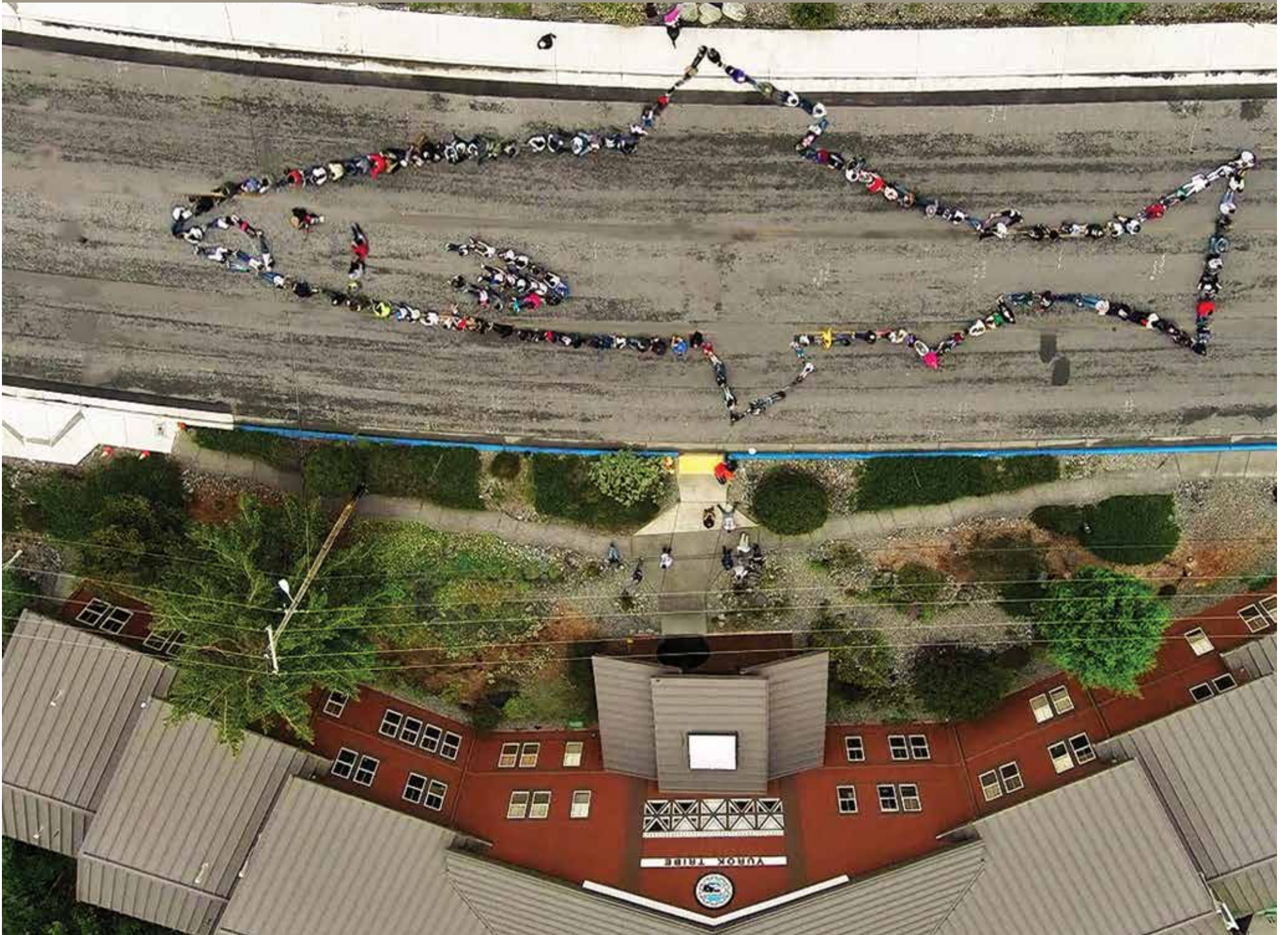




# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

**KLAMATH RIVER CLEANED UP**  
**HUNDREDS SHOW UP TO EVENTS IN WEITCHPEC, KLAMATH**  
**SEE STORY ON PAGE 7**





# Four finish Tribal intervention program

When the first people to finish the Yurok Tribal Court's Batterers Intervention Program spoke at a recent graduation ceremony, they all reported experiencing a permanent, positive change in perspective.

"The knowledge and communication skills that I learned from the program have been a blessing," said one woman, who completed the course. "I'm now living a happy, structured life without violence or anxiety."

"I think about the consequences before I react. I developed a support network and use the skills that I learned in this class. I know these skills will make me a better man and father," added another graduate.

The April 12 event to honor the four individuals, who finished the 52-weeks of intensive, culturally centered instruction, was at the Del Norte County Superior Court. Yurok Chief Justice Abby Abinanti, along with Del Norte Judges Darren McElfresh and William Follett officiated the preceding, where Tribal and state probation officers and the participants' families were in attendance.

"I have a lot respect for the people who completed our program," said Judge Abinanti. "Everyone makes mistakes and these people have gotten up and made things right."

The Yurok Tribal Court started the Batterers Intervention Program in early 2014. The program is partially funded by the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition. Yurok Tribal members Lori Nesbitt and Ron Bates facilitate two separate classes for women and men, respectively. Prior to the commencement of the program, Nesbitt and Bates, who are also Yurok Tribal Probation officers and experienced counselors, completed a year's worth of training in preparation for teaching the program's accountability-based batterers intervention curriculum. Most of the coursework was developed by M.E.N.D./W.E.N.D., an organization with more than 25 years of experience in this field. The Yurok Tribal Court also worked with Red Deer Consulting, a Yurok-owned enterprise, to add an extra element, called the "Native, Identity-based Cultural Intervention" section, to connect the Tribe's powerful customs with the



(left) Del Norte Superior Court Judge Darren McElfresh, Yurok Probation officer Lori Nesbitt, three Del Norte probation officers, Yurok Judge Abby Abinanti and Del Norte Judge William Follet

educational offering.

"What we work on the most is accountability and not shaming anyone further, because the participants already carry a lot of that around," Nesbitt said.

People are referred to the Batterers Intervention Program from a number of sources, including: the Yurok Tribal Court, Hoopa Valley Tribal Court and the Del Norte and Humboldt County Superior Courts, as well as Humboldt and Del Norte Social Service, Yurok Tribal TANF. The Yurok Tribe created agreements with these entities for the purpose of increasing Tribal member access to culturally appropriate services, rather than entering the revolving door of the state-run criminal justice system. This traditionally attuned approach is proven to reduce recidivism.

The Tribal Court offers the intervention program in Crescent City and Hoopa. The Court is in the process of establishing another branch in Eureka. The Batterers Intervention Program is open to men and women, both Tribal members and non-Indians. Most commonly, the courts send clients to the Program after an intimate partner or

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## On The Cover

*The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program created the salmon at the Klamath River Cleanup to honor Aawok Troy Fletcher. Photo by Justin Legge.*



spousal violence-related conviction. Those who have committed an act of simple battery are also permitted to enter the program. The men's and women's classes are held on a specific day a week for two hours.

There is a fee for each session, but it is on a sliding scale and payments do not always have to be in the form of money. Bates and Nesbitt devised a number of alternative methods for financially struggling participants to cover the cost of the life-altering class. For example, the facilitators encouraged one man to turn in cellphone videos of him and his child reading together, rather than foot the full bill. Today, this father is reading to his kids on a regular basis. Others members of the class sign up for college or build traditional items, such as eel baskets and hooks, for the Court to sell at fundraisers put on to support the program

"It's wide open. In order for them to start seeing light we have to create light," Nesbitt explained. "Many of those in the class don't have a job. They don't have a driver's license. They have kids to feed. They have probation and court costs. They have kids. They're already down."

"What we want is for people to be healthy. If we lose sight of that we won't get very far," Bates echoed.

Over the course of the year, the BIP instructors cover a vast variety of topics, ranging from accountability to anger management and healthy relationships to mindfulness. They also employ exercises to identify the origins of each person's acrimony, which can be painful. Most of the BIP graduates were victims of violence, as children, in their parents' house. "We're finding that both males and females have been a victim themselves," Nesbitt said.

Experiencing destructive behavior at an early age often times produces a cycle of violence that is passed from one generation to the next. Adults, who grew up in abusive homes, replicate the unhealthy relationships because it is what seems normal.

"A lot of them don't realize that the actions that they've been using to survive are considered abuse," said Bates.

"They're accustomed to yelling or pushing their way through and running away from the situation, rather than finding a solution to resolve the problem," Nesbitt added.

BIP aims to break the cycle by conveying to clients the coping skills needed to navigate through life in way that is consistent with the Tribe's culture. Participants learn to pick up on the physical cues that precede anger, such as an elevated heart rate or clenched jaw. When these visceral clues are recognized early on, a decision can be made to end the conversation or encounter well before it escalates.

"We try to teach them to be aware of their body and their behavior," Nesbitt said.

The BIP curriculum is designed to enable each person to analyze

and reshape his or her thought processes. The Tribal intervention program's participants are offered a unique opportunity to examine the roots of their emotions, both positive and negative. A portion of the classwork is dedicated to helping each person identify what makes them happy.

"To explore at those depths and to understand where the anger comes from really helps," Bates said. "These behaviors are learned and learned behaviors can be modified. For these individuals to stop and consider what they're feeling and what they're doing, rather than just going through life like most people do, can be eye opening."

Once the BIP clients understand what drives their actions, the next phase in the year-long course involves crafting the mental tools needed to transform tense situations into productive interactions. In this stage, the instructors put an emphasis on empathy. The men and women practice compassion in the calm of the classroom and at home.

"It is a gradual step by step process to understand the concepts, to go home and to actually apply them," Bates said. "It takes this long to change the thought processes, which some people have spent 40 years acquiring."

There is also a peer-to-peer aspect of the undertaking. As the weeks progress, a strong sense of comradery is created in both the women's and the men's groups.

"They make a bond in there. That bond and that sense of security to be able to share at the depths that they go is amazing. Some days it can be very emotional," Bates said.

Other parts of the program include, creating a family tree, drafting a code of ethics, interviewing an elder, and penning a prevention plan. One of the final assignments is to write an empathy letter. The participants are required to describe their victim's perspective in as much detail as possible and note how they are holding themselves accountable.

"It's not an apology. If the people are separated, it's not to try to get back together. It's about acknowledging all that was learned, during the 52 weeks and how the person is going to use that information to improve their life," Bates said. "Some of these empathy letters will bring tears to a person's eyes, to my eyes, because of the growth that they convey."

At the graduation event, Judge Abinanti gave each client a beautiful feather, fashioned out of wood, and stained with a nice varnish. The artistic offering was meant to provide a lasting symbol of all that they had accomplished.

"These feathers represent freedom," said Nesbitt. "They symbolize the freedom to choose how to live a healthy life. We can't take back yesterday, but we do have control over the decisions that we make tomorrow." ✨

# Tribe adopts stringent spring fishing regs

## New rules intended to protect Salmon River, South Fork Trinity River salmon

In response to the decline of wild spring Chinook salmon in the Klamath-Trinity Basin and concern about the status of green sturgeon, the Yurok Tribal Council has adopted stringent spring fishing regulations, including a four-day per week closure. "Closing the fishery is never an easy decision for our Council, especially when similar efforts aren't made by others that harvest these imperiled stocks," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "Our people depend on these fish to feed their families. We decided to make this sacrifice today to protect this crucial spring staple for future generations."

The Tribe is concerned that wild spring Chinook of the Klamath Basin, especially those from the South Fork Trinity River (SFTR), are following a trend toward extirpation. More than 11,000 adult spring Chinook were estimated to return to the South Fork in 1964, yet during four of the last 12 years, less than 100 fish were counted during snorkel surveys of the river. Poor habitat is the primary factor that has led to the decline of spring Chinook, which has motivated the Tribe to engage in habitat restoration efforts in the SFTR. Harvest is not considered to be a primary factor contributing to stock's decline, however the Tribe considers prudent harvest management to be a necessary tool to preserve this stock for future generations.

Currently, there are no regionally coordinated conservation objectives guiding the harvest of spring Chinook. The Yurok Tribe has chosen to reduce spring Chinook harvest impacts for the past couple of decades. This is consistent with the Tribe's responsible approach to natural resource management, which puts a premium on long-term sustainability.

"We encourage co-managers regulating the harvest of this species to adopt similar rules to protect these fish and begin to rebuild the Klamath River's spring salmon populations," David



Gensaw, Vice Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "It is not easy for our fishers to stay off the river, while others proceed without consideration for these imperiled fish.

In recent years, water quantity and quality has decreased on the South Fork Trinity as a result of numerous large-scale marijuana farms in the watershed. During the summer months, when juveniles are rearing/emigrating and adults are migrating upstream to hold until the early fall, millions of gallons of water are illegally diverted to support the clandestine cannabis growing operations. At the same time, fertilizers leached into the waterways degrade water quality critical for the survival of juvenile and adult spring Chinook.

Another component of the spring regulations requires that the dorsal fin be removed from all harvested spring Chinook,

***"We encourage co-managers regulating the harvest of this species to adopt similar rules to protect these fish and begin to rebuild the Klamath River's spring salmon populations."***

**• DAVID GENSAW - VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUROK TRIBE**



so that they can clearly be identified as subsistence-only catch. As in past years, to protect these limited stocks, the Tribal Council adopted regulations making it illegal to sell or purchase spring Chinook. The adopted regulations are the result of four public fisher meetings, as well as review sessions with the Natural Resource Committee and the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department.

The Tribe also adopted several regulations to further protect green sturgeon, in addition to the four-day per week closure. While population numbers are not available for this species, there are concerns that green sturgeon numbers are in decline. The enormous fish don't reproduce until they are at least 15 years old, which makes them especially vulnerable to over-exploitation and habitat degradation.

Yurok people are inextricably connected to the natural world. The health and welfare of the Tribe is directly linked to that of the diverse ecosystems in the temperate rainforests of Northern California. Since there are no supermarkets on or near the Yurok Reservation, traditional foods, such as spring salmon, provide sustenance to many Yurok families. The decrease in availability of these important sources of nutrition coincides with a spike in diabetes and other health-related issues. To see the complete Spring Fishery regulations, please visit [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org) ✨

# Tribe files lawsuit to protect fish

## Suit aims to stop illegal fishing practices

The Yurok Tribe filed a case in the US District Court for the Northern District of California that seeks to halt illegal gillnet fishing in the Lower Klamath River.

The Yurok Tribe is seeking a declaratory judgement against the Resighini Rancheria as well as Rancheria Secretary Gary Dowd for their unauthorized harvest of Klamath River fish within the Yurok Reservation. Tribal and state law enforcement have cited Dowd, and other members of the Resighini Rancheria, numerous times for fishing on the Lower Klamath River without a Yurok Tribal or California State license.

"This action is a last resort," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "We have an obligation and a responsibility to stand up for the fish because they do not have a voice."

Yurok Tribe is the largest tribe in California with over 6,100 members. The Yurok Reservation straddles the Lower Klamath River, extending for one mile on each side of the River from the mouth at the Pacific Ocean approximately 45 miles upriver to the confluence of the Trinity River.

The Resighini Rancheria consists of approximately 228 acres of land located entirely within the Yurok Reservation. Although some Rancheria members are of Yurok descent, they are not members of Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe alone maintains federally protected Tribal fishing rights in the Lower Klamath River. In 1988, Congress enacted the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act (HYSA), which partitioned the then existing Reservation into two separate Reservations for the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe. The HYSA gave the Resighini Rancheria membership an

opportunity to become members of the Yurok Tribe, and thereby participate in the Yurok Tribe's reserved fishing right. Instead, the Rancheria's membership elected not to take part in this right, and other rights enjoyed by Yurok Tribal members, in exchange for a buy-out of \$15,000 per-person.

Resighini members were aware of the consequences of their decision to elect the buy-out. Individual members agreed to the terms of the buyout only after being informed in writing and in-person that they would "not thereafter have any interest or right whatsoever in the tribal, communal, or unallotted land, property resources, or rights within, or appertaining to . . . the Yurok Reservation or the Yurok Tribe." 25 U.S.C. § 1300i-6(d). Only the Yurok Tribe holds federally reserved fishing rights within the Reservation created by the 1988 Act.

A declaratory judgement in the Yurok Tribe's favor will also add another layer of protection for the fish species of the Klamath, California's second largest river.

Unregulated fishing of any kind weakens the conservation objectives that are in place for the protection of Klamath River fish. The quantity of fish harvested by Tribal, sport and commercial fishers in the legal Chinook salmon fishery is set by experts in salmon population dynamics. The allowable harvest for Tribal, commercial, and recreational fishermen is capped to allow a significant and specific number of salmon to escape to the spawning grounds, ensuring sufficient numbers in future years. Once the allowable harvest quantity is met, the respective managers shut down the tightly monitored fisheries. Any unregulated fishing takes from this escapement, which jeopardizes the



# Scholarship fund set up to honor Aawok Troy Fletcher

*Aawok Troy Fletcher was the Yurok Tribe's longtime Executive Director. Right up until his untimely passing on November 20, 2015, Fletcher played an invaluable role in nearly all of the Yurok Tribe's high profile accomplishments and many more that were under the radar. Much of his work focused on dam removal, land acquisition and Tribal member health. He was also deeply involved in and highly regarded culturally appropriate, natural resource management. The Aawok Troy Fletcher Memorial Fund seeks to create the capacity to carry his work further by providing scholarships to Tribal members, who are working on a college degree in a natural resource - related field. Here is a description of the fund and how to apply for the scholarship. Donations can be made here:*

species' ability to replenish future stocks. Resighini Rancheria members who fish without a license from California or the Yurok Tribe are engaged in "unregulated" fishing which directly imperils the future of the fish.

The Yurok Tribe is responsible for developing some of the most sophisticated Fisheries and Watershed Restoration Programs on the West Coast. Every year, the Tribe invests millions of dollars in large-scale, river rehabilitation projects, which benefit fish, mammals and waterfowl. These restorative projects will not reach full potential while unauthorized fishing practices continue to occur.

This year, the predicted salmon run on the Klamath River is so low that the Tribe's fishery allotment is less than one fish per Tribal member. According to a common consensus among fisheries biologists, the outlook for the coming years is equally dismal. When fish numbers are this depressed, the damage done by poaching is much more drastic and can take decades to fix, because far fewer fish will be producing offspring. The Klamath River must be managed responsibly, and the fishery allowed to rebound.

"The Yurok Tribe will vigorously defend its exclusive fishing right within the Reservation. The Tribe will defend the fish. This case is a necessary step toward protecting that right and preserving the fishery for future generations," concluded Chairman O'Rourke. ✨

The Aawok Troy Fletcher Memorial Scholarship Fund is dedicated to fostering Troy's vision by promoting education of Yurok tribal members in the field of natural resources. This may include education in the areas of land acquisition, biology, fisheries, water issues, natural resource restoration, watershed restoration, wildlife management and other aspects related to natural resources, such as policy making. Federal Indian law and policy making as they relate to natural resource management are also acceptable fields of study.

This scholarship is open to Yurok tribal members who are currently enrolled as undergraduates or in graduate school. Undergraduate applicants must have completed a minimum of their freshman year of college. There will be a priority for students studying Natural Resources with an additional preference for students with career goals focused on public policy.

Interested candidates will submit an essay of 500-1000 words addressing the following: Choose one area of natural resources and explain why you chose that area, what contribution you hope to make to that field, and how you would implement that change based on Yurok values and history.

The initial selection committee will be David Hillemeier, Nathan Voegeli, Michael Belchik, Brittany Vigil-Burbank, and Joseph James. If any committee members can no longer fulfill that function, the remaining committee members will select a new member to fill that role.

Humboldt Area Foundation will make annual expenditures in accordance with our total spending policy. Currently, the policy is to





**Please donate to the Aawok Troy Fletcher Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

expend 4% of the fund balance each year, averaged over 16 trailing quarters. However, the policy may change with time and market conditions.

The fund's initial balance and future gifts will be invested in a manner that best meets the fund purpose and commingled with other Foundation assets. Humboldt Area Foundation charges a reasonable annual rate of support for Foundation services. At present it is two percent (2%) of the principal balance, with a minimum administrative cost of \$175 per year. One twelfth of two percent (2%) will be deducted from the fund balance each month. We will send quarterly statements to you at the above address.

This scholarship is endowed. Endowed funds are funds for which the initial gift and future contributions are invested for perpetual growth. This initial gift, and future gifts, are the "principal" of the fund. Each year a portion (currently 4%) of the combined principal, earned income and appreciation are distributed to make annual scholarships.

**First Scholarship Awarded: This scholarship will be advertised starting in January of 2017 and will be paid upon the student's enrollment in the fall semester. ❄**

# 100s clean up river

## Event covers Weitchpec, Klamath area

The Yurok Tribe would like to thank everyone involved with this 15th Annual Klamath River Cleanup. The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program and AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards-sponsored event racked up some impressive stats. The 200-plus attendees removed 9.7 tons of garbage, 4.4 tons of metals, 58 tires, 24 TVs, 12 quarts of motor oil, 9 refrigerators, 9 appliances, 5 pieces of furniture, and 4 mattresses. Thank you volunteers for your commitment to keeping the Klamath beautiful.

Many people contributed to making this year's event a success. We would like to acknowledge Oscar Gensaw and his crew for cooking the fantastic fish lunch. As always, the freshly cooked salmon and sides were amazing. The Yurok Tribe Forestry Department's Marty Barbour and Tyrone Crayton provided all of the firewood for the fish cooking pit. Tyrone also helped facilitate the tree-planting portion of the Cleanup. The Yurok Transportation Program made the River Ferry and transit vehicles available for the event. Yurok Safety and Facilities staff members Steven Sanderson, Keith Ray and James Kleinhans set up the community room and closed it down after the event. Public Safety, and specifically Hawk Mattz, drove attendees to and from cleanup sites.

Thank you Laura Julian and Redwood National Parks for leading the invasive plant removal at Marshall Pond for yet another year. The cleanup covered the entire reservation again this year. We'd like to acknowledge all of the Upriver residents Klamath Town Site residents and Klamath Glen residents who came out in force to participate in the cleanup effort.

Justin Legge's aerial photo of the salmon in front of the Klamath Tribal office turned out great. Thank you very much, Mr. Legge for donating your time and expertise to this endeavor. The photo was arranged in honor of Aawok Troy Fletcher. This incredible human being committed his entire adult life to fighting for the Tribe and the Klamath River. We are eternally grateful to him and his family.

This unique community event would not be possible without sponsors. The support local businesses and individuals give to this event is tremendous. There were a total of 54 sponsors this year, all of which are greatly appreciated. If you saw this year's commemorative t-shirt you probably noticed that all of the sponsors' names were placed in the shape of a salmon. We want to give a special thanks to Paul and Veronica VanMechlin of Paul's Famous Smoked Salmon for donating the fish for this year's salmon lunch. Stop by and check out their shop at 17505 North Hwy. 101. We encourage everyone to support local businesses. ❄

• See photo spread of the cleanup on the next page



# KLAMATH RIVER CLEANUP





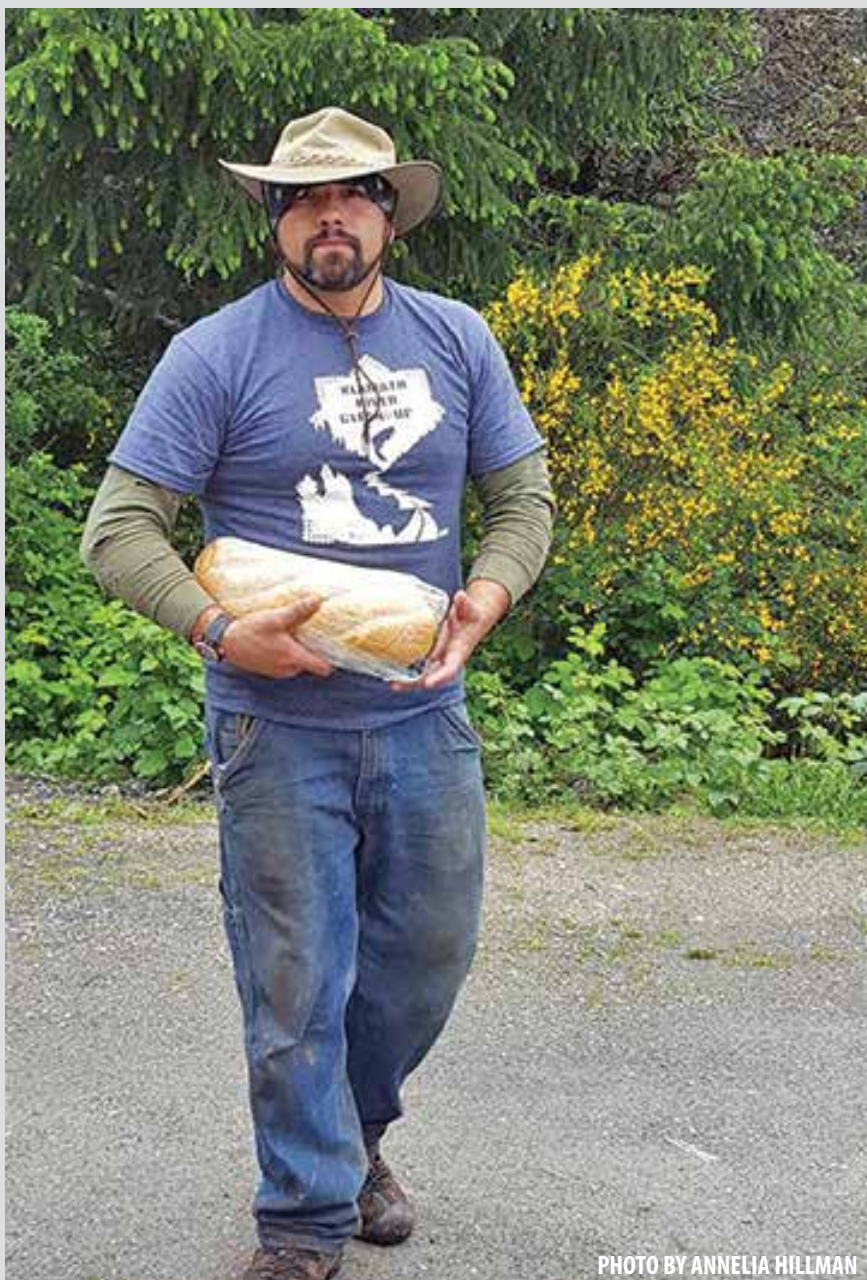


PHOTO BY ANNELIA HILLMAN

## Two fish cooks needed this summer

This summer the Yurok Country Visitor Center/ Yurok Village Discovery Park would like to offer a traditional cooked salmon dinner every Saturday night starting in July 2nd, ending August 13th. If interested, please submit a bid to the Yurok Country Visitor Center. The individual would only be responsible for cooking the fish. For more information, contact Madison Green at 482-1555.

The Klamath Salmon Festival committee is looking for a team of fish cooks for this year's event, which is happening on Saturday, August 20. The team is responsible for the following: cutting up fillets, seasoning the meat, putting salmon chunks on sticks, cooking the fish, delivering it to the serving table and chatting with festival attendees. The team will cook more than a 1,000 pieces of fish. 300 pieces must be ready for consumption by 11am, so that food serving line does not become congested. For more information or to sign up contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 before July 1. This is a paid position. ✨

## Yurok Obituaries



Lavertta June Waggle - 1/7/62-4/23/16

Lavertta June Waggle was born in Crescent City CA to James Thomas Waggle and Betty Rose Stewart on 1-7-1962. She passed away on 4-23-2016. Her siblings are Monica McAlister of Everett WA, Lavina Rogers of San Quentin CA, Candelario Garcia, Alicia Garcia and Garland Lyons of Crescent City CA . Her father passed away in 2010 and her mother passed away in 1996.

Lavertta has three children Delfy Monks, Shane Swift, Dean Buckle and many Grandchildren.....

Lavertta Waggle was known worldwide for her beautiful redwood carvings. She did artwork and beading, crochet bags and hats. She expressed herself with art. She was Native American from the Yurok Tribe who enjoyed going to cultural events. She loved to spend time with family and friends and was always cracking jokes and making people laugh. She loved listening to music and drawing. People were always complimenting her artistic abilities. Lavertta was proud of her accomplishments and sobriety of three years. She was well liked by many and a friend to all. She had a kind heart and tried to help others that were less fortunate than herself even though she had little herself. She was a strong Native woman who believed in her Native rights. She was excellent mother, sister and friend who loved her kids and grandchildren very much. She was a beautiful person on the inside and out. Her smile and wit, will surely be missed and never forgotten.

Lavertta was preceded in death by her Grandmother Rose Cleone Johnson-Stewart, parents, James Thomas Waggle and Betty Rose Stewart, her son Shane Swift and her brother Garland Lyons. ✨



PHOTO BY ANNELIA HILLMAN





# CULTURE CORNER

At the March Culture Committee meeting, the California Office of Emergency Services provided some positive news about the effort to remove the unsightly telecommunications complex from Red Mountain.

In the mid-1990s, the US Forest Service made a decision, based on information from the G-O Road case, to remove the telecommunications site by 2022. According to Cal OES and the California Department of General Services representatives at the meeting, the plan is to move all of the infrastructure off the sacred mountain by 2021. In addition to the aging radio tower, there are propane and diesel tanks, a large generator and outhouse on Red Mountain, as well as items owned by the Forest Service. Red Mountain is part of the Helkau Ceremonial District, which is where irreplaceable parts of the Tribe's religion are practiced.

"There is so much trash up there," said Walt Lara, a Culture Committee member. "They need to coordinate with the Tribe and clean it all up. When they built the site we didn't have the freedom of religion and we couldn't stop it. It needs to be returned to the way it was."

Cal OES shared with the Committee a proposed removal plan, including an engineering survey. To replace the coverage obtained from Red Mountain, Cal OES plans to build three, state-of-the-art communication towers at different sites. The area of telecommunications coverage resulting from the new towers will be significantly larger than what was provided by the antiquated system on Red Mountain.

"We are going to be able to expand the coverage," said Wally Rogers from Cal OES.

The plan calls for placing state-of-the-art towers on Rogers Peak, Rattlesnake Mountain and at Alder Camp. The new towers will no longer run on diesel. A combination of solar panels and low emissions, propane generators will be used to provide electricity to the new towers.

The Culture Committee recommended that the towers, none of which can be seen from ceremonial areas, be built to blend in with the natural landscape. The Committee also told Cal OES that they

would like to see the Red Mountain site completely restored to its natural condition.

"What we're saying is this has to be done," said John Melvin, the Committee's chairperson, to the Cal OES and Department of General Services representatives.

Yurok Tribal member and wildlife biologist Tiana Williams presented the second agenda item. Williams is drafting a proposed hunting ordinance. The Committee shared with Williams a multitude of traditional hunting practices.

Committee member Allen McCovey spoke about prayers being sung by hunters for good luck and having an easy time harvesting deer for his family. He recalled taking 250 deer, during his lengthy hunting career. At the time, deer populations were still thriving because there was ample habitat. Almost all of the deer McCovey shot were mid-sized bucks and he did not shoot does. Big antlers did not appeal to him in the slightest.

"I hunted for meat and meat only," McCovey said. "It was always important that you prayed. I would love to see us be more traditional, but how far back do we want to go?" Traditionally, hunters were obligated to distribute deer and other wild game meat to relatives and special friends. The men would dispatch the animal and gut it right away. The women played a role in butchering the meat.

"One thing we learned as kids was whenever we got a deer or a fish, we would process it right away," said Committee member Betty Jackson. "I don't think we should take too many deer. Take what you can process and give away to family and close friends. Give it away fresh."

Jackson also recalled rendering the deer fat. The healthy source of nutrition can be used in cooking, to a large extent, like olive oil. The bones are also a substantial source of easily digestible nutrients. The marrow can be consumed from cooked bones, which can also be boiled to make a savory soup broth.

The Committee also talked about the many uses for deer hides, such as ceremonial clothing and blankets. Committee member Richard Myers would like to see the people who don't know how to tan skins, either learn how to do it or donate them to someone who does, so that waste is minimized.

"We need to teach our people how to use the hides to make things like dresses and drum heads," said Myers. "We need to teach these young men the whole nine yards."

***"What we're saying is this has to be done."***

**• JOHN MELVIN - CHAIRMAN OF THE CULTURE COMMITTEE**



One of the elements of the proposed ordinance has to do with setting up a tag system for deer, so that the Tribe can begin to collect population data and effectively manage the animal. Many of the Committee members were in favor of this idea.

"I believe in tags for deer," said Committee member Raymond Mattz. When Mattz was a child the deer populations were so strong that he could eat deer meat once a day. That opportunity does not exist today, because most of the prairies that support large numbers of deer are gone. They have been planted over by logging companies or covered in Douglas fir trees, which the Tribe used to keep in check by regularly burning the grasslands.

"We need to look at the way

our landscape is now. It has been degraded by logging and the lack of fire," said Bob McConnell, the outgoing Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer.

Once the draft of the proposed ordinance is ready, it will be vetted through a well-advertised public process, in which the Tribal membership will have ample opportunity to provide input. ✨

## ERB met in April

The Ethics Review Board met on April 27. The hearing was continued for 45 days. In June, the Review Board is expected to make a final determination. A summary of the board's decision will be published in Yurok Today. ✨

### 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 June 30, 2016. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

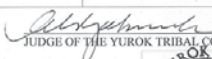

- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Daughter) Robin Green: Prior Assignee (aawok) Janice Green. Yurok Tribe # TLCK-001 APN: 531-082-004 Located in Tulley Creek.**
- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Grand Daughter) Tiannah Simpson: Prior Assignee (aawok) Vivian Simpson. Yurok Tribe # NCK-005 APN: 532-142-005 Located in Notchko Village.**
- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Son) Josh Trimble: Prior Assignee Clyde Trimble Sr. Yurok Tribe # WSR-004 APN: 530-053-010 Located in Weitchpec Saints Rest.**
- **(Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Susan Nix: Prior assignmee (aawok) Jimmie Stevens APN: 533-074-024 WTV-014 located in Wautec Village.**

Submit all written comments by the above deadline to the following address: Attn: Samantha Myers - Planning & Community Development Department P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548

## SAVE THE DATE

Meet acclaimed author, Barbara Sjohom, at the Klamath River Book Nook at 4pm on June 6. Sjohom will be signing copies of her new book, *So much to be Done*. Sjohom's book is a firsthand reflection of her work with Barbara Brenner, a healthcare advocate bent on making life brighter for terminal patients. Brenner, a self-described hell raiser was the executive director for Breast Cancer Action. The "key figure in North American breast cancer history" passed away in 2013, after being diagnosed with ALS two years earlier. She was 61. The book is infused with Brenner's "characteristic moxie," and provides an "in-depth, precisely observed portrayal of what it is to live with a terminal disease and to die on one's own terms," according to a press release about the June 6 event. ✨

Statistics show that.. "Only 5% of teens are willing to call phone crisis lines, but they're more willing to text. Text 741741 to text anonymously with a crisis counselor."

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>YUROK TRIBAL COURT</b><br>PO Box 1027 / 230 Klamath Blvd.<br>Klamath, CA 95548<br>(707) 482-1350 phone<br>(707) 482-0105 fax   | Court File Number: <u>YT-FL-2015-17</u><br>Case Type: <u>FAMILY CODE</u><br><b>Filed</b><br>YUROK TRIBAL COURT<br>APR 15 2016<br>BY <u>WP</u><br>YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION<br>[FILE] |
| <b>JESSICA (EVANS) CEDILLO</b><br>Vs.<br><b>JOSE GARCIA-ALCALA</b>  | <b>DECREE CHANGING NAME</b>   |
| 1. The PETITION for Change of Name filed in this matter was duly considered at the properly noticed hearing held on (date): <u>Friday, April 15, 2016</u> .<br><b>THE COURT FINDS</b><br>2. a. Required notice of the PETITION for Change of Name has been properly executed<br>b. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that the reasoning in the petition is sufficient and therefore name change should be granted.<br>d. Other findings (if any): _____ |   |
| <b>THE COURT ORDERS</b><br>2. In accordance with §12.1 of the Yurok Family Code the Court orders the name of  |   |
| Present Name<br><u>Kyran Yancy Garcia</u>   | New Name<br><u>KYRAN YANCY CEDILLO</u>  |
| is changed to   |   |
| DATE: <u>4/15/2016</u><br><br>JUDGE OF THE YUROK TRIBAL COURT  |   |
| <b>Creditor Notification</b><br>The Petitioner must timely and properly inform any and all creditors of your Petition for Name Change and any subsequent Order of Name Change issued by the Yurok Tribal Court.   |   |
| <br>OFFICIAL SEAL  |   |





# Tribe moves forward on food security

Prior to European contact, each Yurok family home was filled with nutritiously dense and delicious foods. Depending on the season, fresh deer, salmon or elk meat were always within reach, along with dried versions of the same varieties. The shelves were flush with acorn flour, hazel nuts and several different types of tuber. The list of easily accessible green vegetables and fruits was almost endless. Eggs from seabirds, waterfowl or sturgeon were equally available. Seaweed, smaller fish and game and numerous clam species were acquired with minimal effort.

This diversified diet was partially responsible for the Tribe's enormous wealth, which was unmatched by most if not all other groups living in North America at the time. The people wanted for nothing and had enough excess to trade with other tribes in the region.

Currently, members of the Yurok, Karuk and Klamath Tribes of Oregon, in collaboration with UC Berkeley, are working on a long-range plan to increase access to fresh, traditional and contemporary foods. Their work is funded by a 5-year, USDA National Food and Agriculture Institute grant titled, Enhancing Tribal Health and Food Security in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California by Building a Sustainable Regional Food System.

The community gardens in Weitchpec, Tulley Creek, Margaret Keating and Klamath Glenn blossomed as a result of this effort. Hard-working Yurok Food Security managers and staff members, like Chris Peters, Delmer "Seagull" Jordan have been instrumental in this effort. The harvest and distribution of the acorns and smoked salmon, which went to elders this fall, were funded by this grant. In addition to the public gardens, the Food Security Staff also provided a variety of veggie starts to the local community. The USDA funding has also spawned classes on seaweed harvesting and traditional eeling practices.

Each growing season, these large community gardens, tended to by Tribal member employees, produce tons of fruits and vegetables, including: peas, strawberries, apples, squash, carrots, string beans, lettuce, spinach, pumpkins, zucchini, cabbage, broccoli and more. The Yurok Food Distribution Program dispenses these high quality organic veggies to Tribal elders, as well as to those signed up for the healthy alternative to food stamps in the non-metropolitan areas of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and to those residing on the Yurok Reservation.

One of the things that was learned during this process was that not everyone has access to a community garden. Growing food at

these locations is not really an option for those who are disabled or lack a vehicle.

"We realized that not everyone had access to a community garden, so we began looking into what it would take to put raised beds in people's own backyards," said Rosie Clayburn, the director of the Yurok Tribe's Cultural Division, which is involved in implementing the USDA grant. "These gardens are good investment, because they will continue to produce healthy foods long after the grant is over."

To augment access to traditional foods, the Yurok Tribe has begun working on building a herbarium, which will help Tribal members learn to identify edible and medicinal plants. The three tribes involved in this collaboration are working on creative ways to bring back a modern version of the traditional bartering system.

"We had a vast and elaborate trade system that served us for millennia," Clayburn explained. "Our goal is to begin reestablishing it, so that we can all of the Klamath River-based Tribes can move closer toward the optimum health that our ancestors enjoyed, in part, from eating a diverse array of foods."

Currently, the Yurok Reservation is considered a food desert. There are no grocery stores or large agricultural operations within 30 miles of the Tribe's lands. There is some cattle ranching, but all of the meat is exported out of the area. Much of the natural environment in Yurok ancestral territory has been degraded by historical clear-cut logging and mining practices and now large-scale marijuana farming. The Yurok Tribe is working hard to restore and protect these lands, so that they begin producing the foods and medicines that have sustained Yurok people since time immemorial.

In addition to implementing large watershed restoration projects, the Yurok Tribe is also reintroducing traditional burning practices to rehabilitate the forest and prairies in Yurok Country. These planned fires are the most cost effective way to increase the populations of native plant and animal species in the area.

US Berkeley student researchers are conducting a handful of studies on the cultural burns on the east side of the reservation. One is collecting data on the rate of weevil infestation, pre and post fire, on acorns. Another is measuring the forest's response to these low intensity fires. After these studies are complete, they will be available to members of the three tribes.

The absence of fresh vegetables, fruits and meats has put a tremendous strain on the Tribal membership. The lack of healthy



traditional and contemporary foods has given rise to increased incidences of diabetes and other diet-related health issues. Developing a strong food system is one of the most expedient ways to combat these challenges. Much more work has been completed under the USDA grant. This is meant to be a snapshot of some of the more high profile projects. In future editions of Yurok Today, there will be stories featuring other aspects of this important food security endeavor. ✨



This Yurok Food Security Program garden is in Klamath Glen.

# WEWIN: Woman of the Month



Elizabeth Azzuz is on the far left.

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

This month, Northcoast WEWIN is proud to recognize Elizabeth Azzuz. Elizabeth was born to awak Albert Allie Markussen, Jr. and Marlene Markussen, to the villages of Weitchpus & Katamiin. Her grandparents were awak Albert Allie Markussen Sr and Lottie Elizabeth James-Markussen. Her great grandmother was awak Mamie Thom. Elizabeth was born in January 1963, and lived at home until she was eighteen. As a young woman she moved to Arcata and eventually Santa Rosa, where Elizabeth raised her son, Saif Senussi Azzuz.

Elizabeth returned home after her divorce and now lives in her family village. Elizabeth volunteers most of her time to the Cultural Fire Management Council, which she have been involved with for the past four years. Elizabeth's passion is teaching young people to care about our land and our resources.

Elizabeth is active in her community, works with her neighbors to inspire positive change, and is respected by all. Join us in recognizing Elizabeth's generous spirit. Her mission to make our community a better place is inspiring.

Do you know of a local Native woman who leads by positive example? Send us a nomination with a brief explanation of why you think she deserves recognition along with a high-resolution picture to [northcoastwewin@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastwewin@gmail.com). Please note that we honor woman of all ages. Join us on Facebook at [www.fb.com/northcoastwewin](http://www.fb.com/northcoastwewin)

## CALIFORNIA FAMILIES GROW HEALTHY WITH WIC

WIC is a USDA funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children.

### Who is Eligible?

- Are you pregnant?
- Did you just have a baby?
- Do have Children under age 5? Foster Children? A Temporary Guardian?
- Does your family have low to medium income?
- Live in California?

Then you may qualify for WIC services.

### WIC Provides:

- Nutrition Education and Health Information
- Breastfeeding Support
- Checks for healthy foods (like fruits & vegetables)
- Referrals to medical providers and community services

Newly pregnant women, migrant workers, and working families are encouraged to apply.

You may qualify for WIC if you receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh (food stamps), or CalWORKS (TANF) benefits.

### WIC Income Guidelines Table\* (Income Before Taxes)

Effective April 2015—June 30, 2016

| Number of persons in Family* | Annual   | Monthly | Twice Monthly | Bi-Weekly | Weekly |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 2                            | \$29,471 | \$2,456 | \$1,228       | \$1,134   | \$567  |
| 3                            | \$37,167 | \$3,098 | \$1,549       | \$1,430   | \$715  |
| 4                            | \$44,863 | \$3,739 | \$1,870       | \$1,726   | \$863  |

\*Income levels change annually. A pregnant woman counts as 2 persons. Call or go to our website for current information. [www.wicworks.co.gov](http://www.wicworks.co.gov)

Enroll early! Call today if you are pregnant, have an infant, or children under 5:



UIHS Nutrition—WIC Program  
5000 Valley West Blvd., Suite #9  
Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 822-9900  
[UIHS-wic@crihb.org](mailto:UIHS-wic@crihb.org)



The UIHS WIC Program is open to all Ethnic Groups.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



First Annual Father's Day  
Traditional Gambling Tournament



Date: June 18, 2016

Time: 10a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Yurok Country Visitor Center, Klamath California

The traditional gambling game is a guessing game that is played in Northern California by the Yurok, Hupa, Karuk, Wiyot and Tolowa people.

\$25 entry per team. All teams need to contact James Gensaw to register their team

Call 707-482-1555 or email [jgensaw@visityurokcountry.com](mailto:jgensaw@visityurokcountry.com)

**CHYUUE KEE HOOKW-CHEM'OH!!!**

**YUROK TRIBE  
2016 ELECTION SCHEDULE**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| OCTOBER 12, 2016    | PRIMARY ELECTION   |
| NOVEMBER 9, 2016    | RUNOFF ELECTION  |
| <hr/>               |  |
| JUNE 20 (8:30AM)    | FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE  |
| JULY 12 (5:00PM)    | LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)   |
| JULY 22 (5:00PM)    | LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS   |
| AUGUST 12, (5:00PM) | LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)   |
| AUGUST 12           | PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (60 DAYS)  |
| AUGUST 19           | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)  |
| AUGUST 26           | LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (45 DAYS)  |
| AUGUST 29-31        | ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS  |
| SEPTEMBER 2         | MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)   |
| SEPTEMBER 9         | MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (33 DAYS)  |
| SEPTEMBER 28        | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)  |
| OCTOBER 11          | LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)  |
| OCTOBER 12, 2016    | PRIMARY ELECTION   |
| OCTOBER 21          | LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS)<br><i>ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</i> |
| OCTOBER 21          | MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)  |
| NOVEMBER 8          | LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)  |
| NOVEMBER 9, 2016    | RUNOFF ELECTION  |

# Summer law clerk joins legal office

The Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney hired a summer law clerk to the office. Erica McMilin will be with the Tribe from May to July. If you see her at the office, please say hello.

Erica McMilin grew up on the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Reservation in Willits, CA. She attended undergrad at the University of California, Davis, where she majored in Native American Studies. This coming year, she will be in her third and final year of law school at UCLA School of Law. At UCLA, Erica is Vice President of the Native American Law Student Association and an executive editor on the Indigenous Peoples' Journal of Law, Culture, and Resistance. Erica

is interested in working directly with tribal governments to further tribal economic development in order to strengthen tribal sovereignty.

**Do you know a current law student interested in working for the Tribe's Office of Tribal Attorney (OTA)?** OTA works for Tribal Council and Yurok Departments. Our work is diverse, touching on natural resources, economic development, contracts, prosecution in Tribal Court, ICWA, and more. Applications are currently open for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 clerkships. Visit the "Legal" tab on the Yurok Tribe's website for complete information. ✨

**PUBLIC SAFETY - ARREST LOG**

*\*Those arrested are considered innocent until proven guilty in Tribal Court.*

Marco Arrellano - 3/28/16  
- Transportation/Sales of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and driving without a valid license.

Joshua Roberts - 4/14/16 - Probation violation

Ed Severns - 5/6/16 - Parole warrant

Cody Albers - 5/9/16 - Felony warrant

**2016  
YUROK TRIBE  
ELECTION NOTICE**

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

**EAST DISTRICT  
PECWAN DISTRICT  
SOUTH DISTRICT**

Any Yurok Tribal members that are interested in running for Election as a Representative for the Yurok Tribal Council may pick up Nomination papers beginning **June 20, 2016**, at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath.

All Candidates must be 25 years of age for a district seat as of October 12, 2016. There is a \$105 filing fee due when you pick up the Nomination forms and background check packet. Fingerprinting will also be done at the time you turn in your background check packet.

The Nomination Period closes **July 22, 2016**.

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

**Bark skirt proposal**

The Yurok Tribe is soliciting proposals for the making of a traditional maple bark skirt. The skirt will be used to display at the Yurok Country Visitor Center. The Yurok Tribe hereby invites you to submit a one page proposal detailing the final cost for the completion of the dress. All bids must be received by the Yurok Tribe, by the hour of 5 p.m., June 15th, 2016. Please mail the proposals to James Gensaw/ Rosie Clayburn, Yurok Tribe Main Office, 190 Klamath Blvd., Klamath, California, for: **YUROK TRIBE MAPLE --BARK SKIRT BID. For further information, please contact Rosie Clayburn 707-482-1350.**

**COURT NOTICES**

**To: Shelley John Norris**

The purpose of this legal notice is to inform you that a petition to which you are a party is scheduled to be heard by the court on:

**Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.**

Court Address: 230 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath, CA 95548

You are entitled to appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing.

You may receive a copy of the petition. To do so, please contact the Office of Tribal Attorney whose address is listed below.

**Attorney for the Tribe:**

Office of Tribal Attorney

Yurok Tribe - 190 Klamath Boulevard - Klamath, CA 95548 - (707) 482-1350

**To: Sascheen F. Bowen**

The purpose of this legal notice is to inform you that a petition to which you are a party is scheduled to be heard by the court on:

**Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.**

Court Address: 230 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath, CA 95548

You are entitled to appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing.

You may receive a copy of the petition. To do so, please contact the Office of Tribal Attorney whose address is listed below.

**Attorney for the Tribe:**

Office of Tribal Attorney

Yurok Tribe-190 Klamath Boulevard - Klamath, CA 95548 - (707) 482-1350

**Tribe endorses Terri Colton for supervisor**

**Name:** Terri Colton

**Occupation:** Assistant Director Yurok Economic Development Corporation

I am currently the Assistant Director of the Yurok Economic Development Corporation. I am running for the 5th District for Board of Supervisors. Not only do I carry with me my experience as a past local motel owner, restaurant manager and the past 6 years as the Economic Development Assistant Director of the Yurok Tribe but I have also held various volunteer positions within Del Norte County also:

- **Project Finance Manager and Fundraising Chairman for the building of the Del Norte Senior Center and the Board of Directors – 4 years**
- **Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors – 8 years**
- **Economic Development Committee, Marketing**

**& Tourism Committee chairman – 8 years**

- **Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce – 4 years**
- **Founder and President of Hotel Motel Association – 4 years**
- **Del Norte High School Drill Team Coach- 30 years**
- **Jaycees basketball committee 33 years and cheer competition coordinator -17 years**

Del Norte County's Economic Development has been stagnant for years. I feel I can bring together the County and the local Tribes to start working together on projects. I will be working diligently on last chance grade, critical care hospital and Economic Development. Please vote for me for 5th District Supervisor this coming June

Thank you for your consideration

**Terri Colton**

**Candidate for 5th District Supervisor**

*• This is a paid advertisement*





## Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today  
190 Klamath Blvd.,  
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

Graduation Celebration - June 2 - 6pm - Weitchpec  
Orick Dist. Meeting - June 4 - 12pm - Woods residence  
CFMC meeting - June 6 - 5pm - Weitchpec office

Tribal Council - Planning - June 8 - 10am - Klamath office  
Tribal Council - Action - June 9 - 10am - Klamath office

CFMC meeting - June 20 - 5pm - Weitchpec office

Tribal Council - Planning - June 22 - 10am - Klamath office  
Tribal Council - Action - June 23 - 10am - Weitchpec office  
Tribal Council - Finance - June 27 - 1pm - Klamath office

## SUBMIT A STORY IDEA

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A TOPIC COVERED IN YUROK TODAY?

To submit a story idea via email, send a short note, describing the topic, to mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us. To suggest subject matter over the phone call (707) 482-1350. Also, please feel free to stop by the Klamath office, during normal business hours, to talk about your idea.

## Attention all Tribal Members!

Are you looking for  
career opportunities?

**We can assist you with your job  
search and preparation or to continue  
your education  
Through the following:**

- **Resume Making**
- **Life Skills**
- **Vocational Training**
- **Computer Literacy**
- **Group Skill Development**
- **Tutoring**
- **GED Testing**

Also offering Individual Job Counseling upon  
Request

For more information  
contact:

Tamara Scott  
(Klamath)  
(707) 482-1350  
or  
Alisha Johnson  
(Eureka / Weitchpec)  
(707) 445-2422