

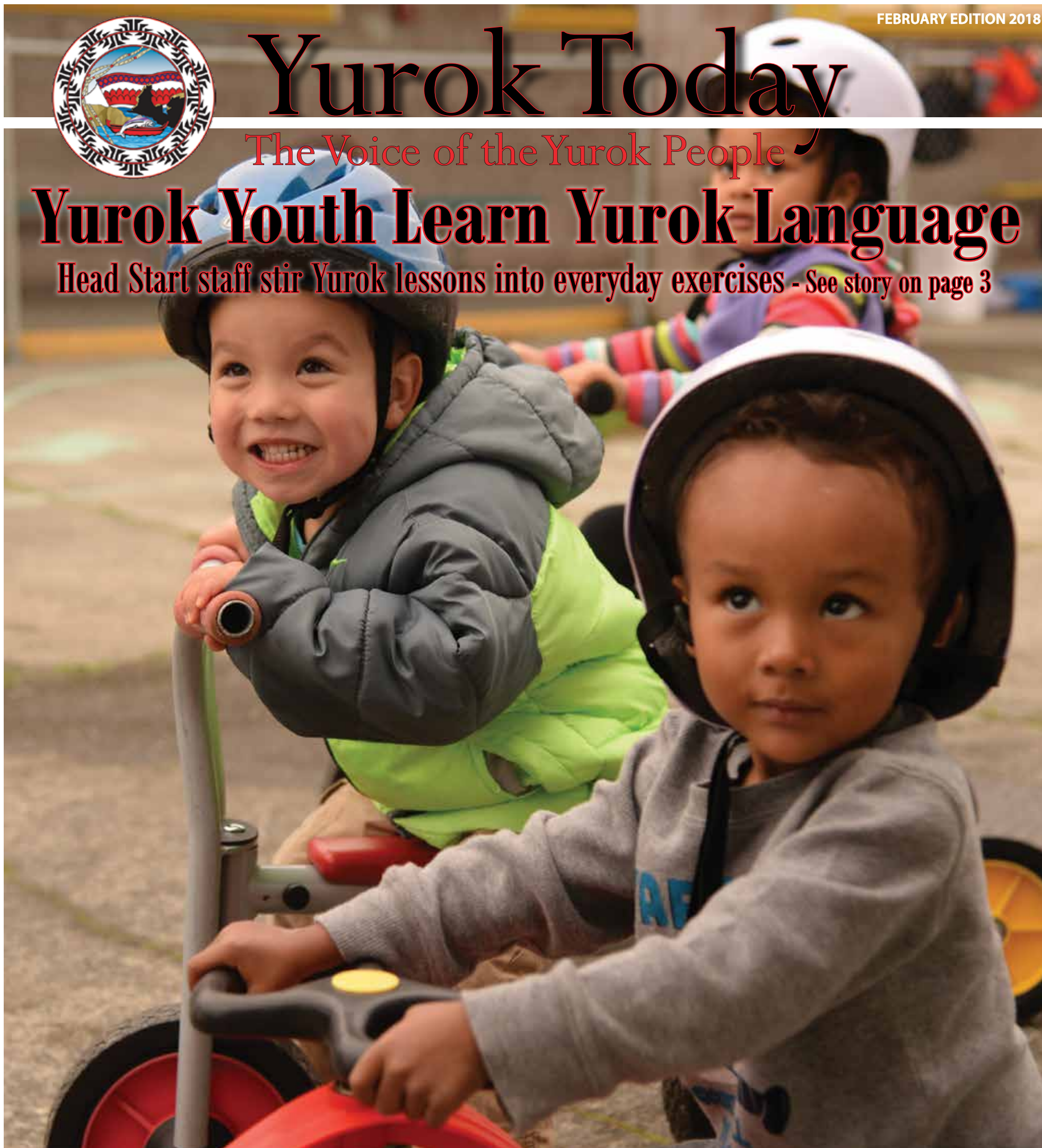


Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Yurok Youth Learn Yurok Language

Head Start staff stir Yurok lessons into everyday exercises - See story on page 3



Public Notices

YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

February 6, 2018

TO:
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Sid Nix. Let it be known that Sid Nix is on the Board of Commissioner of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Sid Nix meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Elder Emergency program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully



Diane Bowers
Executive Director

SAVE THE DATES

• THE YUROK TRIBE'S 56TH ANNUAL KLAMATH SALMON FESTIVAL IS SET FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018.

• THE YUROK TRIBE'S 56TH ANNUAL KLAMATH SALMON FESTIVAL IS SET FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018.

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YUROK TRIBAL COURT

PO Box 1027 / 230 Klamath Blvd.
Klamath, CA 95548
(707) 482-1350 phone
(707) 482-0105 fax

Court File Number: YT-FL-2014-91
Case Type: Family Code

FILED
YUROK TRIBAL COURT
FEB 21 2018

BY: 
YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION

Richard Bates II
Petition of (name of petitioner or petitioners)

In Re Sinew Kaos Swain

ORDER to Change Name

1. The petition was duly considered:
At the hearing held on (date): January 12, 2018 .

THE COURT FINDS

2. a. All notice required by Yurok law has been given.
b. The person whose name is to be changed identified in item 3 below
c. It appears to the satisfaction of the court that the reasoning in the petition is sufficient and therefore name change should be **granted**.
d. Other findings (if any): _____

3. The name of

Present name

to

Proposed name

Sinew Kaos Swain
(First, Middle, Last)

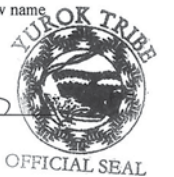
Sinew Kaos Bates
(First, Middle, Last)

Pursuant to Yurok Family code, you MUST ensure publication of this order and your new name by publishing in next available newsletter.

It is so **ORDERED**

DATE: February 21, 2018


Judge



Court Rev. 3-2014

YTNC-110

Page 1 of 1

On The Cover

Yurok Today is working on three-part series featuring the Yurok Tribe's three Head Start, Early Head Start and childcare facilities, which are offered in Eureka, Klamath and Ke'-pel.

Series focuses on three Head Start sites

Head Starts emphasize early Yurok language acquisition

Note: This story is one in a series of three featuring the Yurok Tribe's Head Start, Early Head Start and childcare services, which are offered in Eureka, Klamath and Ke'-pel.

Every day, children enrolled in the Education Department's Head Start, Early Head Start and Childcare system are exposed to the Yurok language. The students are between 0 to 5-years-old, which is the ideal age range for learning, simultaneously, the fundamental elements of multiple languages.

Similar to the Head Starts in Ke'-pel and Klamath, the primary teachers and support staff at the Worthington site, the focus of this story, incorporate the Yurok vocabulary into just about every educational exercise.

"We weave language into daily instruction in a variety of ways, including: song, movement, literacy, and vocabulary," said Head Start teacher Menetta Roberts. "We generally introduce new vocabulary related to the topics covered in curriculum for the day. For example, we are currently studying the Yurok words for articles of clothing, and every day we acquaint the students with the Yurok terms for different pieces of personal attire."

The talented Head Start teachers even inject language lessons during the breakfast and lunch breaks. Before heading out to the playground, all of the students sit together at an oval-shaped table where they receive healthy beverages and freshly cooked, whole foods, which the teachers, if applicable, name in Yurok and use to engage in table conversation.

"We use Yurok Language all throughout the day in our classroom. We start our day by greeting children in Yurok, asking how they are doing, telling them to wash their hands, and throughout breakfast and lunch periods," Roberts said. "We use as many Yurok words as we can throughout the day. We are lucky to have Brittany Vigil and Robert Kinney come into our classroom and engage students and teachers in language activities and expose us to new words and phrases."

One of the ways that the Yurok Education Department is accelerating the students' acquisition of Yurok terminology is by sending a language teacher to the three Head Start sites to provide detailed lessons using the approved Yurok Language Framework curriculum, and also repetitive vocabulary, terms and songs.



Travelling language instructor, Robert R. Kinney, teaches at all three Head Start sites.


Robert R. Kinney, a Yurok Tribal member and a Master/Apprentice participant with Awok Georgiana Trull, travels on a daily basis to one of the three Head Start locations. On a recent afternoon, Kinney read the students a story and led them in three songs, all of which were comprised entirely in the Yurok language. In cheerful voices, the children sang each verse, while simultaneously using sign language to communicate the lyrics.

"Reading to them and singing with them is so important at this age," Kinney said. "Using sign language adds to their ability to retain the information. It's really neat to see how much they can absorb. They love to sing, they love to use their sign language and they love to learn."

To bolster the children's comprehension of the language, teachers often lead creative projects that reinforce the new material. For example, after learning words in a song created by Annelia Hillman about colors, the teachers at the South Site worked with the students on creating a poster showing the Yurok words for each hue.

"While we're singing the song in Yurok and in sign language they are able to see a visual of that too," Kinney explained. "The combination of sight and sound helps the kids better commit the words to memory. The teachers and staff do a wonderful job of teaching the language too."

Teachers, Kinney, and the students sing ten songs on a regular



basis. The Yurok Language Program and other language advocates penned the lyrics of the joyful tunes. The students have access to the written compositions, which double as a tool for teaching literacy in both Yurok and English.

“I’ve seen middle school students, who I worked with when they were younger, and they still remember the songs,” said Kinney, who previously taught the language in a different capacity. When Kinney was a Guidance Counselor to Native students at Eureka High School during the 2014 and 2015 school years, “I would spend fifteen to twenty minutes, volunteering in-kind hours, to storytelling and singing ‘ter-ker-kue, o’ chwey-geen, the song the students sang for their graduation program.”

Another creative tactic, used by the Yurok language Program to teach this important topic, is to label nearly everything in Yurok. Shiny stickers with Yurok words adorn everything from eating utensils to classroom furniture and from digital tools to the building’s infrastructure, such as doors, windows and bathrooms. While at school, the Early Head Start, Head Start and Childcare students are literally surrounded by the Yurok language.

This forward-thinking practice was started at the Klamath Head Start by Yurok Language Program Coordinator Victoria Carlson, and it quickly spread to the other two sites, according to Kinney.

“This is another example of how we positively reinforce the language,” Kinney said. “We strongly feel that employing a variety of teaching strategies is the best way for our students to learn.”

The teachers receive continuous instruction in the language as well, just as they would any other perishable skill. As part of their professional development, Brittany Vigil, a credentialed instructor and Yurok Tribal member, offers a classroom-relevant class every week to the Head Start staff. With input from the regular teachers, Vigil creates a syllabus centered on subjects that the children are currently learning.

“They tell me what they want to learn and I will devise a curriculum based on their feedback,” Vigil said.

Vigil also works directly with the students in small and large groups and employs a multilayered approach to her instruction too. For example, recently, she brought a mirror to class when she taught the Yurok words for nonverbal communication cues. She started by expressing an emotion to the kids in the class, and then asked them to say the correct Yurok word for the feeling indicated by the configuration of her facial features. The students then repeat this process with the mirror in their own hands. “This approach to social/emotional work allows the students to use the language and apply it in a specific context,” Vigil said.

She often employs the use of an iPad as a visual and audio aid to facilitate circle time lessons and expose children to a variety of elder audio clips.

The students also have access to Google tablets wherein they can access a Yurok Language Share File on Google Drive that Vigil loaded with curriculum which includes the following: Yurok phonics, videos of all the classroom songs, games, lesson plans, supplemental visual and audio aids, ready-to-go, printable flashcards, and accompanying American Sign Language resources. When the children use a Google Slide lesson, they can touch the pictures, immediately hear the pronunciation of each word or phrase along with a video of the sign in ASL, and then do a self-assessment slide. Each lesson is broken up with activity slides where students can explore lots of elder audio files. They are also able to hear “hidden” bonus terminology by clicking on background images.

When children are between 0 to 5-years old, they are in an optimal age range to acquire an additional language. There is a large body of research which shows that individuals, during this critical period can learn multiple languages as easily as one. In addition to the invaluable cultural information embedded in the Yurok language, multilingualism is also proven to improve cognitive development.

The students at the Head Start are rapidly picking up the Yurok vernacular. All of the young boys and girls have the capacity to one day become fluent. Whether it’s at one of the community classes or in a public learning institution, Yurok language learners have the opportunity to learn language from pre-school through college. Upon graduation from the Head Start, they will have an opportunity to continue their language education in several elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and at College of the Redwoods

“Once our students enter into middle school they will already have a foundation for the language. In high school they can take it even further,” said Robert Kinney. “To think that our students will be future Council members, and other pillars in our society is one of many reasons that our Saa-a-goch [Yurok Language] continues to be taught.”

Two community classes, open to people of all ages, are offered at the Worthington site on Fridays. The first session is from 3:30pm to 4:15pm and second is from 4:15pm to 5pm. Scheduling for these classes is reassessed every six weeks. There are also a community class in Klamath every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7pm. It is taught by the Yurok Language Program’s Assistant Coordinator Barbara McQuillen, a Yurok Tribal member.

The Yurok Language Program puts a tremendous amount of work into building up the number of Yurok teachers to facilitate these culturally relevant courses. The program is presently providing financial assistance to 10 prospective teachers, which will ensure that there will be ample credentialed instructors in the future.

Today, there are many more conversational Yurok speakers than there were just ten years ago. This number is expected to grow as a result of the language being taught in the community courses at the Klamath office and at the Worthington site, as well as all three Head Starts, and in several public schools, which is another accomplishment of the Yurok Education Department and its Yurok Language Program. Hopefully, all of the schools in Yurok ancestral territory will soon offer the subject. There is a real possibility that many of the students attending the educational institutions that offer Yurok will one day become fluent, because there is now a clear path to make it happen.

“To become fluent, it’s going to take some time and a lot of hard work, but I think it’s very obtainable. One day these students will be teaching the next generation, which is something I can’t wait to see to happen,” Kinney concluded

The teaching staff at the Eureka Head Start includes: Menetta Roberts, Heather Burger, Vincent “Vin” Weldon, Athena Markussen, Tammy Wilson, Bobbi Wilson, Antoinette Risling, Krystin Mace, and Elizabeth Hernandez.

All the current sites staff are appreciated by Robert R. Kinney who would also like to acknowledge Awok Georgiana T., Glenn M., Ne chee-mos Jimmy J., Aileen F., Jessie E., Archie T. and other Elders Bertha P., Carole L., Walt L., Frank L., Richard M., Chris P., who took their valuable time to teach him. ✨

Alme Allen is an amazing artist, carver

Allen creates concepts for benches and stools on Klamath Boulevard

Alme Allen, an accomplished artist and former cement mason, had the ideal professional and cultural skillset to build the traditionally inspired, redwood benches and stools that occupy prominent places along Klamath Boulevard.

Allen, who is a consummate wood carver too, was selected to develop the concepts for and oversee the installation of the highly praised, functional art pieces.

“I wanted to build something that the community can be proud of,” Allen said. “This is also something that that visitors to the area can interact with and learn from, about who we are as Yurok people.”

To start the culturally consistent seating project, the professional artist created designs for three stool molds that would later be filled with cement and dyed with a special stain. Two were use in the make of the seats and a third was employed to construct a pedestal that holds the planks on top of the benches. Each of the stools have perfect symmetry and balance, a feature that is similarly incorporated into the ones that Allen makes out of redwood.

Under Allen’s direction, Monument Settings, an Arcata business, fashioned the casts and stained the cement for the seats, a complex process that required a bit a fine tuning before



Alme Allen, an accomplished artists, sits on one of the new benches on Klamath Blvd.

arriving at the final color combination.

“Working with Jona Kavanaugh at Monument Settings, I made sure that we variegated the mix on the acid stains, so that it would look as real as possible,” Allen said.

To take it a step further, Allen used a diamond grinder to cut

a notch on the rim of the seats to resemble the small crack that typically forms when carvers use second growth redwood, the most common medium used to make stools in contemporary times. It is difficult to impossible to obtain old growth material, because most of the trees were clear-cut by logging companies in the latter part of the 1900s.

“The second growth that we are using is always going to make that check-split, because of the unstable nature of the heartwood. That’s why, when we make canoes, one of the first things we do is take it out,” Allen said. “I chose to reveal that element because it looks like it is supposed to be there. It is after all a concrete version of the traditionally carved stool.”

The stools resemble redwood to such a degree that several people have actually asked Allen, “How did you carve so many stools?” The slight fissure also doubles as drain to empty the rain from each outdoor seat.

Working with wood for approximately two decades has taught Allen many lessons about life and Tribal traditions. His training began at an early age, when his father, who carved yew wood bows, gambling cards and spoons as well as other cultural items, introduced him to the traditional arts.

“When I look back on it, I can tie my interest in carving to my father,” Allen said.

In the 2000s, just as he was entering young adulthood, Allen was honored with the responsibility of maintaining a ceremonial site, which included the restoration of traditional plank houses, building stools and completing many other challenging tasks. During this deep dive into every aspect of wood-work, his substantially appreciated artistic abilities rapidly started to take shape. He learned everything from how to cure raw materials to mastering the best tools for the traditional trade.

“Being offered the opportunity to rebuild a ceremonial site led me down the path I’m on today,” Allen said. “At the time, I was exploring all of the traditional art forms and one of the items that was needed was the stool. Around 2000, I started turning them out.”

The concept for the stools on Klamath Boulevard has roots that reach back to this part of Allen’s life, when he was a union cement finisher.

“Back then, I recall thinking that a traditional stool could be made out of cement by using a mold,” Allen said.

While Allen has ample experience in several different traditional arts, carving stools is one that attracted him the most.

“They really drew me in,” he explained. “It is a form that has been around for 1000s of years. We use them not only for ceremony, but in everyday life at our houses.”

There were a handful of generous mentors that assisted Allen in developing his distinctive dexterity in this discipline, including some who “have come and gone.”

“I would like to credit some of my elders, like my late father-in-law Amos Tripp and my wife’s uncle Brian Tripp, for encouraging and supporting me. The other person would be the late Karuk elder, Charlie Thom. He is the one that gave me the responsibility of maintaining the ceremonial Brush

Dance House at Katamiin. What they told me is we’ve all had our turn at keeping up and rebuilding this ceremonial house and now it’s you and your contemporaries turn. You do nothing alone and work with a lot of people when you do that.”

Allen, a genuinely humble person, is forever grateful for the trust that these men put in him.

“They really cemented where I’ve gone and where I am at now,” he said. “Everything I do is rooted in and inspired by our traditions and ceremonies.”

Today, Allen helps others hone their carving skills. For example, he recently led, as a Cultural Consultant/Instructor, five community workshops centered on wood work, where the participants made acorn mush paddles and stools. These workshops are an integral part of a Master Work Plan to assist in the reduction of chronic risk factors that plague our people, and made possible by UIHS and a Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country grant from CDC.

“My father and I were grateful to spend a few days with Alme during these workshops, learning some very practical how to’s of making mush paddles and stools. I felt he set up the workshops with the intention of sharing skills that are both practical and useful,” said Koiya Tuttle, a Yurok Tribal member, who attended the workshop at the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation. “Although Alme wouldn’t say as much, he is an expert craftsman. I am grateful to UIHS and the CDC Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country grant for allowing Alme to pass on these skills, the making of traditional and



ceremonial items with modern day methods. I'd like to see UIHS sponsor more of these kinds of events. It made my heart happy to know there were going to be so many more mush paddles and stools in the community."

Allen has received a large amount of positive feedback from others in the class, which included members of almost all of the local tribes and rancherias.

"To be able to make a connection with guys from multiple generations, to get them together to do some carving represents a little bit of what's missing today and that is sweathouse society," Allen said. "Historically, the men got together and were able to create all of these items and learn stories and songs. Around the sweathouse, they passed on skills and information from one generation from the next. I really want to inspire these tribal communities to start up their own carving groups not only to carve, but to facilitate traditional mentorship."

The Yurok people are recognized as the creators of some of the finest art on the North American continent, an outcome that Allen attributes to the traditional village system, which, for men, revolved around the sweathouse. The Tribe's sophisticated social structure, coupled with the smart stewardship of natural resources, offered individuals adequate time to produce the intricate art that Yuroks are known for.

"In our carving, in our basketry and in all of our traditional arts you see a common theme," Allen said. "They are very ornate and well-crafted, this can only happen in a society that is set in place. Looking at our regalia and even all the way down to our mortars and pestles, they are all things that took much time to craft. That is a big part of our identity."

The care and precise craftsmanship that were put into the redwood benches and stools on Klamath Boulevard mirror this time-honored custom of creating amazing utilitarian art. The installation is also meant to publically punctuate the Tribe's traditional lifeway.

"In the big picture we, as Yurok people, are carrying our traditions and maintaining our homeland. It's our culture and it's up to us how we want to push it forward for the next generation," Allen concluded.

The beautiful benches and stools were installed as part of the first phase of the Klamath Boulevard Beautification Project. The ongoing endeavor to improve public infrastructure aims to enhance the quality of life for local residents and to reflect the Tribe's rich heritage. Additionally, the undertaking, spearheaded by the Yurok Planning and Community Development Department and Transportation Program, is responsible for the following upgrades

to the main thoroughfare: solar-powered streetlights, landscaped medians, paved walkways and vibrant signage. Set to start in the coming months is a second stage of the project, which involves the introduction of additional artwork on the boulevard, such as steel cutouts and miniature murals featuring Yurok-centric scenes.

This project was funded by Federal Highways TTP (Tribal Transportation Program) and National Endowment of the Art's Our Town program. If you would like to see the benches and stools they can be found at the following locations:

Klamath Tribal Office, Yurok Justice Center, Yurok Visitors Center Klamath playground, Redwood Casino and the Yurok Cultural Knowledge Park. ✨

Yurok Obituaries



Nicholas Russell Nova
9.24.1994 - 2.02.2018

Nicholas Russell Nova, 23, a resident of Salem, Oregon and a registered Yurok Tribal Member, passed away on February 2, 2018.

He was born in Salem, the only child to Michael Nova and Alena Louise Jarman on September 24, 1994. He grew up in Salem, and loved to play golf, softball, listen to rap and heavy metal music, going to concerts with his dad and step mother, loved dogs, camping, cooking and video games. He also liked motorcycles, and hanging out with his dad's motorcycle club, Solution Motorcycle Club, and spending time with people in the Welcomaaa recovery Club.

Nicholas is survived by his father, Michael Nova; mother, Alena Louise Jarman; step mother, Melody Nova; grandmother, Patricia Jarman; uncles Brian (Karen) Borton, David (Debbie) Borton; aunt Jolene Chavaria; cousins Warner Jarman, Cheryl Jarman; step sister, True Bennett; step brother, Levi Bennett. Nicholas was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Gary Nova and his maternal grandmother Yvonne Nova.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, February 24th, at 4 pm at the Keizer Lion's Hall in Oregon.

YUROK HEAD START ST



STUDENTS - SOUTH SITE



Help ID sweathouse wood swindler

Men's Group mills cedar planks for healing sweathouse

In early February, someone stole a large stack of hand-milled cedar planks from the Weitchpec Men's Group, which stored the boards at a property on McKinnon Hill and intended to use the lumber in the construction of a traditional sweathouse.

It is possible that one person is responsible for a spate of similarly egregious thefts in the same area, including one from the Community Garden. The Yurok Tribe is asking for the community's help in identifying the culprit. In addition to the frustration felt by local residents about the loss of their property, this unscrupulous individual's actions are undermining a community-led effort to improve the social circumstances on the east side of the reservation.

"I believe the thief is most likely not a Native person. If it is, he is far removed from the Tribe's cultural belief system," said Rose Sylvia, a Yurok Tribal member. "If you see something suspicious, please say something to law enforcement."

Over the course of several weekends, members of the Weitchpec Men's Group, on their own time and with their own tools, carefully processed cedar logs into usable boards and cut them into the sizes needed to construct the sweathouse. They had plans to assemble the sweathouse on February 10, but when they went to the McKinnon Hill property to collect the planks, they found that someone had cut most of them to the size one would use to build a fence and then ran off with the boards. All that remained were the remnants of the large pieces and a small fraction of the original milled material. The theft occurred just days before the group's previously scheduled dinner party to celebrate its first full year in existence and included plans to spend time in the cedar sauna.

The Men's Group was formed in response to a series of suicides that occurred on the east side of the Yurok Reservation within an 18-month period, ending in late 2015. The tragedy also prompted the Yurok Tribal Council to declare a State of Emergency on December 28, 2015 in an effort to expedite local residents' access to mental health programs and related services. The special declaration brought to the area suicide prevention and other useful trainings. Additionally, the Tribe now offers many culturally appropriate workshops to assist residents in improving their quality of life. The acquisition of the cedar was paid for with

funding earmarked to assist struggling individuals. These are just few examples of the actions that have taken place since the 2015 declaration.

"We have seen so many positive changes happen over the past two years in the Weitchpec area. It is a shame to see someone steal from this community, which is working so hard to improve the social circumstances for current and future generations," said Sylvia, who was named Incident Commander when the Tribe issued the emergency declaration.

In early 2017, several community members formed the Men's Group and it has grown exponentially since its inception. Residents from as far away as Hoopa travel to Weitchpec to participate in the group's meetings and events. The members were very much looking forward to soon adding traditional sweats to their menu of regular activities.

The sweathouse is an integral part of traditional village life. It is where multiple generations of men spend a significant amount of time together. It is a venue for older individuals to share with youth the Tribe's complex cultural practices as well as whole host of additional information that will help the young men live in a good way. The sweathouse is also used for healing physical ailments and other sicknesses.

Cedar of an acceptable grade is extremely difficult to obtain because most of the healthy trees, which produce better quality lumber, were eliminated during the logging boom. On the upper end of the Tribe's territory, where redwood doesn't grow, the naturally rot resistant wood was used in the construction of homes, sweathouses and other large infrastructure. ✧

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Yurok Tribe, CHP celebrate pivotal pact

MOU paves the way for necessary upgrades to Tribal road system

The Yurok Tribe and the California Highway Patrol, Crescent City Area agreed to put in place a formal system designed to share information related to traffic collisions on tribal lands.

This forward-thinking Memorandum of Understanding will enable the Tribe to better analyze car crash statistics for the purpose of making roads safer for all drivers.

“We are sincerely grateful to the CHP for helping us improve the safety conditions on our roads,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “This agreement will give us first-time access to accident data, which we can use to pinpoint and fix problematic portions of the roads and highways on tribal lands.”

The Yurok Reservation is home to one of the few remaining one-lane, state highways in California. State Route 169, the only paved road connecting Wautec to Weitchpec, has been the site of several fatal and other serious car collisions. On a regular basis, the winding highway above the Klamath River is used by school busses and parents who take their children to Jack Norton Elementary School, Weitchpec Elementary School and the Yurok Tribe’s Kepel Head Start. With accurate vehicle accident information, the Tribe will be able to apply for federal grants to fund measures to mitigate hazards on this highway and other, similarly dangerous travelling routes in Yurok Country.



CHP Lieutenant Larry Depee, Yurok Tribal Council reps. sign special agreement.

Other benefits include:

- Enable the Tribe to evaluate and react to traffic safety issues within the community.
- Facilitate effective use of resources.
- Increase understanding of previously-unidentified issues. ✨

Check out list of Title VI services for Tribal students

Aiy-ye-kwee’

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the bipartisan **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)**. The new statutory provisions for these grants under **Title VI, Part A, subpart 1 of the ESEA, as amended by ESSA (formerly, Title VII), take effect for FY 2017** grants for the 2017-2018 school year.

The services Title VI offers to students consist of but not limited to individual and group tutoring, using data driven services to ensure all students’ needs in the program are being met. The Title VI program is utilizing report cards, test scores, assessments and a new referral system to guide the Instructional Aides services to students. This approach will provide a more targeted, focused, and intentional tutoring service. Guidance Counseling, that include overall academic guidance with current classes and grades, scholarships and financial aid assistance, as well as college and career preparation and planning.

Outreach is done a few times a year to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to prepare them for transitioning to High School. Culturally relevant field trips, demonstrations, activities, storytelling, etc. are coordinated and planned through program outreach. Efforts are occurring to engage parents, guardians and family members by increasing advertising of monthly parent meetings, and rotating the meeting sites to outlining schools. The committee meets monthly to receive program updates, monthly data reports, and plan upcoming events. Throughout the year the parent committee holds fundraisers and activities to help enhance our student’s educational experience.

Currently, 328 Yurok students are enrolled in Title VI. Would like more information or want to become involved with the Program? Please feel free to contact Jenni Loftin, 707-464-0724 or jloftin@delnorte.k12.ca.us

Wok-hlew,

Jenni Loftin - Program Coordinator ✨

Tribe opposes offshore drilling plan

Proposed project is the opposite of what is best for future generations

On February 8, 2018, representatives from the Yurok Tribe will be attending two events in Sacramento to speak out against the Trump Administration's short-sighted oil drilling plan, a proposal that has the potential to permanently damage California's coast and exacerbate global climate change.

Yurok Representatives are scheduled to attend the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's single public meeting in California on the controversial Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Program, which includes the creation of 7 new offshore oil leases along the Pacific coast, including two off the coast of Northern California. Earlier on February 8 at 1.30pm, Yurok Tribal Council Representative Larry Hendrix will speak at a rally at 1100 L St, Sacramento, organized by Ocean Protectors, an advocacy organization comprised of native nations and indigenous peoples.

Tribal representatives at both events will outline very serious concerns about the plan's potential to harm sacred sites, cultural resources and the Tribe's traditional food supply, not to mention how it will accelerate climate change. "One need not look any further than the sharp declines in salmon, abalone and many other marine populations to see that the ocean ecosystem is out of balance and this plan will only advance this terrible trend. This proposal represents a giant leap in the wrong direction," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe knows all too well the energy needs of California, as half of the Tribe's Reservation does not have access to electricity, phones and broadband. However, the risk that offshore drilling presents to the Yurok way of life is not a risk the Tribe is willing to take to meet those energy demands. "We should be investing in energy projects that will leave this planet in

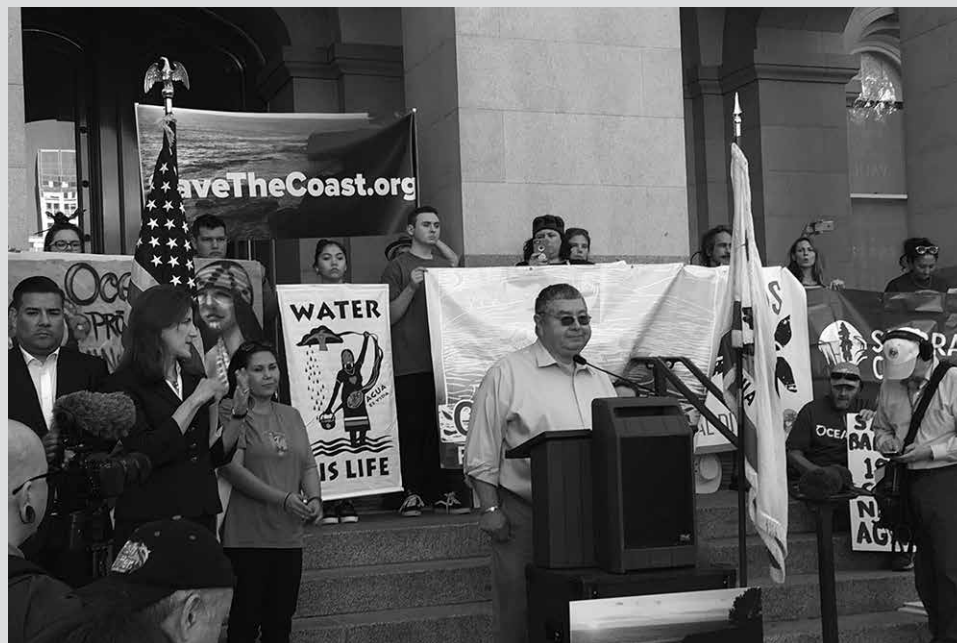
a better place for all future generations of people, not making it exponentially worse," said Chairman O'Rourke.

The installation of oil platforms and land-based, ancillary facilities in Yurok ancestral territory will directly affect the Yurok people in a number of ways. For example, the Tribe maintains multiple ceremonial sites on and adjacent to the Far North Coast, where Yuroks have practiced a place-based religion since time immemorial. If an oil spill were to occur it would do irreparable


harm to these sacred locations. "We would not wish it upon anyone to have to look at an offshore oil platform while listening to their pastor, rabbi or imam give a service, or worse yet have waves of oil wash over their place of worship," said Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribe's Heritage Preservation Officer. "We ask that all indigenous nations and the people of California stand with us in this effort to protect our sacred sites and cultural religious practices."

The Yurok Tribe is also gravely alarmed about the real prospects of a repeat of the BP oil spill, an avoidable disaster that deposited millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico and onto the nearby coastline. If an event similar to the failure of Deep Water Horizon happened here it would forever destroy the salmon nursery surrounding the mouth of the Klamath River, as well as many other important intertidal species, including the mussels, clams and other shellfish that Yurok people harvest for food.

The inevitable influence that these plans, if completed, will have on climate change is another disturbing outcome. Locally, the historic drought, which took place from 2011-2017, was one of only a handful of factors responsible for the recent collapse of the Klamath River salmon, a vital source of sustenance for Yurok people. In 2016 and 2017, the Klamath River fish returns



Yurok Tribal Council Representative Larry Hendrix outlined the Tribe's position at an Ocean Protector rally in Sacramento.



were amongst the smallest in history. The warming ocean, also a product of climate change, was another driving force in the salmon fisheries' failure. Extreme droughts and the drastically reduced mountain snowpack, akin to what the region is experiencing this year, are expected to become the norm if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Installing oil rigs in close proximity to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a fault line that is the source of some of the world's most powerful, recurring earthquakes and tsunamis, is another ill-advised aspect of this project. While its last major tremor, measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale, was on January 26, 1700, the Yurok people have several traditional stories about the devastating quakes generated by the subduction zone. The US Geological Service defines the area from Northern California to

North Vancouver Island as having the "highest hazard" for a strong seismic event.

The Yurok Tribe has laws protecting the natural environment, including the ocean, where it traditionally harvests its fishery resource. The oil developments proposed in the project are inconsistent with tribal legislation, including the Yurok Tribe constitution, which mandates that the Tribe shall "restore, enhance, and manage the tribal fishery, tribal water rights, tribal forests and all other natural resources."

"Our people and our culture are our two most valuable resources and we cannot support anything that puts either of them in danger. This juice is not worth the squeeze," concluded Chairman O'Rourke.

Tribe appeals Resighini fishing case

Chairman O'Rourke issues statement regarding salmon lawsuit

On May 6, 2016 the Yurok Tribe filed a case in the United States District Court of Northern California against Gary Dowd and the Resighini Rancheria to stop the unauthorized harvest of Klamath River salmon within the Yurok Reservation. In the case, the Rancheria claimed its sovereign immunity — a legal doctrine preventing tribes from being sued without their consent — barred the action against the Rancheria and Gary Dowd. In January, the Court dismissed the Tribe's case agreeing with the Rancheria that it could not be sued without consenting. The Court did not decide that the Rancheria or Gary Dowd has any fishing rights. In fact, it expressly avoided the issue by dismissing the case on procedural grounds.

The Yurok Tribe filed an appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn the decision related to Gary Dowd and is planning to increase enforcement actions to protect the fishery this coming fishing season. The Tribe respects the sovereign immunity of other tribes, but remains deeply concerned about individual Resighini members fishing illegally on the Yurok Reservation. Any infringement of the Yurok Tribe's exclusive fishing right inside the Yurok Reservation is very troubling, and could have lasting negative effects on the fishery as a whole and our ability to protect and manage resources within the Yurok Reservation. Tribal and state law enforcement have cited Mr. Dowd and other members of the Resighini Rancheria numerous times for illegally harvesting

fish from the Lower Klamath, yet the court's ruling does not allow for the issue to be resolved. "We have an obligation and a responsibility to stand up for the fish because they do not have a voice," said Chairman Thomas O'Rourke.

The Yurok Tribe alone maintains federally protected Tribal fishing rights in the Lower Klamath River within the Yurok Reservation. 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 within the Yurok Reservation. Instead, the Rancheria's membership — in exchange for a buy-out of \$15,000 per-person — elected not to become Yurok Tribal members and take part in this and other rights enjoyed by Yurok tribal members.

At the time of the HYSA, Resighini members were aware of the consequences of choosing this option. Individual members agreed to the terms of the buy-out 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."

The Resighini Rancheria occupies land located entirely within the

Yurok Reservation. Although some Rancheria members are of Yurok descent, they are not members of Yurok Tribe. Resighini Rancheria members who fish without a license from California or the Yurok Tribe are therefore engaging in “unregulated” fishing, which directly imperils the future of salmon on the Klamath.

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 and authorized state 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 reproduce, 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 jeopardizes the species’ ability to replenish subsequent stocks.

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.

In 2017, the salmon run on the Klamath River was the worst in recorded history and the Tribe’s allotment was less than one fish per every ten Tribal members. According to a common consensus among fisheries biologists, the outlook for the coming year is equally dismal. When fish numbers are this depressed, the damage done by poaching and unregulated fishing 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 the chance to rebound.

“The Yurok Tribe will vigorously defend its exclusive fishing right within the Reservation. The Tribe will defend the fish. We will find a way to preserve the fishery for future generations,” asserted Chairman O’Rourke. ✨

Yurok Language Teacher Candidate Spotlight

The Yurok Language Program's February 2018 candidate is Skip Lowry

The Yurok Language Program would like to recognize this month’s “Teacher Candidate Spotlight”, Skip Lowry, for his continued effort and success in the Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl “They Will Teach” Scholarship Program.

The Program started in February with 10 Teacher Candidates who are responsible for completing a dual track to earn both their Level 3 Yurok language Teaching Credential and their Bachelor’s Degree (or higher) with state teaching credentials through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

In Year 1 of the program, Skip completed 100% of all activities either early or on time for both tracks. These activities included: 12 immersion pods, monthly grammar workshops, attendance at the eight-day Yurok Language Summer Institute and the four-day immersion camp, classroom observations, teacher development trainings, pre- and post-assessments, monthly check-ins with YLP staff, submittal of paperwork like monthly attendance verifications for each of his classes, course schedules and final grades. The completion

of these requirements demanded hard work, persistence, commitment to his academic goals, and dedication to improving his language skills.

In order to achieve these goals Skip had to relocate with his two sons to be closer to school and leave his position working with the After School Program at Margaret Keating Elementary, a decision which was not easy for him to make. The effort paid off as he has completed Spring, Summer, and is finishing his Fall semester with a near 4.0 GPA!

Skip is currently enrolled at College of the Redwoods and will be transferring to Humboldt State University to complete his degree in Liberal Arts Elementary Education with a multi-subject teaching credential by the year 2021. His degree and accompanying Yurok Language Teaching Credential will allow Skip to teach

Yurok and other subjects at the elementary level. Skip has already passed his Level 1 Yurok Language Credential Assessment in Year 1 and has attempted his Level 2 Credential nearly 2 years earlier



than expected! He is currently waiting for his credential to process through CCTC and will be eligible to be a Level 1 Yurok Language Teacher or Substitute in public schools very soon.

As we move into Year 2, Skip has shown no sign of slowing down. He is on track to complete all activities, pass all classes, and begin student-teaching hours. In addition to all of his program responsibilities, Skip finds time to be a positive parent to his sons.

He volunteers in their classrooms and encourages his children to speak Yurok language daily. He often brings his sons with him to language events and is extremely supportive of them as they learn alongside their father and his peers. He is not only a strong father, but also a valuable role model for Yurok youth, particularly meywah-se-goh (boys) as he is an example of the strength of cultural values and the importance of education. ✨

Free help with will drafting coming soon

A will is a positive tool you can use to take care of those you love

The Yurok Legal Access Center and Yurok Office of Tribal Attorney is partnering with Stanford Law School and Yurok Tribal attorney Christine Williams to bring free legal service clinics to the Reservation on Sunday, March 25 in Weitchpec and Monday, March 26 in Klamath. The clinics will provide free legal assistance to Tribal community members wanting to draft wills and issue medical directives.

Before the clinics, to make sure you have a chance to learn about the importance of wills and estate planning, the Yurok Tribe is also hosting a free presentation on March 12 in Klamath by California Indian Legal Services. The training will cover wills, estate planning and the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 (AIPRA). This free training session will not include help with will drafting.

Below are some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about wills. To find out more about the free training and free clinics being offered, and to schedule an appointment and organize free transportation to the March 25 and 26 clinics from the Weitchpec and Klamath areas, see the details below.

Why draft a will?

Many tribal members are reluctant to make wills, but a will is a positive tool you can use to take care of those you love, provide clarity about your wishes and prevent conflict among family members. Having a will is also an important tool to deal with your Indian trust land and trust funds. Without a will, the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 governs the way Indian trust land is distributed upon death. If you have a will, you control who receives your property.

What is a will?

A will is a document that provides direct instructions for distributing land or assets belonging to a person at the time of his or her death.

Can I change or revoke my will once it is written?

You can change your will as often as you wish during your lifetime. You may change your will by amending it, or revoke it by writing a new will, or destroying the old will.

What if my will is contested?

The Yurok Tribal Court has jurisdiction to conduct probate, the legal process that determines who will receive your property. This will help ensure that the wishes reflected in your will are heard in the the probate process.

Free CILS Training Details

What: Free presentation about AIPRA, indian wills and basic estate planning issues

Date: Monday March 12

Time: 10am - 12pm

Location: Yurok Tribe Klamath Office, 190 Klamath Blvd, Klamath

Free Clinic Details

Weitchpec Clinic

Date: Sunday March 25

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Location: Yurok Tribe Weitchpec Office, Hwy 96, Weitchpec

Klamath Clinic

Date: Monday March 26

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Location: Yurok Justice Center, 230 Klamath Blvd, Klamath

Schedule an appointment

To help draft your will, we will need you to bring some important documents and information on the day. So that we can run through the documents and information we need, we ask that you schedule an appointment. Drop in to the Klamath or Weitchpec Tribal Offices, or call 707 482 1350 extn 1389, to schedule an appointment with Legal Secretary, Shawna Bowen. ✨



Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today
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