

# Other Tribes Seek Guidance from the MHA Nation

Submitted by Morgan Berquist

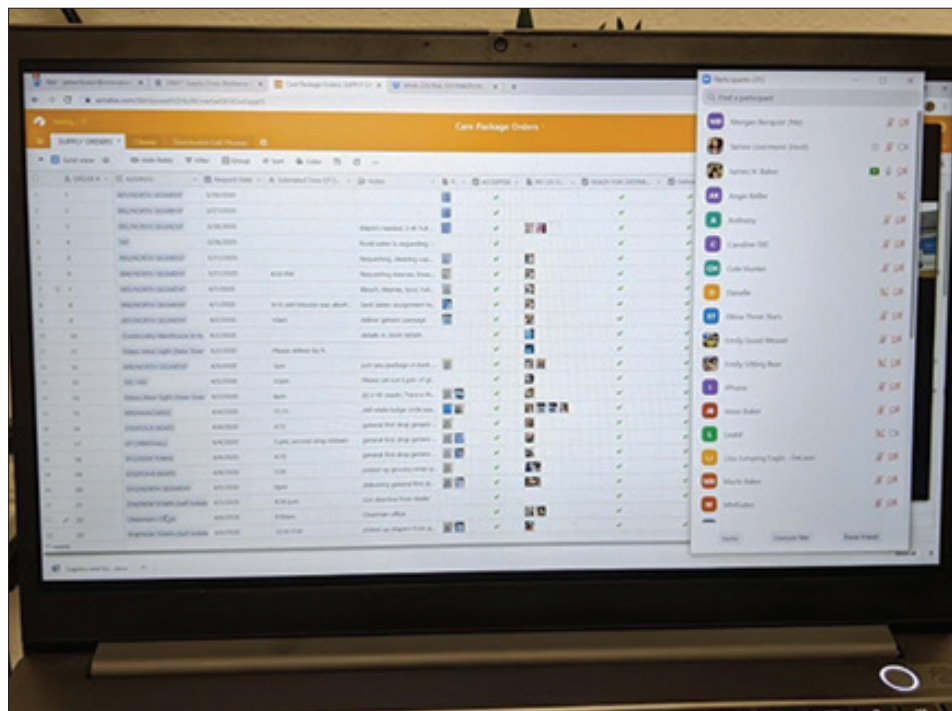
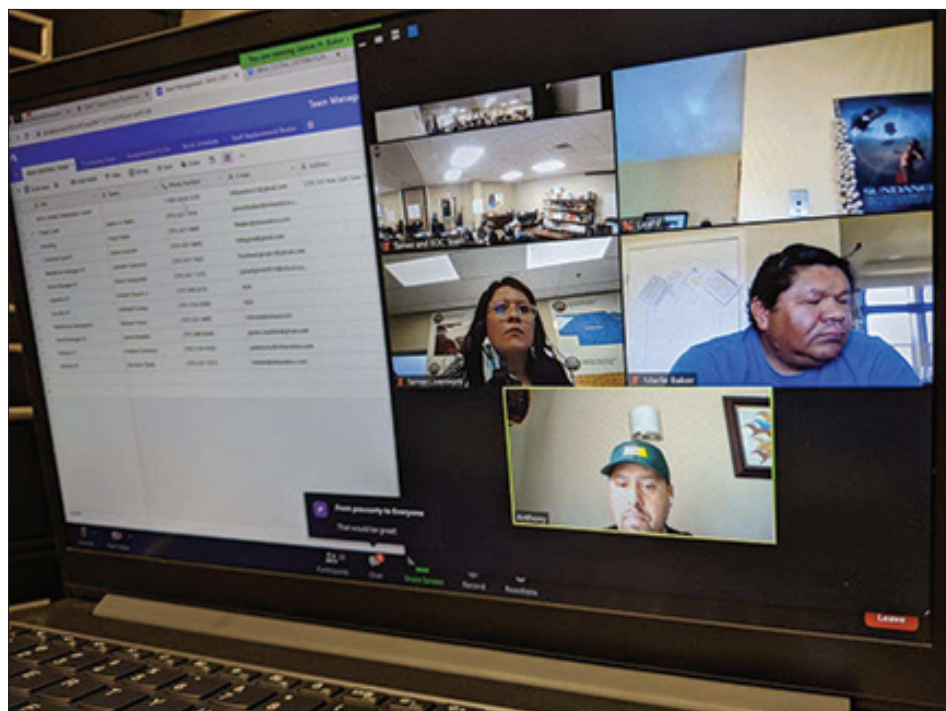
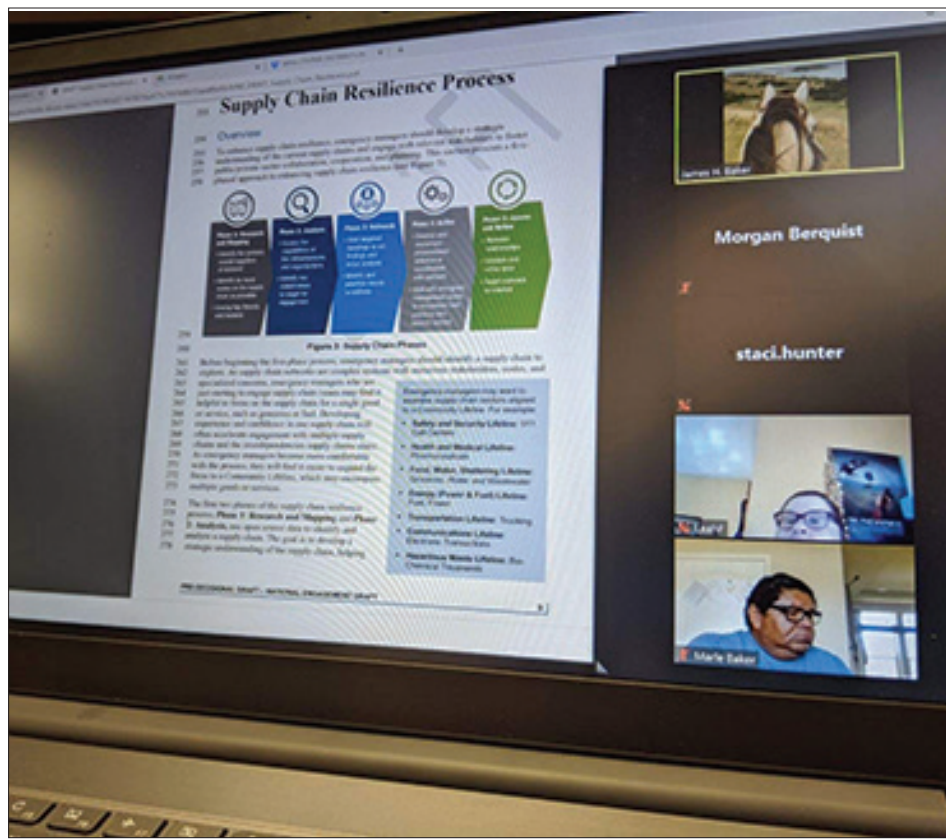
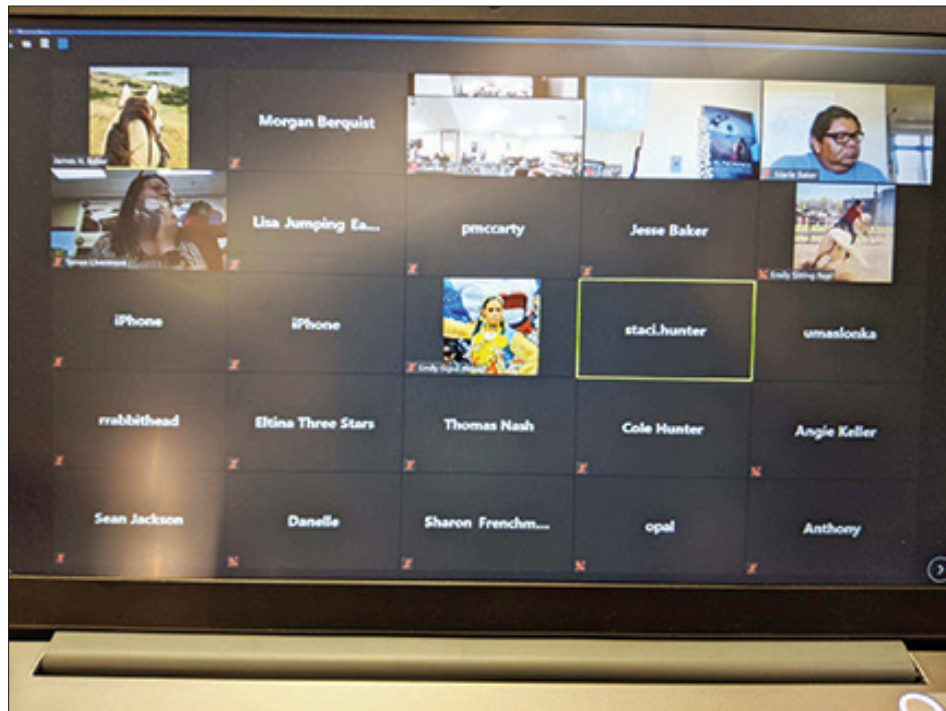
In the early stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic the United States, the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara (MHA) Nation grew concerned. Strong leadership and knowledge of our history sparked a quick response from Chairman Mark Fox and the Tribal Business Council. They took action and created the MHA Nation COVID-19 Task Force and implemented Mitigation Measures. The Task Force's duties are to help the Fort Berthold Reservation assemble and distribute resources in order to be prepared for the worst case scenario. As we all know now, COVID-19 can be transmitted easily through small droplets in the air from infected people who could possibly be asymptomatic. As Native peoples, we have had to deal with deadly viruses in the past that decimated our populations.

Knowing we had to respond right away, the MHA Nation started ordering supplies including personal protective equipment, non-perishable food items, and other necessities for everyday life. Following the new COVID-19 Mitigation Measures put in place was challenging for many reasons including some that are cultural. We are a social and tight-knit community, but we knew we had to be smart about combating the virus in a good way. The Task Force has been working tirelessly to stockpile necessary supplies for our people, and they have been successful. Together we have built a warehouse for all COVID-19 supplies and foodstuffs for community members who may have been affected by the virus. Many of the Task Force members stepped up and wanted to help our people, although they may already have a "day job." Completing these sometimes unnoticed tasks has allowed those affected by COVID-19 some peace-of-mind, as the Task Force will ensure they have a place to stay for isolation or quarantine, groceries and supplies delivered to their homes, as well as any information and resources these people may need.

The Task Force Warehouse and Distribution Centers have been such a success that other tribes have reached out to the MHA Nation for guidance. The MHA people have a long history of helping those who are struggling and met the other tribes requests in that spirit. Emergency Distribution can be a daunting task, but with a motivated team and the correct resources, it can be done effectively. The MHA Nation COVID-19 Task Force's Logistics Section along with assistance from the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center put on an online Zoom training in order to provide a helping hand to different tribes struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. James Baker provided training on how to identify a Central Distribution Center, standard operating procedures, proper FDA storage practices for food supplies, vendor and donation establishment, proper PPE, safety protocols for storage and delivery, as well as the delivery system, accountability, inventory, and tracking.

Many of the team working within the Distribution Center are working remotely and are still able to maintain the inventory through an online system called, "Airtable." This includes a detailed list of items available to the MHA Nation by delivery if needed. It also shows the amount available and the date inventoried. This reduces the probability of unnecessary travel for people who may be vulnerable or trying to protect themselves. The tasks done by those working in the distribution warehouse are also double checked, ensuring cleanliness and timely deliveries.

Many other tribes are still in the preparation stages, which is why they are seeking our guidance. Now is the time to come together as Native peoples. By helping ourselves and problem solving throughout this situation, the MHA Nation is able to assist these other tribes who are in need. Native American people are strong and resilient, and we will get through this by working together just as we have done in the past.



# Homeschooling

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seventh grade and is 'excelling,' according to his teacher from White Shield Elementary. Homeschooling has been a blessing for these kids because of how we are operating. The potential was there already, but the one-on-one has proven to be productive in our case," Nicholson beams.

"After each child finishes their work," Nicholson further exacts, "They go outside and learn with Della, and whatever she happens to be wanting to teach them that day, whether painting, carving, metal design or welding. On Fridays, we usually have fundraisers and have prepared three so far." Pamela said she woke up one day and told everyone, "I don't care what you do, I'm getting up. We're exercising. We're going to pray; we are going to eat breakfast and go to class. So then, we started doing just that - just me and the three kids."



"At that same time, Olivia was still going to New Town for classes until they said, "no more," and quarantined the school due to state law and tribal social distancing rules in response to COVID-19 - It was the first day after spring break, nobody knew what they were going to do. So, we did this."

When asked how she handled Olivia's transportation 70 miles back and forth to New Town every day, Nicholson reported, "Me (or Della) would stay in the truck and wait for her to get out of school and then we'd bring her back home." So, when government officials announced the quarantine, I turned that room into a classroom (she turned and pointed to a room behind her) and Joy Bear (their neighbor and two of the students, Auntie) doesn't have Wi-Fi internet, so we said, "Bring your boys over here." There are no more than five people allowed in a room at one time, so they have maintained the social distancing requirements, according to Nicholson, who states, "Social distancing is important to us above all else, for obvious health reasons."

The women's other 3 children are spending time with their sister in South Dakota. They range in ages of 13,14, and 15 and are coming home shortly.



Robert has excelled also - he was struggling in fourth grade but currently is performing his math at a fifth-grade level capacity. Marquis and Robert share the same teacher, and Marquis is performing wonderfully, as well. Delancey is in

"Olivia is the Star." - Nicholson

As previously mentioned, Olivia, one of 7 of the women's children, is graduating from high school two years early. "After hard work and dedication in her alternative school program, she walks with the 2020 Class of New Town High School this year on June 6th." Nicholson furthers, "She just received her driver's license as of yesterday, and can go to college whenever she wants but attends online college courses beginning this summer."

## A Working Schedule is Imperative

A typical schedule at Buffalo Rock Stronghold LLC looks like:

- 7:30 am
- Boys arrive, and other kids are up and ready to go
- Prayer
- Stretch and Exercise (they run laps around a loop in the driveway and Nicholson times them)
- Breakfast (usually biscuits and gravy, breakfast burritos, *malto-meal* and fresh fruit 8:15 am
- Class starts for all (*Distance Learning*) and they finish at separate times.



The teachers now have 'one on one' and ZOOM outreach with the students through Distance Learning provided by White Shield School District:

- Delancey's Zoom is 1 to 2 pm
- Marquis and Robert's is 10 to 11:30 am
- Dylon's is 9 to 10 am

The students use EPIC (for reading), PRODIGY, and COMPASS programs as part of their DL studies. They remain in class until they finish their work, at which time they go out to the shop and work with Wilkinson on painting, carving, designing, horticulture, and welding.

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# From the office of the Chairman

## Contact Logging - Documenting Our Travels

Submitted by Lisa Lone Fight

The MHA people have always been known as travelers. Seasonally, we followed the buffalo. Some Elders say that our people went down into Central America, then back to Nova Scotia and across to where we are now. One of our more famous women made several trips to the West coast and back and helped save a group of inexperienced explorers along the way

The challenges of travel used to be different. Now our challenge is to mindfully document our travels.

Who we visited, how long we stayed and what sort of contact we made with them.

Contact logging is a weapon in the fight against COVID19. Contact logging is simply keeping a list or notes of who you visit and when. This is important for several reasons. The first is, should you contract the virus, those you were in contact with can be tested right away. Your contact log allows them to be treated immediately and is critically important. The new treatments including antiviral

remedies and plasma infusions are thought to be most effective in the first few days after the illness is contracted. Time matters. Contact logging can also allow you to identify who you came in contact with in case they contract the virus. That way you don't have to wonder, 'Did I see this person or not?' You have a record. These records are only used to help stop the spread of the virus and to help people receive treatment. They are considered confidential medical information under federal law and cannot be

used for any other purpose.

There are a number of ways to keep a record of who you visited. There are high-tech ways, including contact tracing apps you can download onto your smartphone. There are also log books, journals, notebooks, or texting yourself at the end of the day, and the list goes on.

The hazards are different now than when we traveled the country in the old days, but the objectives are the same; to make sure that no one is lost along the way.

### What Apple and Google have proposed

1 When A and B meet, their phones exchange a key code

2 When A becomes infected, he updates his status in the app and gives his consent to share his key with the database

3 B's phone regularly downloads the database to check for matching codes. It alerts her that somebody she has been near has tested positive

4

5

6

Source: Apple/Google

## WELCOME BACK!

We have been making changes to keep you, our guests, and employees safe. Your health and safety are our top priority so here's a few of the changes you'll see when you come back to 4 Bears Casino & Lodge:

- New hours, and doors monitored for entrance counts.
- The Center Bar will be open for coffee, water and soda. No alcohol sales.
- Slots are spaced out to meet social distancing requirements.
- Corner Café and gift shop will be open.
- There will be no blackjack or table games at this time.
- Marina, RV park and C-store are open.
- Guests are encouraged to wear a mask and gloves. Available at the lodge entrance and the Players Club.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequency will be increased.
- Additional hand sanitizer dispensers are provided in the casino and lodge.

**We look forward to seeing everyone soon!**

We will continuously monitor developments and statements from local, state and national agencies and implement recommended precautions when necessary. Follow our social media pages and website for up-to-date information.

10 AM - 10 PM THURSDAY - SUNDAY

ROXOR GIVEAWAY June 5 and 6

4 BEARS CASINO & LODGE 4 MILES WEST OF NEW TOWN

800.294.5454 4bearscasino.com

When gambling is no longer a fun hobby, but an addiction, know there is help. Call the 2-1-1 Hotline today for help and guidance. 4 Bears Casino & Lodge cares about you and wants you to know that help is available.

LONG BEAR - HIDATSA

**BE MHA W.I.S.E. WATCHFUL, INTELLIGENT, SAFE AND EDUCATED**

Remember, We Are WINNING THE BATTLE BUT THE Fight Is Far From Over. COVID 19 is STILL OUT THERE

MHA NATION COVID-19 TASK FORCE

MAY 20, 2020