

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Volume 47, Issue 6

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define our present and shape our future...

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LOCAL

FHBC hosts
Legislative
Reception



EDUCATION

Coby named
Sho-Ban Junior High
student of the month



SPORTS

Sho-Ban Lady Chiefs
lose to Leadore
at districts



Longtime FH Recreation Director retires

By LORI ANN EDMO
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — After 55 years on the job as Fort Hall Recreation Director for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Mike Sakelaris or “Sak” decided it was time to retire and February 3 was his last day.

He walked into the Recreation Office that day with a reusable grocery bag to gather his belongings, answered a few telephone calls, attended a celebration party in his honor and was done. Sak didn't need a bigger container for his things because he has lots of memories.

“I'm tired, I just turned 79, supposed to retire when 70 but things out here have changed,” he said. “I'm set in my ways and I've had a hard time with some of the decisions made out here (recently) and I would rather retire, stay at home and have peace of mind than have hassles.”

He already has a weekly plan in place with his wife Rube – go to the Pocatello Senior Center for lunch once a week with the “old people,” he intends to get in on the pinocle games with those old ladies down there and maybe he can take some of their money. One day a week he will walk at the mall and one day a week go to Lava Hot Springs.

People asked if he had a hobby but he said he needs to rest. He noted life expectancy is 78 to 79 years but he believes he has ten more good years. “You never know.” “I'm retiring at a good age, I can still walk around and my wife's retired.”

Sakelaris recalled his first day on the job as Recreation Director was February 4, 1968. The late Bernice Edmo was secretary and she was sitting across from him. He had a suit and tie on. The Recreation program was still under the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the time and the then superintendent Bill Mehojah walked in to see if he was still there. That was the last time he wore a suit and tie to work.



Sak passes off the keys he's carried to Timbee Hall for the last 55 years. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)



Sak smiles in front of his retirement banner. (Roselynn Yazzie photo)

Prior to getting hired, he did a practicum for six months in 1965 at Recreation while still in college. Reaves Nahwooksy, the first Recreation director was his supervisor. He helped with anything that needed to be done and gave ideas for new programs. “Reaves was such a nice guy,” Sak said. He recalled going to summer camp where he helped cook and with arts

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Sak speaks at his retirement gathering on February 2. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

Eastern Shoshone now oppose Wyo. HB 33

By LORI ANN EDMO
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — The Eastern Shoshone Tribe has withdrawn support for HB 33 – legislation in the Wyoming State Legislature regarding off reservation hunting rights.

Shoshone Business Council Chairman John St. Clair said in a letter to Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, the tribe withdrew support of the bill after obtaining a legal opinion from their tribal attorneys who are experts in federal Indian law and hearing the concerns from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes who share the same treaty. They now oppose the bill.

St. Clair said in the letter the bill would jeopardize and compromise

Shoshone and other tribes if it becomes state law.

Rep. Lloyd Larsen (R-Lander) sponsored HB 33 because of the work over the summer between the Shoshone Tribe and the Governor's office to draft the legislation he said in an email. Rep. Larsen said he was asked to sponsor the legislation by the governor's office as requested by Chairman St. Clair. Larsen believes the bill will move forward but be somewhat modified. “Without out it, the Governor cannot negotiate any tribal hunting agreement with any tribe.”

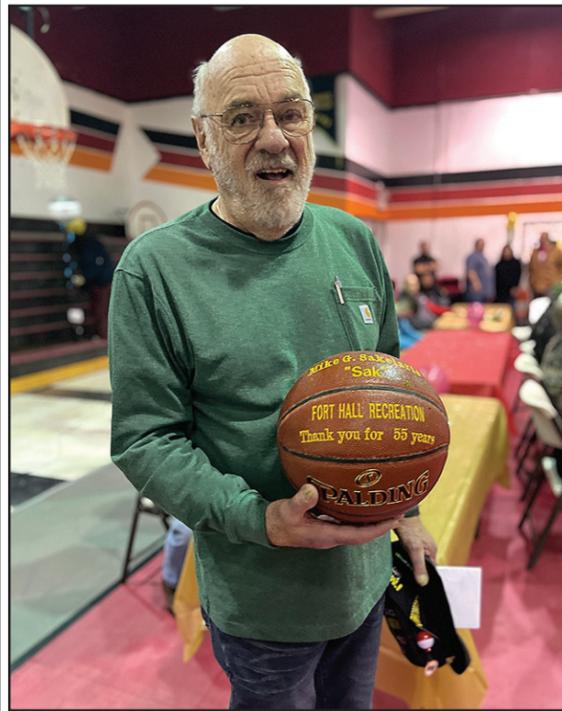
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes oppose the bill and urge tribal members to offer comments to Wyoming legislators.

comments on HB 33, need to indicate the bill they're addressing, comments are limited to 280 characters. Comments can be made to Lloyd.Larsen@wyoleg.gov

St. Clair provided an update through The Newe Podcast where he said HB 33 authorized the governor to enter into agreements with tribes regarding the implementation of hunting. St. Clair said the SBC initially supported this idea to go forward and implement rights, after looking at bill, analyzing it and having tribal attorneys look at it, tribe has changed it's opinion and is opposing. He said it does jeopardize and compromise their hunting rights and those of Shoshone-Bannock

requires entering into an agreement that would incorporate Wyoming laws on hunting, fishing, trapping on unoccupied federal lands in Wyoming. He noted the bill doesn't affect hunting rights on the reservation. The bill gives Wyoming complete control over tribal rights on federal lands and that's the main reason for the SBC opposition. Not only would it allow control, it appears to require tribal hunters to obtain a state license in addition to a tribal license. St. Clair said the Eastern Shoshone tribe could enact a gaming code to apply outside the reservation but still the state would have control of them using those rights. “In fact if our tribal members did

Community bids farewell to ‘Sak’



Mike Sakelaris with embroidered basketball gift. (Roselynn Yazzie photo)

FORT HALL — Fort Hall Recreation staff organized a surprise gathering for retired director Mike Sakelaris February 2 at Timbee Hall.

As people entered the gym, they were asked to sign in and give comments on his retirement. A banner congratulating him was hung on the north side of the gym and a slideshow of memories was played on a big screen.

More than 50 people attended including Sakelar's wife Rube, his children and grandchildren.

Bob Johnson served as the emcee and gave the opening prayer. Spring Creek Singers sang an honor song for Sakelaris.

A cake with the number 55 signifying the number of years he worked was served that was decorated with a golf cart and his favorite

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New Tribal Broadband Project Manager to expand service on rez



New Tribal Broadband Project Manager Frances Goli (Sanchez).

By ROSELYNN YAZZIE
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL - Frances Goli (Sanchez) was hired on January 17 as the Tribal Broadband Project Manager for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Grant received from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), United States Department of Commerce.

She is responsible for implementing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Broadband Connectivity Project. She will develop and deploy broadband internet on the Fort Hall Reservation to deliver

vices for telemedicine, education, business and other services that currently do not exist.

Goli says she is dedicated to advocating for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in state, regional and international issues the Indigenous population faces, such as digital equity and closing the digital divide on tribal lands.

She's an experienced professional in data management, program development, government relations and operations management, with a career spanning more than 20 years.

Her experience

From page one

SAK, continued and crafts. He graduated from college in 1966 went into the U.S. Army then came back to work on his masters degree. However he got called to come to work in Fort Hall and was 24 years old at the time.

When he graduated from college jobs were plentiful. He had offers to work in Boise and Idaho Falls but he chose Fort Hall. "I knew a lot of the guys," he continued. "Me, Milo Edmo, Darrell Shay and Bernie Edmo would play basketball - it wasn't new to me and I wasn't afraid." He remembered sitting in branch meetings with older guys and he was the youngest branch chief.

Sak remembered Timbee Hall was four years old when he began. He's not sure why the design included a flat roof considering icy Idaho winters and having steps as tribal elders had a tough time coming up the steps.

When he first started, the only programs were men's basketball and women's basketball. The women played old time basketball with six players on the court. Bernice did arts and crafts and Kilburn Buckskin was the custodian.

He started building programs after he got there. "I always tell people I had a really big advantage - I was so young, I had people like Wilson Preacher, Jimmie Dann, Jimmy Yupe, Austin Gould and Sam Uribe. I had a lot of the older people that helped in the Recreation program. It was really fun at that time." He also recalled Herb LeClair being a softball umpire and camp cook. Those he mentioned

tutored him, "I learned from those guys."

He noted when working in Fort Hall one has to have patience - it's a different type of atmosphere setting things up, "We didn't really have Indian time, we had recreation time," Sak said so things had to start on time. He grew up with those guys, "they taught me how to do things, how to be out here - it was a big compromise." The atmosphere, that group of people, that age, you didn't have to ask, they volunteered, now you have to pull teeth to get people to do things.

In the half century he worked, he didn't have anyone looking over his shoulder and he said he got along with just about every tribal council. When he first started, it was scary going before them because he was so young because they were in their 60s and 70s. Sak remembered Angela Butterfield always got elected in Bannock Creek and she was a stickler on abiding by the rules. But that's the way it was and he got along because they saw what he did.

Bannock Creek District was his favorite and they favored him. The late Jimmy Yupe, a Bannock Creek tribal elder always helped. He recalled they would do activities in the reservation districts. Each one had their own basketball team and on Saturday morning they'd come play basketball against each other. "It was fun doing a fun job until it got to be a hassle - those days are completely different than now," he said.

Sak's best memories are camping with Jimmie Dann and Herb LeClair at 30 Day at Mount Putnam.

His fondest memory



Glenda Marshall hugs Sak at his retirement party on February 2. (Roselynn Yazzie photo)

is starting the old men's tournament as they look forward to it - it's a gathering or reunion of all the old guys that used to play basketball. "I feel the best about that tournament," Sak said and he will come back to Fort Hall for the tourney to sit at the door.

He's proud that other reservations have done similar basketball tournaments or programs such as Fort Hall's. He traveled to Wyoming to meet with their council and also provided information to the Shoshone-Paiute. He noted not everyone had double basketball tournaments with both men's and women's divisions at the same time. In addition, many other tournaments silk screen their awards but Fort Hall embroidered theirs, "I think that's what I look back on, stuff we did, they copied it and did it at other places, that's pretty cool."

All of the tournaments are self-supporting and they don't have to seek out any other sponsors.

On a sad note, being here this many years, he's gone to a lot of funerals and seen a lot of young people die. But the one thing that hurt him the

most was when Kilburn Buckskin passed away. "He was here from the very beginning just about - he carried on the boxing." "Kilburn was in here every day just to see what we were doing. It's people like that who were so loyal to the program and to the office."

Sak pointed to the wall full of pictures from over the years including Kilburn's, "It wouldn't be Fort Hall Recreation if it wasn't like this - all those pictures." A photo of the late Willie George sat in a box next to his desk. He remembered visiting with him and was in awe of him because of his strength.

Recreation Supervisor Eddy Kniffin will serve as interim Recreation Director and Sak said he's given Eddy what he needs to know. "I'll take the good memories," he said. The position will be advertised. He handed Eddy a ring with numerous keys on it and knew what each one was for. But he is worried about all those pictures downstairs from the early days and Festival because he wants them preserved.

One regret he has is the Wellness Center hasn't been built. They



Sak opens a gift for his retirement. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

have some funding that came from the Gaming Distribution Plan but it's not enough to build the facility they want. "We are at a standstill with funding." If an adequate Wellness Center is built they can have more things happening for all ages including a gymnasium with a walking path above it.

Something he'll miss is people coming into the office every day to visit just to see what he is up to. Sakelaris would get to work around 5 a.m. each day to open up the weight room for those who came in early and to have some quiet time. He would go to sleep around 7 p.m. to get enough sleep to wake up that early because when one gets older, sleep is needed.

"I'll miss a lot of the ones I grew up with - Darrell Shay, Larry Bagley - I play golf with them. If I have ten more years in my life, I've got to do something in that ten years for me," Sak sad.

He wants to thank everybody out here that has helped him. "I thank all the volunteers that put in time as I think about all the years we built the

program."

It doesn't mean that he won't see everyone again because he intends to come out to visit. "It's not like that I'm dying - I just won't be right here. It will be different for a while." "A lot of people said they'll miss me - I don't have one foot in the grave."

His wife asked him if he was ready to retire, "It wasn't a big decision, it was the right decision, I don't feel good - I ache," he continued when he gets up in the morning.

Sakelaris said he's worked through five generations and feels good when those that used to work for him at Recreation are doing well for themselves and their children. That makes him proud.

Someone asked if he has written things down over the years and he replied, "It's all in my head."

He said many have gotten emotional when speaking with him about his retirement but he hasn't because he said, "I'll be back." He can be reached through email sak1944@gmail.com

FAREWELL, continued football team the 49ers.

People had the opportunity to wish Sakelaris well and presented him with gifts. Larry Bagley gave him a driver to play golf. Fort Hall Police Chief Pat Teton gave a plaque. Glenda Marshall from Early Childhood Program gave a gift bag,

along with numerous other items.

Prior to the gathering, Sakelaris opened a gift from Emmett Duncan from the Ute Tribe that was a Pendleton blanket. The fifth one he'd received so far.

A lunch featuring Mexican dishes was served after the presentations.

HB 33, continued not obtain a state license of if they violated the tribal hunting code off the reservation, the bill would allow the state to prosecute them in state court. I want to reiterate the tribe opposes this bill," he said in the podcast.

He said the future steps they are going to take is to have the business council and the com-

mittee that was created by the Shoshone Business Council to collaborate and meet with the Crow and Sho-Bans so they can develop common strategies to go forward with exercising rights.

Some Eastern Shoshone tribal members are circulating an online petition requesting the SBC to have an in-person General Council meeting.

GOLI, continued

includes working in the international atmosphere, including the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense, the State Department, Healthcare, Foreign Affairs, and Local governments.

Most recently she worked for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Executive Department under Administration for Native Americans (ANA) social and economic development grant focusing on procedures, processes and innovative solutions to the Tribal government and community.

Her previous job

titles included Business Process Automation Developer; Business Intelligence Analyst; Analyst; Management Analyst; Administrative Technician; U.S. Navy Yeoman.

She obtained a Bachelor's degree in International Business and served eight years in the United States Navy, implementing programs and projects during the time she served.

Goli's work day includes attending meetings with the granting authority, Idaho State Broadband Office, the Indigenous Digital Inclusion working group,

and Pacific Northwest Tribal Broadband Coalition. Furthermore, she researches funding opportunities and other broadband initiatives across the city, state and federal programs.

Her primary goal for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Broadband Project is to ensure all residents of the Fort Hall Reservation have the opportunity to thrive by providing reliable, affordable broadband internet service, digital literacy training, support, and internet-ready devices for the end user.

Goli says her goal is,

"To increase digital navigation and training in our community, workforce development, and data collection and encourage careers in Information Technology."

She has spent the past two decades working away from her home on the Fort Hall Reservation and is now taking time to reconnect with extended family and friends. She's also been encouraged to participate in community events. She's passionate about organizing, volunteering, and learning about local history.

YOU CAN FIND THE SHO-BAN NEWS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCAL OUTLETS:

FORT HALL

- Trading Post Gas
Blue Corner Store
Donzia Gift Shop at Sho-Ban Hotel
Shoshone-Bannock Museum
Tribal Business Center Foyer
Attorney's Office at TBC
Bureau of Indian Affairs

POCATELLO

- Fort Hall Post Office
Trading Post Grocery
Bannock Peak Truck Stop
Shokota Pow-Wow Supply
Chevron Pocatello
NW Band Shoshone
Tyhee Enterprises
Fort Hall Indian Health Service
Fort Hall Housing Authority
Language & Cultural Preservation
Shoshone-Bannock Jr./Sr. High School

BLACKFOOT

- Sage Hill Travel Center
Chevron Blackfoot
White Eagle Gas

- Martha's Café
Short Stop
Stoor's
Daisy's Gas
Animal Health Clinic

