianna. Champions were Team Hazeem.



Summer youth workers David and Ayla ran the Dunk Tank through out the day for the children.



Councilwoman Turner-Lone Fight volunteers for the Dunk Tank, her summer youth worker Wesley Smith sent her into the water.



Childrens Corn Hole Championship game.



Elders compete in the water balloon toss contest.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



Children ages 6-12 water balloon toss contestants excited to play.



Teenagers toss their water balloon to their partners.



Cornhole Tourney sponsored by the Late Marcia White Eagle Family for all ages. Pictured above is adult contestants.



Teenage water balloon toss contestants waiting to catch their water balloon.



H.S. girls 3v3 Champions are Nataleah, Natie, Aiyonna, Brandee.



Pamper race featuring West Segment Babies, all were winners getting a prize.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



Cast iron skillet throwing contestant in the woman's adult contest. Throwing is Krystal Taylor.



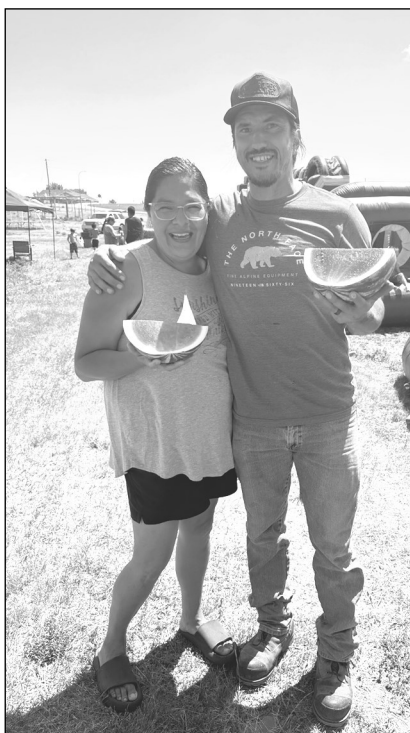
Cast Iron Skillet Throw winner: (L-R) 3rd Place Ashlyn Grady, 2nd Florence McKenzie, 1st Krystal Taylor.



Mens Skillet Throwing winner (L-R) 3rd place Dylan Finley, 2nd Johnny Osborne, 1st Dana Jackson.



Mud run fun footrace for youth ages 7-12. Winner is Billie Kazana.



Adult Watermelon eating contest winner Jade and Denver Spotted Bear took home 1st and 2nd place.

**Everyone did an Awesome job!!
Congratulations to the winners!**



Fastest Watermelon eater for the youth Wynona Spider won herself \$30.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



Youth racers King Jerome and Wyonna fight their way through the mud.



Teenage mud race winners 1st place Teighan Halvorson and 2nd place Wesley Smith.



Woman's Mud run footrace winner Monica McKenzie took the lead and made sure not to slip.



The "Dan Hunts Along 250lb +" mud run winner Dylan Finley. Trey Lachney and Hazeem are the other two contestants.



Keoni Beaks wins a pool for 3rd place finish in the children mud race.



Councilwoman Turner-Lone Fight and her assistant Colleen Halvorson hand out fire works to children 18 years and younger.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



Matt Lone Fight wins 2nd place in the mud run for non-modified trucks.



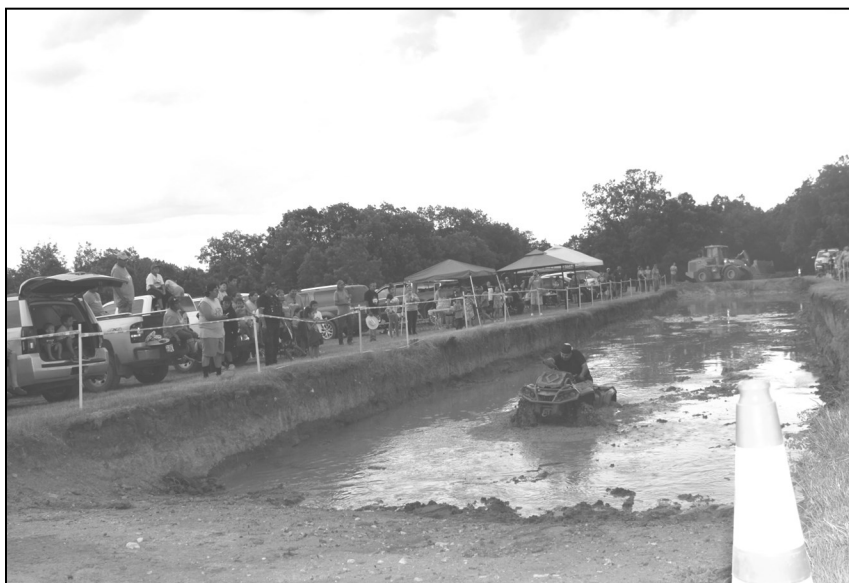
Dylan Finley enters his dads Dodge and wins 1st place in the modified division.



Monica McKenzie in her Chevy made it half way through the mud pit to get 3rd place on the non modified category.



EMT and MVFD on hand to support our Community event.



ATV Mud run contestant Cornell Poitra Jr. wins 1st place for yardage. No ATV's made it all the way through.



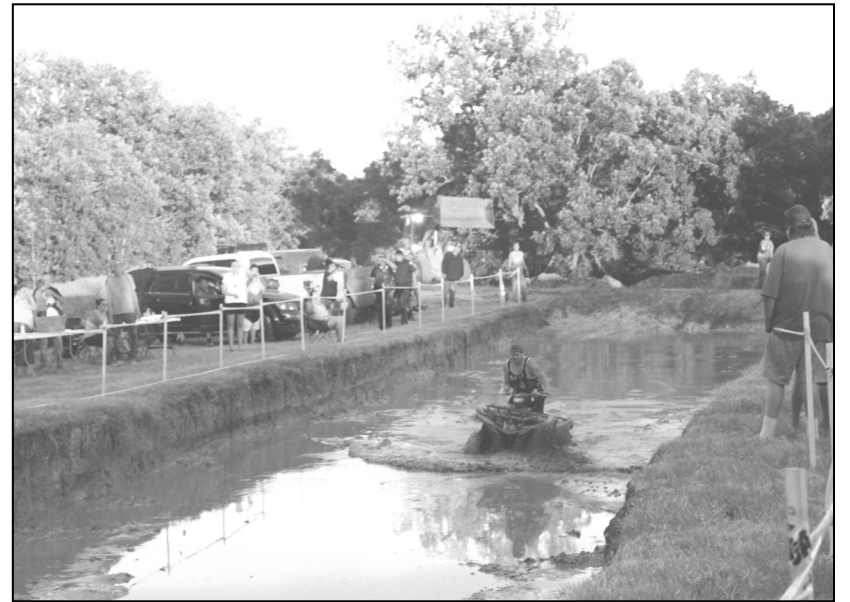
Elijah Beaks entered his ATV in the Mud run and finished with 3rd place.

West Segment Festival

Photos by LeeAnna Nation



ATV Contestant Kasen Johnson stands on his ATV to get some traction.



Tony Johnson rocks his ATV to get through the mud to finish with 2nd place.



ATV contestant Kathy Mann entered her 4 wheeler to challenge the mud pit.



One granddaughter cheering on her grandma in the mud run race. She pauses to look at the camera for her picture.

Summer time fun!

West Segment Veterans Dept. Features Veteran of the Month

Submitted by Dawn White & Aaron Abbey



I always knew I would go into the Military. I remember being in the mall with my mom. I took her to the recruiter's office in early May 1994 .. I was 17 years old; I was going to turn 18 in June, but I wanted her to know and sign the paperwork. She just looked at me and I saw her eyes well up with tears. I told her this was for me; she reluctantly signed the papers. Later in life my mom told me she wanted to go into the service too, but Grandpa didn't want her to go and she didn't want to make me feel bad. After that family and friends found out I signed up to go into the service. It was mixed emotions, some told me I was making the worst mistake of my life. Others said I was too pretty and smart for the Army. The only people I sought their approval was my grandparents; I think I shocked my grandma but she knew and prayed for me. My grandpa he accepted my decision and talked to me and prepared me. I remember he said I got three things to tell when you get to boot camp, "DO WHAT YOUR TOLD, DO WHAT YOUR TOLD, DO WHAT YOUR TOLD!"

I will always remember the day I left to the Army, in January 1995 and it was my mom's birthday. She cried at the airport and said nice birthday gift. For me, yes it was sad to leave my family but I felt ok to leave and go off on my own. I was 18 years old and fresh off the Rez, flew to Fargo than to Fort Jackson, SC.

Well, I was in basic training, there was this one Drill Sergeant he was just relentless and was trying to make it a point to "break me". I was always one to say a smart remark back when provoked and I just told him

"Your people been trying to break my people for over 500 years still haven't broke us" or I would be smiling and tell him the Creator blessed him with another day with me. Some of the Drill Sergeants didn't like for the soldiers to be smiling. The stress of it all did get to me one day I questioned myself, what the hell am I doing here, I can just quit, and go home I don't need this stress or put up with all this. It was in this moment, I looked up, I saw an eagle above me, it circled once and left. I remember I was just staring at the sky and the Drill Sergeant whacked my helmet, we were at the rifle range. I felt better in my heart and spirit. I got to make a phone call that night and told my mom.

After basic and advanced training, I came home, my mom organized a welcome home dance for me. I looked at my mother and she was crying but this time they were tears of pride and joy. Before I left back to the service my family got me my Arikara name. My Grandma Cecilia Brown gave me the name Seeing Eagle Woman. Another memory is when I came home after my tour in Bosnia the last day of White Shield powwow in 1996. My aunt Yvonne picked me up from the airport in Minot. I got into my class A uniform in the car, she was driving fast back to White Shield. What I remember the most of that day is when I stepped out of the car my grandmas saw me & rattled their tongues. I cried that was one the best moments in my life. They hugged me and it was the greatest feeling to be home amongst my family & friends. As I walked to the arbor for Grand Entry, I saw Madonna and Roy Azure, I just hugged them and we all just cried, they lost their son, who was my classmate he also entered the Army.

We sometimes forget the ones back home. I am so thankful today my grandmas, my mothers, my aunties & all my sisters they prayed for my safe return and I came home. I thank my grandpas, uncles, & brothers for showing how and what is expected of me as a woman warrior and their prayers they gave for my safe return home.

With the experience I have gained and the teachings of being a soldier, I would like to share my advice to those thinking of going to the service. "My advice to you is to; GO and carry on the traditions of our people when you think you can't do it look inside yourself & remember what type of people you come from & the blood that runs in your veins... Our People survived everything the world threw at them & we are still here... Protect the last of what the Arikara, Mandan, & Hidatsa people have left...& our greatest resource THE PEOPLE..

I left the service in 2003, and after college and a few jobs in between I made a decision. On July 17, 2008 was the day my career in Law Enforcement chose me. One day in the Ree store, Buzzy Malnourie greeted me, "hello kaáka'(crow) girl!" (It was a joke between him and I). He asked what I was doing with my life, I said going to school. He told me, "You know what kaáka' girl you should be a cop. You would be good at it." He said see you later and left, making think about his words. A few days later, I was visiting with my Grandpa Gene, he asked me the same question that Buzzy asked. My grandpa Gene asked me; what was I going to do with my life? you can't go to school forever". Then he says it to me, "You should be cop, they need cops around here." I never told my grandpa what Buzzy Malnourie said, so now it's been weeks since these two conversations. I think about it and think about it, so one day I go into the tribal office and fill out my application. Next thing I know I am being escorted to the tribal chambers and told to raise my right hand to sworn in as a law enforcement officer. My Auntie Danile is sitting in the chambers and she really ask, "What's going on Dawny?" My sister Vonnie Jo is getting ready to take my picture. I tell my Auntie I'm taking my oath to be a Cop. She was shocked as with the rest of my family. No one believed me. Next night I was on the road in uniform as a trainee. This job choose me, after many trials and tribulations I became a Law Enforcement Officer for Fort Berthold and been one ever since, over 14 years now. This career is sometimes unforgiving, unfair, and thankless but there are moments in this career that make it worth it.

Continue on next page.

West Segment Veterans Dept. Features Veteran of the Month



There were times when I wanted to walk away but, on those moments, Creator said no the people need you and sent angels to cross my path. There was a day when I almost handed in my badge. It was on a day, when I was feeling angry and sad, I just wanted to hand in my gun and badge. It was when I was patrolling New Town. This lady just stopped in the middle of the road and ran up to my door and put her hand on mine and said; "I prayed for you today, I just came from church!" Talk about a humbling experience. Yes I cried cause I felt her prayer. I told Creator I am listening and what was bothering me was lifted from me and I continued on with my career..

The most bittersweet moment was in June 2014, I and my sister in blue Angela Tenbears-Cummings were awarded 2014 Champions of Public Safety in Indian Country. As I looked in the crowd that day, it was so hard, because the two people whom I loved dearly were missing from those seats in the front. I dedicated this award to my Grandparents Eugene and Marcella White Jr. They were the ones who believed in me and made me who I am today.

At the present time. I have been busy working with the MHA Drug Enforcement, since June of 2015. I have worked with many other great agents and officers of various agencies. They all have one goal in common, which is making a

difference with safer communities. I appreciate everyone I have ever served with in this job and thank them all for their service in law enforcement past and present.

Serving and protecting our reservation all these years, has been challenging but I would never do anything different it was all for a reason. I have great memories with all I have served with. There are many "Dawn White" stories out there.

Thank you, Fort Berthold, for allowing me to serve and protect our Great MHA Nations as I continue to offer my service.

Nowah

MHA-DDE Special Agent/ US Army Sergeant
Dawn M. White

SteétAhkas Tireewátl

Seeing Eagle Woman



In this photo, is when I and Angela Cummings received the 2014 Champions of Public Safety in Indian Country.

From District 4A Representative Lisa DeVille



North Dakota Education Bills

After my first session as State House Representative for District 4A, I am writing to express my concern about the recent wave of anti-education bills that have been introduced in our state legislature. These bills threaten the quality of education in our state and could have long-lasting negative consequences for our children.

One concerning bill is Senate Bill 2260, related to

fundamental parental rights and parental involvement in education. This bill proposes to eliminate certain courses and topics from the curriculum, including history, social studies, and critical race theory. This kind of censorship is not only antithetical to the values of free speech and academic freedom, but it also deprives students of a well-rounded education that prepares them for the complex and diverse world we live in. I support our public-school teachers and our public education system. It is no doubt that our teachers are overworked and underpaid yet spend countless hours going above and beyond their duties to educate our children. I've received multiple messages from educators that know that SB 2260 would have added more requirements that schools and teachers do not need added to their already complex list of requirements. This bill would have placed an undue extreme burden on teachers and hamper school districts in their number one responsibility, which is to keep our learners safe during the school day.

As our Nation is already facing teacher shortages, our rural North Dakota communities are already having trouble attracting teachers to their districts. SB 2260 would have caused more undesired consequences and forced teachers to go into new fields or take jobs in other fields because of the lack of support for hardworking schools and teachers. It would have caused the decline of our already frail education system and jeopardized our children's future due to the lack of support. It is unreasonable and unjust to require instructional materials be made available to parents seven days prior to implementation, when our educators are already operating beyond capacity to meet state standards. Thankfully, Senate Bill 2260 failed to pass both houses.

Senate Bill 2254 requires Superintendent of Public Instruction to intervene in a school or school district that is chronically low-performing. The bill defines chronically low performing districts as one that shows a "consistent mishandling of processes, reporting, or funds, resulting in inadequate educational services for the district's students." A chronically low performing school is defined as a "school identified by the state for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act for one or more cycles." Inadequate education services is defined as a "lack of annual progress in academic achievement, student engagement, resource allocation, teacher effectiveness, chronic absenteeism, and persistent subgroup opportunity

gaps." The intervention by the superintendent of public instruction includes withholding of funds, annexation, consolidation, or closure, changes to curriculum, instruction, assessment, or school calendar, and/or reassignment or hiring of school or school district staff. The ambiguity of this bill implies that school districts that fall within the bill's purview take their responsibilities lightly and are refusing to take action or accountability for the wellbeing of their student's success. Many educators work beyond the 40-hour work week and found the attempt to pigeon hold all school districts to standards offensive. It is ridiculous to consider holding all schools to the same cookie cutter standard when every demographic learns differently. This bill passed and has been filed with the Secretary of State.

House Bill 1531 was introduced to prohibit institutions of ND higher education from waiving application fees based on certain group characteristics of the applicant. House Bill 1531 have impacted Native American Students in North Dakota who, as we know, are underrepresented and underserved in institutions of higher learning. Tuition waivers and scholarships aimed towards Native American students create opportunities to pursue higher education in colleges and universities throughout North Dakota. Without these waivers and scholarships, students that come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds would have lost the opportunity to attend a college that they might not otherwise be able to attend due to the extravagant costs to apply in some cases, and institutions will lose the opportunity to create cultural diversity that enriches the college experience.

The intent of House Bill 1531 would have drastically limited the opportunities for everyday citizens to attend universities such as the University of North Dakota. The estimated cost of tuition and fees for attending, for example, UND costs approximately \$456.31 per credit and \$10,951 per academic year. For many North Dakotans, colleges have been the only available step up to greater stability for themselves and their communities. Unfortunately, that step is getting steeper, passage of HB 1531 it would have made it much more difficult for students to pay for and adequately resource the cost of attending college. Thankfully, this bill has also failed to pass. I urged fellow legislators to reject these anti-education bills and instead invest in our public schools, support our teachers, and promote a well-rounded curriculum that prepares our children for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The attack on our school systems should not go unnoticed. When we have the Superintendent of Public Instruction advocating to pass legislation that would hurt communities like ours, we need to consider how disconnected this person is from our communities. I have been fortunate to receive my entire education on Fort Berthold Reservation. Our school systems implement core standards but also add an element of cultural education that is important for our youth to receive. My biggest fear is that certain curriculum will be challenged and will be a direct threat to our cultural education. Unless you come from a reservation, or spend time in a tribal school, you could never understand how important it is for tribal

Continue on next page.