

NAhtAsuutaaka' (White Shield) Newsletter

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Howard Wilkinson tells history of Nishu and community



Wilkinson stands in the tall prairie where he points out TP rings.



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

School has arrived and our kids are in another grade and fall sports are in full swing. We have a new Superintendent and High School Principal. I know we have an exciting year ahead of us.

It was very sad to hear of our passing of the school's last Superintendent Mr. Jacobsen, I wish his family many blessings.

The White Shield Segment office sent out a \$100 gift card for school supplies. The Tribal Business Council approved \$500 this fall for all ages. This was specifically for helping families purchase school clothes for our children and also to assist our college students with a little spending money. This was approved in our last Business Council meeting.

I want to send my condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones this past month, stay strong and my prayers are with you.

Our elders are traveling to Deadwood once again for the second year in a row. Every elder participating on the trip and the tours will receive \$500. The trip will include traveling in a charter bus, hotel accommodations, and tours to Crazy Horse Monument and Bear Country USA. Good luck to all who will also be gambling, most especially have fun. You deserve it.

The Tribal Business Council also approved funding our Veterans Post #253, Ladies Auxiliary, and Old Scouts Society to travel out east for the commissioning of the Naval Submarine USS North Dakota. I believe this is very important that we, as a council, support our veterans and elders as much as possible. They sacrificed and have many teachings for all of us.

I want to wish everyone a happy and safe fall season. United Tribes powwow is next week and it pretty well wraps up outdoor powwows around our area. Just wanted to let everyone know that we will be having a Segment Update in October, I want to give an update on our construction on the homes, new school, lagoon, community building, and headstart. It will be a blessing once they are all built and this will last many generations for our children.

Thank you and God Bless.

White Shield arbor burns



White Shield – August 16, after waiting out rain and high winds, the White Shield Segment staff and McLean Fire Marshall finally were able to burn the arbor that the community dismanentled a few weeks ago.

It has been many years since the arbor replaced the old dance hall south of highway 1804.

Watching the fire consume what was once the arbor for the powwow grounds, brings back a floods of memories for the Sahnish people. Two piles of ashes are indicators of the end of an era. The new arena is a sign of new beginnings.

Construction of a new \$1 million arbor is now in the planning stages. The actual look of the celebration grounds will be a combination of the ideas of many people, said Tom Wells. Wells is the president of the Dead Grass Society and he is taking ideas from the people.

Wells said he have been getting a lot of new ideas. The most asked for item is a restroom, possibly with a dressing room and running water. It would be good to have a restroom that can be flushed, showers and maybe a dressing room, one woman said. Wells welcomes any and all suggestions.

Remember to vote in Tuesday, September 16 Primary Election

**Positions open are tribal chairman, Parshall, Four Bears and Twin Buttes
Segments**

(Continued from front page)



Wilkinson holds the Heritage Award, a ND state honor given to Spirit Riders this year.

Howard Wilkinson, 67, has lived in the White Shield area for many years. For Sahnish people like Howard, changes were huge, vast and life-altering. Howard experienced many of those changes and wanted to bring that history forward for young people who have no idea that their ancestors lives were once played out under what is now Lake Sakakawea.

Here is how the journey into the past went: Howard drove from his house near six-mile corner, into a pasture, over what is called a road and northward through gated fences, beside cattle peacefully grazing and then into high prairie grasses. When he stepped out of his pickup, he said it is hard to see some of the things he wanted to point out because much of it is now covered tall prairie grass.

He walked through the grass, eyes searching the ground until he found some rocks. He pointed to more rocks that formed a circle, a "TP ring." There are three rings here on the hill side, he said. These are the remnants of camps of the Sahnish perhaps when they were hunting in the area. He pointed southeast across a coulee, he said, was the old Buffalo Rock School that he attended.

There's no signs of it now.

He turned north and pointed to the hillside. There were three very large pink granite stones called buffalo rocks. With binoculars, you could see them sitting erect like three people on the hill. In spite of the fact they have sunk into the ground, they are still about 4 feet tall. They were probably used by buffalo as a place to wallow and scratch their hides.

From there he drove back to the road to Buffalo Rock school. There was nothing left of the school but short line of rocks which was once part of the foundation of the old school house.

"I went to school there," he said. "I remember we went to school either on horseback or in a wagon." He smiled, probably remembering the aroma of wood burning and ghosts of those relatives who passed on. "Another student and I used to come early to the school and we'd make a fire in a potbelly stove that was in the middle of the room." Today's students probably wouldn't know how to make a fire leave alone get up at 6 a.m. He pointed out sites where his relatives lived and named all the students who were in the class with him.

It was a different time.

West of the school, he turned and drove south toward the lake. It was pavement near the Buffalo Rock school, then a good gravel near the old Gillette house, and past a sign that said "road ends here." If you look both ways, it is hard to tell if there is a road at all. Amazingly, the



pickup moved onto a road that leads to the old Nishu. It was hard to detect a road. There were deep ruts and some of the road disappeared into brush and thick, sweet smelling wild flowers.

It is grazing land

Nishu would be about 3 or 4 miles southeast of the point

now but there were people living out here, he said. There, he pointed out, was where Nellie and Charlie Yellow Bird lived. The house was abandoned when they moved toward what is now White Shield. The house burned several years ago, he said.

When you reach the top of a hill some 15 miles east of where we started, there's an inlet with quiet smooth water. It is a child of the larger crystal-blue Sakakawea stretching out south like an ocean. Howard stood on the hill, quiet for a few moments, then pointed to an area in the lake and said that's where we lived. That's Nishu. The wind rustled through grass like ghostly figments of the past.



The old Nishu road we were following dropped down a hillside and its tracks suddenly disappeared into the water.

There is still a cemetery here, he said, pointing to another hill nearer to the lake.

It was the old cemetery of Nishu people. So off through the washboard road, down a hill and to a rise. There on the top was an area with a new fence. Some of the people came out here and took

Grave markers on Nishu cemetery.

down the old fence and put up this new one, he said. You can see a few white grave markers yet. One has name on it "Flood" I think, he said. There are square, evenly spaced, indentation in the cemetery area. Howard said when the caskets decayed, the ground would cave in and leave those tell tell indentations. They used wooden caskets and certainly no vaults then, he said. ***(continued on page 10)***

White Shield Elders receive technology training



Will Harjo demonstrates uses of IPAD.

Culture Center – On August 25 and 26, White Shield elders received training on electronics like cells phones, computers, iPads, Tablets and other equipment. The training was funded by the 7th Generation Fund.

The 7th Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Inc provides funding for indigenous non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting and maintaining the uniqueness of Native peoples and the sovereignty of their distinct nations.

For the White Shield community, there was a need for technology training for elders. For younger people who have grown-up with computers, cell phones and iPads, it is a matter-of-fact and simple, but for elders, it can be daunting. If it wasn't for her grandson, one elder said, she wouldn't even try to use her cell phone. He fixes it, sets up her Apps and anything else.

This has been eye opening but not nearly long enough, another said. They learned more at these trainings than they learned in their lifetime. Some things are complicated, but it's beginning to make more sense, she said.

Another of the reason for the training is an Arikara language program developed and implemented by Dancing Eagle, Whirl Wind Bull Perkins and Brad Kroupa. All are Sahnish from the area.

It was programed on Apple iPad. The elders want to use this technology, but many were having problems and/or couldn't afford to purchase an iPad.

If you have an Apple iPad, you can find many of the most common Arikara words. The program says the word, you listen to it then try to pronounce it.

Yvonne and Duane Fox said they practice as they travel (Duane is an Episcopal minister) and they travel a lot.

The 7th Generation Fund staff also gave the elder trainees suggestions for programs they might try with language or cultural and history.

It will be emphasized at the next training session at the end of September or October. Date hasn't been finalized.



Kaye Bell and Denby Deegan follow instructions as Tia Oros Peters, Executive Director of the 7th Generation Fund, who shows them how to create passwords.

The grant written for the training program also provides funding for iPads. The Culture Center staff put the language on the iPads for each trainee. If the trainee attends four training sessions, the iPad will be theirs. They currently have it on loan.

So far Duane and Yvonne Fox, Gerald White and Blanche White Eagle, Denby Deegan and Grover Yellow Bird, nearly have a lock on their iPads. The next session will give them the iPads as their own.



Beverly White Bear and Donnie Dickens attend for the first time.

Elders make annual trek to the Black Hills



Birdie Fox laughs as Cleo Charging tells her about her near-win at the slots.

Deadwood, SD – It has become a tradition – White Shield Elders visiting the Black Hills and kicking-up their heels.

Fred Fox, vice-chairman and Segment Representative, has offered this outing for elders to help them get out in the community and enjoy themselves.

Some elders don't make many trips outside their home. For some, it is mobility, others health issues, some are responsible for grandchildren or family and many can't afford it. These trips are therapy, one of the directors said.

A rented bus allows them to take a long trip without driving. The bus is large with the amenities like restrooms. The staff brought snacks galore which were handed out by the helpers. Helpers also loaded and unloaded baggage, did errands and anything else needed. Kaye Bell, secretary of the Elder Board, purchased food, snacks, water and most important coffee so the elders would be comfortable.

On Monday, the bus took the elders to the Crazy Horse Monument. They stayed there a couple of hours and had lunch because there is so much to see, they said. Then they headed for Bear Country USA. But a short distance out, they received a call about bad weather.



Photo taken by one of the elders groups in a car, shows road covered with hail. The bus was returned to Deadwood

After the trip, the most common comment by the elders was "What a fun trip." There was non-stop laughing on the bus and during the trip. They ate at many of the restaurants at Deadwood, some went shopping but most gambled. Three of the elders were big money winners. All said they really enjoyed the

trip.

UTTC closes annual powwow and tribal meetings

Bismarck – The sounds drums and bells is quiet now, but the event was well-attended and exciting. The tribal summit, as in the past, was filled with tribal leaders and speakers who talked about problems, solutions and what they are doing on their reservation.

Fred Fox, White Shield segment representative, was part of the energy panels and also interviewed on radio with author, Winona LaDuke, White Earth, Minnesota environmentalist. Some of the speakers were Cathy Eagle, CEO for Elbowoods Memorial Clinic; Twyla Demaray, Interim president of Fort Berthold Community College; and many other leaders at TAT. Chairman Tex Hall and councilman Ken Hall also were on panels.

Scott Davis, Indian Affairs Commission, hosted an open house for the new Native American addition to the North Dakota Heritage Center. The new addition is something anyone interested in the culture and history of the Three Tribes should see. Teachers should put the Heritage Center on their list of places to take their students this school year. The Heritage center is next to the State Capitol. It is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.



North Dakota Heritage Center's new addition

One of the regular events of the UTTC week is their annual parade. It starts at the Capitol and winds its way through the city to United Tribes. Many of the contestants in the parade were from Ft Berthold. White Shield also showed well with Spirit Riders. They have been winners in some capacity every year. At this point, it is unknown who claimed prizes.

There is another cemetery farther west, he said. It is called Night Walker and is mostly Hidatsas, but right now the road is not usable but they are planning to clear it. Four hours passed on this journey and Howard's family is waiting back home for him to help finish haying. There is more to tell and see but it will have to wait until he has free time again. **(Wilkinson story cont. from page 6)**



Spirit Riders floats and riders

Bismarck – Duane Fox, drives pick-up truck in parade for the Spirit Riders. It's not new for him. He is one of the founders of the Spirit Riders and has participated in UTTC and other parades for many years. They won a Heritage Award from the state last year. They were formed as a way to help counter-act some of the misbehavior of the young people, learn about the culture and be involved with horses.



(he is in train, but turned as photo was taken)

Fox has several horses that he keeps near his home pastures. His four sons: Blaine, Wes, Robin and Shannon, have horses also and they are always available for Spirit Rider activities. His grandson, Red Star, is also taking on the role of a Spirit Rider like his uncles.



David Blacksmith, Segment Manager; Stacy Blacksmith, White School 7th grade teacher and wife of David; their daughter, Shanna Knife, college student attend UTTC powwow.

Rarest Native Animals Find Haven on Tribal Lands

By NATE SCHWEBER



Yellowstone bison were released at the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana in 2013. Native American tribes have created a host of programs to aid unique Western species.

FORT BELKNAP AGENCY, Mont. — In the employee directory of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Bronc Speak Thunder’s title is buffalo wrangler.

In 2012, Speak Thunder drove a livestock trailer in a convoy from Yellowstone National Park that returned genetically pure bison to tribal land in northeastern Montana for the first time in 140 years. Speak Thunder, 32, is one of a growing number of younger Native Americans who are helping to restore native animals to tribal lands across the Northern Great

Plains, in the Dakotas, Montana and parts of Nebraska.

For a native wildlife reintroduction to work, native habitat is needed, biologists say. On the Northern Great Plains, that habitat the original grass, never sliced by a farmer’s plow. Unplowed temperate grassland is the least protected large ecosystem on earth, according to the American Prairie Reserve, a nonprofit organization dedicated to grassland preservation. Tribes on America’s Northern Plains, however, have left their grasslands largely intact.

More than 70 percent of tribal land in the Northern Plains is unplowed, compared with around 60 percent of private land, the

World Wildlife Fund said. Around 90 million grasses remain on the Northern Plains. Tribes on 14 reservations here saved about 10 percent of that 90 million — an area bigger than New Jersey and Massachusetts combined.

“Tribes are to be applauded for saving so much habitat,” said Dean E. Biggins, a wildlife biologist for the United States Geological Survey.

Wildlife stewardship on the Northern Plains’ prairies, bluffs and badlands is spread fairly evenly among private, public and tribal lands, conservationists say. But for a few of the rarest native animals, tribal land has been more welcoming.

Speak Thunder, who took part in the bison convoy, agreed. “A lot of younger folks are searching, seeking out interesting experiences,” he said. “I have a lot of friends who just want to ride with me some days and help out. Once the food staple of Native Americans on the Great Plains, bison were virtually exterminated in the late 19th century; the Yellowstone bison are genetic descendants of the only ones that escaped in the wild.

This spring, by contrast, Yellowstone officials captured about 300 bison and sent them to slaughterhouses. Al Nash, a park spokesman, said they were culled after state and federal agencies “worked together to address bison management issues.” The cattle industry opposes wild bison for fear the animals might compete

acres of unplowed

with domestic cows for grass, damage fences or spread disease. Though each reservation is sovereign, wildlife restoration has been guided to a degree by grants from the federal government. Since 2002, the Fish and Wildlife Service has given \$60 million to 170 tribes for 300 projects that aided unique Western species, including gray wolves, bighorn sheep, Lahontan cutthroat trout and bison. “Tribal land in the U.S. is about equal to all our national wildlife refuges,” said D. J. Monette of the wildlife agency. “So tribes really have an equal opportunity to protect critters.” Nonprofit conservation organizations have also helped. But tribe leaders say that what drives their efforts is a cultural memory that was passed down from ancestors who knew the land before European settlement — when it teemed with wildlife. Though each reservation is sovereign, wildlife restoration has been guided to a degree by grants from the federal government. Since 2002, the Fish and Wildlife Service has given \$60 million to 170 tribes for 300 projects that aided unique Western species, including gray wolves, bighorn sheep, Lahontan cutthroat trout and bison. “Tribal land in the U.S. is about equal to all our national wildlife refuges,” said D. J. Monette of the wildlife agency. “So tribes really have an equal opportunity to protect critters.”

Nonprofit conservation organizations have also helped. But tribe leaders say that what drives their efforts is a cultural memory that was passed down.

Moose and twin calves spotted in field



White Shield - Moose are common in the White Shield area, but it was unusually to see a mother and twins walking through a field. This family of moose was spotted a couple of weeks ago about three miles west of White Shield grazing near the road. They seemed to enjoy their outing until they saw the photographer. They then moved quickly northwest.

Moose, an herbivore, is capable of consuming many types of plant or fruit. Much of a moose's energy is derived from terrestrial vegetation, mainly consisting of forbs and other non-grasses, and fresh shoots from trees such as willow and birch. These plants are rather low in sodium, and moose generally need to consume a good quantity of aquatic plants. While much lower in energy, these plants provide the moose with its sodium requirements, and as much as half of their diet usually consists of aquatic plant life. As

an adaptation for feeding on plants under water, the nose is equipped with fatty pads and muscles that close the nostrils when exposed to water pressure, preventing water from entering the nose. In winter, moose are often drawn to roadways, to lick salt that is used as a snow and ice melter. A typical moose, weighing 790 lb, can eat up to 71 of food per day.

Moose lack upper front teeth, but have eight sharp incisors on the lower jaw. They also have a tough tongue, lips and gums, which aid in the eating of woody vegetation. Moose have six pairs of large, flat molars and, ahead of those, six pairs of premolars, to grind up their food. A moose's upper lip is very sensitive, to help distinguish between fresh shoots and harder twigs, and the lip is prehensile, for grasping their food. In the summer, moose may use this prehensile lip for grabbing

branches and pulling, stripping the entire branch of leaves in a single mouthful, or for pulling forbs, like dandelions, or aquatic plants up by the base, roots and all.

A moose's diet often depends on its location, but they seem to prefer the new growths from deciduous trees such as white birch, trembling aspen and striped maple, among many others. Many aquatic plants include lilies and pondweed. Moose are excellent swimmers and are known to wade into water to eat aquatic plants. In non-polar regions this trait serves a second purpose in cooling down the moose on summer days and ridding itself of black flies. Moose are thus attracted to marshes and river banks during warmer months as both provide suitable vegetation to eat and water to wet themselves in. Moose have been known to dive underwater to reach plants on lake bottoms, and the complex snout may assist the moose in this type of feeding. Moose are the only deer that are capable of feeding underwater.

Moose are not usually aggressive towards humans, but can be provoked or frightened to behave with aggression. When harassed or startled by people or in the presence of a dog, moose may charge. During the fall mating season, bullmoose may be aggressive toward humans due to the high hormone levels they experience. Cows with young calves are very protective and will attack humans who come too close, especially if they come between mother and calf. Unlike other dangerous animals, moose are not territorial, and do not view

humans as food, and will therefore usually not pursue humans if they simply run away.

In North America, the moose range includes almost all of Canada (excluding the arctic and Vancouver Island), most of Alaska, northern New England and upstate New York, the upper Rocky Mountains, northern Minnesota, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Isle Royale in Lake Superior. The range includes Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and smaller areas of Washington and Oregon. In 1978, a few breeding pairs were reintroduced in western Colorado, and the state's moose population is now more than 1,000.

As you can see by the above information gathered from national resources, the moose are not mentioned in North Dakota and our area. Game and Fish at Ft Berthold estimate there are about 70 moose in the area. So it is not just a stray animal. There seems to be no explanation as to why they are now populating our area.

Since the 1990s, moose populations have declined dramatically in virtually every part of North America. The exact cause of the die off is not determined, but maybe a combination of heat stress caused by global warming, liver flukes, brain worms, unregulated hunting, the reintroduction of wolves

Moose are gentle reminders of how precious our environment is and a reminder that we needed to be protective of the moose and other animals that choose to live with us.

~ September 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Memorial Day 	2 Pay Out for Second People Fund begins	3 Tribal Summit Bismarck	4 Tribal Summit Bismarck UTTC Pow wow	5 UTTC Parade UTTC Pow wow	6 UTTC Powwow 
7 UTTC Pow wow	8	9 Community Board Meeting 7 pm	10 White Shield Employees Staff 10:00 am	11 TAT tribal business council meeting - 10:00 am	12	13
14	15	16 Primary Elections 	17	18 Community Meeting @ 6:30	19	20
21	22	23 Autumn Begins 	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Notes:			

More Calendars: [October](#), [November](#), [December](#)

September Elder Birthdays



- Grayen Bear – 9- 7
- GraceFlute - 9-8
- Janice Kerzmann - 9-9
- Wayne White Bear- 9-17
- June Eagle - 9-21
- Austin Gillette - 9-20
- Beverly White Bear - 9-30

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A very rainy August brought dark skies over the plains and fields. Yet the sunflowers bloomed and turned bright yellow as if to tease the thunder. The photograph is southwest of White Shield and is of a glowing field of sunflowers.

