

ELECTION EDITION



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

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**VICE CHAIRPERSON
SUSAN MASTEN**



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

2014 Fishery Plan

We have begun working on the 2014 Commercial Fishing Plan. The purpose of the plan is to address concerns that were identified during last year’s commercial fishery. I encourage all tribal fishers to participate in the planning process for this important document. The plan will be used in tandem with the Harvest Management Plan to manage this important resource. We need to hear from as many tribal fishers as possible because it is crucial that the plan meets our needs and protects fish for all future generations. It is our hope that the 2014 runs smoothly for all tribal fishers

MLPA

The State of California is beginning to implement the so-called Marine Life Protection Act. From the very start, the Tribe has

not supported this initiative because it does not recognize the Tribe’s inherent hunting and gathering rights. Also, the Act lacked the sophistication required to properly steward the diverse ecosystems on the Yurok coastline. Since time immemorial, the Yurok Tribe has practiced a highly effective method of marine resource management, which has ensured an abundance of sea life to sustain our people. The Creator gave us the right to properly harvest marine resources in the coastal areas within Yurok Ancestral Territory. With this right, comes a great duty to protect and conserve these resources. To that end, we are developing our own marine life management program, based on our traditional knowledge of ocean ecosystems as well as western science. We will be coming to you in the near future for your input on the draft plan.

Carbon Plan

California’s Cap and Trade Program, created by the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, is designed to reduce industrial pollution by putting a limit on greenhouse gasses. The “cap” shrinks each year and if large corporate carbon producers want to make more emissions they have to buy what are called carbon credits. For the past two years, the Forestry, Legal and Executive Departments have been working with the Tribal Council to enable the Tribe to produce credits. The Yurok Tribe is the first federally recognized Tribe to complete this highly rigorous process. Setting up two of our forested properties for carbon sales was a good fit for the Tribe for a number of reasons. First, all cultural practices, such as hunting and gathering, are permitted on these lands. Second, small-scale, sustainable forestry is compatible with these projects. Third, it generates revenue for the Tribe. In addition to being the proprietor of a destination resort, a successful fuel mart and handful of RV parks, the Tribe can now add carbon sales to our business portfolio. In an unstable economic climate like the one we are in now, owning a variety of different businesses is a sound way to

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On The Cover

Red Mountain, located above the lower Klamath River, is a sacred place.

remain profitable.

Carbon project revenue has already helped facilitate the purchase of — with assistance from Western Rivers Conservancy — about 22,000 acres. The modest income this project is expected to earn could be used in a number of ways including: managing the new properties (restoration, burning, road maintenance) increased watershed restoration and social services.

Drought 2014

Despite the recent rains, we are still well under the average amount of rain and snow for this time of year. The Yurok Tribal Council issued a Drought Declaration to kick start a process to protect Reservation residents from the harmful consequences associated with an extended dry spell. Right now, Tribal staff is developing a plan focused on helping those affected by the drought. Since nearly all of our water systems come from surface sources, we are concerned that there could be a shortage. To address this potential issue, Tribal staff is looking for funding to build wells, which will provide a more stable source of water. We are also worried about there not being enough water for fish. There is a potential for the proliferation of fish diseases any time there is extremely low flows on the Klamath River and its tributaries. Also, during extremely rainless years the chances of a catastrophic wildfire greatly increase. The degraded forests surrounding the Reservation are prone to large-scale forest fires. Ironically, the planned use of fire, as Yuroks have done since the dawn of time, is the best way to protect our communities from out-of-control forest fires. We are working on several fronts to increase the culturally appropriate use of fire to fix the forests and limit the chances of a large wild fire. Pray for rain.

Hotel Casino

There have been further delays in the construction of Redwood Hotel Casino. We are extremely unhappy about the missed deadlines. I am looking into the causes of the delays and working with the owners of Flintco and the construction managers to make up for time lost.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We also send our prayers and thoughts to each of you who may have lost a loved one during this time.

Wok-hlew ✨

SPECIAL ELECTION

SOUTH DISTRICT

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



LINDA COOLEY

Dear Tribal Members, it is my honor to introduce myself to everyone, my name is Linda Cooley and I am running for Yurok Council, South District. I grew up in Humboldt County, moved to Weitchpec when I was younger and graduated proudly from Hoopa High, fortunately I was also able to serve as Indian Club President, my introduction to leadership. I attended College of The Redwoods and began my career that led to sales for the last 11 years. I have been a National Sales Manager two times now, all of the traveling, hard work and chaotic schedule led me to this place in my life where helping my Tribe and my People would be the greatest joy and my purpose. I have seen and lived many sides of life, living on the reservation, privileged, college, marriage, children, divorce, single Mom and struggling with a partner with addiction. I grew up going to our meetings and being taught by my father to stand up and speak my opinion, even if it wasn't the popular one. My family helped create and start our Volunteer Fire Department in Weitchpec and to say that was a humbling experience is an understatement. In my adult life I have reached out to the tribe many times and I will be honest in saying I rarely get a response or answer. I have often felt that the help offered was jaded by what your last name is or who you're related too. I went on my own moving away and reaching my career goal at a young age. My dream would be outside of being

a good Mother is to serve our Tribe and be the person to give answers, good or bad. Unbiased person who has not been in politics and away from swayed opinion. I would love to see the South District embrace a community environment where we all know each other's names, people to reach out too and a group that can stand together to represent our amazing Tribe. I would like us to help our Tribal Members be healthy and educated people that have options in life, not just one. We need to take care of our Elders and children, raise them to reach for their dreams. We need to focus on business, financial growth, culture and education. I have been focused on National business for the last 4 years and know I can serve our People with their best

interest in mind and heart. There are so many opportunity's our Tribe has right now, I believe I could serve with a breath of fresh air and honesty that we need. I am not afraid to speak up and fight for our rights and members. Bonnie Green was not only my Fathers cousin but a great role model and huge asset to our Tribe. I cannot replace Bonnie Green, but I can promise you a faithful council person that will give you answers and serve proudly with hard work. Progressive thinking into our new world with our culture and past in mind. I wish you all the best, thank you for your time and support!

Linda Cooley ✨



TRISH CARLSON

Aiy-Yu-Kwee, Nek Now Trish Carlson, I am honored to announce my candidacy for the Yurok Tribal Council's vacant South District seat. I was very saddened to hear of our tribes' loss of awok council member Bonnie Green's passing. My Parents are Willard and Shirlee Carlson of Blue Lake; my siblings are Willard Carlson Jr., Anne Vaughn, Shontay Mata, and Karrie Carlson. I have worked for the tribe in the past as a J.O.M. tutor and under a sub-contract through UIHS as a water resource technician monitoring the Yurok tribes' water systems. I am now a Health Education Specialist working in Suicide Prevention. After 12 years on the Job grant funding is ending my position in July and I will have ample time to devote to serving my tribe. I graduated from CR with an AA degree in Liberal Studies Social and Behavioral Sciences. I am actively pursuing a degree in Social Work. I chose social work so that I could be in a helping capacity to help Native people. I am concerned with the amount of unresolved and intergenerational trauma that remains in our communities from residue of Historical Trauma. I address this in work that I do. I have been speaking up and

advocating for others for most of my life. Areas of concern that I would like to see the tribe address include; Education, Elders, our natural resources which include our land, water, people, etc. Economic development, self-sufficiency and sustainability, doing more with less. Budgets are dismal, we need to take what we have and use it more efficiently. We need to be willing to listen to others and try new things. I would like to look into using a strength based model of operating every department, focusing on our strengths, utilizing our resources to the fullest potential, especially financial resources. Social Services is a big concern of mine, all aspects of Social Services really. Restoration of land and land base, the health of the land and resources is directly linked to the health of our people on many aspects, culturally, spiritually, physical, and emotionally. Everything that has happened to our people has also happened to our land. Accountability and transparency are other big issues I would like to see addressed. Health care is a major concern for our people at this time. I would do all that I can to make sure that these services remain in tact. Our healthcare system is in a dire situation and we need to act now!!!!

I have extensive experience working with tribal elders, youth and community groups. Through my years of hard work serving the Native community and through simply living life in that same community I have gained many skills that will enable me to do a proficient job as a council member. I am proficient in public speaking and have presented, advocated, and educated community members, professionals, tribal councils, and other elected officials on the local, state, and federal level on various subject matter concerning Native people I will look at decisions and think about how they affect our tribe now and future generations.

I will work hard to represent the south district. I will be approachable and will welcome member's comments, input, ideas, and concerns. I Have nothing put the most admirable of intentions with running for this position. I will fulfill my duties as a council member with honesty, integrity, fairness, commitment and responsibility. I come to this position with an open mind, an open heart, and without judgment because I love all Yurok people and want nothing more than to perpetuate their wellbeing. Being Yurok is by far one my most valued attributes. I love everything about it; I love our culture, our ceremonies, our language, our people and our struggle. I am very much

immersed into my culture; this includes cultural teachings especially on how to treat each other and our land. I will work relentlessly and tirelessly for the betterment and empowerment of our tribe and its' members, to improve prosperity and the enrichment of life and culture, I promise to live by our ancestors traditional teachings and to bring these ideas into our future so that we can prosper as our people always have. I will work hard to move our tribe forward into the right direction; I want to see our tribe thrive on every level. Communication, compassion, hard work and innovative strategy will get us there. Vote Carlson for Council of the Yurok Tribe ✨



Gerald Green

My name is Gerald Green, son of Bonnie and Richard Green, and proud descendent of a family who has dedicated their lives to the improvement and fair treatment of our Indian people. I am running for the South District Council seat left vacant by the untimely passing of my mother.

While carrying on with my mother's goals, I will also bring my own energy and aspirations in the areas of economic

development, cultural traditions, education, fishing and water rights. I will dedicate myself to working for the will of the majority of the tribal membership. I will diligently work to encourage more involvement and input from the tribal membership, so their needs and priorities are represented at council meetings. I want to be a voice for the people in the decisions made by the council.

I will educate myself so that I can bring full disclosure back to the tribal membership to aid them in understanding where tribal funds come from and how they are disbursed. As a Yurok tribal fisherman, I am aware of the problems that face our membership and will strive to improve the fishery. In addition, our water rights go hand in hand with the fishery. I will serve and protect those rights against the current factors that are threatening us.

Thank you for your consideration in the election. Please vote, we can't make any changes if we don't exercise that right and responsibility. With your help and involvement, I believe we can bring about beneficial changes. ✨



Gary Markussen

Vote for Gary Markussen Sr.

"Make a new Direction and Difference in South-District" Yurok Voters

Aiy-yu-Queue"

With humbleness, I am asking for your Vote of confidence on April 2, 2014 I would like you to elect me as your New South-District Tribal Council Person to " make a difference ".

I am a lifelong resident of the "South-District" area living in (Arcata, Eureka, and Blue Lake area) all my life. I attended local schools in this regional area, I graduated from Arcata High School, and went on to College of the Redwoods and

Humboldt State University.

I am a husband along with being a father of nine children, and have many wonderful grandchildren living in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. One of the many joys in my life is attending sporting events in the area that my grandchildren participate in at the Jr. High and High School level. I am very proud of all of my Children and Grandchildren.

My Cultural Practices along with our Traditional Dances are very important to me as a Traditional person. Our Yurok Traditional Laws, Cultural Practices, and Traditional Teaching ways is my "rock" that guides me throughout my pathway in my life.

As a Yurok Tribal member, I come from a long line of Yurok People from the Villages of Weitchpec, Cappell, and Er-ner as well as Family from the Karuk Village of Ishi-Pishi on the upper Klamath River.

I am also a Yurok Business Person with my own Consulting Business. I have worked for forty years in our local area with many Indian Community Organizations, Tribes, and within the Superior Courts of California.

My work History with the Yurok Tribe and other Local Tribes in our area:

1. I am one of the Former Vice-Chairperson's of the Yurok Tribe from 1997-2000
2. I also worked as the Tribal Administrator and Indian Child Welfare Court Advocate for Four Local Tribes.
3. I also have 13 years of working experience in the Indian Community and Tribal Programs in Humboldt & Del Norte Counties.

What are the goals and possible accomplishments I would like to set for the South-District:

a. I would first like to have a South-District Community Hall Meeting. At this meeting I would like your input, your ideas, and your direction. We can agree to set goals, directions, and programs that are needed in the South-District. Then you as Tribal Members set the directions that you want me to develop at the Yurok Tribal Council level.

Remember you, as the voters of South-District, have the power to set the direction of your South-District

Council Person at the Tribal Council meetings.

b. I would like to see some Economic Development in South-District to create Tribal jobs with some type of joint-Tribal business.

c. One of my goals is to develop more Tribal housing assistance for the working middle class, the poor, and our elders in our Community.

d. Help with our homeless Yurok Tribal members and families in South-District. There's quite a number of Tribal Yurok Families living on the streets in our community.

e. I would like to see the Yurok Tribe's Office at the Worthington School Site more of a Tribal Community Center for wrap around Tribal services. Also, we need more Educational after-school Program Services, Elders Assistance Programs, and more Yurok Community based Tribal events.

f. I would like to develop more Yurok sporting and Cultural events for youth in our South-District Area.

g. What can we do for the Yurok Tribal Members that are South-District Voting members that live out of Humboldt County area? I need to hear your ideas!

I would like to help create some major new Ideas, Developments, and Directions in the South-District. So, along with your involvement we could create Tribal jobs, Tribal Programs, and more Tribal Community Involvement in the South-District. The main reason that I am running in this race for the South-District Councilperson is to help make a difference in our Tribal Community!

Remember, If you are looking for Strength in Leadership, Strong Administration abilities, and a Balance in voting on Yurok Tribal Council Issues, Please "Make a Difference" and vote for

Gary Markussen Sr.

With much humbleness

Thank-You very much

Gary Markussen Sr. ✨

Lana McCovey

My name is Lana McCovey and I am running for South District Councilmember. I am the daughter of Allen McCovey (Notchko village) and Marilyn Robbins McCovey (Kepel village). I was born in Hoopa but was raised primarily in San Francisco. I spent every summer at Kepelflat with my grandmother Theresia Erickson Ross. I returned to Humboldt County in 1991.

I am a graduate of Heald's Business College (Accounting) and I will be graduating in May from College of the Redwoods with my AALA in Behavioral & Social Science. I am currently working as a licensed Pharmacy Technician. I have experience working for the Yurok Tribe in the Enrollment department, the Yurok Indian Housing Authority, and as the Executive Secretary of the Tribe. I am also a current Board member for the Yurok

Economic Development Corporation.

Many South District Tribal members have expressed a concern for the welfare of our elders, the education of our members, and for the need to be represented. Currently most tribal services are only available to members living within Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Services should be available to all Tribal members in need. Unfortunately, our current fiscal situation does not allow this. Our Tribe needs to move from a grant funded Tribe to one with a successful business enterprise that will allow all Tribal members to be serviced. I believe that my background will allow me to represent the diverse South district with a knowledge and understanding that it needs, and deserves. ✨



Maria Tripp

The Yurok Tribe is the largest tribe in California. Our reservation encompasses the lower 40 miles of the Klamath River. Our original territory is located within the present day counties of Del Norte County and Humboldt County. These factors are very important when it comes to the critical and important issues of governance of our Tribe.

Our Tribe is governed by a Tribal Council of nine members, and one of those members is elected by the voters of the South District. That position has recently been declared vacant by the Yurok Tribal Council because of the untimely passing of the South District Representative.

After much thought and consideration, I have decided to become a candidate for the position of South District Representative on the Yurok Tribal Council, to fill the unexpired term of our former South District Representative. And, I would

sincerely request your support and your vote in this election.

Today, there are many challenges facing the Yurok Tribe and we have the unique opportunity and the responsibility to face these challenges in a way that is best for all of our tribal membership. Decisions we need to make today must always be based upon Yurok customs, traditions, and our ways of life as we plan for our future and our future generations.

I was born and raised on the Yurok Reservation in Klamath, California, and lived there until moving to Humboldt County to attend college. I have resided in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties for nearly all of my life and have continued to raise my family in our local Indian culture.

In 1976, I began serving our local Indian communities by becoming involved in the educational issues of our children and health issues of our community. Over the years I have always seen service to our Indian community as one of my most important concerns. This has included service on the following:

- a. Eureka City Schools Indian Parent Education Committee
- b. Humboldt State University Indian Teacher Education Program Advisory Board
- c. Indian Action Council, Inc., Board of Directors
- d. Humboldt County Juvenile Justice Commission member
- e. American Indian Constitutional Rights Institute (AI-CRI)
- f. United Indian Health Services, Inc., (UIHS) Board of Directors
- g. California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) Board of Directors
- h. National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Board of Directors

i. The California Endowment (TCE) Board of Directors

In addition, I have been involved in the issues of the Yurok Tribe all of my life. Since the passage of the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act of 1988 I have served the Yurok tribal members in the following capacities:

- a. Yurok Interim Council Member
- b. Yurok Tribal Council Vice-Chair
- c. Yurok Tribal Council Chair
- d. Yurok NAGPRA Committee member
- e. Yurok Housing Committee member
- f. Yurok Cultural Committee member
- g. Yurok Enrollment Committee member

I am very proud of the work that has been done by the Yurok Tribe in maintaining and preserving our way of life. Much is owed to those who have worked hard for our People. Today you can see the result of this hard work in many areas. Although the Yurok Tribe has always existed in our original territory, we have only had an elected tribal government for less than twenty-five years. During that twenty-five years we have made tremendous strides in most areas, especially in the area of becoming a Self-Governance Compacting Tribe which allows us the opportunity to compact with the federal government to do more things for ourselves. But much work remains to be done.

Some of the issues that I am particularly interested in expanding are:

- a. Protection of our culture and traditions, including language
- b. Protection of our River and our natural resources
- c. Education programs for our youth
- d. Housing programs for our tribal members
- e. Improvement of our health care delivery system
- f. Development of prevention programs which allow the Tribe another way to address issues which adversely affect our tribal members
- g. Expansion of tribal programs for all tribal members, regardless of where they reside

As the Yurok Tribe continues to move forward we must always look for ways to be innovative and creative in dealing with the issues that will need to be addressed by our families, our tribal members, our communities, and our Tribal Government.

Therefore, as a candidate for the position of South District Representative for the Yurok Tribal Council, I would respectfully request your support and your vote . Thank you very much. ✨

Tribal leader is now a published author

Yurok Vice Chairwoman Susan “Sue” Masten can now add published author to the long list of successful achievements in her storied career as a national Native American leader.

Masten penned a chapter in the recently published, *A Force Such as the World Has Never Known: Women Creating Change*. She is the sole North American contributor in the 405-page book. The work of nonfiction is an “inspiring collection of narratives by women from all around the globe, women who are making both small and large changes within their communities, their countries, and internationally.”


“I am humbled to be a part of this team of authors who have clearly articulated solutions to bring our troubled world back into balance,” Vice Chair Masten said. “I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to share with the world our struggle to overcome genocide and return to the peaceful, prayerful and wealthy nation our ancestors built.”

The editors Sharon G. Mijares, Aliaa Rafea and Nahid Angha contacted Masten three years ago after hearing about her many, history-changing endeavors in Indian Country.

Nearly all of Masten’s adult life has been dedicated to serving Native American people. During the brief periods when she was not directly serving Indian people, she was securing skills to better serve her tribal community. A few of her many achievements include: serving as President of the National Congress of American Indians (the largest and oldest American Indian advocacy group in the United States), being elected twice to serve as the Chairperson of the Yurok Tribe and starting a renowned, national Native women’s advocacy and training group.

The title of Masten’s chapter is, “The strength of our nation lies in the hearts of Native American Women.” In her section, the dynamic tribal advocate begins by talking about her “higher calling to make a difference for my family and community.”

In the book, Masten shares the story of her family from European contact to the present. The contemporary history of her family, who hail from the village of Reqwoi, mirrors most Yurok families’ history. They endured the calamities



of colonization where representatives from federal and local authorities as well as regular citizens murdered thousands of Yurok people. During this time period, U.S. government officials stole Yurok lands, outlawed tribal ceremonies and split up families by abducting children like Masten's grandmother, who was sent to a boarding school 400 miles away.

The family fiercely fought off assimilation, and in the middle of all of this turmoil, they held tightly to their cultural values, which proved to be their most valuable asset in overcoming unthinkable violence. A mixture of cultural threats, although more dilute, continue even today.

Masten was raised not altogether differently than Yurok children were prior to European arrival when young girls (and boys) had very close relationships with their grandparents. Her grandfather and especially her grandmother, Geneva Mattz, taught her the importance of prayer, the complexities of Yurok ceremonies and how to make traditional basketry, among other meaningful life lessons.

"It is through their teachings that I have a strong identity as a Yurok woman, and my culture and traditions are at the heart of my choices," Masten wrote.

Masten's mother, Lavina Bowers, who worked two jobs, instilled in her daughter the discipline and a work ethic that continues to serve her to this day. As a child, Masten picked strawberries, cherries and beans to pay for school clothes. Bowers also stressed to her child the importance of an education, inspiring Masten to become the first college graduate in her family.

These strong role models formed a foundation from which she would start contributing positively to her community at an early age.

The first test of her skills and resolve came in the form of a full-on assault from the federal government on one of the Tribe's most important and sacred rights. In the late 1970s, U.S. and State law enforcement agents, armed with assault rifles and steel jet boats, came to Klamath to stop the Tribe from fishing salmon.

With their high-powered watercraft, agents aimed at and sunk tribal fishers' boats in the Klamath estuary, where the tides alone have claimed the lives of many. The so-called soldiers assaulted unarmed men and women on land. They incarcerated tribal members who, in peaceful acts of resistance, set net in the Klamath estuary.

"It was both maddening and heartbreaking to watch this happen to my people," Masten said.

At the time, the Tribe had not yet formally organized, but

Yurok people quickly came together to mount an aggressive civil disobedience campaign against the federal and state invaders.

It was necessary for the Yurok people involved to select someone to articulate the Tribe's position and convince the federal government that the Tribe could not only manage the fishery, but do it better than the agencies could. Masten was elected as Chairperson of the Traditional Indian Fishermen's Association, a platform from which she would negotiate an allocation of fish for the Tribe.

She worked very hard on behalf of the fishers, learning every legal and biological facet of the fishery because she knew that the decision would one day be challenged in court and it was. The court upheld the decision, which entitled the tribes of the Klamath basin "not less than 50 percent" of harvestable fish.

The threats to the fishery made it clear that becoming officially organized could benefit the Tribe as a whole. Masten played an integral role in the formation of the new tribal government. She also served two terms as Chairperson from 1997 to 2002.

In 2002, Masten chose to not run again because she needed to work on her financial stability. The Oregon State graduate was courted by a bank where she worked as a Vice President. However, this did not slow her service to Native people. She started the Women Empowering Women in Indian Nations WEWIN.

The tenacious tribal leader called upon nine accomplished Native women to become the board of directors for the now well-established resource for females in Indian Country. WEWIN's focus is to "empower women through professional development." The organization has held nine national conferences, attended by thousands of Native women.

"I wanted to find a way to provide resources, training, role models, mentors and a forum for networking," Masten explains in the book.

Currently, Masten is in the fruitful years of middle age. She is unencumbered by the limits of youth, although she still has all of the energy of a 20-year-old. Her future is an open book with many blank pages that will no doubt be filled with more history making events that will touch the lives of Native people the world over.

"I believe I was born to serve my people and contribute to the greater good of all Native peoples," Masten posited in the book.

She closes the chapter with a message to Native women: "With global warming and the mass loss of species and war, we as women must step forward as leaders and join hands as we hold the key to solutions—to create world change." ❄

Tribal Court teams up with university

Program will help put tribal members through law school

LOS ANGELES, CA and KLAMATH, CA - March 6, 2014 -

Concord Law School and the Yurok Tribe today announced the establishment of a new pilot program designed to increase the number of tribal member attorneys.

“We have a great need for Yurok tribal member attorneys,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “Year-after-year, we have to continuously battle in the courts to protect our river and the inherent hunting and gathering rights of present and future generations of Yurok people. This program with Concord Law School will enable the Tribe to grow our legal system, which is based on the traditional principle of restorative justice,” said O’Rourke.

As part of the pilot program, Concord Law School will offer qualified students from the Yurok Tribe discounts and special programs aimed at supporting their success. Each student from the Tribe will be assigned a mentor for some of the toughest parts of their first year courses and a Law Advisor who will offer support in study skills and time management. Special curriculum, in the third and fourth years, will address aspects of law needed for practice in tribal matters. Discounts will also be provided to Tribal students who choose to take the Kaplan California Bar Review Course. The Yurok students will also have the opportunity to take the Yurok Bar exam, which is a requirement to practice on tribal lands.

“The myriad of complex legal issues facing the Yurok Tribe—and frankly all federally recognized tribes—are enormous and growing. Unfortunately, as the number of the federally recognized tribes has grown, growth in the Native American legal profession has not kept pace,” said Stephen Burnett, vice president of Graduate Legal Education for Kaplan University. Burnett noted that the number of American Indians/Alaska Natives enrolled in Juris Doctor (JD) programs nationally has declined by more than 10 percent in recent years. Also troubling is the sharp decline in first-year JD students, which have fallen by more than 20 percent over the last three academic years.

“One of the issues an online school can help solve for tribes, as an online law school, is access. The Yurok Tribe’s reservation lands in northern California are both beautiful and remote,

which makes its very difficult for students who want or need to stay in the community to attend a brick-and-mortar college,” added Concord Law School Dean Greg Brandes.

Dean Brandes recently presided over Concord Law School’s 21st graduation ceremony in Los Angeles, which included 53 graduates of the Juris Doctor program and 31 who earned an Executive Juris Doctor degree. Additionally, the graduating class included eight graduates of Concord’s Small Business Practice LLM program designed for lawyers and law school graduates who want practical courses focused on the needs of small business clients.

“It is our hope to create a core of professional Yurok attorneys who will form the foundation of our nation’s legal system,” said Abby Abinanti, Yurok Chief Judge. “We are extremely grateful that such a well-respected institution heard our call for assistance in building the capacity of the tribal court and the Tribe as a whole.”

The Yurok Tribe is California’s largest Indian Tribe with 5,951 tribal members. The Yurok Tribe’s Reservation extends for one mile on each side from the mouth of the Klamath River and upriver for 44 miles. However, this is only a tiny portion of the Tribe’s ancestral territory. Approximately 150 tribal members are enrolled in college, with four pursuing Master’s degrees

About Concord Law School

Concord Law School is the nation’s premier provider of online law degrees. Since opening its virtual doors in 1998, Concord has helped more than 1,700 graduates obtain their Juris Doctor (JD) or Executive Juris DoctorSM (EJD) degree. Concord is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council, a nationally recognized accrediting agency. Concord Law School of Kaplan University is part of Kaplan Higher Education Group and Kaplan, Inc., which serves approximately 60,000 students online and through approximately 56 campus-based schools across the United States. Kaplan, Inc., a leading international provider of educational and career services for individuals, schools and businesses. Kaplan, Inc. is a subsidiary of Graham Holdings Company and is its largest division. For more information, visit info.concordlawschool.edu. ✧

Tribal Council issues drought declaration

Tribe working on reservation-wide plan re: potential water shortage

The Yurok Tribal Council recently issued an emergency declaration proclaiming that the record-setting drought conditions pose a threat to Yurok people as well as natural and cultural resources.

“If the lack of rain and snowfall continues to persist, the impact to forests, fish and the entire ecosystem will be enormous,” said the Yurok Tribe’s Chairman Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr. “The purpose of this declaration is to begin the process of protecting these vital resources, which are the lifeline of Yurok people.”

Despite the recent rains, Yurok Country is suffering through a second year of some of the driest conditions in modern history. At the time of the declaration, the Klamath River, the third largest anadromous fish-bearing river on the Pacific coast and its largest tributary, the Trinity River, were both flowing at or near record low levels. The mouth of the Klamath River literally closed completely on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 and harbor seals were witnessed waddling over the sand between the river and the ocean. In the 2013 calendar year, there was less rainfall in the region than any other year in recorded history.

Currently, the Tribe is working on a Reservation-wide drought plan, which focuses on securing stable water sources for the community. Most of the residential water supplies come from surface water and there are no large wells to use as back up.

The total rainfall in February was slightly higher than average, but the region has still only received 43 percent of the precipitation that it gets in a normal year. On top of that, there is virtually no snowpack in the mountains.

Last month, California Governor Jerry Brown issued a drought emergency declaration for the state just before nearly 100 California communities were expected to run out of water.

The Yurok Tribe is particularly concerned about the impact of a protracted drought will have on salmon and other anadromous fish. According to the declaration, “such low flows reduce and degrade fish habitat conditions, resulting in low survival of fish populations the Tribe depends upon, and making certain fish populations, such as wild spring Chinook and coho salmon, vulnerable to extirpation from such

extremely dry conditions. Fish populations of the Klamath Basin are integral to the Yurok way of life for subsistence, culture, and commerce.”

In 2002, more than 70,000 anadromous fish perished in the lower Klamath River prematurely from two diseases, which spread quickly between fish as a result of low flows. At the time, it was the largest fish kill in the history of the United States.

To make things worse, illegal cannabis cultivators, who tap into and pollute Reservation streams, taking nearly all of the water in some years, will likely not be hindered from trying to grow a crop because of a drought.

The risk of wild land and structure fires will go up exponentially if there is not a dramatic change in the weather. The remoteness of the Reservation, its limited fire protection services and the fact that the sole escape route for the communities around Wautec is a single-lane highway, combine to intensify the threat to tribal communities – if a large fire occurs. Many homes lack telephone service and electricity, putting residents in further danger in the event of a wild fire. Elders, children and infirmed community residents will be most at-risk in the event of an out-of-control forest fire.

In addition to putting in danger tribal communities and natural resources, overly dry conditions could also adversely impact the Tribe’s cultural resources, including: villages, prayer sites, view sheds, fishing holes and other cultural properties throughout Yurok Ancestral Territory.

California’s drought declaration, which suspended the California Environmental Quality Act, a landmark piece of legislation designed to protect the environment, could also post a threat to cultural resources.

The Tribe is meeting with state and federal officials on an ongoing basis to bolster the plan for dealing with a water shortage.

“This is a very difficult situation and we will be doing everything we can protect our people and our resources. It takes water to preserve our way of life,” concluded Chairman O’Rourke. ✨

Contract Health improves referral process

- *Submitted by UIHS*

United Indian Health Services Contract Health Services (CHS) is changing the referral process to help shorten the time for pre-authorization to your outside appointment.

When your provider wants to refer you for an outside service, procedure or test, such as an x-ray, MRI, etc..., and you would like CHS assistance with the referral, please ask your provider for a CHS Assistance Request Form. You will need to sign the CHS Assistance Form and bring it to the CHS window at Potawot or Crescent City.

If you are being seen at Fortuna, Klamath or Weitchpec the CHS Assistance Request form must be turned in at the medical front office to be faxed to CHS at (707)825-5029 or Crescent City at (707)465-2990.

Please call Potawot CHS at (707)825-5080 or Crescent City CHS at (707)465-2981 to check your eligibility within 3 business days from date of your referral request.

When you bring the form to the window, a CHS employee will check the form for CHS eligibility and verification. You may be asked to do the following:

1. Complete an Intake Form with the Client's Benefit Technician at Patient Registration.
2. If the Intake Form suggests that you might be eligible for Medi-Cal or other alternate resources, you will need to complete the application process within 10 business days of your referral. You can make an appointment with the Client's Benefit Technician.
3. Please be prepared to bring in documents that may be requested of you such as bank statements, utility bills, check stubs, etc...

We are working hard to improve the CHS referral process. If you have a question regarding this CHS change please call Potawot CHS at (707)825-5080 or Crescent City at (707)465-2981. ✨

A New arrival to the Sandoval-Montano and Mattz family!



Shayna Amari Sandoval was born on February 28th, 2014 in Garden City, Kansas at St. Catherine's Hospital. Shayna weighed 5 pounds and 15.5 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Shayna is the first child to Francisca Montano and Jorge Sandoval. Her Grandparents from her mother's side are Betty Mattz and Francisco Montano. Her Grandparents from her father's side are, Anita Juarez and Adan Sandoval.



Complete survey - win ammunition



The Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program is interested in your opinion related to the need for Hunting Regulations on the Reservation. Hunting regulations do not necessarily mean limiting harvest or harvest methods, restricting access, or constraining hunting activities in any way. Community input is a critical piece to planning how to successfully manage our natural resources for the overall, long-term benefit of our membership as well as the resources themselves.

Yurok Tribal member responders to this survey will be entered into a raffle to win one box of non-lead ammunition. If interested in the raffle entry, please include your name and contact information with your completed survey.

- 1.) Are you a member of the Yurok Tribe?
Yes___No___
- 2.) Do you see a need for the Yurok Tribe to manage the harvest of land animals?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 3.) Do you approve of the creation of a harvest management ordinance, to be applied to the Yurok community on the Reservation?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 4.) If a harvest ordinance were to be put in place, what species or sorts of animals should it cover?
Deer___ Elk___ Bear___ Squirrel___ Fox___ Turkey___ Grouse___
Mountain Lion___ Waterfowl___
Other:
- 5.) If a harvest ordinance were to be put in place, what activities should it allow or prohibit?
Spotlighting at night: Allow___ Prohibit___
Hunting from a vehicle: Allow___ Prohibit___
Others:
- 6.) Should female large game, like deer does and elk cows, be allowed to be taken?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 7.) Should there be seasons and limits put on hunting certain species?
Yes___ No___ If so, for which species, and what should seasons and limits be?

- 8.) Should there be an exceptions process for cultural practices or great economic need?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 9.) Should there be penalties for non-compliance with the proposed ordinance?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 10.) Are you aware of the current ordinance requiring hunters to report all large game taken on the Reservation in order to assess wildlife populations?
Yes___ No___ Harvest reporting forms can be found at the Klamath and Weitchpec tribal offices, or online at www.yuroktribe.org/reporting.htm
- 11.) Do you think that there should be limitations on the types of ammunition used to harvest game? For example, center-fire rounds only, or a minimum of .243 caliber for large game, etc.
Yes___ No___ What restrictions do you feel are required?
- 12.) Do you think the Yurok Tribe should require the use of non-lead ammunition for hunting on the Reservation? A recent California Law will require the use of non-lead for hunting statewide by 2019.
Yes___ No___ For more information on non-lead options, please call (707) 482-1822 x 1028.
- 13.) If you were interested in trying non-lead ammunition, what would be a good way for the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program to help you acquire it?
- 14.) Do you feel you have sufficient understanding of what is allowable for plant and animal harvest outside of Reservation boundaries in other areas of Yurok Ancestral Territory?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 15.) Do you understand permitting requirements for animal and plant harvest both on and off of the Reservation? If not, what additional information is important to have available?
Yes___ No___ Comments:
- 16.) Additional comments?

**In order to respond to this survey please either message the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program on Facebook, call the Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program at (707) 482-1822 x 1028, drop the survey off in the Harvest Report Form boxes at the Klamath and Weitchpec Tribal offices, or mail to: Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548 ✘**



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

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on any of the following land assignment applications may submit written comments to the Yurok Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department. All comments must be in writing and include the name, address and signature of the person making the comments. Comments must specify which land assignment they are addressing and must be received by the Planning Department by April 10, 2014. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- **(Category B) Land Assignment Renewal: Richard Myers Sr
Yurok Tribe # 533-063-024-009 SGN-002 Located in Sregon Village.**
- **(Category B) Land Assignment Renewal: Barry McCovey Sr
Yurok Tribe # 534-132-013-20 MCKH-013 Located near McKinnon Hill.**
- **(Category C) Land Assignment Transfer: Lineal Descendant Nicholas McCovey. Prior Assignee Laura Borden.
Yurok Tribe # 532-142-007-000 NCK-006 Located in Brushy Prairie Notchko.**
- **(Category C) Land Assignment Transfer: Lineal Descendant Jacob Ford. Prior Assignee George McCovey.
Yurok Tribe # 532-142-007 NCK-011 Located in Brushy Prairie Notchko.**

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

FREE Social Security Legal Clinic

Are you thinking about applying for disability (SSI or SSDI) benefits?
 Have you been wrongfully terminated or denied benefits?
 Have you been told that you have been overpaid benefits?
 Do you want to learn about the appeals process?

Are you wondering if you or a family member is eligible for social security benefits?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we may be able to help. OneJustice's Justice Bus® Project is partnering with the Yurok Tribal Court and Legal Services of Northern California to provide a **FREE** legal clinic to residents of Del Norte County wanting help with social security-related issues. If you are experiencing legal barriers to accessing your social security benefits, call and make an appointment today!

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

190 Klamath Blvd., Klamath, CA 95548

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL:

(415) 834-0100 ext.318

APPOINTMENTS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

This Clinic is made possible by the generous support of the California Endowment and the OneJustice Network

2014 SPECIAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

APRIL 2, 2014	SPECIAL ELECTION
MAY 7, 2014	SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION (IF NECESSARY)

JANUARY 31	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION (60 DAYS)
FEBRUARY 3 (8:30AM)	FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
FEBRUARY 21 (5:00PM)	LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
FEBRUARY 28	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words)
FEBRUARY 25	LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR SPECIAL ELECTION (37 DAYS)
FEBRUARY 26	ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
MARCH 7	MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (25 DAYS)
MARCH 14	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (18 DAYS)
MARCH 19	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
MARCH 26	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)
APRIL 2, 2014	SPECIAL ELECTION
APRIL 11	MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
APRIL 18	LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) <i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE PREVIOUSLY</i>
APRIL 30	LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)
MAY 7, 2014	RUNOFF ELECTION (IF NECESSARY)

SAVE THE DATE

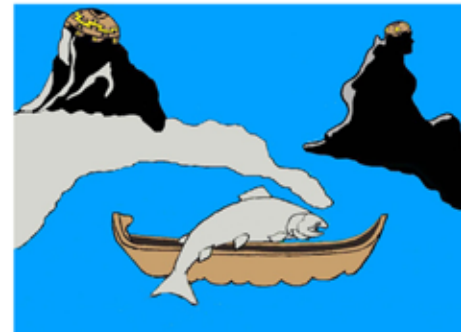


KLAMATH RIVER CLEAN UP

MAY 10, 2014

T-shirt Design Contest

The Annual Klamath River Clean-up is happening On May 10th!



We are searching for a new logo that represents the Yurok Tribe Culture and a message of Environmental Conservation focusing on improving aquatic habitat and enhancing the beauty of the river. Be Creative and maybe your design will be on this year's T-shirt!

All entries can be submitted to - kbraun@yuroktribe.nsn.us or you can also submit a hardcopy at the Main Tribal Office.

Entries **MUST** be submitted by April 4th



Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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