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Sho-Ban News

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

LOCAL

Yellowstone buffalo issues discussed at RMTLC meeting


HEALTH

Infant and toddler car seats and booster seats distributed


SPORTS

Fort Hall Classic Tournament results



Survival mode for Classic players



Keith, Glen and Dale Johnson from the Makah Nation team traveled 900 miles to play in the Fort Hall Classic Tournament over the weekend. (Lori Edmo-Suppa photo)

By LORI EDMO-SUPPAH

Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — For some of the 65 plus Fort Hall Classic participants who play in the tourney it isn't about winning or losing – it's about surviving.

That is what Dale Johnson, 72, of the Makah Nation said as he laughed with his brothers Glen, 69, and Keith, 65, in the Fort Hall Recreation office April 10. The three brothers travel over 900 miles to play in the tourney and for Dale, he's competed in the tourney for over 30 years.

He said the Fort Hall tourney is like a nucleus where players come together from every direction. "We all like to play basketball and it's a real good tourney," he said. "We look forward to it every year."

The Makah Nation (people generous with food in the Salish language) is a whaling tribe on the northwest tip of the United States in Neah Bay, Washington. The tribe's web site says they are the "Cape People," and are the beginning of the world.

Whale is a traditional food source of the Makah but they've only been able to harvest one in 1999. Younger brother Keith is the chairman of the Makah Whaling Commission and he said the issue is hung up in court with public comment on an environmental impact statement. He said it took years to get permits to harvest the one gray whale and it lasted a couple of weeks among their tribal people. They are just exercising their treaty rights but anti whalers have fought against them.

Dale said they've

known Mike Sakelaris forever, "I hope he never retires," he continued. Their team just got done playing against Spirit Lake and Glen said he played against Spirit Lake team member Mike Jordan when in high school.

About four years ago Glen had a scare after the tourney ended, he ended up with congestive heart failure, had heart surgery at Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello and ended up staying for 30 days. Dale stayed behind with him and joked Glen liked Idaho so much he has an "I" scar on his chest.

Fort Hall Recreation Director Mike Sakelaris said many of the Classic players have interesting stories – some played in high school or college. The tourney began in 1975 as a 30 and over event when six teams competed at Fort Hall Elementary School. Sakelaris, Wayne and Roger George organized it. Jack Edmo had a team, along with the Tindore brothers. As the players grew older then more divisions were added he said to what it is today.

"This is the most fun of all the tourneys – it's like a homecoming where they all come together and it's not about winning or losing it's about being here to see whose still around," he continued.

Sakelaris believes next year there will be more 65 plus team's, as players grow older. In addition, the 2016 event will be the Wayne George Memorial tourney. A ceremony was done in Wayne's honor prior to All Nations game on April 9. Tom LaPlante did a prayer while Spring Creek Singers sang an honor

song. He said Wayne's ex wife Patricia spoke, along with his niece Rose Ann Abrahamson.

He said all together 46 teams played in the Classic. A total of 48 teams entered but two didn't show. Sakelaris figured between 450 and 500 players competed. "When you think about the awards that's 200 pieces of clothing," he continued plus the trophies. "This is the most expensive tourney.

Ernie Bighorn of the Brockton, Montana team said he's been coming to the tourney for 40 years. He's from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and plays with his brothers who've been playing basketball since they were five years old. "We seldom pick up new players," he continued. "We come here because of the atmosphere – with that many teams coming here, it's amazing how it's put together."

Bighorn said there are a lot of good people involved and the people on the Fort Hall Reservation are very hospitable – they treat them well and welcome them. "It's a privilege coming to this tourney and next year our children will be playing," Bighorn said.

He's glad that it's non-alcohol and wants to stay on the "Red Road." "I believe in honesty and integrity."

The Bighorns drive upwards of 12 hours from southeastern Montana and Ernie says about the only thing he would suggest for a rule change is for players not be able to jump on teams if they think they're good. "It's not fair to those who want to participate in a good way."

Environment & climate change impact



Kelly Wright speaks at the environmental workshop during the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council meeting. (Alexandria Alvarez photos)

By ALEXANDRIA ALVAREZ

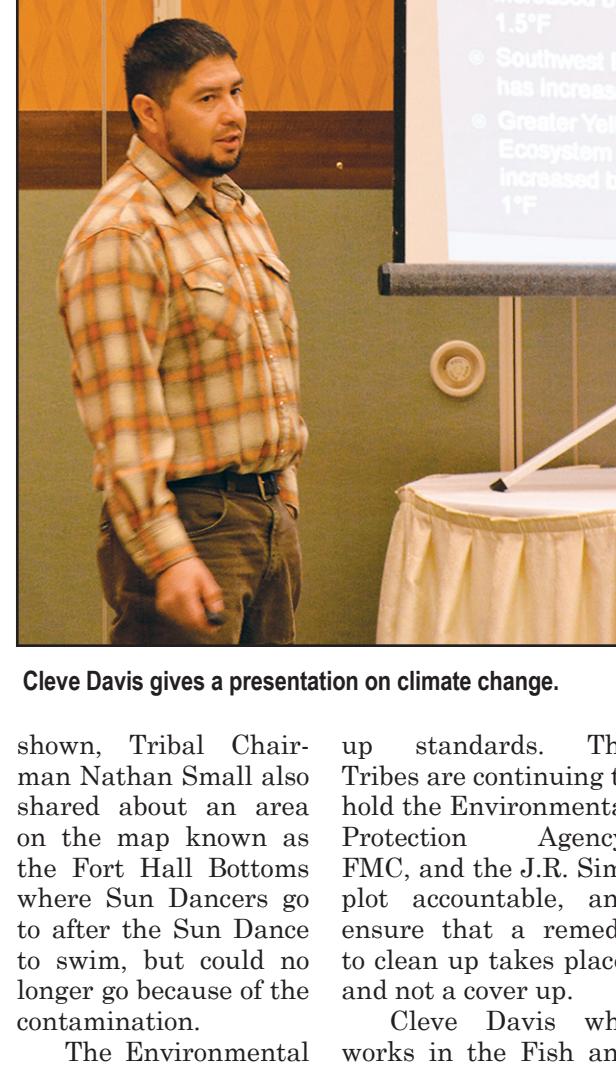
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — During the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council meeting, many topics were discussed including issues affecting the area — both environmentally and climate wise — in the homeland of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The Tribes Land Use Department's Environmental Waste Management program gave a presentation on the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site Environmental Waste Management. Susan Hanson and Kelly Wright explored the former FMC Corporation, and the J.R. Simplot Company Don Plant Clean up plan, which sits adjacent to the plant.

"All of these things are impacting tribal resources both on and off the reservation: ground water, surface water soil vegetation, ecosystem, wildlife impacts. Every metal in the periodic chart is getting into the ground water and into the Portneuf," said Hanson.

An aerial view of the area that encapsulated the plants were



Cleve Davis gives a presentation on climate change.

shown, Tribal Chairman Nathan Small also shared about an area on the map known as the Fort Hall Bottoms where Sun Dancers go to after the Sun Dance to swim, but could no longer go because of the contamination.

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued an interim record of decision on the area, and has struggled to recognize the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes clean

- Idaho has increased by about 1°F
- Pacific Northwest increased by 1.5°F
- Southwest Region has increased by 1°F
- Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has increased by 1°F

2015 Idaho Legislature outcome

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Legislature adjourned early Saturday morning after spending 90 days introducing new bills and fine-tuning Idaho's laws.

The session was alternately contentious and congenial, with lawmakers, lobbyists and state executives sparring over instant horse racing machines, child support enforcement and some budget decisions.

Lawmakers didn't get everything they wanted, but top issues such as increased education funding and a solution to help make a dent to Idaho's transportation revenue shortfalls were accomplished.

Here are some of the highlights of the 2015 session:

MAJOR BILLS PASSED:**• TEACHER PAY HIKE**

A sweeping 7.4 percent education budget increase to next year's state budget means that Idaho teachers are finally getting a raise. Rookie teacher salaries will boost by almost \$1,000 up to \$32,700 per year in July. Over the next five years, if lawmakers continue to allocate funding, first-year teachers will make \$37,000

each year. The plan also includes accountability guidelines that provide oversight for the expensive proposal.

• TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

After several failed plans and proposals, it took a special six-member conference committee to negotiate a \$95 million compromise that partially addresses Idaho's roads funding shortfall. The proposal to raise fuel taxes by 7 cents per gallon and increase registration fees by \$21 will still address less than half of the \$262 million shortfall that the state has faced each year since 2010 just to maintain its crumbling roads and bridges.

• CONCEALED CARRY

The Idaho Legislature clarified that Idahoans can carry concealed weapons outside city limits with a permit. In a broad rewrite of the state's weapons code, lawmakers also set guidelines for safety courses and fees that counties can charge for permits. However, lawmakers did not remove a controversial provision that lets lawmakers carry concealed

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