



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

PRESERVING A FISHING TRADITION

Council Rep. Constructs Customary Fishing Tool - See story on page 3



Important Dates

- July 3-4 - South Site Closed**
- July 4 - Offices Closed**
- July 5- Council (Planning) - 10am - Klamath**
- July 6 - Motherhood/Fatherhood - 5pm - Weitchpec
- July 6 - Council (Action) - 10am - Klamath**
- July 6-9 - Mattz/Brooks Bursh Dance - Klamath**
- July 7 - Basket Class 1pm - Morek Won
- July 10-11 - Yurok Language Institute - Weitchpec
- July 10 - Women's Group - 12pm - Weitchpec
- July 11 - Men's Group 6pm - Weitchpec
- July 11- Child Policy Council - Noon - South Site
- July 11- Education Com. - 11am - Weitchpec
- July 11 - Basket Class -1pm - Weitchpec
- July 12-13 - Yurok Language Institute - Worthington site
- July 12 - Elder Luncheon - 1pm-3pm - Morek Won
- July 12 - Family Yoga -5:30pm - South Site
- July 13- Motherhood/Fatherhood - 5pm - Weitchpec
- July 13-16 - Sregon Brush Dance - Sregon**
- July 14 - Basket Class -1pm - Morek Won
- July 17-18 - Yurok Language Institute - Hoopa
- July 18 - Council (Finance) - 10am - Klamath**
- July 18 - UIHS Diabetes Clinic - 2pm - Klamath
- July 18 - Youth Activities - 9:30am-3:30pm - Weitchpec
- July 19 - Council (Planning) - 10am - Klamath**
- July 19-20 - Yurok Language Institute - Klamath
- July 20 - Council (Action) - 10am - Weitchpec**
- July 21 - Last Day to file nomination papers for Yurok Tribal Council**
- July 21 - Basket Class - 1pm - Morek Won
- July 21 - East District Meeting -4pm-6pm - Hoopa Elders Village**
- July 22 - North District Meeting -2pm-4pm- NCIDC Crescent City**
- July 22 Requa District Meeting 2pm-4pm - Klamath office**
- July 23 - Weitchpec District Meeting - 4pm-6pm - Weitchpec**
- July 25 - Basket Class -1pm - Weitchpec
- July 26- Council (Planning) - 10am - Klamath**
- July 27- Council (Action) - 10am - Weitchpec**
- July 27-30 - Yurok Language Camp - Wolf Creek Campground
- July 28 - Culture Committee - 10am - Klamath
- July 28 - Land Buy-back event - 10am-2pm - Klamath**

**30 Day
PUBLIC NOTICE
RECOMMENDATION FOR
YUROK TRIBE
RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS**

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on the following land assignment application may submit written comments to the Yurok Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department. All comments must be in writing and include the name, address and signature of the person making the comments. Comments must specify which land assignment they are addressing and must be received by the Planning Department by July 26, 2017. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- **(Category A) Renewal of an existing assignment: Constance Norris: Prior Assignee (Constance Norris). Yurok Tribe # WTV-009 BIA # HRP-577 APN:533-074-024 Located in Wautec Village.**
- **(Category B) Transfer of existing assignment: Kenneth Roubidoux: Prior Assignee (Aawok Bernice Roubidoux). Yurok Tribe # NCK-010 BIA HRP- 555 APN: 532-142-005-02 Located in Notchko Village.**

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

Attention: Samantha Myers
Planning & Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1027

Klamath, CA 95548

YIHA NOTICES

The Yurok Indian Housing Authority is now accepting applications for the On Site Manager position at the Chance Lane Apartments. If you are interested, please complete an YIHA Employment Application and submit to 15540 US Hwy 101 N Klamath, CA 95548

Attention Yurok Students, APPLY NOW for our Union Green Student Housing located in Eureka. For more information or for an application, please contact Rachel Provolt at (707)482-1506 ext. 1009

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On The Cover

Yurok Tribal Councilmember Thomas Willson is working hard to preserve the Tribe's traditional fishing practices. He constructed this trigger net, which he has already used to harvest eels.

Council Rep. builds traditional trigger net

Thomas Willson aims to revive customary fishing practice

To ensure that a vital piece of cultural knowledge is passed on to the next generation, Yurok Tribal Councilmember Thomas Willson recently built a trigger net, a traditional fishing tool that was commonly used for millennia to catch several fish species.

“There aren’t many functional trigger nets around anymore. The ones that exist are in museums or otherwise inaccessible,” Willson said. “Back before contact, Yuroks used these nets more than any other method for harvesting eels, steelhead, salmon and sturgeon. I built this one because I don’t want the Tribe to lose this cultural skill.”

In many ways, Willson’s trigger net is a bridge between the past, present and future. Willson created the complex fishing device based on one that he and his father built when he was a kid. He is doing the same with his son.

“I remember watching my dad build one when I was a kid,” he said. “I built this one based on memory.”

During this eeling season, Willson was able to deploy the trigger net several times with his son and Yurok Tribal member friends of their family. Right from the start, the men had no problem landing as many eels as they needed from a platform that Willson built above an eddie, near his house in Weitchpec. In one night, it took only a few short hours for the men to land more than 50 eels. Willson smoked much of the harvest and distributed savory surprises to family and friends.

The Councilmember’s trigger net is employed in the exact same way as the fishing instrument was used prior to European contact. The A-frame-shaped net is comprised of two Douglas fir poles, which cross near the top third of the device and act as handles. The poles are held together by a crossbeam, also made of fir, adhered to the lower part of the wide side. An approximately 10-foot-long net runs from the crossbeam to the bottom end. A rope is connected to the legs of the A-shape and runs to an anchor on shore. This keeps the net in a perfect position for fish to enter. Attached to the net is a line leading to the trigger, a narrow piece of wood, which the fisher holds in his hand. When a fish enters the net, the trigger makes an unmistakable vibration. When the quick tremor is felt, the fisher, in one fluid motion, elevates the net from the water, trapping it for harvest.

Fishing with a trigger net is both relaxing and exhilarating. Similar to all other natural resource harvesting endeavors, Yurok cultural rules dictate that the fisher must maintain a positive mindset while on the river, which is made easy by the act itself. While waiting for a fish to enter the net, the ever-changing currents gently course through the



Council Rep. Willson uses a dip net to catch eels by his house in Weitchpec.

poles and mesh, right into the hands of the net holder. Out on the platform the rapids, breeze and birds are the only sounds that can be heard.

“Fishing on the river with the trigger net gives me more mental clarity and peace of mind than anything else,” said Willson, who is also a successful business owner.

Until Willson constructed his, most trigger nets were stored in exhibits and could not be used for anything other than observation. Now, when Willson teaches individuals how to make a trigger net, he has something for them to put their hands on. He hopes that the Tribe will pass on to the next generation the ability to build and use one of these imminently effective fishing implements.

“Our ancestors are responsible for inventing this highly efficient fishing tool,” Willson explained. “I recommend that people give it a try. Fishing with a trigger net is a good way to have some fun doing something that has been a part of our culture since time immemorial.”

In addition to cultivating within local youth this traditional skill and making sure it is passed from this generation to the next, Willson wants to highlight the deep satisfaction that comes from harvesting food from the river for relatives and friends.

“My grandmother taught me that lasting fulfillment can only be attained by hard work and contributing to the community,” Willson said. “The trigger net represents an opportunity to do both.” ❄

Annual Klamath Salmon Run a success

Two Tribal members run approximately 40 miles each

Yurok Tribal member Macy Bommelyn has run the equivalent of a marathon during the Annual Klamath Salmon Run, but this year she ran further than she's ever travelled on two feet.

Putting in approximately 40 miles in a two day period, the mother of four contributed much more than the 26 miles she has covered in past years.

"I make a commitment every year to participate in the run," said Bommelyn, who works for the Yurok Public Safety Department. "It means a lot to me. I want to do my part to raise awareness about our struggling river and about the need to remove the Klamath dams."

Richard Myers II, a Yurok Tribal member and avid runner, also put in roughly 40 miles, starting in the Weitchpec area. Morek Nova, a young Yurok boy, jogged for an impressively long distance within the Klamath area.

In the morning on Friday, Bommelyn ran segments between the mouth of the Klamath River and Klamath Glen. From the Roy Rook Boat Ramp in the Glen, Yurok Fisheries Department's Bob Ray drove her to Johnson's, where she was joined by Myers and dozens of runners from the east side of the reservation.

The Annual Klamath Salmon Run, now in its 15th year, is a long distance relay event that seeks to shine a spotlight on the Klamath River's failing fish runs, as well as the actions that are being taken to restore this important watershed. Both Myers and Bommelyn are long-time participants in the yearly event.

Bommelyn was supported by her husband William and son Will Jr. The father and son cheered on Bommelyn and even ran a few one-mile segments to give her a short break. During the upriver stretch, the super-fit mom was accompanied by Karuk Tribal member and ultra-marathon runner Crispin McAllister, who she said was an inspiration and helped keep the mood light as they grinded out one mile after the next. McAllister's wife was also there and ran many miles with the group.

Bommelyn is a fitness enthusiast who tries to do CrossFit workouts five days a week. In addition to the dumbbell and body-weight workouts CrossFit is known for, Bommelyn also runs regularly, but not at night. During the nighttime stretch she was in between Weitchpec and Happy Camp, where there are no street lights or much car traffic to illuminate the roadway. Dania Rose



Photo Courtesy of Macy Bommelyn

Here is Macy Bommelyn and her son Will Jr. at the end of her run. Will Jr. cheered on his mother when he wasn't running.

Colegrove was there to escort the runners when it was dark.

"It was scary running in complete darkness, but it was awesome because you could hear everything," Bommelyn said. "It motivated me to run faster because I wanted to get there."

After completing her part of the relay at Tree of Heaven Campground, the Bommelyn crew tucked into a hotel for a good night's sleep at around 11pm.

This fall, only 11,000 Chinook salmon are expected to return to the Klamath River, making it the smallest run in recorded history. The Yurok Tribe's allocation is only 650 salmon or one fish per 10 members of the Tribe. The meager quota, a fraction of the Tribe's typical allotment, is not enough to meet the Tribe's ceremonial and subsistence needs. As part of a far-reaching effort to preserve the Klamath salmon population for future generations, the Yurok Tribal Council canceled the 2017 commercial fishery.

"This year's Klamath River salmon prediction is worse than it's ever been before," said Georgiana Gensaw, an event organizer and Yurok Tribal member. "For the first time ever, we are going to have to tell my two boys that they won't be able to fish with their father, which is something I never thought could happen. My boys get more excited about setting a net with their dad than they do



This group of runners took the carved salmon from the mouth to the Klamath Glen.

about getting out of school for summer."

Every year, the annual Klamath Salmon Run begins on the Yurok Reservation with a traditional prayer, which was followed by runners dipping ornately carved salmon in the exact spot where the Klamath River meets the Pacific Ocean. A group of Tribal and non-Tribal community members then take the fish to the Klamath River's confluence with the Trinity River at the Yurok village of Weitchpec. There, one group continues up the Klamath and another up the Trinity. This year, more than 200 runners carried the wooden fish for approximately 300 miles, through Yurok, Hupa, Karuk and Klamath Tribes of Oregon's territory, tracing the route that spawning salmon took prior to the installation of the lower four Klamath dams.

For the Yurok, Karuk and Hoopa Valley Tribes, all of which had representatives in the run, this year's fisheries failure represents a threat to a prosperous existence that has revolved around salmon since time immemorial. Unfortunately, the Klamath Tribes of Oregon, whose homelands are above the Klamath dams, know all too well what it is like to lose salmon.

"We have not had salmon here for over 100 years. This led us to rely more on the resident c'wam, or sucker, which also faces extinction because of a century of poor water management. Nowadays, we get to harvest one c'wam a year for ceremonial purposes," said, Don Gentry, the Klamath Tribes' Chairman. In a few short years, real salmon will likely once again reach the Klamath Tribes of Oregon. PacifiCorp recently applied to surrender the lower four Klamath dams for demolition in 2020. Dam removal will open up hundreds of miles of salmon spawning habitat and is the single best action that can be taken to improve fish populations on the Klamath.

While dam removal has created a real cause for optimism, there is a new potential challenge to the long-term sustainability of the Klamath salmon. Veresen Inc., a Canadian corporation, recently announced that it will again seek approval to construct a 232-mile long pipeline from Malin, OR to Coos Bay, OR, for the purpose of shipping fracked natural gas to Asia. The plans for the proposed pipeline include tunneling under the Klamath River as well as five additional large watersheds in Oregon.

"If approved, this risky project will put all adjacent and down river communities in jeopardy, not to mention 20-years of restoration work on the Klamath River," Gensaw explained. "The Jordan Cove terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline cannot be allowed to proceed. It is time to heal the Klamath and prioritize salmon production over river destruction."

The Salmon Run was started in 2003 by four Hoopa High School Students, Erica Chase, Kayla Carpenter, Tosha Norton and Chelsea Reed in response to the 2002 Fish Kill on the Lower Klamath River. ✨

Cho' Saa'-a-go-chem'

2017 Yurok Language Immersion Camp

Ne-kah skey-wok kee ne' ney-ko-muy ne' saa'-goch-ee'-moh

When: July 27-30, 2017

Where: Wolf Creek Campground

Participants will be limited to 50 and selected on a first come first serve basis

Language Camp will include:

- Grammar Workshops with UC Berkeley Linguist Andrew Garrett
- Yurok language presentations from Yurok language teacher candidates
 - Immersion
 - Cultural activities

Language camp is geared towards adult learners who are novice to intermediate speakers. The language workshop portion of the day will be focused on intermediate to advanced level.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES

If you have any questions please contact the Yurok Language Program Staff at
(707) 492-1350 ext. 1337, 1332, 1333

Yurok TRES teams up with Cal Fire

Training exchange teaches people how to use fire as a tool

Yurok Training Exchange (TRES) volunteer Clyde Trimble Jr. takes very seriously his responsibility to be a strong steward of the natural world. That is why he decided to dedicate two weeks of his life to the arduous work of applying fire to the forests and meadows on the Yurok Reservation.

“As a hunter, I feel obligated to take care of the forests and prairies within our ancestral territory,” said Trimble, a Yurok Tribal member. “Traditional burning is the best way to improve habitat for deer, elk and other mammals. I also wanted to participate in the Yurok TRES because cultural burns produce high quality hazel sticks for our basket weavers.”

This spring, the hardworking young man was one of several Yurok TRES volunteers who worked on burning approximately 100 acres on the upper reservation.

On the first day of the burns, Trimble was teamed up with a group of firefighters from the Yurok Wildland Fire Department. The all-Yurok crew wore 40-plus-pound packs filled with water, a fire shelter and other essentials, as they used a drip torches to ignite controlled fires in brush-choked Douglas fir and black oak forest. Prior to the fire, the thicket was an impenetrable mess that provided little value to native animals and virtually no quality basket materials.

“It is really satisfying work,” Trimble said. “I encourage others to get involved in this awesome project.”

The Yurok TRES, now in its fourth year, is administered by the Cultural Fire Management Council, a nonprofit organization started by Yurok Tribal members. The nonprofit is in the midst of reintroducing fire on a landscape-scale in Yurok Country.

In addition to facilitating the fires, the CRMC's TRES enabled local residents to earn a firefighter certification, which can be used to obtain a firefighting job anywhere in the United States. It also offers participants an opportunity to accrue real-life work experience.

Much of the local forest and prairie habitat has not been properly managed for more than a century. These important ecosystems are fire adapted, but have not been burned regularly because of a prior ban on this cultural practice.

Aside from the last few decades, Yuroks have used fire as a natural resource stewardship tool since time immemorial. For example, these low to moderate intensity fires produce much-



Yurok TRES volunteer Clyde Trimble Jr. ignites a pile of brush.

needed forage for numerous wildlife species. A specific amount of heat also stimulates the production of strong basket making materials. Native fruit bearers, such as huckleberries, produce better yields, too. Plant-based medicines and traditional teas like vine tea flourish after a fire treatment. This singular cultural resource management method can protect a community from a calamitous wildfire by knocking down excess accumulations of dry fuels. The cultural burns performed by the Yurok TRES participants create so many constructive outcomes that there is not enough space to list them all here.

This sophisticated training program is supported by Terra Fuego, a California based nonprofit that focuses on landscape level restoration, the Yurok Tribe and the Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network. The Yurok TRES represents the first long-term initiative in more than 100 years to restore the role of fire in Yurok Country. The state, which has only just recently begun to get behind cultural burns, prohibited the complex practice in the early 1900s.

For the first time this year, Cal Fire, California's primary firefighting organization, played a significant role in the Yurok TRES. The state firefighters worked side-by-side with the trainees, as well as the highly skilled Yurok Wildland Fire Dept. and Terra

Fuego staff on the implementation of the burns on the reservation.

“They want the same things that we want, which is to clear the Hwy 169 corridor, reduce the potential for an arson fire and have a better chance at restoring our land,” said the CFMC’s Elizabeth Azzuz, a Yurok Tribal member and one of the lead administrators of the Yurok TREX. “It’s been a nice collaboration.”

Prior to the Yurok TREX, traditional basket materials, such as hazel and bear grass, were difficult to obtain because the absence of fire had drastically decreased the quantity of healthy shrubs. The lack of cultural burns has also allowed the forest to become more fire-prone. The buildup of brush exponentially increases the possibility of a dangerous wildfire. When fire is used to keep the forest healthy, the chance of an out-of-control conflagration is nearly nil.

“The units that were burned in the previous years are producing more acorns, berries and medicinal plants than they have in a really long time. The girls are coming out of the fire-treated hazel stands with bundles of sticks this big and smiles just as big,” said Azzuz, who made a big circle with her arms. “We’ve also been seeing more animals, more bears, more deer — bobcats! We’ve even photographed a few mountain lions with trail cameras set up to monitor wildlife activity in the burns. It is amazing to see the forest start to come back to life.”

During the past four years, there has not been one single incident during the TREX. The fires have never jumped an established perimeter and there have been no injuries apart from the occasional poison oak rash. ✨



Yurok Wildland Firefighter Talbert Alvarado uses fire to rejuvenate the forest.

The Yurok Tribe is looking to appoint an additional Gaming Commissioner. Applicants must qualify for a Gaming License.

To apply, please contact the Yurok Tribe Gaming Commission at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1420.



** All commissioners receive a stipend.*

Congratulations Yurok graduates



*** Photos submitted by Yurok Education Department**

2nd Annual Suicid



le Awareness Walk





CULTURE CORNER

The May Culture Committee meeting featured an in-depth discussion about the Flower Dance, a ceremony that honors a girl's transition from adolescence into womanhood.

It appears that this ceremony was performed in some villages, but not others. However, all villages did have a particular protocol to celebrate a girl's transformation into a woman and many still do.

"I think it's very village specific from the research that I've done," said Rosie Clayburn, the Yurok Tribe's Cultural Division Manager. "I don't think they were done everywhere. We need to look at what villages did it."

In the villages that did put on a Flower Dance it took place when a girl reached child bearing age. Its purpose is to give young women a strong sense of self-respect, identity and strength. It is also intended to show the community's respect for the woman and all she is capable of. In some of the villages on the coast the Flower Dance regalia was similar to ceremonial clothing used in the Jump Dance.

"There are coastal Flower Dance songs," said Committee member Walt Lara. "In that dance you use a Pley-gokw and other Jump Dance regalia. You explain to the woman their new responsibilities."

Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, who is from Sregon, said when girls from his village come of age they participate in the Jump Dance.

"That is where they are recognized by the community as a woman," Myers said.

Committee member Maria Tripp suggested that the ceremony be thoroughly researched, so that the families that would like to put on a Flower Dance for their daughters may do so in accordance with the Tribe's cultural covenants.

"Parents want to do this to honor their daughters, to make them stronger and more culturally knowledgeable," Tripp said. "I think this is an all-around positive thing."

A motion to perform the inquiry was made and unanimously passed by the group of Tribal elders.

The Flower Dance was one of the first religious practices targeted by white settlers. The Yurok people's equal treatment of both sexes and the respect received by women intimidated European colonists, who did not treat females as equals for many decades following contact. For example, there were many

Yurok women doctors at the time and the United States was a country for 70 years before the first woman was allowed to complete medical school. While this is not an "apples to apples" comparison, because Yurok doctors held an even higher status than conventional physicians, it does illuminate the disparity.

"The first thing the white man took away was the Flower Dance," said Committee member Walt Lara. "The white man didn't respect women and were afraid of how powerful Yurok women are."

Before the Flower Dance conversation, the Committee heard a complaint about the new playground at Acorn Flat. A local resident reported that people were driving over acorns to get to the new kids' area. The Committee voted to flag off the acorn gathering spot to preserve the nuts.

Prior to the playground's installation, the flat where the new playground sits was frequented by people drinking alcohol and doing drugs. Now that kids play there every day, this has stopped.

"The cars I see there are a different set of cars than were there two months ago," said THPO Frankie Myers.

There are plans in the making to perform a cultural burn around the park to reduce acorn pests and halt the encroachment of Douglas fir trees. Putting in a sweathouse is being seriously discussed, too.

During the May meeting the Committee also voted to form a new sub-committee. This new group was tasked with evaluating all proposed and existing Tribal ordinances to make sure the rules are consistent with the Tribe's cultural values and, when necessary, provide recommendations to make the regulations compatible.

Lastly, the THPO sent a letter, on behalf of the Committee, to California State Parks in opposition to a recently proposed project within Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, which could potentially disturb a village site. The Park would like to put in an automatic pay station at the entry of Gold Bluff's Beach and install a 30-foot pole to provide campers with internet access.

This part of the project would involve digging a 1,300 foot trench within view of Espa, a Yurok village site. The state agency also has plans to install new toilets at the entry kiosk, fisherman's gate and in the Fern Canyon parking lot. The Committee did not have a problem with the bathrooms, but was categorically opposed to other parts of the project. Greg Collins, a park archeologist, will attend a future meeting to update the committee. ✨

Court workers earn certifications

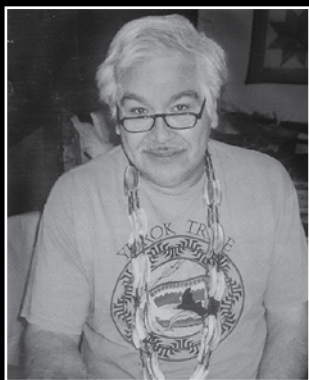
Staff study Tribal Leadership & Governance at CTC



Brooks, CA – The California Tribal College (CTC) held its fourth Certificate Program in Tribal Leadership & Governance from May 1-4, 2017 at Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. It was another successful program, as 57 students from 24 tribes received a certificate from the CTC. Participants provided positive feedback and were pleased with the information they learned and the presentation of the 4-day event. The week included topics in: California Indian History; Tribal Sovereignty; Federal Indian Law & Policy; Public Law-280; Robert's Rules of Order; Tribal Resolution Writing; Indian Child Welfare Act; and panels on Economic Development and Tribal Leadership.

Yurok Tribal members Laura Woods, Paralegal with the Yurok Tribal Court and Kristina Moseley, Case Specialist with Yurok Child Support Services were among the recent graduates pictured here. Former Yurok Tribal Council Chair Susan Masten was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. Ms. Moseley and Ms. Woods are among the growing list of Yurok Tribal members and tribal employees to attend this fundamental, yet vital certificate program. Ms. Masten is also among the growing list of Yurok leaders sharing knowledge and presenting to the program's students from across California. ✘

Yurok Obituaries




Melvin Stokes, Yurok tribal member, was born in Hoopa, California on July 16, 1945. His early years were spent along the Klamath River. He was surrounded by his beloved Jake and Moore families. The 1955 and 1964 floods in Klamath had a great impact, so his family was relocated to Crescent City. He attended schools in Klamath and Crescent City and graduated from Del Norte High School in 1964.

Mel's father passed away when he was 16 and he spent a memorable summer in the California central valley with his extended Stokes family. During that visit, he enjoyed celebrating his shared July birthday with his cousins. He cherished his relationships with his Stokes grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, and many cousins.

Mel learned so much from his grandfather awak Morris Jake, his great uncle awak Donald Moore, is great uncle awak Glenn Moore, his great uncle awak Haynes Moore, and his uncle awak Theodore Jake. He enjoyed spending time on the Klamath River with his Moore cousins most particularly at Sregon, Pecwan, Blue Creek, Moore Ranch, Moore Rock, Requa, and Young's Bar. He loved fishing and eeling on the Klamath River with his

* Continued on next page



friends and family. He always shared fish with elders, family, and others who could not fish for themselves. He taught others the importance of sharing the fish you catch and “you shoot it you eat”. Mel learned carving from his elders and was able to make traditional fishing and eeling tools. His favorite eel hooks he made with yew wood and the hooks repurposed from headliners of wrecked Cadillacs. His best eeling partner was awak Les Moore. He always was fishing and spent many hours mending nets. The last time he set net at Moore Rock was with his daughter Stella.

He worked in lumber mills and construction in his early years. He also worked at the notorious Club Hoopa as a bartender and bouncer. This is where he met his boss and longtime friend Lillian “Mush” Hostler.

He attended College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University, earning his Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. His senior project was compiling Yurok language vocabulary with awak Jessie Exline, awak Aileen Figureoa, awak Theodore Jake, and awak Glenn Moore. Mel was the first person in his family to graduate from college. He was an ITEPP (Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program) graduate. He made many lifelong friendships with students and professors.

The winter of 1986 was particularly difficult due to the loss of his brother awak David Stokes, and his uncle awak Theodore Jake. On April 1, 1986, Mel stopped drinking. This drastically changed his life for the better. He celebrated his 31st sobriety birthday on April 1, 2017. Mel worked as a substance abuse counselor at United Indian Health Services and the Indian Lodge. He also ran AA meetings at College of the Redwoods for students. Mel worked at Two Feathers Native American Family Services. He was supportive to many family and community members’ sobriety and made many lifelong relationships. Mel was on the United Indian Health Services board and the California Rural Indian Health Board. He was passionate about Indigenous health and wellbriety.

Mel worked as an advisor at College of the Redwoods for many years. He strongly believed in the importance of higher education. He recruited, encouraged, and supported many Native students. He made many lifelong friendships with students and colleagues. After he stopped being an advisor, he would still encourage Native students to pursue higher education at College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University and would occasionally take prospective students on tours.

Mel was honored to be part of the formation of the Yurok Tribe and be on the Yurok Transition Team. He prized his first Yurok tribal identification card that bears Susie Long’s signature.

Mel enjoyed making dance regalia from abalone, pine nuts, dentalia shells, clam shells, olivella shells, and cedar berries for decades. He polished, tumbled, shaped, and ground abalone. He especially loved Montana blue beads. When constructing dance necklaces he took care to match the size and thickness of the abalone pieces, as this preserved the “song” of each shell. This became his signature. “Each necklace has its own voice, each one has a different song”. His business cards stated “Wear it in A Good Way”. He believed in the importance of dance

ceremony. Mel made many dance necklaces and regalia pieces for the Tolowa Nation, the Sundberg family, the Risling family, the George family, the Melvin family, the Mattz family, the Tripp family, the Obie family, the Hostler family, the Jackson family, the Seidner family, the Norton family, and many other individuals and families.

In recent years, he enjoyed spending time with Vivian Snyder, Joanne Moore, Barbara Orcutt, Betty Jackson, Janice Green, Annette Reed, Steve Crum, and Joe Giovannetti.

Mel enjoyed golfing. Some of his favorite golf buddies were Joe Daignault and awak Ron Moore. He shared his love of golf with his daughter, Anne, and granddaughter, Alison. Mel enjoyed listening to Rocky McCovey’s golf stories at Rocky’s barber shop.

Mel enjoyed telling stories and jokes. Many will remember his storytelling at Sumeg Village Day and Storytelling by the Sea. He was a captivating storyteller wherever he went.

Mel had a soft spot for his cats, Chmuuek and Meraas. Chmuuek always got tangled in the nets and stole fish heads and nips. Meraas is the boss of the house.

Mel loved country music, western movies, playing cards, going to yard sales, and western novels.

Mel passed away peacefully at home due to complications of pneumonia and cancer on April 28, 2017.

He is survived by sister, Lola Stokes Webster, brothers, Wallace Kingsley and Phillip Kingsley. His spouse, Ellen Poitras. His children: Chris Holsworth, Leonard “Chum” Bailey, Melvin “JR” Stokes, Jr., Donald “Randy” Stokes, Winona Aubrey-Herzog, Shekky Bowen Sr., Scraigon Earhart-Stokes, Anne (Stokes) McCovey, and Stella Stokes. Grandchildren: Adam Pool, Brantley Thompson, Levi Thompson, Shekky Bowen, Jr., Denzel Bailey, Nellie Bailey, Zach Bowen, Max Bowen, Carol McCovey, Alison Osceola, Vivian McCovey, and Amethyst Earhart-Stokes. Great grandchildren: Sophia, Lozden, and Terryn Pool. His nieces and nephews include: Wally, Charlie, Mike, Wayne, Cassandra, David Durward, Tamra, Ted, Summer, Jasmine, and Kristina. His cousins: Bill Stokes and Nell Stokes and family and Franklin and Stanford Jake. He is survived by many beloved friends and family. There is a special place in all our hearts for Veronica and Paul Van Mechelen, Brandy and Hector Natt, Pecwan Jake, Phil Williams, Jackie Kingsley, Jalea Walker-Orcutt, and Heather Hood. They are more than friends and family.

Mel is preceded in death by grandparents awak Robert Stokes; awak Lola Stokes; awak Morris Jake; awak Stella Jake; his mother, awak Christine Kingsley; his father awak Durward Stokes; his daughter awak Michael Marie Pool; sister awak Evelyn Kuech; brother awak David Stokes; awak Carl Stokes; awak Theodore Jake; awak Frankie Jake; awak Marie Jake; awak Lester Jake, awak Donald Moore; awak Glenn Moore; awak Edward Moore; awak Grover Moore; awak Ben Moore; awak Haynes Moore; awak Gerald Moore; awak Donald “Pookie” Moore; awak Les Moore; awak Arnold Moore; awak Carol De La Rosa and many more beloved family members. ✨

WEWIN Woman of the Month - June

The Northcoast Chapter of WEWIN (Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations) is a group of like-minded women who believe in service to our community for the strength of our community. We believe in education, sharing, and promoting positive leadership. As a part of our mission, we are committed to recognizing the strong women of this community.

This month, Northcoast WEWIN is proud to recognize Lola "Kadoo" Henry.

Kadoo is an enrolled member of the Hupa Valley Tribe and is a descendant of the Yurok and Chimariko Tribes. She has three children: Lacie Lewis and her son Brady, Richard Benton McCovey Jr (Wu-ti) and his children Tee-Tom, Sre-gon Barney, Sre-gon Stone, and Neveah McCovey. Her parents are Linda Bailey Crawford and the late Clarence Baldy.

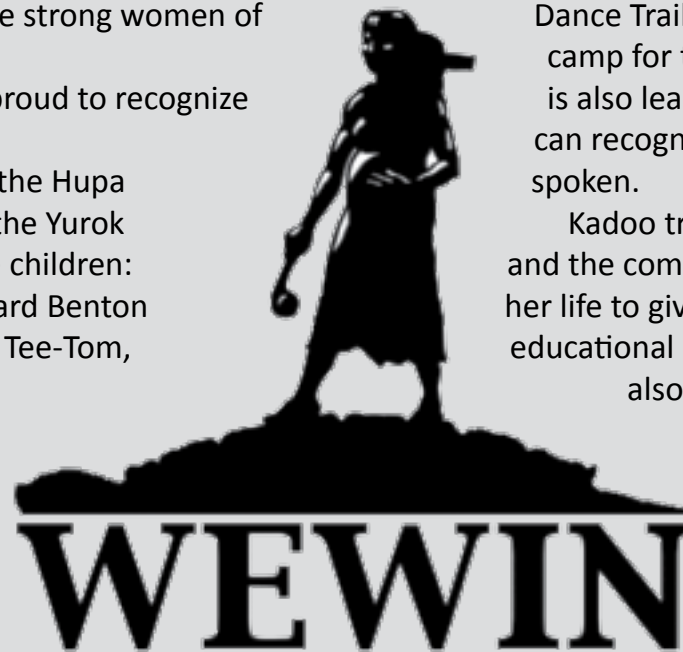
Kadoo currently works for the Hoopa Tribal Head Start program as a Manager. She has worked in Early Childhood Education for 35 years this year. In addition to working full time, Kadoo is pursuing her Associates degree in Liberal Arts. Kadoo plans to graduate from College of the Redwoods next year, and then transfer to Humboldt State University to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

Kadoo serves her community in many ways. She serves as the Chairperson for the Klamath Trinity Anti-Drug Coalition, Chairperson of the Hoopa All-Indian Basketball Committee, California Representative for the National Indian Head Start Directors Association, and worked on the Election Committee for 5th District Supervisor Ryan Sundberg. Her most recent initiative is working to

bring more training and information on Trauma Informed Care back to our community for the betterment of our children and families.

Kadoo is also active in her culture. She participates in the Flower Dances, and soon will be on the Brush Dance Trail. She actively works in her family camp for the Deerskin and Jump Dances. Kadoo is also learning to speak Hupa Language and can recognize some of the Yurok Language when spoken.

Kadoo truly cares about children, families and the community she lives in. She has devoted her life to giving our children a good start to their educational path. While working full time she is also pursuing her own higher education by taking college courses so that she can continue her work to help families. Kadoo is a woman leader who inspired many by her positive example. Thank you, Kadoo!



Do you know of a local Native woman who leads by positive example? Send us a nomination with a brief explanation of why you think she deserves recognition along with a high-resolution picture to northcoastwewin@gmail.com. Please note that we honor woman of all ages.

Join us on Facebook at www.fb.com/northcoastwewin ✨

Land buy-back update

The Yurok Tribe is working in collaboration with the United States Department of the Interiors (DOI) Land Buy-Back Program toward tentative scheduled implementation late 2017-2019.

The Buy-Back Program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the historic Cobell settlement, which provided for a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to consolidate fractional trust or restricted land interests across Indian country.

So far, the Buy-Back program has paid more than \$900 million to individual landowners and restored the equivalent of approximately 1.7 million acres of land to tribal governments.

The Buy-Back Program allows interested individual owners to receive payments for voluntarily selling their land and all lands sold will immediately be held in trust for the Yurok Tribe.

In the mean-time, the Yurok Tribe Realty Department is actively providing outreach and educational services and the following event is scheduled on July 28, 2017 10:00am-2:00pm. This will be the first meeting with the Office of Special Trustee Land buy-Back program Fiduciary Trust Officer Mrs. Michelle Deason at the Klamath tribal building in the Community room.

Everyone is encouraged to come and ask questions regarding the Land Buy-Back program and educational materials will be available. There will be a short video and informational brochure developed by the Department of the Interior to help facilitate the beginning stages of communication with tribal members regarding land consolidation. The Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE For You, Your Land, Your Community brochure's is also available at all the tribal offices. The tribal membership is encouraged to use the information and call the Special Trustee's (OST) Trust Beneficiary Call Center (888)678-6836 the call center is the primary contact responsible for receiving inquiries from the landowners regarding the Program.

Land Owners are encouraged to inform the OST of any changes of personal information. This is vital in the effort to contact people in the Whereabouts Unknown list (WAU). The WAU list is still active and there are still (209) people that are considered WAU.

In addition to broad outreach concerning the Buy-Back Program, the DOI will conduct more extensive communication with the tribe once the program is active. Individuals owning fractional interests within the reservation and that would like to be a "willing seller" now is a good time to contact the OST or call for further information: Marion R. Frye, Realty Officer @ (707) 482-1350 ex: 1373 or e-mail mfrye@yuroktribe.nsn.us, or by mail PO box 1027, Klamath CA 95548

Additional outreach events: August 11, 2017 Hoopa Sovereign Day, Hoopa CA. August 19, 2017 Klamath Salmon Festival, Klamath CA. ✨

Poets to Perform in Klamath

The Yurok Tribe is pleased to announce the addition of a fantastic special event to this year's already fun-filled Klamath Salmon Festival weekend. On August 18, the Friday before the festival, five of Indian Country's most prolific poets will perform a reading from the new Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California. Red Indian Road West is a poetry anthology covering a broad range of Native American experience in the state. The poetry reading, sponsored by the Yurok Tribal Court, is happening at the Klamath River Book Nook from 6pm to 8pm. The lineup of published poets includes: Lucille Lang Day (coeditor of Red Indian Road West), Nanette Bradley Deetz, Alison Hart, Dave Holt and Linda Noel. *The Yurok Tribe's Klamath Salmon Festival is on Saturday, August 19.*



Lucille Lang Day has published ten poetry collections and chapbooks, including most recently *Becoming an Ancestor* and *Dreaming of Sunflowers: Museum Poems*, which received the 2014 Blue Light Poetry Prize. She also co-edited *Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California* and is the author of two children's books, *Chain Letter* and *The Rainbow Zoo*, and an award-winning memoir, *Married at Fourteen: A True Story*. She is of Wampanoag, British, and Swiss/German descent.



Nanette Bradley Deetz (Dakota/Tsalagi/German) holds a BA and an MA from UCLA in Theater Arts/Dance, and a second MA in Counseling Psychology. She is the co-coordinator and host of Alameda Island Poets reading series. Her poetry has been published in numerous anthologies. She is a journalist for *Native News Online*, *Indian Country Today*, *Tribal Business Journal*, and *The Alameda Journal*. She is an instructor for the California Department of Rehabilitation.



Alison Hart studied theater at New York University (B.F.A.) and later found her voice as a writer. She identifies herself as a mixed race African American, Passamaquoddy Native American, Irish, Scottish and English woman of color. *Temp Words* (Cosmo Press, 2015) is her first book of poetry. She is currently working on a novel exploring the impact of historical trauma.



Dave Holt, relocated to the Bay Area from Toronto, Canada, his birthplace. He is English/Irish and Anishinaabe/Ojibwe (Chippewa) Indian ancestry. Dave graduated from S.F. State's Creative Writing program, B.A. 1993, M.A., 1995. He's won several poetry awards including the Thomas Merton Foundation's Poetry of the Sacred prize and a Literary/Cultural Arts award for his book *Voyages to Ancestral Islands*. In 2016, he was published in *Red Indian Road West*, an anthology of Native American Poetry from California.



Linda Noel is a California native of the Koyunkowi people from the northern Sierra. She has one chapbook titled "Where You First Saw the Eyes of Coyote", and has been published in a variety of magazines and anthologies, the latest being "Tending the Fire", University of New Mexico Press. She has a poem included in the permanent exhibit at the Autry Museum of the West and another has been set to music and performed by the Pasadena Choir. She is a former Poet Laureate of Ukiah.

2017 SALMON FESTIVAL STICK GAME TOURNAMENT

Saturday August 19th, 2017 starting at 12pm



Age Ranges:

18 and up

16-17

14-15

13-12

10-11

8-9

6-7

5 and below

CONTACT:

OSCAR GENSAW
(707)482-1350 EXT. 1376
ogensaw@yuroktribe.nsn.us

OR

LANCE BATES
lbates@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Preregistration: contact Oscar or Lance above.

Registration available the day of Salmon Festival from (11:45 am-12:00pm) at stick field.



Sign up for the 55th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival's Noo-rey-o-won-ee (Beautiful girl inside and out)/ Keet-ko (Strong/Able boy) Contest



SAVE THE DATE - The Yurok Tribe's 55th Klamath Salmon Festival is on Saturday, August 19, 2017

To sign up, contact Bessie Shorty at 482-1350

Contestants Must:

- Advertise raffle and contestant by poster;
- 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.

All tickets must be turned in by Friday, AUGUST 18 at 12:00 noon



2017 YUROK TRIBE ELECTION NOTICE

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

**NORTH DISTRICT
REQUA DISTRICT
WEITCHPEC 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 beginning **June 19, 2017**, at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath.

All Candidates must be 25 years of age for a district seat as of October 11, 2017. There is a \$105 filing fee due when you pick up the Nomination forms and background check packet. Fingerprinting will also be done at the time you turn in your background check packet.

The Nomination Period closes **July 21, 2017**.

For More Information, Please call the Election Office at (707) 482-1350.

FREE CRIMINAL RECORD CLEANUP WORKSHOPS*

WEITCHPEC
July 13, 2017
9 am - 4 pm Yurok Tribal Offices

KLAMATH
July 14, 2017
9 am - 4 pm Yurok Tribal Courthouse

EUREKA
July 15, 2017 (Saturday)
9 am - 2 pm Worthington Site

*Appointment Required - CALL ROOT & REBOUND AT (510) 279-4662

You **MUST** get fingerprinted & bring your Rap Sheet to your appointment

(Get your LiveScan Fingerprint request form at Yurok Tribal Court)

For more information, call Yurok Tribal Court at 707-482-1350 Ext. 1395

GIRLS WELLNESS
11 - 18 Years Old

THE GOAL OF THIS GROUP IS TO PROVIDE HEALTHY PEER SUPPORT, COPING STRATEGIES, ACCESS TO OUR OWN PERSONAL POWER SO THAT WE MAY CREATE OUR OWN PATHWAY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND MUCH MORE.



Arts & Crafts, Cultural Activities, and so much more

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday 2pm-4pm
Book Nook in Klamath CA 170 Klamath Blvd.
Presented by the Yurok Tribal Court

STARTS APRIL 5, 2017

CONTACT: KAYLA HENRY (707) 269-0695 EXT. 1738 OR (707) 964-8576

**YUROK TRIBE
2017 ELECTION SCHEDULE**

OCTOBER 11, 2017	PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 2017	RUNOFF ELECTION
<hr/>	
JUNE 19 (8:30AM)	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
JULY 13 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)
JULY 21 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
AUGUST 11 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
AUGUST 11	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (60 DAYS)
AUGUST 18 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)
AUGUST 25	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)
AUGUST 28-30	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
SEPTEMBER 1	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 8	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (35 DAYS)
SEPTEMBER 27	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
OCTOBER 10	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)
OCTOBER 11, 2017	PRIMARY ELECTION
OCTOBER 25	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 20	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
NOVEMBER 7	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)
NOVEMBER 8, 2017	RUNOFF ELECTION

2017 VOTING DISTRICTS
NORTH, REQUA, AND WEITCHPEC

2017
Klamath Syringe Exchange Dates



January	February	March	April
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Yurok Tribe

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mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us
www.yuroktribe.org

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Klamath, CA 95548

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Here are the happy kids in the 3-year-old class at the Klamath Head Start.