

**Big Protest** continued from page 7

In November 2006, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision and indicated that federal agencies neglected their fiduciary responsibilities to the Pit River Nation by violating the National Environmental Protection and the National Historic Preservation Acts and that the agencies never took the requisite "hard look" at whether the Highlands should be developed for energy at all. In spite of this ruling and although the federal government promised not to appeal the case to the Supreme Court, agency officials have recently indicated they will make such an appeal. This notice came as no surprise to many Native peoples who are used to government policies and statements shifting like the wind. Calpine will likely continue to ride the government's coat tails on this next leg of the legal journey, even though the company is bankrupt both financially and morally. Upon receiving word of the Bureau of Land Management's attempt to appeal, the Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites instantly began making plans to protest the BLM office located at 708 West 12th Street in Alturas, California at high noon on February 20, 2007.

**Floyd Red Crow Westerman** of the Dakota Nation, an early member of the American Indian Movement and actor in films such as *Dances With Wolves* and *Hidalgo*, spoke during the protest at Calpine about the role of the federal government in illegally taking Native lands, including sacred lands like Medicine Lake, and indicated that these wrongs must be made right.

**Wounded Knee** of the Me-wuk Tribe and of Vallejo Intertribal Council stated that he stands in solidarity with Native peoples in this effort and that we will be successful.

**Klee Benally** of the Navajo people and

Save the San Francisco Peaks Coalition spoke about the need to respect and protect the sacred Highlands and other sacred places.

**Radley Davis**, Citizen of the Pit River Nation and Co-Chair of the Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites also spoke and stated that, "Calpine must immediately cease and desist all proposed development projects in the Highlands and honor this place as a medicinal epicenter and abide by the 9th Circuit Court's decision on this issue."

**Sharon Elmore**, Pit River Tribal Cultural representative, spoke about continuing the fight to protect Medicine Lake.

**Morning Star Gali**, Citizen of the Pit River Nation and Co-Chair of the Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites said "We are here to exercise our inherent rights to protect our sacred homelands and serve Calpine with an eviction notice to remove themselves out of the sacred Highlands forever."

At one key point **Jessica Jim**, Pit River Tribal Chair and **Mark LeBeau**, Citizen of the Pit River Nation and Co-Chair of the Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites, spoke about the urgent need to preserve and protect the sacred and natural state of the Highlands, after which they entered the Calpine headquarters and attempted to serve a poster-size eviction notice on Robert May, Calpine CEO, to immediately vacate the Highlands. The notice reads:

*We hereby evict Calpine. Over decades Calpine has continued to cause harm to the sacred Medicine Lake Highlands. The company's refusal to comply with the demands of the Native and local community is in violation of Calpine's own "Commitment to the Highest Ethical Standards."*

*Calpine has lost its lease extension through the decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in*

*November 2006. Therefore, we demand that Calpine immediately vacate the Medicine Lake Highlands and cease and desist its attempts to build power plants that pollute this precious place.*

*Do not appeal the recent court decision. Give it up and get out!*

*Signed: The People*

Calpine security met **Mark** and **Jessica** inside the building and the protesters demanded that Mr. May come out to personally receive the eviction letter. Security called May's office and provided him the information and he sent word back of his refusal to receive the notice and to face and communicate with the protesters. Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites wonder what he would do if served a warrant for his arrest from a full sovereign Native nation!

The protest ended as it had begun, in ceremony. **James Hayward**, Redding Rancheria Tribal Member and Co-Chair of the Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites, **Radley**, and other Native traditionalists sang an old time Pit River victory song and prayer song.

Make no mistake about it, Native and non-Native peoples will nonviolently defend Medicine Lake from any attempts to build power plants in the sacred and natural Highlands.

Sponsors of the protest at Calpine headquarters included Advocates for the Protection of Sacred Sites, Seventh Generation Fund, International Indian Treaty Council, Indigenous Environmental Network, Citizens of the Pit River Nation, Redding Rancheria Cultural Department, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Indian People Organizing for Change, and Vallejo Intertribal Council.

**Special appreciation and thanks to everyone who worked or sent prayers to make this protest happen.**

**The Traveling Bohemians!**

**Poetry Open Mic**

**2nd Wednesday of every month**  
Sue's Java Cafe, 1712 Churn Creek  
Redding, California  
7pm to 9pm

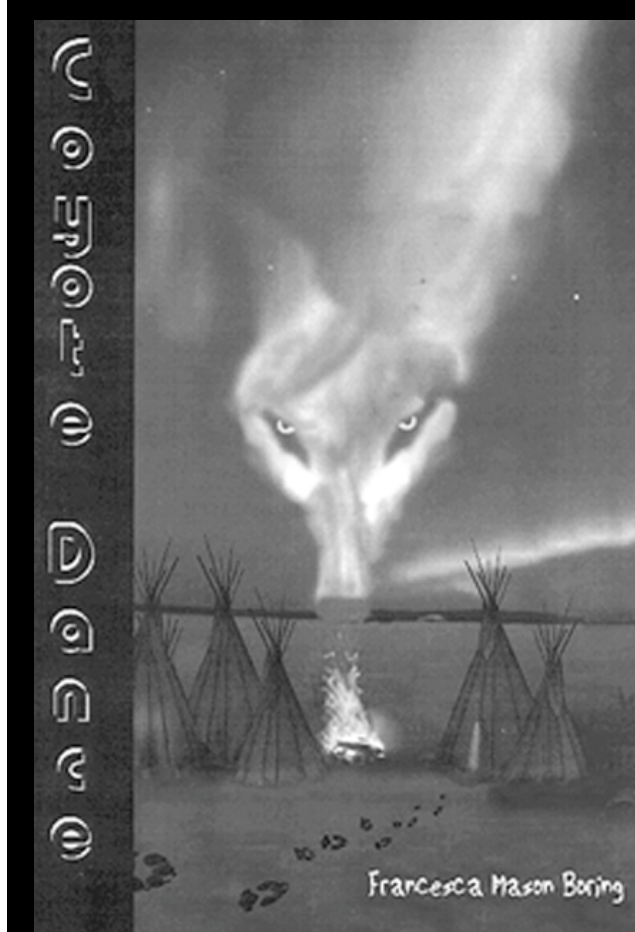
We welcome presenters of original poetry, poetry with music/dance, favorite poems and poets, storytellers, song writers, and all those who like to listen!

**More Than Just An Open Mic**

Eclectic Open Floor, for dancers, musicians, actors, etc., *and audience!* Short works, up to 20 minutes. Sound reinforcement, lighting, and open floor space!

**3rd Friday of every month**

7:30 pm, sign-up at 7:00  
Old City Hall Center for Arts  
1313 Market Street, Redding  
Donations Accepted  
Contact Nadia Hava-Robbins  
(530) 229-7818



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