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OWNED BY THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

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# FHBC Chairman Blaine Edmo steps down, council seat opens

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY

Sho-Ban News

POCATELLO – The Fort Hall Business Council (FHBC) now have a vacancy due to the recent notice of voluntary retirement by Chairman Blaine Edmo on April 17.

The April 18 date will begin a 60-day time frame to hold a special General Election, which will take place on Friday, June 16 to fill the vacancy. Qualified tribal members interested in running for the FHBC may pickup applications at the Tribal Administration office beginning April 18 and the deadline is May 18.

According to a press release issued from Randy L Teton, public affairs manager, Edmo's written notice cited his personal health concerns and his family's well being as a reason to step down after 15 years of public service.

Vice Chairman Darrell Shay will fill the role of Acting Chairman until after the upcoming general election and the new officers are appointed. This is in accordance with the Tribal Constitution, Article V, Section 1, a separate election will occur in order to fill the vacant position.

Edmo's retirement falls on the heels

of some tribal members questioning his ethics, concerning his involvement with drawing or issuing checks with insufficient funds at the Trading Post Grocery Store from 2004 to 2008 for over \$15,000.

In Edmo's notice to the Fort Hall Business Council and the general membership of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes he stated, "Recently there have been Social Media posts that have implied that I am not the person to hold office due to these allegations. I have long since paid all debts in full back at the time of the allegations. The allegations made against other people I can't address."

Edmo's full letter can be read in the Sho-Ban News opinion page.

Darrell Shay will assume the Ross Fork District meetings for now.

Tribal member Sheryl Slim took out a recall petitions on FHBC Chairman Blaine Edmo and Vice-Chairman Darrell Shay for the reason of having a vote of no confidence of the leadership, which is due April 20 at 5 p.m. She will need to produce a total of 409 signatures.

Zelberta Begay from the Election Board advised Edmo's recall is now void. Shay's recall status is unknown as of press deadline.

## Miss Shoshone-Bannock prepares for MIW pageant

FORT HALL — A meet and greet for Miss Shoshone-Bannock Taylor Haskett is April 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the Tribal Business Center Dome Room as she is vying for Miss Indian World April 25 to 29 at the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, N.M.

All hand drum singers are invited. Cake will be served. In addition, Taylor will be selling raffle tickets for \$2.50 each.

For her talent, Taylor is telling the Creation story – the Water people (animals) version. Her mother Bobette said as she is telling the story she

will demonstrate wrapping her hair in otter furs. She will be wearing a buckskin dress and her props include a beaver pelt, otter pelt and muskrat pelt. Taylor trapped the beavers and muskrats with her father Russell and her brother Tim.

Taylor has sold the

required number of raffle tickets to run for the title, however she still has some available for sale.

Bobette and Tim will be traveling with her to Albuquerque while her father Russell and sister Mia will stay at home because she can't miss school.



MSB Taylor Haskett. (Photo courtesy of Necha Mendoza)

## Culture & traditions kept alive with Ceremonial Buffalo Hunt

By ROSELYNN WAHTOMY

Sho-Ban News

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. – The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes tenth annual Ceremonial Buffalo Hunt brought families and community together at the National Elk Refuge on Thursday, April 13.

Prior to the start of the hunt, tribal elder Carlino Broncho said a prayer for the hunters to help with protection and so things would be done the right way.

The five hunters selected from the tribes were chosen among veterans, elders and youth – each of them an experienced hunter. This years hunters were Jack Dixey; Rick Yellowhair; Bruce Baldwin Jr., TeeJay Appenay; and Theodore Means.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are allowed to take five buffalo every year, explained Claudio Broncho, Fish & Wildlife Policy Representative.

"This is our backyard, our homeland that we traveled through and camped through here in the history. We got cultural sites that are here on the refuge," he said, adding other tribes do too, such as the Eastern Shoshone.

The meat is used for subsistence for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes throughout the year at social gatherings such as the Camas Prairie Homecoming, Agai-Dika Gathering, Bannock Reunion, Shoshonean Reunion, some of the Sundances and funerals.

The hunters can keep the skulls, hides and whatever parts of the buffalo they want, so long as every part of the buffalo is used.

"We come from buffalo people – we use that buffalo in a sacred way because we utilize them in our ceremonies," said Broncho.

The tribal people respect the buffalo and do the best they can to keep the culture and traditions



From left, spotter Gaylen Dixey with hunters Jack Dixey, Rick Yellowhair, Bruce Baldwin Jr., TeeJay Appenay and Theodore Means. (Roselynn Wahtomy photos)



Youth observe as the buffalo hunted by TeeJay Appenay is prepared for transport.

alive. The youth hunter signifies the future and is the one who will fill the shoes of seasoned hunters.

The Shoshone-Bannock people have their own buffalo on the Fort Hall reservation, where they also have hunts. They also have a treaty right where they go to hunt buffalo in the West Yellowstone/Gardiner, Mont. area.

Fish & Game Captain Game Warden, Tom Wadsworth, directed each



A sharp knife is used to skin the hide off a buffalo.



A buffalo roams the National Elk Refuge on the sunny morning of the hunt on April 13.



Shoshone-Bannock elder Carlino Broncho speaks to participants prior to the prayer.



Payton Sequints cedars his daughter Taylee.



The families of hunters use binoculars to watch the hunt.

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