

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 1, 2020



Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation responds to Department of Interior opinion on Missouri River mineral rights

New Town, N.D. – On Tuesday May 26, 2020, the Trump administration, acting on a request from the state of North Dakota, illegally confiscated the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation's minerals beneath the Missouri river on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Without consulting the MHA Nation, the Department issued a false M-Opinion which overturned three prior decisions of the Department, including two prior M-Opinions recognizing the MHA Nation's title to the riverbed, one of which has stood for 84 years. In doing so, the Department violated the United States obligations under its 1825 treaties with the MHA Nation as well as its fiduciary duty to protect the MHA Nation and its property rights. The Department also failed to consult with the MHA Nation before the taking and did not wait for the MHA Nation's historical report as previously agreed. **The statement below from MHA Nation Chairman Mark Fox can be quoted in-full or in-part.**

The MHA Nation demands that the Department of Interior uphold its duty as our Trustee and protect the MHA Nation's Missouri River property rights. We demand the DOI immediately withdraw its M-Opinion and abide by the longstanding precedent beginning with its 1936 decision that affirmed the MHA Nation's rights to the riverbed.

The Missouri River has been central to our people's self-sufficient way of life since time immemorial. Our historic holistic relationship with the River is well known and documented—this includes the riverbed minerals and bottomlands we have utilized for our spiritual well-being, our food, agriculture, and trade economy for thousands of years.

Mike Lawson, a nationally renowned Missouri River historian, thoroughly investigated the MHA Nation's historical usage of the Missouri River and found time again our deep economic, cultural, and spiritual usage and dependency on the Missouri Riverbed.

Lawson's extensive research identified an expanded number of legal and historical events that support the riverbed ownership of the MHA Nation across nearly two centuries. Yet, the DOI did not wait for the report as promised before issuing their misguided M-Opinion.

The legal and historical precedent is clear: MHA Nation owns the rights under the riverbed within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Reservation. The Department's politically motivated action is nothing more than an illegal taking.

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Contact: Lisa Lone Fight
MHA Nation Public Relations
lhlonefight@mhanation.com
(701) 421-2159.

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RELIGION

St. Anthony - Monthly Meditation

The Breath of God

by Fr. Roger A. Synek

As with Adam, made out of the dust of the ground, the Breath of God or Spirit had to be breathed into him before he came to life. So with the Church, made from the first disciples, the Breath of God or the Spirit had to be breathed into the Church before she came to life. This day is traditionally called Pentecost, which is the last day of the Easter Season or the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday. This year the Church celebrated Pentecost amid a pandemic that has greatly affected humanity around the world. For America, in addition to the psychological, physical, emotional and economic afflictions caused by Covid-19 deaths and stay-at-home lockdowns, Americans are also wrestling with moral issues surrounding the death of George Floyd and those who incite immoral behavior. America, the world desperately needs the Breath of God!

The life that was breathed into the Church at the first Pentecost was the life that the world desperately needed. Scripture itself reveals the extreme hardships people were experiencing at the time – tyrannical leaders, brutal imprisonment, unjust capital punishment by crucifixion, neglect of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden, the list goes on and on. The life breathed into those first Christians was unbelievable. Their willingness to turn the other cheek instead of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, their readiness to forgive not just seven times but seventy-seven times, their commitment to love their enemy and do good to them instead of seek revenge, their eagerness to willingly lay down their life for others without counting the cost, their passion to courageously and joyfully endure persecution even martyrdom brought a fire that infused life into a dying chaotic world. The confidence these Christians displayed when the Breath of God came down upon them like tongues of fire was incredible. Witnessing the joy and peace and love radiating from these followers in the face of ridicule and persecution yet previously exhibited fear and cowardness baffled onlookers yet at the same time was attractive to them.

The world today needs to see this fire. In many ways we are living in a time that is quite like the time those first disciples lived. The Breath of God, the Spirit is still among us giving life to the world and to those who want to burn with life. Jesus has not abandoned the Disciples of His Church. Christian, do not lose hope! As the Breath of God changed the world back then, so can the world change today. If we sincerely want change, we must be willing to take a risk and let the Spirit change us and move us. Boldly ask for that fire breathed into those first disciples. Ask for the same courage and confidence, peace and joy those first Christians received at Pentecost. Ask that Christians everywhere desire to be incredible unbelievable instruments for the Spirit to breathe life into America, for the Breath of God to breathe life into the world.



Fr. Roger A. Synek

St. Anthony Catholic Church

New Town/Mandaree

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WALKING ON



Rubi Starr Parshall

May 3, 1980 – June 1, 2020

Rubi Starr Parshall, 40, St. Paul, MN, formerly of Parshall, died Monday, June 1, 2020, at her home in St. Paul.

Rubi Starr Parshall was born May 3, 1980 in Rapid City, SD, a twin daughter to Donna Lois Provencial and George Troy Parshall. She was a member of the Prairie Chicken Clan. They lived in Rosebud, SD until they were five and then moved to St. Paul, MN. She attended Red School House through 7th grade and graduated from Como High School in 1999; she enjoyed reading and always strived to make good grades. She loved music and participated in choir. Rubi had a huge collection of Betty Boop. She was outgoing and would like to take charge. She was spiritual person and followed astrology.

A light in our world was sadly extinguished. Our hearts, as well as our lives, will never be the same. Her bright smile left an impression on all she encountered; coupled with her sharp wit, she always kept us laughing and on our toes. She was never shy to tell anyone her point of view. She was always generously kind and big hearted. She was fearless and genuinely amazing. We are all very saddened by this terrible event that has taken our light away from all of us. We were blessed to be loved by her and to lose her this way is a stark statement. Rubi Starr Parshall, 40, St. Paul, MN, formerly of Parshall, died Monday, June 1, 2020 at her home. Brothers, please protect her.

Rubi is survived by Mother, Donna Provencial; twin-sister, Aja Parshall; sisters, Tokala ChargingThunder and Delana Ward.; brothers, Yellow Cloud Provencial; Wakia Provencial, Hehaka Provencial, Maka ChargingThunder and Cumpa-su ChargingThunder; grandmothers, Ida Mae Zimmerman and Delores Sand; Many Aunts, Uncles, nieces and nephews, and extended family. She was preceded in death by her father, George Troy Parshall; grandparents, Paul Parshall and Elizabeth Parshall; and several aunts and uncles.

A Family Gathering and Prayer Service was held on Monday, June 8, 2020 at Langhans Funeral Home in Parshall with a public Graveside Service on Monday beginning at 11:45 a.m. at St. Bridget Catholic Cemetery.

Millie Dixon served as Senior Pallbearer

**Temporary
Clinic Hours**



Jill Trulson, FNP-C
Family Medicine

Monday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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Thank you for your understanding.



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604 1st St N, New Town, ND
701-627-2990



From the office of the Chairman

Update from Chairman Mark Fox

Submitted by Morgan Berquist

"It's easy to try and forget what's really going on in the world," said Chairman Mark Fox. As we push forward through this pandemic, others are getting comfortable. The Chairman of the MHA Nation spoke about the case numbers in North Dakota as well as the United States. He is a strong advocate of PPE and testing, as he wants to protect the people of the MHA Nation. "We continue to push to promote the use of PPE. The numbers continue to grow each day, as we expected," Fox explained. These spikes will continue to occur." He spoke about the importance of following the mitigation measures put in place, and that the pandemic is not over. He encouraged people to wear their masks, wash their hands, and be cautious in handling items along with continuing to social distance. Currently within the MHA Nation, there has been around 1,300 COVID-19 tests administered. Testing occurs Monday through Friday, with about an average of 30 people tested per day. Fox said, "We want to keep pushing hard towards testing 2,000 people by at least the 4th of July. Fort Berthold has about 37 confirmed cases, and we are very elated we could slow the spread on the reservation. That is a result of all of our people, communities, frontline workers, and COVID-19 Task Force contributing their time and efforts to do what is nearly miraculous. We have stayed in the mid-30s for more than 4-5 weeks, with only a couple new cases. Although we do need to test more, we have slowed the spread." The Chairman believes that the number of positive cases will rise due to more frequent testing as well as the state of North Dakota opening back up again. "It is inherent that as society re-opens, there will be more risk of exposure. This is why we ask to continue with the safeguards such as PPE, hand sanitizer, and being smart when it comes to

interacting with people. We cannot move about like the pandemic is gone, it is not, it is here," he stressed. Fox wants to ensure that we are protecting the old, young, and those with underlying health conditions. "We take care of all of our people here on the reservation. There is always hope for better medicines and vaccines. What I see on the news and researching tells me, is that there are some entities that are ready to prepare a vaccine this fall. We hope it is approved and effective. Nevertheless, we keep moving forward," said Chairman Fox.

As the MHA Nation moves forward with the, "new normal," the Tribe's leadership tries to gauge their decisions carefully. Last week, the Tribal Business Council determined to grant authority to allow for new objectives within the mitigation policies put in place. "For example, the curfew put in place would only be applicable to minors or those who are under the age of 18. Items about social distancing and disbanding large groups have been reviewed with the draft revision of the allowance of groups of 5 to be changed to allow groups of 10 to gather. These things are going to be amended because we are learning to cope with what is happening. We still have business to conduct and jobs to do," said the Chairman. Casino operations have also partially opened back up. Fox explained, "We are taking baby steps. The casino generally will be open Thursday-Sunday, and be closed Monday-Wednesday in order to clean and sanitize the building as well as do any testing if necessary. We are being cautious in measuring the impact to ourselves." Taking these incremental steps are important to see if the tribe is able to conduct business without causing any outbreaks. Along with these areas opening back up and the mitigation measures being amended, 90% of the tribal workforce is either back in the office

or approved to conduct work from home. The Chairman explained that we are moving forward slowly as a government and are doing well, as we have not seen any major impacts as of yet. Following the pandemic situation, Cares Act Funding applications have been submitted, and the tribe is hoping to receive fairly distributed funding. "We are able to access millions of dollars because our staff has been working very hard to obtain these extra resources," said Fox. In the Chairman's opinion, those funds were not distributed properly in the past, and he is hoping for a different outcome this round.

Fox commented on the riots happening around the country. He stated, "The way that the law enforcement handled the arrest was inappropriate and illegal. I do not know all the details except that it occurred, and that it is an injustice. It is something that all people of color have had to contend with, but it seems to be more-so in the last few years under this administration. It's time to stand up and make sure everyone is treated equally and has equal opportunities. We cannot tolerate those kinds of behaviors. What occurred in Minneapolis is immoral, illegal, and definitely unnecessary. The loss of one life has now sparked so much anger and concern that we have rioting going on. People have said enough is enough. Here at Fort Berthold and in Indian country, we know what it feels like to be treated badly, and on the other side of actions taken by law enforcement and others. There has been a lot of spot light on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), and now is the time for the U.S. to wake up and start understanding and treating everyone respectfully, and that is not occurring."

Following that statement, he explained how Indian people understand that the government and others have tried to continuously put



Chairman Mark Fox

a halt to and take away our resources and way of life. He went on to say that it tends to be economically driven, as the MHA Nation always been an economic power house and in an ideal location for trade along the Missouri River. Fox explained, "Last week, the M-Opinion was released by the Department of Interior. Prior to this, it was well established by opinion and law that the original riverbed of the Missouri belonged to the MHA Nation. This goes back to our treaties and things that go back before ND became a state. The U.S. government has used political action to try and take this resource and give it to North Dakota. We are concerned because this has always been our river and our home." Unfortunately, this is all too familiar to Native American people. The federal government is trying to take away from us and we will not stand for it. Our riverbed rights are in jeopardy, but we have strong leadership that will fight for our rights and land until the end. The Chairman recommends reaching out to our governor, president, and any other leadership that you may see fit. Write to them, and explain to them why this is wrong and that this is not their land.

Chairman Fox said, "You fight, you stand up to them, you don't let them take what doesn't belong to them, and you keep fighting."

**School Board Election
Ballot Box**

**Located in the foyer at
Parshall High School
Open Monday - Friday
9:00am - 3:00pm**

***All ballots must be returned
BEFORE 5:00pm
Monday, June 15th or
postmarked June 15, 2020***

The Search For A Coronavirus Vaccine and Why Masks Are Still Important

Lisa Lone Fight,

M.S. Remote Sensing and Environmental Science

The search for a coronavirus vaccine is a worldwide effort. The approach is hi-tech and involves nations around the world but vaccination was not always the result of laboratories and legions of scientists. In fact it may surprise you to know that the idea of inoculation/vaccination has been around for over 500 years.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VACCINATION

The earliest written evidence of the idea of receiving a vaccine to inoculate someone against the virus comes from China and a book dated from 1549 called On Measles and Smallpox. (This raises certain questions for MHA Nation historians because while smallpox ravaged our population there was a method to inoculate people against it and had been for over a hundred and fifty years. But that is another topic!) This ancient Chinese practice was not exactly what we would think of as a vaccination but fluid from a smallpox infected person was purposefully given to someone else to give them immunity. The natural question is why didn't the second person infected get as sick as the first? This has to do with a scientific principle that many believe may apply to the Coronavirus and explain why some people get really sick and some people don't. This is called the "dose-response curve".

THE DOSE-RESPONSE CURVE

The dose-response curve is actually a pretty straightforward idea. Viruses are transferred via little individual particles called "virions". Each virion is a little factory and produces more of a virus. If you encounter a lot of virions they all start producing and can overwhelm your immune system. If you encounter a small number that gives your immune system time to ramp up and fight it before too much of the virus is produced. So, some people who get a big dose of virus to begin with get sicker and some people who may not have received as big a dose may not get as sick. There are a lot of other factors that may be involved in the severity of illness from Coronavirus but the dose response curve is one that's being heavily researched now.

VACCINATION

The dose-response curve has to do with a living active virus. This differs from how vaccination works because in a vaccination, the virions are disabled before they are injected. Basically the virus factory is shut down which gives the immune system plenty of time to recognize it and mount a defense if it encounters a living virus.

WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG TO DEVELOP A VACCINE?

In reality, vaccines don't take very long to be created. Where the greatest time is involved is in testing them to make sure that they are both safe and effective. The standard for safety of a vaccine is extraordinarily high. This is how it should be for something that may be given to 350 million people. 99% is not good enough. It would also be almost as bad to give people a vaccine that didn't work. This would give them a false sense of security that could lead to the virus actually being spread farther.

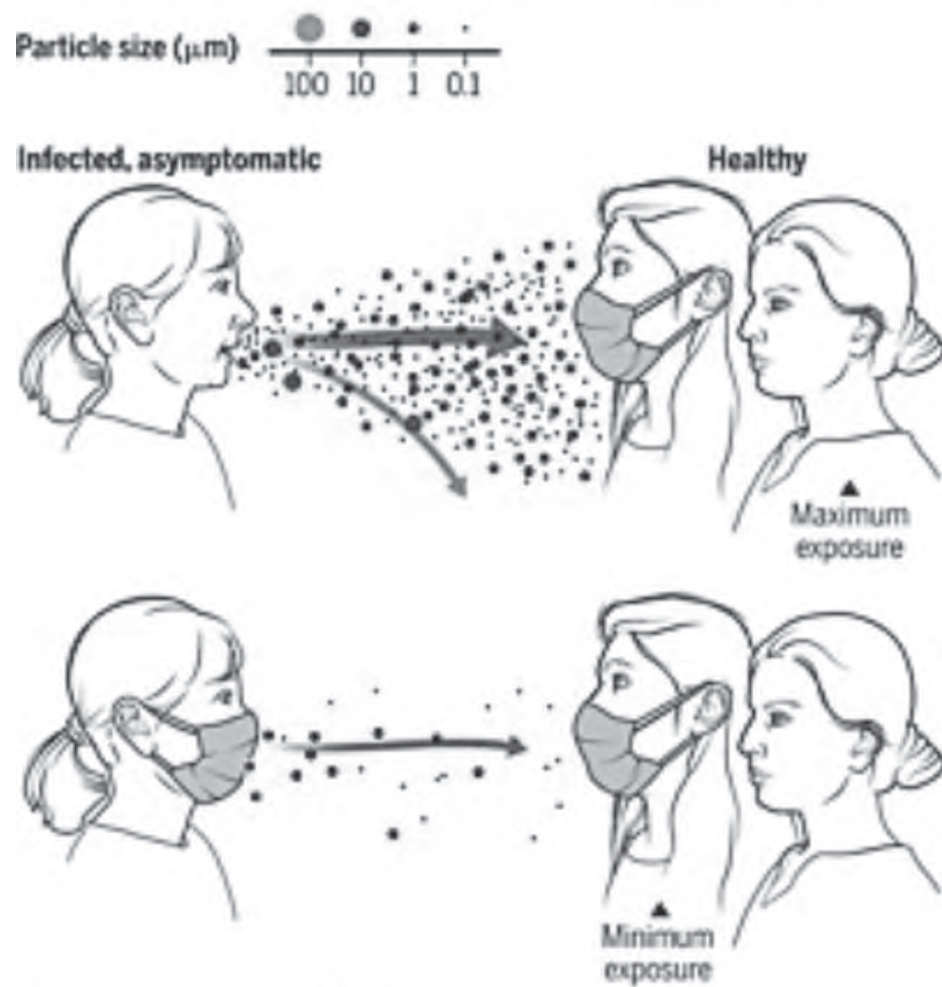
SO WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Right now China is ahead in the race to create a vaccine. This makes sense because they've had longer to work on it. Currently the US has three human trials in the works. These trials usually take 12 to 18 months even if they are fast-tracked. Again this is to make sure that the vaccine is both safe and effective and so it can only be rushed so much without endangering people.

WHAT DO WE DO UNTIL THERE IS A VACCINE?

Until there is a vaccine the CDC is recommending MASKS FOR EVERYONE. You may have heard it before but if everyone wore a mask not as many virions would be spread and an estimated 85% of infections could be avoided. Also to go back to the dose-response curve, if the virus in your sneezes and coughs is caught mostly in your mask that means even if you infect someone you may not give them as bad a case as you would otherwise. So until a vaccine is available please wear a mask. It does make a difference.

Masks reduce airborne transmission
Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas universal masking results in the least exposure.



GRAPHIC: V. ALTOUNIAN/SCIENCE



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Implement Steps To Prevent Illness

Social distancing is the practice of increasing the space between individuals and decreasing the frequency of contact to reduce the risk of spreading a disease.

Examples of practical measures that might reduce face-to-face contact in personal and community settings include the following:



Maintain a 6ft perimeter of distance between you and everyone else. In every situation.



Avoid Social Gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. Avoid public transportation.



Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.



Avoid eating or drinking in food establishments. Use drive-thru, pick-up, or delivery options.



DO NOT VISIT nursing or retirement facilities. Unless you are critical care assistance.



Avoid unnecessary travel such as shopping or social visits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MHA NATION'S RESPONSE TO COVID19
Covid19 Taskforce Call-in Center 24hrs/7days a week 701-627-7300
MHA Nation Chairman's Office—Tribal Business Council - Covid19 Task Force
www.mhanation.com/coronavirus