



OCTOBER EDITION

Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



TRIBAL ELDER GETS NEW HOME

TERO/YIHA team up to provide on-the-job training for ten tribal members

▸ See story on page 4



**VICE CHAIRPERSON
SUSAN MASTEN**

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

Remote access to Tribal Council meetings coming soon

The Yurok Tribal Council included funding in the 2015/2016 budget for making the Council meetings available online in real-time. We have already begun working on the plan to put the digital infrastructure in place to record and transmit a video feed of the meetings. We are doing this to increase transparency and provide every available opportunity for the Tribal membership to actively participate in the decision making process. The webcast will also be available at the Tribe’s satellite offices. We anticipate that the system will be up and running by December 2015. We will let people know how to access the site as soon as it is up.

As a cost saving measure, we are also setting up a video conferencing system between the Tribe’s offices. After it is complete, Tribal departments, located in different parts of Yurok Country, will be able to communicate and participate in online trainings without wasting time traveling to the meeting or training site. This new service will also be used to provide online training opportunities for Tribal members.

Water temps continue to go down, as fish health goes up

It looks like we dodged another bullet this year. During the main migration of Chinook salmon, the pernicious pathogen, largely responsible for the 2002 fish kill, made another appearance on the Klamath River. The Yurok Fisheries Program, once again, was the first to detect the deadly disease organism. Yurok biologists rapidly relayed this information the Tribal Council. The Council sounded the alarm bell and worked expeditiously with our federal partners to secure additional cool water from the Trinity River. The cold water arrived just in time. Ich spreads swiftly when the river is warm and the flows are low. It appears that the shot of cold water flushed the majority of the parasitic organisms out to sea, where they cannot survive. Throughout the summer and into fall, Yurok Fisheries staff found a few fish with minor ich infections, which salmon can easily survive.

Also, again this year, industrial agribusiness interests in the Central Valley attempted to obtain a temporary restraining order, against the Department of the Interior, the parent agency of the Bureau of Reclamation, in attempt to halt the additional water releases. The Yurok Tribe intervened in the case, and assisted in fighting the lawsuit. Judge Lawrence J. O’Neill of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California quickly denied the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westland Water District’s request to stop the augmented flows. This is nearly a mirror image of what took place in 2014. If the drought persists into 2016, the likelihood of another Ich outbreak is very high, according to Tribal fish experts. If the drought continues we expect the same in 2016. We are looking at ways to ensure that adequate water is available for the fish and wildlife that depend on it.

Update on Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement

Everything that happens to the Klamath impacts Yurok people. That is why the Yurok Tribe began the process that led to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. When work began, without our participation, on a third pact, the Klamath Basin Comprehensive

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On The Cover

Yurok Tribal member Ken “Butch” Sanderson stands in front of his old home. The home was completely demolished and is currently being rebuilt.

Agreement, we voiced our concerns. When our worries fell on deaf ears, we had no choice but to pull our support from the agreements. This was a very difficult decision, one that was made after much deliberation. The Klamath River is one interconnected system and history has shown us that this piecemeal approach does not work.

Dam removal is the best thing we can do to support the long-term sustainability of Klamath salmon. Earlier this month, we filed an amicus brief, joining the effort to force the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's to stop delaying the relicensing of the dams. In order to obtain a new license, the dams' owner is required to pay for several costly modifications, such as fish ladders and water quality improvements, which is why PacifiCorp agreed to dam removal in 2010. The water quality certification process cannot be delayed indefinitely while Congress sits around doing nothing. The Tribe and Klamath River fish cannot wait. This process needs to move forward and the Klamath dams need to come down.

Klamath Gateway Project update

The Kapel Construction crew is doing a fantastic job on the first phase of the Klamath Gateway Project. The Yurok men are quickly transforming the once bleak Klamath Blvd. into a visually pleasing promenade. Once it's finished, the thoroughfare will have a "Main Street" aesthetic and will be a picture-perfect place for community members and visitors to take a stroll. The new sidewalks are almost complete and some of the 40, solar-powered streetlights are already up. The project will also include three center medians, nine new crosswalks, and dozens of native, flowering shrubs and trees.

In addition to being a wonderful place to take a walk, the newly transformed boulevard will be an ideal location for Tribal member-owned businesses to set up shop. This summer, thousands of tourists visited the Redwood Hotel Casino and the Yurok Country Visitor Center. Many of these vacationers told us that they would like to see additional places to patronize, including restaurants, retail and boutique-type businesses. Since the beginning, it has always been our goal to create a space for Tribal member-owned enterprises to flourish. It is very encouraging to see this long-term plan taking shape.

Tribal audit and grants compliance update

The Tribe recently completed the annual audit. The independent auditors' found that the Tribe's budget was executed in accordance with all laws and regulations. It was also determined that all of the grants that we administer were also in compliance. In addition to

performing the audit, we asked the budget analysts to provide the Tribe with their informed opinion about how we can reduce the risk of fraud. The auditor produced a fraud prevention policy that the Council will be looking to adopt, as part of an effort to halt this type of activity. The independent investigation into the 2014 fraud is complete. The report is available at yuroktribe.org and can be obtained through Council support.

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We also send our prayers and thoughts to each of you who may have lost a loved one during this time, please know that we love you and care about you.

Wok-hlew ❄



**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 November 23, 2015. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Crystal Korb
Yurok Tribe # WNV-010 APN:530-053-010 Prior Assignee (Lucinda Myers),
Located in Weitchpec New Village.
- (Category B) Transfer of Existing Land Assignment: Julia Snyder
Yurok Tribe #WTV-018 APN: 530-052-002-02 Prior Assignee(Jennifer French)
Located in Wautec Village.
- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Phillip Minard
Yurok Tribe # WNV-012 APN:530-053-010-62 Prior Assignee (Awok Phila Tidwell)
located in Weitchpec New Village.
- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Carrie Turner
Yurok Tribe # WTV-016 APN:533-074-024 Prior Assignee (Awok Carrie Turner)
- (Category B) Transfer Land Assignment: Duston Offins
YurokTribe # WOV-005 APN: 530-061-011-02 Prior Assignee (Morneen Willson)
located in Weitchpec Old Village.

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

Attention: Samantha Myers
Planning & Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1027
Klamath, CA 95548

TERO/YIHA provide training, home

National TERO helps ten Tribal members learn how to build houses

Yurok TERO Director Don Barnes is unwavering in his effort to improve Tribal member access to training opportunities, designed to increase the possibility of landing a living-wage job.

That is why, after listening to a Native Construction Careers Institute presentation, the Tribal Employment Rights Office quickly made contact with Dan Kowalski, the lead trainer for the program, to talk about how to bring the Institute to Yurok Country. The Native Construction Careers Institute, a highly acclaimed program of the national TERO, trains Native people in every aspect of home building, ranging from framing to finish carpentry and plumbing to power systems.

“Whether it’s building homes or building up Tribal infrastructure, there will always be a need for experienced construction workers on the Yurok Reservation,” said Barnes, a Yurok Tribal member.

Kowalski put Barnes in contact with Lee Adolph, the CEO of the Council for Employment Rights, the national TERO and NCCI program originator. After speaking with Adolph, both agreed that the NCCI would work well on the Yurok Reservation, where this type of training is limited because of the geographic isolation of the area.

“We know that we can get training anywhere, but every time (Native people) get training we have to leave the reservation and that’s a historical burden for the tribes throughout Indian country,” Adolph said. “We’re not looking for jobs anymore — we’re beyond jobs. We’re looking for careers.”

To get everything started on the Tribe’s end, the TERO staff worked closely with the Yurok Indian Housing Authority, a principal partner in this effort, to figure out the logistics and identify a suitable site to conduct the 4-month on-the-job training program. Barnes also secured full funding for the project.

TERO’s Thunder Nix-Rivera and Raymond McQuillen, also Yurok Tribal members, played a vital role in putting together this



Yurok Tribal member Ken “Butch” Sanderson stands in front of his old home.

program. Nix and McQuillen coordinated recruitment, worked closely with participants throughout the hiring process and assisted with implementation.

“This would not be possible without their hard work and dedication,” Barnes said.

It was determined that Yurok elder, Ken “Butch” Sanderson’s home, which was on YIHA’s home replacement list, would be an ideal location to perform the inaugural run of this new program. Sanderson, who described the condition of his home as being similar to a “cave”, was absolutely elated when he found out that his dwelling was selected for refurbishment.


“I felt like I won the housing lottery!” Sanderson said with a smile.

In late September, the property was demolished and cleared. This October, a team of ten Yurok Tribal members began rebuilding Sanderson’s home from the firm concrete foundation to the rain repellent roof.

Yurok Tribal member, Richard Mendez, a NCCI training

“I felt like I won the housing lottery!”

- Yurok Elder Ken “Butch” Sanderson



participant, said he signed up for the job to better position himself to support his young family. He was also very excited about the prospect of doing something positive for a Tribal elder.

“I am really looking forward to doing something that will benefit my elders,” Mendez said.

The Native Construction Careers Institute employs a hands-on approach to teaching Tribal members, who have little to no experience working in this field, every facet of building a house. For example, the trainees will pound every nail in the wood-frame, place every inch of electrical wire in the walls and put together the entire plumbing system. At each phase of the build, licensed professionals will oversee the work, which will be accomplished in accordance with local building codes. The training will, in every way, mimic the working conditions that construction workers contend with on a daily basis.

“The house is our classroom. And we’re going to be out there when it’s raining, if it’s snowing, if it’s cold, if it’s warm. That’s what we as carpenters and contractors go through and that’s what your guys are going to go through,” Kowalski said. “When we get cold and shaky, I’m going to say, ‘this is life, brother. You better enjoy it. But you’re going to be very proud when you get done and you stand back and see that house that you built.’”

After the home is rebuilt, the ten Tribal members will receive a certificate verifying they have experience working in

each specific trade, which will greatly strengthen their ability to acquire financially gratifying work on Tribal and non-Tribal construction projects. The crew of home builders will also receive an equitable stipend for their effort, which is also funded with monies secured through TERO.

“Don Barnes has worked very hard to get Council approval for the TERO department to fund this entire project,” said Earl Brown, YIHA’s Executive Director. “Without Don’s progressive attitude, this project would not be occurring.”

At a luncheon, to kick off the project, Barnes shared with the audience the struggles that many face while trying to find well-paying work on the Yurok Reservation. He said even though the Tribe’s TERO Ordinance mandates that contractors, working on Tribal lands, hire Tribal members, the construction companies require their employees to have a certain amount of experience before putting them in well-paying positions. Oftentimes, Tribal hires end up being stuck in menial roles, a result of not having an official work history.

Barnes also elaborated on how important it is for the Tribe’s programs to be consistent with the cultural values that have served Yurok people since time immemorial.

“This is something that is good for our elders and it is good for the men and women trying to enter the workforce,” Barnes concluded. ✨

Do you have unpaid traffic tickets?

Do you have unpaid traffic tickets from before January 1, 2013?

If so, you may be eligible for fine reduction or have your license reinstated in the State Amnesty Program. There are specific conditions and guidelines that must be met.

Beginning October 1, 2015, California drivers with outstanding infraction tickets may be eligible to participate in the Traffic/Infraction Amnesty Program. The program runs through March 31, 2017 and may offer eligible participants discounts on qualifying fees of 50 to 80 percent (depending on income) and reinstate their driver’s license. The program is open to those with unpaid tickets whose fines were

originally due on or before January 1, 2013 and have not made a payment after June 24, 2015. If payment has been made after June 24, 2015 drivers are not eligible for fine reductions, however they may still be eligible to have their license returned.

This amnesty program does not apply to parking tickets, reckless driving or DUI offenses. **More information is available at: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/trafficamnesty.htm>**

If you are interested in requesting a reduction or have any questions about eligibility please contact Loretta Miranda at the Yurok Tribal Court Legal Access Center at 707-482-1350. ✨

Tribal member looking to expand biz

Yurok woman starts Kickstarter campaign to keep up with customer demand

In pursuit of her passion, Yurok Tribal member Jacquelyn Waggoner works tirelessly to provide the world with a diverse assortment of hand-crafted baked goods, an array immune-boosting beverages and a whole lot more.

Waggoner is the owner of U-Rok, an artisanal bakery that offers everything from dark breads to sweet cinnamon rolls and fermented drinks to hand-crafted preserves. In 2012, she started the company out of her house near the Trinity River, where she lives with her husband and young son. From the beginning, the primary objectives were to supply her family and community with healthy food and to earn additional income. For the first few years, Waggoner sold her fantastic fare at the local farmers market and she received an impressive response from marketgoers. From there, the Native-owned enterprise leavened like her lovely breads.

Now, Waggoner is looking to increase the capacity of her business in order to meet the needs of her consistently expanding customer base, while continuing to honor a commitment to serve her community real, wholesome food.

“At this point there is more of a demand than I can supply,” Waggoner said. “I need help turning my garage into bakery because I have outgrown my kitchen.”

She has already purchased many of the big-ticket items, like a commercial stove, oven and refrigerators. To complete the kitchen, Waggoner is organizing a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$15,000, which will be used to install code-compliant, plumbing and electrical systems. Funds will also be used to purchase all of the relevant permits.

“I need your support to get this kitchen open,” Waggoner said in the video made to promote the project. “Once it’s open I will continue to involve the people around me and we will all benefit from it.”

Here’s how it works. The project’s founder first builds a page

on kickstarter.com, containing videos or other media, showing the venture’s value to the community. Those who believe in the proposal contribute toward the targeted financial goal, before the deadline listed on the site. Once the Waggoner’s Kickstarter begins in late October, those interested will have 35 days to support U-Rok. Waggoner has a selection of gifts for project backers, including custom aprons, t-shirts made with bamboo

fiber, stickers and other items. All of the rewards are made by local vendors. To assist Waggoner, go to Kickstarter.com and enter U-Rok into the search bar.

If the quantity of funding does not meet or surpass the goal, all of the donations are refunded.

The crowd funding website has proven to be a potent tool for creative entrepreneurs, like Waggoner, who are committed to completing their endeavor. Since 2009, Kickstarter has successfully funded 93,610 projects to the tune of \$2 billion, according to kickstarter.com.

In addition to expanding her bakery, Waggoner also wants to produce her health-boosting

kefir soda on a larger scale. This one-of-a-kind beverage is water-based, unlike the dairy product commonly found in grocery stores. Making it requires two-days of fermentation, which enables beneficial bacteria, known as probiotics, to populate the health-promoting drink. She infuses local, fresh fruits and herbs into the fizzy and flavorful refreshment.

“I’m constantly trying new flavor combinations, but I always make sure it is smooth and clean,” Waggoner explained. “So far, everyone has loved it. I want U-rok to be the company that brings kefir sodas to your grocery store.”

To accomplish the expansion, Waggoner has what Kickstarter calls “a stretch goal” of \$2,000. This feature enables people to give after the initial goal is met. She hopes to use these additional



Tribal member Jacquelyn Waggoner seeks support for business expansion.



funds to invest in bottling equipment and lab testing for her kefir.

Well respected scientists have conducted numerous studies into the health benefits associated with probiotic-laced foods, such as kefir. For example, comestibles containing certain microorganisms improve the immune system and the function of the digestive tract.

Like the Kefir soda, all of Waggoner's creations are her own. She spends countless hours perfecting the recipes for her baked items, jams and nut butters. She puts a premium on using only high-quality, local ingredients. In the future, Waggoner is planning on incorporating traditional foods like acorns, salmon and other native foods into her growing list of products. She hopes to be able to acquire these items from other Tribal members.

While Waggoner is an accomplished baker/jam maker/soda fermenter, she is also a very skilled artist and sculptor. Twice, she created the logo for the Yurok Tribe's Klamath Salmon Festival. Most recently, a painting of hers was used for the 2015 Salmon Festival promotional items.

"I would like to participate in the wellbeing of my Tribe in any way that I can," concluded Waggoner.

To help her expand U-Rok, please visit [kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com). For more information, contact Jacquelyn Waggoner at Jacquelyn_waggoner@hotmail.com ✨

CULTURE CORNER

This is a new feature in Yurok Today. This section will cover the topics discussed by the Yurok Tribe's Culture Committee. The Committee is comprised of Yurok Elders, who examine complex, culture-related issues and make recommendations to the Yurok Tribal Council and Tribal staff. The advisory group provides input on a wide-range of activities, ranging from construction projects to fishing hole issues. They meet monthly, alternating between the Klamath and Weitchpec offices.

The first topic discussed at the Culture Committees August meeting was about the traditional family structure in relation to a fishing issue. A Yurok woman, who raised a legally adopted child since the boy was 11-months-old, was concerned about her now teen-aged son, a life-long Klamath resident, being restricted from gill net fishing on the Klamath River. The young man was barred from fishing because he is not an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe. The mother said her son became depressed when he was told he couldn't fish and she would very much like her son to be able to legally participate in the healthy activity.

"Yuroks have always raised other people's kids and those kids became part of the family that raised them," she stated. "Their land was given to them after their parents passed away, despite not having blood ties. I feel as Yurok people, as cultural people, we should talk about it and see what we can do."

The Culture Committee acquiesced to the woman's request and thoroughly discussed the issue.

"It is true, all up and down the river, people raise other people's kids," said Committee member Bertha Peters. "This happens all the time. The Jessie Short roll was used to form the Tribal roll and didn't take cultural rules into consideration."

"I think if we go back into history far enough we will find that people who were adopted and raised Yurok or were married to a Yurok, became Yurok without question. We didn't have a piece of paper and we didn't measure blood degree. That is something that government put on us," added Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Bob McConnell.

The Culture Committee directed Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer McConnell to look into seeking information on how to best move forward.

Next on the Committee's agenda was a discussion with Richard Myers Jr. Myers is organizing an annual ridge run, reflecting the historic routes the Tribe used to send messages, from Klamath to Orleans. The purpose of the Messenger Run is to provide youth with a positive outlet that is connected with culture. One of the obstacles to making the event a reality is getting through Green Diamond Resource Company's gates, which block many sections of Myers's proposed route.

Before offering an answer to his query, the Committee's discussion on the traditional run took a path of its own, meandering in a circular fashion, as often happens, and through a number of topics

CULTURE COMMITTEE CONT'D ON PAGE 11

BEAUTIFYING THE BOULEVARD





Yurok Tribal Elections 2015

The following candidates will be in the Run-Off for Tribal Council Seats.

CHAIRPERSON

James Dunlap
Thomas P. O'Rourke, Sr.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

David L. Gensaw, Sr.
Susan Masten

Run-Off Election Day is scheduled for November 10, 2015.

For more information regarding the election, call the Election Department at (707) 482-1350 or the tribal website: www.yuroktribe.org.

Polling locations 8am-7pm

NORTH DISTRICT

Elk Valley Rancheria Community Center
2298 Norris Ave, Suite B
Crescent City, CA

REQUA DISTRICT

Yurok Tribal Office
190 Klamath Boulevard
Klamath, CA

ORICK DISTRICT

Orick Elementary School
Hwy 101
Orick, CA

SOUTH DISTRICT

Yurok Tribal Office (Worthington School)
3400 Eerie Street
Eureka, CA

WEITCHPEC DISTRICT

Yurok Tribal Office/Weitchpec
Community Center
Weitchpec, CA

PECWAN DISTRICT

Wauteck Fire House
Johnsons, CA

EAST DISTRICT

Hoop Community Center (Formerly Church
of the Mountains)
Loop Road
Hoop, CA

YUROK TRIBE 2015 ELECTION SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 10, 2015 RUNOFF ELECTION

NOVEMBER 9 LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR
RUN OFF (1 DAY)

NOVEMBER 10, 2015 RUNOFF ELECTION

2015 VOTING DISTRICTS
CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICT

CULTURE COMMITTEE CONT'D FROM PAGE 7

related to youth. In the end, they decided to support the run, so long it is done with the greatest respect for the Tribe's ancestors.

On their way to that final remark, the committee delved deeply into the importance for young people to learn the traditional process of mourning those who have passed on, a timely topic, given recent events.

"A long time ago, when I was a kid, I didn't see anyone laughing at funerals. I saw people passing out from crying so much," Yurok elder Bertha Peters explained.

Peters continued to share her perspective, expounding upon the dangers of not fully reconciling complex emotions.

"People pack that stuff with them. You can see what they are doing to push away the pain," Peters said.

Betty Jackson, another Culture Committee member and Tribal elder, agreed.

"They need to learn to cry on someone's shoulder when they need it," Jackson said. "Now a funeral is an occasion. When I was younger people mourned. Now people are confused and hurt and they take something to numb it."

Yurok elder and Committee member, Lavina Bowers also contributed to the conversation, adding that there are a number of cultural rules associated with grieving when someone passes away.

"People that lost a loved one, kept a light on. They didn't attend big events for a year. People didn't mention the name of the person who passed away," Bowers said. "There are more rules."

Bowers mentioned the importance of handling grief in a healthy way, and she said that will help "stop our kids from doing drugs."

Yurok elder Walt Lara Sr. also spoke about that relationship between inappropriate grieving and drug abuse.

"They are packing it around unconsciously," Lara said. "If you are conscious of what you are carrying that keeps you from going to certain places. A lot bad things can happen when anger is left unattended."

Lara further expanded on the Tribe's traditional mourning ritual, the majority of which lasts for ten days. He said the deceased was bathed with water steeped with specific plants. A bear grass wreath was made and hung up.

"When the circle falls off, it is time to stop mourning," Lara said.

Lara then asked the Culture Committee to come up with guidelines for mourning to help Tribal members struggling with a loss of a family member or a close friend.

After the discussion on bereavement concluded, James Gensaw, a Yurok Tribal member and Yurok Country Visitor Center cultural coordinator, made a presentation to the committee.

Gensaw, who puts on cultural events at the new Yurok Country Visitor Center, asked for permission from the committee to tell specific stories for Tribal members and guests at the center, which houses a beautiful amphitheater.

"We want to make the Visitor center an educational place," Gensaw said. "We want it to be a place where people can get some tools, where Tribal members can share cultural skills with one another. I need your knowledge to give to them, so that they can give it to other people."

Gensaw said he would like to tell the Red Breasted Robin and Eel and Sucker stories. Yurok elder John Melvin, who is the Culture Committee Chairperson, gave kudos to Gensaw and said he would do a much better job sharing the Tribe's perspective, than a Redwood National Park employee.

"You can tell it with heart," Melvin explained. "That's why I am for this because you can tell these stories with heart."

Additionally, Gensaw asked for the Committee's approval for doing Brush Dance demonstrations, adding that he would not share anything related to the high dances. Gensaw also would like to talk about the cultural significance of redwood.

"I want to make sure that I'm not crossing any lines. I want to do right by you guys, Gensaw said. "I want to tell people why redwood is important. I want to explain why the houses were made of redwood, about the science behind the shape."

The Committee, through a consensus vote, gave Gensaw approval on all fronts and offered their assistance.

The next agenda item was from a Redwood National Park representative, who has been working with the Committee on creating voice recordings, which would be heard at kiosks along Newton B. Drury Scenic Parkway. After short discussion on potential topics, which included traditional hunting and gathering as well as language preservation, the meeting adjourned.

"I'd like you to give this some thought and come up with some ideas and speakers for when I return," the Redwood National Park rep. concluded. ✨

Estate planning tips for Tribal members

Estate planning is the best way to protect you, your family

Estate Planning can be a long and complicated process. The purpose of this article is not to offer legal advice, but to encourage Tribal members to consider the benefits of estate planning, specifically writing a will or establishing a trust. Though these topics may be uncomfortable to discuss, it is very important to talk with your family and loved ones about what you would like to happen in the event of an incapacitating illness, injury or after you pass away. Tribal members are encouraged to consult with a lawyer or expert in order to arrive at the best possible outcome. The Yurok Tribal Court offers this service.

What is Estate Planning?

Estate planning is a process for addressing your future needs in case you ever become unable to care for yourself. Everyone can benefit from estate planning, whether you are 30 or 80, have a lot of property or have very little. Through estate planning, you can determine:

- How and by whom your assets will be managed during your life if you ever become unable to manage them yourself.
- How and to whom your assets will be distributed after your death.
- Who will serve as guardian and care for your minor children after your death.
- How and by whom your personal care will be managed and how health care decisions will be made during your lifetime if you become unable to care for yourself.

What is a Will?

Your will is a legal document in which you give certain instructions to be carried out after your death. For example, you may direct the distribution of your assets (your money and property), and give your choice of guardians for your children. Once you create a proper will, you have the option of changing or adding

to it; it becomes irrevocable only when you die. If you pass away without a will the laws of intestacy will be used to disburse your assets. The laws of intestacy distribute your property according to a standard method that may or may not be what you want.

What is a Trust?

There are many different types of trusts available to address your needs. For example, a “Living Trust” is a trust you can set up while you are still alive. Many people set up a living trust to avoid the probate process. You can set one up by putting your assets (your money and property) into a trust and then name yourself as trustee. This way when you pass away the assets in the trust do not go through Probate because the trust owns the property. The trust can then either be transferred to someone new or distributed to those you selected.

What is the Tribe doing to help me?

The Tribe is in the beginning stages of developing an amended Probate Ordinance, which will allow distribution of estates to occur in Yurok Tribal Court. If you have ideas or suggestions for this Ordinance in its early stages of development, please contact your Council District Representative.

How do I find a lawyer to speak to?

Unfortunately, due to limited staff, Yurok self-help attorneys may not always be available to help Tribal members with estate planning. Consider these alternatives:

California Indian Legal Services (CILS) provides free to low-cost legal services to Native Americans. To reach the Eureka Office and learn more call (707) 443-8397.

California residents can call 866-44-CA-LAW (442-2529) for phone numbers of certified lawyers in your county. Those living outside of California can call their State Bar for a listing of certified lawyers near them. ✨

Supporting youth, protecting our future

Supplemental Security Income is a safety net for those who need it most

By Amanda Donahue

Social Security District Manager in the Eureka District Office

Social Security serves a person for life — from birth, to death, and even beyond, by helping to care for surviving dependents. When a parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help to stabilize the family's financial future in an otherwise turbulent time. And we pay benefits to adults and children.

In July, the world celebrates World Youth Day. Social Security is no stranger to helping children in need. Every year, about 4.4 million children receive monthly benefits because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. Those benefits help with their day-to-day needs.

In addition, Social Security provides vital income for disabled children, including people disabled since childhood, through our Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and our Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for children's benefits under the SSDI program, the applicant must be the child of a parent entitled to benefits and meet Social Security's strict definition of disability. He or she must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of disabling conditions, that seriously limits his or her daily activities and is expected to last for at least 12 months or result in death.

The SSI program provides payments to blind or disabled children who live in households with low income and limited resources if they meet our strict definition of disability. You can find more information on eligibility requirements by visiting our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The ADA ensures equal opportunity for and equal treatment of people with disabilities at school, in work places, in commercial facilities, and through the services available from state and local government agencies. The ADA requires that government agencies communicate with Americans who have disabilities in the way that fits their needs. This legislation shows our nation's commitment to all people, despite their physical and mental disabilities.

Since the ADA's inception, Social Security has been and continues to be at the forefront, providing accommodations for disabled beneficiaries and employees. It's a natural part of who we are as an agency.

If you think your child may qualify for children's benefits, you can apply by calling Social Security toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or by visiting your local Social Security office. You can also read our publication, *Benefits for Children*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. ✱

**Yurok Tribe 1st Annual
Halloween Carnival**
Sat October 31st
1-4pm at Worthington
3400 Erie Street, Eureka
Children must be accompanied by an adult; No drop off
For more info call (707) 954-7806

Games & prizes
Wear your costume

Sponsored by:
-South District Council
-Education
-Social Services

Focus on ages 3-12 yrs



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

Phone: 707-482-1350 • Fax: 707-482-1377

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yurok Tribe will hold three public hearings to accept comments from Yurok Tribal members on the following draft legislation:

- **AMENDED CHILDREN'S ORDINANCE:** an amended ordinance replacing the existing Children's Ordinance for the purposes of expressing the Tribe's sovereign right to protect future generations and affirming the Tribe's intent to handle all matters of child welfare internally and according to Yurok culture, tradition, and family values. Amendments clarify certain definitions and expand services.
- **GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS (GEO) ORDINANCE:** a new ordinance designating Yurok Tribal territory as zone free from genetically engineered seeds, plants, fish, and animals.

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. Public hearings are scheduled for:

<p>November 5, 2015 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548</p>	<p>November 5, 2015 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA</p>	<p>November 5, 2015 6 p.m. – 7p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Erie St Eureka, CA</p>
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Hard copies of the draft ordinances will be available at the public hearings, and at the Weitchpec and Klamath offices. You can also get a hard copy by contacting Cheyenne Sanders at 707-482-1350 x1397 or email csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us to request an electronic copy.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Yurok Tribe is interested in receiving comments from members of the Yurok Tribe and Yurok Reservation community regarding all aspects of the draft legislation. Oral comments can be made during the public hearing. Comments may also be submitted in writing. All comments must be received by **5:00pm on Thursday, November 12, 2015.**

Comment letters may be submitted by email at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, by fax at (707) 482-1363, or by mail addressed to: Public Comment, Yurok Tribe Office of the Tribal Attorney, PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Please indicate in your comment the draft legislation and specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. For example, **“Comment Letter—Children's Ordinance.”**



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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- **STAY IN SCHOOL ORDINANCE:** a new ordinance for the purposes of establishing procedures and identifying resources for truant Yurok students and their families.

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. Public hearings are scheduled for:

January 5, 2016 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548	January 5, 2016 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA	January 5, 2016 6 p.m. – 7p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Erie St Eureka, CA
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Hehl skue-le'-mon-ee Calling all Law Students!



The Office of the Tribal Attorney (OTA) is now accepting applications for Spring 2016 and Summer 2016 Law Clerks. We welcome 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, and recent law school graduates who have a strong background in legal research and writing to apply.

OTA is a fast-paced work environment with four attorneys, one paralegal, and one legal admin assistant. OTA works on a wide range of important Yurok legal issues including marine resources, ordinance development, gaming, tribal court prosecution, and ICWA. Under the supervision of General Counsel Nathan Voegeli, law clerks will receive challenging assignments and quality feedback.

Application materials are available on the Yurok Tribe's website. Alternatively, contact Associate General Counsel Cheyenne Sanders at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us or 707-482-1350 ext. 1397 for a copy. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Law Clerk positions are unpaid. Please check with your law school for public interest fellowship and/or school-credit opportunities.

PUBLIC SAFETY - ARREST LOG

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

August 28, 2015 - Herman Quinn - Bench Warrant

August 28, 2015 - Tammy Prouty - Bench Warrant

September 4, 2015 - Juan Sandoval - Drunk in Public

September 5, 2015 - Michael Polyhronakis - Drunk in Public

September 6, 2015 - Joseph Sandoval - Drunk in Public

September 13, 2015 Gregory Taggart - Drunk in Public



THE YUROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WOULD LIKE TO COMMISSION A YUROK ARTIST TO DO A MURAL ON AN INSIDE WALL AT THE KLAMATH JET BOAT TOURS. THE ART PIECE SHOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIONS OF ANIMALS, JET BOATS AND LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE YEDC BY PHONE AT 482-0657 OR VISIT THE OFFICE ON KLAMATH BLVD BY OCT. 30. BE PREPARED TO SHOW SAMPLES OF YOUR WORK.





Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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IMPORTANT DATES

Honor the elders - 10am-3pm - Klamath office - Oct. 27
Justice Advisory Meeting 10am - Weitchpec office Oct. 29
Yurok Art Exhibit Deadline - Oct. 30

Yurok Art Exhibit begins - Klamath office - Nov. 5
Yurok language class - 4pm - Weitchpec office Nov. 5

Last day to pick up absentee ballots - Nov. 9
Yurok language class - 4pm Weitchpec office Nov. 12

Run-off election - Nov. 10

Veteran's Day - Tribal Office's Closed - Nov. 11.

34th Intertribal Gathering & Elders Dinner - Redwood Acres - Nov. 14
Election Certification - Nov. 16.

Culture Committee - Weitchpec Tribal Office - Nov. 20
GONA follow up - Morek Won - 3pm

Nov. 26-27 Tribal Offices closed

Attn: Tribal members

If you have moved recently or if the Yurok Enrollment Department does not have your current contact information, please update your address with the Enrollment Department. This can be done in-person or by mail. If done by mail, please send a signed letter, including the new address, to the Yurok Enrollment Department at PO Box 1027 Klamath, Ca 95548.