



A January Solidarity Walk in downtown Pendleton drew participants from all backgrounds. Willa Wallace led the Walk. See more on Page 5A



Tyasin Burns, a sophomore at Nixyaawii Community School, drives against two Kittitas defenders in a January ball game. For more about the 20-2 Golden Eagles check out Sports in Section B.



Board of Trustees Chair Gary Burke and Kelly Fitzpatrick from the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs signed an MOU authorizing a Veterans Service Officer on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. More on Page 4A.

2 Sections, 48 pages /
Publish date Jan. 3, 2019



Confederated Umatilla Journal

The monthly newspaper of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation ~ Pendleton, Oregon

February 2019

Section A

Volume 27, Issue 2

Yakama decision halts Celilo art project

Maya Lin installation part of six-site Confluence Project

By Wil Phinney of the CUJ

THE DALLES – The Confluence Project’s sixth and final art installation planned at Celilo Park is on hold because of opposition from the Yakama Nation.

The Yakamas oppose any development that encourages public access and would like to see the park decommissioned.

Confluence, in collaboration with the Columbia River tribes and the celebrated artist Maya Lin, has created five projects that stretch from the Nez Perce homeland to the Chinook Coast. Each art installation was created at a site along the Columbia River deemed to be historically significant to tribes. Those tend to be at the confluence waterways.

The other installations are at Cape Disappointment at Ilwaco on the Washington Coast, Fort Vancouver (Vancouver, Washington), Sandy River Delta (Troutdale, Oregon), Sacajawea State Park in Pasco,

Confluence Project on page 20



Halfway to school

Members of the Board of Trustees and staff from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in mid-January toured the new Education Facility, which is about halfway complete. It is supposed to open in time for the start of school in the fall. For more, turn to Page 10A.

Hi-def cameras to watch CTUIR Housing

By the CUJ

MISSION – Eight high-definition cameras, capable of recognizing faces and license plates, will be installed in mid-February in sections of tribal housing where traffic is the greatest.

Marcus Luke, Housing Department Director for the Confederated Tribes of

the Umatilla Indian Reservation, said residents are eager to see the 360-degree cameras installed.

Ray Denny, Public Safety Department Director, said cameras should help Tribal Police identify individuals suspected of committing crimes and causing trouble in the housing area.

“Especially at night,” Denny said,

“cameras will help police see where individuals run to hide and locate them.”

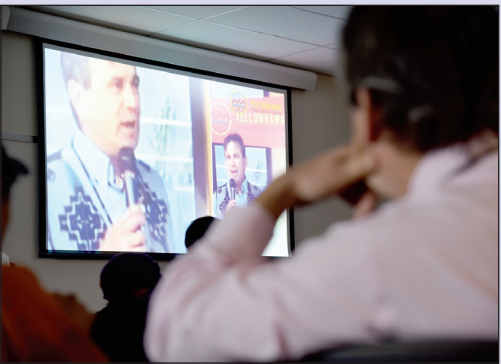
Luke said tenants want to see a halt to graffiti, vandalism, trespassing and parties, but the emphasis will be on violence, particularly shooting in the projects.

Luke said there have been two relatively recent shooting incidents in which

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Honored as he leaves

Dr. Matt “Rex” Quaempts watches a video made for his Farewell Reception Feb. 5 at Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center. For more about Quaempts’ departure turn to Page 3A.



Five of the six Confluence projects have been completed. The only one left is the artwork at Celilo Park on the Columbia River.

Confluence project at Celilo

Continued from page 1A

and Chief Timothy Park at Clarkston.

The final Confluence project would celebrate Celilo Falls as a natural wonder in the Columbia River and historic center of fishing, commerce and spiritual life. The Dalles Dam flooded Celilo Falls in 1957.

The three artistic elements of the Celilo project designed by Maya Lin are an interpretive pavilion, sculpture of the Columbia River and an elevated walkway inspired by traditional fishing platforms (see architectural rendering on page 21A). The project also includes repairs to the parking lot and facilities at Celilo Park.

The Celilo Park project continues to have support from the three other Columbia River Tribes – the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

They see a redeveloped Celilo Park as an opportunity to educate people about Celilo Falls, honor the indigenous people of the Columbia River and strengthen the tribal presence in the public place along the river, according to Colin Fogarty, Confluence Executive Director, who met with the CUJ in Boardman in mid-January.

The CTUIR, which has supported the project since 2010, reiterated its support in April of 2018 and again in December.

In a letter from Gary Burke, chair of the CTUIR Board of Trustees (BOT), said, “The BOT wishes to express its appreciation and support to Maya Lin and Confluence for undertraining the effort to construct a fitting and appropriate park redevelopment project to connect people with the history of Celilo Falls and remind visitors of the ongoing presence of native people along the Columbia River and its tributaries.”

In addition to the three tribes, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), which represents nine Oregon tribes, has given its blessing to the Celilo project.

Cheryl Kennedy, the LCIS Chair from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, said the project “intends to connect people to place, to educate Oregonians and visitors through the world on the past, present and future importance of Celilo Falls as a place of importance to Tribes and tribal people who have been here since time immemorial and still are

here today. [It] is exactly the kind of ‘education’ LCIS knows is vitally importance if we are going to have an informed and respectful citizenry.”

Further, three river chiefs – Wilbur Slockish, John Jackson and Olsen Meanus – all support the project, according to Fogarty.

But the Yakama Nation, which supported the project in 2011, has told the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which manages Celilo Park that it no longer approves of the development.

The Corps has indicated they are willing to proceed only with the unanimous support of all four Columbia River tribes with cultural ties to Celilo Falls.

JoDe L. Goudy, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Chairman, in an Oct. 11, 2018 letter to the Corps, formally pulled support from the project. The letter was written a day after a meeting between the Yakama Nation Tribal Council’s Cultural Committee with staff and representatives of

the Confluence Project.

Goudy wrote: “... The Yakama Nation does not support this proposal, any of its component phases, or related art installations ... Celilo Park is located at the site of a traditional Yakama village and fishing site. Continued use of this location by the public risks further destruction of the Yakama Nation’s cultural resources. The Yakama Nation does not support any development, disturbance or public attraction of any kind at this location.”

In an April 2015 letter to the Corps, Goudy wrote: “The greater Celilo Falls was an immense resource constantly sought after by other tribes. Our ancestors protected this extremely important fishing village with their lives and many have been laid to rest here. Since time immemorial we have protected this area and resource. This fishing epicenter remains a focal element in our culture today ... Yakama Nation members still fish, conduct ceremonial activities and live at Celilo. The monumental sites, legendary stories, traditional use areas, and spiritual and ceremonial sites are still part of our cultural practices ... As Yakama people we have an obligation to the Creator to protect the resources inherent upon these lands. There are consequences if we do not honor these principles.”

After a series of meetings in November and December with tribal councils, part-

Confluence Project on page 21

Confluence project at Celilo

'All the children are the next policy makers so they need to know what happened on the river.'

Antone Minthorn, Chair of the Confluence Board of Directors

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ners and advisors, Confluence decided to redirect its energies toward ongoing education initiatives, including Confluence in the Classroom, Confluence in the Community, and Confluence Online, to provide information for students and citizens as well as professional development for teachers. The Online project will be a digital resource for educators, visitors and "anyone curious about a more inclusive understanding" of the Columbia River.

Confluence, which is governed by a 12-person Board of Directors, is chaired by CTUIR elder and language instructor Antone Minthorn. A group that included Minthorn met with the Yakama Cultural Committee in October, met with the Warm Springs Tribal Council in November, and with the Umatilla BOT and the Council of Celilo advisors in December.

"Throughout these discussions, we heard frustration at the Yakama Nation Culture Committee, but also thoughtful reflection," Fogarty said. "We heard a diversity of opinions but the consensus of our tribal partners is that we should not give up on the Celilo Park project and that we should wait until the time is right ... Our tribal partners remain confident that our project will move forward at some point, though none of us can say when."

Fogarty said, "We have taken this as an opportunity to reflect and listen respectfully. Our guiding principles for moving forward are to listen first to our tribal partners and respect all voices along the Columbia River. We also remember our commitments. At this point, it is more important to do this right than it is to do it right now."

AN OUTGROWTH OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL, the Confluence began with discussion in 1999. In 2001, Minthorn and others went to New York to visit with Maya Lin, the artist who designed the Vietnam Memorial. A year later in 2002 Confluence was formally established.

The Confluence evolved into Confluence in the Classroom, which connects students to place through art and education by introducing them to native artists and tradition keepers from the Umatilla Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Warm Springs, Chinook Nation, Grand Rondes and Yakamas.

Confluence in the Classroom has grown, too, from an art program to include history lessons, social studies, ecology and traditional ecological knowledge.

Students from Nixyaawii Community School and Pendleton High School have learned from Confluence in the Classroom.

THE DECISION BY THE YAKAMAS has been characterized as "befuddling."

Other tribal leaders, Fogarty said, have told him they want people to visit Celilo Park so that they can learn.



This artist's rendering shows Maya Liins proposal for the Confluence proposal at Celilo Park. Lin is the artist who designed the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Fogarty said Confluence representatives even told the Yakamas the artwork could be set aside until later and money could first be used to improve the parking lot and fishing site access.

But, Fogarty said, the Yakamas four-member Cultural Committee doesn't feel it is respectful to have any non-tribal member visit that place.

"... They said they don't want anything. We went back to the other tribes and they said to be patient," Fogarty said.

Fogarty said the project will do nothing to interfere with fishing, but the cultural education about Celilo Falls would be a benefit for generations.

"This is Celilo Falls, the most significant place on the Columbia River, with a dilapidated rest stop. We want the park to reflect the significance of the place respectfully."

Minthorn said he remains optimistic that there will be a "win-win" resolution to the issue. Right now, however, the decision by the Yakamas has created a "lose-lose" situation for the final Confluence installment.

The Yakama Cultural Resources Committee has been invited to visit the other five sites to better understand why the major art pieces have been installed and the message they

bring to visitors.

Fogarty said in the end the Confluence projects - the art installations and the education component - elevate the tribal voice and the understanding of the Columbia River system.

It's hoped that the Celilo Park project will one day be among them.

Minthorn said the Confluence projects would provide cultural and education opportunities into the future.

"All the children," Minthorn said, "are the next policy makers so they need to know what happened on the river."

Fogarty said the Celilo project will not be a memorial, because Celilo Falls still exists.

"It will be a respectful space to remember. In my dream, a student that we bring to a rehabilitated Celilo Park to remember what happened will one day be the judge that orders The Dalles Dam to be removed," Fogarty said.

'In my dream, a student that we bring to a rehabilitated Celilo Park to remember what happened will one day be the judge that orders The Dalles Dam to be removed.'

*Colin Fogarty,
Confluence Executive Director*

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VALENTINE'S WEEK DINNERS

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4:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Native Filet of Salmon w/Huckleberry Compote
Maine Lobster Fettuccine
Oregon Dungeness Crab Fettuccine
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