



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Yurok Officer Cross-Deputized

Brian 'Eagle Boy' Donahue earns new credential - See story on page 3



Public Notices

FUNDRAISER

FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM
OF NORTHERN HUMBOLDT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TO THE
TITLE VII PARENT COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP & ENRICHMENT

FUNDRAISER

COME SWERVE TO

The Merv George Band

SILENT AUCTION

February 17, 2018

From 9pm to Midnight
Blue Lake Casino Sapphire Palace

Tickets for 21 and over:
\$20.00 Single
\$35.00 Couple

for discount on rooms
identify "Swerve to Merv"
when reserving rooms.

For more information
Contact :
Karen Skoglund 707.839.6469
or Email kskoglund@nohum.k12.ca.us



SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT IS PROVIDED BY

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Plate!
SAVE THE ~~DATE~~

The Native American Heritage Commission is excited to announce its new special interest license plate! Pre-orders will begin in 2018.

*7500 plates must be ordered in one year for the plate to be issued.

REVENUES FROM THE PLATE WILL FUND:

- CalNAGPRA
- Tribal Cultural Resources Legal Clinics and Internships
- Training for tribes and agencies on cultural resources protection laws
- Land conservation purchases and MORE!

Please visit

NAHC.CA.GOV/LICENSE-PLATE

for more information!

SAVE THE DATES

• **THE YUOK TRIBE'S 56TH ANNUAL KLAMATH SALMON FESTIVAL IS SET FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018.**

• **THE 2018 ANNUAL TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018.**

Contents

Page 6.....Education Director receives major award

Page 8.....Trinidad Lighthouse photospread

Page 12.....Community commends trail crews

On The Cover

On January 9, 2018, Officer Brian "Eagle Boy" Donahue, a Yurok Tribal member, was sworn in as a Del Norte County Sheriff's Deputy. Del Norte Sheriff Erik Apperson swore him in at the Flynn Center in Crescent City.

Yurok cop cross-deputized in Del Norte

Brian Donahue pursued public safety career to serve community

On January 9, Brian “Eagle Boy” Donahue, a Yurok Tribal member and the Yurok Police Department’s K-9 Unit Officer, was cross-deputized as a Del Norte County Sheriff’s deputy.

After completing the required field training, Officer Donahue will be able to enforce California’s criminal laws in Del Norte County. In the coming months, the highly regarded officer will also receive an identical certification from the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office, giving him the same authority on the upper end of the reservation.

“I pursued cross-deputization because I wanted to provide an enhanced quality of service to the community,” Donahue said. “I’m happy that I will soon have a greater capacity to serve the residents living on the upper and lower parts of the reservation.”

Until recently, there was a pause in the cross-deputization of Yurok officers in Del Norte County. However, that changed after the election of Sheriff Erik Apperson, who campaigned, in part, to reinstitute the program, which is a win for the Tribe and county because it puts additional qualified officers on patrol. The county is obligated under Public Law 280 to police the reservation, but doesn’t have adequate funding to completely meet this requirement.

Acquiring the skills and credentials necessary to provide reservation residents with enhanced police services is nothing new for Officer Donahue. In 2015, he built from square one the department’s K-9 Unit. He secured funding for the purchase and ongoing training of the canine mammal, whose name is Bruno and is capable of uncovering illicit drugs as well as apprehending perpetrators of serious crimes. To employ one of these highly skilled animals in law enforcement work, Officer Donahue had to complete a 5-week-long educational exercise in Reno, Nevada. In addition to his specialized training, the canine had to pass a comprehensive California Peace Officer Standards and Training course, too. Twice a month, Mr. Donahue also has to travel to Redding to put the mammal through 16 hours of auxiliary training.

“To be a K-9 handler, you have to continuously train the dog to keep his skills sharp,” he said.

Currently, the Yurok Police Department is working on a policy governing the deployment of the K-9.

Officer Donahue, who has strong ties to the Tribe’s culture, has been a Yurok police officer for five and a half years. He pursued a career in law enforcement because he saw it as a way to positively contribute to his community, especially the elders and those who came before them.

“The reason why I decided to enter into law enforcement was to protect and preserve our family fishing and gathering practices, along with everything else we do as Tribal members,” he said. “I wanted to show the elders that I am grateful for all of their sacrifices — for how



Brian “Eagle Boy” Donahue is sworn in by Del Norte County Sheriff Erik Apperson (far right).

hard they fought for our rights and to preserve our way of life. They are responsible for all that we have today.”

Donahue began his career with the Yurok Police Department in 2009 as a seasonal conservation warden. The next year he was hired on as a full-time warden. For three years, his job was to uphold Tribal fishing laws and keep safe from poaching the Klamath salmon runs, as well as wild game on the reservation.

In the middle of 2012 he accepted a position as a Yurok Tribal police officer. In addition to administering the K-9 Unit and his other daily duties, Donahue is deeply involved in Operation Yurok. During the annual marijuana eradication effort, which focuses on stopping severe environmental abuses related to the black market marijuana industry, he is required to walk many miles through steep terrain in the summer sun to uncover illegal water diversions and dismantle makeshift dams used by cannabis cultivators to irrigate their crops. These unscrupulous growers sometimes take every drop of water from important salmon streams.

Officer Donahue is a regular at community and sporting events, such as the Stick Game Tournaments, where he is often seen, in uniform, giving vocal support to local youth, a gesture that is much appreciated by the community. What has made him such a respected police officer is rooted in how he approaches each interaction.

“I try to treat people with respect. I don’t care if they were just released from prison or have an extensive criminal background, if they walk by I’ll say, ‘hello.’ I don’t think I am better than anyone else. I’m just here to do my job and do what’s right,” he concluded. ✨

WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Here are photos from the Yurok Tribe's Winter Celebrations, which were held at the Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, the Klamath Community Room and the Morek Won Community Center. The Yurok Tribe would like to thank Walking Shield, Inc and all of the staff for making the Winter Celebrations such special events. We wish everyone a Happy New Year!



Yurok Condor Program publishes study

Peer-reviewed research finds Yurok Country safe for condors

In 2003, Northern California's Yurok Tribe initiated efforts to reintroduce California Condors on their lands. While wild condors have not existed in the region for more than a hundred years, a new study from *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* suggests that hunters transitioning from lead to non-lead ammunition may allow these apex scavengers to succeed there once again.

Lead, which condors consume when scavenging at carcasses of animals killed with lead ammunition, is the main factor limiting their recovery; lead toxicosis was responsible for 26% of juvenile condor deaths and 67% of adult condor deaths between 1992 and 2009. To assess condor's prospects in Northern California, Chris West of the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program and his colleagues trapped two other avian scavengers, Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens, at nine sites in the region between 2009 and 2013. Collecting blood samples from 137 vultures and 27 ravens, they found that lead levels in ravens were almost six times higher during hunting season, when they were exposed to animal remains tainted with lead ammunition, than the rest of the year. Vulture's migratory movements meant they couldn't be sampled across seasons, but older vultures tended to have higher concentrations of lead, suggesting that older, more dominant individuals exclude younger birds from foraging on carcasses. While this may sound like bad news, it means little stands in the way of condor recovery if hunters shift away from using lead ammunition in the region. A statewide ban on lead ammunition in California takes effect in 2019, and West and his colleagues are optimistic that it may lower lead exposure to scavengers if it includes outreach programs to help the state's hunting community through the transition. "Our hopes for condor reintroduction to our area and recovery overall is very high. We are currently going through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to select release locations and assess and mitigate impacts to land owners and managers in the region," says West. "The return of condors to the Pacific Northwest, after more than a century-long absence, will be a testament to the ability of federal, tribal, state, and private entities to come together to champion the cause of wildlife, ecosystem, and cultural recovery in our region."

"Northern California still has viable habitat for free-flying California Condors, and these results suggest it is possible to



succeed in this region, particularly as a broader switch from lead to non-lead ammunition use is realized," adds to Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director of the Ventana Wildlife Society and an expert on condor recovery who was not involved in the study. "If we fix the lead problem, condors should survive in the wild again without the assistance of people, whether in Northern California or other suitable locations where they are being released."

Feasibility of California Condor recovery in northern California, USA: Contaminants in surrogate Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens will be available September 20, 2017, at <http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1650/CONDOR-17-48.1> (issue URL <http://www.bioone.org/toc/cond/119/4>).

About the journal: The Condor: Ornithological Applications is a peer-reviewed, international journal of ornithology. It began in 1899 as the journal of the Cooper Ornithological Club, a group of ornithologists in California that became the Cooper Ornithological Society, which merged with the American Ornithologists' Union in 2016 to become the American Ornithological Society. The Condor had the top impact factor among ornithology journals for 2016. ✨

Dept. Director given prestigious award

ACLU honors Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen for civil rights work

When the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California first offered Yurok Education Department Director Jim McQuillen the illustrious 2017 Chief Justice Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award, he respectfully declined.

“If we can somehow work together around this prestigious award or use it to move the school districts forward on the local issues that we have been working on within the ACLU settlement agreement over the ten years and long before this time period, then I would accept the award,” he wrote in a letter to the ACLU.

From 2009 to 2017, McQuillen collaborated with the ACLU on implementing the stipulations of a settlement agreement, stemming from a discrimination lawsuit filed by the civil rights organization, on behalf of several Yurok Tribal member parents of Margaret Keating School students, against the Del Norte Unified School District. While the learning environment for Native students has improved as a result of the elements in the accord, which spurred the formation of the American Indian Education Advisory Council and the creation of a new Native history and culture curriculum, recent dropout rates show that there is still a serious need to continue this important work.

The ACLU of Northern California agreed with McQuillen, who was bestowed the Chief Justice Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award in December, before a packed crowd in Oakland’s Rotunda Building. The accolade honors individuals who have distinguished themselves as leaders in the battle to preserve and expand civil rights and liberties.

“It was a privilege to accept this award, which is reflective of the highly talented Education Department team, not just me,” McQuillen said. “More importantly, the ACLU is committed to the continuation of this ongoing effort to improve our students’ educational outcomes.”

“The ACLU of Northern California is inspired by McQuillen’s service and dedication and is honored to celebrate his leadership with this award. Both McQuillen and the ACLU will continue to push for inclusion and equity for Northern California’s Native youth,” the organization said in a statement.

In his letter to the ACLU, McQuillen outlined how the time-honored human rights institution and the Yurok Tribe can expand upon the elements of the settlement and improve the graduation rates of Native American students. His recommendations include: strongly encouraging all local Del Norte K-12 teachers, administration and staff to use the curriculum (with fidelity) that was created on local American Indian history and culture for grades 3,4,5,8 and 11th grades, work to increase the menu of Yurok language courses offered

throughout the district for grades K-12, continue to use restorative justice and alternatives to suspension and expulsion regarding student discipline and behavior, especially with American Indian students and other students of color, continuing to consistently provide and expand professional development to all staff in the district and county office on the topics of race, inclusion, culture, implicit bias in the classroom and curriculum, as well as local history and culture of the local American Indian tribes; and consistently report out annually and publically to the Board of Trustees of the School District on the data within the American Indian report card.

As the longtime Education director, McQuillen’s has toiled tirelessly to empower American Indian youth and strengthen minority students’ civil rights. Through his ongoing advocacy, local American Indian history, language and culture are now included in many public school classrooms in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. He

strongly encourages all local Del Norte K-12 teachers, administration and staff to use the curriculum, created by the Yurok Tribe, on local American Indian history and culture.

“In an age appropriate way, I would like to see all of the local school districts incorporate this course into grades K-12. There is a large body of data-driven research, which shows that American Indian students perform better when their cultural and heritage are acknowledged in the classroom.” McQuillen said. “We still have a long way to go before we can say that we are providing our students with the high quality educational system that they deserve.” ✨



Profile of language teacher candidate

This is one in a series featuring those who were awarded scholarships

Submitted by Yurok Language Program

The Yurok Language Program would like to recognize this month's Teacher Candidate Spotlight, Seafha Ramos, for her continued effort and success in the Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl "They Will Teach" Scholarship Program. The Program started in February with 10 Teacher Candidates who are responsible for completing a dual track to earn both their Level 3 Yurok language Teaching Credential and their Bachelor's Degree (or higher) with state teaching credentials through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. These activities include: 12 immersion pods, monthly grammar workshops, attendance at the eight-day Yurok Language Summer Institute and the four-day immersion camp, classroom observations, teacher development trainings, pre- and post-assessments, monthly check-ins with YLP staff, submittal of paperwork like monthly attendance verifications for each of their classes, course schedules and final grades.

Seafha is a unique Teacher Candidate. She is already working as a lecturer at Humboldt State University, in the Wildlife Department, where she will be incorporating Yurok Language into her students' course work through Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).



As a Candidate she is responsible for completing the Language Track of the program by 2021. She has completed 100% of requirements for Year 1 and is ahead of schedule for Year 2.

Seafha is no stranger to hard work and accomplishment. She is also a new mother! She can be found at grammar workshops and other language events with her daughter on her hip. It is amazing to watch her and her daughter learn together. She has dedicated years to the completion of her academic goals and currently holds a B.S. in Biology from Missouri Southern State University as well as an M.S in Wildlife Conservation and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Arizona. In Year 1, Seafha began the program as a self-professed beginner speaker with little experience learning through formal classes. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to not only increase her fluency, but also to pass her Level 1 Yurok Language Teaching Credential Assessment. Seafha recently completed that goal and will soon be a credentialed Level 1 Yurok teacher! Nue-mee skuy' k'e son', Seafha. Keep up the good work! ✨

CHYUE KEE SAA'-A-GO-CHEE'-MOH!



Worthington

Yurok Language Classes

For more information, contact Yurok Language Program:
Brittany Vigil, Yurok Language Specialist IV

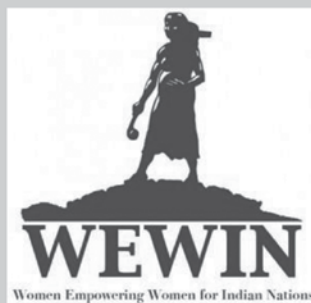
bvigil@yuroktribe.nsn.us | leave phone message 707-444-0433 x 1907

Dates: Fridays, January 12, 2018 - February 16, 2018 (scheduling will be reassessed every 6 weeks)

Time: Session 1 - 3:30-4:15 | Session 2 4:15-5:00

Location: Yurok Early Childhood Education Center (Worthington School, 3400 Erie Rd, Eureka)

Key-kem Room (Social Services Wing)



WEWIN Hike for Health Event

Thank you to those who participated in the November 25, 2017
North Coast Chapter WEWIN Indigenous Women's Hike for Health Event.

Winter Hike for Health Event will be in Southern Humboldt County Area. Please
post your favorite trail locations for suggestions!





LIGHTHOUSE TRANSP



REPORTED FROM TSURAI



Emergency program increases capacity

Here is an update on the emergency response program's progress

Protecting the health and safety of those who live on and visit the reservation is one of the Yurok Tribe's most important objectives.

The Yurok Office of Emergency Services is charged with fulfilling this obligation. On any given day, the Tribe is responsible for more than 300 employees, in addition to the thousands that live on the reservation or travel to Tribal government offices for social services, conferences and community events. Whether someone is having a health crisis in one of the administrative offices or if the reservation is hit by a natural or man-made disaster, the Yurok Office of Emergency Services is prepared to provide prompt, professional assistance to people on the reservation and in the surrounding areas.

In the past four years, the emergency program has continued its evolution on multiple fronts. In light of these new developments, the Yurok Tribe would like to update the Tribal membership on the program's progress.

The Yurok Tribal Council first created the emergency program in the mid-2000s, when it was run by the Yurok Planning and Community Development Department, where it flourished for several years until the then Emergency Manager's untimely passing. The tsunami signs and evacuation routes on the coastal part of the reservation, along with the creation of an extensive emergency response plan are just a few of the Planning Department's many achievements during this time period. Prior to finding its home within the Public Works Department, the Office of Emergency Services was administered by the Yurok Tribal Police Department.

In mid-2012, Dean Baker, a Yurok Tribal member, nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician and Director of the Public Works Department, was asked to lead the program as the Yurok Tribe's Emergency Manager. Baker, who is also a Certified First Aid/CPR instructor and Army veteran, humbly accepted the position for which he is uniquely suited. The longtime National Guardsman brings to the position a wealth of real-world experience in managing high-stress situations, ranging from responding to acute medical crises where a split second decision could mean the difference between life and death to being actively deployed in two natural disasters as a responder.

"I'm pretty passionate about medical and emergency response because it allows me to serve my people in some of the most important ways I know how," said Baker, who gives a lot of credit to the Tribal Council for the program's growth and equally acknowledges the work of his predecessor from the Planning Department.

In combination with the above-listed credentials, Baker is a certified Emergency Medical Responder and has completed nearly two dozen Federal Emergency Management Agency and related trainings. He is also qualified to teach several FEMA courses.

"I'm constantly looking to improve my skillset and abilities to be able to provide the best chance at survival or recovery," Baker said.

Most recently, Baker was selected to attend the National Emergency

Management Advanced Academy. On the first day of classes, the instructors' noted that he was only Native American in California to participate in the current course, which is filled with high-ranking emergency managers from all over the state. The demanding educational exercise is comprised of four, one-week long sessions, which take place over 12 months. To graduate, each attendee must write and submit a research paper on an element of emergency management. Baker is writing about the challenges of emergency management and response on tribal lands. Approved papers will be archived on FEMA's website and made available to Emergency Managers from all over the world as peer-reviewed source material. When he graduates in July he will be only the fifth Native American in the nation to do so.

"Attending the academy allows me the opportunity to improve my knowledge base to continue to build this program into what it needs to be," Baker explained.

In July of 2016, the Tribe hired an Emergency Specialist named Shawn Fernandes to be Baker's assistant. Fernandes, a Yurok Tribal member, is equally excited about this field of work and about the prospects of further expanding the program. Additionally, numerous Tribal staff have completed FEMA's fundamental Incident Command System training courses. ICS is a management system designed to enable effective emergency management by integrating the following: facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, according to FEMA.

The Office of Emergency Services has the ability to respond to a wide range of catastrophic events, ranging from personal injuries and illnesses to standard and uncommon crisis, including: catastrophic floods, forest fires, smoke events, earthquakes, tsunamis, hazardous waste spills and other life-threatening incidents.

Fires, floods and earthquakes are practically a regular part of life on the Yurok Reservation, where outside assistance is at a minimum an hour away, if not considerably longer. In 2016 alone, there was a large forest fire, a flood and a protracted smoke event. As the point of contact for outside agencies during disasters, Baker was integral in the communication and coordination of tribal response efforts, as well as coordinating with responding agencies.

When catastrophic incidents arise, the Emergency Manager has the authority to direct all Tribal departments and resources toward resolving the crisis. For example, during the 2016 Tully Fire, Baker, his staff and employees from other departments went door-to-door to perform welfare checks as well as to inform residents about evacuation orders and shelter locations. They also delivered fuel, food and water to community members. With the exception of the two structures that were lost in the arson fire, there were no human fatalities or even any significant injuries. "No emergency response is perfect" Baker posited, "but that one worked out pretty good."

To assist Tribal members and the community in better preparing for the

next emergency, Baker also recently began teaching First Aid and CPR.

“Even under good weather and road conditions, fire, law enforcement and medical response time on the reservation is often a long way out. Knowing how to administer First Aid and/or CPR can be the difference in saving a life, especially in our rural areas,” Baker said. A drowning victim as a young child, Baker knows personally how beneficial this knowledge is. “My life was literally saved by an individual who knew CPR,” says Baker. “Without her then, I wouldn’t be here now. To teach others the skills that saved my life is a real honor.”

The class fee is reduced for tribal employees and Baker hopes to offer this training up and down the reservation to Tribal members for free in the near future, as well as providing certification classes to neighboring Tribal nations.

The Yurok Tribe’s Emergency Program is a reflection of a cultural imperative, dating back to time immemorial, to prioritize the wellbeing of the whole over the individual.

“As Yuroks, culture dictates that we help each other,” states Baker. “This is one way in which I can contribute”

The Emergency Program is on track to continue its constant growth toward Baker’s ultimate goal, which is to position the Tribe to assist reservation residents, the adjacent Tribes, counties and even communities in other areas.

“We want to be in the position to offer assistance when we can. I think networking with the local tribes and counties strengthens our intertwined communities. If there is a largescale disaster we’ll have to work together if we expect to be successful,” concluded Baker. ✨

Social Services, TANF team up on class

Larissa Sanderson and Trish Carlson from the Yurok Social Services Department teamed up to teach a 12-week-long traditional skills class, which doubled as training in the 4 C’s of Resiliency curriculum.

The 20 participants in the Cultural and Wellness Group learned how to make miniature ceremonial dresses, paper Mache caps and necklaces. They used many of the same materials as those used in the construction of regular-sized regalia, including: dentalium, olivella and abalone shells, animal hides, bear grass, and other natural resources.

“We really enjoyed the class,” said Sarah Nelson, a Yurok Tribal member. “I really appreciate this opportunity to expose my daughter, at such a young age, to these kinds of cultural skills. I hope to attend more of these classes in the future.”

The 4 C’s in the 4 C’s of resiliency stand for Confidence, Control, Composure, and Commitment.

“This curriculum fit into the project because we believe that cultural activities increase resiliency and encourage healing from historical trauma and grief,” said Larissa Sanderson, a Yurok Social Services Department Aide and Yurok Tribal member. “One of the primary objectives was to create a positive, social environment, similar to village life, where people worked together toward a common goal. I think these kinds of projects are so important for us, as indigenous people, because they connect us to our culture and ceremonies.”

The Cultural Group took place in Klamath and was comprised of multiple generations of Yurok people. On any given night, laughter poured out of the room where grandparents, parents and children worked together on constructing intricate dresses, hats and necklaces.

When the 12 weeks came to a close, each person walked away with a doll ornately adorned in traditional regalia, including dresses that were very similar to those worn in ceremonies. It would not be difficult to use these same skills to begin the process of learning how to make full-sized regalia. The Cultural and Wellness Group was funded by Yurok Tribal Assistance for Needy Families and a Systems of Care grant. As a



Brielle Marrufo participated in the cultural class, along with her parents Sarah Nelson and Josiah Marrufo

result of the dual funding sources, it was open to TANF clients and the Yurok community as a whole. It was originally scheduled as a six-week class, but after seeing the participants’ engagement in the educational exercise, Yurok Social Services Department Director, Merris Obie, a Yurok Tribal member, decided to extend it for another six weeks.

Those in the course ranged from well-practiced to novice regalia makers and everywhere in between. The individuals with more experience generously took time to share their expertise with others in the room, where there was always a lighthearted atmosphere.

“Everyone shared their knowledge and we just had fun! I can’t wait to start another project,” concluded Sanderson. ✨

Community compliments Trail Crews

Yurok, NCIDC Trail Crews assist reservation residents and Tribe

The Yurok Tribe Transportation Department hired and orchestrated the work of two youth trail crews, and three Northern California Indian Development Council-funded storm damage crews, all of which have been very busy helping numerous families all over Yurok Country.

The two Yurok Youth Trail Crews, split up to serve the up-river and down-river communities, assisted elders by cleaning up storm debris and brush from around their homes. The Yurok Youth Crews, comprised entirely of young Tribal members, repaired roads and trails and contributed to the cleanup of the Old Orick Mill site.

“In part, the Yurok Tribal Transportation Department created the crew positions to provide youth with valuable work experience and real-life job skills,” said Brandi Natt, the manager of the Transportation Program. “Increasing Tribal members’ ability to enter the workforce is one of the Transportation Department’s primary goals.”

The three NCIDC Storm Crews cleaned up massive amounts debris, deposited during last year’s powerful winter rains, at the following locations: trails, roads, ceremonial sites, cemeteries, water systems, ditches and culverts throughout our Ancestral Territory.

“These individuals put a tremendous amount of pride into their work,” said Harold Jones, who supervised the five crews. “I would like to acknowledge each and every person for their professionalism, work ethic and dedication to serving our community. They did a fantastic job.”

The crews removed fire-prone brush from around more than 50 elders’ homes, chopped and delivered firewood, and fortified six water systems and water lines for the coming winter. For three weeks, some of the crews worked with Save the Redwoods League to remove invasive plants, clear brush and construct fire lines at the Old Orick Mill Site. This part of the project was added after the Transportation Department formed an agreement with Save the Redwoods League. The environmental group agreed to cover the costs of the improvements at the former mill site.

The Yurok Youth Crews also helped clear detritus from three land assignments, where demolitions had taken place. They restored six full trails, including two that were used by staff from the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program and were previously unsafe for travel. YTEP researchers needed to use both to access the river to obtain water samples. The work crews refurbished two tsunami evacuation trails near the Klamath Tribal office. They cleared the “eeling trail” on the north side of the Klamath River. They repaired the trail near the ice machine in Weitchpec and installed a handrail for safety. These activities gave the youth crews valuable experience and training under the guidance of Harold Jones who has been leading trail crews for many years.

The teams of service-minded Tribal members received much praise



from the community for their work. One of the elder’s that the Yurok Crew helped was Willard Carlson, who gave a glowing review of the quality of their finished projects, as well as their positive attitudes. The hard-working groups cleaned up the area around his family cemetery and cleared brush from around his mother’s house. Carlson also complimented Jones, the crews’ overall leader, as well as Nick McCovey, the upriver lead, and crew member Pecwan Jake.

“I would like to recognize the crew for the amazing work that they did. I really appreciate their work and their willingness to learn,” Carlson said. “I would also like to acknowledge the crew leader too. He did an excellent job leading by example.”

The Yurok teams also did work at Ah-pah Village, where Carlson taught them to use new tools, such as an electric planer and draw knife, while building a traditional dress house. “They really took a great interest in it,” Carlson said. The NCIDC Storm Crew, also led by Jones, was commended by Harlan and Judy Alvarado. Just as they did for others, the NCIDC group cleared and removed storm-driven debris.

“We would like to thank the Yurok Tribe for the 2017 NCIDC Storm Crew program,” the couple said in a letter. “The (program participants) should be commended for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to this program. They worked tirelessly and impressively on our steep hillside showing, resilience and commitment in what they did. The results were nothing less than outstanding.

The firewood the crews cut and delivered to elders was graciously donated by Samala Maloney from Weitchpec. The Yurok Tribe would like to thank NCIDC for doing this important work on the reservation.

YTEP secures Hazardous Waste funds

Pollution Prevention Prog. provides info on proper waste disposal

Submitted by the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program's Pollution Prevention Program

The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP) received a grant from California's Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grant Program to provide HHW outreach and education to the Yurok Indian Reservation community. This coming Spring, YTEP will be visiting all three Reservation schools, as well as utilizing social media outlets and the Tribe's webpage and newsletter to reach the community. Topics covered during the outreach and education include, HHW identification, safe handling and proper disposal.

To raise awareness about the potential dangers of improper handling of HHW, YTEP will be visiting Jack Norton, Weitchpec and Margret Keating Elementary Schools during the Spring of 2018. This project is in line YTEP's goal of educating the next generation of tribal members and YTEP's Pollution Prevention Division will take the lead on the outreach. Classroom visits will include hands-on instruction about where in the home HHW products are typically found, how to look for potential dangers on the label of products, the learning would be done through appropriate games to engage students and may include rewards for participation. Koiya Tuttle, Pollution Prevention Assistant Director said this about the Household Hazardous Waste Bingo "I think there's a lot of potential for good learning there especially when accompanied with prizes and fun."

Among the approximate 152 students served at the three Reservation schools, 67% are Yurok tribal members. The remote locations of these schools in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties make it difficult for community members to properly dispose of their household hazardous waste, with the nearest facility located at over a 1.5 hour's drive from the farthest school location. The importance of educating the students at these remote Reservation schools can't be overstated. Often, the education YTEP provides works its way into the family setting and the students are able to help educate their siblings, parents, grandparents, etc.

In addition to outreach and education at schools, YTEP will also utilize Facebook, YouTube, the Tribe's website and newsletter to provide short narratives about where to dispose of HHW, how to identify what is corrosive versus toxic or, poisonous versus flammable. YTEP hopes this grant will be the beginning of a long-term process of educating the Reservation community about identification, proper storage of and disposal of household hazardous products. Although this year's grant cycle is primarily outreach, YTEP will seek further funding in the



coming years to provide HHW collection events and improvements to current infrastructure for collection. Given the hazardous nature of these products, the education of the community is the highest priority before moving on to collect the unused and hard to dispose of HHW throughout the reservation. ✧

WILDLAND FIRE SCHOOL

This one-week class will allow students to learn the basic firefighting techniques necessary to receive the following certificates: L180, S190, and S130. Students will receive all the training needed to apply for a federal government job as a firefighter. Students 15 years old and older are encouraged to enroll.

For more information, visit:
www.redwoods.edu/ced

Date	March 12-16, 2018 Monday-Friday
Time	8:30-4:00PM
Section	044510
Fee	\$55
Location	CR Del Norte Education Center 883 W. Washington Blvd., Crescent City
Instructor	Jon Maxwell

*Register early to secure a seat
by calling (707) 476-4500*

Simpson Fund gifts 50k to Klamath club

Boys and Girls Club will use funds for additional positive activities

Green Diamond Resource Company President Douglas Reed hand-delivered a \$50,000 donation to the Klamath branch of the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods from the Simpson Family Fund. The Simpson family owns Green Diamond, and Douglas Reed is a descendant of the company founder, Sol Simpson.

“This donation represents a longstanding commitment to bettering the communities where we do business,” said Reed. “Providing youth with personal growth opportunities, such as those offered at the Klamath Boys & Girls Club, will help guarantee a better future for us all.”

The Boys & Girls Club in Klamath, open to both Tribal and non-Tribal youth, was created through a partnership between the Yurok Tribe and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods. The Simpson Family Fund donation was delivered at a celebratory event put on by the Tribe, at Yurok Headquarters, to publicly thank the company for its enduring support for the local community.

“These funds will go a long way toward improving the lives of all young people in the community,” said Ryan Ray, the Yurok Tribal Council’s Requa Representative, who tirelessly advocated for the new Boys & Girls Club in Klamath.

In addition to Mr. Reed, the special event will be attended by members of the Yurok Tribal Council, Green Diamond’s Senior Vice President for California Timberlands, Neal Ewald, and Monica Rose, executive director for the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods.

“The Boys & Girls of the Redwoods is so grateful for Simpson Family’s generous gift,” said Rose. “This donation will directly benefit local youth in the Klamath area.”

In the sparsely populated town of Klamath, there are very few extracurricular learning opportunities or organized sports available to local youth. Families have to drive for more than an hour to Crescent City for standard athletics, such as soccer and football.



(left to right) Green Diamond Resource Company President Douglas Reed, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Monica Rose and Yurok Chairman Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr. hold a presentation-sized check at a celebration in Klamath.

The Klamath Boys & Girls Club facility is filled with workout stations, a pool table and other table games, as well as several computer stations and a video gaming area. There are also weekly digital media classes and other specialized scholastic opportunities. The Boys & Girls Club in Klamath, located at 168 Klamath Blvd., opened its doors in July of 2017 to make these types of fun and productive activities readily accessible for local youth. The Club’s primary goal is to give youth the educational and social skills that they need to develop into empowered adults. All Club offerings are designed to be consistent with the Boys & Girls Club’s Formula for Impact, which focuses on three priority outcomes, including academic success, healthy lifestyles and good character and citizenship. ✨

“These funds will go a long way toward improving the lives of all young people in the community.”

• Ryan Ray, Yurok Tribal Council Requa Representative

Tribe hails Senator's opposition to pipeline

Sen. Jeff Merkely opposes plan to build gas pipeline under the Klamath River

The Yurok Tribe applauds United States Senator Jeff Merkely's decision to oppose the Jordan Cove terminal and Pacific Connector pipeline. Both are part of a short-sighted project proposed by a Canadian company seeking to ship fracked natural gas to Asia.

If approved, this liquefied natural gas pipeline will put at risk numerous salmon-supporting rivers and streams, including the Klamath River, the lifeline of the Yurok people. Its intended, 230-mile-long route extends from Malin, Oregon, located near the headwaters of the Klamath, to Coos Bay on the Southern Oregon coast.

"We strongly support Senator Jeff Merkely's decision to oppose this environmentally irresponsible proposal to profit off the backs of our children's children," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "The Jordan Cove LNG Export project has the potential to destroy what is most sacred to us, the Klamath River. We will do everything in our power to make sure this pipeline is never built."

The LNG pipeline project calls for the creation of a permanent 95-foot-wide and 232-mile long clear cut through 400 rivers and creeks in the Pacific Northwest, including the Klamath, which is California's

second largest salmon producer.

In addition to the threats to forests and fish, the proposed pipeline for fracked natural gas will only hasten the impact of global climate change. As the Oregon Senator noted in his opinion piece, published in Medford's Mail Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2B58IHq>), the Jordan Cove terminal will "become the largest carbon polluter in Oregon," if it is constructed.

In July of 2017, the Yurok Tribal Council sent a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission condemning plans to build the unconscionable pipeline, because of its capacity to compromise the Klamath, as well as the health and safety of the Yurok people.

The Yurok Tribe encourages all US citizens to follow in Mr. Merkely's footsteps and oppose this ecologically devastating endeavor.

For more information, please read this in-depth FAQ page, developed by Rogue Riverkeeper, <http://rogueriverkeeper.org/what-we-do/hot-topics/campaign-history-of-the-jordan-cove-lng-export-project> ✨



Yurok Indian Housing Authority Update - January 2018

The Yurok Indian Housing Authority is excited to announce that we have two rentals available. Both are Town Homes with 2 bedroom 1.5 bath. One is in Blue Lake the other is in Eureka. Call for more details (707) 482-1506 ext. 1009.



Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested

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

www.yuroktribe.org

