

Wolakota Buffalo Range Sees First Calves of Season



The Wolakota Buffalo Range, a project of the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), is beginning to see the first calves for this calving season.

Just two years ago, the ranch that is now the Wolakota Buffalo Range sat empty. Now Wolakota is the largest Native-owned and managed herd in the world. The buffalo range exists on a 28,000 acre property with a mixed grass habitat. This habitat is the ideal habitat for the buffalo, the same environment buffalo have thrived on for millennia.

TJ Heinert, Assistant Herd Manager, shared these pictures with the REDCO team early this week. He is an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate and was born and raised on a ranch on the Rosebud Reservation. TJ leads the day-to-day operations of the ranch and lives on site. He shared how seeing the baby calves makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Seeing the calves is good medicine. They are a reminder of the strength that both Sicangu Oyate and Tatanka Oyate carry and the healing that comes when our nations share space together.

Go to www.rosebudbuffalo.org to learn more about the herd and the work of Wolakota.

Woyute Ki Pejuta Waste Heca

In an effort to make healthy living more accessible on Rosebud, the Sicangu Community Development Corporation is launching Woyute ki Pejuta Waste Heca (WPW) or “Food is Good Medicine.” WPW is a free nutrition and wellness coaching program that seeks to help community members overcome their health challenges and live a healthier lifestyle.

Participants will receive several forms of support – including financial assistance – to help them develop healthy habits. “We know that everyone is at a different point in their health and fitness journey, so we want to be able to offer something for everyone,” said Sicangu CDC’s Health Initiative Katrina Fuller, who will be overseeing the program.



Among the services offered through WPW are monthly classes at the Diabetes Prevention & Wellness Center in Rosebud. These monthly classes will be broken down into three sessions, which will vary from month to month. According to Fuller, the typical class will consist of a half hour each of a cooking demonstration, fitness and personal training, and a classroom session on health topics such as nutrition, sleep, or stress.

Participants will also set health-related goals for themselves. “As an outcome for this program, we want people to gain skills to help improve their health and their families’ health -- physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually,” said Fuller. “A great way to do that is by creating a personalized health plan with achievable goals.”

Individuals who participate in the classes earn \$1 per family member per day (maximum of \$4 per day for a family of 4) as credit to purchase healthy food at the Sicangu Harvest Farmer’s Market in Mission, which is held from May to October.

The program is modeled after so-called food prescription programs, in which doctors “prescribe” a certain dollar amount of fruits and vegetables to their patients, instead of medication. “We did a pilot food prescription program last year, but we are really expanding it this year,” said Fuller. “This year we are offering a lot more services and we hope to have a lot more community members take part.”



Applications for the program opened last month, and Fuller is hoping to fill all 30 available slots before the program starts in May.

The application can be found at www.sicangucdc.org/health.

Questions can be sent to Fuller via call or text at (605)319-6544 or by emailing katrina.fuller@sicangucorp.com.

editorial: We Are Očēti Šākowiŋ Strong

On May 26th, 2022, citizens and allies of Očēti Šākowiŋ gathered in protest of a Rapid City business that threatened to ban Native Americans at the hotel they own and operate. The owner's comments came after a tragic shooting took place on hotel grounds involving Lakōṭa relatives. The gathering and protest was centered around a meeting of Očēti Šākowiŋ leaders including the Rosebud Tribal President Scott Herman. The leaders decided to serve a Notice of Trespass to the hotel owners, citing their violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

This blatantly racist display from a non-native resident and business owner within the occupied lands of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, in the community now known as Rapid City, has sparked a larger conversation around how Lakōṭa people and other members of marginalized groups of people are treated in the community. Incidents like this that get pushed to the surface aren't isolated incidents. There has been clashes between Očēti Šākowiŋ nations and colonial powers since contact. From the early clashes that arose as Lakōṭa people fought to protect their people and homelands to the 1970s where the American Indian Movement clashed with the government of Rapid City over continued injustices happening to Lakōṭa people in the area, it is important for us to follow these historical incidents to help us understand how we have arrived to the conditions of these moments.

There is always a tremendous amount to unpack when processing moments like this one. The part of all of this that has been sitting heavy on my heart is thinking about the young Lakōṭa relative who lost their life following this unfortunate shooting incident that led to the racist comments by the business owners.

Violence within Indigenous communities is something that is important to address. But before we do so, we need to understand what conditions lead to violence. It is studied and documented that the material condition of a people directly correlate with the number of incidents of violence that happen within those communities. We understand that our communities current conditions are a direct result of the dispossession of land, genocide by war and disease, cultural genocide, forced assimilation, dishonored treaties, and continued and current policies that harm Indigenous communities and their sovereignty.

I believe this is all important to name, because I believe this is part of understanding how we heal. Along with dreaming of and fighting for a world where my relatives don't have to worry about racist policies that dictate what hotel they can stay at, I dream of and fight for a world where my relatives' material conditions allow for all of us to prosper as good relatives to one another, where every single one of us has adequate access to clean water, healthy food, our culture, our ceremonies, and our language.

I pray daily for the family of the Lakōṭa relative who was a victim of gun violence. I also extend my prayers to all relatives who are struggling through addiction, inadequate access to housing, food insecurity, and any other material conditions that leave us navigating these places of pain and hurt. I pray for healing for all our relatives.

-Robert Bordeaux, Communications



Citizens and allies of Očēti Šākowiŋ gather to protest against a local business's racist remarks concerning Native Americans. (photo source: www.rapidcityjournal.com)

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Spotlight: Colin Whirlwind Soldier

Colin is a Lakōñiyāpi language learner through our Lakolya Waoniya Language Revitalization Program. He is married to Breanna Whirlwind Soldier and is the proud father of Carson, Aubreelynn, Canon, and Kathlyn. His parents are Tonya Waln and Travis Whirlwind Soldier and he also gives credit to Totes Waln and Kevin Busch who helped raise him.

If you live on Rosebud, you'll probably recognize Colin from his work as a DJ/producer with RST Communications and as a personal trainer at DPP. Colin has a passion for physical health and advocates in the community alongside his brother TJ for strength training and conditioning at all age levels. He has a variety of talents including writing music and has worked alongside other Indigenous artists to create the LANDBACK album which was produced by NDN Collective.

Colin has become well versed within the community and has a dream of utilizing the Lakōña language in all that he does. After completion of the Lakolya Waoniya program, Colin hopes to write different genres of music in Lakōña and would like to teach fitness classes all in Lakōña. With Colins experience in media and entertainment, he would also like to work alongside local media outlets to develop an all Lakōña news channel, Lakōña radio shows, game shows, and sports broadcasting. Colin has shared that he wants his family and peers to comfortably and confidently speak Lakōña in casual settings and hopes to pass on the language through his various passions. Colin also shared that he is most proud of his culture and his people for never giving up and he credits those before us for keeping our values and language alive.



Join Our Team!



Come join the over 60 team members employed throughout our ecosystem made up of Sicangu CDC, Tatanka Funds, and REDCO. We have various positions open that you can apply for right now. To learn more and apply, go to www.sicangucorp.com/careers or scan the QR code below.

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TEAM**

