

NORTH KITSAP HERALD

What's on
your mind?



NEWS CALENDAR BLOGS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLES COMMUNITY OPINION ABOUT US

JOBBS AUTOS HOMES RENTALS CLASSIFIEDS COUPONS LOCAL SAVINGS GREEN EDITIONS LEGAL NOTICES CONTESTS



Free Loaner Cars & Shuttle Rides
while your vehicle is in our
Service Department.



NORTH KITSAP SERVICE DIRECTORY
AT YOUR SERVICE
Everything you need, you'll find in
the Service Directory

Our Mobile Apps Connect with Us

NEWS

Billy Frank Jr. devoted decades to fishing rights, salmon habitat protection



Billy Frank Jr., chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, participated in the Tribal Summit at Suquamish's House of Awakened Culture, April 24. — Image Credit: Melinda Weer / Herald



Tweet 0
Share 0

Today at 11:42AM

OLYMPIA — Billy Frank Jr., a key figure in advocating Native American fishing rights and



Read the latest Green Edition

Browse the print edition page by page, including stories and ads.

May 2 edition online now.
[Browse the archives.](#)

Help us improve this website

question 1 of up to 4:
Overall, how satisfied are you with this website?

Very dissatisfied

Somewhat dissatisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Somewhat satisfied

Very satisfied

and to register
Presented by:
Fathoms O' Fun Festival

**Creating bigger
brighter smiles...**
ANDERSON DENTAL AND
DENTURE CENTER

salmon habitat protection for decades, has died, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission announced May 5.

Frank was chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for more than 30 years. He was 83.

A Nisqually Tribe member, Frank was known specifically for his grassroots campaign in defense of fishing rights on the Tribe's Nisqually River north of Olympia in the 1960s and 1970s. Frank was arrested more than 50 times in the "Fish Wars" of the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1970, the U.S. sued the State of Washington on behalf of the Treaty Tribes, alleging the state was preventing Tribes from exercising the fishing rights guaranteed them under treaties signed with the U.S. On Feb. 12, 1974, U.S. District Court Judge George H. Boldt ruled in favor of the Treaty Tribes. An article in the treaties states "The right of taking fish at usual and accustomed grounds and stations is further secured to said Indians in common with all citizens of the Territory." Boldt interpreted "in common with" to mean an equal share, 50 percent of the available salmon harvest.

But Boldt's ruling, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, did more than affirm Indian fishing rights. It upheld treaties as being supreme over state law, as stated in the U.S. Constitution. It established Treaty Tribes as co-managers of the salmon fishery. And it spawned other actions designed to protect salmon, because — as Frank stated in the ensuing years — if there is no salmon fishery, then the treaty is violated.

The National Congress of American Indians issued this statement May 5:

* * *

The National Congress of American Indians is grieving the loss of Billy Frank Jr. A member of the Nisqually Tribe, Billy spent his life fighting for our right to fish and protect our own waters and fiercely advocated for the complete fulfillment of treaty commitments by the federal government.

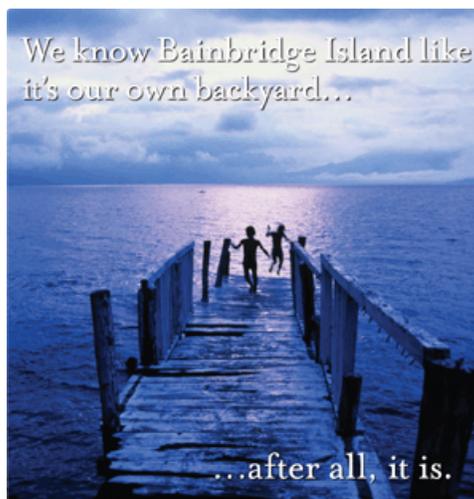
Billy Frank, Jr. has been the chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission since its inception in 1974. NWIFC was created following a Supreme Court decision "that re-affirmed the Tribes' treaty-reserved fishing rights and established them as natural resources co-managers with the State of Washington" and serves "to assist member tribes in their role as natural resources co-managers."

NCAI President Brian Cladoosby had the honor of growing up under Billy Frank Jr. As he did with Brian, Billy guided many young leaders across the country and shared with them the importance of natural resources and the value of treaty rights. Together, with Billy's teachings to sustain culture and a unique Northwest quality of life, we will continue to work together to protect all that is important to our Tribes.

Upon learning the news, President Cladoosby said:

"Indian Country has lost one of the greatest leaders who fought to protect salmon, water, and quality of life for our people. The loss of a Billy as our teacher, mentor, and elder is immeasurable. Our very way of life is only possible because of the battles Billy fought — without his personal sacrifices, Tribes in the Northwest would look very different. My own life would be very different if I had not had been blessed by Billy's teachings, example, and love. My prayers go out to his family and the many, many others whose lives he touched."

Billy Frank Jr. has walked on but will never be forgotten. NCAI lifts up his family, friends, and tribe.



We know Bainbridge Island like it's our own backyard...

...after all, it is.

If Bainbridge is your home, but you'd like a change of scenery, call us. We've got scenery to share. Our agents know Bainbridge like no one else. After all, we live, work and play here, too. Let us help you find your next perfect island home.

Windermere Real Estate/BI, Inc.
840 Madison Ave N, Bainbridge Island • 206-842-5626

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

WindermereBainbridge.com

Recent Activity



A loss mourned, and a life celebrated - North Kitsap Herald

38 people recommend this.



Eight cited during 'Die-in' at nuclear sub base - North Kitsap Herald

88 people recommend this.



www.northkitsapherald.com - North Kitsap Herald

265 people recommend this.



Breidablik community says goodbye to its elementary school - North Kitsap Herald

108 people recommend this.



Axe Handle Cafe built 'about Kingston, for Kingston' - North Kitsap Herald

107 people recommend this.

Visit www.nwifc.org for more information about Billy's work and legacy at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

No written account will ever truly encapsulate Billy's life, but [this New York Times article](#) presents Billy and his work admirably.

* * *

Lummi Nation Chairman Tim Ballew was at the NCAI's mid-year conference in Chehalis when the announcement was made of Frank's passing.

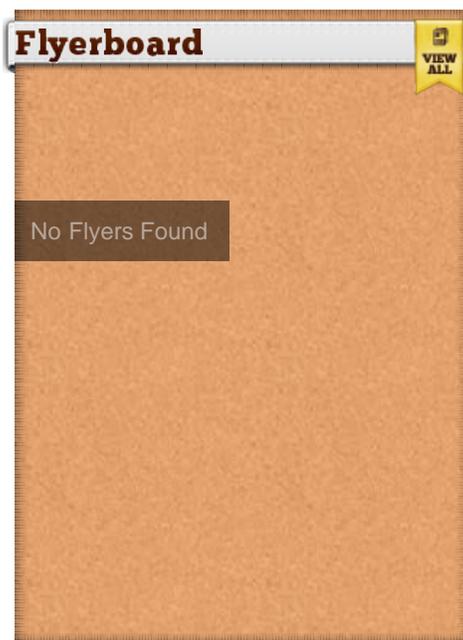
"We just found out — God bless him," Ballew said. "... There was actually a meeting that he was getting ready to go to, and he was working right up until the end fighting for the cause, God bless.

"It's a devastating loss for all of Indian country. He was a major fighter for sovereignty and fishing rights. And we are suffering a big loss throughout the country today. Our prayers and thoughts go to him and his family."



Wind Phone Poulsbo Police officer on leave during investigation - North Kitsap Herald
27 people recommend this.

f Poulsbo mailboxes hit in theft spree; suspect



Local display advertising by PaperG

Our Mobile Apps



Related Stories

- Every bit of salmon habitat is important | Being Frank
- Corps' permit program threatens salmon habitat | Being Frank
- Treaty rights are civil rights | Being Frank
- Despite efforts, salmon declining | Being Frank
- Enforcing laws is key to salmon recovery | Being Frank
- Fish Park on display during salmon tours
- The truth about salmon recovery | Being Frank

Trending Stories Apr 28 - May 5

NORTH KITSAP HERALD

- Slippery Pig eyes downtown Poulsbo location for new brewery
- 180 sites in Kitsap on USGS landslide map
- Retail marijuana lottery results announced
- New features for Viking Fest May 16-18
- Tribal leaders say efforts often hampered by bureaucracy

WESTERN WASHINGTON

- Owner says Dog House Tavern will come down
- Owner says Dog House Tavern will come down
- Police arrest four men patronizing prostitutes at Kirkland's Motel 6, execute Backpage.com search warrant
- State posts retail marijuana lottery ranking results
- Federal Way schools make 'America's Most Challenging High Schools' list

Community Events, May 2014



Add an Event



Shop & Save in Kitsap

 kitsapcard.com

The Kitsap Card saves you \$ at Hundreds of Local Businesses



We encourage an open exchange of ideas on this story's topic, but we ask you to follow our guidelines for respecting community standards. Personal attacks, inappropriate language, and off-topic comments may be removed, and comment privileges revoked, per our Terms of Use. Please see our FAQ if you have questions or concerns about using Facebook to comment.

North Kitsap Herald

▶ NEWS

Obituaries
Weather and Tides

▶ CALENDAR

Add an Event

▶ BLOGS

Canoe Journeys
Journal
Cliff Mass Weather
Blog
Gluten Free Foodies
North Kitsap Vikaneer
The Poulsbo Beat

▶ SPORTS

▶ ENTERTAINMENT

▶ BUSINESS

▶ LIFESTYLES

▶ COMMUNITY

▶ OPINION

Letters

▶ SHOP

Jobs
Autos
Homes
Rentals
Classifieds
Contests
Coupons
Local Savings
Green Editions
Legal Notices

▶ CONNECT WITH US

Facebook
Twitter
Google+

▶ OUR MOBILE APPS

iPhone
Android
Windows Phone
Blackberry

▶ ABOUT US

Contact Us
Subscribe
Advertise
iServices
Other Towns
Careers