

SHO-BAN NEWS

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SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES
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Covering Idaho & Indian Country
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LOCAL
LVS students
gift cradleboard
to FHBC



SPORTS
Lady Chiefs
fall to
Salmon River



MORE SPORTS
Everett Jim
Memorial Tourney
results



Elk & other big game make reservation their wintering home



On left, an elk herd crosses Sands Road. On right, Big Game Wildlife Technicians leave hay and deer pellets for the herd. (Alexandria Alvarez photos)

By **ALEXANDRIA ALVAREZ**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — If you have traveled on Interstate 15 or through Bannock Creek area lately, you may have noticed warning signs to watch for big game as you travel.

If you are lucky, you may have also caught a glimpse of the 1,200 plus elk herd that has migrated to the area for the winter along with other big game moose and deer.

On February 12, Leander “Little Bear” Watson, and his Fish and

Game Technicians Kyler Farmer and Dazshun Smith traveled to Bannock Creek and down Sands Road with their pick-ups carrying alfalfa hay, and deer pellets. Watson said every other day the hay and deer pellets are taken to the elk and placed in

strategic areas where the elk come through. The deer pellets are placed in plastic bins near the hay, and also dumped on top. The deer pellets are specially formulated for big game and can be digested by deer, and moose.

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Alcatraz Island occupation remembered



Shoshone-Bannock tribal member, Dr. LaNada War Jack, amongst occupiers invited to Alcatraz Island for the first Indian of All Tribes Day on February 13. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)

By **ROSELYNN WAHTOMY**
Sho-Ban News

SAN FRANCISCO – Morning fog cloaked Alcatraz Island on Saturday, February 13, greeting guests to the first Indians of All Tribes Day hosted by the National Park Service.

The event was meant as a celebration for the Indians of All Tribes group to remember the occupation of Alcatraz Island. Original occupiers and their families were encouraged to share their experiences with park visitors. Throughout the day talks tours, music and traditional dancing took place.

The event was in conjunction with the Centennial celebration of the National Park Service.

Historically, Alcatraz was a military fort

and federal prison. It was also a place where Hopi prisoners were imprisoned. Paiutes were also imprisoned there on murder charges.

Among the guests, were Shoshone-Bannock tribal members Dr. LaNada War Jack and Deynon Means who were presenters along with Jessica James-Grant and Claudene Boyer.

War Jack was the Chairman of the student group from UC Berkeley. She worked alongside Richard Oakes, Chairman of the student group from San Francisco State. They brought their groups together to take over the island on November 10, 1969. They left, but came back with more Native American students, who came from UCLA and other

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Dr. War Jack gave a presentation on “An Indigenous Perspective” at the event with assistance by her daughter Jessica James-Grant.

‘Alcatraz Kid’ recalls childhood



Deynon Means speaks in the Dining Hall at Alcatraz. (Rose-lynn Wahtomy photo)

By **ROSELYNN WAHTOMY**
Sho-Ban News

SAN FRANCISCO – Deynon Means had many of his earliest memories on Alcatraz Island.

It’s where he stayed with his mother, Dr. LaNada War Jack, an original occupier with the Indians of All Tribes group for 19 months when he was just a youngster.

He was given the name “Alcatraz Kid” after War’s popular song at the time, “Cisco Kid.”

Before his presentation began, he sang an

honor song for the late Richard Oakes and other occupiers who’ve passed on since the time.

He described himself as a rambunctious child. He remembers being held over the docks by his legs when he was naughty, but he didn’t feel scared.

“I just remember thinking, ‘Wow, this is cool,’” he said. He used to think Alcatraz Island is where he came from.

When the boats used to come by he remembers flipping them

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First Indians of All Tribes Day

By **ROSELYNN WAHTOMY**
Sho-Ban News

SAN FRANCISCO – Craig Glassner, with the National Park Service worked at Alcatraz Island Park for 22 years and now works in another part of the park.

When he first came to the island he thought it was a shame they didn’t really talk about the occupation because he was personally involved in an occupation at Kent State in 1977.

He began to look for people who were involved with it and those that had pictures of the event. He spent six or seven years getting this going on the island.

He’s worked to connect with occupiers



NPS Park Ranger Craig Glassner

and earn their trust to let them know that an agency of the U.S. Government wanted to tell their story and be honest about it.

“This is the first real gathering of veterans of Indians Of All Tribes,”

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WAR JACK, continued
state colleges, as well as members of their families. War Jack brought her son, Deynon, who was also known as the “Alcatraz Kid”. Her sister, Claudene, also attended Berkley and came to the Island as well as Rick Evening, who was attending San Francisco State and was one of the original 14 on the island.
She first started by describing her childhood and how she was educated first by her parents and had a strong academic foundation. Her father, Edward Qweep Boyer, was a tribal chairman who fought for land claims. His grandfather was Tah mon mah, the last war chief protecting the women and children from the sheep eater campaign.
Chief Taghee was her mother’s grandfather. Her mother was Olive Burns Boyer; she was half Bannock and half Scotch. She went through the boarding school system and had to be really tough since she had a hard time finding acceptance.
War Jack did well in school and came out on relocation through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Assimilation Program when she was 18 and lived in the Mission District. She was the first Native American student to attend UC Berkley. She was also involved in the Third World Strike group made up of various ethnic student groups on college campuses in California. She had a liberated mind that made her more prone to getting involved in causes important to her.
War Jack gave a historical perspective

on how the takeover of Alcatraz happened. She explained all tribes come from a matriarchal society, which includes following the natural laws of the ancestors and nature. In the process, no one is above the other. In the matriarchy there is respect.
She explained going into the non-Native society is where there is patriarchy, which is a hierarchy of oppression. This is what we live under today, however Natives have come to live under both worlds.
She said when they took Alcatraz they were coming out of that. There were a total of 14 original occupiers, which War Jack was one.
War Jack always looks forward to returning to the Island because it’s a place she misses, often dreams about it, even, and the ocean mist upon her face.
“It just brings back all those great feelings of how much fun we had and doing something for our people and standing up and trying to fight for our rights in the only way that we could,” said War Jack.
It was a time she describes as being young and not afraid of anything. Being cold, going hungry, living without electricity – it was not a big deal. It was just fun, she said.
The occupiers took over the Island under the Treaty of Fort Laramie that stated all retired and abandoned federal land would be returned to the Native people. The Alcatraz Penitentiary was closed in 1963 and deemed surplus federal property. It was also

occupied by a group of Sioux in 1964.
Prior to going to the Island, a student group on the mainland delivered a press release to alert the media. She recalls the first night they came over it was exciting because it was dark and were being sought by the coast guard with searchlights and from helicopters. They just hid wherever they could.
They slept on top of the Island hill and fried up bacon and eggs in the morning. They started exploring and a few of the students went out to change the sign in the front from saying, “Keep off U.S. Property” to “Keep off Indian Property.”
“We had to change the whole idea to what this land was about,” she said.
The occupation lasted 19 months, and War Jack was there most of the time. On Sunday’s she would go down to the docks and hitch a ride to the Berkley marina, go back to her apartment to cleanup and check in with her professors. The college was supportive of her, however that wasn’t so much the case elsewhere, including back home.
“The propaganda about us was really bad. That we were troublemakers, and young people,” she said.
During her time on the Island she did traveling and public relations for the cause, including several TV shows, like Johnny Carson. She took part in government relations.
The main goal of the occupiers was to expose the political issues, lack of enforcement of laws and discrimination. A plan was developed for

the Island to become Thunderbird University and have their own museum and ecological center. Make it a place where the true education of Indian people could be taught.
The occupation lasted for 19 months and was forcibly ended on June 11, 1971 by the U.S. government.
War Jack sees many of the same issues then still issues today, including broken treaties, Congress not recognizing Indian people and limiting us.
“It’s still in a very oppressive state,” she said.
Strife continues on the reservation with drugs, alcohol and violence.
After the Occupation of Alcatraz War Jack focused on her family becoming a homemaker and raising her four children, three sons and a daughter. She received her doctorate degree and went on to serve on the Fort Hall Business Council as well as Executive Director for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.
Anyone interested in learning more about why and what happened during the Alcatraz occupation can pre-purchase her book, “Colonization Battlefield: A Native American Perspective and Personal History of Oppression, Struggle and Resistance.” The first 1,000 copies are autographed and are \$29.95 plus \$7 shipping costs. Send name, address, email address, phone number and check or money order to Indigenous Visions Network at P.O. Box 2359, Pocatello, ID 83201 or go to <http://www.donning.com/colonizationbattlefield>

ELK, continued
Deer tend to form herds and stick close together as well, but moose are often by themselves or less than three to a herd.
A particular emphasis is placed on the elk not only because of their size, but also because the herd has been sighted grazing on farm lands, feeding on the fresh greens and winter wheat, and has caused some concern for the public’s safety.
“We do our best to keep the elk out of problem areas, and if need be, we will haze the animals toward the east away from the interstate and roads,” Watson said.
To ensure safety for the animals and the public, Fish and Wildlife, Public Safety, the Idaho Department of Transportation have teamed up to coordinate and share information on the herd’s movement in the area.
“Another thing that we ask from the people is that they refrain from traveling out here, and putting more stress on the wildlife. It’s tough enough that they have to deal with the snow conditions and weather. Right now it’s the temperatures that are affecting our big game species. They lose more weight quickly with colder temperatures, and we don’t need people out here stressing them out although it’s nice to see wintering animals,” Watson continued.
He also said he would rather not feed the herd for too much longer because of herd affect, which is when a lot of animals are grouped together in one area, and then one becomes sick, affecting the whole herd. But he is glad that the Tribes provide a little bit of relief for the elk during this winter. In the spring, the herd will migrate to higher elevations, and move to areas depending on the season.
“But if you do happen to see the herd, it’s a sight to see,” concluded Watson.



The water tower on Alcatraz was repainted in 2011. Other areas where messages were left by the occupants are looking to be updated in order to preserving the story of the Indian Occupation. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)



A media room dedicated to the Indian Occupation is located in the Theater building.

MEANS, continued
off, he said laughing.

He used to roam all over the island, but there were some places he wouldn’t go, like into the C and D Block.

He used to think of all the other people in the Island as family. He had many babysitters who took care of him when his mom was busy. He runs into people now and then who used to take care of him back then and they ask if he remembers them. He sometimes doesn’t.

He now resides back on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho and finds the Indian spirit that came out during the Alcatraz Occupation is still alive.

“The government can’t kill that,” he says. “They’re afraid of it, it’s really powerful.”

He said he never knew that Indians were afraid to be Indian until he moved back to the reservation, because where he came from Indians were proud to be.

He’s lived in many places, such as Idaho, Nevada, Washington D.C and South Dakota and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Means said the struggle is still going on today and the Indian people continue to fight for treaties.

“Native pride was alive and well back then,” he said, adding he’s proud to be Indian.

NPS, continued
he said. In the past, they’ve also hosted a pow-wow.
“We’re really excited to invite back people who’ve made history here on ‘The Rock’,” he said.
Many of the visitors to Alcatraz that day took part in the Indians of All Tribes sessions, some didn’t know about the history of the occupation or it was a military fortress that held Indians of Tribes.
“We’re really glad that now when they come out to the island they can learn about these, sometimes more important stories than the fact that Al Capone was here.”
Glassner said it’s not his choice whether the gathering continues annually but he hopes it does.

**American Indian Probate Reform Act
An Overview AIPRA**



**February 25, 2016 Tribal Chambers - Fort Hall, ID
Two Sessions: 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM
ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

Presenters:

- Gus Kerndt, Fort Hall BIA OST Fiduciary Trust Officer
- Laura Edmo, Fort Hall BIA Probate Contact Representative
- Alfreda Nagitsy, Fort Hall BIA Legal Administrative Specialist (Probate)



**Housing Presentation Shoshone-Bannock Hotel
February 23, 2016 Time: 4:30p.m. - 9:30p.m.
Deka Gahni Deli Room
Special Discounts to those who attend.
Tribal Lending available
Come anytime between 4:30p.m. and 9:30p.m.**

