



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

## Neekee too 'in hey-we-chok

More than 150 attend 3rd Suicide Awareness Walk - See story on page 4







# JUNE 2018 PUBLIC NOTICES



## YUROK TRIBE 2018 ELECTION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 10, 2018	PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 7, 2018	RUNOFF ELECTION
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JUNE 18 (8:30AM)	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
JULY 16 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)
JULY 20 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
AUGUST 10 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
AUGUST 10	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (60 DAYS)
AUGUST 17 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)
AUGUST 24	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)
AUGUST 27- 29	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
AUGUST 31	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 7	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (32 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 28	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
OCTOBER 9	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)
OCTOBER 10, 2018	PRIMARY ELECTION
OCTOBER 26	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 19	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
NOVEMBER 6	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)
NOVEMBER 7, 2018	RUNOFF ELECTION

2018 VOTING DISTRICTS  
CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICT



## 2018 YUROK TRIBE ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO WOULD  
LIKE TO RUN FOR THE FOLLOWING SEATS:

**CHAIRPERSON  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
ORICK DISTRICT**

Any Yurok Tribal members that are interested in running for Election as a Representative for the Yurok Tribal Council may pick up Nomination papers in person beginning **June 18, 2018**, at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath.

All Candidates must be 25 years of age for a district seat and 30 years of age for Chair and Vice-Chair, as of October 10, 2018. There is a \$105 filing fee due when you pick up the Nomination forms and background check packet at the Klamath Office in Person. A Live Scan will also be done at the time you turn in your background check packet.

The Nomination Period closes **July 20, 2018**.  
For More Information, Please call the Election Office at (707) 482-1350.



**\*Public notices continued on next page**

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## On The Cover

*Kokonow Kinney gives his cousin Pectah Ike Kinney a piggyback ride at the 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk.*



**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

January 30, 2017

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Georgiana Gensaw. Let it be known that Georgiana Gensaw is a relative of the Richard Myers Sr. that is a Board of Commissioner of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Georgiana Gensaw meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Low Rental Transfer Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

March 8, 2017

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

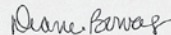
REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Donovan Natt. Let it be known that Donovan Natt is a relative of Donald Natt that is a Board of Commissioner for the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Donovan Natt meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Low Rent Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

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15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

February 17, 2017

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Lavina Brooks. Let it be known that Lavina Brooks is a relative of Patricia D. Browsers that is a Employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Lavina Brooks meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Replacement Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

September 15, 2016

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

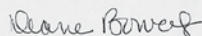
REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Jacqueline D. Nix. Let it be known that Jacqueline Nix is a Sister to Sid Nix who is a Board of Commissioner of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Jacqueline Nix meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's rental program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

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15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

October 3, 2016

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

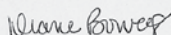
REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Rachel Provolt. Let it be known that Rachel Provolt is a employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Rachel Provolt meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Down Payment program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

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**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

February 15, 2017

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

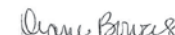
REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Melissa Myers. Let it be known that Melissa Myers is a relative of Richard Myers Sr. that is a Board of Commissioner of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Melissa Myers meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Self-Help Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

November 1, 2016

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Evelyn Natt. Let it be known that Evelyn Natt is a relative of the Hector Natt that is an employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Evelyn Natt meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Elder Emergency Assistance Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

February 14, 2017

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Rachel Romine. Let it be known that Rachel Romine is a relative of Jessica Morris, that is a Employee of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Rachel Romine meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Low Rental Housing Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers  
Executive Director

**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

July 20, 2016

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

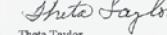
REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Otto Hodge Sr. Let it be known that Lori Hodge -Board of Commissioner and Otto Hodge Jr. - Employee to Yurok Indian Housing Authority are related to Otto Hodge Sr.

Otto Hodge Sr. meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority Rehabilitation / Replacement Program Policy.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Theta Taylor  
Interim Executive Director

**\*Public notices continued on next page**



**YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

July 20, 2016

TO:  
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:  
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30© and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Hector Natt Sr. Let it be know that Hector Natt Sr. is an Employee to Yurok Indian Housing Authority.

Hector Natt Sr. meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority Weatherization Policy.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Theta Taylor  
Interim Executive Director

# SAVE THE DATES

The 2018 Annual Membership Meeting  
is on Saturday, August 4 at 10am in Klamath.

The **Klamath Salmon Festival**  
is on Saturday, August 18, 2018.



# Community, allies walk for wellness

## *Atmosphere lightens at 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk*

The atmosphere at the 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk very much embodied the event's theme: *Neekee too 'in hey-we-chok, Together We Heal.*

More than 150 people participated in the June 2, 2018 walk, which was sponsored by the Yurok Social Services Department and United Indian Health Services. Families from all over the reservation and from as far away as Oregon travelled to Weitchpec to enjoy the 1.5 mile march along the Klamath River. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about suicide and to show struggling individuals that there a lot of people who care about their wellbeing. The community walk also aims to honor loved ones lost and bring greater attention to the services that are available to those who are considering self-harm.

The Suicide Awareness Walk was started three years ago, after seven young individuals took their own lives in an 18-month period. In December of 2015, the Yurok Tribal Council, at the community's request, declared a State of Emergency in an effort to marshal additional resources to initiate a broad response to the crisis.

"A lot has changed in the past three years," said Rose Sylvia, who the Tribal Council chose to be the Incident Commander



following the emergency proclamation. "We are now connected to a long list of agencies and organizations that are able to connect people with the mental health resources they need and when they need them."

Before the joyful group started the trek down the highway, Yurok Tribal Council Representative Joe James delivered an introductory speech.



“I know this a difficult subject to talk about, but we have to talk about it,” said Council Rep. James, who represents the East District. “I thank each and every one of you for being here today.”

Before starting the walk, participants also filled out a survey. Each person was asked a series of questions, including one about what they thought of the Yurok Tribe’s response to the suicide crisis. A large majority stated that the Tribe is doing a good job in addressing this complex issue.

In the three years following the Tribe’s State of Emergency declaration, there have been no suicides on the reservation. The emergency order was issued on December 28, 2015, after a group of concerned community members informed the Tribal Council, via a letter signed by 200 people, about the seven loved ones who committed suicide.

Shortly after the declaration, the Yurok Tribal Council decided to transform the Weitchpec office into a wellness facility, where people can obtain professional assistance to overcome mental health challenges. It is now much easier to obtain counseling and other services in the remote community. The Tribal Council remains committed to preventing history from repeating itself. Most recently, the governing body adopted a Children’s Mental Health Awareness Proclamation. While there have been zero suicides, there have been a few interventions involving young residents, who are now on a healthy path.

The reduction in suicides is largely linked to the improved access to culturally relevant, mental health resources, in combination with a community led effort to address the root causes of the crisis.

The Tribe has formed partnerships with numerous tribal, federal and state agencies in order to make more resources available to local residents. Indian Health Service, United Indian Health Services and California Rural Indian Health Board have played an invaluable role in the response effort, as has Humboldt County.

The Tribe, by way of the Social Services Department, started facilitating more family and youth activities on the eastern side

of the reservation, ground zero for the epidemic. For example, on a weekly basis, Social Services staff offer two traditional basket weaving classes in Weitchpec and at the Neil McKinnon Community Center, also known as Morek Won. Social Services has also put on a number of suicide prevention trainings, as well as additional positive activities for youth. On May 3, 2018, Social Services’ Skuy’-soo hue-nem’oh Initiative (We grow together/We grow strong)

organized a Yurok Youth Art Showcase in recognition of National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day. The initiative, part of the Systems of Care program, is responsible for the #StrongYurokMinds campaign, too. To follow the campaign’s progress, please follow the Yurok Tribe on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheYurokTribe/>.

The local community is also putting a tremendous amount of time, energy and resources into turning the former trend around. There are now weekly Men’s and Women’s Groups in Weitchpec, both of which provide a healthy outlet for adults of all ages to talk about difficult topics. The groups are also a vehicle for life changing experiences. For example, the women often take trips to powerful cultural sites. They also travel to other Tribal nations to expand their understanding of other indigenous customs.

The men are currently building a traditional sweat house. Participating in a sweat is proven to produce many positive outcomes, especially in terms

of healing psychological and physical wounds. The Women’s and Men’s Groups were well-represented at the 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk.

After the walk, all of the participants were treated to a fantastic barbecue lunch and live music from Good Shield Aguilar, who plays an uplifting blend of indigenous soul music. Late into the afternoon, everyone enjoyed Good Shield’s tunes and the view of the Klamath River from the deck at the Weitchpec office on a warm spring day.

**If you, a family member or friend are considering suicide, please call (530) 625-5130. ✨**



(left) Ronny Davis, Jr., Allen Kane and his father Kurtis Kane participated in the 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk.

# Yurok author delivers amazing address

## *Shaunna Oteka McCovey inspires university graduates in Vermont*

During the 2018 graduation season, Shaunna Oteka McCovey delivered a dynamic commencement speech at Marlboro College, a much-celebrated liberal arts college in Vermont.

The topics that the multitasking Tribal citizen covered are relevant to all graduates. McCovey started by thanking the Abenaki people and their descendants, “who once occupied these lands” and then spoke directly to the graduating class. Here is an excerpt from the excellent speech.

“Aiyukii, I am Yurok and Karuk and a member of the Yurok Tribe of Northern California. I grew up on the Klamath River. My people are made of salmon.

Today I want to talk to you about Responsibility. You're thinking, ‘No, wait, were not ready!’ But your parents are nodding their heads ‘yes!’ I can see it in their eyes that they want me to lecture you about Responsibility. I’m not going to do that. Well, not entirely. I’m going to tell you what Responsibility means to me as a Yurok/Karuk person, who was brought up fishing on our River.

In simple terms it means this: We take care of what takes care of us. This is our Golden Rule! The Golden Rule for the Yurok and Karuk people. We take care of what takes care of us.

As a Native person we are born into a world of great responsibility. We are asked to move through this life as a representation and reflection of the beauty of our people. We are responsible for the health, welfare and well-being of our family, our people, our community, our tribal government. We are responsible for being a good citizen, for being someone who contributes to our tribe, our community and to society as a whole. If we are dance people and come from dance families, or if we just attend our tribal dances, for example, it is our responsibility to be part of remaking the world, of putting it back into balance through song, dance and prayer. Yes, we actually do that. And we don’t just dance for ourselves. We dance for every living being—plants, animals, micro-organisms, etc—every living thing that occupies space on this earth.”

McCovey is an attorney with 12 years of experience in tribal



Photo courtesy of Marlboro College

Shaunna Oteka McCovey speaks from lectern at Marlboro College.

administration, tribal sovereignty, and environmental justice. She is currently compact negotiator for the U.S. Department of Interior—Indian Affairs, Office of Self Governance. Her job is to conduct policy, technical, and program analysis in support of self-governing tribes and for the purpose of resolving conflicts between them and Indian Affairs. She has also supported marine planning and tribal sovereignty with non-profit organizations the Ocean Conservancy, Ecotrust, and Point 97, as well as doing administration and legal work for the Yurok Tribe.

McCovey received her bachelor’s degree from Humboldt State University, her MSW from Arizona State University, and her Master of Studies in Environmental Law and JD from Vermont Law School, where she was a First Nations Environmental Law Fellow. She is also a published poet, with several poems, essays, and articles published in journals and anthologies and a book of poems, *The Smokehouse Boys*, published by Heyday Books in 2005.

To read the whole speech, please visit: <https://www.marlboro.edu/news/commencement/2018/shaunna-mccovey> ✨

***"I GREW UP ON THE KLAMATH RIVER. MY PEOPLE ARE MADE OF SALMON."***

*Shaunna Oteka McCovey*



# Festival set for Saturday, August 18

*This year's Salmon Festival weekend is packed with fun events*

The Yurok Tribe's 56th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival is on Saturday, August 18.

This year, the festival will have more events than it has had in a very long time and will extend for three days of fun activities. The salmon celebration begins on Friday, August 17 at 5:30pm with an event at the Klamath Book Nook. Lyn Risling (Karuk, Yurok, Hupa), an accomplished artist and author, will be reading from her new book, *Coyote at the Big Time*. The main Salmon Festival events begin on Saturday with a Klamath Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Veteran's Breakfast at 7:30am at the Klamath Community Center, which will be followed by the annual parade at 10:30am. The Cal-Ore River Racers are having a hydroplane racing competition on Sunday, August 19th on the Lower Klamath River. The Annual Archie Thompson Memorial Softball Tournament will be going on all day on Saturday and Sunday.

The Festival will feature live music, games for kids and high quality gifts and sweet treats sold by more than a 100 vendors. There is a Classic Car Show, a parade and cultural demonstrations. Fresh Klamath River salmon, cooked the traditional way over an open fire, will once again be served this year. Klamath fish have been absent from the festival's menu for the past two years because of the fisheries hit a record-breaking low.

A Stick Game Tournament will be going on throughout the day. As will an in-depth traditional basket weaving demonstration. Seven expert weavers will display the materials and techniques used to make a wide variety of cultural items. They will have their

own tent near the main stage. Blue Rhythm Revue, a Humboldt County rock 'n roll band is headlining the event.

There is still time to sign up to become a vendor, to sign to participate in the parade or to enter into the 2018 Salmon Festival's Noo-rey-o-won-ee (Beautiful girl inside & out)/ Keet-ko (Strong/Able boy) Contest, formerly the Pretty Girl/Young Warrior Contest.



Applications and additional information can be found at <http://yuroktribe.org/salmonfestival.htm>. Also please go to the Salmon Festival event page on Facebook and let us know if you are going to attend. The page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1825898334115867/>

\*Trevor Hook, a Yurok citizen, won the 2018 Salmon Festival logo contest. We would like to thank the seven artists who turned in amazing submissions.

**Friday, August 17** – Book premiere for *Coyote at the Big Time* at the Klamath River Book Nook, located on Klamath Blvd - 5:30pm

**Saturday, August 18** - 56th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival – Events start at 7:30am with a Klamath Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Veteran's Breakfast at the Klamath Community Center at 219 Salmon Rd. The Salmon Festival parade begins at 10:30am on Klamath Blvd. See story for a list of exciting events.

**Sunday** – Cal-Ore River Racers Hydroplane Race – Lower Klamath River ❖

# YUROK TRIBE'S STEWARDSHIP OF THE K

The Yurok Tribe's award-winning stewardship of the Klamath River is featured in a new California Academy of Sciences' exhibit called *Giants of Land and Sea*.

*Giants of Land and Sea* premiered on Friday, June 15 at the San Francisco museum. Yurok Tribal Council Representative Joe James and Yurok Office of Self Governance Director Javier Kinney attended a special event for CAS members on June 12.

"It is an honor to participate in this amazing project. I would like to thank the California Academy of Sciences for sharing our story with the world," said Councilmember James, who represents the Tribe's East District. "As Yurok people, we have an obligation to be strong stewards of the Klamath River, the lifeline of our Tribe. This exhibit will help us raise awareness about what is being done to address the struggling salmon runs on our river."

*Giants of Land and Sea* is a celebration of Northern California's natural history and is largely comprised of interactive displays centered on "the epicness of the state's iconic landscape—a place of constant change where people and climate are shaping the future." The exhibit will last for six years.

"Since time immemorial, the Yurok people have been the protectors of the Klamath River and that legacy continues to this day," Councilmember James said. "When settlers arrived on our shores they were astonished by the natural beauty. They didn't know that what they were witnessing was shaped by human hands, Yurok hands, and was the result of our cumulative Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Today, we are working very hard to restore the Klamath River and the forests that surround it."

The Yurok Tribe's portion of the California Academy of Sciences exhibit, titled *Yurok Voices*, is comprised of a series of three videos, in which Yurok political leaders and fisheries biologists detail the Tribe's enduring effort to revitalize the Klamath's once substantial salmon runs. The river's late summer/early fall run of Chinook salmon, presently the most populous stock, has reached record-low levels in the past two years. In 2016 and 2017, fewer fish returned to the river than any other time in modern history. Principally driving the downturn are four fish ladder-less dams, which create poor water quality conditions and block access to hundreds of miles of fish habitat. However, there is a genuine cause for optimism about the future of the Klamath salmon.

In 2021, those four dams are slated for removal in what will be the largest watershed restoration project in US history. For



nearly two decades, the Yurok Tribe and neighboring tribes have led a campaign to bring the dams down and reopen 250 miles of historic salmon spawning habitat. This extraordinary ecological success story is highlighted in one of the videos included in the exhibit.

"We believe the health of our environment and the health of our river is a direct reflection of the health of our people," explained Louisa McCovey, the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program's Director, in an exhibit film clip called *Salmon Sanctuary*. "We are connected to this place. We care about it and we'll do anything to protect it."

Earlier this year, the Yurok Tribe, with assistance from the Western Rivers Conservancy, reacquired a large tract of land in the Blue Creek watershed, one of the Klamath's most pristine tributaries. The creek, which better resembles a river, contains prime spawning and rearing grounds for two salmon species and steelhead trout. The Tribe is working toward turning Blue Creek — where there is a history of industrial logging — into a salmon stronghold and returning its forests to an old-growth, biodiverse ecosystem. This project is a primary theme in the third *Giants of Land and Sea* video.

"The Yurok Tribe encourages everyone to visit the California Academy of Sciences to take advantage of the opportunity to deeply immerse in Northern California's rich, natural and cultural heritage," concluded Councilmember James. 🌲



# KLAMATH RIVER SHOWN IN NEW EXHIBIT



Yurok Tribal Council Representative Joe James and Yurok Office of Self Governance Director Javier Kinney hold traditional redwood stools at the California Academy of Sciences. Yurok citizen Alme Allen, a talented carver and artist, made the stools.



(left) Yurok Office of Self Governance Director Javier Kinney and Yurok Tribal Council Representative Joe James stand with (left) Shannon Bennet PhD and Anna Simmons from the California Academy of Sciences management team.





# Family joins fire Klamath department

## *Santsches happily make sacrifices to serve their community*

Michelle Santsche is not one to be idle or complain when challenges arise in her life and in her community.

In 2016, there were multiple house fires in Klamath, her hometown. In one of the cases, firefighters were unable to respond and in another there were not enough firefighters to effectively address the blaze before the structure was lost. The Yurok Tribal citizen was dismayed by that fact that this could happen in a place where there appeared to be two functioning fire departments. Instead of growling about the tragedies, she decided that she wanted to be part of the solution, but at first did not know how she could help in battling future fires. Inquiring into the issue, she discovered that the Klamath Volunteer Fire Department was down to one or two members, its Chief, Lonnie Levi & Joe Pitt. She also found out that the local Cal Fire station is sometimes vacant during the six months that it is staffed because its crew can be called away on a moment's notice to fight fires elsewhere in the state.

After acquiring a complete understanding of the situation, Santsche selected to apply for a fire fighting position within the Klamath Fire Department. Her husband Bill, a veteran mechanic, and teenaged son Eric elected to join, too. So did her youngest son, Ryan, who is a junior firefighter.

"The way I was raised was to try to fix problems if you can, rather than complain. I raised my sons to do the same," said Michelle Santsche, who is a United Indian Health Service Medical Site Coordinator. "At the time, my family started training together to become firefighters."

Over a period of six months in late 2016, the Santsche family spent four to six hours in the evenings, Monday through Friday, and on many Saturdays, at the Klamath Volunteer Fire command center, studying the Firefighter 1 course. Their training didn't stop at Firefighter 1. In addition to participating in rigorous field exercises, the Santsches next objective was to earn a First Responder credential. The course was as demanding and time-intensive as the Firefighter 1 class. On June 13, 2018 the four Santsches obtained their First Responder credentials, along with their fellow firefighters, Cheryl Pitt and Joe Pitt. "It was like going back to school, memorizing all of the bones, the circulatory system and all that is involved in responding to medical calls. It

was pretty intense," Santsche said.

For many years Bill Santsche owned an automobile repair shop in Klamath, now he works for County roads department. In conjunction with his volunteer firefighting duties, he works on KFPD's small fleet of antiquated vehicles. Prior to his hire, many of the rigs could not be deployed, a consequence of mechanical issues or not being up to state standards. The Santsche brothers Eric, 19, and Ryan, 17, are equally enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to their community and learn new skills. Michelle Santsche has additional credentials CPR, First Aid, Community Emergency Response Team training and Suicide Prevention.

To acknowledge the Santsche Family's inspiring service to their community, the Klamath Chamber of Commerce recently honored the four with a Golden Bear Humanitarian Award. At the award's ceremony, Kylan Hoener, the chamber president, speaking in the Requa Inn's dining area, shared a stirring story about the time he saw the Santsches having a family dinner at Steelhead Lodge, only to leave mid-meal to respond to a call.

"My table was next to your table and I witnessed you all get up and go out on an emergency. I love the food at Steelhead, so I know what kind of dedication you all have," Hoener said, before he bestowed the family with a shiny plaque. "The Golden Bear Humanitarian award I present to each and every one of you and I thank you very much for your service to Klamath."

Michelle Santsche, with her husband and sons at her side, addressed the packed room at the Requa Inn, which was filled with chamber members, local residents and friends.

"We've become even closer as a family. We would not change this time in our lives. It has been a time of growth and love for our community," she explained. "We are so humbled to receive this award tonight."

Volunteer firefighters are required to have the same credentials as those who are paid to do an identical job. The standards are high because both are called upon to make split-second decisions, under stressful conditions, which routinely could mean the difference between a patient's life and death.

Since November, the KFPD received 60 calls for service, most of which were for serious health problems, such as heart attacks



and physical trauma. The department's area of responsibility stretches from the Last Chance Grade to just north of Orick.

Most of the residents in this rural region, including the KFPD staff, are at least acquainted with one another. Similar to other Klamath firefighters, Michelle Santsche knows most of the people on the other side of the distress call. On several occasions, she has seen her friends' suffer from life-threatening and even life-ending complications. A steadfast mental approach allows her to temporarily suspend strong emotions and fully focus on the task at hand, stabilizing her patient until the ambulance arrives.

"I try to take myself out of the equation and go into medical mode. When I get a call to a known address, I'm thinking about what I need to bring and I'm telling everybody who is with me what they need to bring," she said. "I fall apart afterwards. I've cried, it's not easy sometimes. I'm human."

Even with the addition of the four Santsches and the handful of individuals Michelle convinced to sign up, there is still a significant need for more people to join KFPD. From December to May, the local Cal Fire office is not staffed in Klamath. The quickest the ambulance can make it to Klamath is about 45 minutes. It can be much longer if the paramedics are at work in another location when a call comes from Klamath. With the KFPD's current staffing level and firefighting resources, it would be difficult to impossible for the department to effectively address large incidents, such as multiple structure fires or car accidents involving more than one vehicle. There are simply not enough volunteer firefighters or fire engines to satisfactorily respond to emergencies of this scale.

"We've been trying to get more people into the fire department, but we need more community support," Santsche said.

The Klamath Department is so small that each firefighter must communicate whenever he or she leaves town, even if it's just to travel up to Crescent City for groceries. It is imperative to have at least two personnel ready at all times.

"I am always trying to get new people to join the department.

Sometimes you don't get to do the things you want to do. That's just the way it is, but I've found it to be very rewarding to know that that a person in time of peril is not alone," Santsche said. "It's scary for the patient to go through a trauma and not have somebody there."

Compounding the staffing shortage is the fact that the department is in need of basic fire equipment because the KFPD station was robbed several times and former members did not return gear, including their turnouts.



(left) Eric, Michelle, Ryan and Bill Santsche received the Klamath Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Golden Bear Humanitarian Award.

"We get help from the Crescent City fire department in terms of loaning us gear and we regularly put on fundraisers, but it is not enough," Santsche said. "We are constantly trying to accumulate funds to purchase the needed equipment."

On June 5, 2018 there was a brush fire in Klamath Glenn, which illustrated how vulnerable the town is to being severely damaged by a natural disaster, an all too common occurrence in this forest fire, flood and

tsunami-susceptible corner of Northern California. The local Cal Fire firefighters were out of the area, but Santsche and her son, Cheryl, Joe and Courtney responded to the site, despite not having the correct personal protective apparel to fight wildland conflagrations. Both men have wildland fire training but they do not have appropriate safety gear or firefighting tools, a result of limited funding. Firefighters arrived late, but were able to quickly contain the blaze in not-yet fully dried fuels. However, if the same scenario had unfolded in the summer, the story would likely be much different.

The courageous members KFPD are the first to deploy to all minor and major medical calls in the Klamath area. In the last 50 years, horrific floods, tsunamis and landslides have hit the town and Del Norte County as a whole. It is not unfathomable to think another flood, similar to the one in 1964, could happen again. In late December of that year, most of Klamath was completely wiped out and the community was temporarily isolated because of bridge and road failures. If that were to occur again, the



county would provide little, to no assistance because it would be focused on helping all of the flood victims in Crescent City area. The local volunteer firefighters will likely be the only agency to respond with medical services in the event of a disaster of this magnitude.

“I hope the community can understand. This is our community, our family, our friends, our neighbors. We need to support each other,” Santsche said. “If something goes down and the bridge goes out and road goes out, who is going to be here for us? Only us.”

For the foreseeable future, Santsche plans on doing whatever

she can to build up the department and continue adding to her skill set, so that KFPD can better serve the people in the town that she loves. She recently identified another means of increasing her capacity to serve her community. Her next scheduled training will prepare her to protect the most vulnerable part of the population.

“The only thing I haven’t learned yet is how to birth a baby and that’s next,” concluded Santsche.

**If you would like to become a Klamath Volunteer firefighter, please e-mail Chief Lonnie Levi for an application at [ljlevi@hotmail.com](mailto:ljlevi@hotmail.com).** ✨

# Premier Shine offers top quality services

## *Frank Contreras has automobile detailing down to a science*

Frank Contreras, a Yurok business owner, has car detailing down to a science.

Contreras owns Premier Shine Auto Detailing in Eureka and his many customers say that he has perfected every aspect of the service. The excellent quality of Premier Shine’s work is mirrored in the many five-star Yelp reviews that patrons give the business, a reflection of company’s commitment to professionalism and customer service.

“I brought my truck to Frank @ Premier Shine Auto Detail here in Eureka... Frank did an AWESOME JOB!!! His attention to detail is unbelievable!!! By far the best detail job I've gotten done "EVER!!! HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!!” exclaimed Chris Cole on Yelp.com, no emphasis added.

“Had two cars washed and waxed, immediately impressed at first sight! Later began to notice places on my vehicle spanking NEW LOOKING! My Explorer is 11 yrs.old. My Friends' thought it looked Brand New! Very Meticulous. His attention to detail made his work last longer than any shine I could have done myself. SHOWROOM QUALITY!” according to Kathy P. on Yelp, again no emphasis was added.



**Frank Contreras, a Yurok citizen, owns Premier Shine Auto Detailing in Eureka. The business offers a top quality service at reasonable rates.**

These are just two of many similar reviews. In fact, Contreras has never received a negative comment and Yelp even gave him an award in 2016 for all of the positive posts on his page.

“I love to detail cars,” Contreras said. “I detail cars because it’s what I love to do and it shows in my work.”

Premier Shine offers a substantial array of services, including: detailing (interior/Exterior), car wash, waxing, polishing, paint restoration, tire detailing, vacuuming, smell removal, scratch removal, wheel & rim detailing, engine cleaning, headlight restoration, oxidation removal, color sanding, ceramic coating, paint protection and interior shampoo. Contreras offers an equally wide price range for his services, most of which are realistic for a person on budget.

Contreras doesn’t have to advertise because of all of the online compliments and Premier Shine's reputation as an affordably priced auto detail business drive people to his door. Strong customer service is another recurring theme in the reviews and it is something Premier Shine puts a premium on.



"I always explain to my customers what they're getting," he said. In addition to Contreras's exceptional attention to detail, another aspect that sets him apart from his competition is his offer to transport his clients to and from his shop. Many of his Yelp reviewers applauded this part of his business too.

"I can pick you up or drop you off, so long as it is not too far from the shop," Contreras explained.

The praise from past and present patrons has helped Contreras develop numerous individual and corporate clients, such as the Sole Savers Car Dealership. He attributes the business's growth to his commitment to quality and the years of experience he has put into the trade.

Most of Premier Shine's customers find the shop via Yelp or are just as commonly introduced to Contreras by satisfied customers. On a recent spring morning, he was detailing a new BMW sport utility vehicle, which came to him from a regular patron's referral about Premier Shine's outstanding service.

"I recently detailed this guy's truck and he referred his sister who owns the SUV," Contreras said.

Premier Shine only uses the highest quality waxes, cleansers and tools. Whether the vehicle has a leather interior, like the BMW he was working on, or is lined with standard material, Contreras has the right product to not only clean, but protect the upholstery. The Yurok business owner has a mechanized shampoo cleaner and a steam cleaner, which shoots out a 200 degree mist to kill any bacteria. He also employs a special machine to remove unsavory odors.

"For cars that have mold or pungent pet accidents, I have a bio-enzyme cleaner that I use to sanitize the vehicle. I also have an ozone cleaner to remove cigarette and other unappealing smells," Contreras said.

From bumper to bumper, Contreras preserves and enhances the quality of each vehicle that he puts his hands on.

"Over the years, I have found the best products for each individual task and have learned the best ways to do details," concluded Contreras.

**Premier Shine is located at 1890 County Lane in Eureka. To book an auto detail or any of the other services, the Tribally owned business can be reached at (707) 834-3172. ✨**

## Attention Yurok Business Owners:

Yurok Today would like to feature your business in a story, which will be included in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. See story on the previous page to see an example of what this might look like.

If you would like to participate in this new section of the newsletter please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1306 or [mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

**Thank you!**



## Sign up for the 2018 Salmon Festival's Noo-rey-o-won-ee (Beautiful girl inside & out)/ Keet-ko (Strong/Able boy) Contest



**TO SIGN UP, CONTACT BESSIE SHORTY or SHERRY O'ROURKE AT 482-1350**

### Contestants Must:

- Advertise raffle and contestant
- Not be married, have children, or living with a cohabitant
- Sell a minimum of \$250 in order to place/receive a percentage of the proceeds

**The Klamath Salmon Festival is on Saturday, August 18, 2018**



# Update from Social Services Initiative

## *Spring Flings draw 450, Tribal Council adopts Children's Proclamation*

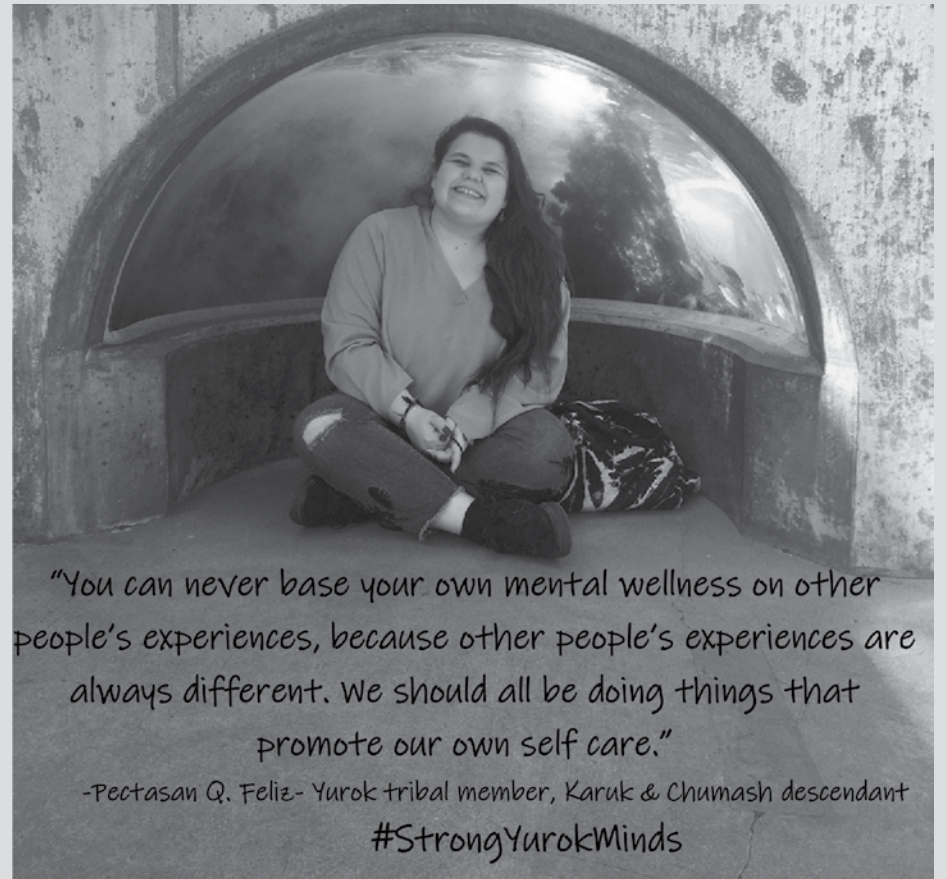
The Skuy'soo hue-nem'-oh (SOC We grow together/We grow strong) Initiative would like to recognize and thank the members of the Yurok community for some great work that has taken place so far this spring in regards to promoting positive mental health for our youth and their families.

First, we would like to note that the Yurok Tribal Council adopted its first Children's Mental Health Awareness Proclamation. This action will help improve the lives of our young people.

Nearly 500 people, attended the Yurok Social Service's 2018 Spring Flings. Thank you to the following agencies and community groups for coming out to the Klamath, Weitchpec, and Eureka South Site events. Over 450 people were able to come out at the Klamath, Weitchpec, & Eureka South Site Tribal office locations to enjoy the free family friendly activities and fun.

**Breast & GYN Health Project, California Tribal TANF Program, Changing Tides Family Services, Chochise Nez, First 5 Humboldt, McKinleyville High Native American Club, Northern California Indian Development Council, Pregnancy Care Center/J.Rophe Medical, Raven Project/Youth Services Bureau, Two Feathers-NAFS, UIHS Community Nutrition Program, UIHS WIC Program, Yurok Education Success in Both Worlds, Yurok Head Start, Yurok Tribal Court & Staff, UIHS Diabetes Awareness Program, UIHS Behavioral Health, Klamath Fire Department/Smokey the Bear, Open Door Teen Clinic, Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Klamath, First 5 Del Norte, Del Norte Workforce Center, Yurok Language Program, Yurok Education JOM, North Coast Rape Crisis Team, Humboldt County Mental Health & Outreach UIHS PRC, Humboldt County Health & Human Services, Vicki McCulley, Social Services Advisory Committee, Elizabeth Azzuz, Cultural Fire Management/Tolowa Garden, Bertha Peters, Weitchpec Office dedicated staff, Yurok Social Services department & dedicated staff**

Our efforts towards wellness are truly much stronger when we come together and work as a community. Wok-hlew' ❄



*"You can never base your own mental wellness on other people's experiences, because other people's experiences are always different. We should all be doing things that promote our own self care."*

*-Pectasan Q. Feliz- Yurok tribal member, Karuk & Chumash descendant*

*#StrongYurokMinds*

*US National  
Human  
TRAFFICKING  
Hotline*

888-373-7888



# Yurok citizens contribute to conference

*MIT SOLVE aims to create solutions for the world's most complex problems*



The Yurok Tribe's Self Governance Director, Javier Kinney and Brook Thompson, a Gates Millennium Scholar, were invited to present at the 2018 MIT Solve. The annual event aims to develop solutions to "the world's most pressing challenges through open innovation and partnership." Javier and Brook are the first Yurok Tribal citizens to participate in the international conference. ✨



## Interested in opening a Dutch Bros

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation is looking for a Tribal member who has worked at a Dutch Bros for 3 years or more, has managerial experience and is looking to start their own business. If you are interested and meet these qualification or have questions, please call Terri Colton, YEDC's Deputy Director, at 707-482-0657





# Yurok Tribe

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**People from all over the region travelled to Weitchpec to take part in the 3rd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk.**