

Teen uses song to preserve language

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alyson McCarty speaks Latin. She knows a little Greek and few words of Spanish. But when the 14-year-old sings, she sings in her mother's language of Yup'ik.

McCarty recently recorded her seventh CD of Yup'ik and English hymns. Of the 14 tracks, McCarty recorded four in Yup'ik. There's a rendition of "Amazing Grace" called "Naklekuti Nitnirqekria" and a translation of the Lord's Prayer.

Even the thank-yous, "Quyana," are in the Western Alaska language.

McCarty's CDs have been heard on radio stations in Bethel, Nome and Fairbanks. She sang "God Be With You" in Yup'ik at a memorial for Lu Young, Don Young's late Gwich'in

Athabascan wife, at the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives convention.

That year she recorded a CD of hymns entirely in Yup'ik.

McCarty counts her growing discology as one more step — along with efforts to create Inupiaq language educational software or revive the dead Eyak tongue — in the effort to preserve fading Alaska Native languages.

McCarty said she doesn't hear teens her age speaking the words her mother, Minnie McCarty, grew up with in Napakiak.

"Maybe if I sing it, they'll want to learn their language," she said.

Napakiak is 15 miles southwest of Bethel on the

Kuskokwim River, where Minnie said teachers forced her to speak English in school.

"Otherwise we get whipped with a ruler or put in a closet," she said.

Minnie began teaching her daughter the chorus of hymns in Yup'ik when the girl was 6 or 7 years old. Now Alyson is teaching herself to read the language too, sounding out the words that she's been singing.

When people send text messages to Minnie in Yup'ik, she sometimes asks Alyson to translate, the mother said. "It's on Facebook that people start talking to me in Yup'ik or my brother would text me... And I couldn't read nothing," she said.

"And then Alyson would

sound it out for me and I understand what he's saying."

One of the frequent messages from home: "When are you coming?"

Alyson also is thinking of creating English versions of Yup'ik songs, such as a tune on the new CD called "When I was Lonely," which she says was written by a man from the Kongiganak after his wife left him.

The latest disc is called "For Those Tears I Died." The title song is dedicated to people who have contemplated suicide in rural Alaska, where suicide rates are many times the national average, Alyson told Bethel radio station KYUK in June.

McCarty's music can be found online at alysongrace.com

American Indian activist Means battling cancer

PORCUPINE, S.D. (AP) — An American Indian activist who says he has survived nine assassination attempts is now battling throat cancer.

Former American Indian Movement leader Russell Means said that doctors have told him the cancer is too advanced for surgery. He says he would not have chosen surgery anyway because it would have meant the removal of his tongue and his ability to speak.

Means also is forgoing mainstream medical treatments such as radiation and chemotherapy, turning instead to alternative treatments and traditional American Indian remedies.

He says he is at peace with the possibility that he might die because Lakota people believe death is a change of worlds.

Means also is an actor, known for his role in "The Last of the Mohicans."

HUD says Lumbees must repay more than \$98,000

PEMBROKE, N.C. (AP) — The federal housing agency says the Lumbee Indian Tribe must repay more than \$98,000 in mis-spent money.

The Fayetteville Observer reports that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development initially said the tribe mis-spent \$115,000.

Tribal chairwoman Sharon Hunt says she intends to further appeal.

Most of the money stems from a contract with a Wash-

ington, D.C., consulting firm hired to help the tribe earn federal recognition and assist in its housing program.

The federal agency says the tribe must reimburse \$62,000 for hiring the firm without a competitive bid process.

It also says the tribe paid a contractor too much to evaluate its Boys and Girls Club. The tribe must repay about \$25,000 for that contract, which adjusts her hourly rate from \$110 an hour to \$21.

Tribe explores if Arctic grayling restorable

DETROIT (AP) — Long before the arrival of white trappers, loggers and farmers, Ottawa Indians fished the waters of northern Michigan for abundant native species like the iridescent, high-finned Arctic grayling.

Overfishing and habitat destruction drove the grayling to extinction in the state decades ago.

But one band of Ottawa Indians has landed a \$200,000 federal grant to work to bring it back.

The band has enlisted Michigan Technological University scientists for a two-year research effort to test the feasibility of reintroducing the grayling in the Big Manistee River watershed of the northern Lower Peninsula.

The study concentrates on a short and relatively pristine section of the 230-mile river in eastern Manistee County.

Restoration might happen soon, or perhaps only after many years.

At Tygh Valley



Marge Kalamá for the Spilyay

Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath (above at microphone) and drummers welcome visitors to the Wasco County Fair and Rodeo, held this past weekend at Tygh Valley.



Protest after remains unearthed

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — Protesters want construction halted at a California housing development after builders unearthed Native American remains at what is believed to be a 6,000-year-old burial site.

The Santa Cruz Sentinel says about 100 people participated in a two-mile march on Sunday to demand a halt to construction of 32 homes.

Protesters held signs reading, "All cemeteries are sacred" and "No bulldozers on sacred

ground."

Coroner's investigator Naomi Silva says a partial skull or mandible of a Native American child was found buried in the grassy open space earlier this month by builder KB Homes. A piece of an Indian necklace was also found at the nine-acre site.

Sunday's demonstration was organized by a group called Save the Knoll, which formed about a week ago after members learned about the remains.

American Indian heads Coconino County supervisors

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — A Navajo woman from Tuba City has become the first American Indian to head the Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

Lena Fowler began in the new position last week. She says she's excited to serve as the board's chairwoman through mid-April.

Fowler was elected to repre-

sent the upper central portion of the county that she says is rich in cultural diversity and resourceful citizens. She's in the third year of her first four-year term.

County spokesman Gregory Roybal says each of the five supervisors is given an opportunity to lead the board at least once during their term.

Historian builds Chickasaw legacy with interviews

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Tribal historian Richard Green was disappointed at the lack of material detailing the lives of members of the Chickasaw Nation. So he did something about it.

Green worked to collect oral histories of members of the nation. Most of the 40,000 Chickasaws now live in Okla-

homa, having been forced from north Mississippi and elsewhere in the southeast to Indian Territory.

Green said most of the histories he found 20 years ago didn't include the perspective of the Chickasaws themselves.

Green has since used oral histories to publish four books and numerous articles.

Flandreau Indian School students attending South Dakota State

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Ten recent graduates of Flandreau Indian School will attend South Dakota State University this fall.

They're part of the SDSU-FIS Success Academy, an early college preparatory program

started in 2000 to help more American Indian high school students move on to higher education.

Each of the students received a \$1,500 Henrietta Roberti Native American Scholarship.

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Idaho Lottery: Tribe complies with gaming compact

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — The Idaho Lottery chief says the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is complying with its gaming compact with the state.

The comments from Lottery director Jeff Anderson are in response to a recent report by the Coeur d'Alene Press that says the northern Idaho tribe wouldn't disclose details of how it contributes the required 5 percent of its annual net gaming income to support education.

In an email to the newspaper, Anderson said tribal officials are "good stewards of their gaming activities and generous neighbors."

Lottery audits show 5 percent of the tribe's 2010 net gaming income was \$1.5 million, and the tribe decides how that money is disbursed. Tribe spokesman Helo Hancock said the tribe takes pride in making education contributions but chooses not to announce them publicly.

He said, "The determination of how and when the amounts are distributed each fiscal year is at the sole discretion of the Tribe per the compact."