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OWNED BY THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

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Local men share powwow dancing knowledge



Clyde Duke Dixey talks about feather bustle. (Joseph Wadsworth photo)

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

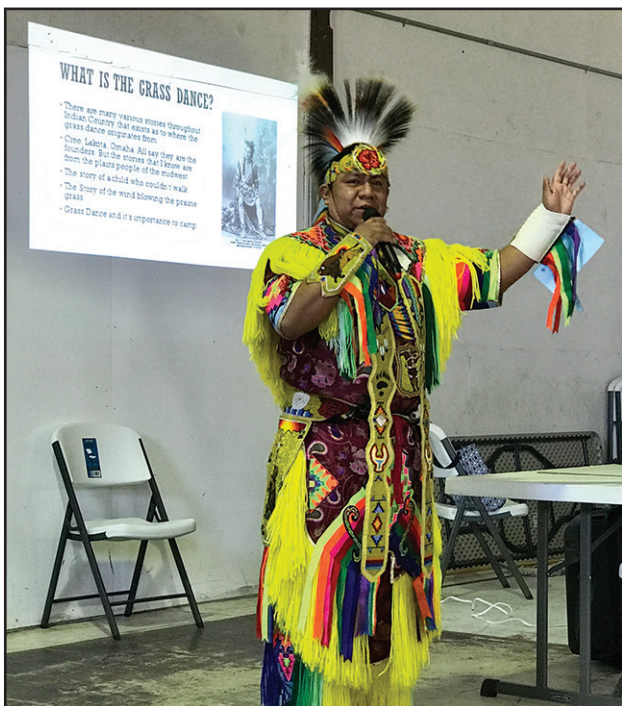
GIBSON — In an effort to teach youth and adults Tyson Shay, Hunter Osborne and Clyde Duke Dixey, Sr. presented grass, fancy and traditional dance styles at Eagle Lodge March 11.

Tyson Shay said he wants to help all young people including his son. In a PowerPoint presentation he explained what the grass dance is saying there are various stories throughout Indian Country on the origin of the dance. The Cree, Lakota and Omaha say they are the founders but the stories he's aware of is that it's from the Plains people of the Midwest. One story is about a child who couldn't walk and another story is about the wind blowing the prairie grass.

Shay said when he serves as an emcee at various powwows; he wants to represent himself, his family and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in a good way. He utilizes the Shoshone language in his work even though he's not fluent.

He said dancing is good for one's health and he wants to be able to dance strong and with his head held high, "Be proud of who you are because you're representing your family and your people," he said. Getting up and speaking in front of people helps him be assertive.

Shay has a lot of respect for dancing and singing – he tries to be humble, help people and



Tyson Shay PowerPoint presentation in Men's Grass style.

carry his self as a respectful person. He does his own sewing making his regalia and doing his own beadwork. He joked he's messed up about four his mom's sewing machines but he got the style he wanted.

He emphasized that regalia or an outfit is not a costume. "A costume is Halloween," Shay continued. "An outfit or regalia represents something."

Shay has been dancing since he could walk and started out as a traditional dancer when he lived in Washington where he also learned to hoop dance. He evolved into grass dancing when he was about 12 years old. He learned to dance by watching other people and also from his stepdad Tibbs Ridley.

Regarding his regalia, he uses a lot of yellow – his family colors – because it brings light, energy and healing. He beaded a buffalo on his cuffs, also has a bear on his outfit because it was on his tso tso's memory card and a bull rider because he used to ride bulls back in the day. He also has floral designs because he's Shoshone, eagle feathers, water birds and an eagle head.

Shay said he's met a lot of people while dancing and he's been singing for over 30 years. He started the drum group Medicine Thunder in part to teach his nephews, son and others to sing.

Hunter Osborne is a fancy dancer. He moved back to Fort Hall when he was 11 – his father is Artie



Dixey explains regalia significance. (Lori Edmo-Suppah photo)

Osborne and grandfather is the late Enos Osborne. His mother Cheryl Johnson is from Pyramid Lake, Nevada. He wanted to get to know his family again as he knew his Fort Hall side were dancers as well. His first inspiration to dance fancy was while he was in high school when he watched the late Phillip Kaiyou in a Native American dance theatre presentation. In the early 90s, he sang with the Sage Point Singers – got familiar with songs before putting his bustles on. "I picked up dancing kind of late relative to other powwow people," he continued. "Sitting at that drum, learning the songs, being around it, made me have an interest to dance."

He started with nothing, "I just sat down and blundered through the feathers – I thought I was good enough to get out there." He talked with the late James Osborne and Lionel Boyer and they both told him, if you want to get out there and dance, then do it. They advised him he didn't need all the fancy stuff, just get out there, be strong, keep going and don't give up.

Osborne said it was hard at first because people laughed at him but he developed a thick skin adding, "The more you know, the more you're out there." He said the more people you meet, more confidence is developed. "The best thing I can tell you is don't



Men's fancy dancer Hunter Osborne speaks.

get discouraged – keep going with whatever you start and work hard." He's not an authority on this stuff, he said, as there's other veterans around here in this dance style.

"Talk to everybody – get a well-rounded perspective," he said.

Hunter said he's been dancing for a while but he's still paying his dues. "I See **DANCING**, page 11

Opponents of Dakota Pipeline bring message to Trump

WASHINGTON (AP) — With options dwindling to stop construction of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, American Indians and their supporters brought their message to President Donald Trump on Friday with rallies outside the White House and his Washington hotel.

Even if the pipeline is completed, the protest movement has been successful because it has called attention to the issue of tribal sovereignty, participants said.

The final, disputed section of the pipeline would pass under a reservoir that provides drinking water to the Standing Rock Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux reservations. The tribes and their supporters say the pipeline threatens their religious rights and water supply.

Tom Goldtooth, executive director

of the Indigenous Environmental Network, said Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners would ultimately pay a price for disregarding the tribes' religious beliefs.

"We have not lost this battle," Goldtooth said. "Nothing will ever go right for those corporations. It's only a matter of time before it will fall flat on its face."

A federal judge this week declined to halt construction of the final section of the pipeline, meaning oil could begin flowing through it as early as next week. The disputed section would pass under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. The pipeline stretches from North Dakota to Illinois.

The Obama administration halted construction of the pipeline, but Trump

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Native nations march on Washington event. (Layha Spoonhunter Facebook photo)

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don't worry about it, I get out there and want to jam. I want to kick some butt out there and dance for the people too – make my family feel good.”

Dancing has provided some opportunities for him and his wife Karen, who is a fancy shawl dancer. They traveled with a dance troupe back east and also went to Ireland with Hovia Edwards. He added Tyson mentioned fancy dancing is an all around spring – it's similar to playing run and gun basketball non-stop for a whole eight minutes. “You have to work hard at your craft, watch other dancers and practice.”

An audience member asked how he keeps in shape. He replied one has to do what works for them – you need to last at least three songs in a row without stopping. His regimen is he usually runs four or five miles a day four times a week. He focuses on cardio but also lifts weights to avoid injury. At night he dances two to three songs but when powwows start up he does five to eight songs, five times a week. He acknowledged he doesn't go to as many powwows as he would like because of economics, “but I go when I can.”

His son Wrendon, 12, is also a fancy dancer and does the roadwork but plays a lot to keep in

shape.

Concerning his regalia, he explained he had to use some creativity and put his beaded top from his moccasins over a pair of shoes because he kept blowing the soles out. “Whatever works for you,” he said but at competition powwows he pays attention to the rules and always keeps his regular moccasins as a backup. He also does his own sewing – did his own beadwork and made his bustles. Hunter said feather work could be expensive – from \$300 to \$400 and half that cost for youth bustles. His sister Erica made his cuffs and he now makes roaches.

He said it felt pretty cool when he first started dancing as he learned by observing others but now he laughs when he looks back but, “It's all good.” He didn't get serious about fancy dancing until 1996. He sang for a while first and a memorable moment is when he won the Shoshone-Bannock Festival fancy dancing. Hunter added the Festival is a good place to dance because there's a lot of big drums and a good pow-wow.

He's worked for more than 20 years with the Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department and is currently the Resident Fisheries Manager. He has a degree in biology from

Idaho State University and is currently working on a Master's degree.

Hunter encourages parents to take their kids to powwows if they want to learn, “If kids are shy, go out there with them until they're not shy.” He also said don't be afraid to ask questions as there's a lot of help out there.

Both Hunter and Tyson said it helps to learn the songs. Both danced their different styles and answered questions.

Clyde “Duke” Dixey Sr. was the final presenter and explained the different parts of his regalia. He talked about the significance of his beadwork, how he made his bells and other parts of his outfit. He wasn't able to dance his style that day because of a knee injury but said his father taught him about making warbonnets and the use of eagle feathers. He encouraged youth to learn the different ceremonial dances and the songs that go with them. He has previously done workshops on the old style of dancing.

Each of the presenters had their regalia displayed and explained the different pieces.

On Saturday, March 18 at 9 a.m. another workshop will be conducted on making the different styles of regalia at Eagle Lodge. A limited amount of supplies will be available.



Clyde Duke Dixey instructs bell making to Emery Jake. (Lori Edmo-Suppah photo)



Hunter Osborne explains his dance regalia to youth. (Joseph Wadsworth photo)

Navajo Nation officer dies after shooting, suspect caught

PREWITT, N.M. (AP) — A police officer from the nation's largest American Indian reservation was killed in western New Mexico and a suspect is in custody, federal officials said.

Navajo Nation Officer Houston James Largo, 27, was critically wounded after responding to a domestic violence call near the small town of Prewitt, said Frank A. Fisher, an FBI spokesman in Albuquerque. The agency, which is investigating along with the tribe, released no other details.

Largo was flown to the University of New Mexico Hospital and died hours later Sunday.

“Our nation mourns for you as does the country,” Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said in a statement. “Our officers' lives are precious. They are the ones who stand guard over our nation and protect us.”

He said earlier Sunday that tribal officers are well-trained but face danger.

“Our officers put themselves in highly volatile situations every day in addressing domestic violence situations,” Begaye said.

He said the tribe recently upgraded equipment and protective devices for its police department.

Begaye says Largo was from Thoreau, New Mexico,

and had served with the department for 4 1/2 years. The FBI said Largo had five years of service. The Associated Press could not immediately reconcile the two numbers.

The tribal president said he appreciated a call from New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez and her offer to help after the shooting.

“This sad news reinforces the dangers our police officers face every day — so we and our families don't have to,” Martinez said in a statement. “I'm confident the monster who took this brave officer from us will face the full measure of justice.”

New Mexico State Police and the McKinley County Sheriff's Office also were assisting with the investigation.

Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez called for support and respect of officers from the Navajo Nation, which covers 27,425 square miles in portions of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico.

“Our Navajo Nation police officers risk their lives every day to protect our communities,” Nez said in the statement. “Officer Largo is a great example of an officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the life of another.”

Idaho couple face criminal charges after dead horses & cattle found on property

BOISE (AP) — A couple in southwestern Idaho is facing criminal charges after officials say they found several dead animals on their property.

KTVB-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2mjf77K>) the man and woman, who have not yet been identified, are charged with 23 counts each of animal cruelty and failure to feed and water animals.

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office says it received a call in January about dead horses and

cattle on a property in Grand View.

Deputy Sheriff Larry Kendrick says there were six dead horses and nine dead cows and some had been frozen into the ground.

Officials say the animals found alive were malnourished and neglected.

The sheriff's office seized 22 horses and most of them have been purchased by Idaho Horse Rescue.

The couple was expected to appear in court Monday.

RALLY, continued

gave it the green light to start again with an executive order. A court hearing in the ongoing legal fight against the pipeline is not expected until at least April.

Hundreds of people participated in Friday's march, which began at the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters. The agency manages the Missouri River and last month gave Energy Transfer Partners permission to finish the project. Protesters also erected a teepee outside Trump's hotel.

The rally revealed divisions among the pipeline opponents. Dave Archambault, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, was booed and heckled by some in the crowd who called him “DAPL Dave” and accused him of being complicit with the bulldozing of a camp where thousands of protesters had lived.

“We are not defeated. We are not victims,” Archambault said. “An obstacle is also an opportunity.”

Mark Charles, a Navajo writer, speaker and activist who lives in

Washington, said the activism around the pipeline has drawn new attention to the “dehumanization” of Native Americans. He and other protesters called on the Catholic Church to revoke 15th-Century documents that they said underpinned the treatment of Indians as inferior.

“America has to decide, does it want to be a nation where ‘We the People’ means all the people?” Charles said. “We need to stop talking about how great we are.”

Sho-Ban News deadline is every Friday at 4:30 p.m.

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