

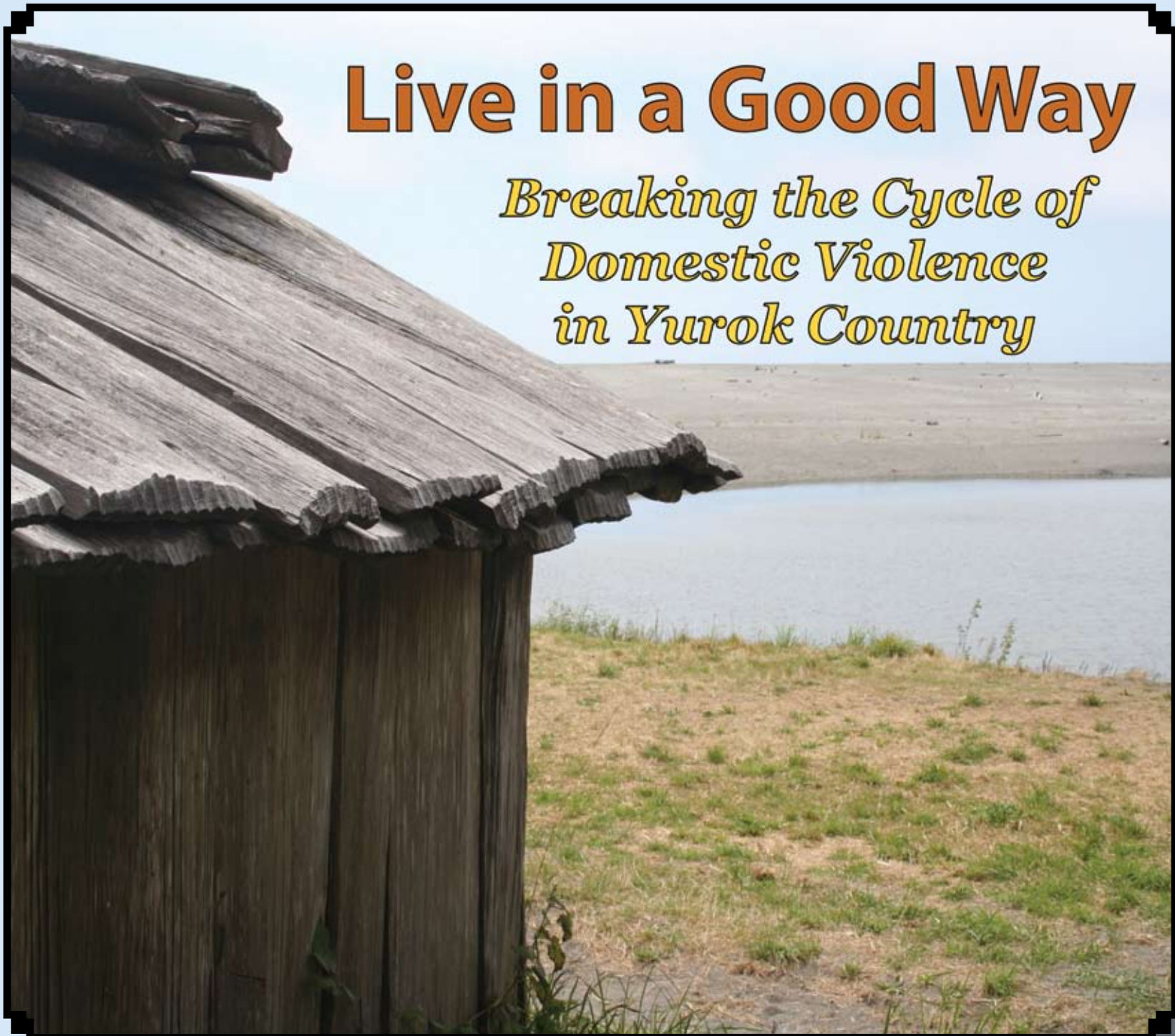


Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Tribe kicks off anti-violence campaign

Film made to start discussion on how to "Break the Cycle of Violence" - SEE STORY ON PAGE 2



Live in a Good Way

*Breaking the Cycle of
Domestic Violence
in Yurok Country*

Campaign starts to stop violence

The Yurok Tribal Council and Yurok Social Services recently kicked off a campaign to “Break the Cycle of Violence” on the Reservation and in the surrounding communities.

“To start we are going to begin a public discussion about the progression of domestic violence and sexual assault from European contact to present day, why the problem persists and how we can fix it,” said Stephanie Weldon MSW, the Yurok Tribe’s Social Service Director.

The attempted holocaust of the Yurok Tribe and the effort to strip Yurok people of cultural identity that followed created a shockwave of deep-seated despair, known as intergenerational trauma that has passed from parents to progeny.

To commence the conversation, Social Service’s Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program teamed up with the Red Deer Consulting a section of 7th Generation Fund, world renowned for grass-roots community building and headed by Yurok Tribal Member Chris Peters, to make a video that explores the roots of the problem, the reason why it travels



Yurok Tribal Member and Executive Director of the 7th Generation Fund, Chris Peters, makes a presentation to the Yurok Tribal Council.

through generations and how manifests today. The video also highlights individuals who have struggled and experienced the effects of domestic violence. Success stories in the video of individual tribal members who have overcome the tribulations attached to being a victim and an offender of domestic violence/sexual assault demonstrates that the chain of violence can be broken. The nearly 30-minute film also includes a segment that retells a version of

“OUR GOAL AS A COALITION IS TO FIND A WAY TO COMPLETELY REHABILITATE BOTH THE VIOLATOR AND THOSE WHO ARE VIOLATED IN A WAY THAT IS CONGRUENT WITH OUR IDENTITY AS YUROK PEOPLE.”

Stephanie Weldon MSW ~ Yurok Social Services Director

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On The Cover

Cover Art by Chris “Mo” Hollis of the 7th Generation Fund. It is a picture of the cover art for a short film the Yurok Tribe’s Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program made in collaboration with the 7th Generation Fund.



a local tribal traditional story that reenacts the story of the Abalone Woman and Dentalia Man and how partner violence was dealt with in old times. There are different versions of the story depending on Tribe, village, and family. The traditional old story is a version told by Lynn Risling (Karuk, Yurok, and Hupa) and Julian Lang (Karuk). A different version is included and told by Yurok Tribal Member Gary Markussen.

The story is of a beautiful, loyal and talented young woman who was bought by a family for their son to be his wife. This son mistreats the young woman, so she decides to leave and go back to her family. The husband becomes very angry and severely abuses her. As a result of the abuse, Creator turns the woman into Abalone and is forever known as Abalone Woman. The film focuses on using traditional values and healing or now known as restorative justice as method for breaking the cycle of violence.

The “Break the Cycle of Violence” campaign will draw from a deep pool of experts to address those who are responsible and those who are attacked.

“The problem is complex and requires a broad-spectrum response comprised of professionals, cultural bearers, natural helpers and spiritual advisors to heal those who witness, receive or deliver abuse. The problem is not a family problem, it is a community problem. We all must work together to change the norm and stop the generational cycles of abuse,” Weldon said.

In order to move forward, victims need to be treated for injuries, relocated, counseled and offered an opportunity live independently. Perpetrators must be prosecuted, go through therapy and have access to the tools that will help them change their behavior. It is imperative that all of this is accomplished in accordance of Yurok cultural norms.

“Our goal as a coalition is to find a way to completely rehabilitate both the violator and those who are violated in a way that is congruent with our identity as Yurok people,” Weldon said. “We do not yet have a Yurok-specific treatment program. That is something we are working to develop.”

The Tribal Council will be coordinating with the Yurok Social Services Department, the tribal membership, the community, Public Safety, Tribal Courts, local courts, County District Attorney’s offices, and other community partners to end this horrific problem.

On January 18, the Yurok Tribal Council passed the proclamation acknowledging “that our people have, over

multiple generations, endured a succession of traumatic events that have enduring consequences for our tribal community members. As a result of historical trauma our families continue to deal with the effects such as: unsettled trauma, depression, high mortality, substance abuse, child abuse & neglect, and domestic violence...”

The declaration recognizes that young women are the most vulnerable and make up the majority of those who suffer from intimate partner violence. It also points out that children who are either abused or witness abuse are at a much greater risk for struggling with school, emotional unbalance, substance abuse and are more likely to perpetuate the chain of violence.

Many of the men and women on the Council described their own childhood experiences with domestic violence, some of which occurred in their own homes.

“It’s hard to talk about, to disclose what happened to you,” said Yurok Vice Chairperson Marjorie Buckskin. “The only way to break the cycle is to talk about it and forgive. Forgiveness is another key part of healing.”

Vice Chairperson Buckskin said there are dark and dangerous consequences associated with not talking about it.

“It festers in people,” she said. “They hold it in and turn to drugs and alcohol, but it is still there. You have to talk about it in order to heal.”

The Council’s end goal is to assist victims in becoming financially independent, raise cultural awareness, and to cope with trauma.

“This is not just a job for government; it is a job for all of us. We are asking everyone to play an active role in preventing and ending domestic violence and sexual assault, by stepping up to stop violence when they see it. We recommit ourselves to making sure that no one suffers alone, and to assisting those who need help in reaching a safer and healthier tomorrow. We would like to honor those survivors and our ancestors that endured the devastating effects of genocide and domestic violence. In accordance with our Constitution, in order to exercise the inherent sovereignty of the Yurok Tribe we recommit and honor to work to support breaking the cycle of violence in our Tribal communities,” the Council’s proclamation concluded. ✨

For more information contact Porscha Cobbs at (707) 445-2422 or email her at pcobbs@yuroktribe.nsn.us

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Yurok Food Distribution Manager and Yurok Tribal Member, Chris Peters, motors out to catch Ney-puy in the Klamath River estuary.

I remember hearing several years ago from a Yurok Social Services Director that Chris Peters did not want to be a manager because he hated paperwork. He liked working with clients, not being stuck behind a desk. Chris was eventually talked into the job and since then I have seen him master the process of dealing with federal agencies.

Last Summer I attended a meeting with Chris and heard him talk food security systems like the pro that he is. Chris truly enjoys the work that he does, and the people he serves. At the end of the day he serves and nurtures the Tribe's most precious resources—the children. He and his

team ensure that children and families are nourished.

Just recently I talked with Chris about the introduction of traditional foods and what it would take to get more native foods in the

hands of Yurok clients. This is now our goal and through teamwork I think we will soon achieve this for Yurok families.

People like Chris work hard every day giving a little bit extra without expectation or praise. Let's honor Chris Peters and his team for their hard work throughout the year. ✨

*Submitted by Buffy McQuillen, Cultural Resource Manager

“PEOPLE LIKE CHRIS WORK HARD EVERY DAY GIVING A LITTLE BIT EXTRA WITHOUT EXPECTATION OR PRAISE.”

Tribe hires new Forestry Director

James Erler brings with him a broad variety of skills

The Yurok Tribe's Forestry Department is much more than a logging operation.

While Forestry is responsible for timber sales, the department also has a wild land fire crew, creates fire-defensible spaces for elders, surveys for timber and carbon credit sales and facilitates burning for basket and ceremonial regalia-making materials under its purview.

The diversity of interests is why the Tribe hired James Erler, a man with background as heterogeneous as the Department's responsibilities, to be the new Forestry Director.

Before starting his career in the the industry, the long-time Del Norte County resident earned a degree in Forestry from Humboldt State, an institution know for its forest-management credentials. From there, Erler took a job with the California Department of Forestry, now CalFire, working in fire control.

The state registered forester went on to become a forest practice inspector for the same institution, saddling him with an intimate understanding of the state's logging regulations. The tenure as forest inspector formed the foundation for his

next job assessing watersheds for the state.

Through these management positions Erler learned what it takes to lead a team in broad spectrum of forestry related fields. He also has first-hand experience in running a successful business.

Before taking the job with the Tribe, Erler owned and operated a consulting firm that helped private land owners navigate the State's forestry regulations.

"I am truly excited about being here working for the Tribe," Erler said. "There are a lot of exciting projects going on, the carbon credits, forestry objectives other than timber and timber harvesting. These are interesting challenges for a forester in a good way."

The father of four, the youngest is still in college, calls Del Norte County home and plans to stay. ✘

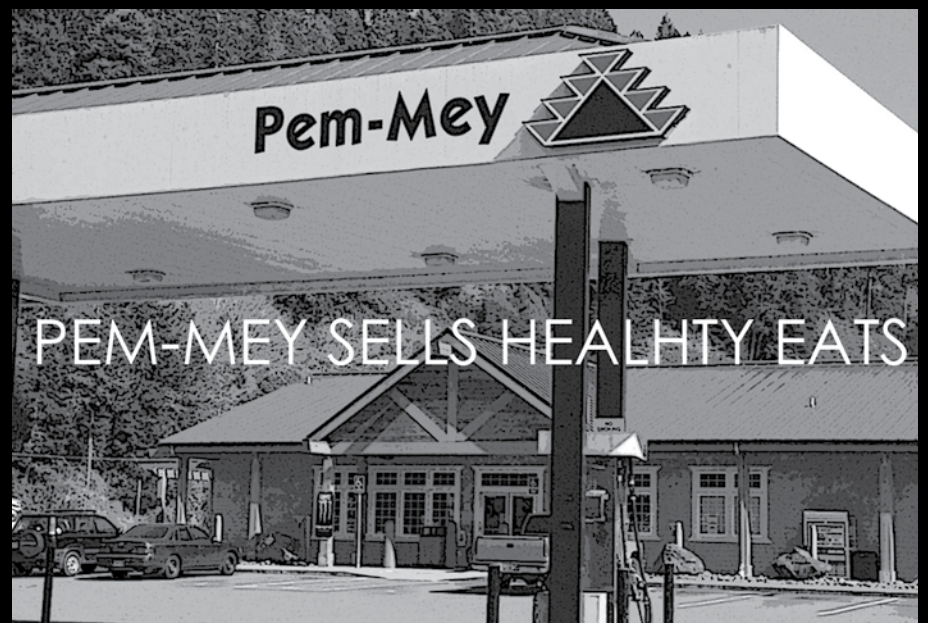
"I AM TRULY EXCITED ABOUT BEING HERE WORKING FOR THE TRIBE."

James Erler ~ Yurok Forestry Director



Community Yurok Language Class Schedule

- Weitchpec Tribal Office-Advanced Class-Tuesdays 4pm-5pm
- Weitchpec Tribal Office-Community Class-Tuesdays 5pm-6pm
- Klamath Tribal Office-Community Class-Tuesdays-5-7



Infection killed river gray whale

While it might never be understood why a gray whale and her calf would take up residence in the Klamath River, the cause of her demise is now known.

The female whale, which lingered in the river from June 24 to August 16, died from a fungal infection. Cetacean scientists discovered via a necropsy that the fresh water compromised the integrity of her skin causing a massive fungal infection that killed her. The calf was seen leaving the river three weeks after it entered and hasn't been sighted since.

Throughout her stay, the Yurok Tribe, working with Humboldt State University, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Fish and Game tried relentlessly to encourage the whale to reenter her oceanic home.

The unlikely river visitor caused a circus-like atmosphere at the Klamath bridge, where the whale spent most of her days, swimming about a mile up and down the river. Several thousand people stopped on the concrete crossing to get a glimpse of the baleen beauty. Hundreds of clips were posted to YouTube and numerous updates to Facebook. One gentleman even set up a stand on the wide shoulder of Highway 101 to sell photos of the whale.

A few men thought it was a good idea to stand in the water, playing flutes and reading the bible. One guy even jumped in the water and swam with the 40-ton creature.

After the whale perished, skin, blubber and bodily fluid samples were taken and a back hoe was used to bury her deep in an inaccessible location. ✘



The gray whale blows a heart-shaped spout under the U.S. Highway 101 Bridge.



Q and A with
Micah Gibson, the Yurok Tribe
Environmental Program's
Environmental Specialist\
Hydrology and Employee of the
Month.



1. **How long have you been working for the Tribe?** 8 years.
2. **Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?** I am a tribal member and wanted to be a part of the positive changes and services to our membership.
3. **What does your job entail?** Monitoring the tributaries that feed into the Klamath River within Yurok reservation boundaries for flow and sediment concentration. To analyze the trends over time to help determine stream health related to anadromous fish.
4. **What is the most satisfying part of your job?** I get to spend the majority of my time in the field collecting data and monitoring streams in areas that are not accessible to most. As we all know we live in a beautiful area, so to be able to “work” in these places is immeasurable.
5. **How does your position serve the tribal membership?** It is helping to determine whether or not we need to implement watershed restoration, whether or not to focus on in-stream habitat or riparian restoration which is all related to sustaining or improving spawning habitat. It helps sustain or improve our fisheries.....and who doesn't like fish?



Micah Gibson (left), the Yurok Tribal Environmental Program's Environmental Specialist\
Hydrology drives a jet boat up the Klamath River.

6. **What do you do outside of work?** Fishing, hunting, eeling, crabbing, picking berries all with my family and friends. It is extremely rewarding to be able to live in an area that enables these simple pleasures.
7. **What are your plans for the future?** To continue my work with the Tribe always trying to move forward but still take the time to enjoy what my ancestors have and help ensure future generations can experience the same. ✘

“IT HELPS SUSTAIN OR IMPROVE OUR FISHERIES.....
AND WHO DOESN'T LIKE FISH?”

Micah Gibson ~ Environmental Specialist

YUROK TRIBE ANNUAL STAFF MEETING



1



3



2

The Yurok Tribe honors its nearly 260 employees every year with an all day get together and a fabulous lunch.

This year the fun-filled event was held at the Blue Lake Casino in Blue Lake. Dozens of employees won high quality prizes donated by vendors or purchased by the Tribe.

The Education Department involved the entire work force in a Yurok language game. Members of the Fiscal Department, led by Jimmie Kinder, and a few intrepid volunteers sang "Take It Easy" by the Eagles for the packed house.

The Yurok Tribal Administration also took the opportunity to update the staff on the Tribe's new policies and on the progress of its bigger initiatives. ✨



- 1. Ramona Stout from the Education Department.
- 2. Ken Fetcho, Josh Strange, Sophia Lay, Sam Frick, Joe Pitt, Dana Miguelena and Buffy McQuillen celebrate their 10 year anniversary.
- 3. James Gensaw from the Education Department.
- 4. Angela Sundberg from the Social Services Department.
- 5. Tim Hayden, Bob McConnell and Ron Reed have worked for the Tribe for 15 years.
- 6. Yurok employees enjoy the day at the Blue Lake Casino.



Wearing a seatbelt will save your life



Do you wear your seat belt? Do you make sure all passengers in your vehicle are belted or in a child restraint system every time you drive? Did you know motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury and death for American Indians ages 1 to 44? According to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention, this is a fact. Adult motor vehicle-related death rates for American Indians are more than twice that of other races. If you're asking yourself why this is so, studies show that American Indians residing on reservations have a low seat belt and child restraint use rate.

The California Rural Indian Health Board, together with the Yurok Tribal Police Department, received a four year grant titled "Buckle-Up Yurok" (2010-2014) through the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to implement effective strategies to address the issue of low seat belt and child restraint use on the Yurok Reservation. Strategies to reduce motor vehicle crash-related injuries and deaths are well established and include: community

education, enforcement of occupant restraint laws with high visibility by law enforcement, the use of media and data gathering.

A coalition has been formed in Klamath, CA that will include: collaboration with local community and Tribal government officials, the Yurok volunteer fire department, tribal clinic staff, and other public health officials to plan effective strategies to increase seat belt and car seat use

among the Yurok population. These effective strategies will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the Yurok Tribe.

The Buckle Up Yurok Program is beginning the second year of the four year

funding cycle and this year includes a purpose of working with Yurok teens. Yurok teens will be recruited from the Klamath area and will serve as teen leaders to provide education to their peers on topics such as California's Provisional License Law, Zero Tolerance, Leadership/Advocacy and other trainings to increase knowledge and

“ADULT MOTOR VEHICLE-RELATED DEATH RATES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS ARE MORE THAN TWICE THAT OF OTHER RACES.”

skill level as they serve as Teen Leaders in the community. Other activities include gathering data on seat belt use, developing a social media campaign, holding a teen specific poster contest and finding creative ways to engage and have fun while being involved in the program.

The first year of this CDC funded grant lead to several successful accomplishments including four Yurok Tribal Police Officers, one Head Start teacher and UIHS's Public Health Nurse all receiving their certification in Child Passenger Safety. Also, a large car seat distribution event for the Yurok community was held wherein eighteen car seats were distributed. Other accomplishments included a Safe Native American Passenger Safety Course held in Klamath, Ka Pel and Klamath Head Start programs both received car seats for their students, two traffic signs with buckle-up messages have been developed and will soon be displayed on the Yurok reservation, a t-shirt with a buckle up message was developed, four coalition meetings were held and the Tribal Council approved the draft, Yurok Vehicle Code which included specific language on passenger safety with regard to the use of seat belts and child restraint.

The next Buckle- Up Yurok Coalition meeting will be held in February, (DTBD), at the Yurok Tribal building. For more information about this program, please call (916) 929-9761 and ask for Barbara Hart or Julie Adams.

On a final note, please remember to always buckle up! ✖

Council declares emergency



A landslide blocks Requa Road, stranding a resident and prompting an emergency declaration.

The Yurok Tribal Council recently declared a "State of Emergency" relating to road-blocking landslide on Requa Rd.

A flurry of mud, rocks and historically significant debris fell across the only access road to the Tribe's boat ramp and Requa Resort, a full-service RV park and campground. The slide is active and threatening real estate, safety, water quality, economic development and tribal housing.

The natural disaster was initiated by heavy rains that caused minor flooding on the Reservation over the January 21, 2012 weekend. The

construction of a new tribally-owned fish processing plant was supposed to commence on January 23, but is now on hold until the soggy rubble can be removed. The culturally important items are going to be moved to a safe location.

The Tribe is seeking emergency relief funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to offset the financial burden of the costly, unexpected effort to clear the road and stabilize the bluff, where an active spring continues to send more mud down the slope. ✖

Tribal Council offers reward to catch thief

The Yurok Tribal Council recently voted to fund two rewards for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons' who stole multiple items worth thousands of dollars from the Tribe or where to retrieve an expensive stolen generator.

Four chainsaws, a 150 piece tool set engraved with YLM, a 5 gallon gas can, a gallon of bar oil, a motor cycle helmet and a battery charger were stolen from the Tribe's Tully Creek Office. An industrial-size generator was ripped off from a Connex container at the top of McKinnon Hill.

The Council is offering a \$600 reward for clues that result in an arrest for the Tully Creek theft. It is offering \$1,000 for information leading to the return of the generator, without it important projects cannot move forward.

The Tribe, which is mostly grant-funded, cannot afford to replace stolen items. Grant money can only be used for specific things, replacing stolen items is not one of them.

The generator theft interrupted the Tribe's nearly finished internet project, which when complete, will bring high speed broadband to the upper Reservation for the first time. It also stalled the proposed cell tower installation at Weitchpec, also dependent on the wireless link the generator would have made possible. The

PICTURE OF ACTUAL GENERATOR



theft is the main limiting factor in bringing internet service to Weitchpec for the first time.

Both projects are now on hold until the Tribe can recover or replace the generator and better secure the site.

Anyone with information leading to the arrest of those responsible or the recovery of the much needed equipment should contact the Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety at (707) 482-8185.

The sooner the generator is up and running the quicker upper Reservation residents will have high speed internet. ✘



Yurok Today
The Voice of the Yurok People

Dam Deal Done!

See story on page 3



Place your AD here

Yurok Today is now selling advertising. Yurok Today reaches more than 2,800 Yurok Tribal households and is available online. Please contact Matt Mais for rates at (707) 482-1350 or mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us



Yurok court picked as model for justice

The Yurok Tribal Court and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) have joined in a commitment to improve court handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

The National Council selected the Tribe's Court to participate in its Model Courts Project.

Model Courts engage in cutting-edge local, statewide, and national program, policy, and initiative development. The heart of the Model Courts Project is a problem-solving approach to improving court practice, a method that focuses on collaboration among all key partners in the dependency system. Key values of the Model Courts include judicial leadership, court oversight and due process, multi-system collaboration, and child-focused outcomes.

Honorable Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Nation, will lead the project in the Yurok community in collaboration with court and social services staff and community programs. With support from NCJFCJ's Permanency Planning for Children Department staff in the form of training and technical assistance, the court is committed to improving court practice from intake to case closure, becoming a leader in tribal system reform and best practice implementation. The Yurok Court will also share its tested results to problem-solving, holistic interventions, and meaningful engagement with colleague Model Courts (both tribal and state), engaging in mutual sharing and learning across the nation.

"It is a great honor to be selected as a Model Court, nationally only one other Tribal Court has been previously selected, we will join the ranks of Tribal and Non-Tribal who have been singled out because of our commitment to excellence in this area," said Judge Abby Abinanti, a Yurok Tribal Member. "This will support the Court's efforts in this area and highlights our commitment to work with Yurok Social Services in a team approach to resolution of the issues that have plagued our people in recent times. The purpose of the Model



Court is to unify our team of professionals to work with our families in this process."

The mission of the Yurok Tribal Court is to support the

traditional village values of the people, and have those values inform the development of the Court as a modern institution. The Court's role is to protect the values of the people, to support the development of those values within each member of the community and

to insure that our responsibility to protect our traditions and traditional lands are carried out.

Founded in 1937, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, based on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, are focused on improving the effectiveness of our nation's juvenile and family courts. A leader in continuing education opportunities, research, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice, the 2,000-member NCJFCJ is unique in providing practice-based resources to jurisdictions and communities nationwide. ✘

"THE PURPOSE OF THE MODEL COURT IS TO UNIFY OUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS TO WORK WITH OUR FAMILIES IN THIS PROCESS."

Abby Abinanti ~ Yurok Chief Judge



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yurok Tribe will hold two public hearings to accept comments on the following draft legislation:

- **VEHICLE CODE**
- **MINING ORDINANCE**
- **PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE**
- **AMENDMENT TO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE TO ADD WATER QUALITY EXEMPTION CRITERIA FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS**

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. A quorum of the Tribal Council may be present, however, no Tribal Council action will be taken. Public hearings are scheduled for:

<p>February 16, 2012 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548</p>	<p>February 17, 2012 Noon—2:00 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA</p>
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Hard copies of the draft Vehicle Code, Mining Ordinance, Public Hearing Ordinance, and amendment to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance will be available at the public hearings. To obtain a hard copy prior to the public hearing, please contact Nathan Voegeli in the Klamath office of the Office of the Tribal Attorney at 707-482-1350 x408 or email nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us to request an electronic copy.

REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS, COMMENTS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The Yurok Tribe is interested in receiving comments regarding all aspects of the draft legislation. Oral comments can be made during the public hearing. Comments may also be submitted in writing. Written comments must be received by **5:00pm on Friday, February 24, 2012**, and addressed to:

Public Comment
Yurok Tribe Office of the Tribal Attorney
190 Klamath Blvd.
PO Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

Comment letters may be submitted by mail, by email at nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us, or by fax at (707) 482-1363.

Please indicate in your comment the draft legislation and specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. For example, "**Comment Letter—Vehicle Code sections 2001, 8000.**"

*** * * ATTENTION * * ***

If You Have a Trust Allotment or Trust Assets:

On June 20, 2006, federal legislation known as the American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) became fully effective. The AIPRA affects how trust land allotments and trust assets can be passed on or inherited.

Come learn how these Indian-specific laws may affect your trust land rights!

Those who meet our income guidelines can have a FREE will drafted for their trust land and trust assets!

The Yurok Tribe is generously providing FREE refreshments to those attending. Please contact Andrea McCovey at (707) 482-1350 to reserve a seat.



WHEN: Tuesday, February 7, 2012

WHAT: AIPRA and estate planning presentation - 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**WHERE: The Community Room
Yurok Tribal Offices
190 Klamath Boulevard
Klamath, CA 95548**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CILS Eureka office
(707) 443-8397 or toll-free (800) 347-2402

This event is co-sponsored by the Yurok Tribe and California Indian Legal Services



Yurok Tribe

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

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Jimmie Kinder (center) leads the Yurok staff in singing the song, "Take it easy," by the Eagles. The performance was part of the Yurok Tribal Government's Staff Annual Meeting, which took place at the Blue Lake Casino.