



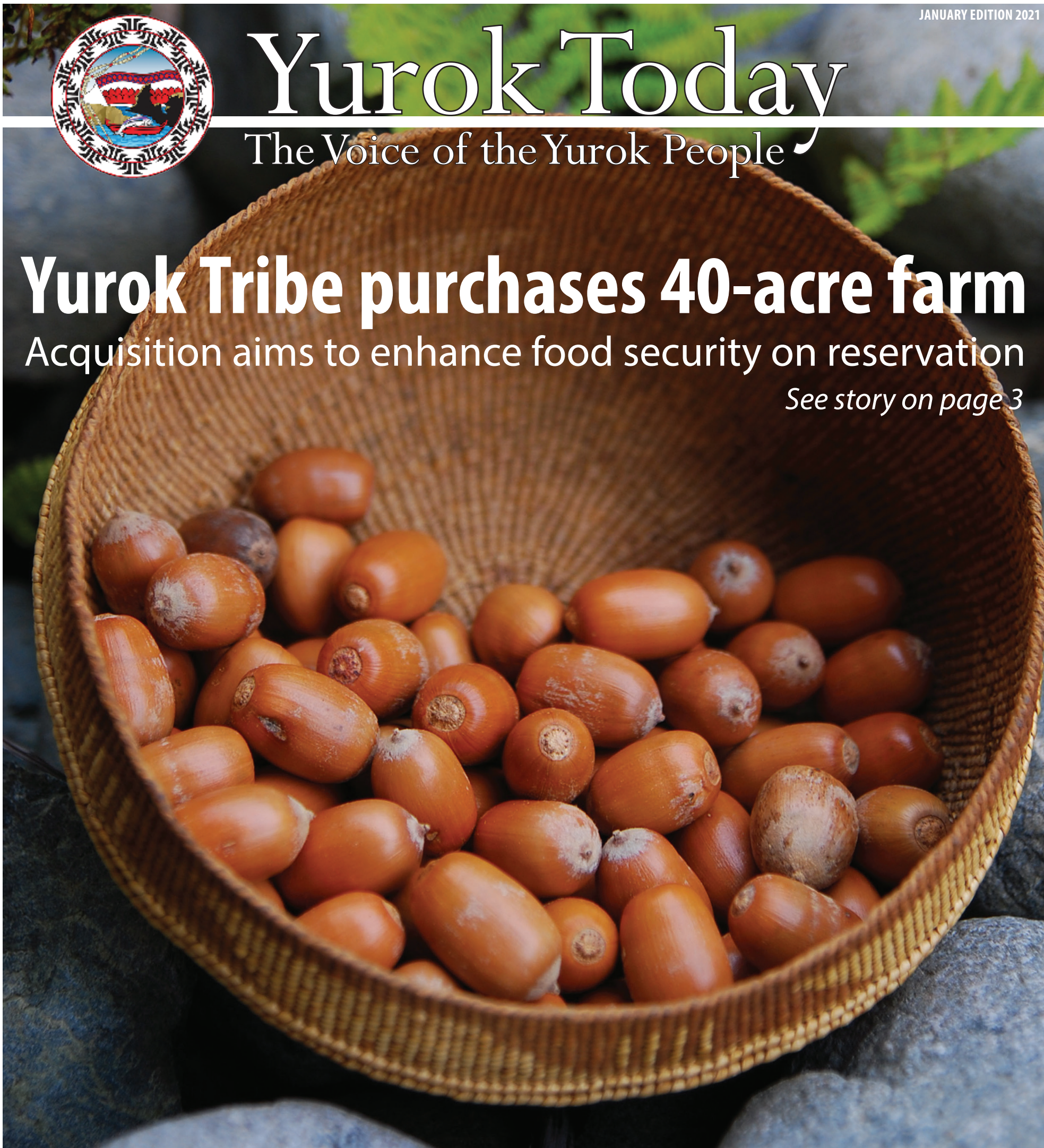
Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Yurok Tribe purchases 40-acre farm

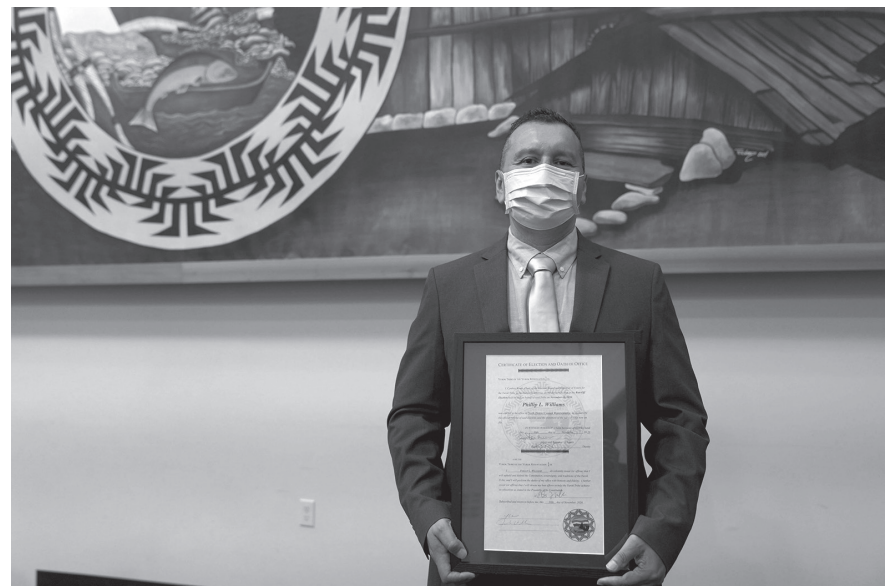
Acquisition aims to enhance food security on reservation

See story on page 3



Yurok Tribal Council Election Winners

Two incumbents and one new member were recently sworn into their positions on the Yurok Tribal Council. Ryan Ray, the Requa District Representative (left), was installed on October 27, 2020. Weitchpec District Representative Toby Vanlandingham (top right) and North District Representative Phillip L. Williams (bottom right) were installed to their positions on November 30, 2020.



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On The Cover

With the acquisition of the Klamath property, the Yurok Tribe now owns food growing operations on both sides of the reservation.

YTEP will operate regenerative farm

Site will be used to grow produce and will serve as an outdoor classroom

The Yurok Tribe recently purchased 40-acres of agricultural land to create a food security farm.

“The COVID-19 crisis illuminated a very real potential for food shortages in our rural region. We purchased this property to make the Tribe more self-sufficient during times of emergency and when things get back to normal. This property presents an ideal location to cultivate a tremendous amount of healthy, organic produce for our people,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “Establishing this environmentally sustainable food security farm will also strengthen our sovereignty.”

“This year, we have taken significant steps toward radically increasing the availability of healthy foods on the reservation. With this acquisition and the purchase of the old Weitchpec nursery, we have secured more than 65 acres of land for food production, which will complement our efforts to restore our natural food resources. For many years to come, these projects will improve the physical and mental health of our youth, families and elders,” added Ryan Ray, the Yurok Tribal Council’s Requa District Representative.

The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program’s Food Sovereignty Division will manage the Klamath farm, which is located next the Margaret Keating Elementary School and the Yurok Tribe’s Head Start and Early Head Start. The Food Sovereignty Division’s staff will employ a holistic, regenerative method of cultivation to grow a wide variety of vegetables at the site. An organic orchard will be established on the property too. Purchased with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the parcel is comprised of roughly equal parts fertile pasture and forest. The redwood-dominant forest flanks Mynot Creek and contains traditional food resources, such as huckleberry. In the future, the Klamath farm will also serve as an outdoor classroom where Yurok students will participate in projects featuring the following: earth-friendly plant cultivation, culturally consistent land management, traditional food harvesting and fish and wildlife habitat restoration.

Earlier this year, the Yurok Agricultural Corporation, a Yurok Tribe-owned entity, acquired the 26-acre Weitchpec Nursery. In addition to sustainably grown fruits and vegetables, the tribally operated nursery will soon offer plant seeds and starts as well as gardening equipment. The Yurok Agricultural Corporation will also provide tutorials at the site to assist local residents in developing and maintaining their own food gardens.

In 2017, the USDA declared the Yurok Reservation a food desert



Graphic by Louisa McCovey, the Director of the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program

because there are very few sources of healthy sustenance on tribal lands. This was not always the case. Prior to European contact, the Klamath River was filled with fish, including abundant salmon and steelhead runs that arrived in each of the four seasons. On land, a large quantity of wild game accompanied an enormous variety of edible plants and fungi. The immense natural bounty was a direct outcome of precise tribal land stewardship strategies designed over the course of millennia to facilitate maximum productivity and biological diversity. Another factor contributing to the lack of access to nutritious foods is the fact that most of the arable land on the reservation is privately owned, excluding the Tribe’s new properties in Klamath and Weitchpec.

At the start of the pandemic, it quickly became clear that rural areas would receive resources last, which is a worrisome predicament in the event of a food shortage. That is why the Tribe is developing creative solutions to increase the availability of healthy forms of nourishment on the reservation, such as purchasing land for organic crop production, the restoration of traditional food sources and the revitalization of the overall landscape.

“We are working toward becoming completely self-sufficient and food sovereign. I foresee a day when there is convenient access to sufficient supplies of organically grown produce and the natural resources that sustained our people since time immemorial,” concluded Chairman James.

Tribe acquires Lindgren Lumber Company

Upon retirement, Tribal elders sells successful lath business

Down to the last particle of sawdust, every piece of wood that enters the Lindgren Lumber Company property leaves in the form of a commercially valuable product.

Built from the ground up by Yurok elder Joe Lindgren and his son Joseph, the thriving business employs an extraordinarily innovative approach to producing a wide selection of environmentally sustainable redwood lath, which are sold everywhere from big box stores to regional wholesalers to local mom and pop shops. Late last year, Mr. Lindgren retired after running the business for nearly 30 years and offered the Tribe an exclusive opportunity to purchase the cutting-edge lumber company.

“The Lindgren Lumber Company has a longstanding reputation as a premiere producer of finest quality redwood products,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “We added this business to our economic development portfolio because it is a successful enterprise with an exemplary environmental track record. We will not be altering the operation of the company. However, we have a plan to capitalize on existing business relationships to bring the well-established brand into new markets.”

“In developing new revenue streams on and off of the reservation, we are strengthening our sovereignty and the stability of our nation. The Lindgren Lumber Company exemplifies the Yurok Agricultural Corporation’s low impact business practices and has a proven track record of economic success. We sincerely thank Mr. Lindgren for presenting us with a great opportunity to invest in the future of our Tribe. This acquisition will serve our people for many years to come,” added Toby Vanlandingham, the President of the Yurok Agricultural Corporation, a Yurok-owned entity. “YAC and Mr. Lindgren agreed on a unique business arrangement that is based on our shared cultural values.”

While Mr. Lindgren is no longer overseeing the company, he is serving as an unpaid advisor to ensure that the bustling mill continues to perform at full capacity during and after the transition.



Mr. Lindgren offered the Tribe the first opportunity to buy the thriving business.

“I couldn’t wish for a better way to cap off my career. I care deeply about my Tribe and my former employees. Members of my crew have raised children from infancy to adulthood while working for the company and I want this legacy to continue for the foreseeable future,” Mr. Lindgren said. “My father told me that if you ever make a business deal with another Indian person, you must take extra care to make sure that it is equally beneficial to both parties. That is precisely what I intend to do. I’m staying on to prove that the business will perform like I said it would.”

Established in 1993 and based in Arcata, CA, the Lindgren Lumber Company employs more than 20 individuals, many of whom have been with the company for multiple decades. Year round, the veteran saw operators quickly and efficiently transform rough cut planks into some of the most beautiful lath on the market. Many units of the precisely cut redwood lath are sold to Home Depot and Lowe’s for the manufacturing of lattice.

Following a cultural imperative to use every part of what is harvested from the land, Lindgren intentionally and ingeniously

"I COULDN'T WISH FOR A BETTER WAY TO CAP OFF MY CAREER."

- JOE LINDGREN, FOUNDER OF LINDGREN LUMBER CO



customized the layout of the two-story mill. He also modified every machine in the building to maximize productivity and minimize waste. For example, beneath each saw is a sophisticated catchment system that transports sawdust to a central location, where it is stored until there is a sufficient quantity to sell. A local potting soil producer regularly purchases the loads of fine wood powder. The mill uses this as well as many other proprietary methods to eliminate all waste and to maintain a competitive advantage in the industry.

Yurok Economic Development Update

In 2020, the Yurok Tribe invested in three new economic development enterprises, including the Lindgren Lumber Company, the Weitchpec Nursery and the Shoreline Market. Located in Orick, the Shoreline Market will soon be transformed into a state-of-the-art fueling center. The Tribe invested CARES Act funds into the Shoreline Market and the Weitchpec Nursery. Both will provide essential services, such as food, fuel and water, to the Weitchpec and Orick communities. The two-story fuel mart will also serve as a satellite tribal office, which will make services more accessible to tribal citizens. In the spring, the Weitchpec Nursery will again offer organic produce as well as plant seeds, vegetable starts and gardening equipment. Purchased in late 2019, the Yurok Tribe's Mad River Brewing Company launched a creative marketing campaign this year, which netted a new business partnership with the San Manuel Casino, one of the most lucrative gaming operations on the West Coast.

In addition to the recent acquisitions, the Yurok Tribe owns the following businesses: Redwood Hotel Casino, Abalone Bar and Grill, Pem-mey and Pek-tah Fuel Marts, Yurok Country Visitor Center and three RV parks. Growing every year, the Tribe's combined workforce is currently comprised of approximately 650 individuals, the majority of whom work in natural resources restoration and management, the primary economic drivers on the Yurok Reservation. As one of the largest employer's in the region, the Tribe offers living-wage job opportunities in many different fields, including: tribal governance, fisheries management and restoration, sustainable forestry, environmental protection, cultural preservation, social services and language revitalization.



The Lindgren Lumber Company is known for producing some of the best redwood laths on the market.

“Whether it’s restoring the Klamath River, marketing tribally own businesses or administering essential services, we want the next generation to have access to fulfilling, well-paying jobs and the ability to comfortably raise a family. We still have a way to go, but we are firmly on the path to making this dream a reality,” concluded Chairman James.

***There will be an in-depth story about the Lindgren Lumber Company in the February edition of Yurok Today.**

Tribe purchases Willow Creek property

New facility will make essential services more accessible to tribal citizens

The Yurok Tribe recently finalized the purchase of the former Umpqua Bank building in Willow Creek and will soon transform the building into a satellite tribal office.

“This acquisition will afford us the ability to disperse our workforce in a manner that is consistent with COVID-19 guidelines. This centrally located office offers several other advantages too. The many tribal families in the Willow Creek area will soon be able to obtain tribal services at the new office,” said Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James. “We are committed to providing a safe working environment for our 600-plus employees.”

“The office will be a great asset for Tribal citizens in the East District. During the COVID-19 pandemic and for many years to come, this new piece of infrastructure will provide a safe working environment for many of our employees who will no longer have to travel to Klamath or Weitchpec,” added Lori Hodge, the Yurok Tribal Council’s East District Representative.

Purchased with funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act, the Willow Creek office will house staff from several of the Yurok Tribe’s departments once renovations are completed. Hundreds of Yurok families and tribal employees live in Willow Creek and nearby Hoopa. Currently, Yurok citizens in this area have to travel more than 40 miles on a narrow road to Weitchpec to enroll in tribal services and programs. Several tribal employees have to commute this same distance. In addition to job opportunities, the Tribe provides to its members a wide variety of



educational, economic, social and housing-related services.

This year, the Tribal Council also approved the acquisition of buildings in Crescent City and Orick. The Tribe is also constructing two new facilities on the reservation. In the beginning of 2020, the Tribe remodeled and opened an office in Crescent City. The new North District building, located near the California DMV, is already providing services to tribal citizens and will offer even more benefits once the pandemic concludes. In October, the Tribe bought the old Shoreline Market in Orick. The aging store is slated for demolition. It will be replaced with a modern two-story building containing a state-of-the-art fueling center on the first floor in addition to tribal offices and meeting rooms on the second. A new laundromat will also be installed on the ten-acre property. Purchased with funds from CARES Act, the Orick site will provide essential resources to the community such as food, water and fuel. On the reservation, the Tribe is building two large emergency operations centers for tribal first responders, such as firefighters, police and Yurok Office of Emergency Services personnel. The Tribe invested CARES dollars into these critical pieces of infrastructure too.



Tribe distributes generators to elders

Generators will ensure the elderly have electricity when the power goes out

The Yurok Tribe is distributing generators to every Yurok elder household.

Phase 1 of the distribution effort is now complete. To date, tribal staff have delivered more than 150 generators to tribal elders living in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Phase 2 is currently underway. During this stage, 144 elders living on the coast in Northern California and Southern Oregon will receive generators. Upon the conclusion of Phase 2, tribal staff will begin delivering the machines to those in between Medford and Sacramento. Phase 4 includes all other areas. The Yurok Tribe would like to thank the team that is putting in long hours and hundreds of miles to provide elders with an alternate source of electricity. The teams is also providing tutorials to teach the recipients how to operate the devices. We have received much positive feedback from tribal elders.

This service is available to all Yurok elders (60 and over) in the US. Elders who live independently and those who live with a caregiver are eligible to receive a generator. Residences with more than one elder are eligible one generator. The Firman generators operate on both gasoline and propane. The machines also have multiple plug-in options and have a 12-hour running capacity as well as wheels, which make them easier to move.

Yurok Health and Human Services (YHHS) recently conducted an assessment to determine what types of resources elders need during the COVID-19 emergency. The survey of Yurok citizens over 60-years-old indicated that many tribal seniors need a stand-alone power source to keep medical equipment, heaters and standard appliances operating when the power goes out. The generators will sustain these common household items. The electricity-producing implements will also help elders save money because they will be able to preserve their refrigerated food when the grid goes down. The generator distribution is part of the Yurok Tribe's comprehensive effort to confront the health, social and economic facets of the COVID-19 crisis. The devices were purchased with funds the Tribe received from the US Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The Yurok tribal government has mounted a massive response to the many components of the COVID-19 crisis. Since March, the Tribe has provided many different forms of assistance to elders, such as grocery cards and food boxes to help them stay home and out of harm's way. On a regular basis, the Tribe is supplying elders with



Staff from multiple departments and YEDC are delivering generators.

firewood as well as a substantial supply of face coverings and hand sanitizer. Yurok Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Yurok Office of Emergency Services and other tribal departments, is conducting regular check-ins with tribal elders by phone. YHHS's survey identified many elders with preexisting medical conditions. Underlying health issues, combined with exposure to the wildfire smoke that smothered the region this summer, made senior citizens especially at-risk of suffering COVID-19's worst symptoms. To help elders cope with these conditions, a tribal team delivered High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to the homes of susceptible individuals. YHHS has also provided referrals to other programs and agencies, which offer additional resources to tribal elders.

The Tribe has distributed a diversity of resources to tribal citizens of all ages and to tribal entrepreneurs, too. In October, all Yurok students between the age of 2 and 17 received brand-name tablets and were sent all-in-one printers. These distance learning devices were dispersed to help youth remain engaged in school during the pandemic. Eligible Tribal adults received \$1,250 in emergency funds to address economic challenges posed by the pandemic. The Tribal Council also directed \$2 million in CARES Act funding toward a forgivable grant program for Yurok business owners and vendors. The Yurok Alliance CDFI-administered Small Business Grant Relief Program served 198, Yurok citizen-owned small businesses. The Tribe also disbursed an additional \$500 to assist eligible Yurok families, individuals and elders during the holiday season.

TRIBE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDS



(left) Larry Nova and Steve Sanderson collect COVID-19 supplies at the Del Norte Regional Airport.



On NYE, Team Yurok collected COVID-19 supplies from the California DART Network pilots.



Anthony Webster distributes printers to Yurok students.



Robert R. Kinney collects a load of face shields at the Del Norte Regional Airport.

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CRISIS



Incident Commander Serene Hayden helps unload a CalDART plane.



YEDC Director Raymond Bacon assembles generators to tribal elders.



(top) Keith Ray and Cassandra Charles load generators into truck that is delivering the machines to tribal elders.



Zoey Patapoff-Pruitt and Patrick Patapoff-Pruitt help unload emergency supplies.

7 pilots deliver emergency resources

On New Year's Eve and January 5, the Yurok Incident Management team received more than two thousand pounds of assorted equipment that will be used to prevent the spread of COVID-19 along the Lower Klamath River.

Seven California DART Network pilots delivered the essential items to Del Norte County Regional Airport. A group called Direct Relief donated the critical supplies.

The shipment included large quantities of the following COVID-19 protection products: N95s, Surgical masks, Face shields, Powered Air Purifying Respirators, Isolation gowns, Hand sanitizer and Non-medical face masks. Donated by Direct Relief and delivered by five California DART Network volunteer pilots, the items will be distributed to Yurok citizens as well as the surrounding Tribes.

The Yurok Incident Management Team is extremely grateful for the much-needed supplies. We sincerely thank Direct Relief, the National

Tribal Emergency Management Council the pilots who transported the items to the Del Norte airport.

The California DART Network provides volunteer air transportation services to benefit communities experiencing emergencies, such as earthquakes, floods and other events. Direct Relief is a humanitarian aid organization, active in all 50 states and more than 80 countries, with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies – without regard to politics, religion, or ability to pay.

For more information about the Yurok Tribe's response to the COVID-19 crisis, please visit: <https://www.yurokoes.org/>

To learn more about the California DART Network, please visit: <https://caldart.org/>

For more information about Direct Relief, please visit <https://www.directrelief.org/about/>

To learn more about the NTEMC, please visit <http://ntemc.org/>

Learn about the Yurok Vets Wellness Court

The mission of the Yurok Veteran Wellness Court is to address the underlying cause of criminal behavior and reduce recidivism through wellness and recovery support services, giving back to those who have served.

Native veterans residing in Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties with drug and/or alcohol related charge(s), theft charge(s), or domestic violence charge(s) may be eligible for participation in YVWC.

The YVWC will act as a "one-stop-shop" linking veterans with the programs, benefits, services, and support they have earned through their United States military service.

In addition to wellness court services, the Veterans Wellness Coordinator is available to help veterans connect to resources for which they may be eligible. **Contact Jessica Wolsfeld at (707) 951-5425 or jwolsfeld@yuroktribe.nsn.us**

How to Request Your Discharge Paperwork (DD-214)

Discharge documents are necessary to prove eligibility for most benefits.

1. **Online:** <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>
2. **Mail Form SF-180** (<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>) to:
National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63138

3. **Write a letter to the above address, containing the following information:**

- The veteran's complete name used while in service
- Service number or social security number
- Branch of service
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known
- If the request pertains to a record that may have been involved in the 1973 fire (Army and Air Force records), also include:
 - o Place of discharge
 - o Last unit of assignment
 - o Place of entry into the service, if known.

February 3, 1943

February 3 is annually recognized to honor the four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others when the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank during World War II. More can be learned at <http://fourchaplains.org/>.

Attention Veterans! Do we have your current address?

Are you Active Duty military? Please make sure we know!

The Veterans Wellness Coordinator can be reached at (707) 951-5425 or jwolsfeld@yuroktribe.nsn.us

Tribe distributes emergency monies

Every eligible Yurok adult receives \$500 in CARES Act dollars

The Yurok Tribal Council distributed \$500 in COVID-19 relief funding to eligible Yurok citizens who are 18-years-old or older, and those who turn 18 before December 30, 2020.

“We decided to offer additional financial assistance because we know this holiday season was going to be difficult for all of our members,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “The Tribal Council hopes that this funding made life a bit easier for our people. Please stay healthy and enjoy the new year.”

In June, the Tribal Council distributed \$1,250 to every eligible Yurok adult who applied for the relief funds. Those who completed the initial application automatically received the \$500 check.

The funds for both distributions came from the US Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).



Tribe receives funds for elder nutrition

By Laura Woods, Community Outreach Specialist for the Yurok Tribal Court

The Yurok Tribe was recently awarded a Title VI Elder’s Nutrition Program Grant from the Administration of Community Living. This grant provides funds to offer nutrition and supportive services to Yurok elders. The new Program can provide many services to our elders including congregate nutrition services, home-delivered nutrition services, information, referral, and outreach services.

To initiate the Program, it was decided to begin hot lunch home delivery in the Pecwan, Weitchpec, and Orick districts of the Yurok Reservation. Currently, 60 Yurok elders and their caregivers are enrolled in the Program and are receiving a hot lunch on Wednesdays delivered by Yurok Tribal Transit Services. These meals typically consist of a hot lunch entre, side salad, fruit or vegetable, a drink, and dessert.

Chef Ricardo Rojas, formerly of the Requa Inn, was hired as the cook for this Program. Currently, the meals are prepared in the kitchen at Morek Won, with all of the required PPE and Covid precautions and measures in place. The lunches are packaged and loaded up in the transit vans for home delivery. We are excited



Alice Chenault and Dominic Obie, drivers for the Yurok Transit Department, deliver lunches to tribal elders.

to offer these services to our elders and look forward to the expansion of this program in the months to come.

For more information contact Laura Woods, Community Outreach Specialist at 707-458-4116.

Four Tribes criticize Humboldt DHHS

Local Tribes voice urgent concerns about the Humboldt child welfare system

The Yurok Tribe, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria Tribal Government, the Wiyot Tribe and the Trinidad Rancheria announced their support of the California Attorney General's effort to pursue a court order requiring the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services Child Welfare Services Division and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office to fully and transparently implement the terms of a 2018 court ruling regarding the agencies' mismanagement of child abuse and neglect cases.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra recently took a first step toward extending the conditions in the Court-ordered Judgment against the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. Preserving the provisions for a longer period of time would compel the agencies to resolve ongoing and substantial structural deficiencies within the child welfare system.

Coupled with a substantial list of mandatory reforms, the 2018 Judgment forced the county agencies to comply with the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. Humboldt DHHS and the Sheriff's Office were also required to hire an independent entity to oversee the complete implementation of the order. DHHS recently objected to the Attorney General's decision to seek a resolution from the court, claiming that an extension of the terms is a reflection of "the state's desire to waste taxpayer money on unnecessary consultants and monitors."

"Humboldt County's assertion that child safety is a waste of taxpayer money is akin to stating that our next generations and our shared future in this county are a misuse of taxpayer funding," said Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribe's Vice Chairman and a recently appointed member of California Governor Gavin Newsom's newly Truth and Healing Council. "The Truth and Healing Council was formed to prevent history from repeating itself, which is clearly happening in Humboldt County, where my grandmother and many other elders suffered horrific abuses at the hands of the state. The widespread and ongoing systemic failures within Humboldt DHHS and the Sheriff's Office put our children at risk and they cannot be allowed to persist."

"It's disappointing and frankly discouraging that after years of well-documented systemic failures by the County's DHHS, the County still considers the protection of children and the prevention of child abuse and neglect a waste of taxpayers' money. Unfortunately, the County's actions and comments demonstrate a continued lack of understanding of DHHS's failures and underscore the need for continued oversight to best protect children who are suffering or at risk of abuse in Humboldt

County," said Wendell Freeman, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria's Tribal Council Treasurer. "The third-party compliance monitors have played an essential role in improving the agencies' response to cases of child abuse and neglect by proactively identifying issues and assisting with development of solutions to the problems outlined in court-ordered settlement."

"This is about more than money, it is about the safety of our kids. We're talking about children, the quality of their lives and the future of our communities. While the county purports that improvements have been made, when it comes to the safety of local children, not much has been changed since the court ordered settlement was announced," said Ted Hernandez, Wiyot Tribe Chair.

Trinidad Rancheria Vice-Chairman, Robert Hemsted added, "In order to effect meaningful change within DHHS, County leadership must embrace the spirit and extension of the AG Judgement, which is meant to protect our children. Denying that problems still exist is not acceptable. DHHS must also implement training for staff beginning with the DHHS Director. DHHS Director Beck's press release stating that monitors are a waste of taxpayer dollars reflects a lack of cultural sensitivity as well as understanding and willingness for true collaboration. Nothing can change until the County embraces its internal issues and comes to the table without excuses as to why they are unable to fulfill the judgement mandates. We have been willing to work with the County and will continue to work with them through Government to Government Consultation, Collaboration and Communication. Our children's lives and well-being depend on it." The four Northern California tribes vigorously support an extension of the Judgment and categorically disagree with DHHS's characterization of its progress. From the Tribes' perspective, the newly formed policies and procedures are not adhered to or adequately measured to show definitive progress. A report by the third-party monitor documents the agency's failure to comply with the order, which is why there is a continued need for the extension proposed by the AG's office.

According to a motion filed by the Attorney General, "the monitor is concerned that while (Humboldt) DHHS-CWS may have revised its policies and procedures in paper form, DHHS-CWS has failed to ensure staff is consistently implementing these changes, as required under the Final Judgment and DHHS-CWS is not holding staff accountable for lapses."

Because tribes share jurisdiction with DHHS over child welfare matters involving tribal children, tribes have a unique view into the daily practices of DHHS child welfare services and its structural failings. Yurok Vice Chairman Frankie Myers commented, "Tribes see the daily

practices of DHHS child welfare services. While some improvements have been made, a report by the third-party monitor documents the agency's failure to comply with the order, which why we strongly believe that there is a continued need for the extension proposed by the AG's office."

The initial investigation, launched in 2016 by then Attorney General, now Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, and completed by Attorney General Becerra, found numerous deficiencies in Humboldt DHHS's and Sheriff's Office's management of cases involving child abuse and neglect, especially those involving Native American children. AG Becerra was recently nominated to lead the US Department of Health and Human Services. In 2017, a Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury released two reports concerning DHHS's mishandling of child abuse and neglect reports. In both instances, the Grand Jury found: "Too often, our children are being neglected and abused by parents and family members, and when Mandated Reporters make allegations of

abuse and neglect to CWS, the system is failing to respond in a timely manner, or to respond at all." The Grand Jury further found these failings occurred in spite of clear requirements laid out in state law and internal policies.

According to the Grand Jury, before 2018 DHHS was not meeting basic legal requirements and issues reported by the oversight body remain unresolved. Children are left in unsafe situations where the worst possible outcomes, potentially preventable child deaths, have occurred since the Judgment was entered. Lengthening the 2018 terms serves as the best mechanism to repair the system and keep all children safe.

The Court was scheduled to decide on the Attorney General's request for extension of the Judgment on January 15, 2021 however, the County requested a continuance to February 9, 2021

Tribe supports Interior Secretary nomination

Requa, CA The Yurok Tribe celebrated the nomination of Representative Deb Haaland from the Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico as the next Secretary of Interior.

Chairman Joseph L James said, "We are extremely gratified that President-elect Biden has listened to the voices of native peoples and appointed an indigenous leader for this important position. This is a good day."

The Secretary of Interior oversees many issues that are important to the Tribe, including water flows on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers as well as the management of public lands and natural resources throughout the entire Klamath River basin. Additional issues that are important to the Yurok Tribe include: the co-management of Redwood National Park, California condor reintroduction and many others. Interior also funds many science and restoration activities that are directly performed by tribal members and employees.

Vice Chairman Frank Myers added: "For too long, our water and fishing rights have been treated as an afterthought and a nuisance by the federal government. Our sacred duty as Yurok people, which exists outside any federal construct or laws, is to bring balance to the river and to our world. When our fishing, water, and land rights are recognized and taken seriously by the federal government, that is when real progress can be made. We look forward to building partnerships and progress in fixing our broken river in the next four years. Let's get to work."

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT



It's not a joke. It's not romantic. It's not okay. It's a crime.

Yurok Tribe's Hey-Wech-Ek' Program

For Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, **Stalking**, Trafficking, and Family Violence contact the number below.

Toll Free (888) 225-8720 www.yuroktribalcourt.org

Yurok Obituaries

Bonnie Jean (Medley) Lindgren, passed away peacefully with her family at her side, Tuesday morning December 15, 2020, in McKinleyville, California.

Bonnie was born in Wellston, Ohio on March 24, 1928, to parents Belva and General Medley. She was 92 years old at the time of her passing.

As a girl growing up in Ohio, Bonnie and her two sisters experienced a rich family history with deep roots. One story she used to tell was of the time she went to a picnic for Civil War Veterans as a young child. She recalled the Veterans there were just young teens when they fought in the war. She told how she and her sisters wore white dresses with pretty ribbons in their hair to celebrate the special occasion. Bonnie lost her mother as a young adult, and shortly afterward her family moved to Trinidad California. It wasn't long before she met and fell in love with Axel Lindgren II. The two were married in 1949 and honeymooned in San Francisco where the photo included here was taken. Axel once said they "owned all the sunshine in the sky" when recalling their honeymoon many years later. Bonnie's family's culture and Axel's traditional Yurok culture blended so seamlessly as both were about family, history and knowing where you come from.

As the saying goes, behind every great man is a great woman, and that was surely true in the case of Bonnie and Axel. They worked together in business as well as in community service, all while raising six children together.

Bonnie was running a hamburger stand in Trinidad while Axel was logging. The hamburger stand was located near where the freeway is now, across from the gas station. For a time, they also took crab over to Hoopa, where they spent lots of time visiting, and also sold some crab. In 1970 they went to work in the Humboldt County Juvenile Hall, where they would go on to advocated for change of the treatment of Indian children and wrote new policy addressing issues they saw. After working for the county for several years and Axel having to advocate more and more for the protection of the Tsurai Village, they were looking for something with a little less stress. Bonnie and "Axe", as she so fondly called him, ended up purchasing a janitorial service where they worked together for many years. After Axel's passing in 1999, Bonnie kept on until her own retirement. While raising kids and running businesses, they also found time to serve their community. Bonnie was briefly a member of the Trinidad Civic Club long ago, and was deeply disappointed how they have

treated Axel, and his family. However, she really enjoyed all the years she volunteered to cook and serve people in the annual Crab Feed in Trinidad, that would later become the annual Fish Festival. While Axel was the one who officially held many of the various positions, Bonnie was right beside him making sure everything ran smoothly, he had what he needed, and everyone stayed fed. Whether it was when he was advocating for the preservation and protection of the Tsurai Village, coaching little league for 20 some odd years or serving on one of the many community organization boards, Bonnie was never far away.

Bonnie made sure all her children's friends felt welcomed and knew they always had a seat at the dinner table. Many of them would later say she was like a second Mom to them. Bonnie and Axel were known to take in youth from time to time, and even had a foreign exchange student as a host family for the program in the '70's.

Bonnie loved spending time with both her sisters, but Sally and Bonnie stayed especially close after Axel's passing, attending Tai Chi classes and shopping together. Bonnie, Sally and Sally's husband Fred would drive over to visit their sister Virginia who resided in Anderson, CA, whenever they could. She really loved those trips. When at home, she loved to read books and popular fiction was a favorite. She had a gift for knitting hats, scarfs and recycling socks to use for braiding rugs.

Bonnie was predeceased by her parents Belva and General Medley; husband Axel Lindgren II; sisters Virginia Hughes, and Sally Vanni; brothers-in-law Hank Hughes; William Lindgren; Glen Lindgren and Charles Lindgren. Sisters-in-law Louisa (Lindgren) Little; Francis (Lindgren) Meickle; Stella (Lindgren) Fredericksen; Georgia (Lindgren) Fullwider; Dixie (Lindgren) Benedict. Nephew Greg Hughes. Daughters-in-law Peggy Lindgren and Anna Lindgren. Bonnie is survived by her children, Axel Lindgren III; Paris Lindgren (Cindy); Kris Lindgren; Lindy Lindgren (Lynn); Kelly Lindgren (Ralph); Connie Lindgren (Mike). She is also survived by her brother-in-law Fred Vanni; sisters-in-law Roberta Lindgren; Wilda Gallacci and grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchild, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many relatives too numerous to mention but still special to Bonnie.

Services to be held at a later date.



**Bonnie Jean (Medley)
Lindgren 3/24/28 –
12/15/20**



Yurok Obituaries



Carl Burt Snyder, born January 14, 1971, proud member of the Yurok tribe started his journey on Christmas. Born in Saint Helens, Oregon to Bert Snyder and Vivian Moore-Snyder. Carl was proud of his Yurok family of dugout canoe makers, basket weavers, Indian doctors; ancestor Charlie Johnson was a founding member of the town of Johnson's, California.

Carl had a heart of pure gold; his nickname from his parents, Sunshine, was befitting because he radiated an exuberant energy and warmth. He attended school in Portland, Oregon before moving to Northern Nevada to attend Wooster & Reno High. He worked with his father at Fleetguard for 15 years, where he started his lifelong habit of converting co-workers to friends. He then worked at Sherman Williams before moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico to be with his fiancé and work at FedEx.

Carl had a joyful, boisterous, fun-loving personality and was able to make anyone laugh, & sometimes squeal with delight or abashment at his playful sense of humor. An enthusiastic storyteller, Carl would have his friends holding their breath in anticipation until his contagious

laughter took over. He was a generous & gentle father, fiancé, son and brother. He cared deeply for his family, always remembering birthdays and was a fierce protector of aunts and cousins. He is survived by fiancé, Glenda Yellowhorse, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Son, Bert Snyder, daughters Hannah and Holly Snyder; Step-children: Nicole, Nick, & Chell Yellowhorse; Parents, Bert and Vivian Moore Snyder of Hoopa, Ca. Sister, Annie & brother-in-law Legion Krupp; nephews, Hayden and Koda; Big sister, Victoria & Verl Moon, nieces & nephews: Neil, Tara, Jordan Harris, Verl Jr., Elisha and Verissa Moon. He appreciated his Aunties: Betty Jackson, Joanne Moore, and Barbara Orcutt, & Velma Harders. He is preceded in death by his namesake grandfather, Carl and Nellie Snyder; awok Violet and Haynes Moore, Carol Delarosa, Arnold Moore, Lawrence "Dud" Orcutt, Paul Jackson, Golden Krupp, Floyd Snyder, George Snyder and Edna Reynolds.

Carl was a one-of-a-kind treasure that we will forever keep in our hearts.

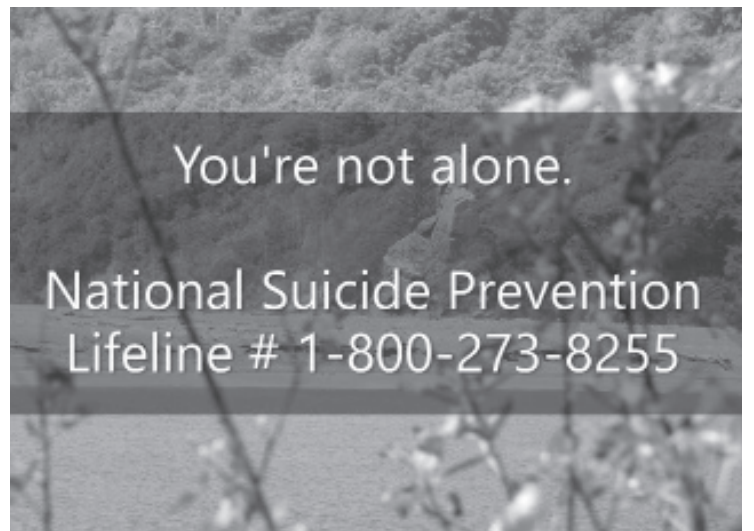


Carl Burt Snyder



For current information about the Yurok Tribe's response to the COVID-19 crisis, please visit yurokoes.org or call

1-888-225-8952





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ON NYE, KRISTEL PATAPOFF-PRUITT UNLOADS COVID-19 SUPPLIES AT THE DEL NORTE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT.