



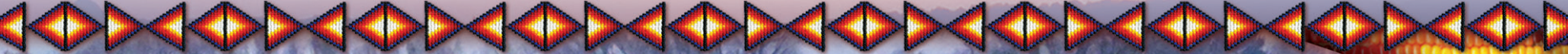
LOCAL
Sho-Ban Tribes
hosts annual Idaho
Legislative Reception



LOCAL
Preston Buckskin
new Land Use
Dept. director



SPORTS
BHS girls freshman &
JV teams fall to Bees,
varsity scores win



SHO-BAN NEWS

COVERING IDAHO & INDIAN COUNTRY

VOLUME 49, Issue 4 | THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

OWNED BY THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES | shobannews.com

\$1.00

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
POCATELLO, ID
PERMIT NO. 91

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

**VISIT US
ON FACEBOOK!**

Annual Gathering of Native Americans aims to promote healing



GONA facilitator Idella King speaks to attendees at the Sho-Ban Casino Hotel Chiefs Event center on January 27.

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

FORT HALL — A prevention gathering to heal from historic trauma and promote healing is the intent of the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) said workshop organizers that is happening January 27 to 30 at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel.

Facilitators are Idella King, Leon LeaderCharge and C. Allison Baez from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHSA) training center.

Rainelle Edmo, Waapi Kani (Cedar House) staff member and Alcohol and Drug Task Force member, said a grant was applied for through SAMSHSA to pay for the facilitators travel. Food cost came from the opioid settlement funds the Tribes received. The Fort Hall Business Council directed the Task Force to have a community event. She wanted to acknowledge the late Donna Honena as she touched a lot of



Miss E. Shoshone Indian Days Princess Gabrielle Apenay does the lords prayer.

lives around here, “I just really want to acknowledge her because she cared for our community and she was always there for our people. And so you know, just wanted to be that person to carry on for our people,” because she was one that did care and she was one who did start this task force way back, gosh I don’t even know when, before my time she said.

Fort Hall Police Chief Pat Teton is the Alcohol and Drug Task Force vice chairman. He’s worked for the Tribes for 27 years —



Local royalty and flag bearers stand during the opening ceremony. (Bree Baker photos)



Joyce Hayes speaks at GONA (right) along with Rainelle Edmo, Waapi Kani (Cedar House) staff member and Alcohol and Drug Task Force Member.

12 as police chief. The task force came about 10-12 years ago after the issues were discussed with the FHBC. Substance abuse is a big issue and it’s not just a police issue or Tribal Health issue. “It’s an issue for every department that the Tribe has whether it be 477, at Recreation or at the Trading Post, alcohol and drug issues touch every area. I think everybody in here, including myself,

have family members that it has touched. So, with that said, we formed a committee. And with the committee we try to do different things,” he continued. He said the Task Force wants the community to be healthy because many are tribal members and believes they’re doing the best they can. The Police Department goes out and does drug recognition trainings for the different

departments and they’re always present at community events.

“With this drug and alcohol task force, it’s been a slow road, but that’s just the way it goes,” Teton continued. “When you’re trying to heal an issue, it just doesn’t happen overnight. We didn’t get this problem overnight, and it’s not going to be solved overnight.”

See GONA, page 8

Trump White House rescinds order freezing federal grants after widespread confusion

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s budget office on Wednesday rescinded an order freezing spending on federal grants, less than two days after it sparked widespread confusion and legal challenges across the country, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The Monday evening order from the White House Office of Management and Budget sparked uncertainty over a crucial financial lifeline for states, schools and organizations that rely on trillions of dollars from Washington and left the White House scrambling to explain what would and wouldn’t be subject to a pause in funding.

The people, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal guidance, confirmed that the OMB pulled the order Wednesday in a two sentence notice to agencies and departments.

Democratic critics of the order moved swiftly to celebrate the action.

“This is an important victory for the American people whose voices were heard after massive pressure from every corner of this country—real people made a difference by speaking out,” said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

See TRUMP, page 8

GONA’s 1st afternoon session: ice breaker games, team activities



GONA attendees make team flags at the annual workshop event. (Bree Baker photo)

By **BREE BAKER**
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — The Monday afternoon session on January 27, of the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) consisted of a filling lunch, ice breaker games and team activities.

Participants first played a game of sweep the

teepee, a hula hoop challenge, and breaking into respective teams to create a team flag and cheer or song.

The first ice breaker was an elimination style game called sweep the teepee, where participants had to find people and create different scenarios

when the music stopped. Participants scrambled to find partners and groups to join to create, an out-house, the Indian car, and the canoe, all consisting of a different number of people. Then the group participated in a hula hoop challenge,

See GAMES, page 8

Fort Hall Business Council maintains vigilance of effects from potential federal funding pause

By **THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

FORT HALL — On Wednesday, January 29 President Trump rescinded his order to attempt to freeze federal financial assistance after it was temporarily paused by a federal judge on Tuesday afternoon.

Despite this new development, the situation in Washington D.C. remains fluid and unpredictable. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes’ Fort Hall Business Council will diligently work to protect and preserve the rights granted by the 1868 Fort Bridger Treaty and hold the Federal government to its trust responsibilities to recognize and respect Tribal sovereignty. It will aggressively monitor any actions by the new administration and continue informing Tribal members, its workforce, and the Fort Hall community on issues of concern.

The Tribal Government will move forward with a directive to identify any program with funding at risk and provide the impacts for the Council to advocate on behalf of Tribal members.

Programs at risk target diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and environmental justice or “Green New Deal program” initiatives, Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Act funding, and the Infrastructure Reduction Act.

Any concerns about a future funding freeze should not impact direct support

to individuals, including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and SNAP funding. Funds for small businesses, farmers, Pell grants, Head Start, rental assistance, and other similar programs are also exempt. Tribal government staff are assessing these programs to identify any situation where funding for these programs may be erroneously blocked.

The FHBC sent an initial inquiry to Idaho’s Congressional Delegation who are seeking clarification on actions taken by the new administration. Chairman Lee Juan Tendoy will lead a delegation to Washington D.C. to advocate for the Tribes’ funding needs. Likewise, Council Treasurer Sammy Matsaw Jr. is currently attending the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) to address concerns. The Tribes are also collaborating with the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT), and other organizations as they engage congressional members and coordinate discussions with the White House to express concerns and for Tribal exemptions.

FHBC Chairman Tendoy assured the Tribes will endure and is focused and proactive in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the people, lands, waterways, and wildlife. The Council will continue to stand up for people’s rights as members of a Sovereign Nation.

From page one

TRUMP, continued
“Still, the Trump administration—through a combination of sheer incompetence, cruel intentions, and a willful disre-

gard of the law—caused real harm and chaos for millions over the span of the last 48 hours which is still ongoing.”

GONA, continued
The police can’t just arrest everybody and think that’s going to solve the problem, “we have an addiction – a lot of them.” It’s a self-choice and sometimes people slip up. He noted it’s something people have to solve on their own. “It’s

not easy, nothing in life is easy, but if you try, you can put your mind to it.” Teton said they’re trying to change the Law and Order Code because it’s outdated. Travis Martin, Tribal Health & Human Services director, thanked everyone for attending. He’s excited

for what GONA has in store for attendees and there’s been a lot of planning for it. It’s designed to foster healing and empowerment for individuals and families. The opening included Ghost Canyon Singers doing an introductory song

while veterans brought in the flags, royalty and others danced in. After the morning break an ice breaker occurred following by lunch. There were 80 people registered on Monday morning.



GONA attendees participate in a community healing exercise on January 27. (Lizzie Boyd photos)

GAMES, continued
where everyone had to get the hula hoop around the circle without letting go of each other’s hands. The hula hoop represents an issue or obstacle, the group must get through. It seemed participants had fun and helped each other overcome the obstacles thrown at them. For the next activity participants were asked to line up in order of their birthdays without speaking. After everyone was numbered off, they were split into groups, they were asked to share an attribute for each person in the team/clan. Some consisted of having a positive attitude,

being good at riding horse, being an academic student, and even good at chopping wood. The teams/clans designed a team flag where those attributes were shown in the design, many of the groups appeared to have talented artists who designed and painted the colorful flags. The next task was to create a team chant, cheer, or song, each team had a different approach to this. After everyone finished, they were asked to present their flags and cheers to the group. The groups seemed to be in awe and be supportive of each group and their creations. To end the session, the facilitators went around the

room and asked the group a series of questions known as the Belmont Process, the idea was brought to GONA by tribal elder, Harold Belmont. The questions were “What did you see? What did you hear? And what did you feel?” Participants went around the room and shared their answers, they said smiles were seen, laughter was heard, and participants shared they felt happy. Some participants said the activities of the day helped them step out of their comfort zones, talk to and meet new people, and they were happy to get out and have fun with their community.



Attendees that participated in the team flag exercise showcase their creations on January 27. (Bree Baker photo)



Group breakout sessions were conducted during the afternoon.



Participants write words on photos during an exercise.



Ice breaker activity instructions.



Participants enjoy the group breakout session.

You can find the Sho-Ban News at the following local outlets:

FORT HALL

Trading Post Gas

Trading Post Grocery

Fort Hall Post Office

Blue Corner Store

Donzia Gift Shop

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Attorney’s Office at TBC

Shoshone-Bannock Museum

Fort Hall Housing Authority

Sho-Ban Jr./Sr. High School

Fort Hall Indian Health Service

Language & Culture Preservation

BLACKFOOT

Sage Hill

Travel Center

Martha’s Café

White Eagle Gas

Animal Health Clinic

Short Stop

Daisy’s Gas

Stoor’s

POCATELLO

Bannock Peak

Truck Stop

Shokota

Pow-Wow Supply

Mad Mike’s

Trading Post

Tyhee

Enterprises

NW Band

Shoshone

Chevron

Pocatello

Jet Stop

SHO-BAN NEWS

COVERING IDAHO & INDIAN COUNTRY

GONA activities result in healing



GONA participants shake hands during round dance on the last day of the event, January 30. (Bree Baker photos)

By BREE BAKER
Sho-Ban News

FORT HALL — The final days of The Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) took place on January 29 and 30 at the Chiefs Event Center at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel, in Fort Hall.

Participants played different ice breaker games, had group discussions, created gifts for each other, and completed the different group activities. The facilitators for the event were Idella King, Leon Leader Charge, and Allison Baez. Throughout the event there were 7 different teams created — the Red Road Warriors, The Warriors, Spirit of Wah'Sha, Helping Hands, Hanee Yahha Keydeh Bungu 'Neh, The Injuns that Would, and United Sun Chasers.

Day 3 of GONA was January 29, at the Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel Event Center. It started with a prayer song, then Leon Leader Charge and Rainelle Edmo welcomed and the things during the first two days. To begin the day, GONA participants took part in few different team building activities throughout the day. The first team building activity was the yarn game, the teams went around describing themselves with an adjective that begins with the first letter of their name, tossing the ball of yarn after each turn. Building a spiderweb or star design, next they shared a wish or goal they had for their community. Then they had to leave the group, until one or two people stood trying to hold the yarn together. After the game the groups describe how they felt and how the game could relate to real life. Then a game of “Bear, Hunter, Princess” was played amongst participants, the game is like “Rock, Paper, Scissors” where you pick a stance to beat your opponent. Participants seemed to enjoy the activity, smiles and laughter filled the room while everyone played or watched. The group then took a break for lunch, where a barbeque style lunch was served, with salad, beans, potato salad, and barbeque chicken. After lunch, the group gathered into their respective teams and discussed the Stages of Team Development reflecting on their experiences being a team.

Then the teams were tasked to create a tower out of index cards, the tower had to withstand the wind, the snow, and the earthquake. The teams could not use anything other than the index cards, they all had different approaches to the task. Some folded the cards into triangles, some into boxes, some were crumpled, and some were rolled. Most of the towers were still standing after being put to the test. The teams seemed proud of how their creations withstood the tests and reflected as a group at the end. A brief break was had before the next activity began, cookies and chips were provided as a snack.

The next activity required the teams worked together to create a superhero a name and powers. The teams created a superhero costume with the supplies they were given such as streamers, balloons, cups and plates, and plastic material. They needed to create a backstory, where the powers came from. The needed to provide challenges that the community is facing and how the superhero overcomes the barriers to meet the community's needs. The hero's had healing powers, the power of unconditional love, the power of prayer, and even turning trash into treasure. The superheroes of the day were Cedar Burnett as Cedar Man, Jason Butler as Medicine Bag Thunderheart, Ja'Sya Navo as Tzi Tzi Power, Derrick Tinno Jr. as Jr. Prayer Man, Sassyfoot, Kermit Bacon as Trashformer formerly “Dew’Pee’Sheep Day Nah Peh”, and Terrence Pocatilla as Terrence the Terrific. The day ended in a discussion and reflection of the day's events.

Thursday, January 30, was the final day of the GONA, in the morning RoseAnn Abrahamson and Lacey Bacon spoke and told a story. Then participants played team building and ice breaker games, such as musical chairs. The groups broke off and had group discussions about ways to improve the community. Nathan Small spoke about environmental issues such as the impact the Gay Mine has on the land and the impact it will have on future generations. As the morning session finished, lunch was provided for those in attendance, the meal consisted of beef stew, salad, Indian tacos, and a chocolate cheesecake. After lunch drum group, Spring Creek, sang as the veterans came and retired the colors. Throughout the week participants were encouraged to take a photo and hang it on the wall and go through and write a positive message on other's photos. There was a craft table that had different types of materials, beads, markers, paints, and other crafting materials for participants to create something and put it on the table for the gift table. Participants brought in and created different gifts for each other, such as earrings, necklaces, paintings, drawings, art kits, beaded wristlets, backpacks, yarn pouches, books, and different types of nuts and plants. Everyone sat in the circle and an award like ceremony took place, Idella King and Leon Leader Charge read the positive affirmations out loud and announced the participants name and gave them their photo then participants came up and chose a gift from the table.

Rainelle Edmo thanked and presented a gift to the facilitators, Idella King, Leon Leader Charge, and Allison Baez. Edmo said, “I appreciate you for coming and teaching us and giving us the tools to

teach our community.” Edmo also thanked the dancers, the drum groups, the drug and alcohol task force. After the photos and gifts were given all the participants dancing to a round dance and then shaking hand with one another, the round dance was sung by the drum group Spring Creek. The event ended in a raffle, with the grand prize being an iPad, donated by the Tribal Youth Education Program. Shawna DeCola was the winner of the grand prize.

Meyer sentenced for fentanyl distribution at casino

POCATELLO —Kristen Nichole Meyer, 28, of Idaho Falls, was sentenced on January 29, to 57 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl.

According to District court records, on August 18, 2023, Fort Hall Police officers responded to the area of the Fort Hall Casino on a report of a couple who appeared to be fighting. Officers located Kristen Meyer, along with her

husband, Andrew Meyer near their car, which had fentanyl pills in plain view. Bingham County Sheriff's deputies searched the car and found over 12,000 fentanyl pills, along with other drugs. Both Kristen and Andrew Meyer admitted to selling the drugs. Andrew Meyer's sentencing is scheduled for March 17, 2025.

Chief Judge Nye also ordered Meyer to serve three years of supervised

release following her prison sentence. Meyer pleaded guilty to the offense in September 2024.

U.S. Attorney Josh Hurwit commended the Idaho Falls Police Department, the Idaho State Police, and the Pocatello Police Department for their work in the Lavatta case as well as the Fort Hall Police Department and the Bingham County Sheriff's Office for the Meyer investigation.



GONA Superhero's (L-R) Sassyfoot, Cedar Burnett as Cedar-Man, Jason Butler as Medicine Bag Thunderheart, Derrick Tinno Jr. as Jr. Prayer Man, Ja'Sya Navo as TziTzi Power, Kermit Bacon as Trashformer, and Terrence Pocatilla as Terrence the Terrific.

GET REWARDS TODAY!

WHEN YOU EARN 100 POINTS Receive 3.00!

TP GAS
I-15, EXIT 80

SAGE HILL
I-15, EXIT 89

BANNOCK PEAK TRUCK STOP
I-86, EXIT 52

TRADING POST GROCERY
I-15, EXIT 80

BLUE CORNER STORE
U.S. HWY 91

AGENCY RD
BEHIND BLUE CORNER STORE

Self-Care Day

FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 2025

10:00 am - 3:00 pm
at Timbee Hall

Event Schedule

short presentations as follows

10:00 Registration
10:30 Welcome
10:45 TERO
11:00 Waapi Kani
11:15 477
11:30 TANF/GA

11:45 Language & Culture Preservation
12:00-12:30 LUNCH
12:30 FHPD
12:45 Housing
1:00 VAP

For more information call Lolita at 208-604-5598 or Amanda at 208-221-1478

Hair stylists, makeup artists, and massage therapists services available throughout the day.

Lunch to be provided.