

60th Annual Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival

Celebrating & Continuing
60 Years of Strength & History



Miss Shoshone-Bannock 2024-25
Dystnee Rope



Miss Shoshone-Bannock 1964-65
Belma Truchot Colter



Featuring Inside
Tribal Artist's
Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queens
& More

ON BEHALF OF THE FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Welcome to our homelands!



FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL, 2025

This year marks a historic milestone as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival. For six decades, this gathering has been a significant expression of pride, resilience, and community!

We're honored to host it here on the Fort Hall Reservation, the largest reservation in Idaho and the homeland of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Your presence helps keep our traditions alive and strengthens the bonds between us all. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning friend, we warmly welcome you to share in our songs, dances, and fun!

**For more information on the Tribes visit: www.sbtribes.com
For a list of daily Festival activities visit: www.shobanfestival.com**

Enjoy your stay and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

SHO-BAN NEWS

COVERING IDAHO & INDIAN COUNTRY

Fort Hall Business Council

2025 Festival Edition

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Sho-Ban News staff

- Lori Ann Edmo, editor
- Lizzie Boyd, assistant editor
- Brenda McKean, bookkeeper
- Brenda Appenay, circulation technician & advertising salesperson
- Jeremy Shay, web/graphics specialist
- Joseph Wadsworth, videographer
- Yvonne Warjack, reporter



2025 FHBC, from left: Council member Nathan Small, Secretary Devon Boyer, Vice Chairman Lee Juan Tendoy, Chairwoman Donna Thompson, Treasurer Ladd Edmo, Sergeant-At-Arms Ronald Todd Appenay and council member Russell Haskett.

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 478-3700
FAX # (208) 237-0797



FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

August 4, 2025

Dear Friends and Relatives,

On behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Fort Hall Business Council, I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 60th Annual Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival, taking place August 7-10, 2025, right here in Fort Hall, Idaho.

This year, we proudly celebrate a remarkable milestone, "Celebrating & Continuing 60 Years of Strength & History." For six decades, our Festival has been a cherished tradition, uniting generations through culture, community, and celebration. We honor those who came before us and continue to carry forward the spirit and resilience of our people.

We offer our appreciation to Festival Coordinator Leah Tindore and the many dedicated volunteers whose hard work makes this celebration possible year after year.

Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning home again, we invite you to take part in the many traditions that make our Festival so special: the vibrant powwow dancing and singing, the parade, the teepee encampment, thrilling Indian Relay horse races, handgame tournament in the new arbor, INFR Tour Rodeo, Art Show, royalty contests, co-ed softball tournaments, All-Indian Golf Tournament, and our delicious community feast. These events bring our culture to life and reflect the enduring strength and beauty of the Shoshone-Bannock people.

As you enjoy your time here, we kindly ask that you respect the laws and customs of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes while visiting our homelands.

We're honored to share this celebration with you and hope your visit is filled with meaningful connections and joyful memories. We look forward to welcoming you back again next year!

Sincerely,

Donna Thompson
Donna Thompson, Chairwoman
Fort Hall Business Council

Thanks to all those who made this publication possible!

Special thanks to the tribal artists who created the beadwork featured throughout this publication, including the late Angela Fisher and Lucille Pocatello.

Wild Rose - Yakama Nation, Festival host drum

Wild Rose drum group represents the Yakama Nation and was formed in 1997.

Today a younger generation is continuing the tradition. Many drum groups have mentored them, along with many elder singers who have guided them along the way.

"We're thankful for the invitation to serve as host. Looking forward to seeing family and friends," said Caseymac Wallahee, lead singer.

Singers include: Caseymac Wallahee, Buck Wallahee, Marcus Wallahee, Ethan Wallahee, Bryson Wallahee, Rooster Jackson, Ted Walsey, Wes Walsey, Kelsey Burns, Jonathan Nomee, Frankie Michelle, Sabine Brown Eagle, Elijah Bevis and Kaiwin Clements.

Backup singers include Audrey Whitegrass and Violet Whitegrass.



Wild Rose drum group

Spring Creek Singers serve as local host drum



Spring Creek Singers

The name of the group, Spring Creek (Bah Dah Zohpeh) was given by Keno Yam-ba-si Coby, Jr., Panakwaite (Bannock), who was well known throughout Indian country as a spiritual leader, Sundance Singer, Powwow Singer, traditional dancer, and Indian Relay rider.

The Spring Creek Singers have been a constant figure in the community events and ceremonies for decades. The Coby family has been carrying on the teachings and songs passed down by grandfathers, Yam-ba-si and Jonnie Stone, Jr., who was known as the singing/dance leader (nekka daagwahnee) at local events in the community.

The singing group is comprised of Keno Coby, Chasen Coby, LaGrand Coby, Lance Tissidimit, Jason Butler, Kylan Stump, Leo Eagle Speaker, Nate Brian, Antione Edwards and Sparrowhawk Walsey. The group would like to acknowledge former members now deceased, Buford Nipwater, Junior Papse, Noah Fred and Robert Two Eagles.

The Spring Creek Singers encourages all of our Indigenous youth to continue on with your din'nee'wap (traditional teachings) and in turn they, Spring Creek, will continue to be there for the people.

The Spring Creek Singers are looking forward to singing and sharing our beautiful Shoshone and Bannock songs with our dancers and visitors and would like to welcome all to our 60th Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival Powwow!

Oose, Thank you!



Long ago singers from left: Andrew Punkin, Yambasi (Keno Coby Jr.), Richard Johnson, Calvin Appenay and Leon Wahtomy.



Early photo from the Warbonnet Roundup in Idaho Falls. Yambasi is little boy holding a rope behind the drummers. His father Keno Coby Sr. (Pee War) is sitting at the drum and his mother Oha is in the shell dress.



Festival coordinator Leah Tindore's roots run deep

Her biggest influence in her life was her maternal grandmother JoAnna Santana

My name is Leah Tindore, and I'm a proud Shoshone-Bannock tribal member from Fort Hall, Idaho. I'm 38 years old, and this year I have the incredible honor of coordinating our 60th Annual Shoshone-Bannock Festival, a celebration that stands as a powerful tribute to our theme: Celebrating and Continuing 60 Years of Strength and History.

This Festival means everything to me. It's more than an event. It's our story, our legacy, and a reflection of the love, dedication, and pride woven into our community. I want to thank each and every person who made this celebration a success: our committee members, our volunteers, our vendors, our dancers, our singers, and everyone working behind the scenes. To our visitors and guests, thank you for being part of this journey. This festival shines because of your support and presence.

My roots run deep. I operate a small business that supports our local artists and helps carry traditional craftsmanship forward. My husband, Michael Tindore Sr., has stood beside me through everything, he's my rock and my biggest supporter, even when I take on wild challenges like running the Festival and managing our business at the same time. He's the true definition of a partner.

I'm a proud mom of six amazing children three boys and three girls all enrolled members of our tribe. They are my motivation, my

joy, and the heartbeat behind everything I do. And this year, I'm especially proud to include my sweet little grandbaby, AzaLee, in our celebration. Seeing her grow up surrounded by our culture makes my heart full. I want her to know where she comes from, and to be proud of it.

One of the biggest influences in my life was my grandmother, JoAnna Santana. She was my mother's mom and helped raise me with love and wisdom. Every year, she made sure we attended the festival, it was our vacation, our joy, our connection to something greater. She believed in our traditions and always encouraged me to craft, to express, and to embrace who I am as an Indigenous woman. If she could see what I'm doing today, I know she'd be smiling from ear to ear. I carry her spirit with me in every shawl, every schedule, every step.

This year's Festival has reminded me how powerful our community truly is. People from all districts came together, attending meetings, offering time, sharing ideas, and putting in the work. That kind of dedication is rare and beautiful. I'm proud to be part of this caring circle.

As long as I'm able, I will continue to serve this Festival, our people, and our culture. Thank you all for your support, for your love, and for helping make this 60th celebration a success. Here's to our past, our present, and everything we're still building together.



Leah Tindore

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Bart Powaukee active participant in powwow circuit

He brings awareness to environmental & political issues to reflect tribal sovereignty



Bart Powaukee is a member of the Nez Perce Tribe and resides on his mothers' reservation, the Ute Indian Tribe in Fort Duchesne, Utah. Bart and his wife, Quanah have four children and two grandchildren.

Bart has been working for the Ute Indian Tribe as their Water Quality Coordinator advocating for tribal sovereignty with the EPA to enhance and safeguard the rivers, streams and waterways on the reservation.

He has been active in Native American cultural activities and ceremonies all his life, having been partially raised by his grandparents from both tribes. He has been an active participant in the powwow circuit throughout the entire United States and Canada, participating as a well-known grass dancer, round bustle dancer, chicken dancer, emcee and arena director.

In addition to powwows, Bart also enjoys helping with movie projects and bringing awareness to environmental and political issues that reflect tribal sovereignty and respect for Native culture.

He is currently appointed to the State of Utah Human Rights Board to improve social equity for Native Americans and other ethnic minorities living in Utah.

For relaxation Bart enjoys cheering for his favorite teams, the Utah Jazz, Denver Broncos and Utes football team.



Bart has also served as an emcee at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Veterans powwow & Fort Hall Round Dance.



Supporting the Shoshone-Bannock community since 1961 through dependable farming/leasing and responsible land stewardship. Community service through contribution of fresh potatoes to tribal programs and events.

Sponsorship of events and scholarships.

Have a successful festival!

Vietnam veteran Vince Beyl returns as emcee

Vince Beyl is a Shoshone-Bannock Festival emcee.

Vince is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation Ojibway Tribe of Minnesota and recently retired as the Director of Indian Education in the Bemidji Public Schools.

He is a United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran.

Before picking up the mic and announcing, he was a traditional dancer who competed and traveled to many champion powwows throughout the U.S. and Canada.

As an educator, Vince has had the great honor and privilege to work with American Indians of all ages in promoting educational opportunities, personal enhancement, and spiritual growth among Native students.

Vince would like to thank the Sho-Ban powwow committee for inviting him as one of your announcers and wishes safe travels to all that attend this year's celebration and have a great time enjoying your weekend.



Vince Beyl



Beyl served as Festival emcee in 2018.



Supporting Native Tribes

Wells Fargo has proudly served Native Tribes for more than 65 years, and is the leading provider of capital and financial services to tribes and tribal-owned businesses.*

Committed to advancing economic opportunities, Wells Fargo is partnering with tribal-led organizations to address housing, small business, financial health, and sustainability.

Best wishes for a joyful 2025 Shoshone-Bannock Festival.

* Wells Fargo publicly stated credit commitments for Tribes and Tribal-owned enterprises and #1 ranking in tribal gaming loan syndications. Refinitiv LPC, Excludes foreign issues. Data as of March 31, 2025.

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Shoshone-Bannock Festival Powwow Committee: Back row from left: Dystnee Rope, Jayce The Boy, Elind Rope. Front row from left: Sarah Jack, Sally Anne Thomas, Marlo Tissidimit, her little girl Ryder, Ruby Big Horse, Taryn Shoyo and Darcey Martin. Not pictured: Clinton Houtz, Drusilla Gould, Nicole Johnson and Leticia Jack. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

Idaho State University

CELEBRATE TRADITION

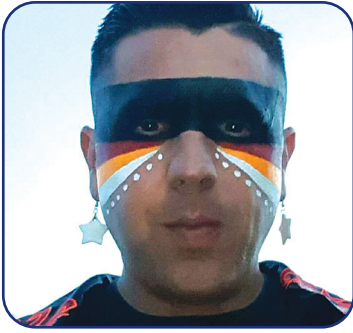
|| ANNUAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY ||

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025

BENGALS RISE

isu.edu

Silas uplifts & honors through song, dance, storytelling



As an Arena Director, Head Judge, and MC for prestigious powwow celebrations across the land, Wayne Silas Jr. said he's dedicated his life to uplifting and honoring Native American Indigenous cultures through song, dance, and storytelling.

He's

also an artist, performer, and recording artist with Grammy, NAMA, and Aboriginal Music Award recognitions—testaments to the power of preserving tradition through contemporary expression.

"When I'm not traveling as an independent contractor, powwow singer, or dancer, I embrace my most cherished role: father," Silas continued. "I find joy in exploring new places with my family, casting a line with my children, hitting

the sports fields and arenas, or proudly cheering on the Chicago Cubs—yes, we're die-hard fans through and through."

Every song I sing and every step I dance is a bridge between cultures, carrying generations of stories into the hearts of the people around the world, he said.

"It is truly an honor to serve as Arena Director for the world-renowned Sho-Ban Festival! I will work hard and do my best to please the masses for a wonderful celebration. And when we all head back to our home fires, I pray that they will be a little better than before," he concluded.

Mae Waewaenon! Yaw!ko



Warbonnet dancers in 2024 grand entry.



Fancy shawl dancers in 2024 Youth powwow.



Veterans in 2024 grand entry.

Kyri Ungatavinekent-Duncan grew up close to Ute culture; practices teachings

Kyri Ungatavinekent-Duncan is one of the Shoshone-Bannock arena directors.

He is Northern Ute of the Uncompahgre Band from Neola, Utah and currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Kyri comes from the Duncan and Kanip family. He grew up close to the Ute culture and actively practices those teachings throughout the year.

Currently, Kyri works at the University of Utah at the Center for Native Excellence and Tribal Engagement.



Kyri Ungatavinekent-Duncan

Drum judge Denny also champion hoop dancer



Charles Denny with hoops. He's won many championship titles.

Charles Denny is the Shoshone-Bannock Festival Head Dance Judge. He is honored and thankful to the 2025 Sho-Ban Powwow Committee for selecting him.

He is an enrolled member of the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy, Montana, and a descendant of the Northern Ute Tribe of Fort Duchesne, Utah.

He is currently a high school counselor at Rocky Boy Jr./Sr. High School, holding a master's degree in educational counseling. Outside of his professional role, he travels extensively across Indian Country as a grass dancer. "Dancing allows me to connect with others, share stories, and celebrate our cultures," Denny said.

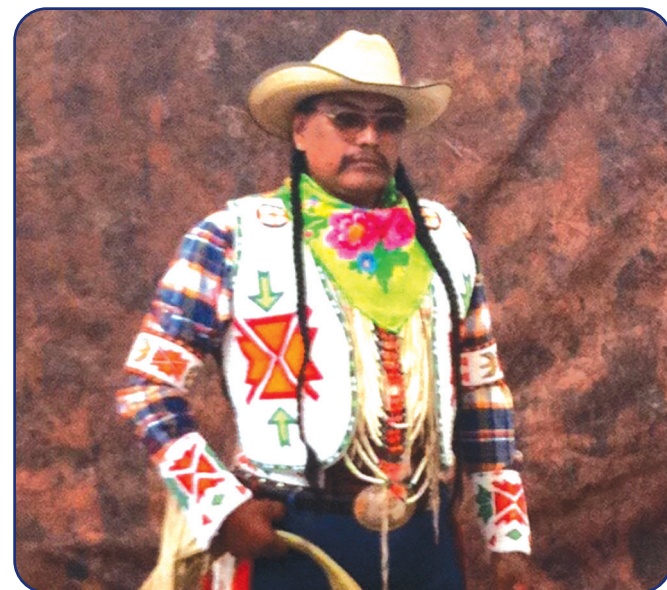


Charles Denny is also a grass dancer.

He also travel internationally as a hoop dancer, sharing the sacred art form with audiences around the world. "Over the years, I've had the honor of competing and earning world championship titles at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona."

Denny said Fort Hall has always been a stop for powwows, round dances, and recreational events. "It's a powerful gathering place filled with tradition, community, and good memories. I'm truly grateful for the warm hospitality that I've experienced every time I've come here.

Thank you again for this opportunity, it's a privilege to be here among so many talented and dedicated dancers."



Garth "Jerry" Bear Jr.

Jerry Bear's worked 28 years as Bear Sound Systems owner

Garth "Jerry" Bear Jr. operates Bear Sound Systems providing the sound for the Shoshone-Bannock Festival.

He represents the Goshute and Southern Paiutes of Utah and has been living on the Skull Valley Reservation with his wife Leanne for 21 years. They have four boys and their granddaughter who is the princess of the house.

He said he's a bit of a jack of all trades having been an arena director, emcee and most importantly run the sound for many events. Back in 1997, he had his first chance to provide the sound for a powwow. With his families encouragement, he's had 28 amazing years with Bear Sounds.

"I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes - the past and present Festival committees for allowing Bear Sounds to keep providing the sound for the Festival. My family and I have been helping the Shoshone-Bannock Festival since 1999," he said. "I'm really looking forward to another fantastic Festival where we can provide the sound for everyone to enjoy. Stay safe and look out for one another."

Lee Whiteplume: Big drum unifies tribal people

Lee Whiteplume said he's thankful to be chosen to serve as the Sho-Ban Festival drum judge. "It's always a good blessing to be among the Sho-Ban people of Fort Hall.

"I have been a part of the head staff off and on for the past few years and have witnessed many wonderful events at the Festival, such as memorial ceremonies, specials, feasts, etc. All are culturally essential to our Sovereignty as Indigenous peoples across Indian country," he continued.

Whiteplume said wherever Indian people are found, you will often see and hear a drum of some sort, along with ceremonies, songs, dances. "That with our faith and beliefs in singing, dancing, participation can bring us comfort, strength and protection for our lives..."

He explained the big drum is a powerful instrument for our people, our communities. It unified our people by bringing us to the "common" ground of the dance arena, from one generation to the next, from many tribes: to create one people unified by the spirit generated by the big drum and singers.

"Like many of you, I have cherished memories of wonderful friends and relatives throughout my life. I've had elder big drum brothers such as the late Merle Tendoy, Lloyd Top Sky, Thomas Oldman, Charles Gopher, Bobby Joe Goggles and many others," he continued.

With this in my mind and heart, I will do the best of my abilities to make the Sho-Ban Festival a wonderful memory for us all — whomever hears our music of the drums receives the full blessing of our heavenly father God the Creator of all, that we will rejoice together for a few moments of singing and dancing, he said.



Lee Whiteplume



Washat singers



Lee Whiteplume singing at the drum.

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Festival Princess Mia Serawop's experience 'fun'

Mia Winterose Serawop is the outgoing Miss Shoshone Bannock Festival Princess 24-25. She is 17-years-old and just graduated from Union High School in Roosevelt, Utah. Mia has danced for almost 10 years. She first started dancing at 8-years-old at The Dancers Edge Studio. Then as she got older, she had the opportunity to be on Union High School's Drill team. It gave her the chance to take the Shoshone-Bannock Festival crown all the way to Orlando, Florida to represent it for her drill team nationals. She's also been dancing powwow since she could be able to walk. "I enjoy dancing at Bear dances as well and I go and support family members at Sundance," Mia said. "My experience with the crown has been so much fun meeting new people and having the opportunity to dance alongside with 24-25 Miss Indian World," she continued. "Having this title was definitely a lot but I'm very thankful." She is having an Old style women's jingle special on the Saturday, August 9 before dinner break with three places and two consolation prizes. It will be 18+ with absolutely no feathers. "I hope to see you all there and thank you for having me as your 2024-25 Shoshone-Bannock Festival Princess."



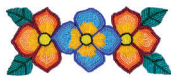
Mia Winterose Serawop

Little Princess Winter Cantsee proud to represent Festival



Winter Cantsee

Winter Nuba Tonega Cantsee is the 2024-2025 Shoshone-Bannock Festival Little Princess. She is 11-years-old and a daughter of Caley Ouray Cantsee and Corey Poafpybitty. She is an enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and is of Paiute/Shoshone and Ute/Dakota descent on her father's side, and of Paiute/Comanche descent on her mother's side. Winter is a Northern traditional dancer and also dances both contemporary and old-style jingle. She loves to participate in traditional ceremonies with her family. Winter was very proud to represent the Sho-Ban Festival during her reign as Little Princess 2024-2025. She traveled to 15 powwows throughout her reign and participated in the royalty line ups to represent the Sho-Ban Festival. Following are the powwows where she represented the Shoshone-Bannock Festival:
 August 2024 – Shoshone-Bannock Festival, Grand Ronde Powwow, Grand Ronde, Oregon, Santa Rosa Days, Lemoore, Calif., Numaga Powwow, Reno, Nev. September 2024 — Walker River Paiute Tribe Pinenut Festival, Schurz, Nev. October 2024 — Stillwater Powwow, Redding, Calif., Chukchansi Powwow, Coarsegold, Calif., (Head Girl), Nevada Day Powwow, Carson City, Nev. November 2024 — Tule River Powwow, Porterville, Calif. January 2025 — Pechanga Powwow, Temecula, Calif. March 2025 — Denver March Powwow, Denver, Colo. May 2025 — Red Dress Powwow, Reno, Nev. June 2025 — Susanville Indian Rancheria Powwow, Susanville, Calif. July 2025 — Fort Duchesne Powwow, Fort Duchesne, Utah and Sacred Visions Powwow, Wadsworth, Nev.



Future Princess Paisley Buckskin gives Festival welcome

Hello and Welcome to the 60th Annual Shoshone–Bannock Indian Festival.

My name is Paisley Blake Buckskin (my Arapaho Indian name is “Niibeis” Singing Woman)

I am an enrolled member of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Idaho. My bloodline consists of Northern Arapaho, Cree, and Colville Confederated Tribes of Washington.

My parents are SallyAnne and Si Thomas. I am the big sister of Edison Young Bear.

I am a very curious, 7-year-old and will be entering the second grade this fall.

My hobbies are playing, visiting with all my sisters, cousins, traveling to Spokane with my grandma, swimming, going to amusement parks, shopping at LUSH, drawing and collecting unique rocks.

My Jojo is teaching me our Shoshone language — I am listening

and learning.

During my reign I was able to travel to numerous powwows throughout Indian country to represent my title, big thank you to my grandma Sarah for providing me the opportunity to travel, taking me places and making all of my dresses so I am able to dance.

I appreciate all the support from my family and encouragement received from many friends I have met.

As my title will soon end, I will be sponsoring a Junior Girls Jingle dance special Saturday afternoon with three places and three consolations.

Our community wishes everyone an enjoyable, safe and memorable festival weekend.

Many Blessings,
Paisley Blake Buckskin



Nia'bi Jo Buckskin represented as Tzi Tzi Princess

My name is Nia'bi-Jo Buckskin, and I am a proud enrolled member of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes. I am 3 years old and currently hold the honor of serving as the Tzi Tzi Princess for the 2024–2025 year.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of representing my title and my people while traveling across Indian Country—including visits to Washington, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada.

I live in the Gibson District on the Fort Hall Reservation with my loving family. My

parents are Blake Buckskin and Bobby-Jo Jones, my siblings are Cambri Buckskin, Brayden Spotted-Elk, Treicyn Buckskin and Charles Poongerah.

Some of my favorite things to do include cruising in my trucks while

listening to country music, helping my dad work around our property, and shed hunting. I also love driving the Ranger, playing outside with my sister, and shooting hoops whenever I get the chance.

Serving as Tzi Tzi Princess has been such a special experience, and I am proud to represent my community and culture wherever I go.

A big thank you to all my family for their love and support—especially my grandparents, Hutsi Sarah Jack, Cagoo Jodi, and Papa Aaron—for always cheering me on and helping me shine.



Nia'bi Buckskin



Above: Jingle dancers at the 2024 Shoshone–Bannock Festival Youth Powwow.



At left: Paisley Buckskin at the Festival Youth Powwow.



Men's Traditional dance special in memory of Kenneth Yabenev



The family of Kenneth Yabenev is sponsoring a Men's Traditional 18 plus special in his memory on Saturday, August 9.

There is three places – first \$3,000, second \$2,000 and third \$1,000.

Kenneth was born May 16, 1985 and passed on October 6, 2022. He was Shoshone-Bannock growing up in the Gibson District of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. He graduated from Blackfoot High School. After high school, he was a longtime Shoshone-Bannock Casino employee as a security supervisor.

Growing up he was active in the powwow circle and started dancing at the age of three. He traveled the powwow trail and danced men's traditional until his illness.

His family encourages people to support in the memory of Kenneth Chee Yabenev Sr.

At left: Kenneth Yabenev.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Check if your child is learning, thinking, moving, and growing at the right pace

By 3 months, does your child...

- Follow moving objects with eyes
- Turn head toward bright colors and lights
- Move eyes together in same direction
- Recognize breast or bottle
- Respond to loud sounds
- Pass a newborn hearing screening
- Make fists with both hands
- Grasp rattles or hair
- Wiggle and kick with arms and legs
- Lift head and chest while on stomach
- Smile
- Make cooing sounds
- Watch faces closely

By 12 months, does your child...

- Get into a sitting position
- Pull to a standing position
- Crawl on hands and knees
- Drink from a cup
- Enjoy peek-a-boo and patty cake
- Turn head, look or smile when spoken to
- Show interest in other children
- Hold out arms and legs while being dressed
- Put objects into container
- Have a 5 to 6 word vocabulary
- Imitate people and gestures like bye, bye
- Respond to "no"

By 6 months, does your child...

- Turn toward source of normal sound
- Reach for objects and pick them up
- Try to touch or smile at self in mirror
- Roll from stomach to back
- Transfer objects from one hand to other
- Play with toes
- Help hold bottle during feeding
- Recognize familiar faces
- Babble chains of sounds (dadada or bababa)
- Enjoy social play
- Respond to own name

By 18 months, does your child...

- Like to push, pull or dump things
- Follow simple directions like "bring the ball"
- Pull off shoes, socks and mittens
- Like to look at pictures
- Point with index finger to show or ask for something
- Feed self
- Make marks on paper with crayons
- Use 8 to 10 words that are understood
- Seem to understand what others say
- Walk without help
- Begin make-believe play

By 2 years, does your child...

- Use 2 to 3 word sentences
- Recognize familiar pictures
- Carry an object while walking
- Feed self with spoon
- Play alone and independently
- Pretend to feed a doll or talk on phone
- Turn 2 or 3 pages at a time
- Look at things others point to
- Identify hair, eyes, ears and nose by pointing
- Build a tower of blocks
- Show affection (gives hugs or kisses)
- Become aware of self from others
- Become excited about company of other children



By 3 years, does your child...

- Walk up steps alternating feet
- Put on shoes
- Open door by twisting knob
- Turn one page at a time
- Play with other children for a few minutes
- Seek adult attention for activities or "tricks"
- Repeat common rhymes
- Use 3 to 5 word sentences
- Name at least one color correctly
- Use the toilet
- Express affection openly
- Express a wide range of emotions
- Take turns in games

For more information about developmental screenings, please call Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Early Intervention Program: (208) 239-4511

Lifelong Men's Fancy Dancer

Little Bear Watson

September 17, 1971
to September 5, 2023

Leander Danny "Little Bear" Watson was born on September 17, 1971, at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot, Idaho. He passed peacefully in his sleep on September 5, 2023, in Valdez, Alaska, from an unknown, undiagnosed rare heart condition.

Little Bear had danced fancy all his life, we are truly blessed to have been able to watch him dance and listen to him sing.

Little Bear was born to Gary and Elaine Raphael Watson. He is the oldest of four children, he has two sisters Racheal (Dennis Moore) and Terri and one brother Raphael "Jay" Watson. He has two children, daughter Natasha and son Brook. three nephews, Darnell, Derrick and Macario (Poko).

Little Bear is an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and a member of the Akimel O'odham (Pima) Tribe of Arizona on his mom's side. He had been dancing since he started walking. He received his Indian name, Little Bear, from his father, when he was a baby, he was dressed in blue, fuzzy pajamas and when he was propped up on the couch he looked like a little bear.

He attended schools in the Blackfoot School District, kindergarten at Fort Hall Elem., I.T. Stoddard Elem., Stalker Elem. Shilling 6th grade, Blackfoot Jr. High and graduated from Blackfoot High School in 1989.

The Watson family will be sponsoring a drum & men's fancy special at the SB Indian Festival

Little Bear
Watson dances at
a powwow

CONTINUED, PAGE 14 →

“For 30+ years, Little Bear worked to protect our treaty rights...”

Fishing on the Fort Hall Bottoms

Little Bear Watson



Throughout his school years, he participated in wrestling, basketball, football, track and cross country. His junior year of high school, he was featured in Sports Illustrated over the controversy of cutting his braids/hair in order to participate in basketball. It became publicized. In the end, with the support of his teammates he was able to play basketball.

After high school he was employed at the Fort Hall Trading Post grocery store. He was encouraged to apply for a position as a Big Game Wildlife Technician with the Sho-Ban Big Game Wildlife Dept by the late Virgilena LeClair. While employed with the wildlife dept. he enrolled at Idaho State University. He graduated with his Bachelor's of Science in Biology in 2004. He then became the Big Game Biologist for the Tribes. He was employed with the Tribes for 30+ years. He enjoyed gaining knowledge from his elders and sought out their advice on current issues.

One of Little Bear's biggest accomplishments he was most proud of, as the Tribes Big Game Biologist, was when he spoke on behalf of the Sho-Ban Tribes and advocated for the Tribes right to have access to harvest wild bison on the Jackson Hole, Wyo. National Elk Refuge. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are the only tribe to hunt in this area.

For 30+ years, Little Bear worked to protect our treaty rights and managed big game on and off the reservation.

Throughout his life he enjoyed practicing his traditions through hunting and fishing, singing, dancing, making songs and making drums, bustles, roaches, quillwork etc. He was the lead singer of the Sage Point Singers and he sang with numerous drum groups across Indian country. He composed many songs in the Shoshone language and two of those songs appeared on the 1999 Gathering of Nations album that won a Grammy in 2001 for Best Native American Music Album. He was a well-known Fancy Dancer, and participated in all-around competitions, dancing grass, chicken, and traditional.



Little Bear during his fellowship in Valdez, Alaska



Little Bear, lead singer of the Sage Point Singers

He was also asked to be head man dancer, Master of Ceremonies, Arena Director and host drum at many powwows. Throughout his travels he made many friends that became his powwow family, where he became an adopted dad, son, brother, cousin, nephew, and uncle to many. He especially had deep respect for his adopted mom from Canada, Adrienne Yellowdirt.

During down time, he enjoyed cooking, mainly barbecuing, as he called it, "cheffing it up." He even taught himself to make frybread and tortillas (chumuth). He enjoyed watching sports, especially the New York Giants, he had the opportunity to go see them in New York City. He was also a big Chicago Bulls/Michael Jordan fan and fan of Bruce Lee, and was able to visit his grave in Seattle, Wash. He was very active and loved the outdoors. He enjoyed skydiving, snow machining, cross country skiing, and hiking. He climbed to the top of Mt. Borah. He also never missed a nice sunny day of golfing.

He enjoyed visiting with his friends. He was always joking around, laughing and having a good time. He loved spending time with family, especially during the Holidays. Family vacations were his favorite times. Most of all he enjoyed raising Natasha, Brook, and furry daughter Bailey Jo.

Little Bear attended Graduate school at Idaho State University earning his Master's Degree in Social Work. He completed practicums at State Hospital South in Blackfoot, Moonlight Mountain Recovery in Pocatello, and conducted online therapy sessions with multiple Apache Tribes in Ariz.

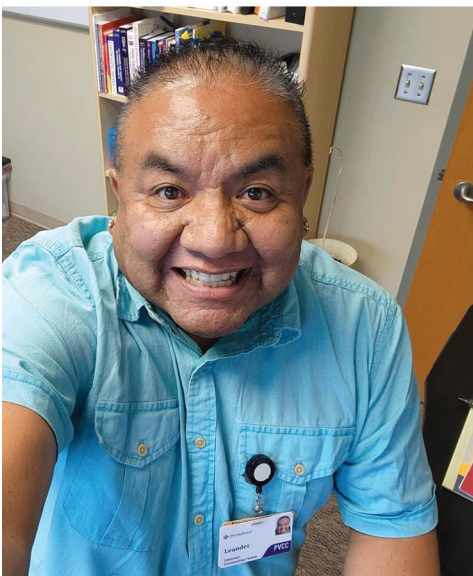
He graduated from ISU in May 2023 with his Masters in Social Work. A week before graduation he was notified that he was granted a two-year Fellowship in Valdez, Alaska, which he gladly accepted. He was overjoyed with excitement to begin this new adventure. He left for Alaska in mid-July, it would take three days to arrive at his destination. He documented and shared his experiences through photographs on social media. He stopped along the way at the Blood Reserve in Standoff, Alberta, Canada where he attended the Kanai Celebration, one of his favorite powwows. He then headed to Alaska, where he began his new job as a Clinician for Providence Health and Services in Valdez, Alaska. He planned to come back home once the two-year fellowship was up and open his own counseling/consulting practice.

Little Bear will be remembered for his smile, positivity, sense of humor and work ethic. He lived his life to the fullest, and always encouraged others to do so as well. The Watson family would like to thank everyone for their love and support of our son, brother, uncle and dad.

"Live, love, laugh & rock 'n' roll. Good times...PS...Smile."

The Watson family will be sponsoring a Winner-Take-All Drum Contest & 18+ Men's Fancy Special. The family would like to thank everyone for their support, donations and help.

*Little Bear Watson
received his master's
degree in Social Work
from Idaho State
University, Class of
2023*



Miss Shoshone-Bannock Royalty



**Belma
Truchot-Colter**
1964-1965



Lorraine P. Edmo
1965-1966



Linda Edmo
1966-1967



**Shirley
LeClair-Small**
1967-1968



**Andrea
Davis-Barlow**
1968-1969



**Ortencia
Mendez-Puhyaoma**
1969-1970



**Marge
Galloway-Edmo**
1970-1971



**Louise
Edmo-Dixey**
1971-1972
Miss Indian America
XIX



Sammie Ballard
1972-1973



**Rose Ann
George-Abrahamson**
1973-1974
Miss NCAI



**Carolyn
Boyer-Smith**
1974-1975



Irene Study
1975-1976



Lunita Ariwite
1976-1977



Lori Pahvitse
1977-1978



**Shirley
Houtz-Alvarez**
1978-1979

Lyle Yazzie & Late Angela Fisher Beadwork

 (DECEASED)

Miss Shoshone-Bannock Royalty



**Ruby
LeClair-Bernal**
1979-1980



Donna Honena
1980-1981 



Shannon Calico
1981-1982



Wildcat Mansworth
1982



**Tina
Nevada-Graves**
1983 



Vera Honena
1983-1984



**Darla
Farmer-Morgan**
1984-1985



Wynona Boyer
1985-1986



Gwyn Towersap
1986-1987



**Bobette
Wildcat-Haskett**
1987-1988
Miss Indian America XXXIII



Kimberly Osborne
1988-1989



Lynda Waterhouse 
1989-1990



Joella Tindore 
1990-1991



Racheal Watson
1991-1992



**Destiney
Evening**
1992-1993

Lyle Yazzie & Late Angela Fisher Beadwork



(DECEASED)

Miss Shoshone-Bannock Royalty



Marlo Tissidimit
1993-1994



Georgette Perry-Running Eagle
1994



Iralene Waterhouse
1995



Morianna Dunn-Washakie
1995-1997



Karen Haskett-Osborne
1996-1997



December Ariwite
1997-1998



Dustina Edmo Abrahamson
1998-1999



Marquette Bagley
1999-2000



Liberty Toledo-Reyes
2000-2001
Miss NCAI



Teresa Sanchez-Big Bow
2001-2002



Randy L. Hedow Teton
2002-2003



Melanie Ellsworth
2003-2004



Felicia Eldridge-Hernandez
2004-2005



Whitney Burns
2005-2006



Sunnie BigDay
2006-2007

Lyle Yazzie & Late Angela Fisher Beadwork

Miss Shoshone-Bannock Royalty



Hovia
Edwards-Yellowjohn
2007 - 2008



Leela Abrahamson
2008 - 2009



Kalli Jo
Edmo-Johnson
2009 - 2010



Cola Boyer
2010 - 2011



Alexandria Alvarez
2011 - 2012
Miss Indian Nations XXI



Natasha Watson
2012 - 2013



Taylor Thomas-Akoneto
2013 - 2014
Miss Indian World

Miss Shoshone-Bannocks from 2015 forward are featured in stories starting on page 22 to 34. We featured the previous queens in the 2013 Festival magazine during the 50th acknowledgement.



Lyle Yazzie & Late Angela Fisher Beadwork

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025

- NOON** Miss Shoshone-Bannock Introduction at the Bannock Gathering, Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel Event Center **Location TO BE ANNOUNCED**
- 6 p.m.** Dinner with Contestants and current Miss Shoshone-Bannock **Private - Location TO BE ANNOUNCED**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

- 6 p.m.** Miss Shoshone-Bannock professional interview at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel Event Center board room **(CLOSED TO PUBLIC)**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025

- 6 p.m.** Miss Sho-Ban Contestant Traditional Dish Presentation at the Delbert Farmer Dance Arbor

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

- 8:30 a.m.** Parade registration at the east end of Agency and Eagle Roads
- 10 a.m.** Parade "Celebrating and Continuing 60 Years of Strength and History," begins at the east end of Agency Road, goes west to BIA building and ends at Festival Grounds **CONTINUED, PAGE 21 →**

Spring Creek
Fort Hall River Bottoms
scenery

(Lori Ann Edmo photo)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025

24-Hour Traditional Handgames

- 6 a.m.** Registration for the All Indian Men's Golf Tournament at Highland Golf Course, current GHIN # handicap, limit to the first 50 Golfers **(Ends at 8:30 a.m.)**
- 8 a.m.** Registration for the Festival Walk/Run "Strong People. Powerful Legacy." at the Waapi Kani Outpatient Building on Agency Road
- 8:30 a.m.** Festival Walk/Run begins at the Waapi Kani Outpatient Building on Agency Road
- 9 a.m.** All Indian Men's Golf Tournament Tee Off
- 9 a.m.** All-Indian Fort Hall Legends Junior Rodeo, 0-17 Boys and Girls
- 9 a.m.** All Indian Singles Horseshoe Tourney Registration, double elimination **(Ends at 10:30 a.m.)**
- 9 a.m.** Festival Royalty Competition- Tzi-Tzi Princess, Future Princess, Festival Princess at the Delbert Farmer Dance Arbor **(Ends at 12 p.m.)**
- Outgoing Tzi Tzi Princess Nia'bi'-Jo Buckskin Tiny Special
- 10 a.m.** All Indian Men and Women Softball tournaments
- 10 a.m.** Art drop off and registration, silent auction items drop off at the Shoshone Bannock Casino Hotel Event Center **(Ends at 3 p.m.)**
- 10 a.m.** Art Show and silent auction, open to the public, at the SB Casino Hotel Event Center
- 10 a.m.** Arts and Crafts booths open
- 2 p.m.** Powwow Registration for dancers and singers at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
- 2 p.m.** Chief Race, Youth Straight, Teen Girls Race, Ladies Relay, Indian Relay Races at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds

- 4 p.m.** Miss Shoshone-Bannock Dance competition at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
- Outgoing Miss Shoshone-Bannock Dystnee Rope Honor Dance and Giveaway
- 4 p.m.** 4-man team Handgame Tournament registration, double elimination **(Ends at 6 p.m.)**
- 6:45 p.m.** Drum Roll Call and Invocation
- 7 p.m.** Grand Entry - Flag/Victory song, Intertribal dancing begins, Tiny Tots, Golden Age, Adults and Teen Categories, Drumming Contest begins
- 7 p.m.** Miss Shoshone-Bannock Crowning at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
- Honoring of former Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queens

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

24-Hour Traditional handgames

- 6 a.m.** Registration for the All Indian Men's Golf Tournament at Riverside Course, Pocatello, Idaho, current GHIN # handicap, limit to the first 50 Golfers **(Ends at 8:30 a.m.)**
- 8:15 a.m.** Registration for the All Indian Women's Golf Tournament at Journey's End Golf Course, Shelley, Idaho - *must show CIB or Tribal ID*
- 9 a.m.** INFR Tour Rodeo slack at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds
- 9 a.m.** All Indian Men's Golf Tournament Tee Off
- 9 a.m.** All Indian Women's Golf Tournament Tee Off
- 9 a.m.** All Indian Doubles Horseshoe Tourney Registration, double elimination **(Ends at 10:30 a.m.)**
- 10 a.m.** Arts and Crafts booths open
- 10 a.m.** All Indian Men and Women softball tournament continues

CONTINUED, PAGE 21 →

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 (CONTINUED)

- 10 a.m.** Arts and Crafts booths open
- 10 a.m.** All Indian Co-ed Softball tournaments at the Fort Hall Softball Field
- 10:30 a.m.** Handgame Opening Prayer
- 12 p.m.** Community Luncheon at Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor – Sponsored by Fort Hall Housing Authority
• *Flag Raising for Veterans at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor*
- 1:30 p.m.** Children Traditional Games at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
- 4 p.m.** Miss Shoshone-Bannock Talent Presentation at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor

- 4 p.m.** Elderly Handgame Tournament registration, double elimination
(Ends at 6 p.m.)
- 6:45 p.m.** Invocation
- 7 p.m.** Children's Day Powwow Grand Entry at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
Coming into the Circle Special • Snake Dance • Potato Dance • Round Dance
- 8 p.m.** Co-ed Softball Championship Game at the Fort Hall Softball Field

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025
(CONTINUED)**

- 10 a.m.** Doors opens for art show/silent auction at the Sho-Ban Casino Hotel Event Center
- 11 a.m.** Fort Hall Skate Jam registration at the Fort Hall Skate Park Plaza on Mission Road
- 11 a.m.** Dance and Drum Registration opens at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor **(Ends at 1 p.m.)**
- 12 p.m.** Fort Hall Skate Jam begins
- 12:45 p.m.** Drum Roll Call and Invocation
- 1 p.m.** Grand Entry – Flag/Victory song, Intertribal Dancing, Contest Dancing for Women and Men Categories, Junior and Teen categories and specials
• *Rachel Osborne – Women's Traditional 18 plus special*
• *Mia Serawop – Women's Jingle 18 plus special*
• *Alice Yabeney – Men's Traditional 18 plus special*
• *Paisley Buckskin – Jr. Girls Jingle Special*
- 1 p.m.** Festival Main Handgame Tourney registration, double elimination **(Ends at 3 p.m.)**
- 2 p.m.** Warrior Race, Junior Relay, Ladies Race, Indian Relay Races at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds
- 4 p.m.** Powwow supper break
- 5 p.m.** Pick up artwork and silent auction announced at the Sho-Ban Casino Hotel Event Center **(Ends at 7 p.m.)**
- 6 p.m.** Judging for awards and silent auction for the Art Show at the Sho-Ban Casino Hotel Event Center
- 6 p.m.** INFR Tour Rodeo at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds
- 6:45 p.m.** Drum Roll Call and Invocation
- 7 p.m.** Grand Entry – Flag/Victory song, Intertribal Dancing, contest Dancing for Elders, Golden Age, Adults and specials
• *Little Bear Watson Memorial–Men's Fancy Special*
- 7 p.m.** All Indian Men's and Women's slow-pitch championship game at the Fort Hall Softball Field

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025**24-Hour Traditional handgames**

- 10 a.m.** Arts and Crafts booths open
- 10 a.m.** Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Festival Worship and Holy Eucharist Services at the Delbert Farmer Festival Arbor
- 11 a.m.** INFR Tour Rodeo at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds
- 11 a.m.** Kids Handgame Tourney registration, double elimination **(Ends at 1:30 p.m.)**
- 1 p.m.** Material Handgame, Pointers John McDougall and Jimmy Swag (North) vs Chris Cable and Camp 7 (South)
- 12:45 p.m.** Drum Roll Call and Invocation
- 1 p.m.** Grand Entry – Flag/Victory song, Intertribal Dancing, Contest Dancing for ALL age categories, Team Dance and specials
• *Winter Cantsee Jr. Girl's Traditional Special*
• *FHBC Special-65 plus Couples Dance, Must be in Regalia*
- 2 p.m.** Lil Chief Race, Ladies Relay, Consolation, Championship at the Fort Hall Rodeo Grounds
- 4 p.m.** Traditional Feast at the Delbert Farmer Arbor
- 6 p.m.** Announce winners for Elders, Golden Age, War-bonnet, Junior and Teen categories

ANNOUNCING 2025 FESTIVAL POWWOW WINNERS

Miss Shoshone-Bannock Dystnee Rope proud to represent her people



Greetings Family, friends, and relations!

My name is Dystnee Adrianna Rope, I am 24-years old and I'm the current reigning title holder and ambassador from my Tribes as their 59th Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen 2024-2025 proudly representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

I am also a proudly enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes from Fort Hall, Idaho. I am Shoshone-Bannock and half White Mountain Apache. My Indian name is Ban Zu Gu which translates in English as "Otter" given to me by my Togo (Grandpa) Vernon "Bird" Martin. Quick fact on how I got my Indian name; When I was a little girl, we were at Lava Hot Springs one summer and the way I was swimming caught my grandpa's attention and he said to my mom, "Look at the little otter enjoying the water." With that being said, he has given me my first Indian name as "Ban Zu Gu" in Shoshone.



Miss Sho-Ban (far right) with Miss Sho-Ban High School Queen Hazebah Wahtomy at a Legislative Reception in Boise.

Dystnee
Rope
Miss
Shoshone-Bannock
2024-2025



My parents are Adrian Rope and Darcey Martin, my father is an enrolled member with the White Mountain Apache Tribe from Whiteriver, Arizona. My mother is an enrolled member with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes from Fort Hall, Idaho. I have one brother, Elind Rope who is also an enrolled member with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

My maternal grandparents on my mother's side are Vernon "Bird" Martin and the late Erma McKie, both enrolled members with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes from Fort Hall, Idaho.

My great grandparents on my maternal side are the late Leslie "Dots" Mckie and the late Margaret Nevada, both enrolled members with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

My paternal grandparents on my father's side are Burnett Rope Jr. and the late Lavinia Lupe, my Huutsi "Grandma" Lavinia (formally maiden as Tessler) was an enrolled member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Whiteriver, Arizona. She came from a Butterfly Clan. My Genu "Grandpa" is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe from San Carlos, Arizona. He comes from the Roadrunner Clan.

I ran before back in 2019 right after I graduated from Blackfoot High School. I was freshly 18 and I was so excited to run but I didn't win it, yet I still had fun trying out for the title. As a couple years went by, I vied for the title again last year in 2024.

This became my second year running for this title as Miss Sho-Ban, during that time of the year I was the only contestant vying for this title. Despite the fact that I was the only contestant I still had to do all the requirements, which was the personal interview, the talent presentation, traditional dish, impromptu questions, and the dance portion. I still had fun in going through the process of it all, because it gives me a chance to showcase my knowledge and what I presented to the judges for my traditional talent and dish.

At the end of the day, I always put a smile on myself, reminding myself that no matter what, I did a great job.

During my reign as Miss Sho-Ban it has been an honor and I was truly blessed to experience all the good and the bad. As time processed throughout my year, it has given me more confidence in myself, to be more outspoken with the public, to be more involved with the community. Right after my crowning, I was filled with emotions of excitement and fear.



Dystnee Rope pictured with Eastern Shoshone royalty.



Dystnee Rope gives out prizes to tiny tot dancers during the 2025 American Falls High School Powwow.



Fear of how well will I represent my Tribes as their ambassador for the people, to our youth who look up to us, to me. I always remind myself that when having this title, you're showcasing the beauty of the crown and sash, that you're proudly representing the Tribes. I have traveled far and wide with the crown and sash, putting myself out there as I proudly represent myself in wearing the crown and sash with pride and beauty. All while, I also work as a full-time employee at the Donzia Gift Shop at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel. While doing my duties as Miss Shoshone-Bannock I wasn't able to attend most events but when I did, I gave it my full dedication and roles to being there. So, throughout my reign, I've attended a lot of events, powwows and social gatherings.

As I've noted, this has been the most I've ever travelled to many powwows this year, such as Florida, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Washington. Making a name for myself and getting recognized by the people we see from all around the powwow trails. It is truly a good feeling when you get greeted by vendors you come across at the powwows or by people that have recognized you with the crown and sash. It is nice that holding this title, I've got to meet with so many people and royalties from all around Indian country.

My fondest memory of being Miss Shoshone-Bannock was being able to attend my first event to the Return of the Agai Deka (Salmon Eater Clan) Lemhi Shoshone People in Salmon, Idaho. Where I was greeted with kindness and was shown with many pictures of our Lemhi people and our family descendant members who go way back.

My highlight of it all was when I competed in the Miss Indian World back in April 2025. I was so scared and nervous yet was so excited at the same time, which words can't even express. I have spent several months prepping and preparing myself with speeches and how I was going to present myself with an introduction as well as with my talent presentation. Upon arrival, we've been so busy and on the go nonstop since. Later during the week, I gotten to know the girls who also competed for this title, as we all supported each other and gave each other advice. While vying for this title it was much bigger than our title and I was a bit intimidated. But with the girls being there, we uplifted one another, giving each with encouragement of words and no matter what happens and who wins the title, we were all winners in our books. The most challenging thing I faced during this pageant was presenting my traditional talent to the audience where I showcased my knowledge of "Willow Basket Making" which I was fortunate enough to learn from one of my family members, Bobette Wildcat Haskett.

In conclusion, my time as Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen has been a tremendous honor. It gave me the ability to come out of my shell. I became more confident, more outgoing, talkative and more social everywhere I went. With that being said, I would like to take this time and give huge shoutouts to my sponsors; Donzia Gift Shop, Mandarin House, my aunt Taryn Shoyo, my brother who has been my rock by my side whenever I was feeling down or nervous yet he supported me on the sidelines, my friends who have been there for me to give me guidance and advice, and most of all, my mother Darcey Martin whose been there for me since the day of my crowning, who has made all of my regalia's, who has wiped my tears when I felt like giving up most times, but still supported me through thick and thin. I thank everyone who has been there and supported me throughout my reign. I am extremely grateful to crown the next Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen this year.

So, with all that being said, let's open our arms and welcome everyone and our upcoming Miss Shoshone-Bannock for 2025-2026 to celebrate our 60th Year Anniversary with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. I hope everyone will have a pleasant time staying at our hotel and enjoy themselves with our festival activities this year. Safe travels back home to our visitors! See you all next year! Oooh! Thank you!



Miss Indian World 2025 contestants have fun taking a selfie.



Miss Indian World 2025 pageant contestants, including Dystnee Rope.



Miss Shoshone-Bannock title now at 60 years

By **LORI ANN EDMO**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — Back in 2013, the Sho-Ban News featured the stories of 48 out of the 50 Miss Shoshone-Bannocks for the 50th anniversary of the crown.

That year, the queens were honored at the Shoshone-Bannock Festival powwow after the Friday grand entry each receiving beautiful shawls.

In 2025, the 60th anniversary is being celebrated. There were two years the Shoshone-Bannock Festival wasn't conducted because of COVID 19 so the difference in numbers can be seen.

In this year's magazine, we interviewed the ten Miss Shoshone-Bannocks who have served since that time and their stories are being told. The Miss Shoshone-Bannocks will again be honored after the Festival powwow grand entry on Friday, August 8.

First Miss Shoshone-Bannock Belma Colter is featured on the magazine cover with current Miss Shoshone-Bannock Dystnee Rope.

Belma, now 82, said, "It's amazing we've come this far with the young ladies, I guess some of us are old now, but it's great we can see these types of women. It's beautiful how a lot of the women turned out and what they have accomplished. I can't believe this contest

was a leg up to a better life for them — they're fantastic."

"I'm so impressed with the Sho-Ban News and the booklets," Belma said about the Festival magazine.

In 2013, she said it was a nice warm day in August 1964 when she was home on vacation from school. She was attending St. Alphonsus School of Nursing in Boise and was going into her junior year.

"I did not know what my parents Victor and Teola Truchot had planned for me. I did enter the contest for the "Field Day" at Fort Hall as they wished," Colter said. "I wanted to honor their wishes — I won. Truly it was a real honor to honor my parents."

Colter became a registered nurse after graduating in 1966. She worked continually for 30 years and did retire from the Indian Health Service after 25 years.

Currently, her grandson and Aaron and his significant other Ashley reside with her, along with two grandchildren.

Belma is making a new shell dress to wear for the Miss Shoshone-Bannock honoring and her son Chad is going to escort her into the arbor.

Her advice to the contestants running for Miss Sho-Ban, "Be yourself, make sure your family and parents are involved," as they'll be surprised what is required.



Some of the Miss Shoshone-Bannocks posed for a group photo in 2013 during the 50th acknowledgement. Top left: Natasha Watson, Felicia Hernandez, Kalli Jo Edmo Johnson, Whitney Burns, Marquette Bagley, Andrea Barlow, Kimberly Osborne, Shirley Alvarez, Alexandria Alvarez, Georgette Perry, Hovia Edwards, Teresa Sanchez Bigbow, Melanie Ellsworth, Karen Haskett Osborne, Rachel Watson, December Ariwite. Bottom row left: Lori Pahvitse, Vera Honena, Randy'L Teton, Lorraine P. Edmo, Belma Colter, Tina Nevada Graves (now deceased), Louise E. Dixey, Donna Honena (now deceased), Sonya Wadsworth, Destiney Evening and Lunita Ariwite.



Ontaria Ariwite became part of a legacy of strong women to uphold the Miss Shoshone-Bannock title

Ontaria Ariwite said serving as Miss Shoshone-Bannock 57 in 2021-2022 meant a lot to her to become part of a legacy of strong women to uphold a precious title for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to represent to the best of her ability.

Her Indian name is Good Heart Woman. She is an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and is proud to represent both the Fort Hall and Gibson district.

She traveled to powwows, attended and participated in community events, activities, along with sponsoring holiday events for the tribal elders during and after COVID-19.

Ontaria said she was not only representing her tribe, but her family as well. "I come from a third generation of Miss Shoshone-Bannock. My mom December Ariwite was Miss Shoshone-Bannock 34, and my grandma Cookie Ariwite was Miss Shoshone-Bannock 13." She was able to wear the banner that was first brought when her grandma became Miss Shoshone-Bannock and was able to wear her mom's own beaded crown made by her grandma Sandra Plentywounds. "Now I have my own beaded crown and banner when I have carried the reign.

She is a direct descendant of "A-wite-etse" a Bannock treaty signer of the Fort Bridger Treaty 1868 and a descendant of Chief Tendoy.

She comes from a powwow family that loves to travel and compete in powwows throughout the U.S. and Canada. "I love to dance, and I have been dancing since I could walk. I am an old-style all-around dancer that dance's jingle, fancy and traditional," she continued. "I was taught how to dance by my grandma and my mom. I wear my grandma's old regalia and beadworks from when she used to dance fancy and jingle that are about 30-50 years old."

Ontaria said throughout her travels, she was able to hold different titles from powwows like her mom did when she was young. "I competed for the vying title of Miss Indian World and won two trophies of Miss Congeniality and Best Talent in 2022." "I was able to carry the American Flag at Naotkamegwanning 50th Pow-Wow from Whitefish Bay, Ontario, known to be Home of the Jingle Dress in 2023."

She was headwoman at Poundmaker Powwow from Poundmaker Cree Nation, Treaty 6 Territory of Battleford, Saskatchewan in 2024 and head woman at Idaho State University Social Pow-Wow in May 2025, just to name a few. Recently, "I am now continuing to be asked to be head women at different pow-wows throughout Turtle Island."

Ontaria attends Idaho State University (ISU) where she is a senior this year. She is a full-time undergraduate working on her bachelor's degree and also a first-generation college student. Her major is Anthropology and is taking a Forensic Certificate. Her minor is in Linguistics. I am in the ISU's Trio scholar Honors program and a McNair scholar from the TRIO McNair Scholar Program. She's joined clubs when attending ISU — in the Judo club as a treasurer, Native American Student Council as a treasurer and the Anthropology Society Club as a secretary.

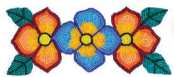
She previously worked at the Native American Student Services (NASS) at ISU as a work study student and a Career Path Internship (CPI) student for three years. "In 2024-2025, I was working as the CPI for Programming Assistant in the Office Equity and Inclusion Department



Ontaria Ariwite

at ISU," she said.

"I have a few experiences of doing research from my honors projects based on bringing awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) and had the chance to do two different research on sociolinguistic of Shoshone-Bannock Languages and forensic linguistic analytical methods with Native communities while doing my studies for other classes and working at the campus at the same time. I always try to have a balanced life between school, work, and powwows," she concluded.



Winning Miss Shoshone-Bannock was a dream of Kaycee's

By LIZZIE BOYD
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL – Kaycee Dixey, Miss Shoshone-Bannock in 2022-2023, describes her experience throughout her reign as one of the greatest honors of her life.

“Serving my tribal community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. To me, it meant showing up with integrity, compassion, and pride. Especially at cultural events, community gathers, conferences, and everything else in between where I could represent our people in a good way. Whether I was helping organize, supporting others, or simply being present, I carried out our traditions and values with respect.”

Miss Shoshone-Bannock was a dream for Kaycee since she was a little girl. “I would be so excited to see Miss Shoshone-Bannock in the same room as me.”

She said it was never just about participating, but about standing for something greater, honoring those who came before us and paving the way for those yet to come. “Every moment I spent as Miss Shoshone Bannock reminded me of the strength of our ancestors and our culture, and the responsibility that comes with being a representative of it,” she said. “I remembered every Miss Shoshone Bannock before me, especially those that were nice to me as a child, and I wanted to be that same role model for the tribal youth in our community.”

Her platform as Miss Shoshone Bannock was “Educating Tribal Youth.” Her proudest moment, as Miss Shoshone Bannock was organizing a Dance Class where she and four other awesome adults taught both youth and adults how to dance at the Eagle Lodge.

Kaycee is now 27 years old and she resides in the Gibson District of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Her mother is Lee Ann Dixey-Avila, and her stepfather is Vincente Avila. She has one cat named Petey, a twin sis-



Kaycee Dixey

ter, older brother and younger sister.

“We come from a strong line of leaders on both my maternal grandmother’s side and grandfather’s side. My grandmother is Louise Dixey, her late father, Kesley Edmo Sr., served on the Fort Hall Business Council for over 30 years. My late grandfather is Clyde Dixey Sr. and his grandfather was R.W. Dixey who was one of the biggest Indian cattlemen of his time and helped build the town of Blackfoot, Idaho.”

Kaycee graduated college in 2020 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in Business Management with an emphasis in accounting.

She currently works as the Senior Buyer for the Shoshone-Bannock Casino and Hotel. Previously, she was the Banquet Manager for three years at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel. “I executed all events for the Casino Hotel including conferences, weddings, Quince naves, and concerts.”

Kaycee plans to continue with her formal education and go back to school. Her goal is to become a Tribal Attorney and help preserve our Treaty Rights for the Shoshone-Bannock people. “I love to be active in our tribal community by participating in cultural events, dancing, singing and

traveling,” she concluded.

“Serving my tribal community has been one of the greatest honors of my life.”



Kaycee Dixey at San Manuel Powwow with former Miss Indian Worlds



Miss Sho-Ban meant the world to Crystal Ariwite Freeman

By YVONNE WARJACK
Sho-Ban News

Crystal Ariwite Freeman said serving as Miss Shoshone-Bannock 2017-2018 meant the world to her representing the title as she spent her entire life preparing for it.

"I've made my family and people proud. But most of all, I stepped out of my shell and never went back," she said. "Float like the frybread, sting like the grease," was a quote she would often say to herself before making speeches or attending special events as Miss Sho-Ban.

She is also known as DulieBird in the beading community – is more than an artist. She is a culture bearer, a mother, a wife.

"I am the 54th Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen of 2017-2018," she shares proudly. "I am now 27-years old, married, and a mother of two beautiful kids." Born in Pocatello, and raised in Gibson, Crystal's roots are firmly planted in the Fort Hall Indian Reservation near Blackfoot. From early childhood schooling in Fort Hall to her graduation from the Blackfoot School District in 2016, Crystal's journey has always been grounded in her homeland and her heritage.

Now a full-time homemaker and Indigenous bead artist, Crystal is a vibrant presence online, teaching traditional techniques such as peyote stitch and the 1-3 needle methods during her livestreams. Her online handle, DulieBird, has become synonymous with colorful, soulful craftsmanship.

"When the time is right," she says, "I plan to return to school to become a certified teacher. But for now, I focus on my family and my art."

Crystal's values are as strong as her beadwork. "I value my family, our health, my friends, and our culture – to pass it down to future genera-

tions," she reflects. These teachings – passed down from elders, especially her maternal grandmother LuCindy Jay – are what shaped her.

"My upbringing taught me to prepare meals, clean, sew, bead, dance, sing, pant, harvest, and so much more," she says. Her hands are fluent in the ways of her people, whether sewing regalia, harvesting berries, or preparing game.

In her quiet moments, Crystal beads, cooks, or tidies her home – a rhythm that mirrors the traditions she was raised with. And in everything she does, she holds tight to her Agai Dika teachings, eager to pass them to her children, nieces, and nephews.

"We are the Lemhi people, the Agai Dika – The Salmon Eaters. Our people originated from these lands, more north in Salmon, Idaho," she explains. "That's something unique about our family history."

Crystal sees the challenges facing today's society – particularly the widening economic and ethical divides. "There are huge gaps separating the rich from the poor," she observes. "It fragments strong community bonds. All I can do is hope that we the people can overcome these hardships."

For Crystal, gatherings such as powwows and sweats or any other type of social event are very important on our reservation. We all have a good motive to gather and enjoy each other's company." One memory stands out: attending her first sweat with her mother and oldest brother in celebration of her mother's journey on The Red Road.

"I value my family, our health, my friends, and our culture - to pass it down to future generations."



Crystal Ariwite Freeman

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Develynn Hall grateful to be Miss Shoshone-Bannock

Develynn Hall Miss Shoshone-Bannock 2023-2024 said she put her best foot forward at every event she represented.

"I have gained a sense of independence and confidence representing myself, my family and our community."

She is a proud member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and deeply values her family and friends for the support they've given her throughout her reign, "Their encouragement has helped me grow both personally and professionally."

Develynn is preparing to return to college at Idaho State University. "While I'm still figuring out where my path will lead me, I am excited for this new challenge."

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. "These past few months my life slowed down, but it has taught me to live in the moment - to really sit in it and appreciate where I'm at even when it's uncertain. I love good company and great conversation."

She said she's ready to pick up a new ambition and see what comes next. "If I could share one thing don't wait until you're ready because the experience itself is what helps you grow."

She said this role helps you connect more deeply to who you are and

where you come from.

In her outgoing Miss Sho-Ban statement she said was grateful to have the title of Miss Shoshone-Bannock. "I wore this crown with so much independence and freedom. Even though I struggled many times and wanted to quit, I knew I could make it to August. I built a strong resilience in myself. I've dedicated many hours to wearing my crown and banner, and to be dressed in my regalia at almost every single event. I determined to be everywhere I could be but taking care of my own wellness was priority. I smudged, prayed, and journaled when something was heavy on my mind. I took long drives or walks by myself to reflect on my life."

Develynn said there was much more to her year than she could put into words. "So many photos, videos, interviews, and people to mention. My time spent as Miss Shoshone-Bannock has been extremely transformative for myself. I wear a new lens on life. I want to thank everyone who

supported me during this year. Everyone's kind words, advice, guidance, help with regalia, beadwork, and everything in between. I appreciate everything."



Develynn Hall at the Return of the Boise Valley People event with Major General Garshak at the sign dedication at Gowen Field.



Develynn Hall waves to the crowd in the walking parade at the Return of the Boise Valley People event.

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Haskett: Miss Shoshone-Bannock title shaped who she is today; an experience she will treasure for life

By **LORI ANN EDMO**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — Miss Shoshone-Bannock 2016-2017 Taylor Haskett said it's an experience she will treasure for the rest of her life.

"I had just turned 20 and was at a crossroads in my personal life. I was starting a new relationship and figuring out the direction I wanted to go. Choosing to run for Miss Shoshone-Bannock was my way of embracing life fully before stepping into a more serious relationship, and winning the title Miss Shoshone-Bannock ended up shaping who I am today," she said.

Being the tribal representative meant embodying resilience, especially within our own community. "There's so much beauty that comes with representing your people, but there's also pressure and criticism that not everyone sees. Being in the spotlight taught me difficult yet valuable lessons about grace, strength, and standing firm in who I am. I could not have finished my year long reign without the support of my family," she continued.

Her family grounded her and kept her going with their constant encouragement reminding her of who she is and why she was doing the work. "That year of service helped lay the foundation for how I carry myself today, both in my work and in the way I represent our people."

Taylor said her Newe name is Tsaan Maitenga that means "To be good outside." One of her late grandmothers Truma Davis gave her the name because of Taylor's love for the outdoors. "She believed that the work I would do in the environment would serve our people in a good way and that's something I've carried with me ever since. I come from a close-knit family that values culture, education, and standing up for what's right, even when you're the only voice in the room."

She doesn't have children now, but she's an aunty to her nieces Sequoia, Avery and little Timberly as she loves them dearly. However, she does have fur babies — a little dog named Crowbar Jones also known as CB (he's five years old) and her cat Felix also known as FiFi (nine years old). "They bring a lot of joy to my life."

"I trust that the Creator has a time line for me. So, for now, I'm just enjoying the journey"

started forming during my time as Miss Shoshone-Bannock." Haskett said.

Outside of academics, she's an avid wildlife photographer. She loves traveling, camping, hiking, fly fishing and mountain biking. "Being out in nature is where I feel most at peace. My personal goals are to build a life that allows me to comfortably support my passions and eventually have a family of my own. While I'm not there yet, I trust that the Creator has a time line for me. So, for now, I'm just enjoying the journey," she concluded.

Taylor Haskett



Taylor was accepted in the master's program in Anthropology at Washington State University with a focus on archaeology. She's a graduate student employed as a teaching assistant at WSU and working on her thesis that centers on the cultural and archaeological significance of lava tube caves on the Snake River Plain. "I've been gathering data through both an internship with Idaho National Laboratory and my own ethnographic study as a WSU student. I'm passionate about contributing to research that uplifts tribal perspectives and asserts our sovereignty. These goals first



Dance-Leighton: Future in hands of next generation



Sequoia Dance-Leighton

**By LORI ANN EDMO
Sho-Ban News**

FORT HALL — Sequoia Dance-Leighton said being Miss Shoshone-Bannock 2015-2016 allowed her to learn and grow in so many positive ways. "I worked to listen, learn, and give back through my year, while also building life-long relationships through powwows and tribal gatherings."

She was able to speak to students across Indian country who were interested in pursuing higher education and give support and mentorship along the way. "Serving in this role embedded a value in all the work I do now, connecting com-

munities, resources, and education."

Serving as Miss Shoshone-Bannock was important to her as it was always a reminder to stay grounded in home, "Whether I was wearing the crown or not, I was representing our people."

Sequoia's grandfather is Neil Trahant who passed away in 2019. Her mother is Tami Trahant and her father is Mike Dance. She is married to Shelby Leighton and currently lives with her family in the homelands of the Nimiipuu people. "We have two children, Stone and Onyx, who keep our days filled with curiosity and joy!"

She completed her PhD. in Cultural Studies and Social Thought in Education in

At right: Sequoia congratulates a Head Start grad.



May at Washington State University. She works as a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Scholar and Program Coordinator for Washington State University's Center for Native American Research and Collaboration. "In this position, I work on bridge programs and pathways for students through Native Nation Building. Much of my work focuses on regeneration of Indigenous knowledge systems," she continued.

Sequoia said she focuses on her own writing and research in well-being through Indigenous Feminist Thought. "I explore the ways in which well-being stretches beyond the aesthetic wellness industry, re-rooting in Indigenous-grounded practices."

Outside of her job with the university, she works as a personal trainer and wellness advocate. "I love to move my body through strength training and playing volleyball."

In addition, she coaches youth and club volleyball. Right now, her goal is to connect her children with their lands, cultural knowledges and languages. "I hope to build capacities and resources in tribal communities that foster educational spaces that prioritize youth connectedness and belonging."

"Our future is in the hands of the next generation and my goal is to empower these youth to revision a world where Indigenous knowledge is centered," she concluded.

Above: Sequoia dancing at an event in the community.



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Get Out There!

As Miss Sho-Ban, Murray wanted to make positive impact

By LIZZIE BOYD
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL – Tadrascell “Sister” Murray was Miss Shoshone-Bannock in 2014–2015.

Tadrascell wanted to make a positive impact in her community, as well as surrounding areas.

“To me, being Miss Shoshone-Bannock meant not only representing our tribe, I felt that as an ambassador, I also needed to be there for my people. I have always looked at my people and wanted to give back, my mission was to make a positive impact in my community, as well as the surrounding areas, I wanted to build bridges that would make positive, and professional connections. I understood that my role as an ambassador was to inspire, and lead others, especially younger generations.”

“Also, be that as it may, I knew that I was representing something much larger than myself. Along my journey, I made it a goal to never lose my authenticity, I was always proud to be myself, imperfect and honest, just doing my best to represent my people. We are all valuable — each one of us offers something different, and it is ok to be different. It doesn't matter where you come from, what matters is what you make of it. Be tenacious, be diligent, and always be proud to walk the path that you have chosen.”

She is the daughter of Diane Moss and the late Tad Murray. She is from the Shoshone-Bannock, Assiniboine, Gros-Ventre and Flathead Tribes. She enjoys being an auntie, spending time with her nieces and nephews. She also helps take care of her mom and spends a lot of her time with her.

Tadrascell said she enjoys the simple things, when she's not at work, you can usually find her playing in a sports league or at one of the community events with her family.



Tadrascell Murray with trophy from Miss Indian World pageant.



Tadrascell “Sister” Murray

When asked about her employment Tadrascell explained her career change as she started working at the Fort Hall Fire Department in an administrative role.

She said, “I have found a home here, I am always happy to come to work.”

In the future, Tadrascell plans to work on obtaining her Emergency Medical Technician Certificate to work alongside her coworkers and not just in the office behind the scenes. To go another step further, she also plans on obtaining a degree in accounting, to help departments grow and understand finances more.

“Along my journey, I made it a goal to never lose my authenticity. I was always proud to be myself, imperfect and honest, just doing my best to represent my people.”

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Pahvitse: Being Miss Sho-Ban came with a purpose

**By YVONNE WARJACK
Sho-Ban News**

FORT HALL – For many young women, holding a title such as Miss Shoshone-Bannock is a dream — for Sequoia Pahvitse, that dream became reality in 2018 when she was crowned and served as Miss. Shoshone-Bannock for the 2018-2019 year.

But the honor came with more than just a sash and crown—it came with purpose.

“It meant that I got to represent our people in a good way for people who might not be familiar with our Tribes and Native people in general,” she shared.

During her reign, she traveled and served as a cultural ambassador, representing her community with pride.

When life required a shift, Jennie Whitehouse, her first attendant, graciously stepped in to complete the remainder of her term around March.

Today, she’s a mother, student, and mentor, balancing her many roles with strength and determination. “I’m finishing up my degree at the moment,” she said. “Right now, I’m taking a summer class that takes up a lot of my time.”

Despite the demands of college life, her heart lies at home. She beams when talking about her two children: “I have two children,

Oliver and Anthony, and they are the light of my life. I’m taking steps to make sure they grow up to be upstanding men that are happy and have a great life.”

Her professional journey is equally inspiring. She previously worked at ISU’s Continuing Education and Workforce Training (CEWT) program until she had her youngest son.

After taking a year off to focus on family, she returned to the workforce as an Accounting Tutor at ISU. It’s a role she finds rewarding and one that aligns with her aspirations.

“After I graduate, I’d like to work in an office somewhere,” she said. “I spend a lot of time trying to rediscover myself and what I like. My goals are really just trying to live a good and happy life for me and my family.”

Her story appears to be one of growth, resilience, and quiet leadership—a reminder that strength often comes in the form of daily dedication and deep love for one’s family and community.



Sequoia Pahvitse

“My goals are really just trying to live a good and happy life for me and my family.”

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Perdash carries on traditional values & cultural knowledge

By **LORI ANN EDMO**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — Stormie Perdash was Miss Shoshone-Bannock in 2019-2020 – a meaningful experience to represent the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

“The traditional values and cultural knowledge I have gained throughout my reign as Miss Shoshone-Bannock has carried on into my education and career which always speak well of the tribe as a former representative,” she said.

Her grandparents are Arlinda and Lee Ross Jones of Fort Hall and her mother is Charlyn Perdash. She had two younger siblings Kyton Burnett and Kree Burnett. Her biological grandfather is Dwayne Perdash and his parents are Ireness Teton and Steve Perdash. Ireness parents were Maude Dann and Henry Teton.

“I love to attend powwows where I dance contemporary jingle and northern cloth. I see and bead my own and my family’s powwow regalia when I have time to do so.”

Stormie graduated with her Bachelor’s in Tribal Governance and Business Management from Northwest Indian College. She will be attending the University of New Mexico School of Law to receive her Juris Doctorate within the next three years.

She plans on concentrating on federal Indian law eventually getting a dual Masters of Business Administration. “I want to use both degrees to further tribal economic sovereignty.”



Stormie Perdash



Stormie as she receives the Miss Sho-Ban crown from outgoing queen Jennie Whitehorse.



Western States Cat is a proud supporter of the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival, and recognizes the importance of protecting historic cultural sites of the original Boise Valley People.



Whitehorse works towards protecting 'way of life'

By **LIZZIE BOYD**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL – Jennie Whitehorse was Miss Shoshone-Bannock LV in 2019.

She enjoyed meeting new people, visiting new places and ventured outside her comfort zone as Miss Shoshone-Bannock.

"I served as Miss Shoshone-Bannock LV (55) in the year 2019. After graduating college and obtaining my degree, I decided to run for Miss Shoshone-Bannock Queen at the age of 23. I was taught that this position is the highest ambassador role young woman can achieve within our tribe. During my reign, I learned that I was not only representing myself, but also my family, community, and the tribe."

Her Indian name is Oyose Yanni Sewagande meaning "always smiling." Her parents are Margie and Walker Whitehorse. Her maternal grandparents are the late Lillian Ramsey Jackson and LaVon Jackson Sr. Her paternal grandparents are the late Alice and James Whitehorse of Narrow Canyon in Kayenta, Arizona. My father's clan is T'izi lani (Many Goats clan). Jennie is from the Bannock Creek District on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. She's the youngest of four siblings, and is currently 29 years old.

She obtained a Bachelor degree in Indigenous Liberal Studies and a Certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2018. Since graduating, she's worked for her Tribes language immersion school, Chief Tahgee Elementary Academy, for the past seven years as an Administrative Assistant and a fourth grade elementary teacher.



Jennie Whitehorse

"I'm proud to work in an environment where I can hear and learn more about my Shoshone language, culture and history. I've grown so much in my time there, getting to know our tribal children and helping them grow confidently and academically. I love helping and being a part of our community," Whitehorse said.

Jennie enjoyed her reign and learned so much about the Tribe's history, culture, and community members. "I enjoyed meeting new people, visiting new places, and venturing outside my comfort zone especially in public speaking. I am grateful for the support system I had at the time, my family and relatives, and for the openness my community showed in guiding me throughout my reign". "Ussen Tsaiyu nea naninewe."

The experiences of serving as Miss Shoshone-Bannock opens up opportunities for young women to learn more about our deniwape, to teach others about the beauty of our Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and to create new connections, possibilities, and memories within themselves and their families, she continued.

"I currently enjoy attending cultural events, drawing and exploring new places." Her future goals include working within her tribal community increasing

cultural involvement with our naninewe while

protecting and strengthening our deniwape – "way of life."

She's excited to view the 60th annual anniversary edition and hope everyone both local and visiting has a great time at the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival. "I wish safe travels to those returning to their homes. Ussen Tsaiyu!"



Jennie Whitehorse

"I love helping and being a part of our community"

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Traditional artist Daisy Hood believes education a priority

By **LIZZIE BOYD**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — Daisy Fisher Hood, is a third generation Shoshone Bannock Tribal member artisan who was taught how to bead and learned the Fisher family hide tanning process and business at a young age. Daisy was born and raised in the Bannock Creek District located in Arbon Valley. Her father was Jayroe Fisher and her mother was Doris Thompson Fisher. She was moved around the age of six to Boise where she finished middle school. She then moved to finish school in Riverside, Oklahoma where she met her husband, Alan Hood.

Daisy is a third generation hide tanner and has beaded various items such as full-size buckskin dresses, youth dresses, beaded buckskin vests, baby moccasins, moccasins, high-top moccasins and gloves. She said the last dress she made was a few years ago. At the age of 82, Daisy said she has tried to step away from working with hides, however when asked when the last time she worked with a hide, she said "I just worked with a hide two weeks ago" that was around the beginning of July, and she just laughed.

Daisy recalled, "I remember my grandmother Angela Fisher sewing and always wearing her high-top moccasins even in the wintertime, she would slip black boots that were cut off to just cover up to her ankles so her moccasins wouldn't get wet." She described the high-top moccasins as just around the bottom of her calf area. Her grandmother worked with hides, and Daisy explained that's where the family tradition of tanning hides started, she was the first generation to tan hides that she recalls.

She shared a memory of most of the women in her Fisher family working with hides, some men too. Her aunts Bessie Fisher, who liked to sew beadwork, worked with hides, Lucy Fisher Steady worked with hides as well, but Daisy remembers they tanned hides but never scraped hides. Just like Daisy, as she cut her finger bad when she was trying to scrape a hide when she was young, and her aunt said, "no more scraping," so since then Daisy has only pulled, greased and tanned hides.

Daisy continued when the family was broke, her cousin Alfred, brothers Sonny and Laverne Fisher would go hunt early in the morning, get a deer and have it tanned by later that morning and take it to McCarty's and sale it. McCarty's was a store in Pocatello that would buy hides from the family, so the family would take their tanned hides there to sale. That's how the family made their extra cash.

Her family process of tanning a hide includes skin the animal, get the meat off the hide on the inside, dehair the hide, then usually grease the hide, hang it up to dry (but not too long) or it will be hard to work with, wash it out then brain the hide to be smoked. Sometimes it takes two to three times to make it soft. The reason you smoke the hides is to waterproof them.

Daisy recalls, her family teaching the people who were married into the family how to tan hides and the whole process, that's how her husband Alan learned. "If you were married into the Fisher family you were also taught how to scrape, pull and tan hides."

As Daisy and Alan started their family and moved back to Idaho, and their children started growing up, they taught them each how to do the family hide process. "We taught our children, and they picked up fast, we know the traditional teachings are important. But we always explained to them this is only for extra income, and that their education was important to have."

Daisy Hood



Hide tanned by Daisy's grandson Jacob Hood

Beaded purse Daisy's Grandmother Angela Fisher created



Daisy's vest project



Moccasins by Alan Hood



Buckskin gloves Daisy's brother created





She taught her family, now they carry on her teachings

Daisy said her children each have their own educational degrees and certifications, which she is very proud of each of her children completing. She, her husband Alan and the kids were the first to take the hide business on the road. They traveled to Denver, Albuquerque, Pendleton, Utah and Fort Hall Festival, to name a few. The family would set up with about 20-30 tanned hides, baby moccasins and beaded items they would get from other family members to sale. Daisy said she never could make beaded items fast enough. She recalls, trying to set up at places to sell and couldn't get items unpacked fast enough — people would just start grabbing the hides and items they had. They would sell out or only have a few small things when they returned home.

Daisy has passed her knowledge — tips and tricks of scraping hides, tanning and stretching hides onto her children who are fourth generation hide tanners and a few of her grandchildren have also picked up the family trade — they are fifth generation hide tanners.

She is happy to see her granddaughters pick up beading and carrying on the talent. However, she still stresses to get their education, and it's important to have that behind them — their crafts are only a source of extra income.

"Crafts are for extra income, my husband and I believe education is important."

Hide by Daisy tanned by Alan Hood



Daisy displays tanned hide by Alan Hood



Beaded Belt by Daisy's Grandmother Angela Fisher

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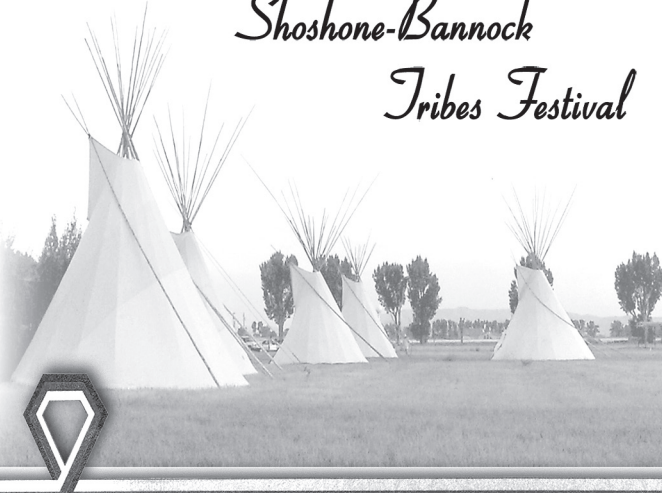


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Warjack takes pride in passing along beadwork teachings through generations

**By YVONNE WARJACK
Sho-Ban News**

In the quiet strength of Patricia Warjack, you'll find generations of resilience, artistry, and cultural pride woven together.

Born in Shiprock, New Mexico, and identifying as Shoshone-Bannock and Navajo, Patricia's life is a tribute to the enduring power of tradition and family.

From her early days, Patricia was raised with the teachings of her Navajo grandparents, where she learned the sacred practices of planting corn and harvesting pollen grinding corn. "I grew up with my father Malvin Benally and grandparents Hosten and Mary Benally, learning the old ways," she says. These skills, once passed down by her elders, are now living on through Patricia's hand and heart.

Today, Patricia works on the Enrollment Committee for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Fort Hall Reservation, having previously served her community as a nursing assistant, WIC clinical assistant, and custodian for Indian Health Services and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. But her most meaningful work may be in the cultural knowledge she carries – and generously shares.

A gifted bead worker and hide smoker, Patricia continues a long family tradition of artistry. She learned beading from her mother Flora Osborne, who would re purpose old beadwork and have her children carefully sort the colors, teaching patience and precision along the way. Patricia now teaches the younger generation, including her niece Taylor Thomas Akoneto, how to smoke hides and carry forward these sacred practices.

In her beadwork, Patricia often incorporates geometric patterns, drawing on symmetry and shaped that hold cultural meaning. "I mostly use straight flat stitch," she explains, "because it gives a smooth, clean look for regalia." Her attention to detail reflects both her creativity and the knowledge passed down from her elders.

Her creative talents flourish in regalia making – from Sundance skirts to traditional wing, shell, and jingle dresses. "I like to make dresses for Sundance because it keeps our traditions alive,"

Patricia explains. "When my nieces and nephews come to me needing Sundance regalia, I make sure to help them. Our ceremonies and prayers are what keep our community safe, strong, and healthy."

Patricia's artistry is inspired by her ancestors: her mother that bead worked, a grandfather who crafted ceremonial baskets, a grandmother who wove intricate rugs, and a family lineage of cattlemen and traditional dancers, she takes pride in knowing that their spirit lives on through her work and teachings.

Beyond her artistry, Patricia is deeply committed to her role as a mother of four (one deceased) and grandmother of two. She teaches her daughters the traditional Shoshone women's moonways, emphasizing the importance of staying active, respecting seasonal teachings, and honoring their bodies and spirits. She also speaks passionately about the importance of protecting clean water on the reservation and preserving the health of future generations.

Her advice to young people is simple yet appears profound: "Never give up. Every day is a new opportunity."

In Patricia Warjack's story, the beauty of culture, the importance of family, and the timeless power of tradition is seen. She reminds that art is more than decoration – it's survival, identity, and love passed through the generations.



A beaded purse design



Patricia Warjack

Beaded moccasins created by Patricia Warjack



Close view of a beaded rose



A beaded hat

Yazzie proud to have beadwork across Indian Country

JOSEPH WADSWORTH
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL – Shoshone-Bannock Tribal member Lyle Yazzie, who is also part Navajo, has been beading since he was 12-years-old. His parents are Roy Yazzie Jr. and Violena Waterhouse and maternal grandparents are Ruben Poog and Rheta Teesheep Poog.

Yazzie said his grandmother Rheta is the one who taught him how to bead and make many of the things he sews today, such as moccasins, purses, card holders, necklaces and smoked hides.

“I like doing it and enjoying it — what is most satisfying is the outcome, it’s pretty to bead but when I see people with my work my heart is full of joy.”

The difficult things are coming up with a design or if he works on flowers, animals. He likes to take a day to think about a project before and will map things out in his mind even before he makes a single cut or lay down a bead. “Mapping things is what I do when envisioning my work.”

When Yazzie was 12, his grandmother Rheta started him off with making small items such as stringing necklaces and keychains. Then he moved up to making keychain coin purses, after that he would start learning how to make moccasins and bigger projects.

Looking back on it he said, “I like that it’s not that hard now but back when I was younger it was a task and difficult but now my beading, I like how things come out from start to finish.”



Lyle has been working at the Trading Post for 14 years as a shift supervisor and has another job at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino and Hotel where he works as a mixologist in the Stampede Lounge under the food and beverage department. With working two jobs, Lyle said he is lucky enough to get a few lines down on his beading projects, something that would have taken him a week to make, now takes him close to a month to finish.

Yazzie said he is very happy with his work and enjoys the people he works with but also enjoys beading. He is very proud to say that some individuals own many of his creations such as coin purses, and it makes him proud to hear when people say that they have a Lyle Yazzie purse. Leah Tindore this year’s Shoshone-Bannock Festival Coordinator has purchased his work and has ordered items with her last named beaded.

Some of the bead sizes Yazzie works with is size 10 seed beads but if it is a special custom order he says that he would work with size 13 cuts or 11 cuts for added detail work and special to people buying his work can utilize it.

He thinks about doing bigger projects such as a cape for a dancer, but it would be a challenge but he thinks he would feel comfortable with taking on a challenge that big. When beading, “It reminds me of my grandma I just sit and listen to powwow music and or just sit and think about younger years when my aunts would also be beading and how things were back then.”

He remembers the good times and the conversations shared with his family. Yazzie has taught his own nieces how to bead starting them off with the small things such as he was taught and over the years, he estimates that he has made well over 500-coin purses. He is proud to know his work is being shared in Indian Country.



Rheta Poog working on a raw hide.



Festival Coordinator Leah Tindore purse Yazzie created.



Wendy Galloway's collection of Yazzie coin purses.

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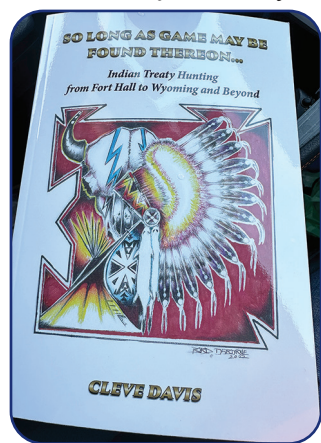
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Cleve Davis book challenges readers in ongoing fight for justice

'So Long As Game May Be Found Thereon - Indian Treaty Hunting from Fort Hall to Wyoming and Beyond'



**By LORI ANN EDMO
Sho-Ban News**

FORT HALL — “So Long As Game May Be Found Thereon – Indian Treaty Hunting from Fort Hall to Wyoming and Beyond,” is the title of Cleve Davis’s debut book.

He decided on the title when he first started going through legal history and it always overlooked that part of the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868. The history always got narrow focused on unoccupied lands and Cleve wanted to draw attention to it, “As long as game can be found thereon is part of a qualifying statement.”

The back cover of the book reads it is a profound journey into the complex history, law and enduring spirit of Indian treaty hunting in the American West. “Through meticulous research and deep personal reflection, this book unravels the tangled legacy of treaties forged between the Bannock, Shoshone and Crow Nations and the United States – agreements that promised Indian nations ‘the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States so long as game may be found thereon.’”

“From the brutal realities behind landmark cases like Ward v. Race Horse to the modern-day legal battles redefining tribal sovereignty, this book sheds light on a forgotten and often misunderstood struggle. It exposes how centuries of injustice, broken promises and system bias have undermined treaty rights and tribal autonomy — while honoring the resilience and unyielding courage of Indian communities who continue to fight for their rightful place on the land.”

He said he wrote the book for three reasons – for his own family, his children so they will know who they are, where they come from and know about their ancestors. Other family members had given information to him – it’s stored in his cabinets. “I put it together, I had it in my head,” he said. If he died it wouldn’t have done any good.

Another reason is to educate the non-Indian sportsmen out there – there’s a lot of ignorance about Indian hunting rights, what they are, how the rights are maintained, what we went through. “Non-Indians think we were given them – the treaty rights are already ours – we expressly retained those rights,” Cleve said. “They don’t understand a lot of things,” and he wanted to write the book in a way they would be educated – learn about history. “I also wrote for our own tribal members as well to know about our Treaty rights and the history behind it.”

The third reason, “I feel like, in my personal opinion, once we got on the reservation, our culture was basically broken – roles as Indian men changed where before, the warrior was to go get the food, organize hunts, go into war,” he continued. “After we were put on the reservation, the government wanted us to become like a farmer, be a good Indian get everything from the government.” At one time warriors were self-reliant and to become dependent on the government had a big impact on the role of an Indian man – he became lost, broken, started to drink, lose purpose and lose their way. The cycle of dependency caused neediness, alcoholism, drug abuse, diabetes. It’s his opinion that’s what happened. “It impacted our health and well-being, our sovereignty was impacted, it’s been going

on for over 100 years,” he said. “I want other Indians to come out of it,” he noted it in the final two chapters of his book.

The book had its beginnings with his daughter when he was getting her enrolled. He looked at her family line and got into it, he started to get more information, he’d write about it, who she descends from, and it got too big. On his father’s side, they descend from Chief Eagle Eye in the Boise Valley. On his mother’s side it’s Racehorse and that was the one he had a lot of information, so he decided to focus on one and he narrowed it down to Racehorse and hunting. He thought it was a good one because it’s related to identity and culture, discrimination, racism, “It’s clear to me there’s a lot of bias in U.S. court systems,” but the reader can make that conclusion.

The book cover and back of the book artwork features his cousin Burdette (Bird) Osborne because he wanted it to be a book made by Indians and use local artwork.

Cleve said he’s been collecting information his whole life and has been writing the book for about four solid years. His book is self-published as he tried to get a publisher – he reached out to the University of Utah Press, it was reviewed for over a year and said it needed to be revised. Bird told him it’s because he’s telling the truth, they don’t want history told. “One of the things, there’s a lot of academics out there that don’t believe genocide occurred,” Cleve said.

He said the book stands for itself – all researched, source checked it. It’s not an academic book, he tried to write it so it’s easy to read for an average reader. He took complex laws and wrote it in an easier way to understand.

Davis is an author, rancher, father and scientist. He has a PhD in Environmental Science and graduate work in anthropology and botany. He is a direct descendant of Pohave (John Racehorse Sr.) the Bannock man at the heart of the Ward v. Race Horse Supreme Court case.

One can buy the book online at lulu.com/shop/cleve-davis/so-long-as-game-may-be-found-thereon/paperback/product. It will soon be available at the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum and possibly the Donzita Gift Shop.

Note: Race Horse is written in two words in the court case, but later the spelling changed to Racehorse and Cleve explains it in the book.



Cleve Davis selling his books at a craft fair in Island Park.



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