

NAhtAsuutaaka' (White Shield) News Journal

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Morsette Tells Stories of the Arikara



Throughout Ft. Berthold, there are men and women who live and understand the culture, ceremonies and ways of the Sahnish (Arikara), Hidatsa and Mandan. Alfred Morsette Jr (Junior as he is called by many) is one of those people.

He was born in Elbowoods June 14, 1948, when the town was a village located in the low lands below Elbowoods and next to the Missouri River.

He was raised by his parents Alfred Morsette Sr. and his mother, Lena Hunts Along. They had seven children, Victoria, Joan, Germane, Donna, Diane, Roy and Junior. His grandmother (his father's step-mother) was Hannah Wash Fox, (Chokecherry Woman). She was the last full-blood Ree and a well-known figure in the history of North Dakota. Her bust was exhibited at the North Dakota Heritage Center but is now in storage.

(Story Continues on Page 4)



From the desk of Fred Fox, Councilman, East Segment, White



Shield, ND 58540

This past month was very busy but also very productive. We had a two- day council meeting in February that covered a lot of very important decisions and initiatives by the council.

The council meeting in January approved a Tribal budget of \$250 million with various Tribal projects from the White Shield School, Tribal Health Insurance for Tribal members, Tribal Court House, Tribal Drug Treatment Center, Interpretive Center, Tourism building, and Disbursements to Tribal members.

The 3rd council meeting was the Range Unit allocation. We had some tough decisions but the Council went by the policy and it worked out well. This past month we had a good turnout for both the Segment Update and the Elder meetings. A lot of information was given about the Tribal budget, Enrollment Ordinance, Law Enforcement and housing in White Shield.

This week I will be traveling to Washington DC for the second time in 2 months. We will continue to lobby and visit the new administration in the Department of Interior and other key offices so we can keep up with the changes and possible budget cuts.

National Congress of American Indians will be having the Winter Session in D.C. Many speakers are congressional delegates that are a part of the Committee of Indian Affairs. We also need to see what happens with all of the deregulation of oil and gas rules by the Federal Government. The activity will start ramping up and this will affect the Fort Berthold Reservation.

We are also continuing our effort to protect our ownership and jurisdiction with the Missouri River Bed. We traveled to Denver and met with the representatives from the BIA and BLM to discuss the process of claiming ownership of the minerals under the river bed. There has been a BIA Solicitors Opinion asserting the ownership and jurisdiction. It backs up previous opinions from 1936.

I want to send my condolences to everyone who lost loved ones this past month.

I would like to send special condolences to the family of my uncle Virgil Frank Chase Sr. He was a person who would go out of his way for his boxers and athletes he trained. I've seen him take charge of his Legion Post as commander and raise the flags most of my life. I had the opportunity to dance traditional and participate with him in many contests around Indian country.

He was one of the best and he will always be remembered.

REE MANAGEMENT HOUSING UPDATE



There are three (3) vacancies at the new elder's apartments. The apartments are located North of the Elder Center and across from White Shield School. They are 1 bedroom apartments.

The apartments are now open to people who 55 or older. All applicants need to apply and must qualify for the apartments.

If you or someone you know is interested in one of these apartments, please contact Linda Gonzalez, Staff Manager/President of the Ree Lodge Management (701-421-5941) or Gloria Brennan, Housing Director, (701-743-4145). Applications are available at Gloria Brennan office in the Ralph Wells Complex.

During the Monday update meeting in White Shield, Council Representative, Fred Fox provided the following information about housing:

Sixteen rental houses were built and are located on Sesame Street and seven mortgage houses were built in the Awahu Village. In addition there are three Law and Order houses. All of these houses are now occupied. There are eleven scattered, mortgage homes located in different areas near White Shield as well Garrison. The most recent living areas are the Elder

Apartments located across from White Shield School and next door to the Nishu Elders Lodge. There are also 5 temporary trailers for rent.

Fox announced there will be 4 more houses built in Sesame and a Law and Order house at Awahu. In addition there will be one more Law and Order house.

A 12-Plex apartment with 1 and 2 bedrooms is on the drawing board and should be completed soon.

\$2 million will be added to the housing budget this summer, Fox

added.

(Continued from front page) Morsette’s grandparents, who also helped raise him, were Fred Fox Sr. and Blanche Niles. His grandfather was born in 1876, the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, he said. He and his parents lived in Beaver Creek and later the family moved to Twin Buttes.

It was there his mother, Lena, died. When his mother died, his uncle, Bob Fox and his wife, Naomi, took the young Morsette to raise. He was moved to White Shield where he attended school for a year. He said he traveled around for a while participating in rodeos and being with his uncles.

At the early age of 18, barely eligible, he joined the military. The Viet Nam War was raging. He was sent to Thailand where he spent a year then was reassigned to North Korea for another year and a half.

He was 21-years-old when he married. The marriage didn’t last and he divorced. A few years later, he met and married Jackie Jackson. They have been together since that time, he said with a broad smile.

During that time Morsette spent many years sitting with his father, Alfred Sr., (Dunny) talking about the culture. Dunny got much of the teachings from his mother Pumpkin Flower. “I used to be around my dad and he told me things about the culture. I learned how to sing and learned the songs of the tribes,” he said. Morsette Sr. wanted his son to understand the culture of the Ree. Junior was close to his father, but he also learned from his uncles too.

Origin Story of the Scout or Fur Caps of the Ree



Fred Fox places Pendleton around the shoulders of Alfred Morsette Jr who performed the swearing in ceremony for Segment Representative Fox. He was unanimously voted in for his second term.

Junior’s story begins with a ceremony. The ceremony was giving Fred Fox, Segment Representative, the name “Eagle Stands Alone.” At this is ceremony Junior, Fred Fox and Austin Gillette wore a fur skin cap called Scout or Fur Caps. The caps were originally worn by the Pawnee Tribe from Oklahoma, he said. The Pawnee are relatives of the Arikara. The Arikara and the Pawnee were once one tribe.

In the past, the Cap was used for hunting and exploring new locations. The Caps were made of many kinds of furs like wolves, foxes, or coyote with the face hanging in front, and the tail hanging in back. They used them for camouflage while hunting too.

Today the caps are worn by Chiefs, warriors, and dancers. The caps are worn with feathers or medallions on the front.

Morsette said "I belong to the American Legion and I am part of a post called Unit 253 Young Hawk/ Bear Post in White Shield North Dakota." He served as a Chaplin for the Young Hawk/ Bear Post and he remains a member, paying his dues every year to keep active. "I am very proud to be a member of the Old Scout Society too," he said.

Karen Lonefight contributed to this story and the front page photo is hers.

Stories from Junior Morsette will continue in the next News Journal issue. Other stories of the culture and Rees will be told in the following issues of the News Journal. This project is an effort to record the culture, ceremonies and events of the Arikara.



UP Dates from Council and Segment

In his Segment Update, Fred Fox, Segment Representative, explained what he would be doing as the new Tribal Secretary. He wants to create a website for Tribal documents, the TAT Constitution, all minutes of the tribe and resolutions.

At the elder update meeting, Fox handed out all the resolutions he had in the office. He wants to update important documents for the tribe so they will be available to all tribal members when they want or need them and also have them available on line.

Travel for elders: Fox said the elders need to determine where and when they want to

go on their annual trip. He said please don't wait for the last minute. It takes times to plan and organize the trip. The four sites suggested were: Deadwood, SD (a 4 times favorite); Dakota Magic, the casino of the Sisseton Sioux, Sisseton, SD; Spirit Lake, casino of the Spirit Lake tribe, Devils Lake, ND; and Shooting Star, casino of the White Earth tribe, Mahnommin, Minnesota.

The trip will be planned for early summer or early fall.

The \$1,000 Disbursement for the tribe will be in May. If you are unsure about your address or have moved, check with

enrollment to make sure your address is correct so that your check will be mailed to Denby Deegan will be looking at the cemeteries in the area. He will then develop a plat or maps of location and names of people and where they are buried.

The budget for White Shield is available at Segment Office in New Town.

Pete Coffey, Director of the Tribe Repatriation Program discussed the upcoming burials of ancestor found in different parts of the country.

They are working on repatriation of remains from the University of Indiana. There are 155 individuals and 96 boxes that need to be reburied. It is suggested that they be buried where the first group was buried which is in

the correct address.

a buffalo pasture near Ft. Thompson, SD. Plans for that project are in the works.

Coffey said there are other remains that need to be taken care. They are currently working on those plans.

The tribal enrollment now stands at 15,426 as of February 9, 2017.

An Interpretive Center, which has been pending for 17 years, is now moving forward. New Town Representative Monica Mayer will oversee the project. Delphine Baker is the director of the project. She presented plans and asked that the project move forward. (Plans will be provided after presentation at next meeting).

The Colorectal Screening Project Team will be conducting Screenings throughout the 6 communities and MHA Satellite/Bismarck areas in February and March.

This Friday, February 10 will be the first screening and will be held in Mandaree at the Elders Bldg. The screening will then determine if a colonoscopy is necessary.

What is Colorectal Cancer? It is a cancer of the lower part of the digestive system. (the colon or large intestine and rectum) Most colorectal cancer starts as a small noncancerous clump of cells called polyps.

What is a polyp? A polyp is a benign growth, over time polyps can change into cancer. A polyp begins in the colon and often bleed when stool passes through. The FOBT test will be able to detect blood in the stool.

Who should be screened? Adults ages 50-75. Both men and women can get colorectal cancer. Screening saves lives! Screening tests can find polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.

Screening tests also find colorectal cancer early, when the chance of being cured is good.

Not an easy subject to talk about but it is out there. There are many cases of confirmed Colorectal Cancer in our area, Ft. Berthold. Colorectal Cancer is the 3rd most common cancer for the Great Plains American Indians and that's us!

This project is funded through a grant through the Great Plains Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative.

Lila Wells, Ft. Berthold Women's Way Coordinator, Elbowoods Memorial Health Center, 701.627.7620

A 80th Birthday Party for Winogene Blacksmith



Front-L to R - Jackie Zotti, Winogene, Ray, Helen Krueger; Back-L to R, Ray Blacksmith Jr. Mike Blacksmith, Shari Blacksmith, David Blacksmith.



Winogene and Ray with all their grandchildren.

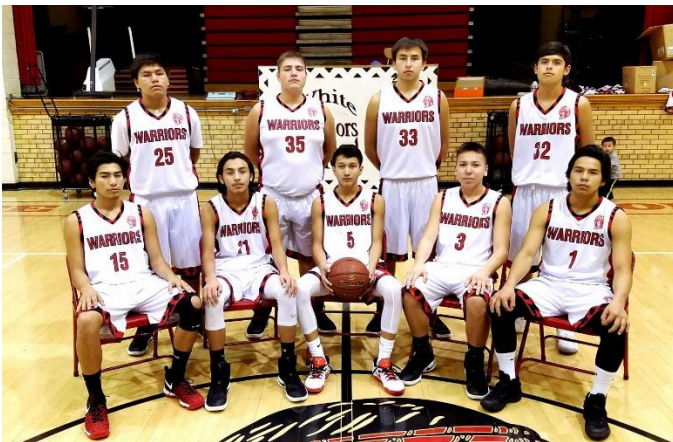


Granddaughter Keal Fox and Winogene

Darcy Krueger Jr. sings for his grandmother.

Helen Krueger and Winogene

Basketball at White Shield School



White Shield Boys Varsity Basketball Team



White Shield Basketball shirts for sale. \$20 a shirt. Fundraiser for boys team camps. Sizes S- 2XL.



White Shield Girls Basketball Team

Limited sizes and shirts. (See me at school). Sheldon, or any of the White Shield Basketball boys. No IOUs ☺.



Three days of basketball games for the White Shield Varsity Boys on the books 🏀 🏆!

The team played a hard game and did well against a good team today. Keys to a good game are get good rest and have a good meal before the game.

“It was 4 games in 5 days for me,” said Fred Fox. The White Shield Varsity girls played Tuesday and White Shield Varsity boys played Thursday through Saturday.

“I’m super proud of both young teams,” Fox said. “They did well. Congratulations to New Town Eagles Boys’ Varsity for the victory at Standing Rock and the New Town Varsity girls for the victory against



McLaughlin!!”





Eventually one gets to the Medicine Wheel to fulfill one's life.

- Old Mouse, Arikara

High in the Big Horn Mountains at nearly 10,000 feet above sea level, lies the Medicine Wheel (above) — a place of worship, a National Historic Site, and an archeological mystery.

It is believed that between A.D. 1200 and A.D. 1700, hundreds of limestone rocks were placed in the shape of a wheel roughly 80 feet in diameter. Twenty eight

spokes radiate from a central cairn to six smaller cairns around the rim.

Who built this and why?

No one knows for sure, but Native American beliefs and archeological evidence point to its use as a spiritual site. Many people still come to the Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain for inspiration, solitude, meditation and vision questing.

Cultural Center Looking for Veterans Display Items



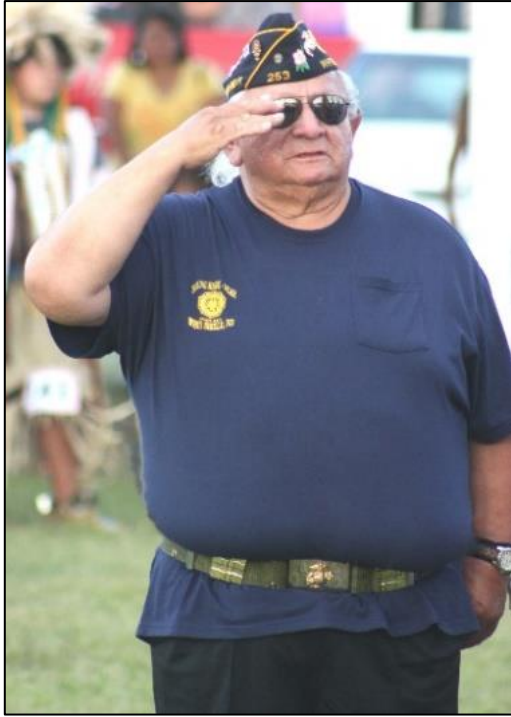
We would like to have a display in the Arikara Cultural Center of our Veterans.

Veterans, or family of a Veteran, that would like to contribute to the display may send a picture, (pictures can be scanned and returned). The picture may include basic statistic information, a short summary of Military career “highlights”, or a note of interest that you would like to share with us.

For any further questions, you may contact:

Arikara Cultural Center (Office) 701-743-4013 or
701-743-4879

OBITUARY



Maa`ishu Shibisha Virgil Chase Sr. was born October 12, 1942 to Frank and Eleanor Red Bear-White Bear Chase in Elbowoods. He had a family rich in culture through the teachings of both of his parents and grandparents. Virgil's early year teachings carried him throughout his life and helped Virgil to become the selfless, ambitious, creative, honorable, courageous, sensitive, loving, kind, poetic, thoughtful and an awesome competitive jokester.

Virgil travelled with his parents throughout the United States and performed for thousands with their style of Pow Wow dancing. He was a champion grass dancer and was the very first fancy dancer on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. Virgil loved to dance traditional and many

younger dancers would leave the contest Pow Wows once they saw Virg.

He was an awesome performer who danced on the Lawrence Welk Show.

It was told that Virgil and Yvonne danced and impressed President Eisenhower and saved our way of life on reservations. He was a crowd pleaser and had fans throughout Indian Country.

Virgil graduated from Mandaree High School in May of 1960 he then went on to Kansas University and Haskell both in Lawrence, Kansas.

Virgil joined the Marine Corp November 8, 1961 and was honorably discharged in 1967. He was with the 1st Force Service Regiment, 5th Marine Regiment Bravo Company 1st Battalion in Camp Pendleton California. Virgil also served in Que-Son Vietnam with the 1st Recon Battalion. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, Combat, National Defense, Expedition, Good Conduct, Expert Rifleman, Sharpshooter, Marksman and Corporal Medals.

Virgil was a Ruff Neck upon his return to Fort Berthold which he lived and loved the thrill of his career with his many hardworking partners who shared many stories of hardship, near disaster, triumph and tears through long days and nights.

In 1983 Virgil lived his passion of being a coach in Golden Gloves Boxing which lasted up until his death. He enjoyed coaching disadvantaged children and

relatives who sought to better themselves and become champions. Long hours of training, blood, sweat and tears committed to the betterment of the youth, is what Virgil enjoyed along with his companions throughout the years.

Virgil was an entrepreneur and enjoyed his many adventures throughout his life. Some of his childhood and teenage stories remain to be told, but they say “What Happened in Bear Den stays in Bear Den.” Virgil had companions to enjoy his years with that blessed him with wonderful times, his children and grandchildren. Like Elvis Presley “no matter what he did everyone still loved him.”

Virgil was a believer in the Kingdom of God and served the Lord to the best of his ability. He never professed to be complete and without sin, but acknowledged his faults and tried to be better than he was the day before.

Virgil was diagnosed in 2015 with pancreatic cancer and continued to be the courageous man we all came to know and love. Virgil was surrounded by friends and

family when he was welcomed home to heaven.

Survivors: Adopted Mother: Sally White Sisters– Yvonne Chase-Merrick, Francis (Veldon) Black Tail Deer, New Town, Claudine Smith Inchelium WA, Children: Daughters, Cheryl Chase of California, Kimberly (Frank) Chase-Philips, Marilyn Dye, New Town, Kathy (Charlie) Chapin Bismarck. Son: Myron Chase Salt Lake, UT, Lance and Virgil Jr. Mandaree. Many, many nieces, nephews and grandchildren who loved him dearly and who he loved as well.

Those who preceded him in death: His loving Parents. Son: Barrett Chase Sisters: Ernestine Chase, Louise Caroline Pleets, Sylena Chase, Caroline White Bear, Genevieve White Bear, Athelia White Bear. Brothers: Bernard Chase Sr., Crosby Chase, Frank Chase Jr., Elijah Chase, William White Bear, Joseph White Bear and Alton White Bear.

Maa~ishu Shibisha

Wake Services: 14 February 2017 @ 5.pm. Johnny Bird Memorial Hall

Funeral Services: 15 February 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Johnny Bird

Officiating: Rev Claudine Smith

Music: Cor & Drew Hopkins, Neal

Hale, Smokey Creek and Young Bear

Senior Pallbearer: Marc Blue Stone

Sr.



Dakota Access Pipeline Getting Closer to Reality



The much-feared Black Snake is getting closer and closer to reality as the wealthy backers of the Dakota Access Pipeline are ready to move oil sooner than anticipated.

During a hearing in federal court on Monday afternoon, an attorney for the firm said crude oil could be placed in the pipeline in 30 days, or even sooner. That's much quicker than the 60- to 90-day schedule that had been offered barely a week ago.

"The company is moving as quickly as it can," attorney David Debold said in Washington, D.C. "It could go faster than what we said last week."

Despite the fast-moving action, the federal judge handling the #NoDAPL lawsuit declined to halt construction activities in North Dakota. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe asked for a temporary restraining order, arguing that the presence of the pipeline in the sacred waters of the Missouri River would prevent them from carrying out ceremonies and exercising their religious beliefs. If the pipeline is installed, "how long will it take them to heal from that?" said attorney Nicole Ducheneaux, herself a Cheyenne River citizen.

"This is a very real and serious prophecy and religious belief of the Lakota people," Ducheneaux said of the repeated comparisons of the pipeline to the Black Snake.




But Judge James E. Boasberg didn't close the door entirely on the tribe. He said he would hear arguments on February 27 before he determines whether to issue a preliminary injunction regarding construction.

"There is not imminent harm here," Boasberg said, because oil is not yet flowing along the 1,172-mile pipeline. "There is no immediate, irreparable harm," he added as Chairman Harold Frazier and other Cheyenne River leaders sat in the crowded courtroom.

At the same time, the judge indicated that the tribe's claims under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) face some serious challenges though not because he is doubting the sincerity of Lakota beliefs. At the onset of the hearing, which lasted a little over an hour, he read passages from tribe's motion regarding the Black Snake prophecy and asked for the correct pronunciation for inipi, or the purification and sweat lodge ceremony.

But Boasberg noted that the Trump administration, through the Department of Justice, is opposing the tribe's efforts. A brief filed before the hearing argues that Cheyenne River leaders never brought up religious issues while the Army Corps was reviewing the pipeline.

The government has a strong policy of accommodating Native American religious practices and protecting religious cultural sites," the submission stated. "But as demonstrated above, Cheyenne River was not diligent in asserting its RFRA claims."

| ◀ January 2017 | | February 2017 | | | | | March 2017 ▶ |
|----------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--|---|-----|--------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| | | | 1 | 2 FBCE – Enterprise Board Room – noon | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | 6 Elders Monthly Meeting – noon at Nishu Lodge – Fred Will be speaking. | 7 Segment Staff Meeting 10 am. Culture Center | 8 TAT Council Meeting 10 am | 9 TAT Council Meeting 10 am | 10 | 11 | |
| 12 | 13 | 14  | 15 | 16 | 17 Justice Commission Meeting TERO bldg. -10 am | 18 | |
| 19 | 20 President's Day  | 21 | 22 | 23 Economic Dev. Meeting 1:00, tribal chambers | 24 Flag Day  | 25 | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | Notes: | | | | |

Elder's Birthdays for February

- Kaye Bell 2-16
- Theodore Everett 2-13
- Elva Karlson 2-21
- Deloris Wilkinson 2-2
- Grover Yellow Bird 2-14



| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Connie Fix | 2-8 |
| Carol Yellow Bird | 2-26 |



Nishu C Store expanding. The construction on this part of the store is complete, but work is still being done on the inside. Grand Opening date is unknown at this time. More in the News Journal next month.