

FEBRUARY EDITION



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Bonnie "Hoddie" Green  
5/18/1947 - 1/18/14



You will forever be missed



**VICE CHAIRPERSON**  
**SUSAN MASTEN**

**Message  
From the  
Vice Chairperson**

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

- 1. Emergency Declaration of Drought:** The Tribe declared an Emergency and Imminent Threat of Disaster due to Drought Conditions Affecting the Yurok Reservation and Region. We are extremely concerned about the impacts this drought could have on our spring, summer and fall fisheries as well as on water quality and quantity, wild life, cultural resources, businesses, and property. We are equally concerned about the threats to public health. A severe drought could threaten community water supplies and increase the risk of forest fires, which is particularly dangerous for the upper reservation where there is a lack of adequate fire protection, phone service and emergency escape routes. We will be drafting plans to address this potential threat to our people and resources. Pray for rain and snow!
- 2. Tribal Council Ordinance:** Policies are being developed to lay out procedures to implement this ordinance. The new policies will be used to address several decision points in the ordinance. We will be adopting the policies soon and will post them on the Tribe's website once they are approved. The Tribes website is [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org).
- 3. Hotel/Casino:** The Hotel's siding is being completed, windows are in and work on the interior is in progress. The Casino exterior walls are completed and interior work has begun. The contractor is currently running a couple of weeks behind schedule, but they are expecting to make up this time during the coming months. The interim website is up and running, look for job opportunities and applications at [www.redwoodhotelcasino.com](http://www.redwoodhotelcasino.com). You can also get this and more information at the Job and Vendor Opportunity Meetings scheduled for: Saturday February 15, 2014 from 10am-2pm at the Worthington

School in Eureka, Saturday February 15, 2014, from 3pm-5pm at the Weitchpec Office and Sunday February 16, 2014, from 1pm-3pm at the Klamath Office. Shuttle service is available to meetings in Klamath and Weitchpec. To schedule pick up call (707) 482-0731 for Klamath and (530) 629-1192 for Weitchpec.

- 4. 2014 Commercial Fishery:** We have heard from many tribal members/fishermen about problems with the 2013 commercial fishing season such as: illegal activities by tribal members, problems with the front line, non-tribal members fishing, and problems with the non-tribal sport fishery — illegal snagging and selling of fish to name a few. Council and staff have developed a plan for the coming season to address these issues and others that we will be bringing to you for your comments and input at upcoming district meetings and fishery meetings. We will also post this information on the Tribal website. We need your input on this plan so we can ensure that we have a safe and productive 2014 commercial season.
- 5. Yurok Indian Housing Authority Ordinance:** Council has scheduled a work session to review the public comments received during the public hearing process. We will also be meeting with the Yurok Indian Housing Authority in the near future. After this meeting we will be taking the Ordinance back out for public hearing. You will be able to get a copy of the new draft of the ordinance from our website [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org) or you can call Nathan Voegeli at the Klamath office at 707) 482-1350 x 1408 or email [nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us).
- 6. Tribe Purchases 8,000 acres:** Great news. We have purchased 8,000 acres in the Blue Creek Drainage through a partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy. This purchase will enable the Tribe to protect and control the significant fish-spawning stream and we get back ancestral lands that are culturally and economically important to the Tribe.
- 7. Passing of Council Member Bonnie Green:** As the article in this newsletter states, Ms. Green dedicated her life to working for the Yurok People. I just wanted you to know that she was a dedicated and hard working advocate for the Yurok people. She was appreciated by all and will be missed by staff and Council. Rest in Peace, our friend.

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

## On The Cover

THE YUROK TRIBE MOURNS THE LOSS OF LONGTIME TRIBAL COUNCILPERSON BONNIE "HODDIE" GREEN. AAWOK.

# Aawok Green was a tireless advocate

*Former Councilmember dedicated her life to serving Yurok people*

The Yurok Tribe is grieving the untimely passing of Yurok elder and Tribal Councilmember Bonnie Green.

Councilperson Green, who served six terms as South District Representative and one term as Vice Chair, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2014.

“We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss,” said Yurok Chairman Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr. “Bonnie Green was a force of nature and as dedicated as they come. Her many contributions to the Tribe’s success will never be forgotten.”

Councilperson Green leaves behind a long history of working for the benefit of Yurok people. Starting before the Tribe’s formal organization in 1993, she was a tireless advocate for Yurok people in the Jessie Short Litigation, for healthcare and other issues of tribal rights protection. She traveled to these meetings with financial support from her family, friends and fundraisers. Her work shaped the direction and progress Yurok people were able to achieve.

Councilmember Green served as the Tribe’s South District Representative from 1995 to 2006 and as Vice Chairperson from 2006-2009. Most recently, she was serving a second consecutive term, beginning in 2010, as South District Representative.

Throughout her tenure on the Tribal Council, there was a common theme embedded in all of Councilmember Green’s endeavors. Her ultimate goal was to make life better for not only her constituents, but all Yurok people. To that aim, she improved access to healthcare, supported economic development opportunities and was a fierce advocate for fish and the Tribe’s fishing rights. Councilperson Green was tough and tenacious when it came to protecting Yurok interests and to issues she cared for. She wasn’t shy about making it known



what was important to her and the Tribe.

“The Tribe’s quality of life is and always has been my first priority which will not stop until the expectations of my people are met,” she wrote in her most recent candidate statement. Green was intent on the Tribe becoming financially independent and providing ample employment opportunities for the membership. She envisioned a diverse economy anchored by sustainable timber harvest, salmon fishing and gaming.

To open the door for gaming on the Yurok Reservation, the longtime Councilmember helped secure a tribal gaming compact.

“I was quite emotional when it finally happened. I had a tear or two,” she said at the time the gaming agreement was finalized.

Among other achievements, Green was a key negotiator in

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**“ THE TRIBE’S QUALITY OF LIFE IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN MY FIRST PRIORITY.”**

**• AAWOK BONNIE GREEN**

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the 2012 Nez Perce Settlement, which netted the Tribe \$27.5 million, for the federal government's mismanagement for tribal forest lands. The settlement agreement funds were split between the tribal membership and the construction costs for the Redwood Hotel Casino, which is slated to open this summer.

Green's advocacy for the Tribe's fishing rights runs deep. She was a vocal participant in the "Fish Wars", which took place in the late 1970s. The federal government sent in the National Guard, armed with assault rifles, riot gear and steel jet boats, to try to stop the Tribe from fishing.

Through a sustained campaign of peaceful civil disobedience, which Green was part of, the Tribe prevailed in protecting a practice that has taken place on the Klamath River since time immemorial.

Green played a critical role on the management side of the Tribe's fishery too. Every year, she contributed to crafting the Harvest Management Plan, a legally binding document used to regulate subsistence and commercial salmon fishing as well as ensure fish stocks for future generations.

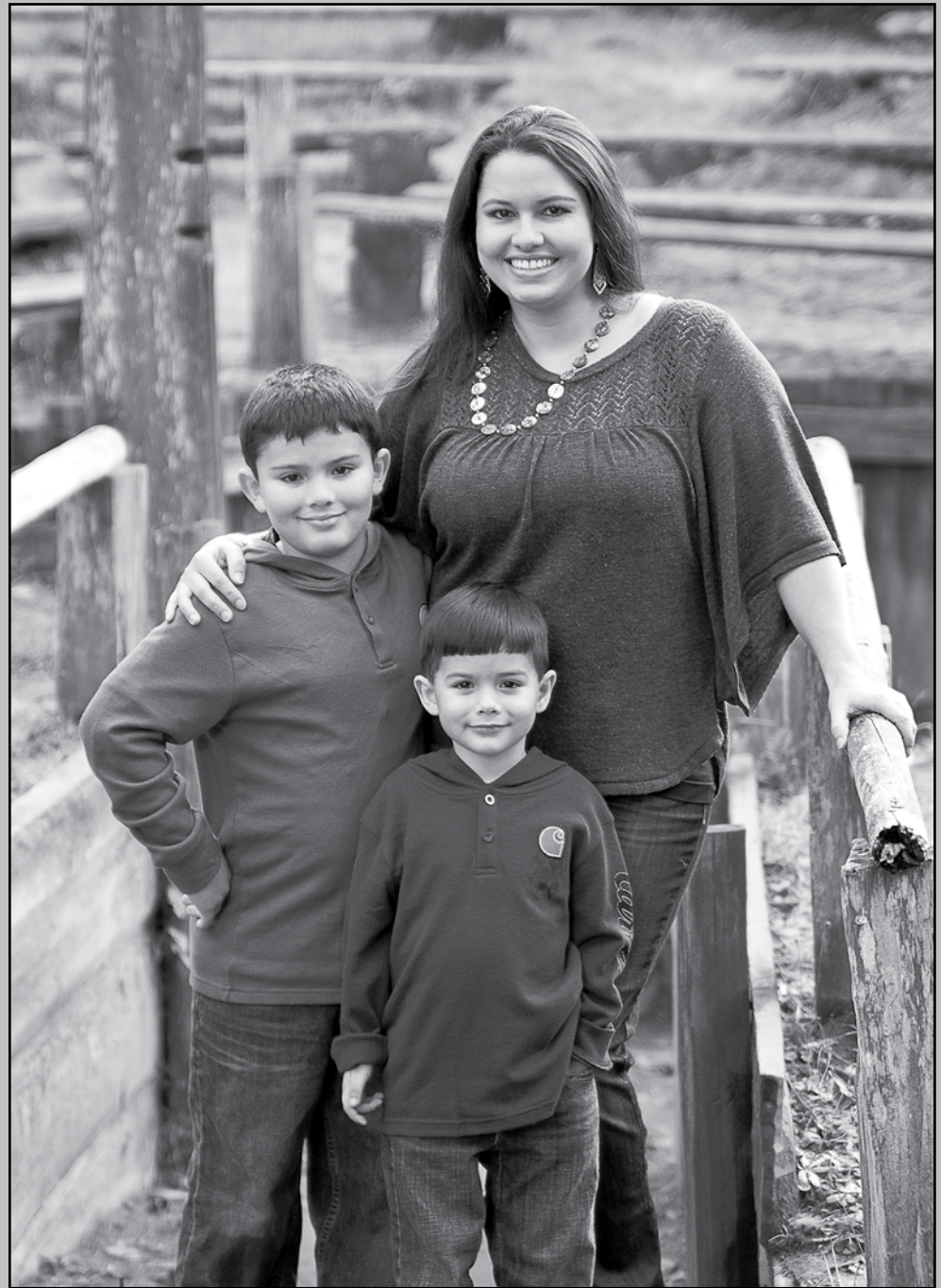
In addition to creating policy, Green was a firm believer in the integrity of the institution, which makes those laws. She attended nearly every tribal election, whether she was running or not because "elections shape the future of the Tribe."

Yurok Chairman O'Rourke concluded: "As a tribal leader, Bonnie listened more than she spoke. She took other's ideas as seriously as she did her own. Despite dealing with long-term serious health issues, her energy level was nearly endless. The void she left will be hard to fill."

In addition to being a Yurok Tribal Council Representative, Bonnie Green also participated in many outside agencies and committees. The long list includes but is not limited to: NAGPRA Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act liaison, California Association of Tribal Governments, National Indian Gaming Association, California Rural Indian Health Board, United Indian Health Services, Inter Tribal Monitoring Association, Northern California Indian Development Council, Tribal Government Consultation Council and National Indian Education Association.

**The employees of the Tribe and the Tribal Council will forever miss our friend. ✨**

# Employee of the year



Geneva Shaw is the 2013 Employee of the Year.

## **GENEVA SHAW IS AN OUTSTANDING YUROK TRIBAL EMPLOYEE.**

Geneva is an individual who consistently steps up to take on duties that have to get done but no one wants to do them. She is the backbone of the Social Services Department, constantly doing the heavy lifting without any expectation of praise. She consistently makes sure her employees' needs are met, tribal member needs are met and grantor expectations are met for the 21 programs she runs.

For a second time in her five years as a Yurok Tribal Employee, Geneva has taken on the duty of being the Interim Social Services Director. She has done this without complaint, and the Yurok community has experienced no break in services or decrease in quality of service, despite the fact that she is doing the job of the Social Services Director without the support of an Assistant Director.

Geneva is a gracious and diplomatic leader who has worked to develop an outstanding reputation for the Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department. She has worked to develop a Department that is true to its mission of providing culturally appropriate quality services. Geneva is also a very visionary Director and has helped the various programs of the Department collaborate as often as possible to provide the best possible services for the community.

Finally, Geneva is a leader who models well for her employees by never thinking she is above any job or duty because she is the Director. With this team attitude, you will often find Geneva cooking and cleaning for a community event while at the same event standing up front and welcoming the community. If you ask her employees, you will hear that she is an approachable supervisor and always ready to give a pep talk when it is needed. ✨

# Yurok wins first achievement award

While Naquel Benites is not shy, she is extremely modest for a nine-year old.

The young Yurok tribal member recently received the first ever achievement award from the Crescent City Freemasons Lodge Number 45.

Naquel, a fourth grader at Margaret Keating, took home a finely framed certificate and \$100 for having the highest academic standard in her entire school. The prizes were given to one female and one male student from each school in the Del Norte County Unified School District. Teachers from each respective school selected the students based on their "academic achievement, moral character and work ethic," according to John Pricer, Master of the Crescent Lodge #45.

"I thought I was going to watch other people get awards. I was very excited when I heard them call my name," Naquel said.

Del Norte County Unified School District Superintendent Don Olson and County Supervisor Roger Gitlin gave speeches at the ceremony to honor the students.

Naquel attributed her success in school to her ability to listen, doing all of her homework and receiving support from her parents, Larry Nova and Kim Hill. Her best subjects are math and art, but her favorite subject is PE.

"I learn by listening," Naquel said.

The fact that she also likes to help people, especially her fellow students who need some assistance understanding homework assignments, also likely contributed to her being nominated for the award.

When Naquel is not at school, the well-adjusted Klamath kid is enjoying her tumbling class.

"Tumbling is my favorite thing to do," Naquel said.



Naquel's perfect day consists of a visit with her Auntie Ayla Hill, listening to some Train or Lady Gaga and a trip to the beach. After the beach, it's fruit snacks and a little television with the parents and then on to bed to rest up for the next day at school.

"I have a lot of fun at school," said the highly motivated and well-behaved preteen said.

When Naquel grows up she wants to be a professional cheerleader, possibly for the 49ers football team.

"I really like cheerleading," she said.

Right now, Naquel is trying to figure out how to open a bank account where she can store the money from the award.

"I am going to save the money for when I grow up," she concluded. ✨

# YTEP studies ten traditional foods

*Salmon, steelhead, ocean shellfish are very clean*

The takeaway message from a recent Yurok Environmental Program study is loud and clear: Eat more traditional, aquatic foods.

River and marine-based foods, such as salmon and steelhead, seaweed and crab, harvested from the Klamath River and coastal zones are clean and nutritious foods, according to the findings of the Contaminants Study.

The study analyzed ten subsistence foods for 258 toxins that have a history of use in Yurok Country. The coastal and river-residing plant, fish and shellfish species studied were identified by Yurok tribal members interested in knowing whether or not historic and contemporary activities, like pesticide spraying prior to clear-cuts and trash burning, are having an impact on the Tribe's traditional food supply.

"The purpose of this project was to investigate the purity of traditional food sources and report back. We have finished analyzing the resources selected by the community and we have quite a bit of good news," explained YTEP's Director Kate Sloan PhD, who oversaw the research project, along with YTEP Environmental Health Specialist, Suzanne Fluharty. "The Tribe's customary cuisine is nearly pristine.

Additionally, the foods examined in this study have major health benefits for those who consume them regularly." The foods analyzed for toxins included: spring and fall Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, sturgeon, Pacific lamprey, river mussels, seaweed, razor clams, Dungeness crab and marine mussels. Samples of the flesh or edible parts were collected during customary hunting and gathering seasons for each of the study species.

The 258 toxicants, analyzed for the lowest detectable level, were comprised of the following: pesticides (carbamates, dioxins, organochlorines, organophosphates, triazines), industrial chemicals (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons-PAH, polybrominated diphenyl ether-PBDE, polychlorinated biphenyls-PCB, pentachlorophenol-PCP and trichlorophenols-TCP), biological contaminants (microcystin, domoic acid) and metals (mercury and other trace elements).

## **Salmonids - 'Oh-pos (fall run chinook salmon), Nue-mee ney-puy (spring chinook salmon) and Chkwohl (steelhead trout)**

The results for spring and fall chinook, as well as coho salmon and steelhead, were nearly identical, and although the PAHs in both runs were low- the spring run were the cleanest. The analysis showed that the few toxins detected were well below the federal government's threshold for posing a human health risk. In fact, these salmonids

were much cleaner than their counterparts from other large West Coast rivers.

## **Seaweed - Key-ween we che-qel'**

Spring harvested seaweed is another optimal, healthy food. In the Porphyra and Palmeria species evaluated, there were no detections of any biotoxins, carbamates, pentachlorophenols (PCP), triazines, trichlorophenols (TCP), PBDEs, PCBs, pyrethroids, organochlorines, or the class of organophosphate pesticides. There was a difference in the purity at the sites where samples were collected. For example, the Key-ween we chey-gel' from Wilson Creek Beach was cleaner than the seaweed from Trinidad.

## **Shellfish- Ko'-ses (Dungeness crab), Chper-ger' (razor clams) and Pee'-eeh (marine mussels)**

Dungeness crab and razor clams were also quite clean. There were no pesticides detected and the amount of heavy metals and domoic acid was substantially below the level of concern.

Mussels harvested from the coast at several different locations, during the traditional harvesting season, were found to be largely unpolluted. Mussels are unique in that they are susceptible to harboring large amounts of domoic acid, mostly during the summer months. A dinoflagellate, Alexandrium, causes the bivalve to contain the acid which causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning. The occurrence of unsafe levels of domoic acid in mussels is believed to be on the rise in the Pacific Northwest. Rising ocean temperatures, caused by global warming, may be driving the increase in incidences of mussel contamination.

Last year, the Yurok Environmental Program began testing mussels for the toxin on a monthly basis because a large algal bloom or red tide blanketed the Pacific Northwest states, causing the largest and longest recorded outbreak of the contaminant.

## **Sturgeon – Kah-kah**

The fillets of sturgeon— without skin — that were analyzed were well below federal guidelines for all toxins. The skin, which is traditionally used to make glue, contained an unhealthy level of pesticides. The majority of the pesticide residue was from the legacy use of DDT, which was banned in the 1970s. Every year, since the ban was put into place, the quantity of the organochlorines has declined and is expected to continue to diminish until it is no longer present in the

environment. The large bottom dwellers have a very long lifespan, which allows the toxins to bio-accumulate over a long period of time.

### **Species of concern - Pee'eeh yurs (river mussels) and Key'-ween (Pacific lamprey)**

River mussels had no detections for any carbamates, pentachlorophenols (PCP), triazines, trichlorophenols (TCP), PBDEs, PCBs, pyrethroids, organochlorines, nor the class of organophosphate pesticides. However, microcystin, a liver toxin that originates from *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a toxic blue-green algae was present. The toxin from this algae, which proliferate behind the lower Klamath dams, did present higher than commonly accepted health standards. Also, the metal, manganese, was detected a 5.68 parts per billion, which is higher than federal standards. It is recommended to limit consumption of freshwater mussels.

As for pesticides, PCP, and PCBs the Pacific Lamprey were very clean. However, the eel-like fish did show a concerning quantity of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs, which are known to cause cancer. The lamprey meat contained 3.3ppb, which is more than the 2ppb threshold for PAHs.

### **Individual choice has an impact on traditional food purity**

Surprising even to the scientists, the most concerning harmful substance detected was polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons-PAH, which does not originate from historical land uses. The dangerous carcinogen comes from the burned fuel exhaust deposited by jet boats, and especially, the smoke and fumes from burning trash.

There is a direct connection between burning household waste and the health of the fish, according to the study. Discontinuing the practice of incinerating trash will have an immediate and positive impact on not only these aquatic species, but the entire food web.

### **Eating most aquatic, traditional foods has major health benefits**

Wild salmon and seaweed often pop up in nearly all top-ten lists of super foods because of the density of nutrients contained in both. Also, the fish and shellfish are packed with protein, contain no unhealthy carbohydrates and have almost no fat. Seaweed contains a significant amount of vitamins A and C, as well as calcium. More importantly, the sea green provides a safe source of iodine. This vital nutrient is responsible for maintaining a healthy thyroid. This gland produces and regulates hormones. An unhealthy thyroid can lead to fatigue, muscle weakness and high cholesterol.

“Overall, the majority of commonly consumed traditional, aquatic foods are very safe to eat and including them in our daily food can be part of a healthy diet and may help improve overall health,” concluded Dr. Sloan.



Key'-ween we che-qel' (seaweed) is one of the healthiest foods on the planet.

The Contaminants Study was funded by the US EPA's Science to Achieve Results grant. The study was conducted in tandem with a Yurok Community Health Study prepared by the United Indian Health Service. Both studies will be mailed to all tribal households. Drs. Sheila and Steven Steinberg helped provide technical assistance with community scoping and GIS. They also worked with their graduate student, Nick Ramirez, to develop the Eco-Toxicological Assessment Tool which was created under this project. This tool is used to model the potential residues of pesticides and other toxins left in the earth after they are applied. ✨

# ACLU, CILS file lawsuit against Eureka schools

*Yurok student is a plaintiff in the discrimination suit*

The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Center for Youth Law recently filed a federal lawsuit, on behalf of a Yurok student and three other plaintiffs, against Eureka City School District for what is described as ongoing discrimination toward students, based on race, sex and disability status.

On the same day the suit was submitted to the court, both groups and the California Indian Legal Service sent a strongly worded letter to United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights calling for a thorough investigation into Loleta Elementary School for allegedly abusing and disproportionately disciplining Native American students as well as discriminating against students with disabilities. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has since launched a formal investigation into the elementary school in order to find out if there is merit to claims described in the letter.

The letter alleges Loleta Principal Sally Hadden once grabbed an American Indian student by the ear and said, "See how red it's getting?" The letter was submitted on behalf of the Wiyot Tribe and tribal members from the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria.

The ACLU recently briefed the Yurok Tribal Council about the lawsuit, which bears an eerie familiarity to a case completed 4.5 years ago, against the Del Norte County Unified School District, a school district, which includes the Yurok Reservation.

An investigation that spurred from the 2010 class action suit, filed by the ACLU on behalf of several Yurok families, uncovered long-term mistreatment of Native American students attending Del Norte County schools. The suit ended in a settlement agreement— the Yurok Tribe helped draft — which outlined a plan to teach Yurok history and culture within the school district, educate the staff in cultural awareness and decrease discrimination. Prior to the litigation, the history of local tribe was not taught at the district schools. It also includes requirements for Del Norte Schools to examine its student discipline policies, including suspensions and expulsions of Native American students, as well as its staff diversity and the number of minority staff members.

The school district is far behind in meeting the goals of the pact, forcing the Tribe to put pressure on district administrators

to uphold their end of the agreement.

"It's easy when you have white Anglo teachers for them to teach what's comfortable for them, which is their own history," said Jim McQuillen, the director of Education Department for the Yurok tribe. "People get uncomfortable when you talk about local massacres and the pillage in the recent history brought on by the white settlers and the real history of the area."


The Yurok student, who will not be named in this article to prevent retribution, involved in the current lawsuit has suffered in a way that Education Director McQuillen said he has seen several times in Eureka schools, where there is a lack of culturally appropriate curriculum on local native culture and history and a shortage of Native American role models within the staff ranks. The Yurok Reservation reaches into Humboldt County and hundreds of Yurok children attend school in the Eureka area.

According to the lawsuit, the female student, was forced to move from Alice Birney Elementary to Winship Middle School to Zane Elementary and then to Eureka's Community School. The Community School is typically for students who are considered "high-risk" and were either expelled from the main-stream schools or referred there by a probation department. The student, whose education, during those critical, formative years, was disrupted over and over again, did not experience any of the above-listed scenarios.

The Yurok student, behind on some credits, was sent to the far less reputable Community School because of her race, the suit alleged. Significantly more Native American students are put into alternative-education than their white peers, often for negligible reasons.

"Too many American Indian students are being sent to county schools such as court-community schools, continuation high schools and other alternative education schools," McQuillen said. "When native kids are pushed into the court community school or the criminal justice system it becomes very hard to get out of the system. Once you're in that system of alternative or disciplinary-type programs there's a higher chance of ending up incarcerated. The school system becomes pipeline to prison." McQuillen is very concerned about what he sees as Native American students being pushed out of regular schools to





alternative schools that don't prepare students for college. The Tribe has shared this concern with the local school officials for many years now with no results.

The intended purpose lawsuit is to spur the Eureka City School District to sign a declaration recognizing a violation of the Civil Rights Act and Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, pay attorney's fees and unspecified monetary damages to the plaintiffs. It calls for a plan, similar to the one drafted in Del Norte, to educate school administrators about discrimination and it will compel the Eureka City Schools to create a curriculum that teaches local tribes' history. It will also require the district to develop a better tracking process for students who need more support and monitoring system to make certain the mistreatment

abates.

According to many studies, Native American students, who attend learning institutions where their culture and language are acknowledged, stay in school, earn better grades and go on to higher education. In the long-term, when these students become adults, they are able to get better jobs and contribute more to their communities.

"The ill-treatment of American Indian students must end today. There is a great benefit for all students in learning about and acknowledging local tribes. We fully support Eureka City Schools District becoming an institution that better serves American Indians and other students of color," concluded Yurok Education Director Jim McQuillen. ✨

# Former Yurok Forestry director goes to prison

Former Yurok Forestry Director, Roland Raymond, was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$852,000 in restitution for his role in the embezzlement of nearly \$1 million from the Yurok Tribe.

"The court conducted a thorough and complete review of the case. We respect the judge's decision," said Yurok Tribe Chairman Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr. "We are relieved to be in the final stages of this painful process."

The case began in 2012 after the Yurok Tribe discovered discrepancies in invoices Raymond submitted for payment. The Yurok Tribe contacted the Del Norte County District Attorney's Office to investigate. Detectives from the district attorney's office uncovered an elaborate scheme, involving Raymond and outside contractor Mad River Biologists, used to steal a hefty sum from the Tribe. Mad River Biologists is a local firm, which primarily conducts environmental surveys.

The investigation culminated in the arrests of Raymond, Mad River Biologist's owner Ron LeValley and MRB biologist Sean McAllister. Charges of embezzlement and conspiracy were submitted in state court, but were later dismissed due to the federal prosecution of Raymond and LeValley. Federal charges were filed because the funds originated from the federal government.

In United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Raymond and LeValley were separately charged with conspiring to embezzle from an Indian tribal organization.

Raymond pleaded guilty to the single count on May 21, 2013. The maximum federal sentence for the crime is 60 months. At the Monday hearing, U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup admonished Raymond for his crime and questioned the sincerity of his remorse. The judge sentenced Raymond to 37 months, 23 months less than the maximum sentence, based on his assistance to federal investigators in building a case against LeValley. LeValley is expected to enter a guilty plea in the coming weeks.

Raymond was on house arrest until late October, when a federal judge remanded him to a jail cell for failing a drug test. The court refused to grant him credit for any time served while under house arrest.

The stolen money, issued from the BIA, was intended to be used for Endangered Species Act studies and other studies important to the Yurok Tribe.

Raymond worked for the Forestry Department from 1994 to 2011. He occupied a position of trust within the tribal government and had authority to approve invoices for outside contractors.

"We've put numerous safeguards in place to make sure this never happens again. We are very much looking forward to putting this mess behind us and continuing the good work we do on behalf of Yurok people and the greater community," concluded Chairman O'Rourke Sr. ✨

# Holiday surprise for elders

A team effort between Yurok Tribal TANF, Yurok Social Services Department and the Yurok Food Distribution Program was responsible for bringing beautiful and bountiful gift baskets elders received this holiday season.

The baskets included a variety of wholesome, customary and conventional fare including: Traditional swamp tea, smoked salmon, wild berry jam, fresh canned apple sauces, and fresh organic canned vegetables. In addition to the comestibles, traditional necklaces, reusable grocery bags with the Tribe's logo, a mug and hand towel were also part of the holiday gift baskets.

Yurok Tribal TANF clients were instrumental in beading the necklaces as well as canning the organic vegetables from the Tribe's community garden.

**The project was funded by Yurok Tribal TANF and the USDA Food Research Food Safety Initiative Grant.**



# New column re: meth problems

SANDRA D. LOWRY

Meth Prevention Specialist

The Yurok Tribe has been awarded a Tribal Meth Initiative grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to engage the community in assisting the successful implementation of prevention and enforcement strategies that focus on attributes of drug-free Yurok cultural traditions.

One important aspect of this grant is to get information to the tribal membership about methamphetamine and the insidious health and environmental problems it causes. Articles on meth will be featured in the Yurok Today on a continuous basis. The more people who know the signs, symptoms and other attributes related to meth, the easier it will be to stop the devastation caused by this terrible drug.

The Tribal Meth Initiative grant will also be used to facilitate collaboration among other tribal departments, local and state agencies, and other local community programs for the purpose of creating a comprehensive plan to help solve meth-related problems. Meth not only affects those on the Reservation, but also Yurok families living off the reservation. Nearly all crimes that take place on the Reservation and surrounding area have ties to this dangerous drug. Issues including: burglary, theft, violence, child abuse

and domestic violence are major themes which will be addressed.

Activities related to the collaborative effort include:

1. To provide up-to-date meth information to local schools and encourage dialog about meth abuse and assist in targeting "at risk" members of the tribal community, teens and pre-teens, reiterating traditional Yurok cultural values based on purity of mind and body.
2. The Yurok Tribe Police will host meetings or events to promote community awareness and hear concerns from local tribal communities encouraging dialog in the fight against meth production, distribution and use on the Yurok Reservation.

Future articles will include information on: (a) Where does meth come from? (b) What are some effects of meth use? (c) Which chemicals are used to make meth? (d) What societal effects does meth use cause? (e) What are some slang terms for meth? (f) What does a meth user look like?

**If you would like to further information please contact Sandra Lowry, Meth Prevention Specialist, at 707-482-8185, ext. 1409.**

## MOBILE UNITS FOR RENT

The Yurok Village Mobile Home Park has four fantastic units available for rent. The clean, two-bedroom, one bath mobile homes, located in the Klamath town site, require \$300 deposit and \$550 a month for rent. The Yurok Village covers fees for water, sewer and garbage. Application to rent one of the units can be acquired at the Yurok Economic Development office at 144 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, Ca 95548. For more information contact YEDC at 707.482.0657.



# YUROK TRIBE

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## 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:

- **RETAIL SALES TAX ORDINANCE:** a new ordinance imposing a sales tax on certain sales by the Redwood Hotel Casino and Yurok Economic Development Corporation to raise revenues for Tribal programs and governmental functions. The sales tax would not apply to Yurok Tribal members.
- **ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX ORDINANCE:** a new ordinance imposing an occupancy tax on people staying at hotels and RV parks owned by the Redwood Hotel Casino and Yurok Economic Development Corporation within the Yurok Reservation to raise revenues for Tribal programs and governmental functions. The occupancy tax would not apply to Yurok Tribal members.

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><b>March 3, 2014</b> 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. <b>Klamath Office Administration</b> 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548</p>	<p><b>March 3, 2014</b> 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. <b>Weitchpec Office</b> Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA</p>	<p><b>March 3, 2014</b> 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. <b>Former Worthington School</b> 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, and can be downloaded from the Yurok Tribe website. You can also get a hard copy by contacting Nathan Voegeli at 707-482-1350 x1408 or email [nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:nvoegeli@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 Friday, March 7, 2014.**

Comment letters may be submitted by email at [nvoegeli@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:nvoegeli@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—Sales Tax Ordinance.”**

The Yurok Tribal Council is considering a retail sales tax and occupancy tax ordinances. Below are summaries of both ordinances. The draft ordinances will be discussed at public meetings on March 3, 2014. The full text of the draft ordinances can be read at [www.yuroktribe.org](http://www.yuroktribe.org).

## Summary for draft occupancy tax ordinance

The Yurok Tribal Council is considering adopting an occupancy tax ordinance. The occupancy tax would not apply to Yurok Tribal members. It would apply to non-members, which includes non-Indians and members of other Indian Tribes. The ordinance would require the Redwood Hotel Casino and Yurok Economic Development Corporation to collect an occupancy tax from people staying at a Tribal hotel or RV park within the Yurok Reservation. This would include nonmembers who stay at the Redwood Hotel Casino, Riverside RV Park, Cat's RV Park, and Village RV Park. A person with a long-term rental agreement would not have to pay the tax, only people who stay for less than 30 days.

The purpose of the ordinance is to raise revenue from people staying at hotels and RV parks within the Yurok Reservation. The Tribe does not currently collect tax from people staying at Tribal hotels and RV parks, but most people are accustomed to paying room occupancy taxes.

Under the proposed ordinance, the occupancy room tax rate would equal that of the local county, which is currently 10% for Del Norte County. For example, if the room rate is \$100, a non-Indian would pay an additional \$10 in occupancy tax, for a total cost of \$110. The Tribal entity imposing the tax would be responsible for collecting the tax.

The tax money would be managed by the Yurok Tribe Fiscal Department. Tax revenue would be dedicated to Yurok Tribal law enforcement, courts, social service and elder programs, and marketing the Yurok reservation as a tourist destination. Any excess revenue not needed for these programs could be used to fund Tribal governmental functions. ✧

## Summary for draft retail sales tax ordinance

The Yurok Tribal Council is considering adopting a sales tax ordinance. The sales tax would not apply to Yurok Tribal members. It would apply to non-Indians and members of other Indian Tribes. The ordinance would require the Redwood Hotel Casino and Yurok Economic Development Corporation to collect sales tax for certain sales within the Yurok Reservation. The tax would apply to food and drink sales. The tax would not apply to off-premises alcohol, tobacco products, gasoline, or communication services like internet, cell phone, or satellite service.

The purpose of the ordinance is to raise revenue from sales by the Redwood Hotel Casino, the Yurok Economic Development Corporation, and other Tribal entities for sales that are currently exempt under California law. The

Tribe does not currently collect tax on these sales, but most people are accustomed to paying state and county sales taxes. Under the proposed ordinance, the sales tax rate would match that of the combined state and local sales tax rate.

The Tribal entity imposing the tax would be responsible for collecting the tax. The tax money would be managed by the Yurok Tribe Fiscal Department. Tax revenue would be dedicated to Yurok Tribal law enforcement, courts, social service and elder programs, and marketing the Yurok reservation as a tourist destination. Any excess revenue not needed for these programs could be used to fund Tribal governmental functions. ✧



## Q and A

with Employee of the Month, Yurok Tribal Court Probation's **Lori Nesbitt.**

**1. How long have you been working for the Tribe?**

I have working for the tribe since May of 2011

**2. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?**

After receiving my bachelor's degree, I needed to come home.

**3. What is the most satisfying part of your job?**

The most satisfying part of my job is support others to live life in a good way.

**4. How does your position serve the tribal membership?**

The service I do allows people to work through the hardships of life. They can find different options that they may not had been given the opportunity before.

**5. What do you like to do outside of work?**

I like to travel, watch sports, and movies. ✨

# Tribe offers reward for information

Police investigators are still trying to figure out who killed a young Yurok tribal member in a hit-and-run accident on November 2, 2012.

There is a \$600 reward for information leading to the conviction of the person who hit and killed a Yurok tribal member Paula (Norris) Sanderson. The Tribe is responsible for \$500 and Yurok tribal member Willard Carlson put in the other \$100 of the reward money.

Aawok Sanderson, 35, was hit while walking on Klamath Blvd. The investigation into the crash is ongoing. The Yurok Tribal Council encourages anyone with information to come forward.

**Please call the Yurok Tribe's Public Safety Department at 707.482.8185 with information pertaining to the horrible accident. ✨**

## Tribal Court is looking for Tribal members cited in Fish Wars

The Yurok Tribal Court is looking for Tribal Members who were convicted of a fishing violation or a felony during the Fish Wars in the late 1970s. The Court will be submitting a package to the California Governor's office, on behalf of Yurok Tribal Members, to request pardons. If convicted of a crime, please contact the Court at the earliest convenience. Judge Abby Abinanti is also asking family members to come forward, even if the person has passed away, if they would like that person to be posthumously pardoned. Please contact Yurok Tribal Court Attorney Jolanda Ingram-Obie at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1410.

# New TANF Program focuses on employment

The Yurok Tribal TANF Program is pleased to announce a new program. This program is designed to assist families within the defined TANF service area to receive limited support services to assist them in maintaining employment. These prospective recipients would not be considered monthly cash assistance clients and would work with the Employment Technician at their TANF site.

Eligibility:

- Adult household members that exceed the qualifications for TANF cash aide but whose income is between 136% and 200% of the poverty guidelines for their household size.
- Households must have regular employment and not monetarily eligible for regular TANF assistance.
- Households residing within Humboldt or Del Norte County but off of the Yurok Reservation must have a Yurok Tribal member as part of their household (this can be a child).
- Households residing on the Yurok Reservation can be a member of any Federally Recognized Tribe.

Services:

- Employment Services that will include:
- Mileage (this will not exceed 80 miles round trip per day)

- Child care
- Vehicle repair (vehicle repair does not include tires)

The application process will follow the cash aide application process, no time clock will be requested, the employed household member must have a valid driver license, insurance, and vehicle registered in the name of the employed household member. Vehicle repair will follow established guidelines in the policy manual; Child Care will follow established guidelines in the policy manual.

**For more information please contact:**

**Jude Marshall, Humboldt County Employment Technician  
(707) 445-2422**

**Samantha Frick, Del Norte County Employment Technician  
(707) 465-8305**

**Teela Robison, Program Manager  
(707) 465-8305 ✨**

# Transfer child support cases to the Tribe

Title: Yurok Child Support Services – Transfer of child support case to the Yurok Tribe

Are you interested in transferring your child support case from the California Department of Child Support Services to the Yurok Tribe?

Please email the following information to Jami McCovey at [jmccovey@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:jmccovey@yuroktribe.nsn.us):

1. Name of the parties in the child support case, including child(ren).

2. Tribal membership of parties.
  3. Resident and mailing address for the parties in the child support case.
  4. Phone number and email address for the parties in the child support case.
  5. California child support case number (i.e., CSE #).
- The parties will be contacted and given the opportunity to respond to the transfer of the child support case to the Yurok Tribe. ✨

*Below are answers to questions and comments the Tribal Membership asked about the Social Services Department at the last annual meeting. A new format was unveiled at the meeting, which facilitated more face-to-face interaction between the Membership and Tribal department heads. The new format was a success and will be duplicated at the next annual meeting.*

- **Youth Development/Outreach and Awareness**

YSS has an ongoing youth team to facilitate collaboration across Programs in the Department for youth development. With this collaboration, YSS organized the following events for youth this past summer: Canoe Paddle Camp held in July, Youth Cultural Mentoring Event at Su-meg Village held in August, Peers Offering Wisdom Education and Respect Groups, week long Youth Gathering Of Native Americans (GONA) in collaboration with United Indian Health Services with another event planned for summer 2014

Peer to Peer youth leadership development academy offered across 16 weeks

Fall 2013 Kickoffs were held Sept 24(Weitchpec) & Sept 25 (Worthington)

This group works with Yurok youth ages 13-18 through educational presentations and trainings to encourage youth to raise awareness and speak out about dating violence. Presentations are on topics such as teen dating violence, healthy boundaries, effective communication, AOD issues and other related issues.

American Indian Life Skills curriculum, which is offered in 10 week increments on on-going basis in the North, East, and South Districts is a social emotional life skills for building self-esteem, identifying emotions and stress, increasing communication and problem-solving skills, recognizing and eliminating self-destructive behaviors, setting personal and community goals.

During the FY 2013 Fiscal Year YT TANF implemented their youth employment services program. The objective of this program was to engage youth between the ages of 14 and 18 years of age in a two week employment readiness training that was provided by College of the Redwoods. After successful completion of this two week training youth from Humboldt and Del Norte were able to

receive work clothing and a 6 week paid job placement. Participants demonstrated an increase in awareness of healthy living and life skills.

- **Foster care training regarding behavior and development**

YSS is currently working with Humboldt County to recruit more Yurok families to provide foster care for Yurok children. Part of this collaboration includes further work on the development of monthly educational and support groups for foster parents, specifically in the East area. One aspect of that educational support will be training around youth development and handling difficult behaviors.

- **Engage fathers more in families where children are removed.**

The Yurok ICWA Program actively pushes both Del Norte and Humboldt County to provide services and active efforts to the fathers of children placed out of the home.

- **After school activities**

American Indian Life Skills Groups are offered ongoing in the North, South and East areas throughout the year for youth.

TANF has collaborated when able with the Education Department in providing space and tutors for afterschool programming.

- **More cultural activities – specifically in East District**

Acorn Phase Project - DV/SA program, Weitchpec TANF, Food Distribution Our goal is to provide families with knowledge and practice of a traditional, healthy family activity of gathering and processing acorns in order to foster personal and community wellness

Early planning and collaboration with Education Department to provide a weekly cultural activity in each of the areas as a part of an after school type activity – Start



dates, locations, times, etc. TBA

- **Offer cultural groups for women**

Cultural Beading Group October(TBA-based on gov't shutdown):

A weekly beading group for up to 10 adults and youth spanning 10 weeks. Will be facilitated by a tribal member and originally scheduled to start the week of October 7th

Dress making classes for young girls and their mothers to be offered at the Crescent City TANF office this fall. Start date TBA

- **Education for earlier prevention**

A Cultural Handbook is being drafted in partnership by the Circles of Care Project, Culture Committee, and Red Deer Consulting. The handbook was written into the Circles of Care planning grant to help the tribe identify some Yurok specific core values. The book will define these core values that can help our families either reconnect to their culture; help with child rearing; and to help as a tool for recovery from trauma. Since the Yurok Tribe is a village run tribe there are different ideas about different aspects of our culture but we can all agree on our core values. Tribal Social Services will use the handbook as a tool to help in delivering culturally responsive services to our clients and it will also be given to our non-Indian populations that are providing services to our families so that they know what is values are important to our families and to our tribe and what is important for us as a tribe to pass onto our children that are in the system. The plan for completion and dissemination of this tool is planned for Summer 2014.

DV/SA Program will be facilitating a 3 hr workshop called Darkness to Light a training to empower adults through awareness and educational programs to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to childhood sexual abuse. The workshop will be a 2 part series at the "Walking In Balance" Conference held at Blue Lake Casino on October 22-23 as a part of a regional training in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month.

- **Tribal members need to take responsibility for**

**themselves, not the Tribe.**

A requirement of the TANF program is that all families receiving monthly cash aid services are to participate in developing a family empowerment plan. This plan provides a road map for families to remove barriers to employment and become competitive in the work force.

- **More transportation**

The YT TANF program employees' three case aides who are available upon advanced notice to transport clients to appointments or the TANF office.

DV/SA program provided 17 total transports in September for clients receiving emergency services, attending group and/or individual counseling sessions, and youth groups

- **Teach pride in abstinence**

In collaboration with the Youth program and TANF, we have worked in providing abstinence workshops and incentives for youth to attend.

The Peer to Peer Youth Leadership Project promotes pride in abstinence and some sex education

- **Holding families accountable (drug testing) that receive TANF/GA**

It is policy of the YT TANF program to drug test potential clients at intake, current clients randomly and at re-certification. This includes cash aid clients, relative caretakers, employment services, Youth Employment and Diversion clients. If a YT TANF clients test positive they will be vouchered, this means that the aid they receive will be paid directly towards bills to maintain their household – no cash is to be received. The client is sent for a assessment and will be required to follow the recommendations of a trained Alcohol/Drug counselor. Once the assessment is being followed and the client is testing negative they will receive cash aid.

- **Put on more community gatherings and celebrations**

The YSS Department provides or participates in several seasonal annual community activities such as fall feasts, spring flings, salmon festival, and family activities for TANF

clients to receive school clothing.

2013 Fall Feast Events will be held as follows: November 13th at Worthington School site in Eureka, November 14th at Weitchpec Tribal Office, November 15th at Klamath Tribal Office.

- **Intensive parenting support**

Although some activities are not provided directly by the TANF program the program is able to pay for family counseling, tutoring, tracking attendance. TANF is able to provide incentives for children to maintain good attendance and grades.

- **Life skills and cultural enrichment for families**

In the last few months and ongoing in some cases, YT TANF has provided many canning activities, net making, budgeting, cooking class, coupon class, smoking salmon, necklace making and dress making activities. Clients have attended many gathering activities.

DV/SA program, TANF Program, and the Food Distribution program are coordinating a Fall Acorn Gathering activity in the east area with the goal being to provide families with knowledge and practice of a traditional, healthy family activity of gathering and processing acorns in order to foster personal and community wellness.

- **Coordination with outside health care programs**

Coordination with UIHS in providing Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) and mental health assessments has been on-going since the start of the TANF program. ✨

# Are your social security benefits taxable?

AMANDA DONAHUE

Social Security District Manager

If you've recently begun receiving Social Security benefits or plan to apply in the near future, you may be wondering this tax season: are Social Security benefits taxable?

The short answer is: sometimes.

Some people have to pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income (such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return) in addition to your Social Security benefits.

There is never a case when a person pays tax on more than 85 percent of his or her Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. Now, let's get down to the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an individual and your income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your income is more than \$34,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

If you are married and you file a joint return, and you and your

spouse have a combined income that is between \$32,000 and \$44,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your combined income is more than \$44,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

Note that your "income" for the purpose of determining whether you must pay taxes on some of your Social Security benefits includes your adjusted gross income, your nontaxable interest, and one half of your Social Security benefits.

In January, you should have received a Social Security Benefit Statement showing the amount of benefits you received last year. You can use this statement, or SSA-1099, when completing your federal income tax return to find out whether some of your benefits are subject to federal income tax. If you didn't receive yours, you can request one at [www.socialsecurity.gov/1099](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/1099).

So, are your Social Security benefits taxable? Maybe. To learn more, read page 14 of our booklet, Retirement Benefits, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs) or visit [www.irs.gov/](http://www.irs.gov/) to obtain more detailed information on the subject. ✨



**RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT 30 DAY  
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL YUOK 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 February 28, 2014. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- **(Category B) Transfer of Land Assignment: Kenneth Roberts**  
**Yurok Tribe # WTV- 016 APN: 533-074-024 Township 11, North Range 3, East Section 7 of the HM, CA Prior Assignee (Awok) Ollie Foseide)**  
**Located in Wautec Village.**

Submit all written comments by February 28, 2014 to the following address:

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



**Land Assignment Committee Meeting**

**Where: Weitchpec Tribal Office**

**Date: February 11, 2014 @ 1:30pm**

**Final Review for Applications:  
Cynthia Henderson - Janet Bates**

Discussion on, Arlene Kentta - Harold Kinney - Richard Myers Sr - Susan Nix - Rose Thompson - Sunni Albers - Maria Robbins - John Logan Jr - Barry McCovey Sr - Richard Myers Sr - Amanda Chenault - Nicholas McCovey - Jacob Ford - Charlie Myers - Jessica Allen - Paul James Sr - Eric Pearson Jr - Preston Ruiz - Carrie Turner



# Yurok Tribe

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WWW.YUROKTRIBE.ORG



**WHILE THE LATE YUROK TRIBAL COUNCILMEMBER BONNIE GREEN WAS VERY SERIOUS WHILE SHE CONDUCTED TRIBAL BUSINESS, SHE ALSO KNEW HOW TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. HERE SHE IS DOING JUST THAT ON HALLOWEEN DAY 2012.**