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**Memorial**  
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**EDUCATION**  
**Rez Wide**  
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**Games Fastpitch Softball**

# SHO-BAN NEWS

COVERING IDAHO & INDIAN COUNTRY

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**OWNED BY THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES** **VISIT US ON FACEBOOK & AT SHOBANNEWS.COM**

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*Telling the stories that honor our past,  
 define our present & shape our future...*

## Enemy grass overtaking camas



Tribal elder Zelphia Towersap points at invasive grass roots in the hands of Original Territories Researcher Bailey Dann as Yvette Towersap looks on. (Lori Ann Edmo photos)



Garrison's creeping meadow foxtail is seen overcoming the camas at the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh.

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

FAIRFIELD — Woho sonnip – enemy grass, otherwise known as Garrison's creeping meadow foxtail has taken over upwards of 30% of the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh near Fairfield.

Camas is a traditional food source of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and a second Bannock War is being waged on the enemy grass so the camas will continue to grow. The Camas Prairie was included in the 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty but the area was excluded because of a stenographer error spelling it Kansas Prairie.

Major Jim, a Shoshone-Bannock leader, said in 1877, "We cannot eat without food and the camas root has always been our food. When the camas is destroyed our children will suffer from hunger. We never sold or gave away the Camas Prairie. We had nothing to do with any treaty which would take it away from us."

The invasive grass was introduced in the late 1800s for grazing purposes. It spreads rapidly through rhizomes (plant stem that sends out roots and also creeps) according to a brochure the Tribes Language and Culture Preservation Department developed. The grass forms a mat blocking sunlight to camas plants. It doubles in size every three to five years.

Tribal member Yvette



Close up of garrison's creeping meadow foxtail. (Joseph Wadsworth photo)



Susan Avila smiles as she collects camas at the Camas Prairie Homecoming on June 8. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

Towersap, whose family returns every year to harvest camas during the Camas Prairie Homecom-

ing, said "It used to have a lot of purple at this time of year but now it's really

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## FHBC seat new officers



Fort Hall Business Council, from left, Treasurer Sammy Matsaw Jr.; Member Devon Boyer; Secretary Ladd Edmo; Vice Chairwoman Donna Thompson; Chairman Lee Juan Tyler; Sergeant At Arms Ronald Todd Appenay; Member Nancy Eschief-Murillo.

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

FORT HALL — The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council Chambers was filled with anticipation June 11 as interim Fort Hall Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent Veronica Herkshan gave the oath of office to elected Fort Hall Business Council members Ronald Todd Appenay, Donna Thompson and Devon Boyer.

FHBC officers: Lee Juan Tyler will remain chairman while Donna Thompson will continue as vice chairperson. Ladd Edmo is the secretary and Sam Matsaw will serve as treasurer. Ronald Todd Appenay was voted as sergeant at arms.

Boyer and Eschief-Murillo are the Fort Hall District representatives, Thompson and Edmo are the Gibson District representatives. Tyler is



Newly elected officers Donna Thompson, Devon Boyer and Ronald Todd Appenay take the oath of office on Tuesday, June 11. (Roselynn Yazzie photos)

the Lincoln Creek District representative while Matsaw is the Bannock Creek District representative. Appenay is the Ross Fork

District representative. The morning began with tribal elder Doyle Punkin giving the prayer.

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## Participants take part in Camas Prairie Homecoming

**By OLIVIA YOKOYAMA**  
**Sho-Ban News**

FAIRFIELD — The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes hosted the annual Camas Prairie Homecoming in Fairfield on June 7-8 where the camas harvest began and an introduction at the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh.

Bailey Dann and Nolan Brown of the Language and Culture Program Original Territories office, described how the camas is being invaded and suffocated by the invasive grasses. When the gathering began Dann said, "These are our homelands that we came to for thousands of years and our ancestors were here and hear us, and the plants hear us so it is to have those good thoughts when we're out there."

Nolan Brown urged attendees to grab the camas bulb and once that bulb is removed, the purple flower would be replanted back into the ground in hopes for transplant.

Bobette Wildcat-Haskett who has attended for many years and very active in having her family participate and continuing their culture passing it on to her daughter Taylor

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Aaron Auck shows a harvested camas bulb.



Wendy Galloway rakes up the invasive grass as Sam Galloway observes. (Olivia Yokoyama photos)



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ENEMY, continued

sparse – it's still here but it's a little more work." The bulbs are there, it's the grass roots that's the problem and she sees a lot more of the invasive grass.

She believes it's a real problem, "I think that it's something that we should pay attention to because my fear is, you know, it's only been a few short years and seeing the reduced number of camas that are blooming is really alarming because where else are we going to get this?"

"It's important for us to keep harvesting and keep cooking in the traditional way because this is an important food and it's something I try to teach my kids and my grandchildren," Towersap continued. "We need to keep coming back and if the plant is not here, that worries me because I think that it will make people not come back here and we will lose the importance of the land, of the place here."

Bailey Dann, LCPD Original Territories Historic researcher, was busy pulling the woho sonnipp at yambadai and placing

the invasive grass in trash bags then later placed them into a trailer Idaho Fish and Game provided to transport away from the marsh. "And so if we don't do anything at all within the next 10 years, this whole prairie will be covered by this grass that chokes out the camas due to the way that it grows."

She noted the Tribes have partnered with Idaho Fish and Game to come up with a management plan to eradicate this grass that will be a year's long effort. "There's not an overnight solution," she continued. "Especially as we know this is where our traditional foods come from, our newe dikkup. And so we want to be able to still harvest our newe dikkup. And in order to do that we cannot use chemicals." She said they're going to explore different chemical-free methods to eradicate the grass. "And so essentially that means a lot of elbow grease, a lot of hand pulling. And so we need as many people as possible from all walks of life, from the community around here, from our



Original Territories Manager, Nolan Brown, with his daughter, wants to work hard to bring the camas back. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

tribal community, anyone and everyone that we can get to help us with this second Bannock War."

Bailey explained when the grass dies it becomes a thick covering over the camas plants. If nothing is done about the invasive grass, it will be the only thing that grows. "Instead of yumba dai (wild carrot land) or Camas Prairie, will become the Garrisons prairie."

Nolan Brown, Tribes Original Territories manager, said he could only imagine what is was over 200 years ago for our tribal people. "And so it makes me want to work extra hard to get it back to that

because it's like we have this beautiful garden here and we were prevented on tending to it. So I feel like now that we're back in it, we spent the day pulling these invasive grasses and our tribal members too were harvesting our pasigo (camas) that it knows now, the land knows, pasigo knows, we are going to take care of it."

"I really appreciate the help that we had today from all of our tribal people who made it out and as well as the volunteers from other organizations, non-tribal people that are also aware of the problem and willing to help us out," Brown said.

Concerning the significance of the traditional food, in his own personal journey in learning about his family history, he descends from Chief Egan who fought in the Bannock War. "How many of our people fought and died for these lands for these foods and that's how important it is enough that our ancestors gave up their lives for they put it into the treaty because they seen that our newenaipse – our Indian way of life and our newe tekka were that important to us for our wellness so we can have a good life," He said it's not easy to come out here and dig these bulbs, have

to be mobile, you have to bend around, it's wet, it's not easy. "We're choosing this mode of being in order to be a pasigodika (camas eater) – you pray for that, let that food be your medicine, your sustenance, all your healing it's all part of that natural cycle that we are in, it's not separate from. This has been ongoing for thousands of years, it's not going to be us that breaks that cycle, we're going to keep it going."

FHBC, continued

Fort Hall Veterans Association members Frances Goli, Nolan and Reggie Thorpe posted the colors as the Spring Creek Singers sang. Gifferd Osborne brought in the eagle staff and Miss Shoshone-Bannock Develynn Hall danced behind him.

The chambers filled with cedar smoke as Franklin Devinney and Anthony Pete Broncho smudged council members and the audience.

Spring Creek Singers also sang an honor song prior to the FHBC selecting officers.

Prior to the election of officers, Chairman Tyler acknowledge outgoing council members Gaylen Edmo and Claudia Washakie. He appreciated the dedicated work, "They did the best for us all." He said the council all witnessed something good from them noting being on the council is a difficult position. "We're really proud to be sitting up here and leading our Tribes," he continued. "I know Claudia did an awesome job following her secretarial position – she had all kinds of notes and made sure that we had everything in place."

Tyler said Gaylen did an awesome job helping out with policies – keeping them going with all the legal issues out there.

Washakie said it's been a pleasure and a learning experience, "And it's a tough job. You can't please everybody all of the time but you got to do the best that you can regardless." "Like Lee Juan said you always got to revert back to your Constitution as well as ordinances." She said she enjoyed her time on the council, "thank you."

Gaylen said today's about the new members and seating them in a good way. "I just want to say I wish you the best, all three of you." "And I just want to urge the council there's just one issue that I think rises to the top and it's this Wyoming hunting issue. And I hope the council takes that and continues to push it with the staff. I think we're at a point in time in our tribe's history right now where there's no better time for us to wade into this. And we need to get it done."

"Thank you to all of our people out there that supported me. Thank you to you old timers too that shared a lot of your knowledge with me specifically Nathan sitting over there and Darrell," he continued. "Thank you and the council that I served with. This one and the prior council. It was an honor." He said he appreciated the time and the experience to be able to serve with them.

# SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES CAR SEAT CHECK

## Date and Location:

- **Date:** June 18th, 2024
- **Time:** 10AM-4PM
- **Location:** Sho-Ban school on the North side of the building.

## Qualifications to get car seat:

- Child hasn't received a car seat from us in the past two years.
- Child must have an IHS chart.

## Activities:

- Car seat check: Check the safety of your child's car seat.
- Car Seat distribution: car seat given to those in need.

## Contact Us:

THHS, Health Education  
Amanda Lyons: (208)238-5495  
Elizabeth Jim: (203)478-3906

Note: All children must have a chart with the Not-Tsoo Gah-Nee Indian Health Center. If you have already received a car seat from our program within the 2 years you will not be eligible to receive another one. questions? Contact the Health Education Program  
Sponsored by the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program CPS and The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Health and Human Services, Health Education Program.