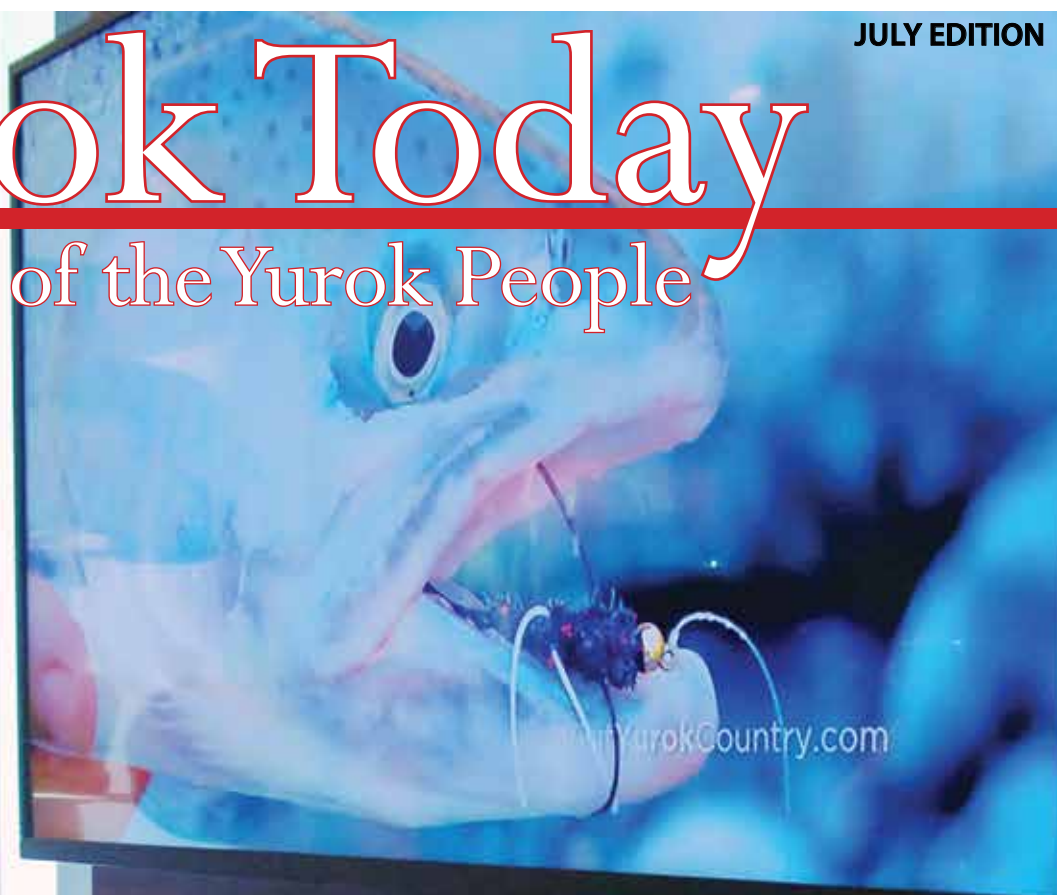




Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



TRIBE OPENS VISITOR CENTER

Yurok Country Visitor Center will feature Tribal culture, artists and more

▶ See story on page 5



VICE CHAIRPERSON
SUSAN MASTEN

Dear Tribal Members, this column is meant to keep you updated on the activities of the Tribe. Please let me know what type of information you want or concerns you may have about our Tribal government, programs or services. You will also be able to see this column on the Tribe's website and Facebook page in an effort to reach out and provide information to you in a timely way.

Yurok Country Visitor Center opens

The Yurok Country Visitor Center is now open. The approximately 3,500 square-foot Visitor Center is located in downtown Klamath on the corner of Klamath Blvd. and Klamath Circle and it is within walking distance from our Redwood Hotel Casino. Inside the new facility are fantastic multimedia exhibits, featuring video clips of our Language Program and river restoration activities. In addition to the digital displays are a number of professionally designed educational panels, highlighting our perspective on the past and present. Fine glass cases bear an alternating array of Yurok cultural items and ceremonial regalia. This is the first time that we have had a platform from which to share with the world our history and our culture. We are representing the Tribe in an appropriate and positive way.

The new visitor center also has one of the region's largest retail displays of local Native-made jewelry and crafts. I encourage everyone to take a tour of the new center. Nice job, Isaac Kinney and the Yurok Transportation team.

Update on Klamath Blvd

Construction is about to start on the Klamath Boulevard Gateway Project. The project is going to transform the highly trafficked thoroughfare into a fantastically landscaped, pedestrian-friendly roadway that will be illuminated at night by solar-powered lights. Also included in the project are the following upgrades: three center medians, nine new crosswalks, 40 solar street lights, sidewalks extensions on both sides of the road and dozens of native flowering shrubs and trees. This project is just the beginning of what we will accomplish on Klamath Blvd. and in downtown Klamath. We are currently creating a plan to give the road a "main street" aesthetic and turn it into a place where local businesses can thrive. The plan also calls for the addition of kiosks containing information about our heritage and other features that reflect the richness of our region. Funding for this plan comes from a National Endowment of the Arts "Our Town" grant.

Gearing up for Marijuana eradications/Property owners who want properties searched fill out form tribal attorney

The Tribal Council has heard the numerous pleas to rid the Reservation and surrounding areas of clandestine cannabis growers. We have listened to stories about individuals being threatened, environmental destruction and toxins dumped in our watersheds. This year, we are going to capitalize on the momentum of last year's highly successful Operation Yurok, which halted the theft of millions of gallons of precious water. The historic campaign, led by our own Public Safety Department, consisted of more than 70 law enforcement officers and

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On The Cover

The Yurok Tribe opens the Yurok Country Visitor Center in downtown Klamath.



representatives from the National Guard. The week-long effort to stop the devastation of our homeland, resulted in the removal of more than 40 grow sites and 15,000-plus plants. Several of those responsible were cited into Tribal Court, where they are currently paying fines upwards of \$20,000. This year, we have another plan in the works. That is all I can say at this point, but I know the Tribal Membership will be proud of what we are going to do on your behalf.

This year, the Yurok Public Safety Department is adding another layer to the cooperative enforcement effort. If you are a property owner and would like Public Safety to inspect your land for unlawful pot plantations, please contact the Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney. To request a search, land owners must fill out a confidential form, which can be obtained from the Tribal attorney's office. OTA can be reached at (707) 482-1350.

Update on Klamath community action plan, new community calendar and developing community policing and neighborhood watch programs

The Yurok Reservation community is moving forward on a far-reaching plan to address the underlying issues surrounding the terrible incident, which claimed the life of 13-year-old Dante Romannose-Jones. This process started in early May when nearly 100 people met in Klamath to identify an appropriate response to the unsafe behavior exhibited by some in our region. Since then, I have facilitated multiple meetings with the community, local law enforcement and other stakeholders, who have all expressed their commitment to effecting real change in our neighborhoods.

One of the ways that we plan to thwart crime on the Yurok Reservation and surrounding area is to develop Community Policing and Neighborhood Watch Programs. We are working with the Yurok Public Safety Department and the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office to bring these programs into existence. Both law enforcement offices have a substantial amount of experience in training individuals to become caretakers of their neighborhoods.

In a recent meeting with Del Norte County Sheriff Erik Apperson, he described the components of an effective Neighborhood Watch Program. Successful watch programs span a small geographic area. The most proficient programs cover only a block or two and no more. The reason for this is to make certain that neighbors can easily build strong relationships and communicate quickly with one another. The community policing component is comprised of specific people who drive around the community and act as extra eyes and ears for law enforcement.

We are in the process of procuring vehicles and are looking for participants. If you are interested, please contact me or Council Support at (707) 482-1350.


Another part of the community action plan is dedicated to illuminating how many thoughtful, kind and generous folks live here. This great group is especially concerned about our youth and making sure that they have every opportunity to achieve their goals. There are far more people who care than those who do not and most often, those who bring our community down do so because they are suffering from substance abuse or another serious problem. To show our strength, we are going to be having a Peace March with a strong antiviolence, clean and sober message at the Klamath Salmon Festival on Saturday, August 22. To get involved and receive notice about our meetings, please "like" the Yurok Tribe's Facebook page. That is one of the easiest places to find our meeting announcements. The community calendar will be available for activities for youth can be obtained from Council Support.

We recently had to say Goodbye to Tribal elder Billy Willson from Weitchpec

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Yurok elder Billy Willson. I will never forget working with Billy to organize the Tribal government. His cultural knowledge and positive outlook were vital assets in the process of becoming a formally organized Tribe. He was deeply concerned about our fishing, fisheries restoration and protection of our natural resources. Since the 70s, way before the Tribe was organized, he attended meetings to defend Klamath salmon and to voice his strong opinions about these important topics. In addition to helping form the Tribe, he was a regular participant on the cultural committee, where his wisdom and understanding of our traditional ways were invaluable. He was a devoted member of the committee until his illness would no longer permit it. I always appreciated his input. I also appreciated his support. If I wasn't doing things right he was quick to let me know, but he was always very supportive. Billy's contribution to the Tribe will never be forgotten. We are a better Tribe because of Billy Willson. I will forever miss his sense of humor and smile.

Update River Taxi

Soon, the Yurok Tribe will offer the first ever River Ferry on the Klamath River. Construction of a custom-built, 12-passenger, 25-foot jet boat is almost complete. Once it is finished, the new



river ferry service will be open to the public and will travel between Klamath to Sregon. For millennia, the river was our main thoroughfare, connecting the east and west sides of our territory. Today, there is no direct, land route from the one side of the Reservation to the other, a result of a flood that washed out the road. It takes almost 3 hours to travel by car from Sregon to Klamath or vice versa. After the ferry is finished, it will take about 45 minutes. I'd like to recognize Yurok Transportation Manager Joe James's hard work and dedication to making this project a success.

Congrats to the Yurok graduates

I would like to congratulate all of the 2015 Yurok graduates! This year, more than 25 Yuroks received diplomas from institutions of higher learning. These hard-working Tribal members completed studies in a variety of fields, ranging from fisheries to economics. Know this graduates: You can find a job that is deeply fulfilling and still pay the bills. It might not happen right away, but if you continue to pursue what you are passionate about, opportunities will that you never thought were possible will present themselves to you. Also, the Tribe hopes to see our college graduates moving home and working for the Tribal government or a regional Tribal organization. We've grown tremendously as an organization and are offering more living-wage jobs than ever before.

The Tribal Council is also happy to announce that more than 50 Yuroks graduated from high school this year. Whether you are going on to a four-year university, community college or vocational school, we wish you the best of luck and are confident that you will succeed on any path you choose.

The Tribe Council also wants to congratulate the 40-plus 8th grade grads, and every other Yurok child who completed another year of school. I truly believe education is the key to our long-term success as Tribe and I believe you can accomplish anything you decide to pursue. Keep moving forward.

Be safe on the water this summer

As we transition from spring to summer, please remember to be careful when you are on the river or at the beach. During this time of year, it is especially important to remain

vigilant, while enjoying visits to the local rivers and to the ocean. The sun is warm, but the rivers are still flowing fast. Too many people have been lost on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers, because they misjudged the swiftness of the water. Always remember to be mindful of the currents and other hazards present in the river. Don't forget to respect our ocean and rivers. Before swimming in the Klamath be sure to check if the river is posted for dangerous levels of toxic blue-green algae. We are already seeing some of the toxin in the estuary and higher up the river. I hope that everyone has a safe and healthy summer.

Yurok land legislation update

In the last five years, we have been very successful in our effort to reclaim control of our ancestral lands. Earlier this year, we took over management of nearly 6,500 acres in the Blue Creek and Bear Creek watersheds and one day we will own this property. In 2013, we reacquired 8,500 acres and in 2011 we purchased 22,495 acres — both are on the eastern side of our traditional territory. Before 2010, we had very little land, which made it more difficult to continue many of our traditional practices, like subsistence hunting, and gathering plants for food, medicine and baskets. The lack of land made it nearly impossible to establish a sustainable economy on the Yurok Reservation. Now, in addition to having more land to practice our traditions, these new properties have created several economic development opportunities, like the Tribe's Carbon Program. We are also working on restoring the forests to enhance biodiversity, the abundance of game animals and protect salmon streams.

Currently, we are working with Congressman Jared Huffman, local interest groups, county representatives and others to introduce legislation that will, if passed, expand the boundary line of the Reservation to include the recent acquisitions and increase our oversight role in Yurok ancestral territory.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We also send our prayers and thoughts to each of you who may have lost a loved one during this time, please know that we love you and care about you.

Wok-hlew ✨

Yurok Visitor Center opens for business

Yurok Country Visitor Center supports Tribal artists/business owners

The Yurok Country Visitor Center is one of the Tribe's latest job-creating ventures. In addition to serving visitors and area businesses, the new visitor center supports Tribal artisans by offering one of the redwood region's largest retail displays of local Native-made jewelry and crafts.

The approximately 3,500 square-foot Yurok Country Visitor Center is located in downtown Klamath on the corner of Klamath Blvd. and Klamath Circle and is within walking distance from Redwood Hotel Casino. The location is also conveniently situated in the center of Redwood National and State Parks, home to some of the last remaining old-growth redwoods on the planet.

The Yurok Tribe is the first Tribe in California to receive direct funding from the National Scenic Byways Program to build a visitor center. The center will offer visitors a chance to discover the Yurok Scenic Byways, which consist of five tribally designated roads that are within the Tribe's Ancestral Territory and possess ecological, cultural and recreational values. The byways include: Requa Road, Bald Hills Road, Highway 169, Highway 101, and Hwy 96. Each of these routes leads to a special location. For example, Bald Hills Road traverses now rare oak grasslands, where herds of Roosevelt elk can be seen in their native habitat. Educational signage and kiosks will soon be placed along the routes to highlight the history of the tribe and unique natural features in the region.

Last year the Tribe opened the Redwood Hotel Casino. The facility features a 60-room Holiday Inn Express Hotel, slots and the Abalone Bar & Grill restaurant. The Yurok Tribe also owns the Klamath River Jet Boats and three RV parks along the Klamath River. ❄



Please review the results of the recent survey sent to Yurok Tribal members regarding “Blood Degree Options” and “Relinquishment of Tribal Members.” The comments will be posted on the Tribe’s website, yuroktribe.org just before this newsletter reaches your mailbox. The purpose of this survey was to begin a discussion on these topics, which were brought to Tribal Council representatives by members of the Tribe. This survey is for information gathering purposes only. It is the intention of the Tribe to give a voice to the Tribal Membership regarding Constitutional concerns. There are no plans to place a Constitutional change on any election ballot. Before the proposal of any Constitutional Amendment, the Tribe will present as much information as possible, so that Tribal Members can view different sides of the issues.

Survey

Blood Degree Options

	Yes	%
1/16 Yurok + 1/16 Other Indian Blood=1/8 Total	43	13.19%
1/8 Yurok Only	42	12.88%
1/16 Yurok Only	57	17.48%
Lineal Descendancy Only	79	24.23%
Other Options	15	4.60%
Yurok Only - 1 5/64-1 1/4 - 3 Adoption at birth - 1 Citizenship test - 1		
Lineal + Yurok = 11/8 Yurok + 1/8 Other - 2		
Any Blood Degree-1 1/32 - 4		
Keep Blood Degree the same/No Change	90	27.61%
Totals	326	

Relinquishment of Tribal Members

	Yes	%	No	%	Total
If someone Relinquishes their membership from the Yurok Tribe, should they be able to re-enroll?	112	36.96%	191	63.04%	303

	Yes	%	No	%	Total
If a Parent or Guardian of a minor, Relinquishes the minor from the Yurok Tribe, should that minor be able to re-enroll back into the Yurok Tribe, after they are 18 years of age?	289	92.63%	23	7.37%	312

	Yes	%	No	%	Total
If yes, should there be a time limit to re-enroll?	148	50.68%	144	49.32%	292

If Yes, by what age? Ages (for yes votes)

18yrs - 21	24yrs - 2
19yrs - 20	25yrs - 24
20yrs - 6	28yrs - 3
21yrs - 57	30yrs - 1
23yrs - 1	40yrs - 1

Ethics Review Board holds second hearing

Oversight committee reconvenes to review three cases in Klamath

The Yurok Tribe's Ethics Review Board reconvened on Tuesday, May 27, 2015 to hear the three remaining cases that had to be rescheduled in April, due to family and health reasons.

The Ethics Review Board is an oversight committee, whose members evaluate Tribal elected officials' compliance with the Tribal Council Ordinance, a law created to enhance government transparency and to hold Tribal leaders to an elevated ethical standard. The statute contains provisions covering everything from mismanagement of funds to punctuality. Failure to follow the ordinance carries equitable sanctions for violations large and small.

The newly formed Ethics Review Board convened for the first time on April 2, 2015. The Board determined, after the completion of the April hearings, that no ethical violations were committed by five Tribal Councilmembers.

The Ethics Review Board is comprised of the following positions: two Tribal elders, the Chair or Vice Chair, two Councilmembers, the Yurok Chief Justice and a representative from the Office of the Tribal Attorney. Executive Director Troy Fletcher serves as the facilitator/prosecutor. The Board members essentially act as judge and jury. The burden of proof set forth by the ordinance is defined as a preponderance of evidence, which is the same standard that is employed in civil court. For there to be a negative finding, the Board must determine that it is more likely than not that misconduct took place.

On May 27, the Board conducted three hearings at Yurok Tribal Headquarters in Klamath. The elders who participated were Maria Tripp and Lavina Bowers. Senior attorney Nathan Voegeli represented OTA. The Tribal Council participants were Chairman Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Requa District Rep. Ryan Ray and Pecwan District Rep. Mindy Natt.

Just like the April Ethics Review Board hearing, the purpose of these proceedings was to determine if three Tribal Councilmembers, Orick District Rep. Larry Hendrix, East District Rep. Laura Borden and South District Rep.

Lana McCovey were in compliance with the Tribal Council Ordinance.

The Ethics Review Board found that Councilmembers Borden and McCovey, who had missing or late receipts associated with routine, travel-related expenditures, were in technical noncompliance with the ordinance, but had not committed an ethical violation. Both corrected the inconsequential infractions in a timely manner.

This is the first time the Tribal Council Ordinance was employed, and the first opportunity to analyze its efficacy. The Board members generally agreed that the intent of the ordinance was to identify serious ethical issues, rather than minor bookkeeping errors. It was decided that negligible violations of the ordinance, such as late receipts for approved purchases, do not meet the threshold for an ethical violation, but may become a concern if they are recurring.

The four elders, who participated on the board, will be reviewing the Council Ordinance for any necessary amendments. If the elders make a recommendation to the Tribal Council for consideration, the proposed modifications will go out for public hearings with the Tribal membership.

The Ethics Review Board found that Orick District Rep. Larry Hendrix was also in technical noncompliance of the Tribal Council Ordinance, but had not committed an ethical violation for late and missing travel receipts. Councilmember Hendrix reimbursed the Tribe in a timely fashion.

Additionally, the Board determined that the Orick Representative had violated section 6208 of the Tribal Council Ordinance. The section of the Ordinance, titled Decorum at Council Meetings, outlines an expectation of "order and decorum", during Tribal Council meetings. The Board fined Councilmember Hendrix \$100 and he paid it the same day. ✨

VISIT YUROK COUNTRY

PHOTOS OF THE BRAND NEW YUROK COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER BY YUROK TRIBAL MEMBER PAUL RIECKE



YUROK LANGUAGE
IMMERSION CAMP 2015
TULLEY CREEK
JULY 27-30

Arrival time noon Monday July 27th and departure noon on Thursday July 30th. Bring your own camping gear. Onsite registration or call (707) 482-1350 ex 1332 or (530) 625-4130 ex 1626. All participants must sign liability waiver and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and parent or guardian must sign liability waiver.

Cho' Saa'a-goch-em' oht-kue-mee'
kee laiy-o-luo-moh kue huueh-soh

Saa-a-goch-ohi

For more Information Contact Barbara or Carole at 707.482.1350 or 530.625.4130

Hosted by: SA Kevin Sherburne

SAVE THE DATE
September 22nd 2015

Invitation

Who is invited?
You are.

This presentation has been presented to corporations, community groups and Tribal organizations.

What:
Civil Rights Presentation

Where:
190 Klamath Blvd
95548
Yurok Tribe
Community Room

When:
Sept 22, 2015
9:00 am
12:00 pm

Please RSVP with
Rhonda Wright
707-482-1350 Ext 1389
or email
rwright@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Topics

- Hate Crimes:** Victimization due to criminal's hateful mindset.
- Color of Law:** This is on abuse of police power. An example is the Rodney King case.
- Human Trafficking:** in persons and forced labor.
- FACE-Freedom of Access to Clinical Entrances**

Free Event

The Yurok Tribe and FBI are working together to build relationships by being proactive in the efforts of addressing and protecting our Civil Rights.

Presented by the Yurok Tribe

Congratulations Kokonow!

Kokonow C. Kinney, age 14, and a ninth grader at Hoopa Valley High School, has been accepted to the University of California, Irvine – American Indian Summer Institute in Earth System Science. Kinney will be spending a week with Native students selected from tribes nation-wide, camping on the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indian Reservation in San Diego County, and a week studying earth system sciences on the UC Irvine campus. Kinney has been recognized for his achievements in academics, including the Principal's Honor Roll as well as participating in sports, lettering in JV Football, Freshman Basketball, and Varsity Golf. He is also a member of the California Scholastic Federation.



YUOK TRIBE 2015 ELECTION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 14, 2015 PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 10, 2015 RUNOFF ELECTION

JUNE 22 (8:30AM)	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
JULY 15 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)
JULY 24 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
AUGUST 14, (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
AUGUST 14	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (60 DAYS)
AUGUST 21	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)
AUGUST 28	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)
AUG 31 SEP-2	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
SEPTEMBER 4	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 11	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (32 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 25	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
OCTOBER 13	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)
OCTOBER 14, 2015	PRIMARY ELECTION
OCTOBER 22	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) <i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</i>
OCTOBER 22	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
NOVEMBER 9	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)
NOVEMBER 10, 2015	RUNOFF ELECTION

2015 VOTING DISTRICTS CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICT

IMPORTANT DATES

Game night - Margaret Keating- July 16 - 6pm-8pm
Mattz/Brooks Brush Dance - July 16-19
Brown Bag - July 20 - Weitchpec
Game night - Margaret Keating - July 22- 6pm-8pm
Tribal Council - Planning - July 22 - 10am - Klamath
TERO Rep. - July 22 - 11am - 3pm - Weitchpec
YIHA Rep. - July 22 - 11am - 2:30pm - Weitchpec
Tribal Council - Action - July 23 - 10am - Weitchpec
Weitchpec Brush Dance - July 23-25
Immersion Camp - July 27-30 - Tulley Creek.
Tribal Council - Finance - July 27 - 10am - Klamath

Tai-Chi - July 28 - 5pm-7pm - Weitchpec
Game night - Margaret Keating- July 29- 6pm-8pm
Game night - Margaret Keating- July 30- 6pm-8pm
Tribal Council - Planning - Aug. 5 - 10am - Klamath
Tribal Council - Action - Aug. 6 - 10am - Klamath
CFMC - 4pm - Weitchpec
Tribal Council - Planning - Aug. 19 - 10am - Klamath
Tribal Council - Action - Aug. 20 - 10am - Weitchpec
Salmon Festival - August 22
Tribal Annual Meeting - August 23

PUBLIC SAFETY - ARREST LOG

* Those arrested are considered innocent until proven guilty in Tribal Court.



May 1, 2015 - Tina Mattz– Bench Warrant

June 16, 2015 - Juan Sandoval - Drunk in public

May 9, 2015 - Joseph Scott - Parole Violation

June 26, 2015 - Manuel Escalera - Drunk in public

June 12, 2015 - Martin Barber - Domestic Violence

June 30, 2015 - Windsong Nelson - Marijuana cultivation/ possession of marijuana for sale

June 30, 2015 - Joshua Salinas - Warrants

Local advocacy group meets in Klamath

True North Organizing Network draws community support

Josh Norris has committed his entire adult life to working on behalf of Tribal youth.

The former high school teacher and Yurok Tribal member is currently a community organizer for The True North Organizing Network. True North is relationship-driven organization comprised of “families, elders, youth and individuals of diverse faith traditions, races, cultures and economic capacities.” The social justice organization’s goal is to educate and empower people, who have not traditionally had a voice and to use democracy as a tool to effect positive change.

The organization’s approach is rooted in the largely successful PICO Community Organizing Model, which favors the formation of a solid stakeholder group, before taking on a specific issue. The True North Organizing Network, backed by the Humboldt Area Foundation, uses “the power of relationships... to courageously address the most pressing problems affecting our communities,” according to their mission statement.

For more than 12 months, the True North Organizing Network, largely made up of residents in Humboldt or Del Norte, has been sitting down, one-on-one with their neighbors, Tribal officials, church leaders and government officials to identify ways to create a better future for its members and the thousands of people they represent. In February, the True North Regional Assembly drew more than 300 people, including many Yurok and other local tribe members, as well as many business owners, to Orick’s Community Hall. There, they heard from representatives of the Tribal and Latino communities talk about everything from high crime neighborhoods to police harassment. The information gathered at the meeting was used to develop an action plan.

“We have developed a region-wide platform to help facilitate solutions to many of the concerns that we have heard from the community, including: the health of our watersheds (especially the Klamath River), immigration policy, homelessness and police profiling,” Norris said. “Right now, we’re focusing on education in Del Norte County.”

On the education front, the True North Del Norte Organizing Project, a splinter group of the True North Organizing Network, spoke with dozens of families invested in the local school system for the purpose of forming a broad alliance. The aim of the 12-month-long process was to develop a community-driven solution to improve the low level of student achievement at Del Norte County’s

public schools. While researching regional scholastic figures, the group discovered that academic performance in Del Norte County is well below the average for California and US schools. For example, out of a recent cohort of high school students, nearly 20% dropped out and less than 20% of those graduating had completed requirements for entrance to the California State University and University of California systems, according to a True North press release.

In May, the True North Organizing Network facilitated a community meeting at Yurok Tribal headquarters in Klamath. In attendance were about 100 people from Klamath, Crescent City, Gasquet and Smith River. The goal of the gathering was to identify ways to increase student success within the underperforming school district, particularly at Klamath’s Margaret Keating Elementary School. Many parents of local school children articulated their concerns about the elementary schools in Del Norte and the challenges across the district are mostly similar. A lack of communication between teachers and parents was a recurring theme in the two-hour conversation, as was a desire to see children receive the best possible education. In addition to True North organizers, listening to the parents was a panel of local educational professionals, including: Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen, Margaret Keating principal Diane Wiese, teacher Amber Cron and soon-to-be-retiring Del Norte Unified School District Superintendent Don Olson. There was a consensus among the ethnically and economically differing group that Margaret Keating, the only elementary school in the area, and other area schools, could better serve its students.

The only alternatives to Margaret Keating are in Crescent City, an hour round-trip from Klamath, where Yurok parents like Georgiana Gensaw and her husband Oscar, who are members of True North Del Norte Organizing Project, live and work. Georgiana Gensaw, a mother of a toddler not yet old enough to attend Margaret Keating, said she would like to see the school become a top-performing institution before her son starts kindergarten. She stated, as did many others in attendance at the meeting, that she is willing to do whatever it takes to make that happen. It is not feasible for most Klamath parents— many maintain multiple jobs — to drive their kids up to one of the elementary schools in Crescent City.

Margaret Keating recently received a number one ranking, one being the lowest, for its scores on California’s Academic

Performance Index. The API measures academic performance and progress of individual schools in California and is a main component of the Public Schools Accountability Act. It should be noted that, because of the sample size, statistical information for small schools, like Margaret Keating, is not as reliable as it is for larger schools. After thoroughly investigating the apparent lack of academic achievement, True North's research revealed that the root cause is complex, but ultimately fixable. For instance, attendance at the school is lower than many others in the region. There is not a sufficient quantity of teacher aids. Students are given detention more often and are suspended more frequently than at other Del Norte schools. Also, a morale issue, among parents of the students, is beginning to take root.

"We think that all of those things can be helped by more community involvement," said Georgiana Gensaw. "In other schools, where teachers meet more regularly with parents and parents volunteer in the classroom, students do much better."

That is why, at the May meeting, True North proposed a parent engagement strategy, which seeks to cultivate closer relationships among teachers and the families they serve. There is a direct correlation between parent involvement and student success in a broad range of categories. True North representatives presented a cache of empirical evidence illuminating this connection. For example, a research project conducted by Harvard University examined 77 studies involving more than 300,000 students and found that "parental involvement is associated with high student achievement outcomes...These findings emerged consistently whether the outcome measured were grades, standardized test scores or other measures, including teacher ratings."

Additionally, a report by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, titled *A Wave of Evidence*, which looked at 51 studies, found that students, across all income levels, who have parents participating in their education were more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Regularly attend school
- Earn more credits
- Have better social skills and improved behavior at school
- Graduate and to on to post-secondary education

The large group in Klamath favored moving forward with developing a parent involvement strategy and many said that it would help students achieve academic success and aid them in developing into well-balanced individuals. The panel also committed to being a part of the parent engagement team. To make the strategy a reality, True North will be working with parents, Tribes and school administrators to develop a policy, specifically tailored to each district school, designed to boost parent involvement and clear the line of communication between parents and teachers.

If you'd like to follow the progress of this project, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TrueNorthOrganizing>. To learn more about the True North Organizing Network, visit truenorthorganizing.org. ✨

Tribe prepares for historic drought

Yurok Country is suffering through the fourth year of the most intense drought, since the 1850s when rainfall statistics were compiled for the first time. The historic dry spell in the region is coupled with record-breaking high temperatures. Last year was the warmest ever recorded in Tribe's ancestral territory. So far, 2015, is shaping up to be even worse and on average it has been almost 2 degrees hotter than last year.

Climatologists list Yurok Country as being in a "severe drought" and the Klamath River is low and warm. Nearly 100 percent of California is experiencing negative effects from the lack of rainfall. Governor Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order requiring California's urban population to cut down their water usage by 25 percent. Rural residents will have to curtail water use, too. Local authorities are expected to come up with regulations limiting water use. This is the first mandatory conservation effort in the state's history. Gov. Brown has not required similar measure for industrial agriculture, which uses 80 percent of the available water.

Many of the tributaries that feed into the Klamath River are vital for successful migration of spring and fall Chinook salmon. Cooler temperatures in the tributaries create a thermal refugia for migrating fish, allowing them to escape stressful conditions in the main-stem of the river. Lower flows in the tributaries means tougher times for fish moving upriver. The main-stem Klamath is already much warmer than average for this time of year, and the Tribe fears that the conditions on the river are conducive to a fish kill similar to the one in 2002.

In early spring, the Yurok Tribe put together workgroup, comprised of several Tribal departments, an Indian Health Service engineer and a consultant from Freshwater Environmental Services. The multidisciplinary team is meeting regularly to come up with solutions to blunt the impact of the extended dry spell. Freshwater Environmental Services was hired through competitive proposal process to assist in developing the Drought Contingency Plan. The Plan will outline measures such as water conservation and emergency response in the event

of a prolonged water shortage.

Those living on the upper Reservation, where it is a regularly 15 to 20-degrees warmer than the Klamath area, are in a much different situation than the people residing within the coastal fog belt. On the east side of the Reservation, the Tribe operates multiple water systems, which are fed by creek and already running low. Unlike most municipalities, there are no reservoirs or other types of large storage facilities on the upper Reservation. Compounding the problem are dozens of illegal cannabis cultivators, who have planted tens of thousands of plants in the headwaters of the creeks that feed the Tribe's water systems and are the source of water for hundreds of families. The unlawful pot growers are stealing untold millions of gallons of water before it has a chance to make it into the system.

Already, this year the Yurok Tribe has begun delivering water to 64 households, whose homes receive water from struggling springs and creeks that have nearly dried up, another issue likely linked to the unlawful pot farmers.

The Tribe will soon have two potable water and ice machines, which will likely be deployed on the upper Reservation. Currently, the logistics associated with distributing the affordable, clean and non-chlorinated water are being developed.

If the creeks reach a certain level, the Tribe, like the state of California, might have to institute a mandatory cap on residential water use. The limitations will be based on the volume of water available and per capita consumption data that the Tribe captures on an annual basis. This is the best way to ensure the basic water needs of all residents are met for as long as possible.

There are about twice as many people who draw water directly from creeks or springs as are connected to one of the Tribe's water systems. In many places, there are multiple, family homes relying on the same creeks. It is important for neighbors to communicate about water usage, especially during these dry conditions. It is also critical to be proactive and not waste water, so that everyone is able to meet their water needs.

There are a handful of public water systems on the lower Reservation. Each system comprises of a subsurface well and a water storage tank. The well uses a submersible pump to move water to the storage tanks from an underground aquifer. If the aquifer were to run dry, then the well would be unable to produce the water required to meet the needs of the community. It is very important to only use the water that is needed, and keep waste to a minimum.

What can you do to conserve water?

- Toilets typically are the largest source of wasted water in any family home, accounting for almost 30 percent of the total water use. Putting a brick or river rock in a toilet's tank will reduce water use. The object will take up space in the tank and decrease the amount of water that can be flushed.
- Take shorter showers. A five-minute shower uses about 40 fewer gallons than a 15-minute shower.
- A high efficiency showerhead can be purchase for \$10-\$20 and reduce water use between 20 and 60 percent.
- Check for leaks in pipes, faucets and toilets.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth and/or washing your face.
- Make sure the amount of water in the washing machine matches the amount of laundry in it.
- Put a quarter inch layer of compost over your garden to increase the water holding capacity of your soil. Water the garden only in the early morning or evening to reduce water loss due to evaporation
- Recharging the water softener on the septic system as little as possible will reduce water use and overloading of your septic system.
- Put fresh hardwood chips on top of the soil where small fruit shrubs are grown. Do the same for mature fruit trees with large, shade-producing canopies, make sure to keep a few inches of bare dirt between the trunk and the chips. The wood chips will hold moisture in the soil, reduce the need for watering and break down into nutrients the trees can use. This can be taken a step further by inoculating the fresh wood chips with king stropharia mushroom spawn. It is best to do this in the fall when it begins to rain or in the winter when it rains regularly. This red wine-colored, edible fungus will consume the wood chips and turn them into organic fertilizer the fruit trees can consume. This type of fungi consumes certain nematodes in the soil. The inoculated wood chip bed will also attract bees, which love to eat sugary cytoplasm in the mushroom's mycelium. It can be purchased locally from Fungaia Farm in Eureka.

Please contact the Yurok Public Safety Department at (707) 482-8185 to report illegal water diversions. ✨

Yurok Obituaries



Janet Marlene McNeal-Bates
July 6, 1954 - May 4, 2015

Janet Marlene McNeal-Bates, a beautiful soul, took flight on May 4, 2015. A proud member of the Yurok Tribe, she was born on July 6, 1954 in Hoopa, California to Bud and Nellie McNeal. She met the love of her life on July 3, 1982 and together they moved to Chiloquin, Oregon in 1983 where they made their home.

Janet dedicated over 20 years of her life to educating children in both California and Oregon. She retired in 2007 to spend more time with her grandchildren and family.

Her surviving family includes her husband Charles “Dancing Bear” Bates, her children and their spouses: Lorenzo and Joni, Shannon and Eric, Koj and Charlie, Sarah and Kyle, Jewel and Josh, and Tyler and Tschayo. Additional family members include: her mother Nellie McNeal, and siblings, Susan, Rocky, Vicky and their families, Mother-in-law Annabelle Bates and sisters-in-law Corrine, Sherrie, Tina, Nola, and Lisa and families. Janet’s grandchildren include: Antone, Chance, Tyrah, Chaa-Nuueks, Bucky, Kyrach, Shayla, Kylee, Nan, Edward Bud, Jordan, Britney, Maximus, and Mason.

She went to join her Father, Bud, Father-in-Law, Bucky and brothers Russell and Derik and nephew “Little Dave”.

A Burial Service and luncheon was held on Saturday, June 27 at the Wautec Church.

Contributions in Memory of Janet will be used to establish the Janet Bates Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of her 20 plus years in education, helping children.



William Warren Willson
1935-2015

Aawok William Warren Willson (Yurok) passed on the morning of June 8, 2015 at his home with his family in Weitchpec, California and was interred the following day according to his wishes in the family cemetery at the Mitchell Ranch in Martins Ferry, California where he was born on August 20, 1935.

Despite his life struggles, he was blessed to find great success and satisfaction in his career as a logger; he instilled a strong work ethic in each of his children. He was a hunter and fisherman and passed these important skills to his sons. He served as a member of the Yurok Tribal Culture Committee. He was a key member of an early Yurok Tribal organizing committee. He was a Christian and attended the Weitchpec Church where he will always be remembered for passing out candy to the children (the big ones too). Many will remember him as a regular at Laura’s Kitchen in Hoopa. He will also be remembered for his remarkable memory...able to memorize long poems which he recited often in his younger years. He enjoyed solving the daily crossword puzzle in the Time Standard newspaper and watching sports, especially boxing and football. During the past year as his body was failing him, losing his independence

was very difficult for him but he still retained a strong mind, good humor and an excellent character.

His journey is preceded by his mother Teresa Billie Mitchell, his father Thomas Edward Willson, his brothers Louis Mitchell, Curtis Mitchell, Edward Mitchell and Ervin “Dutch” Mitchell, his sisters Mae Mitchell, Annie Love, Tudiebug Mitchell and Irene Pallin, his wife Georgina Mae Willson, his grandson Guy Willson, his great grandson Kyren Hansen, and his sons-in-law Gary Cowart and David Ipiña.

He is survived by his children Billee Lynn Willson (Charles Kidwell), Teresa Marie Willson (Aaron Peralta), Irene Willson-Cowart, Preston Willson (Sunday), Thomas Willson, Sr. (Morneen), and Patrick Willson; grandchildren: Mysti Birks (John), Michelle Eidman (William Standley), Melissa Eidman, Simon, Ceasar, Mateo, Jocelyn, Cameron Kidwell-Keisner, Danelle Vigil (Rodney), Taralyn Ipiña (Philip Albers Jr.), David Ipiña (Delcinia Velasquez), Desiree Willson, Benjamin Willson, Georgina Willson (Kenneth Hansen), Thomas Willson, Jr., GinaMae Willson, William Willson (Sarah Carpenter), Crystal Withers, Sunshine Cross, Gary Cowart, Jr. and Melissa Cowart; great-grandchildren: Lillianna Graham, Rodney “Spe-gi” Vigil, David Vigil, Ashton Vigil, Destiny Ipiña, Aiyanna Ipiña, Shyla Ipiña, Kyrach Hansen, JaVahn Ray, Jr., and nieces, nephews, and cousins too numerous to name.

Those who had the honor of bearing and burying aawok Billy Willson include Preston Willson, Thomas Willson, Sr., Patrick Willson, Aaron Peralta, Rodney Vigil, Jr., Philip Albers, Jr., David Ipiña, Benjamin Willson, Thomas Willson, Jr., William Willson, Richard Myers, Sr., Jason Summers, Louis Mitchell, Jr., and George Robbins III.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INITIATION OF FOREFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

On August 25, 2014, near Johnsons Road on APN 533-064-017, Yurok Reservation, Humboldt County, California, Yurok Tribal Police Officers seized property for forfeiture in connection with violation of the Yurok Tribe Controlled Substances Ordinance section 4101, to wit: Marijuana Cultivation. The property seized is: one 2500 gallon green Poly Processing Co. water tank s/n C0510501; one 1500 Gallon green Bushman water tank; and one 1500 gallon green Poly Processing Co. water tank. Pursuant to Section 4401 of the Yurok Tribe Controlled Substances Ordinance, procedures to forfeit this property are under way. If you have a legal interest in this property, you must file a claim stating your interest in the seized property before July 23, 2015, with the Yurok Tribal Court, located at 190 Klamath Boulevard, P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, California 95548. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the property.

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INITIATION OF FOREFEITURE PROCEEDINGS

On September 19, 2014, near Johnsons Road on APN 533-064-017, Yurok Reservation, Humboldt County, California, Yurok Tribal Police Officers seized property for forfeiture in connection with violation of the Yurok Tribe Controlled Substances Ordinance section 4101, to wit: Marijuana Cultivation. The property seized is: one stainless steel hash oil extractor; two GS twin refrigerant recovery pumps s/n E14G1540 and D14G3305. Pursuant to Section 4401 of the Yurok Tribe Controlled Substances Ordinance, procedures to forfeit this property are under way. If you have a legal interest in this property, you must file a claim stating your interest in the seized property before July 23, 2015, with the Yurok Tribal Court, located at 190 Klamath Boulevard, P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, California 95548. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the property.



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 any of the following land assignment applications 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 July 25, 2015. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Daniel Ryles Jr Yurok Tribe # 531-131-06 Prior Assignee (Awok Elliot Henry), Located in Kenek .
- (Category A) Renewal of Existing Land Assignment: Eric Pearson Jr Yurok Tribe # 530-052-002-02 Located in Weitchpec.
- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Nicholas McCovey Yurok Tribe # 532-142-007 Prior Assignee (Laura Borden) Located in Notchko, Brushy Prairie.
- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Bob Borden Yurok Tribe # 532-142-007 Prior Assignee (Laura Borden)

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

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

NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FISHERS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ACTION ITEM OTA 14-002A

ANY PERSON WITH UNPAID FISHING FINES AS ORDERED BY THE YUROK TRIBAL COURT MUST PAY THEIR FINE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMIT.

PLEASE CONTACT THE YUROK TRIBAL COURT CLERK'S OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE OR AN OUTSTANDING FINE.

YUROK TRIBAL COURT
707-482-1350

JBURGESS@YUROKTRIBE.NSN.US

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 1027, KLAMATH, CA 95548
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 230 KLAMATH BLVD, KLAMATH, CA 95548

TAG Presents to Youth Conference

Teen group illuminates the pitfalls associated with tobacco abuse

Submitted by Wendy Rinkel, UIHS Health Promotion Technician

The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and the NATIVE Tobacco Project of United Indian Health Services, Inc. presented on March 19th to a Tobacco Youth Conference at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. We were able to present information about our work via Skype to more than 100 native youth in attendance. TAG was very excited to be presenting about tobacco prevention and share what they have learned.

The youth who attended the conference learn about TAG's work with our Native Tobacco Project. We shared how we created our short film, "Smoking in the Movies", and 3 Tobacco Public Service Announcements (PSAs). TAG also stated that over the last three years they have had the chance to attend the American Indian Film Institute's Film Festival and their short film was premiered there last year. These projects were created to bring awareness to how the tobacco industry targets our youth by seeing smoking in the movies.

Information presented at the conference included:

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States
- 80% of movies rated PG-13, directly targeted at young people, contain commercial tobacco.
- Each year an estimated 390,000 teens start smoking because of their exposure to smoking in movies, 120,000 of whom will die prematurely as a result.
- Youth ages 12-20 are one-sixth of the population, but purchase more than one quarter of all movie tickets.
- American Indians have the highest rates of commercial tobacco use, our communities are suffering disproportionately from tobacco related deaths, and disease.

If you are interested in viewing our short film or PSA's, or are interested in learning more about our Native Tobacco Project

you can contact Wendy Rinkel, Health Promotion Technician, at United Indian Health Services at (707) 464-2919 EX. 5721 or email her at wendy.rinkel@crihb.org.

Sources:

<http://www.smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu/problem/moviessell.html>
<http://cyanonline.org/youth/hollywood/> ✳

THE YUROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS LOOKING FOR YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING THEIR OWN BUSINESS IN CHILDCARE. YEDC HAS A BUILDING WE ARE WILLING TO TURN INTO A DAYCARE FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS. YEDC IS NOW SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE TO RUN THE DAYCARE. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A TRIBAL MEMBER TO EVENTUALLY OPERATE AND OWN THEIR OWN BUSINESS. WE WILL PROVIDE A FACILITY FOR STARTUP, TRAINING, SUPPORT AND ALL SUPPLIES YOU NEED TO GET STARTED. PLEASE COME BY OUR OFFICE AT 144 KLAMATH BLVD. KLAMATH, CALIFORNIA START THE APPLICATION PROCESS. NO PHONES CALLS PLEASE.



Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today
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Klamath, CA 95548

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WWW.YUROKTRIBE.ORG/SALMONFESTIVAL

707.482.1350

ECOLOGY · ECONOMY · COMMUNITY

THE KLAMATH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VETERAN'S BREAKFAST STARTS AT 8:30AM AT THE KLAMATH COMMUNITY CENTER. THE PARADE STARTS AT 9AM.

YUROK COUNTRY
VISITOR CENTER

REDWOOD
HOTEL CASINO
KLAMATH CALIFORNIA

INTO THE CURRENT



· DON'T MISS THE 6TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

VETERAN'S BREAKFAST

PARADE
CULTURAL

DEMONSTRATIONS
STICK GAME COMPETITION

SALMON BBQ

INDIAN CARD GAMES
VENDOR BOOTHS

CHILDREN'S AREA
CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

INTO THE CURRENT

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
NOO-REY-O-WON-EE/
KEETKO CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE YUROK TRIBE