



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



NEW E.D., DEPUTY START WORK

See story on page 2



Tribe hires new Executive Director, Deputy

This January, the Yurok Tribe hired a new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, both have enduring histories serving Native American people.

John Gonzales, the Tribe's new Executive Director, is a member of the San Ildefonso Pueblo Tewa Tribe of New Mexico. He is also part Nebraska Winnebago from his mother's side of the family. Gonzales has degrees from Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a 5-term Councilman for his Tribe and was elected Governor there in 2002. In 1987, he was elected the youngest President of the National Congress of American Indians, a position held by former Yurok Tribal Chairwoman Sue Masten.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the Executive Director of the Yurok Tribe," Gonzales said. "I look forward to building a long-lasting positive partnership with the Yurok people."

During the 1990s Gonzales took time out from his tribal government work to build a successful artist career, an accomplishment he shares with his late father. His father taught him the traditional techniques of making San Ildefonso Pueblo pottery which is sought by Indian art collectors around the world. A Google search will return images of both of their intricate work.

"I never had an interest in working in the art world, but discovered I had a talent working with clay later in life," Gonzales said. "I believe the creator blessed me with this talent late in life to care for my father and mother who passed away in 1995 and 1996, respectively."

Although Gonzales was highly successful in the art world, his first love is serving Native Americans through working in tribal government.

Gonzales's significant other, Marlene Poulson, is Psqousa/

Wenatchi of the Colville Confederated Tribes. He has two daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren.

Peggy Rhoades, the Tribe's new Deputy Executive Director, comes to the Tribe fresh from the Smith River Rancheria, where she was the Human Resources Director.

Rhoades, who descends from the Eastern Cherokee Tribe, was born in Oakland, CA and raised in Blue Rock, OH. She has two children, a son and daughter, and five grandchildren. Rhoades is married to a Pitt River tribal member, who shares her passion for the Indian way of life. Most of her adult life was spent in Missouri, where she obtained her education and established her career. During her time in Missouri, Rhoades served on the Board of Directors for the American Indian Society and the American Indian Center, where she was instrumental in using her experience and contacts to obtain jobs and social services for Indians coming into the St. Louis area. Rhoades was also frequently requested to be a guest speaker at various functions to educate non-Indian people of the histories, culture and plights of Indians.

Rhoades holds an Associate of Science in Supervisory and Managerial Development, a Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) in Human Resources Management and a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management. She has 20 years of comprehensive human resources experience, 10 years in the gaming and hospitality business and more than five years in tribal government, healthcare, law enforcement and retail human resources experience.

Rhoades brings to the Tribe a skill set that includes: staff training and development, organizational and strategic training and policy development to name a few.

"I am humbled and excited about being offered the opportunity to serve Yurok people," Rhoades concluded.

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On The Cover

John Gonzales is the Yurok Tribe's new Executive Director. Peggy Rhoades was hired as the new Deputy Executive Director. Both started in January.

Tribal kids do better in tribal homes

Social Services is making it easier to become a foster parent

Hundreds of Yurok foster children are placed in non-native homes every year.

With only a handful of Yurok tribal members certified by the Tribe or licensed by the state to provide care as foster parents, it is nearly impossible for the Yurok Social Services Department to place Yurok kids in Yurok homes.

"I know if Yurok people had better access to information about becoming foster parents and the resources available to them that would change," said Stephanie Weldon MSW, Director of Social Services.

Until now, it has been difficult to acquire information about the process, which has created misconceptions about the background check and in-home inspections that are performed before households or families can provide care for foster children.

In order to become a foster parent one must receive certification and license from the state or the tribe.

While the state can certify a foster parent for long periods of time, the Tribe can only certify on a case-by-case basis. The Tribe can certify tribal and non-tribal people.

There is also a difference between the county and the Tribe's process of certifying parents to become eligible to act as legal guardians.

Generally, the process consists of a background check, interview process, and home inspection completed by a social worker.

"When a Tribal Social Service worker inspects a house it is assessed through the lens of the Yurok value system," Weldon said. "It's not as invasive as people might think."

There are many Yurok people who have expressed interest in becoming a foster parent, but believe that an old conviction will rule them out or others will find out about the past indiscretion.

"Most people don't know that the state and the Tribe will make exceptions if the convictions are old and not extreme," Weldon said.

All background checks are completed with the utmost discretion.



Every foster child has the potential to be the next ceremonial leader, tribal leader or any other imaginable type of contributing member to the community.

In addition to a small team of Social Service workers trained to help potential foster parents, all of the information is now posted online at www.yuroktribe.org/socialservices

Often times, especially when children, who live away from city centers in places like Weitchpec or Orleans, they are taken into custody of the state, counties move them far from their schools, family and culture. For example, if a child lives in Orleans, he or she might be moved to Eureka. It causes a great disruption in child's life at time when they are already in a traumatic situation.

The most common reason Yurok children are removed from their parents is because of alcohol and drug abuse and its bi-products. It is widely documented that substance abuse is a cyclical problem in Yurok Country and Indian Country in general. The cycle was born around the time of the Gold Rush when tens of thousands of European Americans descended on the Klamath basin in an effort to get rich quick. Shortly after, the United States government set up boarding schools where thousands of native kids were abused, creating a succession of adults who turned

to intoxicants to cope with the physical, emotion and spiritual abuse they faced as children. The cycle continues to manifest in different ways in the contemporary Yurok community. The Yurok Tribe is working to develop programs and services that aid in the recovery of the historical destruction and resulting cycle.

When a Yurok child is adopted in counties which are bound by the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the biological parents' rights typically are abolished. While adoption has been a Yurok traditional practice for millennia, birth parents were always a part of the child's life.

"Usually, counties' first move is to take away parents' rights. Eliminating parental rights is not a Yurok value under any circumstances," Weldon said. "We do our best to keep families together."

Fortunately, the Indian Child Welfare Act makes it mandatory that the state court place a Yurok child in a Yurok home if one is available.

Ideally, the Yurok Tribe's first priority is to keep children with their close family members when they are removed from their homes. Sometimes relatives cannot pass the background checks, are not available to provide care, are not safe and appropriate, or not just not available. The second preference under ICWA is to place the child with extended family or with other Yurok families that the child is familiar with. If family or a Yurok home is not available or identified then the preference is to place the child in a native home within the community. The next choice is to place the child in a non-native home within the community. The non-native placement family should be familiar with the community, customs, and values of Yurok people. If the Yurok Tribe was not federally recognized that would not be the case under ICWA. When Yurok children are adopted by Yurok families the transition is much easier and child has a much better chance of succeeding in life.

"The children remain part of their community, close to their roots and identity," Weldon said. "They also stay on the radar of the tribal government making it unlikely they will fall through the cracks."

Yurok tribally certified foster homes that are also licensed by the county are eligible to receive resources and support

from the county where the child lived. The Tribe offers minimal support due to funding inadequacies. If a child is taken in to care by the County, the county must pay for foster care assistance and supportive services.

"The Tribe can provide a greater level of service and support in tribal foster homes," said Geneva Shaw, Deputy Director of Yurok Social Services.

Social Services and the Yurok Tribe's Wellness Court and Education Department have many programs geared toward helping parents, who are working on reunification with their children, get back on track. For example, the Tribe helps with drug rehabilitation, offers parenting courses, domestic violence support and aid for those re-entering society from incarceration.

Yurok Social Services is working on developing and

obtaining funding for more support services to assist families and to hire more staff. It is a priority for the department to obtain funding for prevention such as parenting

programs, mental health services, substance abuse services, and other supportive services. Social Services has recently received a Title IV-E foster Care planning grant.

Once the Tribe has a Title IV-E foster care agreement with the federal government, reimbursements funds for foster care and related services can be obtained. This means that the Tribe will be able to take more of these child welfare cases into tribal court and be able to provide foster care assistance to foster families. Right now tribal court child welfare cases do not receive foster care assistance even if they are a certified home.

The Social Services Department is looking to certify and get county licensed as many Yurok foster households as possible, so that when children need a home one is available.

Every foster kid has the potential to be a tribal leader or spiritual leader and every other type of contributing member of the community.

"It's hard work. If you truly love kids and have that commitment you will change the course of that kid's life," said Angela Sundberg, who is a Yurok foster parent. "There is no better gift you can give."

"IT'S HARD WORK. IF YOU TRULY LOVE KIDS AND HAVE THAT COMMITMENT YOU WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF THAT KID'S LIFE."

ANGELA SUNDBERG ~ YUROK TRIBAL FOSTER PARENT

Tribe to buy 22,237 acres

Largest land deal in Tribe's history nearing closure

The Yurok Tribe will soon be closing a deal with the Green Diamond Resources Company to purchase 22,237 acre parcel of land, the largest land purchase the Tribe has ever made.

The acquisition was initiated in September of 2008 when the Tribe signed a letter of intent with the timber company to buy the property, which includes all the land Green Diamond owns in the Pecwan, Weitchpec and Ke'pel watersheds. The Tribe is using an \$18.75 million loan from California's State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund to pay for the purchase. The coveted no-interest loan was applied for on behalf of the Tribe by the Western Rivers Conservancy, which the Tribe has been working with to regain parts of its ancestral territory.

The loan was awarded because the Tribe demonstrated its ability to repay the loan and commitment to improve the water quality in the watershed. The Tribe will use revenues from timber harvest and carbon reserves proceeds to satisfy the 25-year loan.

"We are excited to make this long-term investment because it will once again open tribal access to cultural resources," said Yurok Tribal Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "The Tribal Council is going to work with the tribal membership and cultural community to determine how to best manage the land."

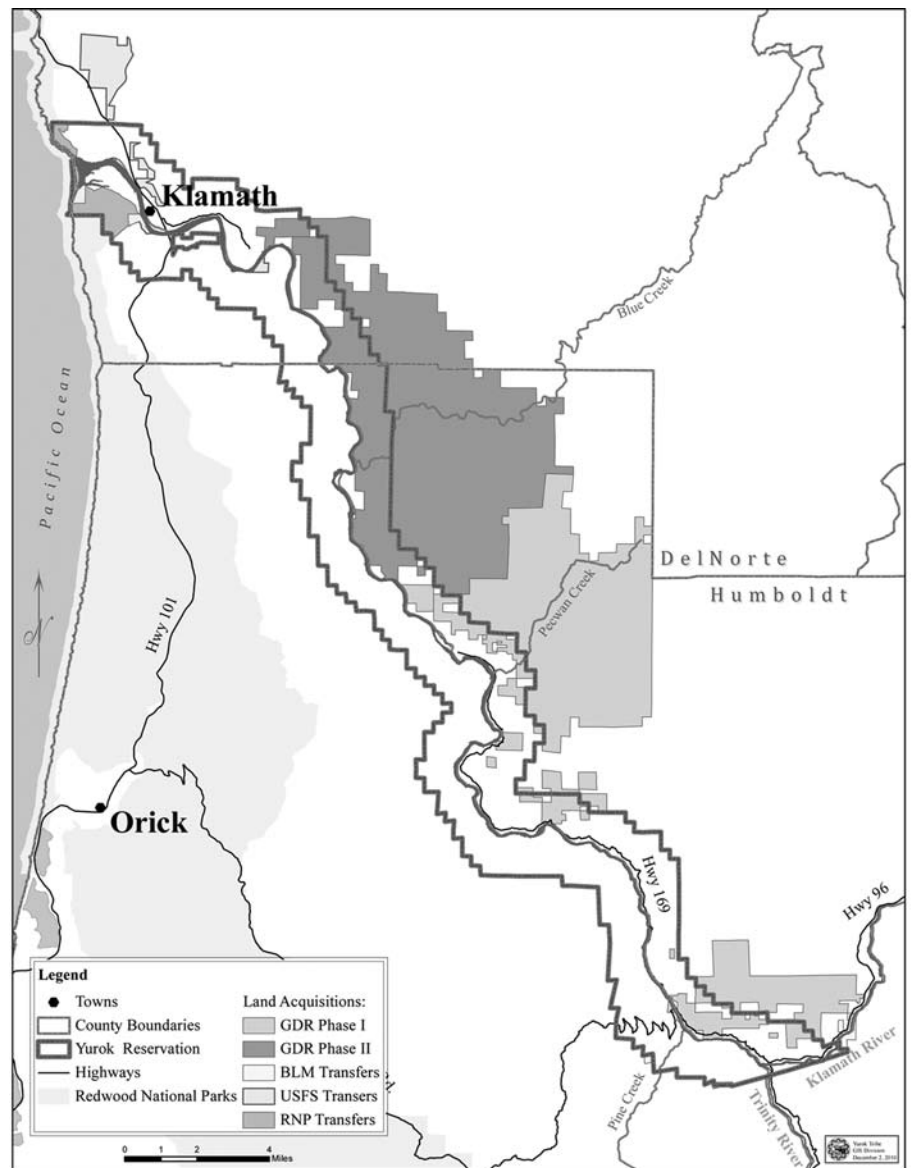
The Pecwan, Weitchpec and Ke'pel watershed will be improved to better meet the Yurok's vision for these watersheds and will give the Tribe more flexibility in pursuing economic development activities.

Most of the land is outside of the current Reservation boundaries.

The Yurok Tribe's Watershed Restoration Department is geared up to assist in restoring these lands.

The Department will be decommissioning some of the roads on the property to halt sediment from entering the creeks.

The Yurok Tribe's forestry standards are much more rigorous than the State of California. For example, the



EELS For **ELDERS**

Yurok Elder Services is looking for generous people to donate eels for elders.

They may not be your Gram, Gramps, Auntie, Uncle, old cousin, whatever, but they are a Tribal Elder.

Let's take care of those who have taken care of us

**If you are interested in helping get traditional foods to our old people
Please contact Elder Services at 482-1350 ex 406**



The Blue Creek watershed is the most pristine tributary on the Klamath River. It contains prime spawning habitat for coho and chinook salmon and steelhead.

Tribe leaves much larger buffer zones from creeks to protect fish, does not practice monoculture and uses no pesticides.

Also, included in the agreement is a stipulation that Green Diamond's aquatic habitat Conservation plan will be adopted to protect southern torrent salamander, tailed frog, endangered coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, cutthroat and rainbow trout.

This purchase is phase 1 of a 47,000 acre land purchase agreement with Green Diamond Resources Company. The Phase II is a 25,000 acre tract in the Blue Creek watershed, the most pristine in the Klamath River basin. Blue Creek contains prime spawning and rearing habitat for coho and chinook salmon as well as steelhead. It also provides a substantial cold water refuge for the fall Chinook run and other fish which always have to contend with artificially warm water conditions. Additionally, some of the Tribe's most sacred

sites are located within its watershed.

"Words cannot begin to describe how important it is that we get these lands back and begin to restore them to a natural state," O'Rourke Sr. said. "The land needs to be taken care of according to our traditional land management practices so that the fish and animals will thrive once again."

"WORDS CANNOT BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE GET THESE LANDS BACK AND BEGIN TO RESTORE THEM TO A NATURAL STATE."

THOMAS O'ROURKE SR. ~ YUROK TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Only restoration logging, will take place on the Blue Creek parcel if the Tribe is able to acquire it.

The Tribe will need to develop a larger management

plan by engaging the Tribal membership.

The Tribe and Western Rivers are working daily to develop a strategy to finance the additional land purchase.

"One way or another we will find a way to purchase this land," O'Rourke Sr. concluded.

Conceptual bill could return some of Tribe's land

Not a day passes that Yurok tribal members do not look south across the Klamath River estuary at the Redwood National Park. The Park land, which is Yurok homeland, is a constant symbol of flawed United States policies that have resulted in Yurok lands being taken, the loss of traditional management opportunities and the loss of control of ceremonial sites. This is unfair—it is alienating, demeaning, and debilitating.

"It affects us to our core," said David Gensaw, a Yurok Tribal Councilmember from the Requa District, which is currently part parkland.

The Yurok Tribe is trying to do something about this. The Tribe is working on legislative concepts that could cultivate the transfer of 1,200 acres, a small piece of Park land that is all within the Yurok Reservation boundary. The Tribe is seeking legislation that would transfer this piece of land to the Tribe and put it under tribal management. Located within the parcel are Yurok burial sites, a former village site where the Brush Dance still occurs every summer and an untold number of Yurok artifacts, which have dissipated through the years by looters. The Tribe's ability to continue ceremonial revitalization effort is hampered by the Park ownership.

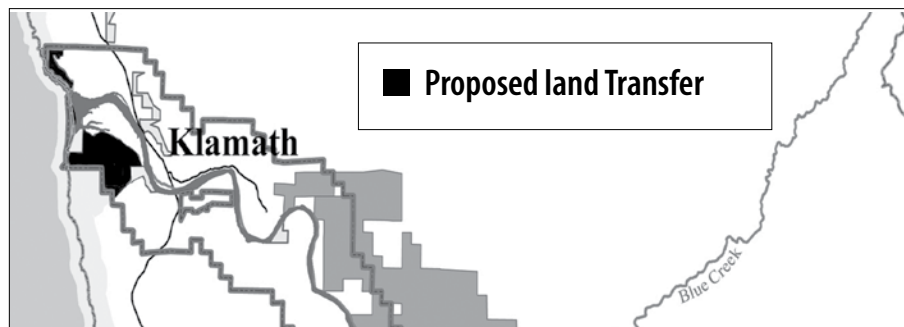
Owning the land would not only enable the Tribe to correctly steward these important cultural resources, but it would also open up the door for future generations of tribal members to practice and pass on Yurok management skills in an old-growth redwood forest.

"We will once again be part of the land and it will be part of us," Gensaw said.

The area of the potential transfer traverses north and south on the coast from the Requa Overlook to the Flint Ridge trail. There are parcels of fee land near the northern and southern end of the property, which will not be affected by the potential land transfer. The Tribe seeks legislation to only transfer



This ceremonial site is currently on Redwood National and State land. The Tribe is working to get it back.



To view the entire size of Redwood National and State Park see map on page 5.

the Park land to the Tribe.

Ironically, according to the Redwood National and State Park management plan it is the aim of the park to keep the land in the same condition it was 150 years ago when

the Yurok Tribe was managing it. When Europeans first saw the majestic redwoods what they did not know was that it was managed

by Yurok people, which is why it has looked this way for millennia.

The legislative concepts make clear that the Yurok Tribe

"IT AFFECTS US TO OUR CORE."

DAVID GENSAW SR. ~ REQUA REPRESENTATIVE

will continue to manage these lands in a manner that is compatible to existing Redwood National Park management plans, not commercially harvest timber and maintain existing infrastructure located within these lands. The lands will remain open to the public.

There have been critics of the proposed legislation by people who hold parkland near and dear to their hearts. But the Yurok Tribe is confident that its ability to educate the public about Yurok culture and heritage and the Tribe's environmental objectives as they relate to Park lands will provide unique opportunities that enhance and add to current Park values.

"The public will have the same access they have now if we are successful," said Troy Fletcher, the Tribe's Policy Analyst. "The only difference is they would be greeted by Yurok interpreters who have 10,000 years of education about ancient redwood forests. Who better to tell that story?"

Through the same legislation, the Tribe is pursuing the transfer of 1,400 acres of Six Rivers National Forest land adjacent to California Highway 101. The stretch

of the U.S. Forest Service land is known as the Yurok Experimental Forest.

The Tribe also wants to include Redding Rock, a culturally significant sea stack off Patrick's Point in the legislation. Currently, the five-acre oceanic rock slab is under control of the Bureau of Land Management. However, the Yurok Tribe has an agreement with BLM that gives it a stewardship and management role.

Birth Announcement



Isabelle Avery Danel was born at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, CA., on October 19 at 4:18pm. Isabelle weighed 6 lbs, 11 oz and was 18 inches long. She is welcomed by her parents Justin and Angie Danel. Maternal grandmother is Carolyn Lewis of Hoopa. Paternal grandparents are Lonnie and Cathy Danel of Willow Creek.

"I'm 54 years old, and I've never felt or looked better my entire life! At first, when I started, I did not think it was for me, but hardwork pays off, and it shows! It's a way of life for me, and I look forward to every workout." -Male client 2 years



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Tribe testing new wireless technology

The Yurok Tribe recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MUO) with Carlson Wireless, making it the first native tribe in the nation to utilize available TV white space to bring broadband capabilities to underserved remote areas.

“The Yurok Tribe’s IT Department is eagerly waiting to test drive our new Carlson Wireless “white space” internet technology,” said Paul Romero, Director of the Yurok Tribe’s Information and Technology Department.

The Tribe could benefit greatly from this new technology, which will potentially provide Internet connectivity to remote areas of the Reservation—some without phones and/or viable transportation routes. Benefits include telemedicine and other health resources, distance learning and other educational benefits, broadened consumer opportunities, as well as a general boost in economic development.

“We believe this new form of broadband will increase internet coverage above and beyond existing wireless technology and greatly benefit Reservation residents,” Romero said.

With unmatched range and signal penetration, Carlson Wireless’ RuralConnect™ IP brings wireless broadband to homes, businesses, and municipal sites while making maximum use of existing infrastructure, saving valuable project resources. Additionally, RuralConnect™ IP is a low impact solution, allowing for heightened connectivity without damaging the environment.

“This technology could enable the Tribe to provide more efficient internet coverage, which is currently severely limited internet access by the Reservations rugged terrain,” Romero said. “It will also require far fewer unsightly towers, which means much less ground disturbance.”

Carlson Wireless has been working with tribal communities since 1986, with a goal of delivering cost effective voice and data solutions. And with the FCC’s recent unanimous vote to allow use of the unused TV broadcast channels made available by the transition from Analog to Digital TV last year, achieving this goal has never been more promising.

To view a short video of a recent demonstration of Carlson’s product, go to www.carlsonwireless.com/demo



A new wireless tower is erected on Requa Hill.

About Carlson Wireless

For more than a decade, rural communities, industry and public safety agencies have come to rely on Carlson Wireless—designer and manufacturer of innovative, energy-smart wireless broadband data and voice systems. Learn more about Carlson Wireless by visiting their website: www.CarlsonWireless.com or contact them by email: info@carlsonwireless.com or by phone: (707) 822-7000

Eels starting to cycle through the mouth

Key'-ween are another healthy, traditional Yurok food

Yurok fishermen are just starting to hook a few eels - a winter time delicacy - down at the mouth of the Klamath River.

Similar to Ney-puey, Key'-ween propagate in the river. Eels, also called Pacific Lamprey start to head up river as early as December on a mission to spawn

Also like salmon, eels drop weight because they stop eating as they swim up river and taste different depending on where they are harvested.

The fish are harvested at the mouth of the river with hand-carved gaffs called a eel hook. Eeling is a dangerous activity because the best eeling happens on the ebbing tide at night, so much

caution should be used when doing it.

Up river, fishermen use funnel-shaped, hand-crafted baskets to catch the eels. The baskets are made from year-old hazel trees. When hazel is a year the skin adheres to the sticks, making it a more durable, which is essential for baskets

that are put in the river. The highly effective baskets are still used today.

Catching eels at the mouth with hooks or up river with baskets requires skill and knowledge of the fish and river. At the mouth a good eeler knows when the eels are going to come up the river, can spot the nearly invisible fish and is lighting quick. Using baskets, the fisherman has to know where to put it. Baskets are normally placed in four to six feet of water in a good eddy.

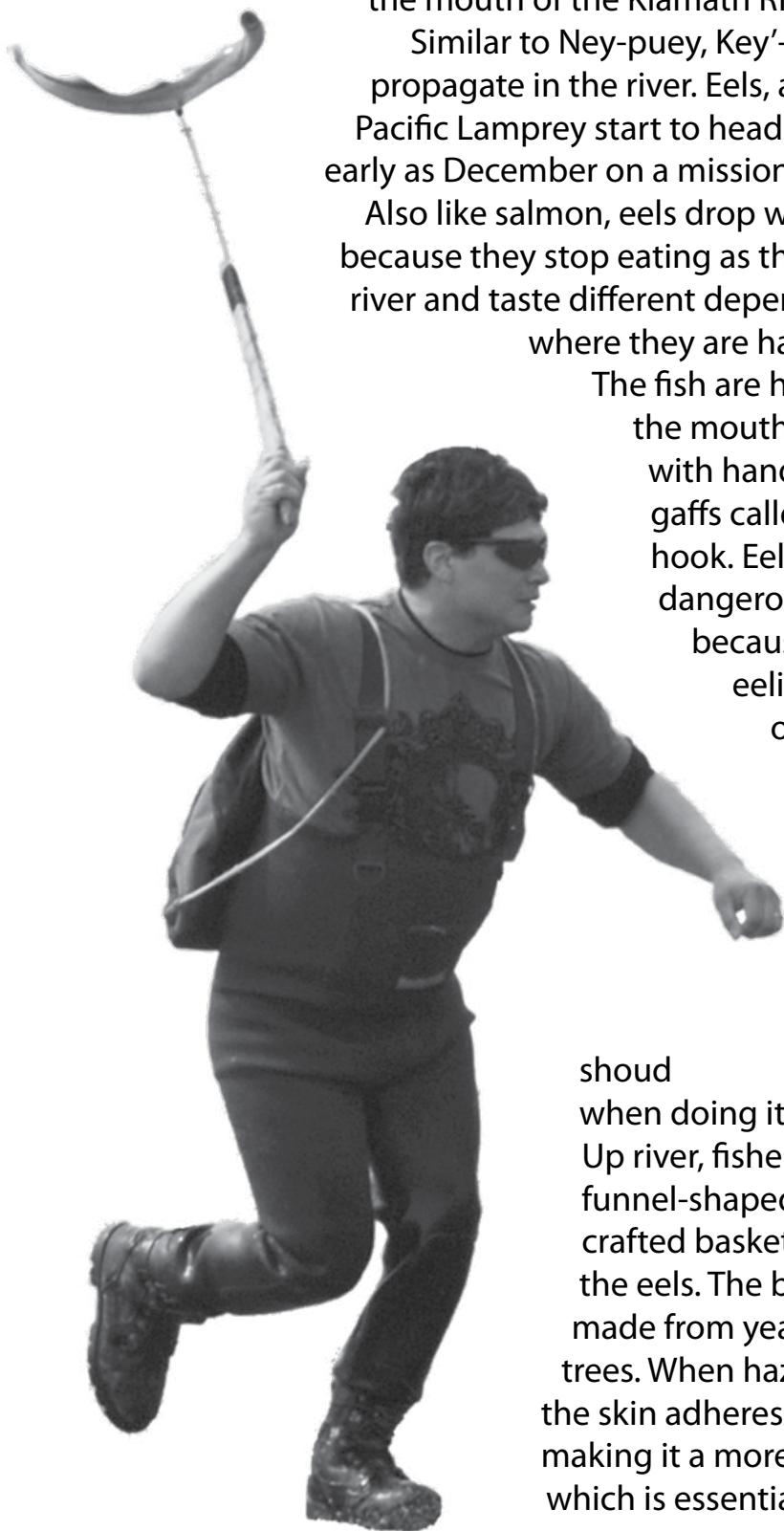
Eels are high in protein and healthy fat, and were historically and are still today, a wintertime subsistence food for Yurok people. Eels are traditionally smoked or cooked in an open-pit barbeque.

The fish have no fins, scales, bones, or even a jaw and have a very interesting life cycle. The slender fish spawns in areas similar to where salmon do. However, instead of smelling their natal water bodies, eels smell the pheromones emitted by baby eels called ammocoetes. They like to spawn in cool, clean gravel-bottomed streams. After eel eggs hatch the tine larvae drift down stream to slow spots in river, where they burrow and feed on algae and diatoms. It takes the four to six years to grow around five inches at which time fish might not develop eyes or teeth. Once this metamorphosis is complete lamprey enter the ocean.

In the ocean, eels are parasitic feeders. They use their round, tooth-filled mouth to attach to salmon, flatfish and pollock and take chunks of flesh. They have been caught by commercial ocean fisherman in water as deep as 2,600 feet deep. Their range is Alaska to Baja California, Mexico, but populations are also native to Hokkaido, Japan.

After spending one to three years in the ocean eels return to spawn. They travel mostly by night. Biologists believe that lamprey spend up to a year in the river, losing up to 20 percent of their body weight, before actually spawning.

After they spawn, they die creating food for other river creatures to continue their life cycles.



Yuroks fulfilling elders' dreams

The number of language learners is growing every day

As Leo Canez looked around the room at the Fifth Annual Yurok Language Community Forum he saw a few empty seats, but they were by no means vacant. Five years ago, there was a backbone of elders, like Aileen Figueroa, Jimmie James, Georgianna Trull, Glenn Moore Sr. and others, who gave many of their last years to set the foundation for Yurok language revitalization. All have passed, Aawok.

While the elders— all Yurok first language speakers — are no longer physically available, their guiding presence has continued.

"They are still here," Canez said as he looked around the room. "Five years ago they told us that we could bring back the language. It was hard to imagine that happening."

Now, it's hard to fathom the distance the participants of the first YLCF have come in "speaking" the Yurok language. The most advanced Yurok Language students are now able to hold full conversations in the Yurok while participating in the Education Department's, "Community Language Pods." This past August, a four-day language immersion camp was held at Tulley Creek, where little English was spoken. Hosting an immersion camp was one of the primary goals of the YLCF since its inception.

"We've made huge advancements in the last five years," Canez said. "Today many language students are able to speak nothing but Yurok for over an hour."

At the annual meeting, comprised of language



Leo Canez laughs with Berkeley Linguist Andrew Garrett at the Fifth Annual Yurok Language Community Forum.

teachers/students and U.C. Berkeley Linguist Andrew Garrett, words for ceremonial items and actions were discussed.

"There is a strong interest from our ceremonial people to start using more Yurok words and phrases during dance time. Specifically because our language contains the Yurok worldview," Canez said.

The Yurok worldview cannot be mimicked in

English. Aawok Aileen once said, "You can't have culture, without language."

It was predicted that the Yurok Language would be extinct by 2010. However, the number of speakers of the Yurok language has grown like wildfire over the past five years largely due to the hard work of the Yurok Tribe's Education Department and the Yurok Elder Wisdom Preservation Project and the many teachers in our community. Yurok is taught at many of the local high schools and elementary schools as well as the Tribe's Head Start and Early Head Start. There are also community language classes taught in the evenings in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

"THEY ARE STILL HERE."
LEO CANEZ ~ YUROK TRIBAL MEMBER

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Elder continues to make jokes at 101

Yurok Elder Ada Charles has a great sense of humor. Maybe that is why she was recently able to celebrate her 101st year.

"I feel like I could live to 200," the eldest Yurok tribal member said.

Over the last century, Ada Charles has seen a lot, especially in Yurok Country where she has lived most of her life. She remained close to her culture and is a prolific basket weaver.

Some of her fondest memories are of collecting and processing basket materials such as bear grass, hazel sticks, spruce roots and maiden hair ferns to name a few. She knows precisely when the basket making components are ready for harvest. She wove all the way up until last year when her hands became too weak to make the weave.

"Her baskets were always beautiful," said Jolleanne Jones, her great granddaughter.

"She could make complicated designs look perfect. There isn't a design she can't make."

When she was a child, Jones remembers her great grandmother would never be without basket materials.

"We would be in the car and she would have cardboard box and be working on a basket," Jones said. "Whenever you walked into her house you would be cleaning sticks."

When Charles was younger and could get around better, she attended all of the ceremonies whether they were up in Katamin or down by the mouth of the Klamath River at Weyl-kwel. Many of her baskets are still used in the Jump Dance as well as the Brush Dance.

As a child, the Yurok woman lived on a ranch where

she worked hard raising and milking dairy cows and tended to household chores, which also might explain why she is still in such good health. She also ate a very traditional diet, except for the occasional orange soda, her favorite guilty indulgence.

"We ate deer meat. We ate fish. We ate elk. We ate Indian food," said Jeannette Eberhardt, one of her daughters.

The mother of seven can still get around by herself, although she lives in the Klamath town site with her daughter Fern Bates, who cares for her. She loves getting visitors during the day even though those who have passed keep her up all night chatting in her bedroom.

Charles was generous with her traditional knowledge. Dozens of Yurok women learned how to make baskets from her. Many are now well-respected basket weavers.

"She has taught us so many things and evidently we still have more to learn from her," said Vicky Bates, one of Charles' grand children.

Ada Harry Charles was married to Robert Charles. Her father was

Harry Pecwan-Waukell mother Nettie Waukell Harry. Her sisters were Ida, Maggie, and Minnie and a brother named Frank. Her children are Jeannette Eberhardt, Arlen Charles Sr, Florine Bates, Pauline Bates, Lloyd Charles, Joann Moore, and Larry Charles. She has approximately 40 grandchildren and too many to count of great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.



Ada Charles is the oldest Yurok tribal member at 101.

Yurok Today is starting a new feature. Every month a Yurok elder will be profiled. Please call Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 306 or email mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us to suggest an elder for this section.

Looking for a job?

The Pem-Mey Fuel Mart is looking to hire a manager. It is a full-time, salaried position. Applicants must have at least 3 years retail management experience.

Experience in excel, word and retail software required.

Please contact the Yurok Economic Development Corporation in-person for an application and a full job description at 144 Klamath Blvd Klamath Ca. No phone calls please.

Yurok Elder

Services looking for volunteers

Elder Services is currently recruiting for volunteers to help with a variety of issues that have been identified as priorities by our Yurok Elders:

- Gathering of traditional foods for our elders (acorns, tea, seaweed, eels, fish, venison, elk, etc.)
- Donations of wood for both kindling and for sustainable heat
- Yard and home grooming for light up keep

If you are interested in helping with our elders and have any input in developing volunteer services please contact:

Tribal Courts Elder Services Program Coordinator Kim Yost at 482-1350 ex 406 or toll free at (866) 242-0684.

If you know of an elder you would like to have home visits or who has any need that you would like Elder Services to look into please do not hesitate to call. Elder Services wants to be able to help in any way possible.

YSBP seeking community input

The public is invited to help shape burgeoning program

The Yurok Scenic Byway Program (YSBP) is a new program to the Tribe and we are still laying the foundation of the program. Currently, YSBP has developed Policies/Procedures along with an Evaluation Methodology to determine a route's designation. These documents will establish guidelines for the management and implementation of the program. Furthermore, public involvement is essential to us in developing our program and would greatly appreciate your input.

SAVE THE DATES:

2/14-Weitchpec (5:30pm-6:30pm)

2/15-Klamath (5:30pm-6:30pm)

2/16-Klamath (12-2pm)

Pem-Mey Casino Grand Opening!

Play all day at Pem-Mey Casino on January 28

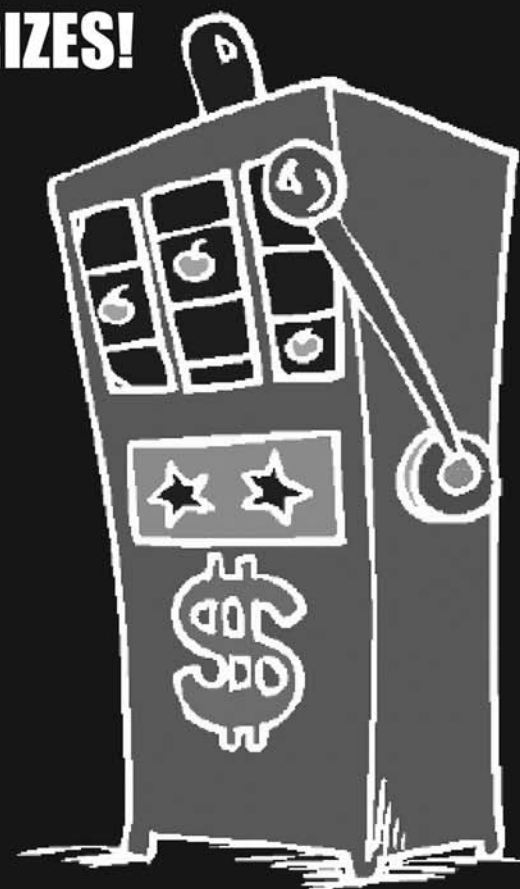
HOURLY CASH PRIZES!

The Yurok Tribe's Economic Development Corporation is offering FREE hot dogs, chips and sodas for all players.

Where: Pem-Mey Fuel Mart
125 Ehlers Way Klamath, CA

When: Friday - January 28, 2011 - 8am to 9pm

kee-Ya Coffee will be serving delicious \$2.00 specialty coffee drinks from 8am to 3pm.



YTLP accepting apps

The Yurok Tribe Language Program is accepting applications for Language Pod Facilitators and Pod Participants for the 2011 program year.

All applicants must fill out an application and meet all eligibility requirements.

Applications and project description are available on the Yurok Tribe Education website or by calling the Language Program at (707) 482-1822 ex. 1017.

Complete applications and supporting documentation are due by and must be postmarked by January 31, 2011.

Place your AD here

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

Yuroks buy Inn

When Requa Inn Chef Thomas Wortman creates your dinner he has more than palate and presentation in mind. "When people come to the Inn they want to experience traditional foods in a new way" Wortman said. "We have a unique opportunity to showcase great food with a Yurok twist".

In order to accomplish a meal that will invigorate guests, Wortman uses fresh locally grown produce, raw herbs and regionally raised organic meats. He strays from fatty foods and liberally uses a variety of lively spices that will tantalize your tongue and stimulate your brain stem.

The bed and breakfast is owned and operated by Yurok tribal member Janet Wortman and her husband Martin as well as her daughter Geneva Wiki and her spouse Reweti Wiki. Thomas is Janet and Martin's son. The Inn is located on the Yurok Reservation, a short jaunt from the mouth of the Klamath River on Requa Road. This is the first time the Inn has been owned by a tribal member since it was built by W.T. Bailey in 1914

Elevating the Requa Inn's menu is just one of the ways the new Inn owners have improved visitor experience. In addition to honey moons, birthday parties, retreats and individual guests ,the Inn now hosts weddings. The Inn is now also open year-round.

"We want to make the Inn a destination, not just a place people stay when they are on their way somewhere else," Thomas Wortman said.

The new Inn owners' first anniversary is February 12 and they are succeeding at raising the riverside getaway's profile.

This year the Inn was rated as a "Top Pick" in the Lonely Planet, a go-to guidebook for international travelers. On tripadvisor.com, which includes 40 million members, 94 percent of 92 reviewers recommend the Inn, which is an extremely high evaluation for any establishment. The B&B also earned four and half out of five stars on yelp.com, another widely used internet tool for vacationers.

"Right on the river, so peaceful and calming. The food is to die for," one tripadvisor.com reviewer from Melbourne, Australia posted.

In 2009, the Inn was featured in National Geographic Traveller's "Stay List," a compilation of acclaimed accommodations. It was also given distinction by another popular travel website Fodors.com



Before they arrive many of the guests already know that the Inn is tribally-owned and come ready with questions about the Yurok Tribe.

"People are hungry to learn about our culture," Janet Wortman said.

Upstairs, the historic building boasts twelve individualized rooms, all of which contain a charm that cannot be duplicated. Downstairs, is a cozy common area where guests can gaze at the Klamath while enjoying organic eggs from pastured poultry, homemade yogurt, buttermilk pancakes and locally roasted coffee or a fresh fruit smoothie before hitting the river or the adjacent ancient redwoods. At 4 p.m. everyday mounds of freshly baked cookies are placed in the communal space where the fire warms the body and the spirit before one of Chef Thomas's famous evening feasts.

"When people are here we want people to be as comfortable as they can be," Janet Wortman said. "Our guests are part of our home and family and we want to ensure that people feel like this really is a home away from home"

The Requa Inn also sells art and jewelry made by Yurok tribal members and sets up guests with Yurok fishing guides. It also uses Native American vendors. The Innkeepers, when the season permits, also buy fish, berries and teas from tribal members. The breakfasts and

dinners are open to public at a truly reasonable fee.

"We want the local community to know this is their place too," Janet Wortman said.

Starting this month, the Inn will be featuring a Winemaker's Dinner Series. Several regional vintners are scheduled to pour their wines during a five course meal. Each stage of the dinner will be paired with a corresponding wine and the winemakers will tell the story of how each were created.

"If you are looking for something unique and fun this is something you should do," Janet Wortman said.

This is the Wortman's and the Wiki's first foray into the Bed and Breakfast business. During their first summer there were only a handful of nights where the neon "Vacancy" sign was aglow. Even then, just one or two rooms were open. After reading the in-depth reviews of the Inn on the travel websites it can only be deduced that they are doing a fabulous job.

"It's a lot of fun," Janet Wortman said. "We work hard to make sure that when people leave they feel like this was the best time and money they've spent in a long time."

To make reservations at the Requa Inn call (707) 482-1425 or 1-866-800-8777. Reservations call also be made on their website at www.requainn.com



The Wortmans and Wikis sit on the stairs of the Requa Inn.



The Requa Inn is open to the public for breakfast and dinner.

Yurok Business Spotlight

Yurok Today features one Yurok business in each edition. Please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 to participate.



Yurok Tribe

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2011 Yurok Tribe



The Blue Creek watershed is the most important tributary for chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead. It is also the place of some of the Tribe's most significant ceremonial sites. The Yurok Tribe is trying to buy it from the the Green Diamond Resources Company.