



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Yurok Teacher Retires at '29'

Patti Gibbens serves multiple generations on the Klamath- See story on page 4



Public Notices



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548
Phone: 707-482-1350 • Fax: 707-482-1377

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yurok Tribe will hold three public hearings to accept comments from Yurok Tribal members on the following draft legislation and existing policy:

- **AMENDED RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT ORDINANCE:** an amended ordinance replacing the existing Residential Land Assignment Ordinance (2002) for the purposes of clarifying the process in which the Tribe may convey land assignments or land use permits for residential purposes to Yurok Tribal Members within Yurok territory. Proposed amendments help clarify the eligibility, application, and approval processes and make other clarifying edits.
- **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** an existing law establishing a Zero Tolerance policy prohibiting illegal drugs within the boundaries of the Reservation, including the non-recognition of state issued 215 identification cards authorizing the use and production of medical marijuana.

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation and existing policy to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. Public hearings are scheduled for:

Monday, December 4, 2017 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA	Tuesday, December 5, 2017 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Erie St Eureka, CA	Wednesday, December 6, 2017 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Hard copies of the draft ordinance and existing policy will be available at the public hearings, and at the Worthington, Weitchpec and Klamath offices. You can also get a hard copy by contacting Shawna Bowen at 707-482-1350 x 1389 or email shbowen@yuroktribe.nsn.us to request an electronic copy.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Yurok Tribe is interested in receiving comments from members of the Yurok Tribe and Yurok Reservation community regarding all aspects of the legislation. Oral comments can be made during the public hearing. Comments may also be submitted in writing. All comments must be received by **5:00pm on Friday, December 29, 2017.**

Comment letters may be submitted by email at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, by fax at (707) 482-1363, or by mail addressed to: Public Comment, Yurok Tribe Office of the Tribal Attorney, PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Please indicate in your comment the draft legislation and specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. For example, **“Comment Letter—Zero Tolerance Policy.”**

YUROK TRIBAL COURT PO Box 1027 / 230 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548 (707) 482-1350 phone (707) 482-0105 fax	Court File Number: YF-FL-2014-81 Case Type: <u>FAMILY COURT</u> YUROK TRIBAL COURT NOV 08 2017 BY: <u>NPB</u> YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION
In re: <u>SINEW KAOS SWAIN</u> (Write current name of person's to be changed)	NOTICE OF PETITION for Change of Name

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

1. **PETITIONER:** RICHARD JAY BATES II has filed a petition with this court for decree changing a name as follows:
 - a. Present Name: SINEW KAOS SWAIN
 - b. Proposed Name: SINEW KAOS BATES
2. **THE COURT REQUIRES** that all persons interested in this request shall appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least three (3) court (business) days before the hearing date and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
3. **HEARING DATE, TIME AND PLACE** (At least 90 days from filing date):
 - a. Date: December 15th January 12th
 - b. Time: 9:30 A.M.
 - c. Location: 230 Klamath Blvd
4. **NOTICE:** A copy of this NOTICE of PETITION for Change of Name shall be published in TWO (2) consecutive issues of the Yurok Tribe Newsletter.
5. **ISSUED:**
Clerk of the Court: Nichelle Baully
Date: 11/8/17

YUROK TRIBAL COURT PO Box 1027 / 230 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548 (707) 482-1350 phone (707) 482-0105 fax	Court File Number: <u>YF-FL-2017-004</u> Case Type: <u>FAMILY COURT</u> YUROK TRIBAL COURT OCT 05 2017 BY: <u>NPB</u> YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION [RECEIVED]
In re: <u>Josie Kee Kee-ya Louise Provolt</u> (Write current name of person's to be changed)	NOTICE OF MOTION for Change of Name

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

1. **MOTIONER:** Rachel Dowd has filed a Motion with this court for decree changing a name as follows:
 - a. Present Name: Josie Kee Kee-ya Louise Provolt
 - b. Proposed Name: Josie Kee Kee-ya Louise Dowd
2. **THE COURT REQUIRES** that all persons interested in this request shall appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least three (3) court (business) days before the hearing date and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
3. **HEARING DATE, TIME AND PLACE** (At least 90 days from filing date):
 - a. Date: January 12, 2018
 - b. Time: 9:30 AM
 - c. Location: 230 Klamath Blvd, Klamath CA 95548
4. **NOTICE:** A copy of this NOTICE of MOTION for Change of Name shall be published in TWO (2) consecutive issues of the Yurok Tribe Newsletter.
5. **ISSUED:**
Clerk of the Court: Nichelle Baully
Date: 10/05/17

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On The Cover

Patti Gibbens, a Yurok Tribal member, retires after teaching for four decades in the Klamath-Trinity Unified School District.

Incumbent, new Council Reps. sworn in



On October 16, 2017, the Yurok Tribe's Election Board certified the results for the North, Weitchpec and Requa District races. (pictured from left to right) The new North District Representative, Edward "Horse" Aubrey and Weitchpec District Representative, Toby Vanlandingham, as well as incumbent, Requa District Representative Ryan Ray, were sworn in on October 24 and took their seats on the same day. ✨



The Election Board on October 16, 2017, certified the election of the following people:

NORTH DISTRICT

Edward Horse Aubrey	102	(56.98%)
Jack Mattz	77	(43.02%)

REQUA DISTRICT

Ryan P. Ray, Sr.	76	(57.58%)
Elise Williams	56	(42.42%)

WEITCHPEC DISTRICT

Toby Vanlandingham	29	(50.88%)
Thomas Willson, Sr.	28	(49.12%)



Highly revered Yurok teacher retires

Patti Gibbens put an emphasis on kindness in the classroom

In veteran educator Patti Gibbens' classroom, kindness is king.

Gibbens, a Yurok Tribal member, recently retired from Jack Norton Elementary School, after spending four decades teaching in Klamath-Trinity Unified School District. The universally respected fourth through eighth grade teacher has positively influenced multiple generations of children in and around Yurok Country. She is 29-years-old, or at least that is what her students' believed, likely because she beams with the energy of someone less than half her age.

"My students said, 'you can't retire, you're only 29,'" Gibbens recalled. "I've been 29 for 33 years."

Working as a teacher was a lifelong dream for the lighthearted Yurok woman, whose path to becoming an educator was both unconventional and inspiring. Gibbens first job in the field was at Weitchpec Elementary School, where she worked as an aide until the funding was cut after two years. During the resulting temporary departure from the workforce, she and her husband Roger, who she has now been married to for 42-years, decided it was an opportune time to have the first two of their four children. Following the birth of her second child, Gibbens worked for three years as a teacher assistant at Hoopa Elementary School. She then transferred to a half-time job at Jack Norton, conveniently sited a few miles from her house in Pecwan. She worked there for more than decade, in part because it provided a solid set of circumstances to raise their beautiful children, who are all now adults with professional occupations.

After 12 years as an aide, Gibbens made the decision to obtain the qualifications necessary to transition into teaching. At the time, Laura Lee George, who ran the Humboldt State University's Indian Teacher & Educational Personnel Program, encouraged her to enroll in the college's teaching program, which offered a monthly stipend.

"By the time ITEPP was re-funded I had gotten to a place where I wanted to do more in the classroom," Gibbens said. "I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to have my own classroom."

For four years, she commuted four-hours to Arcata, five days per week, "in the snow, uphill both ways," in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts and a teaching credential. Throughout the last semester she left home around sunrise and didn't return until 11pm, five days a week. In addition to her husband, Patti's mother and sisters pitched in to care for her children, a gesture she still greatly appreciates.

"That last semester was really rough, because the only time I saw the kids was on weekends. If it hadn't been for family there is no way that I could do it. I am really thankful for family," she said.

While at university, Gibbens taught the Yurok language two days a week at Jack Norton and Weitchpec School. During this period, she also assisted in the production of Aawok Georgiana Trull's *Yurok Language Conversation Book*.

"That was amazing. It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life, to work with that group of people, my friend Georgiana, along with many of the elders from Pecwan and Weitchpec," she said. "I really treasure those times."

Upon her June graduation from HSU, Gibbens started work in July teaching summer school at Hoopa Elementary School. Before the standard school year started, she was selected for a full-time job in Orleans.

"I look back at my career and I'm really grateful that I was able to experience those communities. The parents and the students were just wonderful," she said. "I've been so lucky to be connected to all of these people."

At Orleans Elementary School, she taught for two years as a 6th, 7th and 8th grade teacher. In 1997, Gibbens was hired to teach the upper grades at Jack Norton Elementary, her preferred location and age range.

"I love teenagers," she said. "There just something about that age group that just grabbed me. To me, the people who can teach the little bitty kids are amazing. I always admire those who teach the younger grades because it's such a different set of skills."

At the time, fellow instructor, Mary Raigosa, had been teaching the lower grades at Jack Norton, which was comprised of approximately 90-95 percent Native Americans. With less than 50 students, there was an optimal student-to-teacher ratio.

Gibbens and Raigosa, the only two credentialed faculty from 1997 to 2017, worked collectively to customize each individual student's education and frequently compared notes on the their progress, as they passed from one grade level to the next.

"Mary is such a great teacher and such a good friend," Gibbens said. "She's always so supportive of the community and the school. We made a good team."

Gibbens and Raigosa taught each respective student precisely where he or she was at academically, while regularly presenting new intellectual challenges. They endeavored to construct a familiar scholastic framework, containing high but clearly defined expectations for each child.

"When the students know what the structure is and what the expectations are they do so much better," Gibbens explained.

The diminutive class size benefited students in other ways, too. Whether it was in academics, playing on a sports team or acting in a school play, everyone was able to participate. In this educational ecosystem the students were exposed to a greater diversity of experiences than they would have encountered at a large school.

“The students are able to get outside of their comfort zone and grow,” Gibbens said. “One of the other special things about small schools is that all of children have a chance to shine. Everyone gets to be a star.”

Early on, Gibbens found that concentrating on students’ strengths, taking the time to acknowledge each person’s positive characteristics, however substantial or slight, produced superior learning outcomes.

“Every child needs to know how special they are. At a small school, you can recognize every student every day for who they are and for their accomplishments. That’s one of the exceptional things about Jack Norton,” she said.

This forward-thinking approach produced a profound effect on behavior both in and outside of the classroom.

“The students realize what is special about each other and they help each other. They accept people for who they are,” posited the longtime instructor. “When you focus on their good qualities they do the same to other people. It becomes second nature.”

Congruent to teaching the basics, Gibbens also put a premium on informing the students about the importance of respect, responsibility and conflict resolution.

“We teach our students how to be compassionate, how to resolve conflicts and how to support each other,” Gibbens said. “The best part about teaching is seeing children grow, to see them learn the lessons and then apply them.”

Gibbens will never forget the many occasions in which the adolescents at Jack Norton articulated a level of empathy much higher than their age might suggest. For example, an organization once came to the school to facilitate a play involving the students in her class and one of the group’s leader’s gave a child, who had a tough time reading, a part with numerous lines.

“He looked at the paper and he didn’t know what to do. His friend standing next to him grabbed the script and said, ‘I’ll do this part’ and we just went on. No attention, no fuss. He just fixed it. That was one of the most amazing moments, to see the kids defuse something before it ever became an issue,” Gibbens recalled.

Throughout her career, Gibbens’ always maintained a solid rapport with the students, parents and the local community. These relationships were fruitful for her as well as those she taught.

“Kids really value connections — when they know who you are and they know you know their parents and their grandparents,” she explained. “It’s really amazing how that puts them at ease and makes them open to all of the possibilities of learning.”

Gibbens felt a deep sense of duty to their pupils and their parents.



Patti Gibbens taught at Jack Norton School on the Yurok Reservation.

For her, being entrusted to educate children was more than a job. “I always felt like it was such an honor that parents trusted me with their children for six hours a day,” Gibbens said. “It is truly a privilege.”

With 40 years of teaching under her belt, Gibbens is uniquely positioned to apprise parents of the most constructive ways to help their offspring flourish in school. For instance, she says the relationship between the child, parent and teacher should not take place in isolation.

“It’s important for the student, teacher and parents to meet together at least once a month, especially if there is a conflict,” she said. “What a student sees and what a teacher sees and what a parent hears at home can be different. If you’re all there together you can talk it through and ask questions. With several students that’s been the key to solving many academic or behavioral problems. Communication is essential.”

Based on her wealth of experience in the profession, Gibbens is also distinctively suited to share some pointers with prospective, Yurok teachers. To be an effective educator, it is crucial to be engaged in the community.

“Know your community, be involved, be a participant in community activities and the ceremonies. It’s important to do both, to be involved in academic and cultural activities. Find that connection to your students and use it,” Gibbens said. “My best advice is to be kind. Kindness will open so many doors.”

She also recommends regularly hugging the kids. When Gibbens was at HSU, the professors in the credential program repeatedly advised against this, but she did not heed their well-meant assessment.

“In every single class they cautioned us strongly to avoid physical

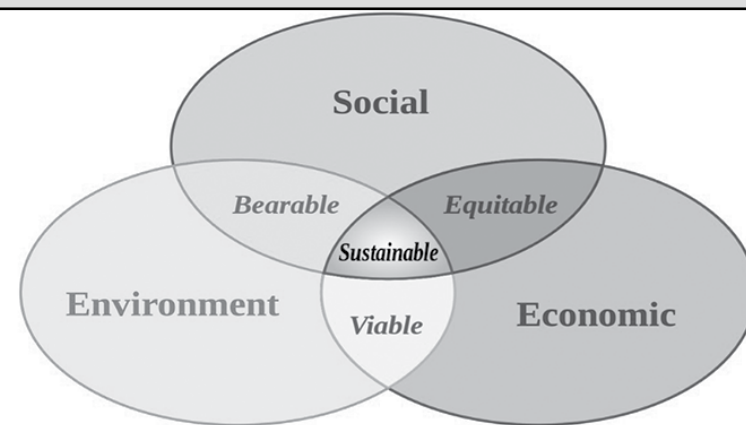
contact with students because of the potential to open yourself up to a lawsuit," Gibbens said. "Everything in me rebelled against that every time I heard it. Mary and I, teaching at Jack Norton, hugged our kids every day. We give them hugs, we give them love, we give them support. Every student should have at least one hug a day. That's just how it is."

In retirement, Gibbens plans on enjoying her home on the Klamath River, making traditional necklaces, weaving baskets and spending time with her three grandchildren. She inherited a trove of photographs from her grandmother and aunt, which she is archiving and will be making copies for the people in the pictures.

"My plan is to not plan much of anything. I want to sleep until 9 if I feel like it," she said. "I want to do things that are fun for me. I may start an Indian dress. After a while, I'm sure I will start volunteering at the school again."

With fondness and gratitude, Gibbens will forever cherish the memories she made in the schoolhouse overlooking the remote section of the reservation.

"If I could live anywhere in the world, it would be right here. If I could choose any career, it would be a teacher. I did what I loved for 40 years. I feel really, really lucky," Gibbens concluded. ✨



30 Day Public Notice

For Yurok Comprehensive Economic Development and Tourism Strategy Plan

The Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Development Department is requesting public comments from the community members, both up and downriver, regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. This plan could very well be the first step toward economic freedom, prosperity, and sustainability in the community. Your voice, ideas, and thoughts matter., we are open to all comments and questions that pertain to the document both positive and negative.

All comments and questions will be directed to the project leads:

William Ulmer-Gensaw (Planner II)

Phone: 707-482-1350 Ext.1352

YLP gives update on teacher program

9 awarded scholarships to obtain standard, language teaching credential

Submitted by Yurok Language Program

The Yurok Language Program was awarded a 5-year Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Native Language Community Coordination (NLCC) grant to assist 10 Yurok tribal members in becoming dually credentialed teachers. Having recently completed the first year of the project, the Language Program would like to share an update on its progress. As of November 2017, 9 Teacher Candidates have been awarded a Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl Scholarship which allows them an academic stipend of approximately \$3,000 for each semester and additional stipends for each designated language activity they attend. These activities include: grammar workshops, teacher trainings, immersion pods, 8-day language institute and 4-day immersion camp. Teacher Candidates will complete parallel tracks to reach their Advanced (Level 3) Yurok Language Teacher Credential (through the Yurok Tribe and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing), while also completing their undergraduate and/or graduate degrees along with their state teaching credentials.

The Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl Scholarship also focuses on bridging language gaps that exist for some age ranges in the public school system. The Teacher Candidates that have been selected as part of the project have identified the age groups that they intend to teach, including early childhood, elementary education, secondary education (high school), or post-secondary education (college). There is a nation-wide shortage of well-qualified teachers for all grade levels, especially Native teachers. This project will not only develop 10 new Yurok language teachers that will be able to teach multiple subjects, but will also ensure employability for our Yurok language teachers.

Our Teacher Candidates:

Skip Lowry, James Gensaw, Seafha Ramos
Nicole Peters, Chelsea Reed, Curtis Kane
Roberta Chavez, Bessie Shorty, Nikolai Valentine

If you are interested in being a teacher and learning your language, please apply for our program! To request an application,

please email language program staff or stop by a tribal office. Copies of the application are available for review on the “Yurok Tribe” and the “Yurok Tribe Language Program” Facebook pages. They are also available for download on the Yurok Language Program website. For further eligibility requirements please refer to the application or call the Yurok Language Program at 707-482-1350 ext 1046. The deadline to apply has been extended to December 1, 2017!

Yurok Language Program Staff:

Victoria Carlson, YLP Coordinator
vcarlson@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Barbara McQuillen,
Assistant Coordinator
bmcquillen@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Brittany Vigil-Burbank,
Lang. Specialist, bvigil@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Erika Peters,
Admin Assist. epeters@yuroktribe.nsn.us

In Year 1:

- 10/10 Teacher Candidates completed Pre-assessments
- 5/9 attempted Yurok Language Credential Assessments
- 9/9 developed and implemented two lessons
- 8/9 completed three classroom observations with a Master Yurok language teacher



- 7/9 completed 12+ immersion pods
- 9/9 attended grammar workshops, Summer Language Institute, and Immersion Camp

All of our Teacher Candidates have met the requirements for Year 1 of the program! We would like to congratulate Skip Lowry, Nicole Peters, and Curtis Kane for completing 100% of activities for Year 1!

Teacher Candidates working on this project have until Spring 2021 to complete:

Teacher Candidates working on this project have until Spring 2021 to complete:

Yurok Language Track	Western Education Track
Yurok Language Teaching Credentials Levels I, II, and III	B.A. in Child Development (Early Childhood) -OR-
Pre-assessments I, II, or III at the beginning of each project year	B.A./B.S in another subject with accompanying multi-subject teaching credential (Elementary Education) -OR-
10 immersion pods each project year	B.A./B.S. in another subject with accompanying single-subject (Secondary Education) -OR-
3 Observations each year of identified Yurok language teachers at Hoopa Valley High School, Del Norte High School, or Eureka High School	Graduate degree (Post-secondary Education)
2 Lesson Plans in the topic area of their choice each year and present one at the Summer Language Institute and one at	Provide attendance verification each month and do a monthly check-in with the Language Specialist

Immersion Camp	
Student Teaching Hours which will be delegated after they complete their first Yurok Language Credential	Provide Class Schedule at the beginning of each semester
Attend Grammar Workshops each month in Weitchpec, Eureka, or Klamath	Provide Grades at the end of each semester
Attend an 8-day Yurok Language Institute each year	
Attend a 4-day Yurok Language Immersion Camp	

2017 FALL FEAST



KLAMATH

Tribe weighs in on trail petition



The Yurok Tribe recently weighed in on a petition to close the Galindo St. Trail in Trinidad, because the hiking route travels over a burial ground.

The Move.org petition, started by Sarah Lindgren-Akana, can be found here: <https://www.change.org/p/trinidad-city-council-close-galindo-street-trail-in-trinidad-ca>

“The growing number of petition participants clearly illustrates that it is no longer acceptable to damage sites that are sacred to Native people,” said **Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr. the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe**. “We are working with all interested parties to develop a solution that honors our cultural heritage and the sacrifices of our ancestors.”

The protection and preservation of cultural resources is of the utmost importance to the Tribe, which takes seriously all matters dealing with burials as well as all other traditional resources. There are several Yurok village sites along the northern Humboldt County coast. Occupying one of the few natural harbors in the region, Chue-rey, also spelled Tsurai, is one of the more substantial villages. It is also where first contact happened between the Tribe and Spanish “explorers.” This site was later impacted by the influx of miners during the 1849 Gold Rush in California.

“We strongly support the rerouting of the Galindo St. Trail, which should have never been built there in the first place because it bisects a traditional village and cemetery,” said **Rosie Clayburn, the Yurok Tribe’s Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Representative**. “The Yurok Tribe is working with the Tsurai Ancestral Society, the City of Trinidad and the village’s descendants to protect this sacred site from further desecration.”

Yurok owns two booming businesses

Yurok woman's hair salon receives rave reviews from celebs, locals

Shirley Matilton Feather, a successful business owner and Yurok Tribal member, is no stranger to self-discipline, struggle and sacrifice.

For 20 years, the first high school graduate in her family has regularly worked seven days a week, often putting in more than 10 hours per day. After completing beauty school, she began her career as a professional hairstylist in the Eureka area, where she was born and raised in extreme poverty. To advance, she only accepted positions that allowed her to continue learning about all aspects of the industry. The aforementioned foresight enabled the enterprising woman to transition into opening and managing prosperous salons for people all over the United States.

Feather, who currently lives in Ukiah with her husband Walter and three children, remained in this profession until she elected to quit in early 2015, when she courageously decided, with strong backing from her better half, to start her first business. At the time, she wasn't receiving just compensation in exchange for her hard work and award-winning accomplishments.

Feather's first move was to feverishly research the steps she would need to take to transform her dream into reality. Serendipitously, Walter, a member of the confederated Round Valley Tribes, had been selected to participate in an intensive entrepreneurial program for aspiring business owners. The loving spouse graciously gave up his spot to his wife.

"The program showed me exactly what goes into starting a business. We learned everything from how to draft a financial plan to how to raise seed money," Feather said. "Unless you're rich, I thought it was impossible to open a business without going into debt, but it turns out that is not true."

Upon completing the rigorous course, Feather developed a strategy to secure the necessary capital, which she wanted to emphasize "did not come from marijuana," like several other businesses in the area. She sold her most valuable possessions and put away what money she could from her paychecks before ending her employment. By the fall of 2015, Feather was ready. Armed with an unyielding work ethic, a stellar reputation and faith in the Creator she launched Feathers Hair Artistry, a customized hair cutting, styling and waxing business.

"We were willing to do whatever it took to make it happen," Feather said. "We continued to be persistent and now the rewards are coming."

Feather worked 15 hours a day for a year and half, only taking time off for major holidays and to attend her children's events. For 9 months, she did not have money to advertise or to install a sign on



her store, but people from the area and parts far away quickly learned of Feathers Hair Artistry's superior services. Instead of marketing, because it was not financially feasible, Feather offered and continues to provide free haircuts to seniors on the first Monday of each month. Along with the no-cost cuts, she declines all gratuities.

"We requested prayers in exchange for the free senior services," she said.

Feather Hair Artistry's Facebook page (see link below) is overflowing with rave reviews. One of 50 positive posts reads: "My hair looks great, I would highly recommend Shirley to anyone wanting amazing color for their hair accompanied by a great cut. Shirley is professional, punctual, and takes great pride in her work!!"

Since its inception, the number of patrons at Mendocino County's first Native-owned salon have grown exponentially each month.

"We are growing at a rate that is almost out of control," Feather said.

In 2016, the Yurok-owned business was awarded the highly competitive, Ukiah Main Street Program's *Business of the Year* award. Both community votes and secret shopper evaluations are employed to select the sole winner.

“I was completely surprised when the Main Street Program called to tell me that I won,” Feather said. “I am very grateful for the acknowledgement.”

Today, Feathers Hair Artistry has patrons from all over the United States. The enterprise has been featured in numerous mainstream magazines, such as Beauty Launch Pad and Stylish Sophisticate. The Ms. Arizona Beauty Pageant, Ms. Black USA and the West Coast American Indian Music Awards, among others, have hired Feather to do contestants’ hair and makeup. She does the same for the cast of Barb TV, as well a television personalities from the Bay Area. A long list of high profile clients’ travel up for her sophisticated approach to styling, haircutting and coloring. Feather is also an international educator for Iridium Professionals and a technical educator for Lissant /Kareol. These are just a few of her many achievements from the past two years, but there are many more and surely more to come.

Building on the success of Feathers Hair Artistry, Feather and her husband opened a second business, Feathers Beauty and Barber Supply, on November 6, 2017. A wholesale entity, the company offers an organic, cruelty free line of beauty products. Walter Feather, quit his job as the Natural Resource Department Manager for Round Valley, to run the distribution center.

Owning two rapidly expanding business is not something Feather envisioned in her youth. To get to this point, she had to overcome a tremendous amount of adversity. The biggest challenge was her own perception, which was shaped by growing up in “third world conditions,” including living in a tent for parts of her childhood.

“When I was younger, owning a business did not seem attainable. It was almost unfathomable,” she explained. “I thought you had to be rich to start a business. I wish I knew earlier that it was possible.”

Even though there was minimal financial stability when she was growing up, Feather’s Mother constantly encouraged her daughter to relentlessly chase after her goals. “Everything we have is because my Mom pushed us to do more,” she said.

Feather is a testament to the power of a positive mindset, especially when she is presented with complex challenges. For example, when she found out that her distributor was gratuitously overcharging, she elected to look at it as an opportunity for growth, rather than let it bring her down. The creative problem solver reviewed the potential options and discovered a void in the regional market. Feathers Beauty and Barber Supply was born to capitalize on the vacant niche.

“I had to leave all negativity behind,” she said. “Every time someone has tried to step on us we’ve moved on and the Creator has blessed us with more.”

Before 2015, the Feathers struggled to financially support their young children, despite working much more than 40 hours a week, sacrificing almost all of their free time. After the births of their three

offspring, now 2, 3 and 6-years old, Feather did not take time off.

“I could not afford to take any maternity leave,” Feather said. “Aside from childcare, we were not eligible for any kind of assistance.”

The future is bright for Feather. Every day, she is able to show her children that it is possible, with enough perseverance, to pursue their passions, whatever they may be, which has been her primary objective from the start.

“It is the most rewarding feeling in the world,” she said. “I’m so thankful to have a home, a family and a community that supports my business. All of the glory goes to God.”

To Yuroks who are interested in beginning their own business, Feather has a few words of encouragement.

“You have what it takes and it’s going take all you have to give. The harder you work, the more blessings will come your way,” she concluded.

Feathers Hair Artistry is located at 411 South State St. in Ukiah, CA. You can find the Native-owned business on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Indulgencehairart/> ✨

Tons of fun at South Dist. Halloween gala





CULTURE CORNER

There was not a quorum at the September Culture Committee meeting, but the group of Tribal elders still had a lively conversation about the Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse, marijuana eradication and the development of an Elders Program, as well as a new children's television show featuring Yurok religious figures.

The first topic of discussion featured a recent effort to move the replica lighthouse in Trinidad, because it sits on a bluff that is failing. In 1949, numerous Yurok people vehemently opposed the original placement of the model lighthouse. While the selected location was within the boundaries of a traditional village site, the monument was still put there. The Trinidad Civic Club is trying to have it moved 20 feet to the east, which is still inside of Chue-rey village, also spelled Tsurai, and is in close proximity to a burial ground.

"Why did they put that heavy thing above a cemetery?" asked Committee member Roberta Lindgren. "It should have never been put there."

The Yurok Tribe is working with the Tsurai Ancestral Society, the City of Trinidad and other interested parties to move the lighthouse to a culturally appropriate place.

Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, likened the monument to the statues erected in the American south to "honor" Confederate Army generals. Many cities are removing these offensive shrines.

"This monument represents a difficult time in our history," he said.

Marijuana was the second subject on the day's agenda. The Yurok Tribal Council is turning the Zero Tolerance Policy into an ordinance and asked for the Committee to review the proposed piece of legislation, which aims to halt largescale cannabis cultivation on Tribal lands.

"The intended objective of this ordinance should be to protect water, the environmental and cultural resources," Myers said.

The Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney has scheduled public hearings to discuss the proposed ordinance, as well as the Amended Land Assignment Ordinance. **The meetings are on Monday, December 4 in Weitchpec, Tuesday, December 5 at the Worthington site and Wednesday, December 6 in Klamath. Tribal members are encouraged to attend the hearings, all of which begin at noon and end at 2pm.**

The next item on the docket contained a draft manuscript for a new children's show, made by Jack Kohler, called Land of Woge. Kohler, a Hoopa Valley Tribal member, is a veteran filmmaker. Most notably, he produced River of Renewal, an acclaimed documentary about the effort to restore the Klamath River.

The Land of Woge script, at Kohler's request, was handed out to Committee members to take home for review. Individuals did read parts of the document and offered some constructive feedback on its content. While the names of specific sacred spirits are mentioned in the show, it is more pan-Indian, than exclusively Yurok, according to Myers. The television series aims to educate young people about the importance of preserving the natural environment.

"Some of this is offensive, but not all of it. I think that you should write a letter telling him where we're coming from," said Committee member Maria Tripp, referencing Myers as the letter writer. "The letter needs to express our concerns. The show is otherwise kind of cute."

The Committee ended the meeting with a discussion about elder services. The Yurok Tribal Council is in the process of developing an Elders Program and an Elder Services Plan. The Council asked the Committee to provide input on the types of services that should be made available to Tribal elders.

Below is a list of suggested services and activities compiled by the Committee.

1. Minor to moderate home improvements, such as cleaning gutters and removing brush. Hire a 2 person crew.
2. Elder Advocate - One of the duties of the elder advocate is to create a coordination plan that is approved annually. The plan should be printed and mailed to all elders.
3. Activities – Elder Dinners. Transportation to Elder's Dinners, including one elder dinner a year that is out of the area. Purchase Elders vans with a wheelchair lift.
4. Direct Assistance – Cell phones, firewood, etc.
5. Emergency repair fund.
6. Elder per cap payment.
7. A phone number for elders to call for assistance 24/7 & 365 days a year.

The Tribal Council is facilitating an event to gather the community's comments on the Elder Program and Elder Services Plan. The dinner engagement is happening on Saturday, December 9 at the Klamath office from noon to 3pm. All are invited to attend and provide input on the program and plan. ✨

Slam dunk champ inspires local youth

Yurok Social Services Dept./ Hoopa TANF co-sponsor bball camp

This fall, the Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department and Hoopa Valley Tribe's TANF Program cosponsored an uplifting suicide prevention/awareness event with Kenny Dobbs, a Choctaw Nation Member and slam dunk champion from Phoenix Arizona.

The 2-day basketball camp was held on October 14th and 15th at the Hoopa High School. It was open to youth ages 10 through 18. On the first day, Dobbs coached 19 participants, comprised of both boys and girls, as they drilled numerous new techniques on the hardwood. On both days he worked in groups and one-on-one to assist the youth in bettering their basketball skills. In addition to teaching basic to advanced basketball strategies, Dobbs came with a positive message for the local youth from the Lower Klamath Basin.

On the second evening, the Choctaw man gave a motivational talk, encouraging youth to aggressively pursue their ambitions and to not let anything distract them on their path to success.

"Kenny spreads a positive message and encourages young people to set goals and to follow their dreams," said Celinda Gonzales, the Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department's Community Outreach Specialist. "He sat down, one-on-one with at-risk youth, taking the time to learn about their current circumstances and future aspirations. He even stayed much later than the event's scheduled conclusion to further educate the kids. Kenny truly went above and beyond what was expected of him."

Dobbs, himself, is no stranger to overcoming difficult times. The former chairman on the Arizona State Youth Advisory Council for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention was in jail at 15 for robbery, when he decided to dedicate his life to the being the "Best Dunker in the World." He has won multiple slam dunk competitions and has performed at several NBA half-time shows. His breakout performance took place during the NBA All Star Weekend in a Sprite-sponsored dunk contest, which was judged by basketball greats LeBron James and Darryl Dawkins. To win the tournament, he successfully completed a between the legs, blindfolded dunk, in which he jumped over three people. The Youtube sensation also boasts multiple videos with more than a million page views.



The Sunday evening event was enjoyed by more than two dozen parents and their children. Along with the thought-provoking speech, Dobbs treated those in attendance with some examples of his famous, high-flying slam dunks. After the dunk demonstrations, he generously provided autographs and spent ample time taking photographs with everyone who wanted one.

The basketball camp was in the making for a year. The Yurok Social Services Department would like to thank the Hoopa Tribe TANF for co-organizing this inspiring event for local youth and families.

"The Department would also like to thank Kenny Dobbs for coming to our local area and spreading a positive message of hope among at-risk youth. Winter is coming and so is basketball season," concluded Gonzales.

To see some of Dobbs amazing dunks, please chekc out his video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzTNc4kPQ-4&t=5s> and this one too <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPoDz0PsKtY&t=7s>. ✨

Yurok Obituaries

Marvin Eugene Smoker Jr. was born July 3, 1969 and passed November 7, 2017

Marvin Jr, also known to family and friends as Muggs, lived his life as a proud Yurok tribal member. He was raised in Crescent City, CA in the early years, spent a short time in Hoopa, CA and finally settling in Eureka by the age of 9. Always a very proud father and grandfather to 3 daughters Rosemary Smoker, Aurelia Knight and Cindie Simpson. He has 7 grandchildren. His greatest accomplishments were to give love to his family, watch them grow. He said the whole tribe came to visit me yesterday, it brought him so much joy to see and feel the love from his daughters and grandchildren. He spent more than 14 years working in the restaurant business as a chef. He often shared his love and expertise of good food by cooking family meals. One of his favorite pastimes was to walk the railroad track near Humboldt Bay, he loved to ride his bike, play frisbee golf on nice sunny days. His hobbies include collecting marvel comic books and football cards. He loved to go to Angelo's pizza parlor during football and basketball season with his best friend Huck as they would root for their favorite team, the 49er's. Muggs will be remembered for his incredible sense of humor and unique personality, selfless always thinking of the people he loved before himself.

He was truly a one of a kind brother, father and grandfather. He will be missed by so many. If a friend needed him to he'd sit and hear you out if you were troubled, he would make you laugh if that's what you need. Friends would often visit him as his door was always open for his loved ones. Muggs was a talented musician, a creative artist that loved to play guitar and write his own music. He and his friends would often have practice nights where they would sing and play music for hours. He



Marvin Eugene Smoker Jr.
7.3.1969 -11.07.2017

loved to ride his motorcycle, go to concerts, the river, Redwood run with family and friends. Some of the best times he had was spending it going to see his favorite bands in the bay area and locally. He was a warm and charismatic person born with sense of humor and charm I like no other man. He will be missed by everyone or anyone who's ever had the honor of meeting him. Preceded in death by, Daughter, Cindie Simpson, Grandmother

Catherine Richards and Uncle Leroy Gardner, Father, Marvin Smoker Sr. Aunt and Uncle Mary and Jack Russell, Mother, Rose Marie Smoker, and Grandmother Sarah Smoker, Brother, Julian Wade Smoker. Survived by and family and friends that will forever miss him are Daughters Rosemary Smoker, Aurelia Knight, Son in Law Ryan Scott, Sisters, Sarah Smoker, Crystal Shade, Dana Shade. Brothers, Jason Smoker, Frank McKuhn, Harold Huck. Nephews, John Jr. and Damon Rogers, Damon Jr. Mitchell and Keyton McKuhn, Maxwell Clyne, Jason Sabedra Jr.. Nieces, Samantha Smoker, Kait, Robin, Rachel and Tiffany Rasmussen, Aunties. Roselyn Jones, Marilyn Bray, Ann Hostler. Uncle, Pete Gardner, Fred Hostler. Cousins, Larry and Terry Bray, Nancy Colegrove, Mike and Dean

Jones, Alfred and Vincent Hostler. Grandchildren, Zachery Scott, Troy Myers, Stephanie Myers, Aliya Knight, Jonquil Knight, Nalani Knight, Che ' shon-ee Knight. Best friend Brian Bennett, He loved his friends and family - most names aren't listed but they are not forgotten. Foster Parents throughout the early years, Frank and Linda Hostler, Wilmot family, Viola Long and McCovey family. ✘



DECEMBER 9, 2017 YUROK TRIBE ELDERS DINNER

Noon-3pm @Klamath Tribal Office

You are cordially invited to the Yurok Tribe Elders dinner! Please come with your ideas on how the Yurok Tribal Council can develop and implement an Elders program. Provide your input on an Elder Services Plan.



Please join us!

Engage in discussion on development of a Tribal Elders Program.

Bring your family!
Dinner provided.

Need a ride? Yurok
Tribal Transit
(707) 482-0731

We want to hear from you! If you are unable to attend, please call (707) 482-1374 or e-mail council@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Merv George Concert

Tickets

Very limited amount of tickets available \$15.00 Abalone Bar & Grill

New Years Eve!!

December 31, 2017
9:00 –1:00 am

Yurok Indian Housing Authority Update - November 2017

YIHA has arranged for AMERIND Risk, a Tribally owned insurance company, to set up information booths on December 18th and 19th to inform the Tribal Membership about the types of insurance that are available.

A home owner's and renter's insurance agency, AMERIND will be present on December 18th during the Winter Celebration at Morek Won, beginning at 5:30. If you have questions regarding home owner's or renter's insurance, the AMERIND team will be there with information and applications.

On Tuesday, December 19th, AMERIND will be at the Tribal Office in Klamath, at 9:00 am. A presentation will be held to inform Tribal Members of the options available through AMERIND, and the agents will be available afterwards to answer questions.

At the events, Tribal members can find out what kind of insurance

Amerind offers (AMERIND offers both home owners and renters insurance options), ask questions, and gather information. Tribal Members can also fill out an application ahead of time so they can get an estimate while the Amerind team is here. Here is the information:

****If you would like an estimate for insurance, AMERIND asks that you bring a completed application with you to one of the presentation dates. (Depending on the insurance you are applying for, there may be some information that you need to gather ahead of time, that is essential to receiving an accurate estimate.) Applications can be picked up from Yurok Indian Housing Authority, or you can download one from AMERIND's website: www.amerindrisk.org ✳**



Yurok Tribe

Office: (707) 482-1350
mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us
www.yuroktribe.org

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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Permit No. 76



**30 Day
PUBLIC NOTICE
RECOMMENDATION FOR
YUROK TRIBE
RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS**

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on the following land assignment application may submit written comments to the Yurok Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department. All comments must be in writing and include the name, address and signature of the person making the comments. Comments must specify which land assignment they are addressing and must be received by the Planning Department by December 24, 2017. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Rebecca Donahue: Prior Assignee (Awok-Rodney McKinnon).**
Yurok Tribe # MCKH-015 BIA # HRP-520 APN:534-132-013-16 Located, Morek Village.
- **(Category B) Transfer of existing assignment: Janell Green: Prior Assignee (Awok Sheryle Mabry) Yurok Tribe # WTV-005 BIA HRP- 537 APN: 533-074-024 Located in Wautec Village.**
- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Amanda Chenuault: Prior assignee (Awok-Roger Bennett) Yurok Tribe # WNV- 006 BIA HRP 497 APN: 530-053-010 Tract 61 Located Weitchpec New Village.**

Submit all written comments by the above deadline to the following address:

Attention: Samantha Myers
Planning & Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548