



Numuwaetu Nawahana

Telling The People's News

Volume 13 Issue 1

January, February, March 2019

Nixon's irrigation ditches receive long-awaited upgrade



approximately \$314,000 toward the construction costs.

The irrigation ditches in Wadsworth may have to wait a while longer because of the status of the lands previously occupied by non-Indian families. They have since returned those lands to the tribe over 60 years ago but the lands have yet to be designated as trust lands. The BIA is aware of the legal status of all the acquired transfer (fee) lands but hasn't taken any action to correct the problem. The Secretary of the Interior can make that change upon the recommendation from the BIA.



A&K Earthmovers, Inc. won the contract to rebuild the irrigation system in the Nixon community. This activity is very exciting and welcomed by the ranchers and farmers who rely on the ditches.

The concrete lining will vastly improve the irrigation water distribution.

It's been over 100 years since the Bureau of Indian Affairs built the reservation's irrigation system. Finally the irrigation ditches in Nixon are being upgraded that will improve the irrigation delivery system by increasing its efficiency, delivery time, and more importantly, save water. A&K Earthmovers are in charge of making the long-awaited upgrade.

The BIA built Numana Dam in 1917 and the next year built the Nixon irrigation system. Former and current council members remember that for the last 30 years, the council made many requests to the BIA for assistance in upgrading the irrigation ditches but were met with "hem haws" or just silence.

Pyramid Lake, like many other tribes, has experienced difficulty in obtaining monies from various federal agencies for construction projects, like lining irrigation ditches with concrete. As one old timer explained, "It seem like agriculture wasn't important."

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and Bureau of Reclamation have produced an estimated \$1.5 million for the construction costs and it is estimated that the BIA has contributed



Also in this issue:

Tribal leaders concerned over nuke waste delivered to Yucca Mountain

Ruby Mountains saved from mining exploitation

Auction of some PLPT artifacts pulled from sale



Numuwaetu Nawahana

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
P.O. Box 256
Nixon, Nevada 89424-0256

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Telling the people's news
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Submission of Articles Policy

Articles for publication must be submitted before the deadline: June 21, 2019. Articles submitted after the deadline will not be published in the upcoming issue.

- Articles may be submitted as typewritten or in legible handwriting.
Articles sent by email must be in a Word format.
Do not use Publisher for articles or ads.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles about news you would like to share with or without photos.

Please note that photos printed on flyers or announcements may not always have the same quality as the original but submit them anyway.

Send to: Pyramid Lake Tribal Newspaper, P.O. Box 256, Nixon, NV 89424
E-mail: cwrightgraphics@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor are welcomed. They should be no longer than 250 words and must be in good taste. All letters will be edited for slander and/or libelous content that will not be allowed.

Each letter must contain the name, address and telephone number of the author to verify the

authenticity of the writer. Unsigned letters will not be published. Pseudonyms, or fake names, are not allowed.

Letters addressed to specific individuals or offices will not be printed unless sent by individual or office.

All letters must be original unless the letter is a reprint and is in the best interest of the tribal readership and the original source is identified as well as the sender of the letter.

Send to: Letters to the Editor:
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Advertising space will be provided to any business, organization, or individual at the following rates:

Table with 2 columns: Rate and Description. \$100/full page, \$75/half page, \$50/quarter page, \$25/eighth page, \$10/business card

All advertisements must be camera-ready and cannot be returned. Each advertisement must be paid in full by the deadline date for publishing.

Contact: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
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The Tribal Response Program

The PLPT Tribal Response Program (Brownfields program) will be collecting samples from three brownfield sites within the next couple of months. The White Building, Rock Building, and Oil Pit (on South Hollywood Road) qualify as brownfields due to their reuse/redevelopment potential and the likelihood of being contaminated with hazardous substances such as asbestos, lead, petroleum, petroleum by-products, and mold.

Sampling at those sites is part of a series of activities that constitute a Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) for which the EPA provides funding and technical assistance. The Tribal Response Program will use the assessments of the



The White Building

targeted sites to inform the Council of the current conditions at those three sites and to plan for the proper cleanup activity to protect the people's health and the environment.

Typically, the type of response action conducted at a brownfield site will depend upon the future reuse or redevelopment of the site. For example, the level of cleanup for a site slated for redevelopment into a parking lot would be much lower than the level of cleanup for a site that may be redeveloped for a day care center.

According to EPA, a "brownfield" is "Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse

of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." The International Risk Management Institute, Inc. defines a "response action" as a "Generic term for actions taken in response to actual or potential health-threatening environmental events such as spills, sudden releases, and asbestos abatement/management problems."

If you have any questions, please call at 775-574-0101, extension 10, or email: ravina@plpt.nsn.us. You are encourage to visit our Website at plptbrownfields.org for more program information or to report a potential brownfield site.

-Rueben Ramos-Avina, Coordinator



The Rock Building



The Oil Pit on South Hollywood Road

Mailing Address Form

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It's Rez Tourney Time!

From the Environmental Department



The Environmental Department continues its monitoring responsibilities by collecting data and conducting analysis, completing fieldwork on water quality, air quality, noxious weeds, illegal open dumps, range inventory, and brownfields.

The Noxious Weeds Program is beginning its planning stage with treatment activities along the lower Truckee River corridor, along the main irrigation ditches, and in the burn scar area from the recent wildfires.

The Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) programs will continue with its response activities for treating noxious weeds and seeding areas identified for revegetation.

The Range Inventory and Assessment program (RIA) continues its work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by conducting the individual transect site analysis for inventory activities within certain range units. The RIA is also conducting its monitoring activity within the burned areas to monitor vegetation response with the recovery.

Illegal Open Dumps are monitored and reports are submitted for processing.

Anyone leaving garbage in areas not designated as proper garbage disposal sites will be cited in accordance with provisions in the Tribal Illegal Dumping Ordinance.

Scheduled work on three open dump sites will begin as soon as plans are completed for the Wadsworth site above the sewer lagoons, the tire pile on Dodge Flat, and the Nixon transfer station.



The river runoff has caused several areas severe erosion damages. We have been assessing the erosion caused by river during this year's runoff. Several assignments have lost a number of acres along the river that were severely eroded by high waters during the past several years. We are working on plans to prevent the continued erosion along the most vulnerable sites



Waters of the United States

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued its awaited revision of the definition for navigable waters, or WOTUS.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

The objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (33 U.S.C. 1251).

The initial clean water rule was issued by President Obama in 2015 only to have his nemesis, *claiming that the clean water rule was a regulatory burden*, repealed the ruling less than two weeks after taking office in 2017.

After signing his executive order repealing the 2015 Clean Water Rule, the next step was to revise the definition of navigable waters under the Clean Water Act.

After months of receiving comments, conducting public webinars, conducting numerous conference calls, the EPA and USACE published their proposed rule on February 14, 2019. Public comments will continue to be received before the 60-day deadline on April 15, 2019.

The Tribe is preparing its comments on the proposed definition revisions and will submit them by the deadline. There a number of concerns that exist with the proposed revisions to the navigable water definition.

There are exemptions, removal of waters from the existing definitions, and the proposed delegation of authority regarding enforcement of the new rule.

For more information you can visit the website at <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule>. If you have any questions about the tribal environmental protection activities, please contact our office at (775) 574-0101.

—Mervin Wright, Jr.



Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center

Here we go again. Another year flying by! The winter didn't seem long at all, and now it's already spring. Happy Spring!!

The museum received news about our nomination for a 2019 National Medal for Museum Service. We were not selected for the highly competitive award but the nomination by itself was a great honor. We are proud that Senator Katherine Cortez Masto was confident enough to nominate the Pyramid Lake Museum for such a prestigious award. We thank all of those who sent letters of recommendation and are grateful for the wonderful support while waiting for the final decision.

There were several groups who visited the Pyramid Lake Museum since the beginning of the year. As we gear up for summer season there will be more school groups visiting the museum. It's always good to teach about the Kooyoee Tukadu history and culture.

The Basket Weaving class in February was full of experienced and new weavers. The basket hats were started for the tops and some weavers even started tapering down for the sides. There have been a few more classes sponsored by other communities for weaving projects, so check out the Great Basin Native Basket Weavers Association website to see what events are coming up throughout the year.



The basket hats will be worked on again at the Weave-In at Fallon on March 30-31. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is hosting a Weave-In on April 27-28th to learn how to make a 3-rod coil basket. Everyone is welcome to attend!

We had special visitors attend the Basket Weaving at the Pyramid Lake Jr/Sr. High School. One group was the Australian Aboriginals who performed a dance for the group. In turn, the basket weavers performed the Basket Dance for all in attendance. There was another small group was from Italy. Everyone enjoyed the company and good food!

The Native Song Night held in support of the Nick Cortez Family was good. Several singers showed up to share their beautiful songs and community members came together for round

dancing. The dinner was excellent and good to see people come together for an evening of sharing and visiting. The family of Nick Cortez is thanked for thinking of a positive gathering with so much food and a good intention to bring the community together.

Also, in February the museum hosted a film showing of "Stewart Indian School: Home of the Braves." There were nine alumni in attendance and discussions held on the upcoming Stewart Indian School Museum. The SIS Museum staff wanted to hear from tribal communities and Pyramid Lake was the first stop. Ideas were shared about the displays and floor plans. There were many people who came to hear about the new museum and then everyone watched the documentary film. If you didn't see the film, the Museum Gift Shop has DVD's available where you can get your copy.

Three films were shown on March 23rd at the Pyramid Lake Museum in partnership with Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN). The featured documentaries included *Tainted Thirst*, a Tim Lenard Production about Nevada's water being poisoned and what can be done about it; *Great Basin Water Protectors*, a Most Media Production about the inspiration from Standing Rock featuring a struggle between humanism and greed in the Great Basin.

Another documentary shown was *Water is Life*, a production about the water grab in Eastern Nevada that intends to pipe water to Las Vegas

The message shared was to encourage our Nevada communities to become active in resisting issues that threaten life. We all have a responsibility to protect our most valuable resources: water, air, land, plants, animals and humans.

Be a Protector of Mother Earth

When the earth is ravage, a new tribe of people shall come, from many nations, their actions and deeds shall make the earth green again. They will be known as the warriors of many-colors.

—A Hopi Prophecy

Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Bundle, recently issued a statement that reminds people of the world to remember prophecies made long ago and how we are nearing harder times. "We are at a crossroads for the global community to unite spiritually. We must understand the *Balance of Life* and the types of minds that continue to destroy the spirit of our global world. The Earth is the Source of Life Itself. The calling is for all to pray, meditate and commune with one another to promote an energy

shift to heal Mother Earth, and achieve universal consciousness toward world peace. Everyone helps to decide the future of humankind to unite spiritually or be faced with chaos, disasters, disease, and tears. The powers of destruction need to be turned back. We can choose to walk in honor of our relatives or dishonor our relatives. The time is an age of harmony, and it takes everyone to shift energy towards ultimate healing."

The Pyramid Lake Museum has a current display honoring National Women's History Month and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Women in the community have loaned red skirts and jingle dresses to commemorate those who have gone missing and murdered. It is a fact that Native American women suffer at much higher rates of violence than other racial groups. It is also true that most cases are not reported or are misreported. Please stop by the museum to see the display and the wealth of information.

Thanks to Jackie and various volunteers who helped create the display to bring more awareness of this sensitive, but real issue.

Interviews are being held with tribal wisdom-keepers for our IMLS grant. Our grant ends in September of this year. It is very interesting to hear about Nixon, Sutcliffe, and Wadsworth and various events in the 1900's. Interviews are filmed by videographer, Sam Santoro, who assisted with the Stewart Indian School documentary. The unpredictable weather delayed some of the interviews, but they are getting back on track so that digital stories can be produced and added to the museum displays.

Billie Jean was approved for a scholarship to attend the 2019 American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Annual Conference and Expo in May. The AAM organization includes membership for all of the museums across the nation. The conference offers an extensive list of workshops and networking meetings. Billie Jean will be assigned a mentor in the field of Collections Stewardship. It is a great opportunity to learn from museum professionals in all types of interpretive centers and museums.

Also, we are still looking to update the veteran's wall. If you have photos of family members who served in any branch of military service, please submit a photo. Photos will be scanned and original photos returned to the family. Thanks for supporting and honoring all of our veterans, Numu TooKwasu.

Stop by and visit the Museum Gift Shop. There are new items, such as Fleece Pullover Jackets, Sports Jackets with native design, Woven Purses, Bow and Arrows, Arrowhead Necklaces, Baby and Adult Moccasins, Stewart Indian School DVD, and more.

We will be soon carrying items from the Sweetgrass Trading Company and you will be able to get different kinds of teas, chokecherry syrup, chokecherry jelly, wild rice, and sweetgrass braids. You are sure to find gifts for all the special people in your life, including yourself!!

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather. We hope you will accomplish all the yard work and plant your gardens the way you want.

Saa a' Mu Ponedooa!

Billie Jean Guerrero, Museum Director
Jackie Cawelti, Museum Attendant

Natural Resources Department's Wetland Program

Program Developments 2017 through 2018

The Natural Resources Department's Wetland Program was hard at work increasing the capacity of the program activities to improve the preservation and restoration of wetland habitats throughout the Reservation.

Work activities are focused on the monitoring and protection of all sensitive lentic (organisms in still fresh water) habitats across the Reservation; responsible for 22 wetlands from Wadsworth to the Smoke Creek Desert and Lake Range, program activities are distributed across the Reservation.

Annual assessments are conducted to quantify habitat conditions, water quality, hydrologic fluctuations and amphibian densities. These components accumulatively depict the state of these areas and the program can identify and distribute limited resources to Reservation wetlands in the greatest need.

There are several threats to wetland habitats throughout the Reservation including: a changing climate and water table; over grazing; invasive species, and vandalism. The Natural Resources Department has developed program activities to address these concerns.

New to the program is amphibian and hydrologic monitoring. Throughout 2018, the Wetland Specialist and Wetland Technician worked to implement new techniques to evaluate the hydrology of representative wetlands; as well as, evaluate the distribution of native amphibians in riverine and geographically isolated wetlands.

Native Amphibian Monitoring

Pyramid Lake is unique in that native amphibians have continued to inhabit the lower Truckee River corridor within Reservation boundaries. The Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) was once prolific throughout the Truckee River watershed. Today the species is only known to exist on the Reservation. Due to changes in land use and the introduction of the invasive American Bull frog (*Rana catesbeiana*) plus unsuitable habitat has severely restricted the species habitat.

The Wetland Program has worked to understand the existing population, and evaluate the

condition and distribution of their populations throughout the river corridor. Several approaches have been taken to accomplish this, including: nocturnal breeding surveys, egg mass surveys and pre/post metamorphic surveys.

The program will expand this year with the introduction of mark recapture surveys, and laboratory testing for BD and eDNA that will expand the development of a Northern Leopard Frog Management Plan. This plan will guide any future restoration activities to include favorable habitat designs for the species. These accomplishments will improve the habitats within our watershed for the native amphibians into the future.



Wetland Hydrologic Monitoring

If you find yourself in the vicinity of many of the wetlands throughout the Reservation you may ask yourself, what is that device? There are several wetlands that have continuous monitoring equipment installed. This equipment monitors water level and precipitation, and is very



vulnerable, but is extremely beneficial to the preservation of tribal wetlands.

The monitored wetlands are representative of the types of lentic systems present throughout the Reservation. By monitoring them closely, we have the capacity to determine if they are becoming threatened due to a changing climate or over utilization by human activity or animal grazing.

There are several types of rare wetlands that provide important habitat for our wildlife. The loss of these habitats would be a devastating occurrence.

There are several factors that threaten the wetlands on the Reservation. Vandalism is the most prolific and reoccurring event that has threatened both the Pyramid Lake Wetland Program, and the wetland itself.

Reoccurring vandalism at Numana Wetland and Soda Springs areas that threaten the work that our staff is conducting to preserve our natural resources. The financial resources that are actively being invested into our wetland are intended to protect all tribal member's ability to enjoy these areas.

Vandalism to gates and fencing is an ongoing battle, the Wetland Program has to repair vandalized fencing and gates several times throughout the year. These malicious acts threaten our ability to collect data that steer the development of best management practices. We encourage all members to report any suspicious activity in these areas or previously damaged fencing.

Join the Natural Resources Department in preserving these sensitive habitats. Soda Springs Wetland in the Smoke Creek, and Salt March in the Dead Ox area, are two wetlands that have continuous monitoring equipment installed. Please tread lightly when visiting these areas.

Things you can do to help protect tribal wetlands:

- Close all wetland enclosure gates.
- Report any damage to wetland enclosure fencing.
- Respect Natural Resources Department monitoring equipment.
- Volunteer during restoration events.
- Report findings of large populations of amphibians.

We encourage all members with questions about the Wetland Program, volunteer opportunities and current threats to Reservation wetlands to contact the Wetland Specialist at the Natural Resources Department.

Call for Local Art

The Wetland Program is seeking art work to display on newly developed boardwalk signs at Numana Wetland. If you are interested having your art included in the project please contact us at the Natural Resources Department for more information, 775-574-0101 ex 25.

—Emily Hagler Gibson



Do not pray when it is raining if you do not pray when the sun is shining.

Tribal Recreation News

Despite the unpredictable weather, Spring is upon us. We all know that this is Nevada weather, snow, sunshine, rain, sunshine, wind, and more sunshine!

Youth Basketball

—We are thankful for the coaches, parents and volunteers who donate their team throughout the Youth Basketball season. This year we had 12 teams practice from November to early March getting their teams prepared for the season.

It was fun seeing the progress the youth made and see them represent our area in the tournaments, weekend after weekend. We had over a hundred youngsters participate in youth basketball throughout the year. Thanks again to everyone for a great season! We look forward to next year with Youth Basketball.

It also was good to see the Pyramid Lake High School and Middle School teams utilize our gym and have their games at the Nixon Community gym throughout their seasons. The community support for the school's teams was great as well.

Activities Planned

Spring Day Camp is planned for the last week of Spring Break on April 1st–4th. It is for elementary students in grades K-6. Middle School students are also welcome if they would like to

attend. Also included in the Day Camp will be Sumunumu Program, Diabetes Program and the Paiute Language Program. We look forward to a fun time at Spring Day Camp.

Baby Moccasin Making Classes

We are tentatively planning a Baby Moccasin Making Class on Wednesday evenings in April at 6:00-7:00 p.m. Please register for the class at 775/574-2409. Leave your name and contact number. With limited supplies we will have a limit of participants.

Teen Basketball

Gym is available for Teen Basketball on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Please contact Tribal Rec. if you are interested.

Adult Volleyball

Scheduled for Sunday and Thursday evenings for anyone interested. Please come and join everyone for an evening of volleyball. Sunday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 8:30 p.m. We may change the Thursday time for earlier or another day, we will keep you posted.

For more information please contact Tribal Recreation at 574-2409. Enjoy our Spring weather!

—Janet Davis

Pruning trees in the Nixon Orchard

On March 22nd, Pyramid Lake High School students attended an Orchard Pruning Class sponsored by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) office in Washoe County. Expert Wendy Hanson shared tips on proper tools, pruning and orchard management. Students who attended will share their knowledge with fellow classmates and work on pruning the trees in the Nixon Orchard.



Pictured: Jodessa Catha, Lylia Williams, Nikwich Wright and Rylee Stump

This class was organized by Nikwich Wright who is one of the community outreach coordinators from UNCE and a liaison between the organization and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The class was open for the Pyramid Lake community to attend and a total of 11 people participated.

Art Students Teaching Art at Head Start

On March 11th, Buddy Close, Evelyn Austin, Darrel Lopez, Darren Padilla, Jurnie Pepion, students from the Native Art Class at Pyramid Lake High visited the Wadsworth Head Start. They were to show the youngsters how to create their artwork on glaze tiles.

They first traced the outlines of the student's hands and then showed them how to paint on the tiles. The tiles were fired in the kiln at the high school.

This is the third year the Native art class and Wadsworth Head Start have collaborated on this project. The parents received these tiles as a keepsake from their child.



Local Artist Nominated For Grammy

Elijah Williams, a Pyramid Lake tribal member, attended the 61st Annual Grammy Awards as guest at the 61st annual awards event on February 10, 2019.

Williams is one of 16-member of the singing group, Young Spirit, that was nominated for the Best Regional Roots Music Album of the year with their record: "Mewasinsational, Cree Round Dance Songs."

The group was founded in 2001 by two brothers from the Frog Lake Cree Nation of Alberta, Canada, and has performed for nearly two decades throughout Indian Country for nearly two decades. The 16 members are from Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Canada as well as Nevada, California and Idaho.

Williams, who started signing and drumming when he was 10 years old, was taught by Paiute elders and has been touring for nearly 20 years. William's wife, Delina Trottier of the Onion Lake Cree Nation in Canada, is one of the group's backup singers.

The Grammy Award's regional roots music category is for new vocal or instrumental recordings for performances in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots.



Tribal Member now a Marine

Brandon

Henry graduated from the Marine's basic training on Friday, January 18, 2019. He began his recruit training in October 2018. After graduation he will be based at Camp Pendleton for further training.

There were many family members present at his graduation. Brandon is the son of Bud Henry and Louisa of Hoopa, Calif., and Melinda Williams of Pyramid Lake. He is a Pyramid Lake Paiute and Yurok.

He lived in California, then returned to Nevada

and graduated from Pyramid Lake High School in June 2018.

We are all so very proud of this young man that we now call Marine. Semper Fi Brandon!

Things My Mother Taught Me

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. *If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.*
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. *You better pray that will come out of the carpet.*
3. My mother taught me TIME TRAVEL. *If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!*
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. *Because I said so, that's why.*
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. *If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me.*
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. *Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.*
7. My mother taught me IRONY. *Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about.*
8. My mother taught me about the SCIENCE OF OSMOSIS. *Shut your mouth and eat your supper.*
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. *Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!*
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. *You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.*

Culture-Language Program & Library

The Culture Program/Library is located in Modular 102 next to the gym. Come by and visit with us. There are a variety of books and movies to check out. We are currently open 8:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday, until we extend our hours.

We accept donations of Native American books or dvd's in good condition. A thank you to Molly Hernandez for her donation of Native Nevadans and John Redhouse for the donation of 34 books! Stop in and see what may interest you.

Nicholas, our in-school language instructor, and I have been busy sharing our Paiute language with the Head Start, Daycare, the High School and visits with the elders.

It has been a lot of fun, the children are learning and we are learning from the elders. We spend a lot of time planning activities and language learning material for classroom visits as well as for online learning.

Monday afternoons are set aside for Paiute dance class at the Nixon Daycare. We are thankful for Susie Albright who assists with dance practice. Our hope is that the children will learn the songs and dances so that they will continue our traditions.

We will have had a Hide Scraping class. I'd like to thank those who have donated hides that we posted on our Facebook page (Kooyoee Tukadu Culture and Language Program).

Language Classes are held in Wadsworth at the old community building on Tuesdays from 6-8 pm. with Ralph Burns. Thank you, Ralph. The Sutcliff class has been postponed until further notice. We had a few classes with Elwood Lowery and Barbara Ramos, but decided to wait until the weather warms up. Thank you for your help. We hope to get a class started in Nixon. We have been talking to the elders who are interested so stay posted.

Look for upcoming craft classes; moccasin making and beading. We thank the elders for always taking time to help us, whether it be with recording language, transcribing, storytelling—they're always willing to help.

If you have any questions or suggestions,

11. My mother taught me about the WEATHER. *Your room looks like a tornado went through it.*
12. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. *Just wait 'till we get home!*
13. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. *You're gonna get it when you get home!*
14. My mother taught me about MEDICAL SCIENCE. *If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're gonna stay that way!*
15. My mother taught me about ESP. *Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you're cold?*
16. My mother taught me HUMOR. *When that*



Paiute BINGO at the Numaga Senior Center.



Paiute Language Class with the students at Pyramid Lake High School.



Readying for the Hide Scraping class.

please contact us the Culture Program: Heidi Barlese or Nick Cortez at 775-574-2403.

lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.

17. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. *If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.*
18. My mother taught me about GENETICS. *You're just like your father.*
19. My mother taught me about MY ROOTS. *Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?*
20. My mother taught me WISDOM. *When you get to be my age, you'll understand.*
21. My mother taught me about JUSTICE. *One day you'll have kids and I hope they turn out just like you!*



Water Quality Program Report

Hello, my name is Aaron Bill and I am the new Water Quality Standards Specialist for the Water Quality Program (WQP). Housed within the Natural Resources Department, I was hired in October 2018 and I am enjoying the position and its associated challenges.

My duties include monitoring and sampling of surface waters within the Reservation, as well as ensure that Tribal water quality is protective of human health and aquatic life.

The Program is currently finalizing updates to the Tribe's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Assessment Report, which is a comprehensive summary of the condition of tribal water resources and identifies pollution sources and their extent both on and off the Reservation.

NPS pollution are pollutants to which we cannot identify a single source of origination; an example is the runoff from Reservation roadways following rainstorms, carrying petroleum and salts pollutants.

The NPS Assessment Report is the precursor to the NPS Management Plan, which identifies management strategies to address the identified NPS issues. The NPS Management Plan also provides the scope and direction of the WQP's future on-the-



Storm water running off the roads will mobilize oil pollutants, like this oil spill near Pelican point in October 2014.

ground projects to improve water quality.

The WQP will be finalizing both the NPS Assessment Report and Management Plan by engaging Tribal communities and other stakeholders in an upcoming series of public workshops, as well as a public comment period for each document. The dates and times will be publicly posted in advance.

By participating, we're able to include your feedback into projects within the NPS Management Plan and continue protecting tribal water resources for generations to come.

Remember, you can make a difference, but

Public Notice

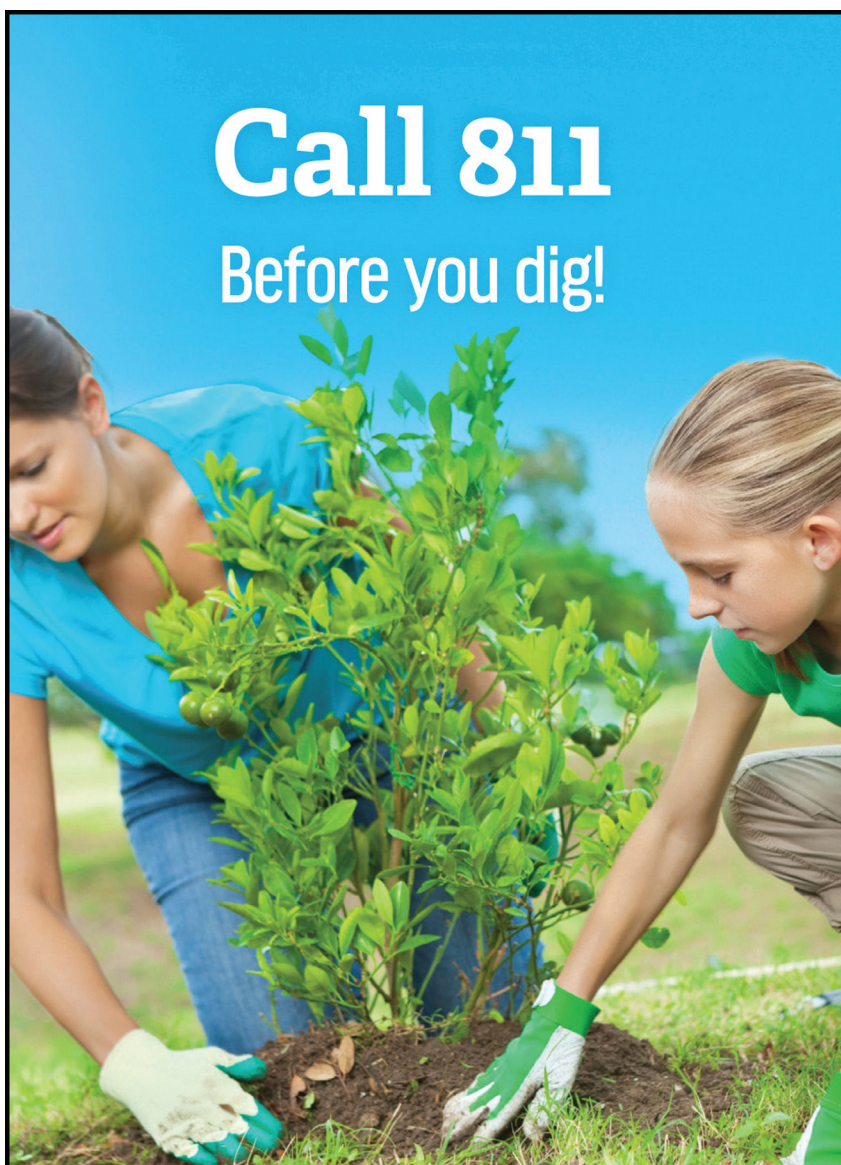
The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Transit will be applying for the State of Nevada Department of Transportation 5311 Grant Funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (November 2019–September 2020).

If you have any questions, please call our Transit Office at 775-574-2110.

only after you make your voice heard!

If you have any questions regarding the revisions to the documents, or any other water quality-related matters, feel free to contact me at (775) 574-0101 ext. 13, or at abill@plpt.nsn.us.

—Aaron Bill



Call 811

Before you dig!

ONE SIMPLE CALL TO 811 GETS UNDERGROUND UTILITY-OWNED LINES MARKED FOR FREE.

Whether you're a homeowner or professional excavator, every digging job requires a call —even small projects — so be sure to:

- Call 811 at least two working days before starting any digging project
- Wait for the site to be marked
- Respect the marks
- Dig with care

NOT CALLING CAN BE LIFE THREATENING AND COSTLY.

You can harm yourself or others, disrupt natural gas service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially be responsible for injuries, repair costs, and criminal penalties.

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere. If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, call **911** and Southwest Gas at **877-860-6020** immediately, whether you're our customer or not.

For more information about natural gas safety, visit

swgas.com/safety

or call **877-860-6020**



SOUTHWEST GAS

From the Tax Department

Tax staff has been busy with tax returns for community members. With the government shutdown that occurred earlier in 2019, the IRS website was unavailable however staff were able to receive certifications for tax return preparation.

VEHICLE EXEMPT FORMS: The Tax Department staff are the only individuals who can issue tax exempt forms and all data is kept in the Department for protection if questioned by DMV. *The DMV will not accept a tax exempt form by fax.*

If the Tax staff is out of the office, the Tribal Secretary or Receptionist can take the information from you and we will process the next day.

You can call in the information and we will either mail the form to you or hold for pickup. You can still stop by the office for the form and wait for it. The following information is needed:

- Person(s) name to whom the vehicle is registered to. Tribal members must be on vehicle registration. We cannot register a non-Native spouse. Deceased members must be removed from a vehicle registration.
- Year, Make and Model of Vehicle
- License Plate Number
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Amount of the Government Service Tax
- Physical Address (registration form requires physical address on reservation)
- Mailing Address
- Tribal Enrollment number

- If you are a Nevada Tribal Member (not Pyramid Lake) a copy of your Enrollment Card must be on file in the office before we can issue the exemption.

- The vehicle registration address must match a Reservation address and you must reside at Reservation address.

The DMV has requested information from the Tax Department regarding individual addresses in order to verify an individual's address for smog exemptions and property taxes.

If staff is uncertain of your address or additional information is needed before the exemption form being completed, please don't wait until the last minute to request a form. It is your responsibility to get the form and complete all the information needed before the expiration date.

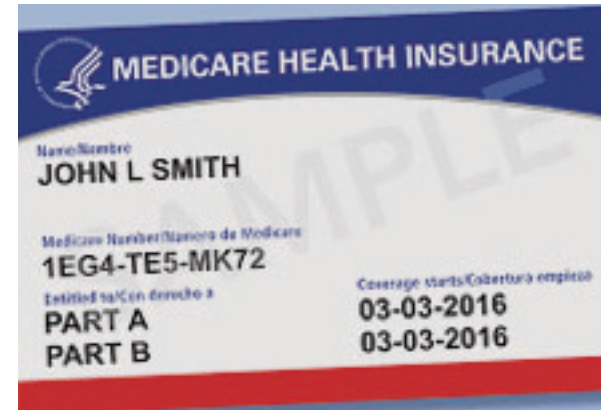
NOTARY SERVICES: Tax Department staff provides notarial services for the public. Remember that you must have your ID with you and do not sign the paperwork until you are in the office. All three staff are notaries and are able to assist you.

BURNING MAN PERMITS: Seller permits for Burning Man period will not begin until July 29, 2019. Regular annual seller permits are available throughout the year and are renewable at the end of each year.

SPOUSAL CARDS: Spouse cards will be expiring June 30, 2019. Watch for notices that will be mailed to Tribal members.

New Medicare Cards

The new Medicare cards are now available. It will have a new Medicare number that's unique to you instead of your Social Security number. This will help protect your identity. Your new card will look like this:



Please make sure to bring a copy of your new card to the Patient Registration or Health Benefits Department at the Clinic so we can update your file. Thank you.

Don't be a Target of Healthcare Fraud

Protecting your personal information is the best line of defense in the fight against healthcare fraud and abuse. Every day, consumers get ripped off by scam artists and Medicare and Medicaid lose billions of dollars each year. You can make a difference! Here are some ways to protect your healthcare benefits.

- Treat your Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security numbers like a credit card number. Never give these numbers to a stranger. Remember, Medicare doesn't call or visit to sell you anything.

- Don't carry your Medicare or Medicaid card unless you will need it. Only take it to doctor's appointments, visits to your hospital or clinic, or trips to the pharmacy.

- Record doctor visits, tests and procedures in your personal health care journal or calendar.

Even when you do everything right, there is a chance that you could be a target of healthcare fraud. There are ways that your personal information can be used without your permission. Here are some steps you can take to detect potential errors, fraud and abuse.

Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and Part D Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for mistakes. Access to your current Medicare account is available 24 hours a day, simply visit www.MyMedicare.gov.

Look for three things on your billing statement: 1) Charges for something you didn't get; 2) Billing for the same thing twice; 3) Services that were not ordered by your doctor.

If you suspect errors, fraud or abuse, report it immediately. You will protect other people from becoming victims and help to save your Medicare benefits.

If you have questions about information on your Medicare Summary Notice or Part D Explanation of Benefits, call your provider or plan first. If you are not comfortable calling your provider or plan or you are not satisfied with the response you get, call your local Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-877-385-2345 or online: www.NevadaSMP.org



Elder Fall Prevention Exercise

Last 2 Wednesdays of Each Month

10:15 am–Wadsworth Brown Building

11 am–Nixon Numaga Center

\$20.00 gift card for attending 2 sessions!

Pyramid Lake Tribal Health Clinic,

Elder Fall Prevention Program, 775-574-1018

Housing Authority Report

Mission Statement

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is committed to providing the opportunity for safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing for tribal members and to do so in a way that is consistent with the Tribe's social, cultural and economic values.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The Pyramid Lake Housing Authority Maintenance Department has two maintenance techs, Steve Mandell and David Dalasohya and a maintenance supervisor, Ross Harden.

As we try to keep our low rental units clean and safe for all tenants, it is our goal is to insure decent, safe, and sanitary conditions exist in all dwelling units.

We would like to remind all homeowners to keep the outdoor areas around your house clean by keeping a 30-foot clearance. Due to a wet winter and with more rains to come, the weeds will be popping up all over.

Remember to drain water heaters about every six months or so and replace furnace filters about the same time. It is a good idea to have your furnace cleaned and serviced to keep it operating efficiently for a long time. It is also a good idea to check your fire extinguisher and make sure it is up-to-date and fully charged. One final note: keep fresh batteries in your smoke detectors.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Development Department is working on the NV 4-19 New Construction Project that will consist of 6 new units: 3 in Sutcliffe to be located in the Pakwe Lane subdivision; and 3 in Wadsworth at 511 5th Street (a Housing Authority Lot Split), 124 Rabbit Drive, and at 111 Kammu Drive.

BIA Housing Improvement Program

Update: The Housing Authority has not received the new applications at this time. We are waiting for them to be sent from the Phoenix area office.

Their suggestion is to use the old applications and then have each participant fill out the new application when it comes in. The problem we have faced in the past is that when a participant had filled out the old application and then we send in the new one it doesn't get returned because we are told the application was already filled out. To avoid this confusion we will wait until the new form arrives.

Housing will need all the new information at this time including ID's (state and tribal), income and birth certificates. If there is a person over the age of 18 on the household list please make sure they sign the document. All adults must sign the document so the third-party income verification can be completed. If there are no signatures it will hold up the application process.

Upcoming project: A Townhouse Laundry Facilities project is in the early planning stages.

Central Air Project: This project is in the planning stages. All participants who will be submitting requests for this project will be required to follow all the same requirements as the NAHASDA program. Any participant over the income limits will be subject to pay either 20% of the total cost for the income limits of 80%-100% and participants over the 100% income limits will be subject to pay the full cost or they may be bypassed. NV 4-10 and 4-11 homebuyers will not be able to participate as the scope of work will not include removing any existing cooling systems or plumbing from the roof of a house.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming project advertisements.

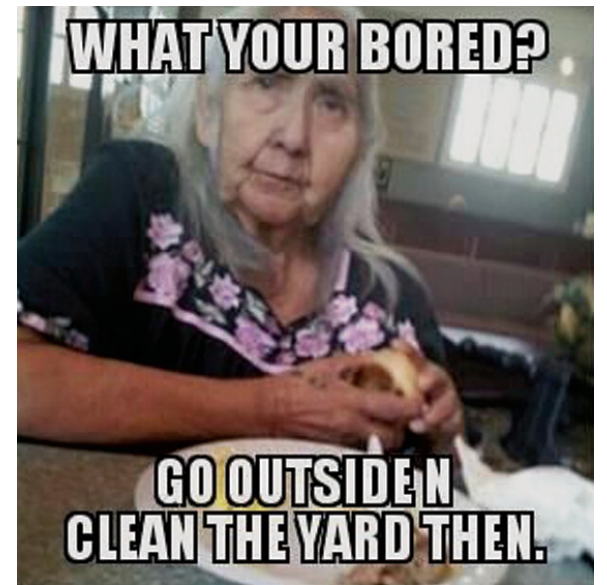
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My name is Kathleen Frazier and I have been the Executive Director since July 2018. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Management and previously worked for many, many, many years in the accounting field.

I am very happy to be working back on my home reservation.

The Housing Authority is a very busy place and every day is a new issue/problem/solution. I am pleased to be working with an experienced and knowledgeable staff most of whom have been here for a number of years.

I encourage tenants and community members to feel free to come in to the office with any questions or problems they may have and hopefully we can come up with a solution together.



KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

CALL 811
before you dig.



Planning a project that requires digging? Whether you're a homeowner or professional excavator, every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting a tree – so be sure to:

1. Call 811 at least **two working days** before starting any digging project to get underground utility-owned lines marked
2. Wait for the site to be marked
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care. It's the law.

It's FREE.
It's EASY.
It's the LAW.

paiutepipeline.com



Enrollment Services Update

The Office of Enrollment Services is open Monday through Friday during normal work hours closing for lunch between 12:00 and 12:30pm. Please call ahead of time to ensure that staff is available to process your requests. Applications, ID card forms and Change of Address forms are also available at the Tribal Office in the lobby.

Enrollment Services forms are now available on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe website:

- Under 18 Card Replacement Request Form
- Expiration Date ID Card 18 And Over Request Form
- Document Request Form
- Enrolled Member Address Update Form
- Name Change Request Form

Please be sure to sign and date the form before mailing, emailing or faxing to the Enrollment Office.

New Tribal ID Cards with Expiration Date

The new ID cards with expiration dates are still being issued. If you do not wish to have a photo ID card the Tribal Membership card is still available. The Tribal Membership card is still the same design but is now laminated, and it never expires.

Tribal ID Cards/Roll Numbers

All tribal members are urged to keep their membership card with them at all times and to know their roll number. It is also recommended that a list of your children's roll number be kept. Roll numbers cannot be verified over the phone.

Address Updates

All enrolled members are encouraged to keep their mailing addresses current with the Enrollment Office. You may call or email and request an address update form be sent to you or you may submit a written letter to update your mailing address. Sorry we cannot update or change records based on a phone call.

Applications for new enrollment are available at the Enrollment office or the Tribal Office lobby for pick up or you may call or email and

an application will be mailed to you. At this time applications are not available online.

Applications must include the following to be processed:

- Family Tree-Fill out as much information as possible
- Original or Certified Birth Certificate. Copies are not acceptable.
- Original or copy of the Social Security Card
- Proof of paternity is needed if applicant is filed using the father's membership.

Listed below are the acceptable proofs of paternity according to

ORDINANCE III (First Revision)
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada
ARTICLE IV
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Proof of Paternity

Proof of paternity shall be required to determine the blood quantum of a child born out of wedlock. A birth certificate does not establish paternity.

The four legally acceptable proofs of paternity when the parents are not married are:

- A notarized Affidavit of Paternity signed by the father.
- A decree issued by a court of law that states the father's name.
- The findings of a probate examiner.
- Letter provided by the applicant or sponsor at their own expense, from the Division of Vital Statistics verifying that a completed Affidavit of Paternity is on file at their office.
- Official Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) blood test result that is legally acceptable to confirm that the alleged parent is the biological parent of the applicant.

All proofs of paternity will be obtained at the expense of the applicant or application sponsor.

Omission of any document will delay the enrollment process.

All original Certified Birth Certificates and Social Security cards received by mail will be returned via Certified Mail.

We welcome the following new members of the Tribe

September

Esai Frank Chavez, Amarah Elise Gibson, Jasmine Navaha Scott-Simental

October

Raven Three Eagle Curry, Rosscol Russell Curry, Ambrea Jade Mills, Jaiden Russell Moose, Gauge Christopher Jonathan Peters, Leilani Katharena Jo Peters, Serenitylyne Deanna Rose Peters, Adrie Maiya Smart, Theory Rose Woods.

November

Layton Roger Mayhugh, Adrianna Mae O'Kelley, Kainoa Chito Smith.

December

No Enrollment Meeting

January

Richard Anthony Davis, Gemma Mauwee Ely, Angelo Anthony Patterson, Cameron Isaiah Patterson, Savannah Sharise Patterson, Adriana Lorena Rico.

All of these individuals have met the criteria for Regular Membership or Membership Only membership and are the direct lineal descendants of Base Enrollees.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding membership issues, please contact Joanne Shaw at the Enrollment Office at 775.574.1000, Ext. 1115, or email: plenrollment@plpt.nsn.us. Enrollment now has a new direct fax number 775-201-1941

Please keep your mailing address current for all future tribal mailings.

Victim Services Program

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's Victim Services Program is the only culturally based victim services program in the local area. While maintaining its core organizational values, the Victim Services Program has expanded its services and staff that specializes in meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. We offer:

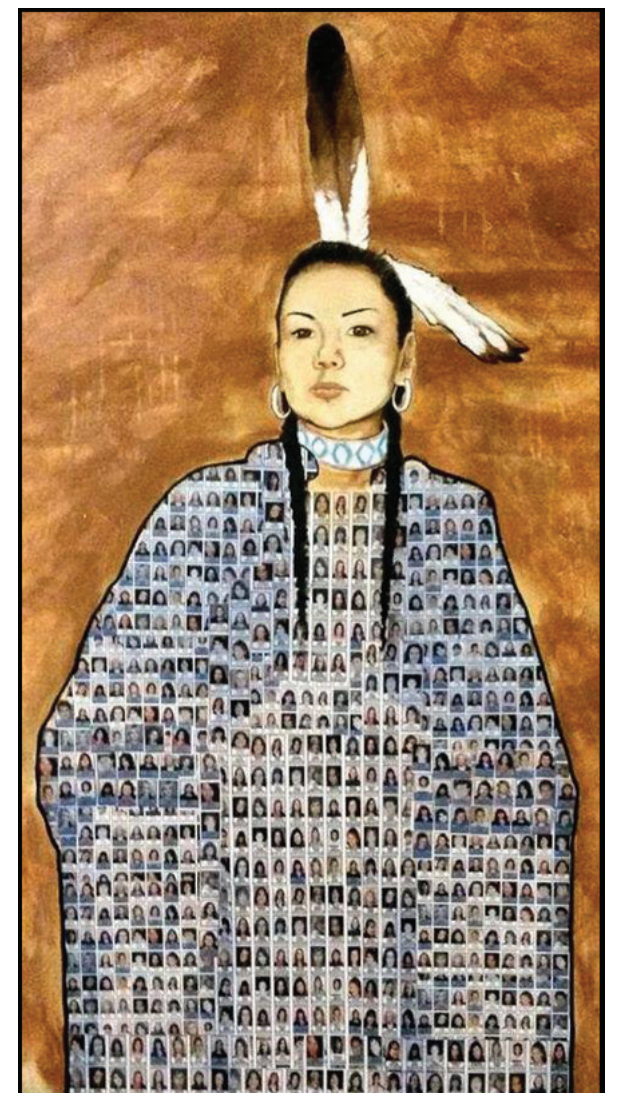
- 24/7 on-call advocates
- culturally sensitive advocacy
- crisis intervention
- additional support services (court, medical facilities, police departments, etc.), support services for adult and child victims and non-offending family and household members adversely affected by the victimization
- individual counseling
- requested group counseling
- transportation
- referrals
- community outreach and awareness activities and events

- safety plans
- emergency financial assistance and
- other requested assistance necessary for the well-being of the victim and family.

With upcoming community outreach and awareness events, the Victim Services Program would like to welcome all community members to participate in honoring and remembering the past victims, and today's victims and survivors.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Victim Services Program would also like to invite all those interested in making the red ribbon dress/shirt workshops throughout April and May to honor the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women/Men.

Feel free to contact Victim Services for information on upcoming events and activities. Also, please contact us if you need any of our services: (775) 575-9444. Mailing address: Victim Services Program, P.O. Box 430-101, Wadsworth, NV 89442



The artist used the pictures of the missing and murdered Indian women to honor them and for us not to forget.

Tribal Food Pantry and Food Bank Notes and News

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe operates the **Tribal Food Pantry** and partners with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to provide supplemental foods for families residing on the Pyramid Lake Reservation. This program began in 2012 and the Pyramid Lake Human Services office keeps the program going each month.

The maintenance staff goes to the Food Bank Warehouse in Reno to pick up the supplemental food order and deliver it directly to the Nixon Gym. Volunteers set up tables at the distribution site so that the tribal household members can readily obtain the supplemental foods. Each participant is required to sign in and state household size.

Supplemental Food Resources Calendar for 2019

Commodity Foods

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Nixon Gym 8:30 am – 1:30 pm | |
| March 11 | August 12 |
| April 8 | September 9 |
| May 6 | October 7 |
| June 3 | November 4 |
| July 8 | December 9 |

Tribal Food Pantry

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Nixon Gym 10:30 – 11:30 am | |
| March 19 | August 20 |
| April 16 | September 17 |
| May 21 | October 15 |
| June 18 | November 19 |
| July 16 | December 17 |

Mobile Food Pantry

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Wadsworth Community Building 8 – 9 am | |
| Nixon Gym 10 – 10:30 am | |
| March 26 | August 27 |
| April 23 | September 24 |
| May 28 | October 22 |
| June 25 | November 26 |
| July 23 | December 24 |



Comfort and Joy Ministry, based in the Bay Area and an integral part of the Burning Man operation, has raised funds for the Tribal Food Pantry in recent years. On August 20, 2018, Comfort and Joy representatives presented a check for \$8,095.00 for the Tribal Food Pantry (above). These funds, plus the tribal government funds from its administrative budget, allows the tribe to purchase extra food from the Nevada Food Bank.

Incredible teamwork effort makes the Tribal Food Pantry event happen.

On the fourth Tuesdays the **Nevada Food Bank (Mobile Pantry)** truck arrives at the Wadsworth Community Center at 8:00 a.m. for an hour. Then it loads up and arrives at Nixon at 10:00 a.m. for another hour. Then the truck reloads and goes to Gerlach.

There is a policy change for Tribal Food Pantry and the Nevada Mobile Pantry recipients.

Each household may pick up supplemental food for *only* their individual household. One person obtaining foods for several households is no longer permitted.

If the participant is unable to attend, a phone call is required one day in advance to authorize a pick up. Written notes with a contact phone number is acceptable.

The Tribe receives enough food for approximately 165 households.

All senior citizens will be allowed to be first served. This is in accordance with our tribal custom to serve our elders first.

Bring your own bags.

Applications will be available on site. If you have questions, call Paula Wright, Case Manager at the Pyramid Lake Human Services office at (775)574-1047.



Comfort & Joy Fundraising Letter

Comfort & Joy is honored to host our annual Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fundraiser! This effort in 2017 raised over \$3500 for the tribal food bank and we are hoping to do even better this year. Giving back in a meaningful and impactful way is fundamental to what it means to be a Burner, and making a donation to help the Paiute community is a great way to show this commitment of our shared values.

Nearly 40% of the Paiute population relies on the tribal food bank throughout the year to help make ends meet. Comfort & Joy has been committed to supporting the tribal food bank and the Paiute Tribe for the last 8 years through our online fundraising efforts as well as our on-playa food drive. While the food drive effort delivers much needed and appreciated food items to the tribal community at the end of the Burn, our online fundraising effort specifically serves those needs that cannot be met by food donations alone.

Comfort & Joy strongly believes that those of us who travel to the playa each year on our journey of expression and celebration have a responsibility to the generous and welcoming people who have called this region home for at least the last 10,000 years. We sincerely appreciate and need your support in this effort. Please make a donation here for whatever amount you can--no amount is too small and every dollar is needed and appreciated! Donations are tax deductible and all funds raised will go directly to the Paiute Tribal Community Food Bank in Nixon, NV. You will receive a confirmation of your donation via email with the information required for tax filing purposes.

On hand to assist with the distribution was Della John, former executive officer for the tribe and who had an integral role in the establishment of the Tribal Food Pantry for Pyramid Lake. Here, she makes sure everyone receives a dozen eggs.



At the March 19th Food Pantry, 69 people arrived and patiently waited for the volunteers to set up the distribution area. Then they were able to obtain frozen meats, produce, eggs, dry foods, and a variety of non-food items. Food for 80 households was ordered for this event.



Pyramid Lake Human Services Report

The Indian General Assistance (IGA) fund for payments is currently unavailable due to lack of funds until further notice. The official notice was sent out to all participants on January 8, 2019 that stated the Bureau of Indian Affairs IGA fund was exhausted. The IGA fund was adversely affected due to the federal government shut-down in January. Please contact Paula Wright, Case Manager at (775)574-1047 if you have questions regarding these resources.

The Elder Emergency Assistance Fund is to assist eligible Tribal elders who reside on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation with costs associated with an unforeseen health or safety home repair that would result the inability to maintain a healthy and safe home environment thereby affecting the quality of life.

Procedure: Applications are available in the Tribal Administration lobby and at the Human Services office. The application requires a mailing and physical address, a working phone number and a designated representative. If a home repair service is required, it is recommended that the elder or representative contact Paula Wright at the Human Services office for assistance in securing a vendor quote before work is authorized. Paula has been helpful for some seniors in repairing electrical issues, for example. The Elder Emergency Assistance application must have an attached quote and a payment agreement if the cost is over \$301.00.

The Pyramid Lake Tribal Elder Emergency Assistance fund will not pay for unauthorized invoices or reimburse repair expenses. This becomes the individual's responsibility.

The Tribe will pay 100% of the costs from \$1.00 to \$300.00; 75% of the cost from \$301.00 to \$500.00; and 50% of the cost over \$501.00.

When the completed application and quotes are submitted, the Tribal Secretary will arrange for a purchase order and contact the appropriate service vendor to schedule a home appointment. The pre-approved request will be paid when the billing invoice is returned to the Tribal Secretary's office.



I'll just wait here until someone realizes that I'm lost...



Nevada tribal leaders concerned over nuclear waste shipment to Yucca Mountain

Photo by High Country News

Leaders from 13 Nevada tribes have sent letters to President Donald Trump and Energy Secretary Rick Perry protesting the federal government's secret and possibly illegal shipment of weapons-grade plutonium to the Nevada National Security Site at Yucca Mountain without informing State government officials or the tribes.

Tribal chairmen from the Las Vegas Paiute, Reno/Sparks Colony, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone, Duckwater Shoshone, Walker River Paiute, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone, Elko Shoshone, Ely Shoshone, Yerington Paiute, Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute, Summit Lake Paiute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute (Eastern Nevada and Western Utah), all expressed concerns that they were not informed or consulted about the shipment which took place prior to November of 2018.

"As a Southern Nevada tribe, our reservations, one in downtown Las Vegas and another in the northwestern part of the Las Vegas Valley, are in direct proximity to the transportation routes that may have been utilized for this shipment to the Nevada National Security Site," wrote tribal chairman Chris Spotted Eagle in a letter to Perry. "Were an incident to occur during such transport, our tribal citizens would be exposed to potentially harmful impacts."

Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak sent a letter to President Donald Trump on Feb. 27 requesting a meeting to discuss the plutonium shipment and the administration's plans for the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site. President Trump has yet to acknowledge or respond to the Governor's request for a meeting. The State has opposed opening Yucca Mountain for

nuclear waste since its inception but the federal government proceeded to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to build the facility.

Arlan Melendez, chairman of the Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, said the plutonium is being stored on the ancestral homelands of the Western Shoshone people. In a letter to Trump, he urged the president to accept the meeting with Sisolak and "that your DOE Secretary work closely with our tribal and state leaders to address the specifics of this recent shipment, and to ensure that no more hazardous material is sent to and/or left behind on our land."

Chairman Rupert Steele of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation writes, "By sending and storing a half ton of radioactive plutonium to the State of Nevada without consultation, the United States government failed in its duty to protect Indian Tribal resources. Furthermore, by taking such a reckless and careless action, the United States government completely ignored its legal and moral responsibilities under the United States Constitution to consult with Indian tribes on actions with Indian tribal implications."

"This is a real concern for Nevada's Tribes," said Sherry Rupert, executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission. "The sovereign tribes of Nevada should be afforded consultation as this decision affects their homelands and their citizens."

It should be noted that tribes whose lands are contaminated by nuclear waste would be hard-pressed to get replacement lands from either the federal government or in the states where they reside.—Editor

—Nevada Indian Commission press release

Sidebar: Republicans wanted to shorten licensing process for Yucca Mountain

Over a year ago Energy Secretary Rick Perry appeared before a Senate panel to defend his \$30 billion budget proposal which included \$110 million to restart the licensing application process for Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste storage facility.

A license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is needed to restart construction at Yucca Mountain, but the licensing was halted in 2011 under the Obama administration.

The Senators urged the Trump administration to move more aggressively to fund interim storage facilities for growing stockpiles of nuclear waste.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., chairman of the appropriations subcommittee for energy and

water development, said "We have more than enough used fuel to fill Yucca Mountain to its legal capacity," adding that he plans to file a bill soon that would create a federal agency to find additional permanent and temporary repositories besides Yucca Mountain.

The Republican-dominated House and Senate were at loggerheads over how to address nuclear waste generated by utility plants in 33 states and whether to press ahead with opening Yucca Mountain, which was designated by Congress in 1987 as the site for permanent storage.

The House passed legislation last year to streamline the licensing process and expand Yucca Mountain storage.

Edited from *Las Vegas Review Journal*, 4/2018



Energy Exploitation Plans for the Ruby Mountain Range Cancelled

The U.S. Forest Service announced on March 10 that it would reject a proposal that would have allowed oil and gas exploration on about 53,000 acres in the Ruby Mountains.

The decision followed an outpouring of opposition from across Nevada that generated thousands of letters from Reno, Carson City, Las Vegas, and the rural communities in Elko County where most of the range is located.

“Someone obviously sees this place as an important piece of Nevada as we do. That’s good,” said Fermina Stevens, a member of the Western Shoshone Nation who traveled from her Elko-area home to around the state of speak out against the leasing proposal.

While Stevens said she was happy the Forest Service decided against offering the leases, she thinks fossil fuel exploration and large-scale mining still poses a threat to Nevada’s natural resources.

“I can only hope this is a starting point to be able to protect more areas of Nevada. Oil and gas

leasing, fracking and gold mining aren’t going anywhere.”

“If we did find oil we would have to come in horizontally,” said Elko County Commissioner Rex Steninger. “We would never support any surface disturbances in the Rubys.”

Although the Forest Service chose the no lease alternative from the environmental review, there is still a 45-day objection period.

The lease request covered 52,500 acres that was the result of an expression of interest in oil and gas leases from an individual identified in as Ethan Murray who was unresponsive to phone calls and emails seeking interviews.

The land sought for leasing is at the northern end and west of Lamoille Canyon, an area known for its scenic glaciated terrain that sees an estimated 23,000 visitors annually who mostly arrive via Lamoille Canyon Road, a National Scenic Byway.

Further south the proposal sought leases on both sides of Harrison Pass Road, a seasonal

route that cuts through the heart of the range and offers views of the Ruby Valley and access to the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. It also calls for leases on land that includes creeks that provide habitat for the threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, hunt units for the largest deer herds in Nevada and habitat for the Greater Sage Grouse.

Patrick Donnelly, Nevada director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said there was a threat that people could buy the leases and cause ecological damage during the exploration process in the form of roads and test wells.

“Even one test well would impact the wildlife there because it is so pristine.” He also said it was significant that Nevadans from rural, urban and tribal communities came together in opposition and it showed the desire to preserve environmentally and culturally important landscapes, it transcends the political divides in the state.

“This is a huge symbolic victory, people don’t want fracking everywhere.”

The proposal also caught the attention of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. In a move that is unusual for a U.S. Senator, Cortez Masto wrote a letter of opposition during the comment period for the proposal.

She also introduced a bill that would prohibit future oil and gas leasing throughout the entire 425,000-acre Ruby Mountain Ranger District.

Cortez Masto praised the decision to deny the lease request and said she planned to continue pushing the bill to prevent future exploration in the range.

“I’m glad the Federal government listened to the voices of more than 14,000 Nevadans who asked for these precious public lands to be off-limits to oil and gas drilling,” she said in a written statement. “I will continue to fight in the Senate for the passage of my Ruby Mountains Protection Act, which would write into law that oil and gas leasing in the Rubys is prohibited and specifically ensure the protection of those beautiful public lands for generations to come.”

—*Edited from the Reno Gazette-Journal*

New Mexico’s Pueblos want protection for Chaco Canyon

New Mexico’s All Indian Pueblo Council of Governors are calling on U.S. land managers to put off an upcoming oil and gas lease sale, the latest in an ongoing battle over energy development in a region that’s home to a national park and other sites of cultural and historical significance. The tribes say the federal government is obligated to follow environmental and historic preservation laws when considering whether to allow for oil and gas exploration in northwestern New Mexico. They’re concerned about more than two dozen parcels that will be up for bid.

The massive stone structures that make up the Chaco Canyon Culture National Historical Park and other sites scattered beyond the park’s boundaries are important to Native Americans from around the Southwest.

In asking the Bureau of Land Management to defer the lease sale, the All Indian Pueblo Council renewed its call for formal protections to be included in a plan being drafted by that agency that will govern future development throughout the San Juan Basin.

Acoma Pueblo Gov. Brian Vallo accused the

agency of doing little to identify “critical and fragile cultural properties” in the basin, which spans much of northwestern New Mexico and parts of southwestern Colorado. Vallo said the lease sales are “inconsistent with the goal of the field office to complete a holistic plan for energy development while acting as stewards of that sacred landscape.”

The agency is planning to go ahead with the sale, and agency spokeswoman Cathy Garber said a draft of the amended management plan is expected within the next few months.

In recent years, land managers have declined oil and gas exploration on land within a 10-mile radius of Chaco Canyon, creating somewhat of an informal buffer. In early 2018, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke halted a lease sale over cultural concerns after hundreds of people protested. In February, the agency again decided to withdraw several parcels that had been nominated by the agency for inclusion in the sale.

The battle over energy development around Chaco, which is bordered by the Navajo Nation and a checkboard of state and federal land,

has been simmering for years. Officials with the Obama administration and Democratic members of New Mexico’s congressional delegation visited the region in 2015 in hopes of brokering a deal between the tribes and energy companies.

The BLM and the BIA then began working together on revamping a resource management plan. The partnership was meant to ensure tribes would be consulted and that scientific and archaeological analysis would be done to guarantee cultural sensitivity.

“Until this area is permanently protected, we are living in a state of uncertainty and doubt as the BLM prepares its plan amendment,” said Michael Chavarria, the governor of Santa Clara Pueblo. “Our cultural sites and ancestral homelands are put in danger every time BLM engages in these sales because it encourages haphazard development.”

Chaco Canyon includes the remains of kivas and other features of a ceremonial and economic hub that dates back centuries. It is a place of religious significance for the New Mexico pueblos and other area tribes.

PLPT artifacts pulled from Auction

The proposed auction of “The Moe and Mary Royels Wigwam Great Basin Collection” has run into some legal problems, specifically the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA). In a letter to the auction company, Holabird Western American Collections, the BIA Regional Director wrote that the agency “has reason to believe that some of the auction items may have been removed from archeological sites without the required permits” as cited in the laws of 1906 and 1979.

The Director wrote “BIA asserts ownership over items removed from archeological sites on Indian lands between June 8, 1906, and October 31, 1979. Objects of antiquity that were removed from sites within the interior boundaries of the Pyramid Lake Reservation prior to October 31, 1979, are the property of the United States and may not be auctioned, sold, or otherwise transferred without the express written consent of the BIA. Items removed from archaeological sites after the enactment of ARPA on October 31, 1979, are the property of the tribe from whose lands they were removed. In this case, items removed from the Pyramid Lake Reservation are the property of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of the Pyramid Lake Reservation, Nevada (PLPT). PLPT has notified the BIA that its cultural resources subject matter experts have preliminarily identified a number of artifacts as coming from Pyramid Lake. Moreover, the auction catalog clearly states that certain items were removed from Pyramid Lake.

“Noting that the auction catalog on page 128 provides public information about the regulations covering the collection of artifacts and your stated willingness to comply with ‘any and all regulations’ the BIA requests that the objects listed on the enclosed table be removed from this auction pending investigation. As the sole authority to issue ARPA permits on Indian lands in Nevada since 1979, we have reviewed our list



of issued ARPA permits and find no record of any application received nor permit issued for any excavation or collection possibly associated with Moe Royale’s Wigwam Collection. We also do not have any record of an Antiquities Act permit being issued to a university or other institution with which Mr. Royale may have been associated.

“Furthermore, a number of other items in your auction catalog may pose concerns regarding right of ownership, particularly those stated to come from Winnemucca Lake, Stillwater, and the Pine Nut Range, almost all of which are either tribal or federal lands.

“The BIA therefore respectfully suggests that, in light of the possibility that these items may have been removed without the necessary permits in violation of Federal law (contrary to your assertion in the catalog), the listed items be removed from auction to allow research into whether auction of the objects in question may legally proceed. We wish to hereby formally notify you and the consignees that both the Antiquities Act and ARPA impose civil and criminal penalties for trafficking in objects of antiquity and archaeological resources obtained without a permit.

“Once you removed the items in question from auction, BIA and PLPT subject matter experts request an opportunity to review the

items and any documentation that you may be able to provide. In order to do a comprehensive evaluation, BIA further requests that consignees provide copies of any and all Antiquities Act and ARPA permits for all objects of antiquity or archaeological resources removed from Indian lands.”

Accompanying the letter was a list of 28 items that warranted further review. Items include Points from Gardnerville, a metate grinding stone from Stillwater, stone hand tools from Winnemucca Lake, plus numerous items from Pyramid Lake such as ancient fishing equipment, grinding stones, cooking tools and baskets, plus numerous arrowheads and stone tools obtained from throughout the region.

There are numerous stories about how Moe and Mary obtained many of their items. During a mid-1990 investigation Mary admitted that she and Moe went into the caves at Marble Bluff and removed several items. It was also known that they rummaged through the construction site at Marble Bluff Dam and removed items that included grinding stones. Using “friendly persuasion” tactics, Moe purchased or was “given” artworks from the lady artisans that he visited. It was suspected that several of the ladies would give in and sell or give Moe items just to get them out of their house—they were too nice to tell him to get the hell out of their house or physically push him out the door.

Upon viewing the catalog, a number of family members saw their grandmother’s handmade items and wanted to buy them back. One lady said she saw her grand mother’s buckskin gloves, a vest, and beaded items that she knew were made as gifts for family members. There are a number of beautifully crafted cradleboards that were no doubt purchased at below bargain prices—essentially taking advantage of the high unemployment rate during a lot of those years and money was badly needed.

One disturbing item shown in the auction catalog is a pair of child-size burial moccasins. Some people will sell anything.

FBI seizes large collection of Indian artifacts

An official operation by the FBI led to the discovery of over 7,000 seized Indian artifacts that resulted in the FBI reaching out to the 573 federally-recognized Native American tribes in the United States in an attempt to find the proper home and legal repatriation of thousands of culturally-significant items.

The discovery has been the subject of ongoing investigations for years in which a 91-year-old Christian missionary by the name of Donald C. Miller, who lived in Indiana, had run an amateur museum of sorts out of his farmhouse.

According to the FBI, tens of thousands of cultural artifacts in varying methods of display—from being encased in jars, in glass display cases to actual skeletons adorned with breastplates and/or bone choker necklaces plus a saw-carved skull into a fruit bowl on a table was in his museum.

The initial discovery of the artifacts occurred in 2014. Miller was a former engineer, World War II veteran and Christian missionary who had done work in Haiti and was known for his huge collection of artifacts from all over the world.

The FBI hopes to get the assistance from tribes in identifying where the artifacts need to be returned. “There is no single expert that can tell us everything we need to know about all of this material,” said Special Agent Tim Carpenter, who oversees the FBI’s art theft program and who led the 2014 recovery effort in Indiana. “This case requires the FBI to go out and seek assistance from many experts in the field.”

The seized artifacts and human remains were part of a much larger collection amassed by Don Miller, a renowned scientist who helped build the first atomic bomb and a globetrotting amateur archaeologist whose passion for collecting sometimes crossed the line into illegality and outright looting. For more than seven decades, Miller unearthed cultural artifacts from North and South America, Asia, and the Caribbean.

“Don would collect pretty much anything,” Carpenter said. “He collected from just about every corner of the globe.” Areas of his Waldron, Indiana, farmhouse held approximately 42,000 items and were stacked “floor to ceiling”, Car-

penter said. “But his passion, I think, was Native American cultural goods.”

The FBI is working with several tribal officials and archeology experts including Pete Coffey, a Tribal Historic Compliance Officer in North Dakota, and Holly Cusack-McVeigh, an associate professor of anthropology and museum studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

“The guy’s house was literally a museum, said Coffey. “He had these huge display cases and fully articulated skeletons laying in these display cases in his living room ... He then dressed these skeletons in the grave goods that he had robbed. These skeletons had bone chokers on, breast-plates and armbands that he had stolen from the graves. He took a skull, and cut the crown of that skull off and he had it on his coffee table as a fruit bowl and he had fruit in that skull.”

“So far there were a dozen ancestors who went back home to their people and were repatriated. This repatriation included representatives from many of the Sioux Tribes of South Dakota and Three affiliated Tribes of North Dakota,” said Cusack-McVeigh.

Introducing Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



At age 29 is the youngest woman ever to have been elected to Congress, and she is on the cover of the April 1 issue of *Time Magazine*.

As a new Senator she advocates for a progressive platform that includes:

- Medicare For All;
- A federal jobs guarantee;
- A proposed Green New Deal;
- Abolishing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE);
- Free public college and trade school, and
- A 70% marginal tax rate for incomes above \$10 million.

Before running for Congress, she served as an educational director for the 2017 Northeast Collegiate World Series for the National Hispanic Institute.

Ocasio-Cortez graduated from Yorktown High School in 2007. She came in second in the Microbiology category of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair with a microbiology research project on the effect of antioxidants on the lifespan of the nematode *C. elegans*. To show of appreciation for her efforts, the MIT Lincoln Laboratory named a small asteroid after her: 23238 Ocasio-Cortez. Also she participated in the National Hispanic Institute's Lorenzo de Zavala (LDZ) Youth Legislative Session.

She attended Boston University and was awarded a John F. Lopez Fellowship. During college, she served as an intern in the immigration office during the final year of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy's tenure. "I was the only Spanish speaker and whenever a frantic call would come into the office from who someone is looking for their husband because they have been snatched off the street by ICE, I was the one who had to pick up that phone and help that person navigate that system."

She graduated cum laude from Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences in 2011, majoring in international relations and economics.

In 2008, she became involved in a long probate battle to settle her late father's estate. She said the experience helped her learn " firsthand how attorneys appointed by the court to administer an estate can enrich themselves at the expense of the families struggling to make sense of the bureaucracy."

After the 2016 general election, she traveled across America by car, visiting places such as Flint, Michigan and the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. Before her December 2016 visit to Standing Rock she believed that the only way to effectively run for office was you had to have access to wealth, social influence, and power. But at Standing Rock she saw the people "putting their whole lives and everything that they had on the line for the protection of their community", which inspired her to begin working for her largely Puerto Rican community.

Green New Deal

On February 7, 2019, Ocasio-Cortez submitted her first piece of legislation, the Green New Deal, to the Senate. She and Senator Ed Markey released a joint non-binding resolution laying out the main elements of a 10-year "economic mobilization" that would phase out fossil fuel use and overhaul the nation's infrastructure. Their plan called for implementing the "social cost of carbon" that was part of the Obama administration's plans to address climate change and transition the country to 100 percent renewable, zero-emission energy sources while creating jobs and boosting the economy.

The plan gained support from some Democratic senators and activist groups such as Greenpeace and the Sunrise Movement. However, in what was later described as a "stunt", the Republicans called for an early vote on the Green New Deal legislation without allowing discussion or expert testimony and it was defeated 57-0 on the Senate floor.

Regardless, she continues to display her innate intelligence about the state of affairs in the world around her and that scares the bejesus out of the old established white hairs of the Senate.

The Time of the Bear and the Green New Deal

by Winona LaDuke



In the middle of winter the Bears sleep, and dream of food and adventures to come ahead. That's the time when we reflect and make plans for the spring.

A Bear is also what they call a falling stock market—and that's what happened this December.

As of Christmas, all of the major indexes had lost 16 to 26 percent from their highs of last summer and fall. Barring huge gains during the upcoming holiday period, this would have been the worst December for stocks since 1931. We had officially entered what investors call a Bear Market.

So, what does the Bear Clan do during a Bear Market? That's the question I ask myself, as I dig into my stored foods—maple sugar, honey, berries, manoomin, hominy, potatoes and meat. We plan for the future; our own Indigenous economies.

Nationally some of this is reflected in what's called the Green New Deal and the Farm Bill. As we emerge to spring, it seems that Washington is

beginning to move towards what we would call the 8th fire.

Green New Deal

The Sunrise Movement is a new generation of leaders, and the shakeup in Washington is just beginning.

This past year, Minnesota had the highest voter turnout of any state in the mid term elections. And it shows, in some small ways. Nationally, despite heavy voter suppression and a bunch of other monkey business, we elected some young visionary leaders, including those talking about a Green New Deal that will capitalize the next economy. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., has called on the committee to draft a "Green New Deal" to get the country off fossil fuels by 2030. Her leadership is joined with allies like the Native women just elected to Congress—Deb Haaland (NM), Sharice Davids (KS) and Ilhan Omar from Minnesota, all looking to the future.

The Sunrise Movement is a new generation of leaders, and the shakeup in Washington is just beginning. The plan looks to address the failing infrastructure of this country, whether the water crisis of Flint Michigan, or the aging powerline which caused the latest fire in California. The plan seeks to employ people in jobs that matter for the environment and basic human needs.

Indeed, support for the Green New Deal is showing signs of becoming a litmus test among

lawmakers who may run for president. Some elements include: a government-led investment in energy and resource efficiency as well as reusable energies and microgeneration; a low-carbon infrastructure redevelopment in order to create jobs; a directed tax on the profits of oil and gas companies with proceeds being invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency; curbing corporate tax evasion; and a Global Marshall Plan initiative to finance the transformation. Sounds sort of dreamy, right?

Well, it's happening. Here on White Earth, in the 1855 treaty territory, on Red Lake and throughout the north as Indigenous people lead.

In the Twin Cities, the Little Earth Green Zone represents a Community's vision for the future, where local jobs and green space make life beautiful, and energy is local—all important in a time of climate change and chaos. While state leadership on climate change and the Green New Deal has been lacking, tribal organizations and governments like Shakopee, continue to move ahead.

Tribes are looking at climate change, and every tribe is looking at renewable energy.

Here at White Earth, Akiing, a subsidiary of Honor the Earth, will bring a solar thermal manufacturing factory online this spring, offering solar thermal panels nationally—straight outta Ponsford. Red Lake continues to move to more solar. Shakopee continues to expand its renewable and food system work. Tribes are looking at

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How scammers get your information

A recent caller to the AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline was being tormented with fake emails and trolling phone calls from scammers who seemed to specifically target him. He asked, "How do these people know so much about me?" We get that call a lot. Many don't understand how they get on the radar of crooks. Here are some ways.

I frequently enter contests. Online contests are gateways to unwanted sales pitches. Not only do marketers collect information like name, age and address, they may learn other things—that you like to travel or are buying a car. Also, they know you believe in luck. That could make you a target.

I mail in warranty cards. Ever notice when you fill a warranty card for a toaster or coffee maker that it requests information like how much money you make? It's likely that your information is being sold to others, either legitimately or as part of a scam.

I fill out lots of surveys. Did you recently fill out a questionnaire rating your stay at a hotel or the service at a restaurant? Selling survey data is big business, and marketing firms and even criminals can learn a lot about you based on travel preferences, what type of home you own or what car you drive.

I share personal updates on Facebook. Scammers turn to social media postings to learn more about those they've targeted. So be

prudent: Don't post personal information, narrow who can see your posts and avoid posting real-time updates about your whereabouts.

I live in the United States. Many public records are available at the federal, state county and city levels, including census data, property information, criminal records, bankruptcies and tax liens. Private companies can pull together all this information on you and sell it anyone. And it's 100 percent legal.

I toss my mail. Shred all mail that has your name and address, account numbers, or other personal data. If you don't have a home shredder, save your papers for shredding place. Messy garbage won't deter a bad guy.

Someone in my family has died recently. Obituaries are a prime hunting ground for scammers, who learn the names of vulnerable widows, widowers, children or grandchildren. Honor the dead, but keep personal information in obituaries to a minimum.

A man who led a massive scam ring that operated out of Kingston, Jamaica, and raked in millions of dollars by targeting older Americans with promises of lottery riches, was sentenced to six years in prison recently—in a federal courthouse in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The scammer and others cheated at least 95 mostly elderly Americans out of \$5.8 million by getting them to wire money to bank accounts in Jamaica. Victims were told they had won a major

From the Tribal Secretary's Office

Change in Start Time for Tribal Council Meetings

On February 1, 2019, Tribal Council approved a start time change for all Tribal Council meetings to begin at 6 p.m. This includes: Regular Tribal Council meetings held on the 1st Friday of the month; Special Tribal Council meetings held on the 3rd Friday of the month, and Water Team meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

This will remain in effect until changed by future Tribal Council.

Posting of Approved Minutes and Resolutions

Starting with year 2018, approved Tribal Council minutes and resolutions will be posted to the pyramidlake.us website; click on Tribal News > Tribal Government > Departments > Tribal Council. Previous years, 2017 and earlier, still need to be requested in writing from the Tribal Secretary's office at 775-574-1000 or email at tribalsecretary@plpt.nsn.us

prize but needed to send money for taxes before the winnings were paid. He was tried in North Dakota because he scammed an 82-year-old woman there out of her life savings of \$300,000.

From a warm tropical climate of Jamaica to North Dakota? Now that's karma!

LaDuke Continued from page 16

climate change, and every tribe is looking at renewable energy. As investors flee from fossil fuel stocks (over \$6 trillion divested thus far) there will be opportunities to invest in tribal renewable projects, particularly as the world looks upon Minnesota as a battleground over the choice between fossil fuels and the next economy.

Farm Bill Brings Home the Hemp and the Food

The Notorious Farm Bill was signed into law by President Trump in late December. However, it does include about 63 provisions for tribal governments to focus on food production, food security and infrastructure.

Kudos for hard work on this goes to a coalition and the leadership of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community which organized the Native Farm Bill Coalition as part of the tribe's Seeds of Native Health campaign in the fall of 2017.

Since that time, 170 tribes across the United States have joined the effort. "This farm bill acknowledges the fundamental sovereignty and competence of tribal governments far more than previous farm bills," said Keith Anderson, vice chair of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and co-chair of the Native Farm Bill Coalition. "It gives tribes greater control over our food systems and accords our tribal producers new parity in access to USDA programs."

"This is really one of the first times where you saw a large number of tribal governments coming together speaking with one strong voice and being able to get a substantial number of changes," said Colby Duren, executive director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas.

Working together, we can do so much more. And there will be food for many generations of bears.

Some changes include allowing tribal producers new parity in access to USDA programs and creating a pilot project program in commodities. "What that really allows [for tribes] is to be able to say, 'What are the types of foods—traditional food, healthy food, locally produced foods—that we want to be able to have our citizens have access to in these food programs?'" said Duren.

"Those are different things that can really help build our tribal food economies, because you're helping to be able to support the producers of the food and able to get healthier foods and locally produced foods to the people who are using those programs."

The Bill requires the USDA to establish alternative tribal programs for its Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program and establishes a demonstration project that allow tribes to manage federal forest and Bureau of Land Management lands adjacent to reservations. There will also be more opportunities for tribal colleges to access agriculture research funds, and tribal governments will be allowed to join with states on international trade delegations. As markets increase for organic and Indigenous foods, all of this will bolster tribal economies.

In addition, hemp is explicitly removed from the list of federally banned drugs under the Controlled Substances Act and legalized in the Farm Bill. "This law... paves the way for the first federally sanctioned commercial hemp grows since World War II," NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said in a press release.

Native people have a long history with hemp. Traditional weavings for centuries have been made with what's called Indian hemp, and decades of tribal hemp production have suffered from bans. Today, as hemp grows in the US market—the largest hemp market in the world, tribes can be at the table. Hemp Business Journal estimates the total retail value of all hemp products sold in the United States to be at least \$688 million for 2016. The data demonstrates the hemp industry is growing quickly and according to Sean Murphy, the Journal's founder and publisher, sales are projected to be nearly \$2 billion by 2020. The surge is expected to be led by hemp food, body care and CBD-based products. On White Earth, we expect to do all of these, plus fiber.

That Moment in Time

We know this is a moment in time in Minnesota and our world. As the United Nations tells us that we have 12 years to drastically reduce carbon emissions, communities, and indeed newly elected leadership take up the challenge. Now would be an excellent time to prepare our communities for climate change. In this moment as described by our prophets a thousand years ago, we move to the Green Path. That Path is the 8th Fire. Some people will make a future based on the stock market, but some will take that future in hemp, solar panels and manoomin.

In Washington, the power which elected new leadership moves towards the Green New Deal, we will see what Minnesota does, but the tribes will move ahead regardless. And for now, as the Bear looks to the world outside, we will make a plan the leaders can follow.

—Indian Country Today

Welcome to Trump's World



Dear Readers,

Mendacity is a fun word, it means untruthfulness but mendacity is easier say: Washington is full of mendacity... Nothing but mendacity comes out of the White House... Italics are Trump's direct quotes, for instance:

Planning ahead:

FIREWORKS ON THE MALL ON JULY 4? WHO WOULD'VE THUNK! HOLD THE DATE! We will be having one of the biggest gatherings in the history of Washington, D.C., on July 4th. It will be called "A Salute To America" and will be held at the Lincoln Memorial. Major fireworks display, entertainment and an address by your favorite President, me!

Later at the White House: We're thinking about doing, on the 4th of July or thereabouts, a parade. A "Salute to America" parade. It will be a, really, a gathering, as opposed to a parade, I'd guess you'd have to say. Perhaps at the Lincoln Memorial. We're looking at sites. But we're thinking about doing something, which would become, perhaps, a tradition. "Salute to America" on July 4th or July 4th weekend. Somewhere around that area. The White House: "President Trump loves America and wants to help all Americans celebrate our nation's independence on July 4." Does anyone know July 4 is already a national holiday?

March 29 Michigan rally: If Hillary won, You would be doing wind, windmills, and if it doesn't if it doesn't blow you can forget about television for that night. Imagining a family conversation, 'Darling, I want to watch television. I'm sorry, the wind isn't blowing'... I know a lot about wind. I know a lot about wind. April 2: They say the noise (turbines) causes cancer... what?

We have some breaking news! You ready? Can you handle it? I don't think you can handle it. I support the Great Lakes. Always have. They are beautiful. They are big, very deep. Record deepness, right? And I am going to get, in honor of my friends, full funding of \$300 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which you have been trying to get for over 30 years. So, we will get it done. ... Good news, everyone, I've decided to save you from me. He wanted to eliminate the restoration program but instead approved only \$30 million not \$300.

On border closing: I am telling you right now, we will close the damn border. [I]f we close the border, that means we're not taking those cars into our country. And what does that mean? That

means you're gonna make more cars right here in the good old U.S.A. Very simple. It's all very simple. People try and make it too complicated. It's all very simple. And people believe him...

More: Mexico is doing NOTHING to help stop the flow of illegal immigrants to our Country. They are all talk and no action. Likewise, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador have taken our money for years, and do Nothing. The Dems don't care, such BAD laws. May close the Southern Border! I am not kidding around. It could mean all trade with Mexico. We will close it for a long time. ...Costing both countries over a billion dollars a day in trade, incomprehensible to a businessman with numerous bankruptcies.

Ocasio-Cortez earns first insult badge: Well, I don't want to speak badly about the New Green Deal, Sean (Hannity), because, frankly, I'm afraid they will stop using it, because I really do want to campaign against it. On April 2: The Great New Deal (sic), done by a young bartender, only 29 years old...

On birthright citizenship: Birthright citizenship is a very, very important subject. In my opinion, it's much less complex than people think. I think it says it very loud and clear in the Constitution that you don't have to go through the process of whatever they're talking about ... [T]he Constitution does not—I say that to the media—does not require [birthright citizenship]—read it—because illegal aliens are not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Birthright citizenship, you know all about it. We will keep the criminals, the drug dealers, we will keep them all out of our country. We will get rid of all of this. We will end, finally, birthright citizenship.

On health care: I understand health care now, especially, very well. A lot of people don't understand it. We're coming up with plans.... And if the Supreme Court rules that Obamacare is out, we will have a plan that's far better than Obamacare. April Fools Day tweet: Everybody agrees that ObamaCare doesn't work. Premiums & deductibles are far too high -- Really bad HealthCare! Even the Dems want to replace it, but with Medicare for all, which would cause 180 million Americans to lose their beloved private health insurance. The Republicans are developing a really great HealthCare Plan with far lower premiums (cost) & deductibles than ObamaCare. In other words it will be far less expensive & much more usable than ObamaCare. Vote will be taken right after the Election when Republicans hold the Senate & win back the House. It will be truly great HealthCare that will work for America. Also, Republicans will always support Pre-Existing Conditions. The Republican Party will be known as the Party of Great HealthCare [sic]. Meantime, the USA is doing better than ever & is respected again! Meanwhile, the Trump admin-



istration is quietly devising a plan to bypass Congress and give block grants to states for Medicaid to reduce spending on the health care safety net for the poor.

Shock and dismay about eliminating the Special Olympics from the Education Budget was fast in coming but not to worry—These Special Olympics will be funded. I just told my people I want to fund the Special Olympics and I just authorized a funding of the Special Olympics. I've been to the Special Olympics. I think it's incredible and I just authorized a funding. I heard about it this morning. I have overridden my people. We are funding the Special Olympics. Overlooked was a 17% overall budget cut but a 15% salary increase for DeVos' staff. At her budget hearing the chairman noted, "A lot of times when asked a question, she would look like a deer caught in the headlights." Oh, and federal court judges have rejected DeVos' attempts to change Obama-era policies that includes regulations aimed at predatory for-profit colleges, processing of student loan forgiveness, civil rights, and campus sexual assault policies.

Before signing a meaningless executive order on free-speech rights, Trump weighed in on student loan debts: I'm going to work to fix it because it's outrageous what's happening. You're not given that fair start. You're too far down. It's not right. And we're going to work very, very hard to get it fixed. But we're going to start with 43 million people in the United States who are currently working to pay off student loans. And we'll be talking about that very soon. We're going to work on that very soon. I've always been very good with loans and -- I love loans. I love other people's money. With his multiple bankruptcies banks refused to do business with him... has very little credibility on the subject.

His border wall saga: (1) First he said Mexico would pay for it, Mexico laughed, said no. (2) After Congress refused \$5 plus billion dollars, he picks the Thanksgiving holiday to send skilled military men to string barbwire along the wall (which Mexicans took to protect their property!). (3) Congress denies him again so he suggests dipping into the military's construction budget, and the military pay and pension funds but he backs down after criticism. (4) Picks Christmas to throw a tantrum and closes the government because Congress won't give him the money. (5) So while waiting for his \$5.5 billion dollars, Trump has one of his agencies clearing the land of plants and animals. And is preparing to seize private land using the eminent domain law. Real trouble now—taking white people's land.

Trump's rogue gallery: Elaine Chao has been exposed as Department of Transportation Secretary following the second Boeing 737 MAX air disaster. Thirty-five Congressional mandates sit unanswered: from minimum seat space to secondary barriers protecting cockpits; FAA's top job—empty for 14 months; enforcement fines against major U.S. airlines dropped 88% in the past two years; and three-hour tarmac delays have doubled. She is married to Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell, 'nuff said.

Ethically challenged David Bernhardt, Interior Secretary, has a history of pleasing big energy corporations he used to lobby for—so many that he has to carry a card listing all of them. Oil company executives were recorded laughing at the easy access they have to Trump who was

ordering a sweeping overhaul of Obama-era environmental policies. They were celebrating a Bernhardt's rise in the Interior Dept. and how they can now easily visit and talk to him about environmental regulations that were cutting into their bottom lines—rules concerning smog, fracking, access to federal lands, and endangered species protection.

A former coal lobbyist, Andrew Wheeler became EPA's 50th administrator—a prolific de-regulator he knows how to manipulate the agency to support the coal industry responsible for 72% of toxic water contamination—making it the nation's largest water polluter. Wheeler has been described as the “literal embodiment of the swamp” and after he was approved as EPA head, a former employee said, “The GOP has lost its soul. Republicans used to be the first to defend the environment. It's like their collective minds has turned syphilitic.”

Television talker and Trump adviser Stephen Moore has been nominated for a seat on the Federal Reserve Board and who has admitted he is unfamiliar with the Fed's basic functions. It was also revealed that he owes \$75,000 to the IRS. The *Kansas City Star* reported that Moore “helped shape the deep tax cuts that were blamed for years of budget shortfalls under former Gov. Sam Brownback.” Moore's nomination will be a bit trickier to get a confirmation because he'll be dealing with the nation's money.

Picking on Puerto Rico: *The Democrats today killed a Bill that would have provided great relief to Farmers and yet more money to Puerto Rico despite the fact that Puerto Rico has already been scheduled to receive more hurricane relief funding than any “place” in history. The people of Puerto Rico are GREAT, but the politicians are incompetent or corrupt. Puerto Rico got far more money than Texas & Florida combined, yet their government can't do anything right, the place is a mess -- nothing works. FEMA & the Military worked emergency miracles, but politicians like the crazed and incompetent Mayor of San Juan have done such a poor job of bringing the Island back to health. 91 Billion Dollars to Puerto Rico, and now the Dems want to give them more, taking dollars away from our Farmers and so many others. Disgraceful!*

Horrible storms and fiscal mismanagement has left Puerto Rico in dire need of congressional aid. Yet, Trump balked at a \$91 billion price tag to help the U.S. territory—for that price—we could buy Puerto Rico four times over. The U.S. already owns the island and blaming fiscal mismanagement is a cover-up for why Trump will not help Puerto Rico. However, he did make a very knowing comment about the little island being “bought four times over.” It was the buying and selling of Puerto Rican real estate by American hedge fund operators who thought the island would become a vacationer's paradise. When that didn't happen, they sold their out interests, took the money and ran. Their financial manipulations crippled the country's already fragile economy and left it unable to recover.

Fact--Obama does not read his intelligence briefings. *Obama has missed 58% of his intelligence briefings. Not! But since becoming president Trump skipped nearly all of his intelligence briefings. Why? Well, I get it when I need it.... I don't have to be told -- you know, I'm, like, a smart person! Okay, then...*

‘Genocide! Thousands died! Isn't that a hoot?’

By Leonard Pitts Jr.
Miami Herald

Donald Trump Jr., like his father, made callous comments about the forced removal of Native Americans from their land.

A few words about the Trail of Tears and other jokes.

Granted, the Trail of Tears would hardly seem a laughing matter. To the contrary, as recounted by History.com, it was an ordeal of robbery, mass relocation and

death growing out of what white Americans of the 19th Century saw as their “Indian problem.” By which they meant that American Indians held lands in the southeast United States—including parts of North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida—that white people coveted.

They tried various schemes to get it. They tried “civilizing” the Indians—requiring them to learn English, accept European concepts of property rights, convert to Christianity. They tried looting, terrorism and mass murder. Beginning in 1830, they tried The Indian Removal Act. It allowed for Native Americans to be forcibly resettled to the West, pushed out of white people's way exactly as a bulldozer pushes debris.

Prodded by the U.S. Army, Native Americans made the journey on foot, walking over a thousand miles, sometimes in chains. Epidemics of whooping cough, typhus, cholera and dysentery ravaged them. Many starved, and thousands died before the remnant reached the land the federal government said was now theirs.

Eventually, white people took that, too. It became the state of Oklahoma.

The Cherokee dubbed the walk “The Trail Where We Cried.” And no, you wouldn't think there was anything funny about it, but the Donalds Trump would disagree.

On Saturday, Trump the elder tweeted a jab at senator and presidential candidate Elizabeth



Warren, referencing her claim of Native American ancestry: “See you on the campaign TRAIL, Liz!” Then his son Donald Jr. tweeted a screen shot of his father's tweet along with this response from another Twitter user: “The Native American genocide continues with another murder by the president.”

“Savage!!!” exulted Don-Boy. “Love my president.”

Have you slapped your knee yet?

Not that this blithe disrespect is unique. To the contrary, in the ridicule of these two rich twits, one hears an echo of school kids mocking a Native American elder chanting a prayer song on the National Mall. For that matter, one spies a white medical student in blackface standing by a classmate in a Ku Klux Klan hood.

And one hears too many white people laughing under the delusion that these things are jokes. It is ridicule as a barrier to knowing or feeling, as all-purpose defense against claims on conscience. And never mind that when you laugh at someone else's traumas and passages, you diminish them. You exile them from empathy.

Ridicule, you see, is the last great death of a culture. The first comes when trauma is inflicted upon a people, killing the lives they once knew. The second comes when that trauma is broadly forgotten, when it is turned into myths and John Wayne movies, killing the memory of who they were and what happened to them. The third is when a people and their traumas are reduced to punch lines, killing their humanity and making them absurd.

These processes operated long before Donald Trump arrived. But under him, they have gained the imprimatur of presidential approval. He has made arrogant disregard for the passages and lives of people other than white ones OK again. This is the true state of our Union. And people of color and people of conscience should be appalled that it is now necessary to say what was obvious not so very long ago: The Trail Where We Cried is sacred. Show some respect.



Leonard Pitts, Jr. is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and has recently published a novel entitled *The Last Thing You Surrender*.



From the Museum's Oral History Project

Today is February 2, 2002 and today Wesley Jim, the language provider, will be talking about the lake and surrounding areas. These are the places he remembers. The lake is colored blue and the surrounding areas are in pink.

—Charlotte Harry, Presenter

Years ago, when I was probably 7 years old we lived under what is now called Marble Bluff, probably in the area of the fish ladder that is there now. And from there I would go on horseback, go across the river, down lower from us, and then I'd go on to Popcorn Rock. On the way I would gather grasshoppers to use for bait. And I would fish off of the rock at Popcorn. This is the area I'm talking about and this little area here is where the Popcorn Rock is located. It was probably about 18 inches to 2 feet out of the water and I used to stand on that rock and fish for these chubs that were in the lake. Then I would return home. My first trip out there I came back with a little less than a half sack of fish.

When I got home, my grandfather told me, he says, "We're gonna go through ceremony that will, in the future, help you in your hunting where the game will be plentiful, you will always find game, wherever you hunt." And he taught me respect. He taught me respect for the animals.

He says, "Don't waste it. If you wound an animal that you want, don't just let it go. You follow it and you catch up and you bring it home." So these are the things that I remember.

And the ceremony consisted of – he built a fire and he cooked the fish over that fire. And he gathered some sagebrush, limbs with the leaves on it, and he laid them on the floor, and he put the fish on top of that until he could pray. He had me jump from east to west and from south to north. Then he would pray with the sagebrush and water. And he would comb my body from my head to my foot – pray that I'll be successful in all my hunts – what ever I go after will be plentiful. And he always told me to respect what I'm doing.

And he also told me, he sat me down and he told me about – he says, "If you ever get married, and your wife is in the family way," and he said,

"you be sure and find some tules and you make a belt out of it. And you wear that belt when you go fishing or when you go hunting." He said, "Friends that know your family will recognize you as a true hunter if you wore your belt. If not, everybody just gonna leave and go home because it cause the fish to go down deep and nobody will catch anything. Just like the game, you will not see what you are going to hunt." So those things I have been told and I really believed those things.

When I was in Schurz, Wilson Christenson and I used to go fishing a lot down at Walker – Walker Lake. This one day he happened to see my belt and he says, "What's that you got on?" You know, he never heard the history behind it. He laughed at me so we sat down there and I explained to him what I wore that for. Then he was more serious about it. Then he believed what I was telling him, that if I came down to fish with you and I don't wear this, the fish will go down deep and we'll never catch any fish. And when I had that belt we always had luck. We always caught fish and what I've been told by my grandfather, it stayed with me throughout all these years.

And when I started to go to the language get togethers we have, it seem like everything started to come back. And that was how I was raised – I was raised to pray before whatever I go out to hunt and to pray before I go onto that lake. You pray that the water will not get rough and that it will take you out and it will bring you back home safely.

A long time ago, our old people lived at a place called Nugent and one day Abe's grandfather decided to come to Nixon on horseback and his son wanted to come with him. So they left Nugent early in the morning, probably around 3 o'clock and they stopped at 7-Mile Spring to water their horse in order to continue to Nixon. After they stopped there they continued on, coming this way to Nixon.

And they got to a point where his son, who was then about 8, 9 years old, and each time the horse would take a step, the boy would say, "No, don't go there. There's something bad going

From Marble Bluff



Darren Hicks is holding this wonderfully large specimen from the fishery facilities at Marble Bluff. It measures 34 and 3/4 inches and weighs 17 pounds. Marble Bluff is open to the public for tours from 9 am to 2 pm if you want to watch them process the fish and put them over the dam.

on at that hill in front of us." He could see the flames from the rifle shot that was shot from the soldier's guns. They were having battle with the warriors, and I don't know what kind of weapon the warriors had – I always wondered why the soldiers attacked our people, the native people here that lived here in the Pyramid Lake area.

I don't know whether it was to annihilate them or what – I never did know that. But as they continued, all the activities that was going on at that sand hill area had ceased and the soldiers were on their way back to Churchill.

They had a command post there and their buildings were made out of adobe. The Paiutes called that – they lived in mud huts but it was really adobe and the remnants are still there. Some walls are still standing up and they have a little museum there but it doesn't say anything about these skirmishes that occurred against the Indians here.

And then as time went on we heard more stories about how the mothers and fathers were hid, or the grandparents were hid, in some of the caves and left there so that they wouldn't be seen by the soldiers. And when everything was over then the father would go and take them back home to where they lived.

And later that boy who was able to see at a distance, he later became an Indian doctor and that is why he could see at such a distance, because he had that special power to foresee whatever is happening but his father couldn't see what was happening there – that was about 7 or 8 miles from where he was, he could see that distance and like I say, he had the power to be an Indian doctor.

This oral history was transcribed from tapes by the Pyramid Lake's tribal museum. The transcription project was funded by the National Park Service.

Local Teacher Receives National Recognition



Teresa Wright, a teacher at the Pyramid Lake Jr/Sr High School, has been selected as a National Endowment of Humanities (NEH) Summer Scholar from a national applicant pool to attend one of 32 summer seminars supported by the NEH. She will participate in a summer institute, *Teaching Native American Histories*, a three-week program at Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. The institute will be co-directed by Linda Coombs (Aquinnah Wampanoag) and Alice Nash from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Teresa is married to Mervin Wright, Jr. of Nixon. They have three children, Nikwich, Lena and Amos, all of whom graduated from Pyramid Lake High School. Nik and Lena are graduates of Stanford University and Amos received his AA degree from Haskell Indian Nations University and is currently attending Idaho State University at Pocatello, Idaho.

Teresa, Yurok, has a Master's in Education from Chico State University

"A child on the other side of the border is no less worthy of love and compassion than my own child."

—Barack Obama