



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

## Tribal rights are non-negotiable

MLPA process moving in direction to honor marine gathering traditions

See story on page 2



# Tribe fights to protect sacred rights

(Sacramento) The California Fish and Game Commission issued a directive to the California Department of Fish and Game and the Blue Ribbon Task Force to come up with a proposal for the North Coast Study Region that accommodates tribal, non-commercial harvest of coastal resources.

“This is the best possible outcome that we could have expected,” said Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas O’Rourke Sr. “We are cautiously hopeful that the Fish and Game Commission will do what is right and protect our inherent right to gather marine resources.”

The directive was given at the first joint meeting between the California Fish and Game Commission and the Marine Life Protection Act’s Blue Ribbon Task Force to discuss the Unified Proposal. The proposal—supported by an unlikely set of more than 60 tribes, environmental organizations and fishing groups — contains a suite of marine protected areas in the Northern Study Region which spans from Point Arena to the California-Oregon border. The Marine Life Protection Act was signed into law in 1999, but was not implemented until nearly ten years later after it received an infusion of funds from a handful of private foundations. In three of the five California study regions tribes were largely left out of the process.

At the beginning of the meeting, recently appointed California Resources Secretary John Laird — overseer of the California Department of Fish and Game — made a



Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas O’Rourke Sr. addresses the CA Fish and Game Commission.

recommendation to the Fish and Game Commission to develop a solution addressing tribal traditional gathering rights. Laird also stated that it is within the Commission’s legal authority to do so.

“This is the best possible outcome that we could have expected.”  
Thomas O’Rourke Sr.~ YUROK TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

“After initial consultation with many legal authorities I think we can help insure that those tribal activities go on uninterrupted, while at the same time honoring the intent of the

Unified Proposal,” said California Resources Secretary John Laird. “I recommend that the commission take whatever action is necessary that moves the single unified proposal

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## On The Cover

The Yurok Tribe making progress in fight to protect inherent ceremonial and subsistence gathering rights regarding coastal resources.

Photo courtesy of LightHawk Flight

ahead...that it is assumed that ongoing tribal activities will be accommodated and that other activities in the North Coast region marine protected areas will be at the scientific level of protection intended by the unified stakeholder proposal.”

“I commend the California Resources Agency Director John Laird and the Fish and Game Commission for taking these initial steps and I look forward to seeing the revised proposal,” Chairman O’Rourke said.

The Fish and Game Commission issued the directive after hearing hours of testimony from numerous tribal leaders, fishing interests and environmental organizations.

Commissioner Michael Sutton from Monterey, CA

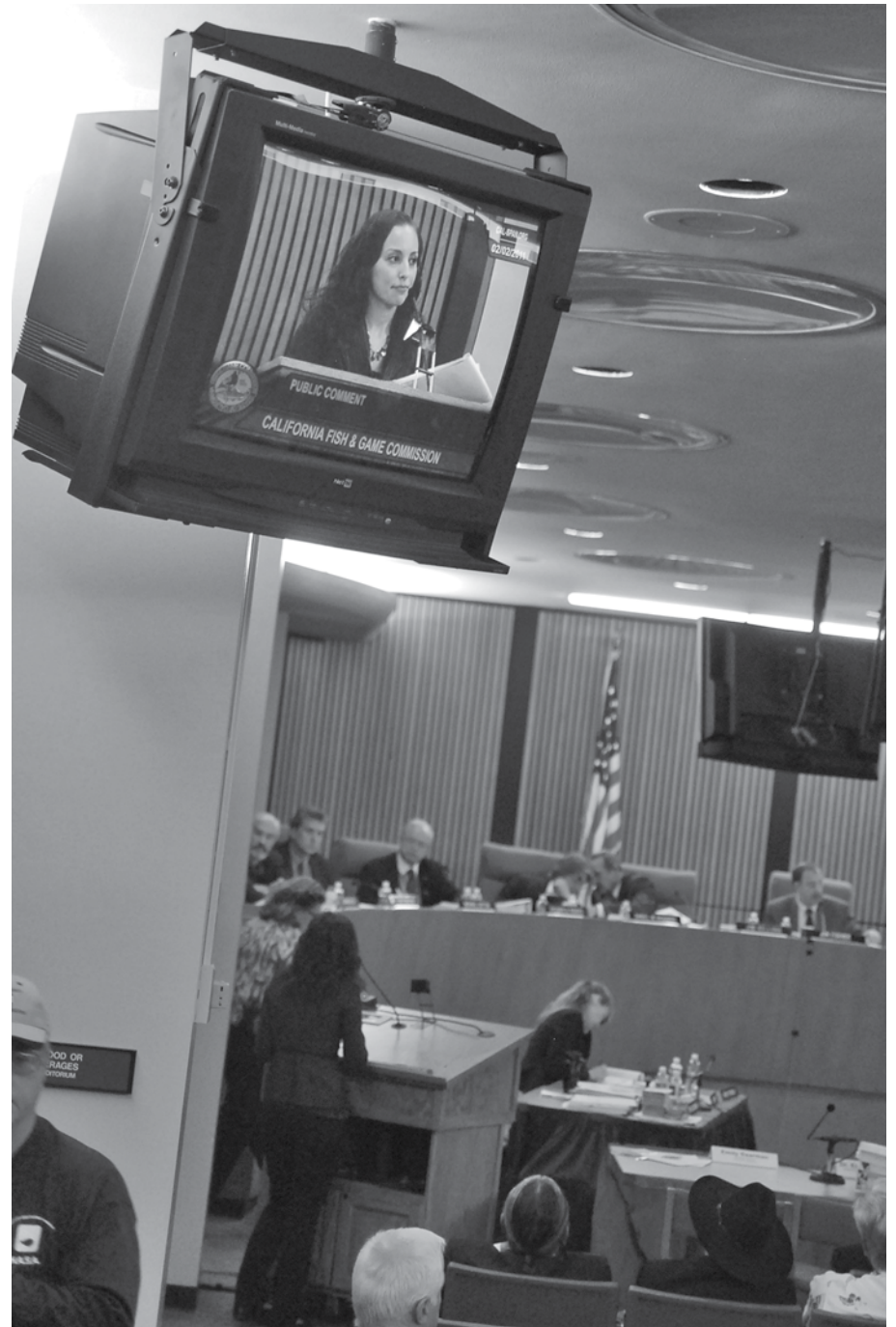
“If my grandmother wants mussels, it’s going to take a lot more than the WILD JUSTICE crew to stop me.”

SAM GENSAW ~ YUROK TRIBAL MEMBER

drafted the order which states: “Develop a revised MPA network proposal for the North Coast Study region, based on and consistent with the Unified North Coast proposal from the (North Coast Regional Shareholders Group) and (Blue Ribbon Task Force), that accommodates the stakeholders’ and Tribes’ unanimous expressed intent to allow for traditional, non-commercial subsistence, ceremonial, cultural, and stewardship uses by Tribal people.”

The Yurok Tribe has been a steward of the coastal ecosystem since time immemorial. The Tribal government and tribal membership have participated through every step in the Marine Life Protection Act process, despite roadblocks put up by the Blue Ribbon Task Force staff. For example, the staff denied the Tribe on no less than seven occasions to present to the Task Force’s Science Advisory Team.

Hundreds of members of Tribes from across the nation took over a Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting in July in an effort to greater inform the governing board about tribal rights and ask for an exemption from the protected areas. Regardless of the outcome of the MLPA process the Yurok Tribe will continue to appropriately harvest coastal marine



**Yurok tribal member Alicia McQuillen makes a statement at the hearing.** resources — in a way that leaves abundance for all future generations — to meet subsistence and ceremonial needs, a sentiment that was echoed by a number of tribal members who traveled to Sacramento for the hearing.

“If my grandmother wants mussels, it’s going to take a lot more than the WILD JUSTICE crew to stop me,” concluded Yurok tribal member Sam Gensaw III, in reference to the new National Geographic television show chronicling the work of California Department of Fish and Game wardens.

The Fish and Game and MLPA staff are to come up with the proposal before their April meeting.

# Tribe moving on job-creating plan

The Yurok Tribe is moving forward on a job-creating plan to build a small hotel and casino just off of Highway 101 in Klamath.

"This project is just one of the economic development initiatives we are working on to create long-term employment opportunities for our Tribe," said Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "Our plan is to start small and expand as the economy permits."

The Tribe's plan, currently under environmental review, is to develop a 60-room Best Western Plus Hotel with an adjoining casino, located across the street from the Yurok Tribal Headquarters.

The hotel's amenities will include: a 40 to 50 seat restaurant (offering continental breakfast to guests, and standard breakfast, lunch and dinner service), meeting rooms, Wi-Fi, a fully equipped business center, a gift shop, indoor swimming pool and a fitness center. The landscaping will mimic the natural beauty of Yurok Country.

The casino will feature approximately 99 Class III machines and additional Class II machines on the gaming floor. It will be built in way that allows for future expansion as the business grows.

Currently, the unemployment rate on the Yurok Reservation is over 30 percent and an even larger percentage of the local population live below the poverty level, according to the 2009 Department of Labor statistics. The unemployment rates for Del Norte County and State of California are less than half of that on Reservation. Estimates for the unemployment rates on the upper Reservation are closer to 85 percent.

"The hotel and tribal gaming facility will help the Tribe address our high unemployment rate and give a much needed boost to the local economy," O'Rourke Sr. said.

A hotel and casino will promote other businesses in the area and give tribal members an opportunity to start their

own businesses, such as guide service, eco-tours, jet boats tours and more.

The Yurok Tribe holds a compact with the state of California to operate 99 Class III machines. The compact was ratified in 2007 and is valid through 2025. To date, the Tribe has not operated any class III machines.

Early this year, the Tribe installed 10 class II gaming machines in the Pem-Mey Fuel Mart in Klamath. The machines, which come from Rocket Gaming, a tribally owned business, have a million dollar progressive jackpot. Starting out with a small number of class II gaming

machines, gives the Tribe the opportunity to learn the gaming business and train employees who may someday work in the Tribe's larger gaming facility.

Federally recognized tribes can conduct, license and regulate any number of Class II gaming machines, so long as the tribe has a gaming ordinance approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission, which the Tribe does. Class II machines do not require a tribal-state compact. Class II machines are not subject revenue sharing agreements like class III gaming devices.

In 2010, the Tribal Council selected three Tribal Members to serve on the Yurok Gaming Commission. The Gaming Commission has been busy working on internal control policies and procedures to ensure the new facility is in full compliance with all State and Federal gaming regulations.

"When the new facility opens, we'll be ready," concluded YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey.

"When the new facility opens, we'll be ready."

Tanya Sangrey~ YEDC DIRECTOR

The Yurok Tribe is taking comments on this project. Please send comments to [mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us) or call Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 306. Comments can also be mailed to PO Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548

# Agreements helping fish, water

Three generations of Klamath River coho salmon will have lived and perished between today and 2020.

The drastically dwindling fish almost exclusively spawn and die in their third year, which is why coho populations are so fragile. If one generation is decimated by disease or low river flows, it has an immense impact on its gene pool — one of the species' best tools for survival. That is also one of the reasons why the Klamath Hydro-Electric Settlement Agreement contains interim measures to address major water quality and quantity and fish habitat issues on the river.

In February 2010, the Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Klamath Tribes, States of California and Oregon, along with the federal government and dam owner PacifiCorp signed the KHSA or dam removal agreement. The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, a companion agreement designed by 28 Klamath Basin shareholders to rebuild fish habitat and stocks on the Klamath was also signed. The indivisible agreements lay a foundation to remove four aging dams on the river, which are the largest barrier to large-scale fishery restoration on the Klamath.

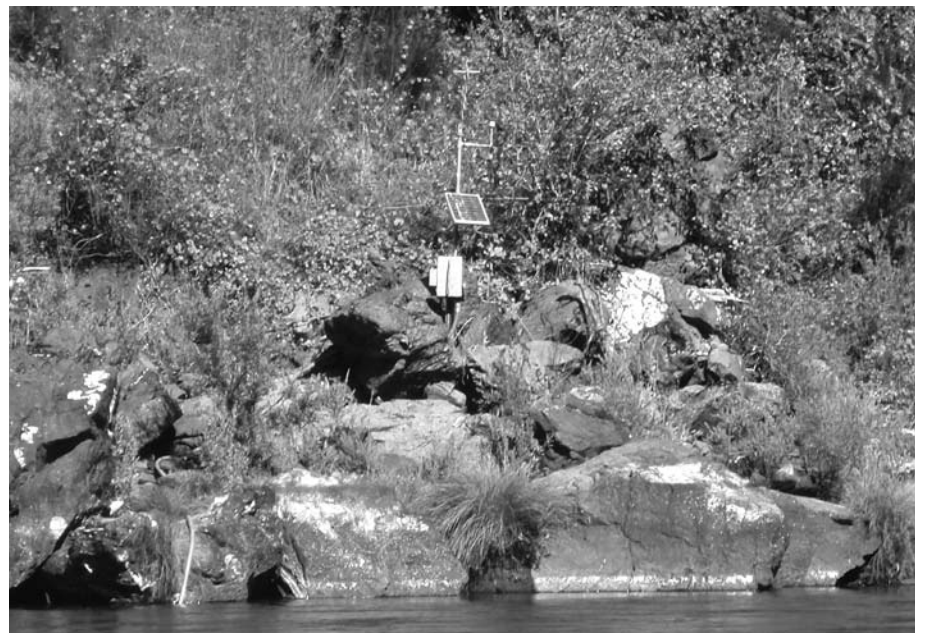
Some of the interim measures, which include a \$500,000 a year Coho Enhancement Fund paid for by PacifiCorp, are already in motion and benefiting fish. Recently, the Coho Fund has funded habitat restoration projects in the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam and in the Scott River. The Yurok Tribe Fisheries Program plans to submit proposals this year to implement habitat restoration projects within the Yurok Reservation boundaries to benefit coho salmon. Juvenile coho use the estuary and off-estuary tributaries during the winter months to feed and shelter from high flows.

The interim measures that address water quality include funding for water quality monitoring for public health and comprehensive baseline monitoring purposes. The Yurok Tribe's Environmental Program has received funding since 2009 from PacifiCorp to perform water quality monitoring.

This funding has allowed YTEP to increase its sampling frequency to inform the Tribal community of the toxic algae conditions in the Klamath River within the Yurok



The fish ladderless Iron Gate Dam blocks salmon, steelhead and Pacific lamprey migration.



This solar-powered device collects water temperature, pH, specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and toxic blue-green algae readings every half hour from May through November.

Reservation boundaries. Additional interim measures that address water quality include: PacifiCorp providing funding to explore interim water quality improvement measurements in the reservoirs, a water quality workshop and for the development of the Water Quality Accounting Framework and Tracking and Accounting Program. A copy of the KlamTAP Vision document which provides more



The dam removal agreement is designed balance needs of all river stakeholders.

detail about the envisioned program can be found at the KBMP website <http://www.kbmp.net/klamath-tap>

The dams contribute to providing an ideal habitat downstream of Iron Gate Dam for a number of fish killing pathogens. PacifiCorp also agreed under the KHSA to invest \$500,000 toward fish disease studies. The studies are designed to better understand how water temperature, base flow and sediment movement influence parasite reproduction and infestation in fish. The studies will also be used to inform river management decisions if and when the dams come down.

A plan to modernize operations of the Iron Gate Hatchery is also being developed as part of the interim measures. The California Department of Fish and Game-run hatchery is the primary source of hatchery coho salmon on the Klamath. Crucial parts of the draft Hatchery Genetic Management Plan are already being implemented. For example, hatchery managers are sending DNA samples from salmon they intend to spawn to the National Marine Fisheries Service to optimize genetic diversity and halt inbreeding, which is critical for the dangerously low coho run. Less than 50 coho returned to Iron Gate in 2010. The hatchery is also boosting the rate at which they mark artificially spawned fish from three to 10 percent to 25 percent, which will make it much easier to determine how hatchery fish are affecting wild populations.

In addition to improving hatchery operations the US Bureau of Reclamation authorized a high pulse of water released below Iron Gate Dam on February 9, 2011 needed to benefit coho salmon. The increased flows, which are

required by the 2010 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion, were recommended by a technical team consisting of biologists and hydrologists with NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reclamation, PacifiCorp and Tribes. Consultation with the technical team is a requirement in the Biological Opinion and is also consistent with the framework provided by the KHSA.

The interim measures also begin to address issues in the upper basin as well. The Sucker Enhancement Fund was set up to restore habitat for the shortnose and Lost River sucker, both are federally-listed fish and culturally significant to the Klamath River Tribes of Oregon. PacifiCorp is also working with the Bureau of Reclamation to limit the stranding of adult and juvenile suckers in the Link River. While the interim measures are geared to aid in the recovery of coho and suckers, the actions will inadvertently benefit chinook salmon, pacific lamprey, sturgeon, water fowl and other wildlife, which all depend on a clean, healthy river for survival.

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## Dam removal update

The federal government is working to gather data as part of the Secretarial Determination process. In 2012, the Secretary will determine if dam removal is in the best interest of the public.

Recently, U.S. Rep Tom McClintock, R-Ca, introduced Amendment 296 to rescind funding for the process. The resolution narrowly passed. The Yurok Tribe and its many allies in the effort to remove the dams, provide water security for farmers and restore the river fought hard to defeat the amendment.

The amendment will now go before the Senate where the coalition will continue the fight.

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# Tribe testing out new Wi-Fi technology

White-space wireless has the potential to work in rugged terrain and requires little equipment

The Yurok Tribe is the first tribe in the nation to test a new form of high-speed internet suitable for the Reservation's rugged terrain.

The newly approved technology uses TV white-space signals, which follow the ground, are capable of penetrating forests and do not require a line of sight like other traditional Wi-Fi signals.

"The Reservation is a perfect place to test out this new technology," said Jim Norton, the Tribe's Broadband Manager. "This is a potentially game-changing project."

Currently, 95 percent of the population, living on or near the Reservation, does not have access to internet, let alone the high-speed variety. Many do not have phone service either. The only alternative is satellite-based internet, which is slow and not an economical investment for most tribal members.

Carlson Wireless' RuralConnect IP is expected to enable its users the same opportunities as traditional broadband consumers such as: online college classes, real-time video conferencing, cost-effective telephone services like Vonage and access to web-based physicians, as well as online shopping.

The closest college classroom to the Upper Reservation is a three-hour commute. It is the same distance to the nearest place to buy school or work clothes.

The Yurok Tribe was working on becoming a Wi-Fi provider, prior to learning about Carlson Wireless, which appears to be a far superior option for several reasons. Using TV white-space, which are unused television signals, requires far fewer towers and less disturbance of the

Tribe's culturally rich landscape. The Tribe will be installing only three new 60-foot towers and adding additional equipment on three existing towers. Standard broadband towers are typically 100 feet tall and the signals cannot be impeded by physical structures. Also, all most users will need for connection is a device that is the size of modem, a little larger than two packs of cigarettes. For most

customers, no costly-to-install hardware is necessary.

In January the Federal Communications Commission granted Carlson Wireless an experimental license to run RuralConnect

IP. The license allows for the installation of the system on the Reservation.

Geoffrey Blackwell, the head of FCC's Office of Native Affairs, was instrumental in securing the license. Dan Rumelt, a senior policy advisor for Blackwell's office, said in Eureka Times-Standard article, the recently formed office is dedicated to increasing connectivity in tribal lands and native communities, which experience low levels of communications services.

"It is good to know that the experimental use license granted to Carlson Wireless will help bring new Internet services to the Yurok Tribe," he told the newspaper.

Currently, the Tribe's IT Department is testing the first set of devices in the Requa area. The

"This is a potentially game-changing project."

JIM NORTON ~ YUROK BROADBAND MANAGER



# Voluminous veterans project in Tribe's hands

A member of Yurok tribal member David O'Neill's immediate family has served in the United States Military in every major war and conflict in the country's history. O'Neill, himself, served as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

His family history is very similar to thousands of Yurok people, who have had great grandfathers, grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts, sons and daughters and brothers and sisters serve in the armed forces. Many have been injured and some have given their lives protecting their homeland.

"We are not like other people. We were born here. We'd rather fight than face another invasion," said O'Neill, who volunteered to serve in 1965 after graduating from Hoopa High School. "Pretty much all of my classmates are Vietnam veterans."

More Native Americans serve in the United States military service per capita than any other ethnic group, according to the Department of Defense statistics.

O'Neill remains active in the native veteran community. He helps former service members apply for the veterans' benefits they deserve from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He also volunteers as a Yurok Color Guard, serving at funerals and at tribal meetings, following in the footsteps of his father Herbert O'Neill a World War II veteran.

O'Neill's wife, Peggy, wanted to document the history of Yurok military service. Peggy O'Neill, who is also the Tribe's Planning Director, recently finished work on several bounded compilations that document Yurok military service starting at World War I. She worked tirelessly in her free time to compile information on Yurok veterans, including names, pictures, newspaper clippings, genealogy and other interesting details about tribal members who have served in the military.

"Seeing how many of my husband's family had entered the service and the large number of military funerals my husband attended inspired me," Peggy O'Neill said.



The first tower is set up on Requa Hill.

department is working feverishly with Carlson and engineers to set up the infrastructure needed to test the project. Weather has been and will be the limiting factor until there is a good stretch of no rain it will be slow going.

This project is being funded from several sources including: USDA Rural Utilities Service, California Consumer Protection Foundation, Public Safety Interoperable Communications and California's Office of Homeland Security.



“Someone needed to show just how many Yurok people either risked or gave their lives in the service of their country.”

The ardent history buff combed through the National Archives, public libraries, Ancestry.com, funeral notices, letters and even high school yearbooks to gather the information used in the invaluable chronicles. For people who served in the Navy, for example, she was able to find information on the internet, including the name of the ship they served on, a picture of the vessel and other important details.

Peggy also found compelling trends regarding Yurok veterans in her research project.

“During WWI and WWII, I found a very high percentage of Yurok men entered the service,” she said. “I would say more than 90 percent of young men on the Reservation, who were in the appropriate age range, served in the military.” There were also quite a few Yurok women who served in those wars as well.

“There is a strong record of Yurok women serving in the military,” Peggy O’Neill said. “My husband’s great aunt, Ellen Norris was a military nurse in World War II”.

While many Yuroks were sent off to war on foreign soil, WWII came eerily close to Yurok Country. On September 21, 1942 a Japanese submarine successfully landed incendiary bombs just 40 miles north of the Yurok Reservation as part of a WWII campaign against the United States. In the beginning of 1943 the United States set up an early-warning radar station on the Yurok Reservation to thwart such attacks. Many tribal members provided support services to the Army Air Corps, which operated the station.

Although, Peggy has passed on her research to the Yurok Tribe, the research is not yet complete.

“The project grew bigger than one person could handle,” Peggy O’Neill said. “I have donated my research to the Yurok Tribe, so the Yurok community can continue the work of preserving the record of Yurok military service history.”

The books are now housed in the Yurok Tribal Enrollment Department.

“Hopefully, someday they will be available to tribal members in the archives of the proposed Yurok Cultural Center,” she said.

One portion of the historical record that is incomplete is information on recent or current military veterans. Peggy was able to find information on many Yurok men and women that served in World War I, World War II, Korean War, and the



Vietnam War, but she knows there is much more information and veterans to be added. Hopefully, tribal members can contribute information, such as photographs, letters, DD-214s, interviews, personal accounts, stories that have been passed down to complete the research on their own family’s record of US Military service.

“This is a project that will never end” said Peggy O’Neill. “It will continue as long as Yurok men and women serve in the US Military.”

**To add information to the books please contact Earl Jackson in the Yurok Enrollment Department or email information to him at [ejackson@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:ejackson@yuroktribe.nsn.us).**

## Nonprofit flying vets to DC.

This spring, Honor Flight Northern California, a regional nonprofit, is flying Humboldt County WWII veterans to Washington DC to visit the WWII Memorial for free.

Many WWII vets have not been able to view the memorial because it was not dedicated until 2004, almost sixty years after the end of the war.

“We are losing WWII vets at the rate of 1,200 per day, according to Honor Flight. “With many not having the resources or support to undertake such a trip, Honor Flight is doing whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans.”

Those who take the trip are accompanied by trained volunteers who pay their own way as a gesture to honor veterans.

**To sign up for the trip or get more information contact Kathrin Burleson at (707) 677-0490. More information about the program can be found at [HonorFlightnorcal.org](http://HonorFlightnorcal.org).**

# New police chief's career comes full-circle

Yurok tribal member and veteran law enforcement officer Mary McQuillen's career path is coming full circle for a second time.

The Yurok Tribal Council recently swore in McQuillen as the new Chief of the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety.

McQuillen started her law enforcement career in Klamath, Ca — where Yurok Tribal Police are headquartered — as a Patrol Officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1983.

In the early 90s McQuillen transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs South Pueblos Agency in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she also worked as a patrol officer, but was quickly promoted to investigator.

In 1992 she returned to the Yurok Reservation to head up the BIA's Klamath office for three years. That was the first circle.

McQuillen then went back to New Mexico to become an instructor at the BIA Indian Police Academy. After a few years as a police instructor, McQuillen took a position as a Special Agent for the BIA Northern Pueblos Agency. In this position, she worked on a number of reservations in New Mexico, investigating everything from drug trafficking to sex crimes.

After several years McQuillen transferred in to the BIA's



Yurok tribal member Mary McQuillen was recently sworn in as the Tribe's new police chief.

"It has always been part of my plan to retire from the BIA and come back and try to put some of my knowledge and skills to work for my people."

MARY MCQUILLEN~ YUROK TRIBAL POLICE CHIEF

Professional Standards Unit, which took her to reservations all over the United States. Her chief job was to review BIA and tribal law enforcement agencies to make sure they were in compliance with all BIA law enforcement policies and procedures.

She then transferred to BIA Colorado River Agency to go back in the field as a special agent. She retired in December 31, 2010 and began steps toward completing the second circle.

"It has always been part of my plan to retire from the BIA and come back and try to put some of my knowledge and skills to work for my people," said McQuillen. "I feel confident that we can make the communities from Weitchpec to

Klamath safer places to live. It won't happen over night and will take community involvement. I think we, and I say we because I am going to live on the Reservation, as a whole are responsible for creating safer communities."

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# Yuroks make artful and efficient bows and arrows

There are many who believe that Yurok sinew-backed bows could quite possibly be the strongest ever made by a North American tribe.

The highly efficient hunting implements require a months-long, highly complex process that takes patience and a lot of skill. It also involves praying to ensure the bow and arrows become effective hunting tools and because they have a living spirit.

In addition to hunting deer, elk and other game, arrows and quivers are used in ceremonies.

The materials used to make bows and arrows come from coast and mountains ranging from Northern California to Washington.

The bow's stave is made of yew wood, an extremely hard wood that grows in the mountains. When choosing a piece of wood it is important to that is on the opposite flank of the "compression side" of the tree, which is found either on top of a branch and or on the uphill side of the tree trunk. Millennia of Yurok bow-making has uncovered that these sections of the tree are the best for a flexible and strong bow.

"This points to the knowledge gained over time by the people who have made bows for thousands of years," said Bob McConnell, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer.

It also important to use wood from a tree that grows in a shaded draw, where it is sheltered from weather. The trees grow straighter in that type of environment and the wood will have far fewer knots. This rough shape of the bow is whittled with a rock adze and then set in cool area removed from light to cure. Once cured (about ½ dry) the staves are further carved into the correct size, which depends on the length of the hunter's arm.

The last half of the drying process is completed concurrently with the following applications of sinew. A piece of sinew string is then fastened to knocks on the back of the bow to encourage the wood to curve. A thin layer of sturgeon glue is laid on the stave to reinforce its fortitude. Once the glue is dried the string is removed. Sturgeon glue is made from the air bladder of the fish.

Sinew is laid along the back of the bow, covering the whole back. Sturgeon glue is applied to the sinew, holding it in place. When this dries, the bow will bend in the opposite direction it will after being strung. The bow strings are made from deer sinew. The best sinew is from the leg area which starts at the animals toe and stops at it main muscle mass. Once dried, the sinew is first pounded with a rock and chewed to loosen its fibers and make it more elastic. The bow strings are attached to knocks at each end of the stave. This gives the bow its



The tips are made to be removeable to allow for a fast reload.

exceptional elasticity and strength.

The staves are finish sanded with equisetum or horsetail found in the wetlands areas on the Klamath River and its many tributaries.

Yurok arrows are made from iron wood or mock orange wood. The best pieces to use are the straight shoots that grow upward from the limbs. The arrow shaft is made in two pieces. A foreshaft of about 4 to 6 inches in length is made to fit into the larger, main shaft. The back of the arrow is created to fit into a second piece on the front of the shaft. This allows for the main shaft of the arrows to be reused. For example, if a hunter shoots a game animal he can pull out the back piece and add a new tip and immediately reload the bow.

Arrowheads are made from chert, an abundant, fine-grained stone. The rock comes in many colors, but the most common is red and can sometimes be found on the beach. The stones are cured by a process similar to a ceramic kiln. The process begins with making a fire in a hole in the ground. The chert rock is then buried in the sand placed on top of the smoldering coals. More sand is placed over the chert. Another fire is then built on top of the sand to maximize heat. When the rock is

ready it has a shiny sheen. The processed rocks are knapped with flint or other soft rocks, followed by pressure flaking with a deer antler until they are the appropriate size and shape.

The arrow tips are attached to the fore shaft with a mixture of crushed charcoal and pitch from either a pine or fir tree. Sinew is also used to augment the connection.

The fletching, the amendment that makes the arrow fly straight, on Yurok arrows typically comes from Cooper's or red tail hawk feathers. Fletching is applied using both sturgeon glue and sinew.

The bow and arrows are ornately painted with coloring created from a number of different plants. A common one is the salal berry for blue. Red comes from cinnabar, a shale rock. Each bow maker has a specific design/color combination on his arrows that sets them apart from others. Yurok quivers are made out of otter pelts carefully studded with other natural materials such as abalone shells, woodpecker and mallard scalps, white fur from the stomach area of a deer and beads.

The quiver and arrows are also used in the Brush Dance, an annual ceremony to heal a sick child.

"There is a ceremonial use and a utilitarian use. A bow maker would start his project early in the spring, complete the bow by the early summer, use the quiver in ceremonies, and finally, harvest game in late summer through fall," McConnell said. "There are very few bow and arrow makers left. We need to be careful not to lose this indescribably important skill."

To see a video of a Yurok man making a bow visit the web page <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPcE2HkH-AM>

## Yurok in need of help

A Yurok tribal member remains in serious condition at the trauma unit of the Oregon Health Science University Hospital, following a motor vehicle accident that occurred in the middle of February.

Samir McQuillen-Drew suffered a broken neck and other serious injuries after his car went off the road during a powerful sleet storm on Highway 101. During the short but intense weather event two other accidents occurred within minutes on the same stretch of road.

McQuillen-Drew is a full-time student at the College of the Redwoods and part-time employee of the Yurok Tribe.

His family has set up a donation account in his name at Coast Central Credit Union to help offset the massive medical bills that he is incurring and will incur during what is doctor's are saying will be a long recovery. If checks are sent to the bank they must be written to Theresa McQuillen.

"We have received an overwhelming amount of prayers and support," said his father, Jim McQuillen. "We are forever grateful."

## Weaving wellness in native communities

The Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC), along with local Tribes and various partnering programs, will be hosting a Community Health and Wellness Summit. The gathering entitled, Weaving Wellness in Native Communities, will be held March 31 – April 2, 2011 at the Blue Lake Casino and Hotel. The summit is an opportunity for the Native American community to come together to begin developing sustainable wellness plans for individuals and Tribal communities. Participants will work together to access tools, training and support to address issues of mutual concern. This will empower them to assist their communities to create the change they envision based upon the culture and traditions of their Tribes.

As part of building and reinforcing a strong family unit, youth will play an integral role at the meeting. A youth track has been designed to provide information and resources targeted to address their needs. Additionally, youth will participate in a video documentation effort to capture the process and results of the event.

This gathering will provide communities with an opportunity to develop solutions to the problems that confront them. The summit will focus on the four key areas Mind, Body, Spirit and Community. Bringing balance to these components of life will promote the type of wellness that will benefit Native American individuals, families, communities and Tribes.

**For more information go to: [www.ncidc.org/wellness](http://www.ncidc.org/wellness) or call André Cramblit at 707.445.8451 or email [andrekar@ncidc.org](mailto:andrekar@ncidc.org)**

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# Yurok elder, WWII veteran tells his story

He didn't know it at the time, but Yurok elder Neil "Junior" McKinnon played an important role in thwarting Adolf Hitler's attempt to create an atomic bomb.

McKinnon, an Army Air Force Sergeant at the time, bombed Germany's Peenemunde Air Force Base, which is where the extremely deadly device was being developed by some of the world's most savvy and sadistic scientists.

"If Hitler waited a few more years he would have had atom bombs and used them all over the world," McKinnon said. "I didn't know we were bombing it until after I got home and read about it in a book."

The Distinguished Flying Cross recipient was drafted on March 20, 1943, while he was living in San Diego and working for Solar Aircraft. He served until the end of the war in 1945. McKinnon, an Armor Gunner, accumulated 217 combat hours over 38 missions. His plane was a B-17.

"That was a tough little plane," McKinnon said.

He was also involved in one of the largest air strikes against the Nazis, which took place over Berlin.

"There were 800 planes in the air. Everywhere you looked there were planes going every which way," McKinnon said.

The 87-year-old elder was born in a traditional Yurok house in Weych-pues and was raised in Morek.

"We were all born somewhere (not in a hospital) and we didn't have birth certificates," McKinnon said.

There were very few roads, so walking or paddling the river were the most frequently used forms of transportation.

"I had to walk three miles to go to school," McKinnon said.

His family bred cows, chickens and pigs, and kept a garden the size of the small farm. Each winter McKinnon's father would butcher a hog and salt it for year-round preservation, McKinnon recalled with a smile.

"It was quite a life," McKinnon said. "We always had a lot of good food."

When McKinnon was out of school he would go on overnight trips to gather basket materials like hazel, which is used to make

baby baskets and eel baskets depending on the plants' age.

"There were quite a lot of eels back then, not like now," he said. "I remember catching more than 90 in one basket. You had to have a strong basket."

It was common that when a neighbor shot a deer he would call, there were phones in Weitchpec area then, the wind-up kind, to offer some of the meat.

In addition to deer and the domestic fare, the McKinnons also subsided on traditional foods like acorns, salmon, sturgeon and eels.

There was not very much work, so McKinnon's father would travel each fishing season to Requa to work at the canneries. When McKinnon came of age, he moved to San Diego to build air planes for the war effort just as many other young Yurok men and women had. He was 19 when he was drafted.

After coming home from the war, McKinnon moved back to Northern California, south of Yurok County to Eureka, where he worked for a timber company.

"I was a timber faller for my entire life," he said.

Even though Yurok traditional ceremonies like the Brush Dance, White Deerskin Dance and Jump Dance were outlawed by the U.S. government for most of his adult life, McKinnon became a more than proficient at making ceremonial items such as drums, pipes and necklaces. He still carves his own abalone pieces, a task that takes extreme concentration and precision.

He also continues to fish, keep a garden, chop wood and maintain a sizeable amount of fruit trees for his age, which he said contributes to his good health. The man moves and talks quickly and still has some solid biceps.

"I am waiting for the spring salmon season to start so I can get out there one more time," McKinnon said with sly chuckle.



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**Yurok Today is starting a new feature. Every month a Yurok elder will be profiled. Please call Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 306 or email [mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us) to suggest an elder for this section.**

# Q and A

with Sammy Gensaw III,  
the Northern California Representative for the  
Building Healthy Communities.



**Please explain some of the first steps that you are taking in your new position?**

Some of the first steps taken will be to develop a team of 6 youth organizers from Del Norte County. But since we are such a divided county, I would like to have a representative between the ages of 15-21 from the following areas: Gasquet, Hiouchi, Smith River, and the lower and upper Klamath reservation. Representatives will attend the regional conference in April, which will be focused on how to improve public speaking, facilitation, networking, outreach and organizing in your community.

**What are some of the goals you plan to accomplish?**

After we return, my team will hold and facilitate meetings with local organizations and environmental groups to produce a plan that will better our community as a whole by pulling our resources together, and we'll go from there.

**What types of issues do you want to address in the Del Norte County and the Adjacent Tribal Lands?**

We will tap on issues like malnourishment to prevent diabetes and obesity in youth, school attendance, plus many others.

**How does your role fit in to the bigger Building Healthy Communities plan?**

There are ten outcomes for Building Healthy Communities, and the main one I'm working on is helping communities support healthy youth development. This means mobilizing youth as leaders and agents of change by supporting kids to stay in school, find meaningful work, and connect with caring adults. This helps the next generation to thrive. That is where I come in and do my best.

**How can other youth get involved?**

If you would like to get involved or would like to nominate someone you know, you can leave me a message at Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods, Monday-Friday at 707-482-1737 or give me a call at (707) 954-5513. My e-mail is sammygensaw232@gmail.com.

**Can you give a brief description about yourself?**

My name is Sammy Gensaw the III, I am 17 years old and the president of the Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods Student Council. Some of my life goals are to become a semi-fluent speaker of the Yurok language, to make Del Norte a lead free county, to have a fully restored (dam-free) Klamath river, and to attend Harvard University so I can come back and protect our sovereign rights and lead our people as a unified tribe.

**What is your job with the Building Healthy Communities?**

I am the northern California representative for Building Healthy Communities. My job will mainly be community organizing.

**What is your experience in community organizing?**

I've been involved in many organizations and boards. I'm very active in my community and culturally aware. I've attended Haskell University for a youth leadership challenge, and I have also been involved in non-violent direct action trainings in Orleans, CA, and on Vashon Island in Washington. I'm the student community organizer on the Klamath River Justice Coalition, and I've attended the Ford Leadership classes as well. I have served on student government all four years at K.R.E.C.R.

# Customer service is key to success

Laurie Ann Doster is a busy woman.

She is the sole proprietor of Econographics in Ukiah, CA. The print shop creates everything from banners, business cards and brochures to door hangers as well as posters, presentation folders, custom labels and table tents.

"There's always a rush in the print business," Doster said.

Most clients want their "printing" first, yet it is the last item in business to be ordered.

"I come to work every day and give it all I've got until I get it done."

The Yurok tribal member's main clients are banks, American Indian-owned casinos and locally-run businesses.

Doster unintentionally started her career in the print biz. She had recently finished Emergency Medical Technician training, which she entered with hopes of working for the California Department of Forestry. At the same time, the CDF budget was slashed and no jobs were available.

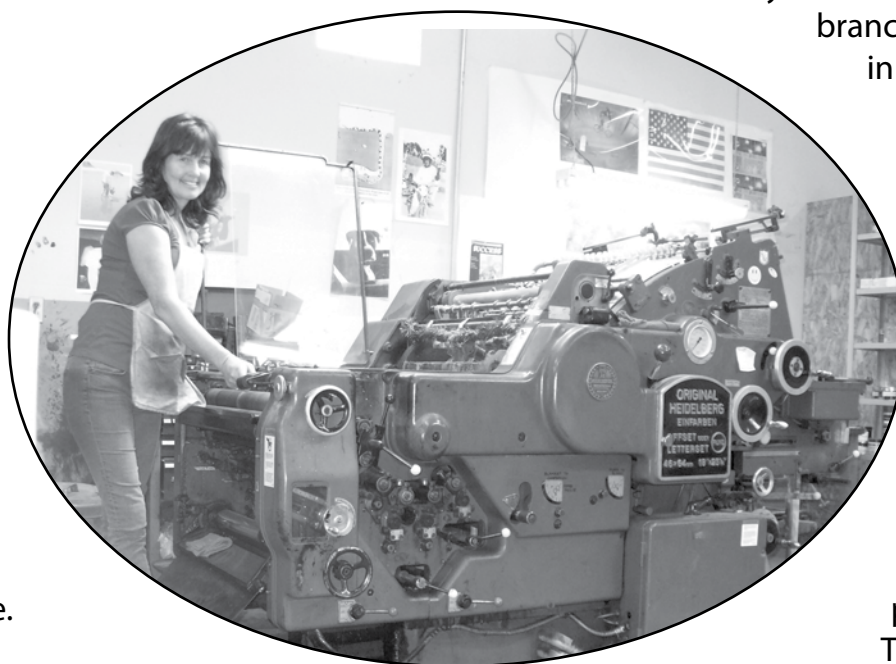
In 1991, Doster began work at Econographics, then owned by her parents. She handled the production side of the business until her parents could no longer run the successful enterprise in 2009. Doster said an entire generation of off-spring were raised in the "Shop". From play-pens to press operators; at one point every family member has participated in one print job or another. It's just "family business".

"I used to laugh because my mom would tell me worrying about work would keep her up at night," Doster said. "I was in my 30s and didn't understand how any job could rob you of your sleep. Now I know how she felt."

Doster quickly brought herself up to speed running the business side of things and put her own touch on the company, which prides itself on customer service.

"Our motto is: 'If we can't do it we will find someone who will,'" Doster said.

For example, she often gets customers who want old Native American cultural pictures restored to their original state. She



puts them in contact with someone who can or uses one of the many qualified vendors kept on hand for specialty requests. Customer service is key and fulfilling a client's needs is essential in their return or repeat business.

"It is a happy customer that makes our business thrive," Doster said. "We never close the door on anyone."

Her sister Nancy Lee, owner of Graphics To Printing is also a veteran in the business. Having worked side by side with Doster for twenty years she branched out on her own to specialize in "Graphics" and now provides all of Econographics typesetting and graphics needs.

"She is truly an asset to Econographics," Doster said. Even through the recession and dividing the company into two separate business, Econographics has maintained its integrity and its commitment to excellent customer service.

"Hanging in there has really paid off," Doster said.

The drastic downfall in the economy did cost her husband Troy his job, but now he works with her. "Troy has been the best asset ever to the company," Doster said. "He has a wonderful sense of humor; key in day to day business and he is my best friend."

"We are happy. We can plan our own vacations and if necessary we are able to close up shop occasionally to watch our grandchildren's basketball games, t-ball or just a simple visit" Doster concluded.

To contact Econographics call (707) 485-1720 or email [econographics@pacific.net](mailto:econographics@pacific.net)

**Yurok Business Spotlight** 

**Yurok Today features one Yurok business in each edition. Please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 to participate.**



# Yurok Tribe

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Yurok tribal member and Tsunami Siren Macy "Macebomm" Bommelyn avoids a hit during her teams first roller derby bout against the Sis Q Rollers. Macebomm, who plays the Jammer position, helped lead her team to a solid victory against their rivals at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds.