



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

**2020 TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION EDITION**  
**NORTH DISTRICT • REQUA DISTRICT • WEITCHPEC DISTRICT**

**Yurok Tribal Court publishes pivotal report on MMIWG2 • See story on page 13**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 23, 2020

**CONTACT: Krystal Patapoff-Pruitt**  
**(707) 482-1350 X1320**  
**krystal@yuroktribe.nsn.us**

**YUROK ELECTION BOARD**  
**ANNOUNCES THE CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR**  
**NORTH, REQUA AND WEITCHPEC DISTRICTS**

The following candidates were certified to run for Tribal Council Seats:

**NORTH DISTRICT**

Edward "Horse" Aubrey  
Jack Mattz  
Phillip L. Williams

**REQUA DISTRICT**

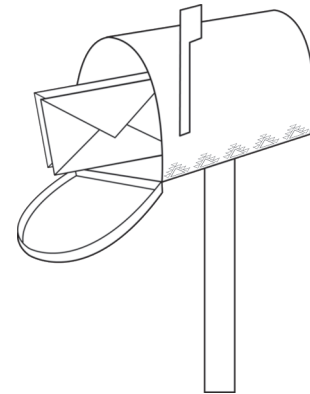
David L. Gensaw, Sr.  
Ryan Ray

**WEITCHPEC DISTRICT**

Jewel Frank  
Lucinda "Inday" Myers  
Eugene "Gino" O'Rourke  
Toby Vanlandingham

Primary Election Day is scheduled for October 14, 2020. All Yurok Tribal Members who will be 18 years of age by Election day, must register to vote by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

For more information regarding the election, call the Election Department at (707) 482-1350 or the tribal website: [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org).



## **Mail in 2020 Election ballot**

*Due to COVID-19, the 2020 election will be conducted over the mail*

To prevent the potential spread of COVID 19, the 2020 Election will be conducted by mail-in ballot only. Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on Friday, September 11. Once the ballot is filled out, please place it into the provided envelope, sign the back of the envelope and mail it to the Election's Office at your earliest convenience. The postage is prepaid.

**If registered voters do not receive a ballot or would like an update on the status of your ballot, please call the Yurok Enrollment/Elections Director Krystal Patapoff at (707) 482-1350.**

## **Contents**

Page 5.....Tribal Council Candidate Statements

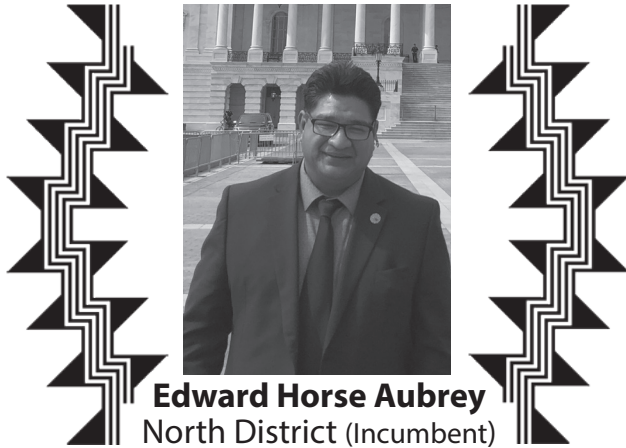
Page 13.....Tribal Court produces groundbreaking report

Page 15.....Elk disease detected in Del Norte

## **On The Cover**

*Autumn begins to show its amazing colors.*

# NORTH DISTRICT CANDIDATES



**Edward Horse Aubrey**  
North District (Incumbent)

Aiy-ye-kwee Tribal Members,

I'm honored to have served the Yurok Tribe North District tribal members these past three years. My goals this election are to initiate strong economic growth, continue the development of completed projects and improve services to tribal members and keep fighting for our salmon & dam removal. The reason I ran and continue to run for council is that I myself understand the struggles of not being able to receive services thru grant funded programs. That is why I am pushing for economic growth so that all tribal members regardless of income will be able to receive services.

**Economic Growth-** With the advent of new tribal economic activities, hemp, brewery ; coupled with existing business, jet boat, campground, habitat restoration, hotel/casino, these varied employment opportunities are not enough to hire members on a large scale basis, We need to make positions in the work place for these people.

Since coming into office, I've been privileged to initiate three projects, of which, two are still in intermediate stages, while one has reached full fruition. In all three instances I researched tribal needs, feasibility; what's left? I must now convince the council and the people whether the two remaining projects are worthwhile endeavors.

I provided shared researched information through direct council communication that can be easily verified or vetted. Not too many years ago, the tribal council fell victim to fraud, 250,000 worth, no vetting was accomplished, either by the tribal promoters or the council; let alone brought before the people for their scrutiny.

Tackling clearly a seemingly impossible undertaken, to improve the lives of Yurok people, in addition, to my normal council duties, I believe it is the right thing to do. Tribal members in opposition to new thought out ideas are ultra conservatives, who are resistant to dynamic change. I believe whole heartily that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. Tribal progress is slowly advancing, do we need to depend on 95% federal grant funding the status quo to exist?

YAC or Yurok Agriculture Corporation: Cannabis Hemp

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has designated the Yurok Tribe, the seventh such designation nationally, to regulate this industry on tribal lands, both tribal and ancestral. With this designation we are equal to states relative to regulating authority. Environmental and enforcement issues will be outlined in the permitting process.

By placing an initiative on this year's ballot, if approved by the people, we can go out for public comment to continue the process of making it legal to grow, process, distribute and sell cannabis/hemp on reservation land. This initiative will allow the Yurok people to decide their own fate.

**Building construction:** Prior to my election, I was a roofing contractor, having worked in the construction trades for 25 years. I am spear heading the further development of a tribal construction company to fulfill our building needs as well as, competing in the local building markets. Today we have more tribal members with skilled hands than college degrees, we need to find beneficial jobs for those people.

**Tribal Services:** After a couple of years planning, negotiating, purchasing, under my leadership the tribe has purchased a building in crescent city. The principal purpose is to provide better services to tribal members. Under my direction, the building has been named the Marjorie Buckskin North District Office. Because, she was a longtime north district council member and to help bring awareness to uterine cancer and Marjorie's F.A.I.T.H Angels non-profit organization.

My primary focus has been a direct investment in the Yurok

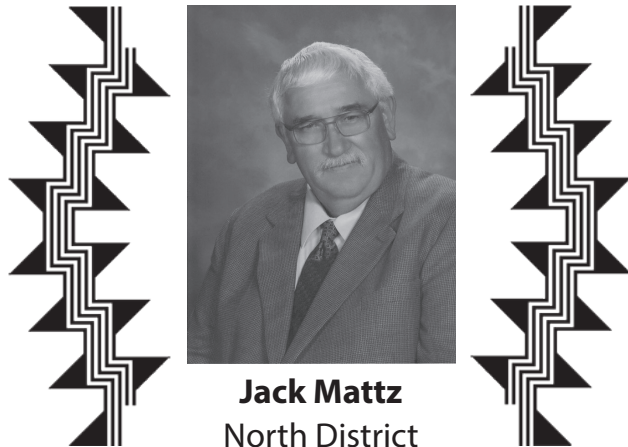
**AUBREY CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE**

People. The North District people have been underserved in tribal programs and the job market. A sustainable economy will bring about economic, social and environmental justice, which will benefit the Yurok people.

Prior to my election, the tribe had lost 750,000 and 250,00 dollars to fraud. Nothing like that has happened under my watch, which by the way I'm proud of.

Stay Safe & Healthy  
Wok-hlew'

Edward Horse Aubrey



**Jack Mattz**  
North District

Aiy yu kwee',

My name is Jack Mattz, I am the grandson of Emery and Geneva Mattz, I come from the Village of Rek-woi. I have spent half my life on the Reservation and the other half in Crescent City, CA. I asking for your vote to serve as your North District Representative. I previously sat on Council from 2014-201. I am proud to be Yurok and I want all of Tribal Membership to feel included and apart of decision making. My goals have always been to hear from the Membership first, bring jobs and more opportunities to our area, and to Un-dam the Klamath. I want to see our North District Building up and running with programs for our elders, youth and families to be able to access all of Yurok programs right here in Crescent City. I will advocate for more Housing be brought to our area, and continue to work with Yurok Indian Housing Authority on maintaining affordable housing. I believe that transparency with the Membership is imperative. Tribal Members have a right to know how CARES Act Funding is being spent and to have a comprehensive financial update on a quarterly basis. Now that Council Meetings have gone live, I will push for them to be interactive. If you ask a question, they should be able to answer it!

- Housing
- Job Opportunities

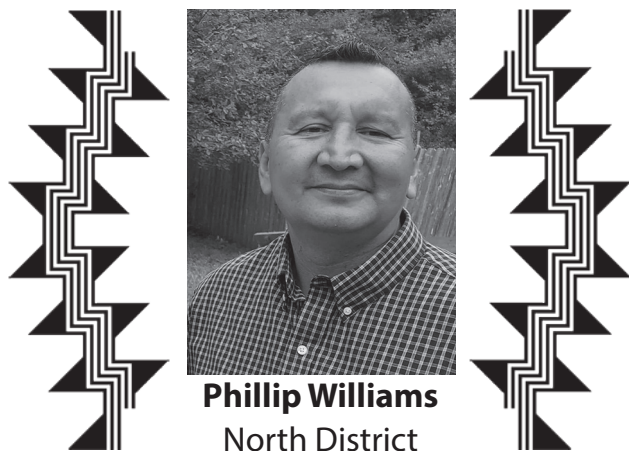
- All Yurok owned business should have 51% or more Yurok Tribal Members employed
- Financial Accounting of CARES Act Fund to be release immediately to Yurok Membership
- Answer Tribal Members questions & concerns
- District Meetings on a bi-monthly basis
- Ordinances, Policies and any Program changes should go to the Tribal Members FIRST!

I want to see dam removal get back on course. I don't think we need to be getting into the hemp and marijuana industry. I want to move forward with having our own Department of Motor Vehicles and start registration of our own vehicles and boats. I want to work with our Yurok Police and Tribal Court, every officer we have should also be a Game Warden. Our resources are being depilated and we are not doing enough to stop the over harvest of fish, sturgeon, deer and elk. I will continue to work with our Natural Resources Department to assist those that work in the fields that is our life blood of Yurok people. I want to work on getting our newly acquired lands, OPEN to Yurok people. I am not a supporter of the purchase of the Brewery, we bought into an industry that causes destruction for a lot of Tribal Members. I would like to see us really put an effort and funds into the eco friendly business. I believe that's the future for us. Showing the world our beautiful land in a culturally appropriate way. Right now, money is being made off our land, and we are not benefiting. I would like to take 2 square miles of land and fenced in land for an elk herd; working with our highly trained staff we could build this process to create a Blue Creek herd of elk.

I live in Crescent City with my wife Sandy of 40 years, we have five children and seven grandchildren. Previously, I worked for the Yurok Tribe for about 20 years; 10 years in the Maintenance department, a year Fisheries Department, River Otter and most recently, Tribal Court. I am proud of our

Tribe and the growth we have made. It's time we listen to our Membership, we are all Yurok People and we all want to see the Yurok Tribe grow and prosper. Make your voice heard with a Vote for Jack Mattz for North District.

Please VOTE for Jack Mattz for North District Rep. on OCTOBER 14, 2020



**Phillip Williams**  
North District

Aiy-ye-kwee' Nek'n-ew Phillip Williams. I live in Crescent City and I come from the villages of Pecwan and Sregon. I was raised by my mother, Juanita Miller Williams and father, Aawok Tommy Williams. My biological father was Aawok Phillip Kingsley. Grandparents were Aawok Malinda Jackson Miller (Yurok-Pecwan) and Roy Miller (German). Aawok Tom Williams (Yurok-Waukell) and Aawok Lila Green Williams (Yurok-Chimariko). Biological grandparents, Aawok Christina Moore Jake Kingsley (Yurok) and Aawok Amos Kingsley (Hochunk). I am running for North District Council Representative in the upcoming election.

I was born in Crescent City, Ca and spent my youth in Crescent City, Klamath, and Hupa. Graduated high school in 1985 and enlisted in the US Army and was honorably discharged from the 18th Airborne Corp, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina in 1988. In 1988, I started my family with Londa Martin Williams (Yurok-Tolowa). We had two beautiful children, Aawok Tara Malinda Williams and Thomas Lee Williams. We raised them in Klamath.

I worked different jobs while raising my family. Worked three years at Benedict's Tackle in Klamath and had many heated discussions about our Tribe taking back our Reservation. With my growing family I needed a better paying job, so I found it at Schmidbaur Lumber in Eureka. Started on the green chain, moving on to running heavy equipment,

and to settling in as a saw filer. We moved back to Klamath because the Tribe was starting up and we wanted to be home. Orick sawmill employed me.

My next adventure was working as the Unit Director for the newly formed Yurok Tribe Boy's and Girl's Club. I began coaching youth sports which consisted of football, baseball, track, soccer or whatever the kids wanted. Coaching kids was one of the best times of my life.

I eventually moved on to work for Yurok Indian Housing Authority as a carpenter. I got to work on many elders' homes and it was very rewarding. Work slowed down and I needed a new trade. I invested in myself and paid my way through Truck Driving School. Upon completion of school, I started long haul trucking with my wife accompanying me on adventures across the U.S. I worked for some of the largest trucking companies in the U.S. I am currently working for the Yurok Tribe as a truck driver for the Watershed Restoration Program.

I have sat and listened to the elders of my time and their struggles to live in a colonial society. They always wanted the right to govern themselves and make laws to protect our community. "Protect our Salmon" is what was always drilled into me. "Take care of the old ones. Provide them with meat and fish. Respect them and listen and learn from them the old ways so our culture does not die." We need to continue to preserve our salmon, sturgeon, eels and wildlife on our land and waters. Also, strive for dam removal and improving the overall health of our river and land.

As a child learning from my grandfather, Aawok Tom Williams, he always got his share first and we did not take any until he got his. Once his smoke house was full, we divided up the catch. He and my father, Aawok Tommy Williams were the biggest influences in my life.

The little ones are the future of our Tribe. We should be active

**WILLIAMS CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE**

in addressing the issue of generational trauma. Children should know their history of ceremonies, fishing rights and be given the opportunity to have a healthy life. I would like the Yurok Tribe to support the education system by bringing programs in that would promote ceremonial protocol. Art is such a huge part of our culture that we should highlight art and music classes. Let us help expand those little minds while they are still like sponges.

The Yurok people have always wanted to be self-sufficient. We should build up the current business ventures and move

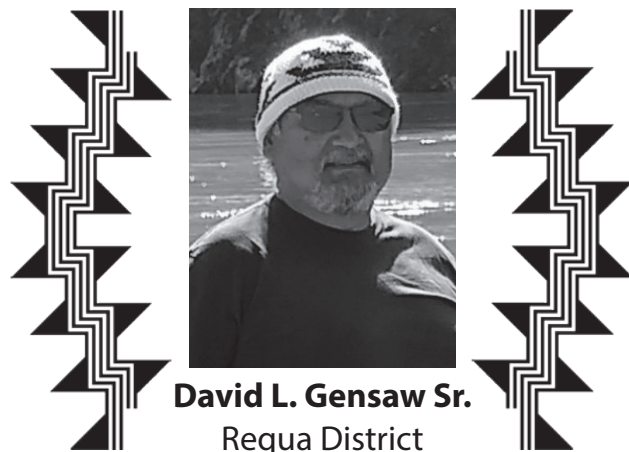
on towards self-sufficiency. I am very passionate about self-governance. Elders always dreamed of issuing our own fishing and hunting licenses and taxing reservation businesses.

Reclaiming land should be a high priority.

Final thoughts: I would love to be involved in healing and improving the health of the Yurok Tribe. It would be a great honor to serve as the North District Representative.

Wok-hlew' Phillip Williams.

# REQUA DISTRICT CANDIDATES



**David L. Gensaw Sr.**  
Requa District

Aiy-ye-kwee'

My name is David L. Gensaw Sr., candidate for Requa District of the Yurok Tribal Council. I've served 2 terms as the Requa District Representative and 1 term as Vice Chairman. My father is awok William Gensaw Jr. from Requa Village. My mother is awok Alma (Nova) Gensaw from Moreck Village. My grandparents were Bill and Bell Gensaw. I am 65 years old and for most of my years, I have lived in the Requa area, fishing, hunting and gathering on and around the Klamath River. I understand the tremendous importance the river, ocean, mountains and forest lands are to the Yurok people. I have upheld and will continue to protect this tribal connection and responsibility Creator made for our people.

As a young man, I attended many Yurok meetings and became aware of the many challenges to our tribal sovereignty.

To better serve our Yurok people, I graduated from Humboldt State University with a BA Degree in Native Studies and a Minor in Natural Resources in order to understand how to protect our sovereignty and expand our homelands.

During my nine years on council, I've used this knowledge to fight outside the tribe for our river and our salmon. I will continue use it within the tribe to push for transparency in the tribal offices and for more open meetings and Tribal Council accountability.

As your representative, I will work for and communicate with you. I will continue to work toward protecting the RIVER, SALMON and RESOURCES and work with staff to improve SOCIAL SERVICES, JOBS, EDUCATION, HOUSING and work to help our YOUTH, ELDERS and the Yurok People.

Accountability, due process and transparency are keys to our Yurok people's prosperity. Tribal members should be informed and able to vote on major decisions. Council members must understand that we have very knowledgeable tribal people who can and need to be better informed in more of the tribe's important issues and decisions.

Dam removal is upon us the tribal members absolutely need to know if the dams are still coming down in January 2021 as it has been stated by the Klamath River Renewal Commission. What happens to our river depends on the salmon's survival as

well as the existence of the Yurok people.

Land acquisition such as the Weitchpec, Pekwan and Kepel and Blue Creek is important information that the membership should know as to how we are doing with making the payments since we are purchasing other properties. And it would be nice to know where the funding is coming from for all these purchases.

Carbon Credits became another concern of the membership since it allows large corporations to continue to pollute by purchasing these carbon credits from us and we Yuroks being a fix the world people. When carbon credits were first introduced to us it was very new and we were told that it would hold our timber up from being logged for twenty years. I voted no on this council decision because I believed it should go out to the membership to hear the pros and cons and help make the best decision possible. The decision was made without the people and the next thing we found out was it wasn't twenty years before we could log our timber it was one hundred years. I always did believe and always will continue to believe that our people should be involved in major decisions because of issues like these that have been made and then gone south on us.

When I last left office Yurok was soon to receive 8 million dollars from Carbon Credits that was to go to the land acquisition for Weitchpec, Pekwan and Kepel and the Forestry Department for logging our timber for these land payments. I understand Yurok received 7 million dollars but again who knows and if so is this what we are purchasing all the property with and don't you think we the Yurok people could have helped council made some good wise decisions with some of these phrases!

I will communicate with you. I will continue to make the best decisions based on your input as well as on knowledge, wisdom and courage. I will continue to take direct action for the good of Yurok people based on honesty and respectfulness, from my heart. I strongly believe, as you do, that we should never give up our sovereignty, our water rights or our children's future to exist ... let us decide our future together.

It will be an honor to serve the Yurok people once again as Requa District Tribal Representative

I appreciate your vote. PLEASE VOTE!

David L. Gensaw Sr.



**Ryan Ray**

Requa District (Incumbent)

Aiy-ye-kwee my name is Ryan Ray Sr and I am running for Requa District council member for the Yurok Tribe. I have lived in Klamath throughout my whole life. During my childhood I enjoyed fishing, hunting, eeling and participating in our culture ceremonies. My great mother is Awok' Ada Charles, grandparents are Fern and Bruce Bates, and parents are Keith Ray and Delray Bates. I am now married and raising my five children teaching them the same values and traditions I was taught and enjoyed. Growing up here was a struggle at

times. Back then there were sports at the local school but never any recreational opportunities within our community. By time my own children went to school that was all gone. I wanted to make a positive change for our community and offer positive activities for our families to engage in. That's when I decided to run for council to make a difference. Although it was challenging for the most part, sports are now back in Klamath, a Boys and Girls Club built and open, multiple parks throughout Klamath and basket court in the Glen for all of the community to enjoy. Other accomplishments over the years include transfer of the Thompson baseball field from the county to the Yurok Tribe, which will be remodeled soon. Also began a Christmas gift and dinner celebration which has over the years expanded to all of the districts. Since on council I have personally donated over six thousand dollars to pay for community events, programs, youth sports fees, and school supplies. Our goal from the beginning has been a recreational building in Klamath. After many meetings, conversations and seeking funding for building, I am excited to see this goal

**RAY CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE**

become a reality at this time. Now starting a recreational department to ensure these projects last for years to come. Moving forward for our community goals are housing development, higher paying entry level job opportunities, expansion of Pem-Mey, a rehab to work program, elders services including in-home care, yard maintenance and health insurance. Continue to add recreational projects in our community. Governmental goals include the Yurok lands act which will expand our reservation and give jurisdiction over all tribal and non-tribal people on the reservation. Damn Removal by 2022, quantification over our water rights, and asserting our ocean rights. I will always be at the forefront when it comes to our culture and natural resources. Although it is important

to keep the balance between our economic and community projects. Through the years serving on council we have set many goals with the voices from our tribal community, which I have accomplished to better Requa District for our people. I will always be here to volunteer, coach and support our community in any way possible. Thank you for your continued support.

VOTE RYAN RAY FOR REQUA DISTRICT and KEEP OUR COMMUNITY IN THE CONVERSATION!

## WEITCHPEC DISTRICT CANDIDATES



**Jewel Frank**  
Weitchpec District

Name: Jewel Frank Experienced: Legal Advocate Age: 56

**Qualifications:** 2007-2017, I have served as an Legal Advocate serving victims resulting in safe homes. Then, I became interested in learning about the Automotive Industry. I am an 2019 graduate of College of the Redwoods I earned an Associate of Science Degree of Automotive Technology. I have driven the same vehicle a '99 Ford Ranger for the pass 14 years – so this learning experience has paid off. Currently, I am learning about Auto Body and Collision Repair, although this learning experience is impacted with Covid19, meaning this opportunity can change by suddenly ending. I plan on completing this certificate by Mid-September 2020. I love automotive technology! Legal reliable transportation can

provide so much to life on life's terms. I really want to be instrumental in us creating a Department of Motor Vehicle of our own means to create employment for us.

**My Work History:** I have resided on my family allotment for the past 14 years, and I came home to work. Upon my return I did "Caregiver/End of Life Care" for my late uncle "Howard Jones." Shortly, after his passing I worked in the Hoopa and surrounding areas as an Advocate. My duties of experience was/is working with clients and their families of establishing professional relationships built on trust, writing progress reports, safe planning, accompany clients to court, crisis intervention. I have also done volunteer work to create knowledge of living without the use of drug abuse, and healing families into productive members of society. This work has allow many tribal members to safely network back into their families for generations to follow. I have been able to fund raise the finances for a small group to attend conventions, resulting in surviving hopelessness with restoration of hope and achieving their dreams of becoming counselors, leaders, and parents providing for their families. I care about the status of our health and our finances to the very penny. Its been hard work to live in the Weitchpec area with a small budget, and I know every penny counts. So let's invest wisely – where we can see our Yurok Families getting their needs met, with housing,





employment, quality foods, basket and wild food gatherings, fishing, transportation. I know Policies are now, in need of updating, Yurok departments answering to your wishes, and Yurok laws are our way to keep what we have in place for our grandchildren. Our fire department is now in place with many jobs for our community and controlled burns are a must to keep our environment healthy.

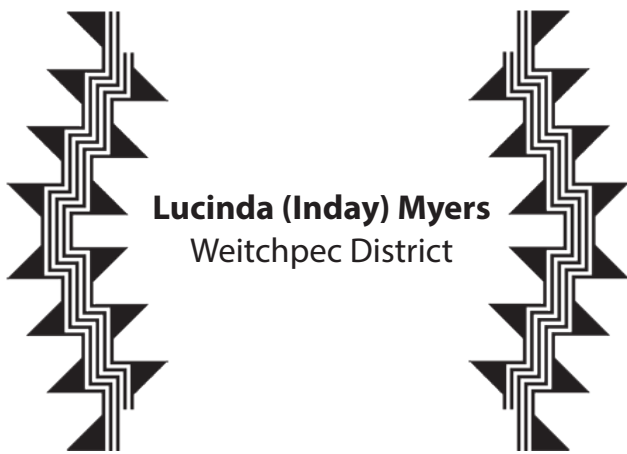
**My Word:** Reality of current Yurok Issues are in need of professional and ethical employee(s). I know honest hard work pays off, and Yes, I will not be able look into your eyes and take credit for work I did not do. I will be available to answer you by phone, email, or in-person. Of course I will be mindful of social distancing, with mask, having hand sanitizers on hand and respectfully following healthy covid19 preventive measures. I believe sustainability of the Weitchpec District must include financial sound decision making balanced with social responsibility, of our water, small businesses, all of these should be driven by Weitchpec Yurok Tribal Membership. Whole heartly, Yurok People of the Weitchpec Area must engage in the public process, not Facebook, for plans, progress to reflect the needs and wishes of our Yurok community tribal members.

I am uniquely qualified for this position, because you will be the ones I will answer to. It's time for Yurok Homes to become stronger, then ever before. My/Our work you will see and hear – just like my Bigfoot Signs that I had created myself. My passions are car repair, bee keeping, gathering wild mushrooms, food preservation, basket material gathering, and did I say bees! As long as we have honey bees buzzing around there is hope! Our Elders are being overlooked, I want to hear from our Elders and see their wishes met. Its only right to place our Elders on a priority list and get their needs met.

Thank you, for considering me as your Weitchpec District Representative. Vote 4 Jewel Frank. September 11th Your Ballots will be mailed out, please sign your names on the back. And mail your ballots back to the Election Department, Covid19 is impacting our Yurok Elections, and this is your vote, Make Your Vote Count. Yurok Election 2020 is critical to get your needs and wishes met. Vote for Jewel Frank.

Wok-klow

Jewel Frank



Aiy-yu-kwee”

My name is Lucinda (Inday) Myers. My mother is Awok Norma Offins, from the Old Weitchpec Village, My father is Awok Manual M Alvarado originally from the Philippines. It is such a blessing to come from two unique cultures that are rich in tradition and deeply rooted in their culture. Each culture believed in working hard and working together to achieve their goals no matter what it they were.

I studied at Healds Business College for two years where I acquired the basic knowledge of business administration. I was the Director of the Karuk Tribe during their acquisition of 6.6 acres of land which gave them the right to become a Federal Recognized Tribe...I have worked in the tourist industry, in sales, accounting, and administration. I worked for Temporary Employment agencies that allowed me to acquire a variety of skills in different organizations. I achieved my AA in Early Childhood Development, while working for Hoopa Head Start, and the Hoopa Childhood Development. I moved to Crescent City where I took the position for Head Teacher at the Yurok Tribe Head Start and now work in the Yurok Tribe Health and Human Services Administration as a TANF Aide.

The Weitchpec District has seen growth in a few different areas these past few years. We now have the PecTah Store; and our Broad Band is being upgraded; The Yurok Housing Authority is renovating the houses at Re-Roy in Tulley Creek and a new community village. Woo-Mehl is being built also in

MYERS CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE





the Tulley Creek area. There are wonderful developments that is truly needed in our district.

As we move forward, there is the need of renovating the Weitchpec Tribal Office to meet the needs of the variety of functions the building provides; 1: To expand the Fisheries program which our building was developed; 2: The continued advancement of Indian Health Service and 3: With the Public Health Needs of our community. The kitchen also need to be expanded and refurbished as we serve the community with many feasts, and events throughout the year.

Bluff Creek Resort also needs to be developed into a profitable business for the people. There is so much potential there yet it sits idle. We could build a Wood Shop there and sell furniture with our Native designs, or build a Coffee Shop and sell our crafts there. It could also be developed into a Transitional Center for our people so that we don't have to send them away but let healing come from their own home. I always see a Wellness Center here that allows the families to also be part of the healing process. It is these very people that are going through the pain of addiction also. Why not allow them to heal together and make strong those bonds once again.

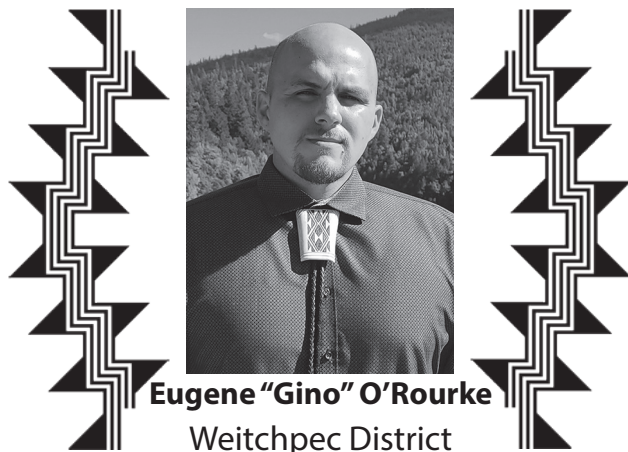
Running for Council means a lot to me. This is my home and I want to represent you all the people who live here. Together we can make a difference in our community. It is not "I" that counts but "we" that matters. Your voice needs to be heard and I want to make sure that it is. Being available to you is important. I want you to have access to me through the media, email, by phone or in person.

We are going through tough times right now. This virus which has stricken our Mother Earth has affected how we live as a people. We are not able to gather together even for family events, let alone our ceremonies. We will get through this with prayer and taking care of each other. I want to make sure that the elders are looked after; that we have enough food for our people, that our children are safe and that their educational needs are being met.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you, the Weitchpec District. I remain committed to Community, Health and Advancement.

Wo-klew

Lucinda (Inday) Myers



**Eugene "Gino" O'Rourke**  
Weitchpec District

Aiy-ye-kwee',

Nek new Gino O'Rourke. Muer-ekw mey'wo-me-chok', Ke-nek ook'. I am the son of Thomas O'Rourke Sr., Sherry O'Rourke, and Stacey Abbott. I am the grandson of aa-wok Richard O'Rourke Sr., aa-wok Loraine O'Rourke, aa-wok Madolin Keller, and George "Wally" Abbott.

I have lived and grown up on and around Yurok Country my whole life. Although I have lived and witnessed many of the ills that plague our people, I would not choose to live anywhere else in this world. I hunt, fish, gather traditional foods and materials, I practice speaking my language, and I sing, dance, and pray in our traditional ceremonies. I am a man of the Yurok people, committed to preserving and continuing the Yurok way of life.

We live in rapidly changing times, and although we must grow with the times, we cannot leave behind our morals and our core values, which form the basis of who we are. We have to walk the fine line between both worlds (the Indian World and the White Man's World) to find the balance of the two that will honor the past, present, and future of our people. We will need to continue educating our people about our traditional knowledge and revitalize cultural practices that are in reach. One such practice I feel is vital to the health, wellness, and identity of the Yurok people is the revitalization of our traditional sweat house. The sweat house is where traditional



knowledge is passed down, spiritual knowledge is gained, and is where boys become men. I feel that many people turn to drugs and alcohol because they are missing something in their life, they are missing a strong spiritual connection that the sweathouse offers.

We will also need to promote, guide, and invest in our people to attend college, trades schools and job training so we can continue to fight for what we hold sacred, and so that we may fill not only the job positions of the Tribe with our tribal members but also the job positions of other local organizations. We must install the ambition of higher education, trade schools, and good work ethic into our youth at an early age so that it becomes ingrained in their head, and so they want to work for the betterment of our people. Further, we will need to inform and educate our tribal members of the job positions of Tribe and other local organizations, including their duties, tasks, and salaries, and provide them with a road map on how to achieve that position. This will help keep and bring more money into our community, fighting poverty, and the many ills associated with poverty, such as crime, alcohol and drug abuse, suicide, and more.

Going to college was installed in my head at an early age; I always knew I was going to college. I graduated from Humboldt State University with a BA Degree in Sociology

and an I received an overall GPA of 3.0 and a 3.5 GPA in my major studies. Sociology is the study of society, groups, social relations, social behavior, and much more. I like to think of it as the study of life, or how we became to be, and how we change over time. I figured if I wanted to help the people and help create stronger, healthier societies, I would need to know how societies work. Sociology has given me the tools to examine the world through different theoretical lenses to understand why things are the way they are and how to create change for the betterment of the people.

No one person has all the answers. It takes the community to change. Each of us, no matter how big or small holds a piece of the puzzle. Together we are strong, together we can shape the future of the Yurok People. I look forward to sitting down and talking with each individual and learning their experiences and problems and exploring ways to fix them. I am a fair man that can put my own biases aside and listen to other points of view, and I have good facilitation skills that can help others do the same. I am born leader and have exercised my leadership skills my whole life. I stand for justice, I value integrity, and I have compassion for the people.

Please show your support, and vote for me for the Weitchpec District Council Representative.  
Wok-hlew



**Toby Vanlandingham**

Weitchpec District (Incumbent)

Thank you Weitchpec for allowing me to serve you as your representative on tribal council. It has been an honor and a pleasure. For any that don't know me, I come from the village of Wahsekw, I am the great great grandson of Fanny Rube, great grandson of Edwin and Lousia Dowd Wilder, grandson of Auburn and Thelma Galyean and son of Rosa Galyean. In my term there have been many exciting things happen and

many I list as accomplishments, some of the highlights of items I have brought forward are the \$0.10 alcohol sales fee imposed on our businesses. With the imposition of a fee I was able to create a revenue stream for a community events fund, I created a day labor workforce and fund it with a percentage of the fee to put our people who fall through the employment cracks to work, a percentage goes toward the Coming Home Reentry house in Klamath, and a percentage goes to the Alliance CDFI for low interest loans to our members. I brought forward the raising of Yurok Connect towers to expand broadband service to our community, and spearheaded the upgrades for faster speeds and cellular service with the CARES funding recently allocated. I was instrumental in increasing burial assistance from \$2500 to \$6000 for our tribal member families. I was an active committee member and the only native on the Prop 64 advisory committee, which was a multidisciplinary Advisory Committee consisting of state and

**VANLANDINGHAM CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE**

national advocates, California community-based organizations, providers and academics with a high level of commitment and expertise regarding healing-centered and trauma-informed approaches, we provided guidance in the development of recommendations in the spending of certain California Prop 64 marijuana tax initiative funds. As the only native representative I was instrumental in getting the language for Tribes and Tribal entities into the roadmap which can be found at [www.prop64roadmap.org](http://www.prop64roadmap.org). The reservation road improvement project is moving forward, although slower than I had hoped. I put the item on and we allocated funding for Lower Kepel road and New Village road, with the goal of chip sealing or paving all the roads within our reservation within the next 3 years. New Village road must be paved so there is a longer process of paperwork with the BIA to get that completed, hoping the project will begin early 2021. I also put the funding of the Cultural Fire Management Council on the table and allocated \$100,000 out of our last carbon sale to CFMC to assist the tribe in cultural burning of our redwood groves. This was the first time the tribe has given cash funding to the

CFMC to continue the great work in revitalizing our cultural burning. As the president of the Yurok Agricultural Corporation since March 2020, I brought Weitchpec Nursery to the table for purchase, and will be creating a robust food program for the community at that location, that project will create more jobs for the community, the goal is to grow an assortment of fruits and vegetables to supply fresh local produce to our community stores, establish a local farmers market, and offer vegetable starts and gardening workshops on a continual basis to continue building our food security locally. Expect a early springtime 2021 opening for the nursery. Although I would love to take absolute credit for everything listed here, it takes more than one councilmember to make these things happen, and over my term I have managed to foster good working relationships with my fellow council, which is a vital component to this job and makes moving the needle towards progress easier. I appreciate the support of the community and the tribe and look forward to working with you the next 3 years. Wokhlew' Toby Vanlandingham

## INFORMATION ABOUT ADVISORY REFERENDUM

### ADVISORY REFERENDUM #1- Cannabis Marketplace

This advisory referendum would not have any immediate effect on the Constitution or laws of the Yurok Tribe. The Yurok Tribal Council is interested in hearing from the membership on their opinions about the Yurok Tribe establishing a Cannabis Marketplace on the Reservation.

*Do you support the Yurok Tribe pursuing a Cannabis Marketplace on the Yurok Reservation?*

**A vote “Yes” would let the Tribal Council know you are in favor of the Yurok Tribe establishing a cannabis marketplace on the Yurok Reservation.**

**A vote “No” would let the Tribal Council know you are opposed to the Yurok Tribe establishing a cannabis marketplace on the Yurok Reservation.**

### PROS AND CONS

PRO	CON
1. Would make it easier to purchase cannabis products on the Yurok Reservation.	1. It would require the Tribe to increase law enforcement on the Yurok Reservation.
2. Would bring economic opportunity and jobs to the Yurok community.	2. Information on profitability has not yet been determined and provided to the membership.
3. Revenue generated can go to programs to benefit all tribal members that live on and off the Yurok Reservation regardless of their income.	3. It increases traffic to the area and the community.
4. The Yurok Tribe Agricultural Regulatory Board would oversee the Cannabis Marketplace.	

**ATTENTION:**  
**YUROK BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS!**  
**YUROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**NEEDS YOUR INPUT!**

If you are interested in any of the following, please let us know how we can help by completing the survey:

- Expanding your business
- Starting a new business
- Developing new ways to market your products
- Creating new ways to offer your products to your customers
- Assistance in navigating COVID-19 mandates and requirements

Yurok Economic Development Corporation is exploring ways to connect Yurok community members with tools to strengthen existing businesses and build new ones. Please complete our brief survey to let us know what your needs are by clicking on this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/tr/BK832KT>

# Yurok Tribal Court publishes pivotal report

## *Court staff crafts novel, collaborative response to new MMIWG2 cases*

Today, the Yurok Tribal Court, in partnership with Sovereign Bodies Institute, released an early progress report on a three-year project involving the development of the first database on missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and two spirit people (MMIWG2) in California.

The To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' (I will see you again in a good way) Project also aims to establish a more effective system of investigation surrounding MMIWG2 cases as well as an enhanced level of protection for Native women, girls and two-spirit individuals living in the state.

"Currently, there is a scarcity of accurate data on Native, MMIWG2 victims and survivors in California and everywhere else in the United States. The databases that do exist are largely inaccessible to tribes and are woefully inadequate when it comes to tribal populations," says Yurok Chief Justice Abby Abinanti, who is also a former San Francisco Superior Court Judicial Officer. "Parallel to the database component of this project, we are creating a cooperative plan that seeks to mobilize tribal, county, state and federal agencies in response to future MMIWG2 cases. I would like to thank the Tribal Court and SBI staff as well as all of the families and law enforcement representatives who contributed to this report. Together, we have a lot better chance of addressing this indelible issue."

"Similar to the Yurok Tribe, tribes across the state have the capacity to positively influence the resolution of MMIWG2 cases," adds Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribe's Vice Chairman. "I am confident that the collaborative approach called for in this report will facilitate real progress toward preventing future tragedies. We hope tribes across the US will one day use this project as a model to achieve justice for victims, survivors and their families."

Since the Gold Rush, tribes in California have lost countless women, girls and two-spirit individuals to violence. Most commonly, these crimes are perpetrated by non-Indians and away from tribal jurisdictions. These incidents impact every aspect of tribal communities, ranging from an increased need for services for survivors and their families to heightened strain on tribal law enforcement. The Yurok Tribal Court initiated the To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' Project to improve outcomes of MMIWG2 cases in the state and eventually the entire United States. There are more federally recognized tribes and tribal citizens in California than any other state.

The Yurok Tribal Court contracted with Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI), a Native American-owned non-profit research center dedicated to gender and sexual violence against Indigenous peoples, to collaboratively compile and analyze data on past and ongoing

MMIWG2 incidents. This builds on over five years of work Sovereign Bodies Institute has done to build a MMIWG2 database spanning the Americas. SBI manages the much-needed database, which is available to tribes, Indigenous service providers, and other relevant stakeholders upon request. It will also assist Tribal, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies in recording and resolving cases.


Currently, a trio of databases track missing persons cases, including the federal government's National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), which until recently, did not compile all victims' tribal affiliations. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is similarly lacking as is the State of California's version of this digital tool. According to the SBI report, 62% of all missing Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in the state are not documented in any of these data repositories.

Working with Yurok Tribal Court attorneys and administrative staff, SBI researchers, including Dr. Blythe George, a Yurok citizen who recently earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University's Sociology & Social Policy Program, have assembled and evaluated 165 MMIWG2 cases for this first-year report. The multidisciplinary team also interviewed numerous survivors and their families. With consent, their stories will be used to inform law enforcement, legislators and court officials as well as direct service providers and others about the many facets of this issue.

In addition to creating the comprehensive database, the project endeavors to introduce a formal protocol, integrating tribal, county and federal law enforcement resources into the response to MMIWG2 cases. The first recommendation is for local and federal law enforcement agencies to form cooperative agreements with their tribal counterparts. In conjunction with clarifying jurisdictional concerns up front, this will ensure that an adequate quantity of personnel is dedicated to these cases, 97 percent of which occur outside of tribal law enforcement jurisdictions.

The Yurok Tribal Police Department cross-deputization agreements with the Humboldt and Del Norte County Sheriffs' Offices are used as an example of positive working relationships among law enforcement agencies. The agreements authorize Yurok officers to enforce all state laws. These pacts are especially important in California and directly pertain to MMIWG2 because of Public Law 83-280. This antiquated piece of federal legislation applies in only nine states and confers jurisdiction over major crimes to non-tribal law enforcement. Since this bill was passed in 1953, it has severely limited the amount of federal funding available to expand tribal police departments.

There is also a need for state courts to strengthen relationships with



tribal courts. Specifically, the report calls for an expansion of concurrent jurisdiction arrangements, such as the joint Family Wellness Courts led by Yurok Chief Justice Abinanti and the presiding judges of Del Norte (Judge Darren McElfresh) and Humboldt (Judge Joyce Hinrich) Counties. In the report, Chief Justice Abinanti suggests that state courts institute a special, recurring proceeding for dependency cases involving foster children who have a missing or murdered parent. Court intervention will ensure that children receive the care they need when they need it most. Tribal law enforcement, courts and attorneys can also assist in the successful investigation/prosecution of perpetrators and with connecting survivors with culturally appropriate services.

The To' Kee Skuy' Soo Ney-Wo-Chek' Project is funded by US Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)

grant. A similar progress report will be released yearly until the project is finalized in 2022.

The Yurok Tribal Court is a branch of the tribal government. The main role of the Court is to apply and interpret Yurok laws to resolve disputes or disagreements that are brought before it. These matters can include civil disputes, child custody and support, divorce, civil infractions or code violations, guardianships of children, children in need of aid (child welfare), restraining orders, criminal, and probate matters. The Court also has various tribal programs to assist tribal community members who are involved in matters related to the application of the various justice systems including the various court system or who may be at risk of becoming involved.

---

# Yurok Tribe offers free COVID-19 tests

*The test is available every Wednesday in front of Redwood Hotel Casino*

Starting on Wednesday, September 2, the Yurok Tribe began offering drive-through COVID-19 tests in the Redwood Hotel Casino parking lot.

The Yurok Tribe's Incident Command team and Public Health Officer collaborated with Del Norte County to bring this much-needed resource to the reservation. The free tests will be offered every Wednesday between 9am and 2pm until the end of September. The highly accurate testing procedure is straightforward and painless. This service is available to tribal and non-tribal residents, who are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals presenting with signs of COVID-19 must seek testing through their primary healthcare provider. Potential symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Residents are asked to use the following web link to make an appointment for a test: <https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>. For assistance with registering for a screening, please call Melissa Jarnaghan at 707-457-7201 or email her at [mjarnaghan@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mjarnaghan@yuroktribe.nsn.us). Individuals can register at the site too if there are open appointments.

Public health experts universally agree that testing, in combination with practicing all of the personal safety recommendations, plays a pivotal role in preventing the spread of the virus.

"As a safety precaution, the Yurok Tribal Council encourages all residents to register for a COVID-19 test. By getting tested, you are taking an action that will keep those in your home and the whole community healthy," said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the county on providing this crucial service to our community at no cost."


"We know that a certain percentage of COVID-19 carriers do not

experience any symptoms, but still transmit the illness. Taking the test is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the virus," added Yurok Public Health Officer Angie Brown. "In terms of detecting the disease, the type of test that we are offering is proven to be one of the most reliable forms of testing."

"Providing convenient testing is one part of a comprehensive plan to address the many facets of this public health emergency. In addition to safeguarding your loved ones, getting screened for COVID-19 will complement the Incident Command team's effort to protect our most vulnerable citizens, including tribal elders. Those who get tested are directly helping to preserve our traditional culture, lifelines and heritage," explained Yurok Incident Commander Serene Hayden.

Here is how the testing process works. On the day of the test, drive up to the first cone, where healthcare professionals will confirm the appointment. Please keep all vehicle windows rolled up at this point. At the second stop, another staff member, speaking loud enough to be heard through a closed window, will ask for your name and will put your completed registration paperwork on your windshield. At the third station, roll the driver's side window down a couple inches to accept a small swab in a container. A trained medical staff member will walk you through the process of self-collecting a small mucus sample from the middle of the nasal cavity. Place the swab in the receptacle and return it to the attendant. The test only takes a few seconds and causes almost no discomfort. The confidential test results are sent out within one week. Verily, the state contractor facilitating the COVID-19 screening, has the capacity to complete 200 tests per day.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has infected nearly 6 million people in the United States. The illness represents an especially elevated risk to elderly individuals and those with preexisting medical



conditions. To date, there have been no confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Yurok Reservation. However, Yurok citizens living off the reservation have suffered from the illness and were offered assistance from the Tribe. The Tribe has resources for all tribal citizens who test positive for the virus.

Recently, the number of COVID-19 infections has substantially increased in the Humboldt County area. Due to the increasing presence of the virus near the reservation, the Yurok Public Health Officer strongly recommends that residents take advantage of the testing opportunity and follow all personal safety recommendations:

- Maintain a minimum of 6-feet of personal space from individuals outside of the household
- Always wear a face covering outside of the home (Wash reusable mask frequently, only use single-use masks once)
- Shelter in place – traveling outside of the county is not recommended
- Due to the reservation closure order, accepting guests from outside of the area is not permitted
- Do not attend gatherings large or small, including visiting extended family and friends

- Avoid all contact with anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- Disinfect common touch points in the home
- Practice cough and sneeze etiquette (cover your sneezes and coughs with your arm. Wash hands immediately after cough or sneeze for additional protection)
- Perform frequent handwashing – Wash hands every two hours for 20-30 seconds with water and soap)
- If you are ill, please self-isolate and contact your medical provider
- Reminder: If you feel even slightly unwell and have one or more of the common symptoms of COVID-19, it is advised that you stay home from work

On March 13, the Yurok Tribal Council proactively issued a state of emergency declaration to activate the Tribe’s Incident Command Team, which has been working around the clock to address the many elements of this emergency. The Tribe has enacted a series of safety orders to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Tribal Council has also provided financial relief to tribal citizens and business owners. Currently, the reservation is closed to non-emergency personnel and all tribal offices and non-essential businesses are closed to the public. Additionally, there is an active order requiring all residents to wear masks when outside of the home.

---

## Elk hoof rot disease detected in Del Norte

In the fall of 2019, two hunter-harvested elk in Del Norte County tested positive for Treponeme-associated hoof disease (TAHD), commonly called “elk hoof rot”. Washington, Oregon, and Idaho have previously detected elk hoof rot, but this was the first case in California. The Yurok Tribe Wildlife Department (YTWD) has met with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to understand how this disease may affect elk in Yurok Country, if there are any human health threats, and how we can play a role helping to research and manage elk hoof rot in our region.

TAHD has only relatively recently been found in elk. It is not well understood what makes elk susceptible to the disease or how it is spread. However, similar diseases in dairy cows, sheep, and goats has provided insight into potential problems and solutions associated with elk hoof rot. There does not appear to be cross contamination between elk and cattle. The disease acts by infecting elk hooves and causing either sores or overgrowth and malformation, which can cause the elk to limp heavily. Currently, there is no cure for the disease, and in extreme cases it can cause death. However, some elk can carry the disease with no major ill effect and live full lives. Notably, cattle infected with digital dermatitis (a version of hoof rot in cattle) do not pose a health risk to humans. While the bacteria causing hoof rot in elk may or may not be the same bacteria causing digital dermatitis in cattle, no human health risks from eating an elk infected with hoof rot have been observed yet. However, lesions in the hoof may allow other infections to become

systemic in an elk, and hunters are discouraged from consuming an elk with abscesses or elk appearing sick. CDFW has a web page with everything currently known about the disease, including pictures of infected elk hooves, which you can view by clicking on this link: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Elk/Hoof-Disease#55770881-general>

CDFW is counting on hunters who harvest elk this fall to supply samples of hooves for testing. The YTWD is collaborating with CDFW, and Yurok hunters can play a role in helping everyone understand and manage this disease. CDFW will maintain a collection station at Lake Earl during the fall elk hunting season (including PLM and SHARE hunts). Tribe members with California elk tags can take samples directly to CDFW there. Alternatively, Tribe members can provide YTWD Biologists with elk hoof samples, for animals taken on Tribal lands. Please cut the hoof off right above the dew claws, place each hoof in its own bag, label the bag to identify the foot (left front, right front, etc.), and place all four bags into one large garbage bag. You can bring the samples to the YTWD fresh (but not rotten) or freeze them until a Tribal Biologist can meet you.

***To submit samples or ask questions please contact the YTWD staff:  
Preston Taylor, Biologist I: (707) 954-9342 [ptaylor@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:ptaylor@yuroktribe.nsn.us)  
Scott Demers, Biologist II: (707) 267-0620 [sdemers@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:sdemers@yuroktribe.nsn.us)  
Tiana Williams-Claussen, Director: (707) 954-8591 [tiana@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:tiana@yuroktribe.nsn.us)***



# Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today  
190 Klamath Blvd.,  
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested

Presort Standard  
US Postage  
PAID  
Eureka, CA  
Permit No. 76

8/31/20




## Free COVID Testing

**OPEN TO ALL**

**Dates:** 9/2/20, 9/9/20, 9/16/20, 9/23/20, 9/30/20  
**Location:** Redwood Hotel & Casino  
**Time:** 9:00-2:00

**Use this link to register:**  
[Projectbaseline.com/covid](https://projectbaseline.com/covid)

Melissa Jarnaghan is able to register individuals in the community that do not have access to a computer or the internet. For assistance with registration please see Melissa's contact information below.

**Melissa Jarnaghan Contact Information**  
**Work:** 707-482-1350 ext. 1403  
**Cell:** 707-457-7201  
**Email:** [mjarnaghan@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mjarnaghan@yuroktribe.nsn.us)


~Angie Brown BSN, PHN, CSN  
 Yurok Tribe, Public Health Officer

## Attention: Tribal Community with Children in K–12 with learning or other disabilities

You're invited to a  
**Know Your Rights Online Training:**

- Protections and Rights for Students with Disabilities
- The Right to Equal Treatment for Students with Disabilities
- The Right to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) including during Distance Learning
- Rights under Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regarding students with disabilities
- Rights under the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA)
- Students with Disabilities—Evaluation and Placement Process
- Types of cases the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) can address and the OCR complaint process
- Issues to be addressed through Due Process
- Q & A


**September 23, 2020 5:00–6:30 pm Pacific time**  
**RSVP for Zoom Link [Rain@ncidc.org](mailto:Rain@ncidc.org)**



Northern  
California  
Indian  
Development  
Council

Presenters: Brian Lambert, Attorney OCR and  
Rain L. Marshall, NCIDC Indigenous Education Advocate

Sponsored by NCIDC, Inc. and the  
U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA