



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Important Yurok Lands Act introduced

Proposed legislation will elevate Tribe's stewardship role

See story on page 3



Gifts for Yurok kids



Marion Frye, of the Planning and Community Development Dept. sews a stocking.

The Yurok Planning and Community Development Department, with assistance from the Social Services, YIHA, Administrative and Forestry Departments, are creating 300 handmade, holiday stockings, which were handed out at the winter celebrations in the Weitchpec area, Eureka and Klamath. At lunch time there were several sewing machines going for multiple days. Northcoast Women Empowering Women, Judge Abby Abinanti, Peggy O’Neill, William Ulmer-Gensaw, Earl Jackson and YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey made generous donations, which were used to purchase items to fill the stockings. More than 40 Tribal staff members donated toys and funds for the materials.



(left) Angela Alvarado, Steve Sanderson, Krystal Patapoff and Erika Mattz gave out presents.

The Yurok Enrollment/Election Department handed out two hundred toys at its fourth Toys for Tots event in Klamath. This year, nearly 200 families signed up to participate. Krystal Patapoff, the Director of the Enrollment/Election Dept. and Yurok Tribal member, and Earl Jackson, the Tribe’s Deputy Executive Director and Yurok Tribal member organized the annual event, along with department staffers Angela Alvarado and Erika Mattz — both are also Tribal members. Steve Sanderson, a Yurok Tribal member who works for the Yurok Public Works Dept., also helped facilitate the event. The presents came from the Eureka Toys for Tots Program, which is run by the US Marine Corps Reserve.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Jan. 18**
- Tribal Council - Action- 10am - Weitchpec - Jan. 19**
- NEPA Scoping Session 10am-5pm - Klamath Jan. 25
- CFMC Meeting - 5pm - Weitchpec - Feb 6
- Tribal Council - Finance - 10am - Klamath - Feb. 7**
- Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Feb. 8**
- Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Klamath - Feb. 9**
- Natural Resources Comm. 5-7pm - Klamath - Feb 14
- YIHA BOC Meeting - 10am - Feb. 14
- CFMC Meeting - 5pm - Weitchpec - Feb 6
- Tribal Council - Planning - 10am - Klamath - Feb. 22**
- Tribal Council - Action - 10am - Klamath - Feb. 23**

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On The Cover

US Congressman Jared Huffman Introduces Yurok Lands Act.

Yurok Lands Act introduced in Congress

Proposed Act better positions tribe to determine destiny

Today, US Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) introduced a pivotal piece of legislation for the Yurok Tribe.

“We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Congressman Huffman for sponsoring this bill,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “This legislation is consistent with our identity as Yurok people and has the very real potential to give the Tribe a greater grasp of our future for many generations to come.”

Here is what the Yurok Lands Act intends to accomplish.

The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer to the tribe a 1,229 acre parcel, called the Yurok Experimental Forest, which is currently managed by the US Forest Service. The property, previously known as the Redwood Experimental Forest, is located on the coast, near the Tribe’s headquarters in Klamath, Ca.

The proposed legislation will also make the tribe a joint lead agency for all major federal actions, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, within the reservation’s borders. Redwood National Park occupies a significant portion of the Yurok Reservation, including one of the Tribe’s most commonly used ceremonial sites.

If approved, the Yurok Lands Act will designate the Bald Hills Road, which runs from US Highway 101 to the Klamath River, as a Yurok Scenic Byway. The Yurok Tribe was the first one of California’s 109 federally recognized tribes to develop a scenic byways program. The Yurok Scenic Byways will give visitors to the area a much deeper understanding of the region’s rich history and culture.

The Act also aims to confirm the 2006 Cooperative Management of the Tribal and Federal Lands and Resources in the Klamath River Basin of California agreement. The accord was



formed between the tribe and the Department of the Interior, following the 2002 Klamath River Fish Kill. The Fish Kill was largely the result of poor water management decisions made by outside interests. Rather than sue for money as others did, the Yurok Tribe sought to be better positioned to influence the management of the Klamath River, the lifeline of the Yurok people.

In many ways, the Yurok Lands Act is an extension of the Tribe’s response to that terrible tragedy in 2002, when Yurok people watched helplessly as tens of thousands of shiny salmon floated by belly up, having died before completing the reproductive cycle.

“During the Fish Kill, it quickly became clear that we had little to no control over decisions that affected us to our core. This legislation gives us a voice and puts us one step closer to our ultimate goal of determining our own destiny,” concluded Chairman O’Rourke. ✧

“This legislation is consistent with our identity as Yurok people and has the very real potential to give the Tribe a greater grasp of our future for many generations to come.”

Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr.
Chairman of the Yurok Tribe

Red Mountain site will be gone by 2022

New facilities offer increased communications coverage

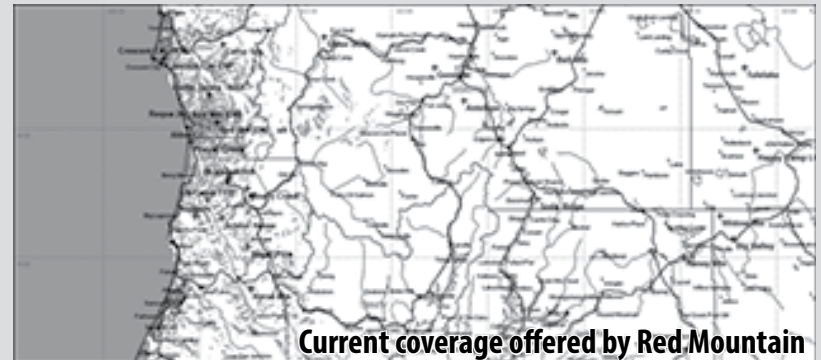
The Yurok Tribe, in coordination with multiple state and federal agencies, recently wrapped up the first round of public meetings to determine the best approach for removing the unsightly telecommunications equipment from Red Mountain, one of the Tribe's most sacred places.

The installation of three new towers to replace the controversial site was also a topic at the meetings. The new communications infrastructure will be erected on Rattlesnake Mountain, Rogers Peak and in Alder Camp. The three new towers will provide emergency responders with better communications coverage than was afforded by the antiquated Red Mountain compound. It will also give Cal Fire, for the first time ever, an ability to use radio equipment in the forested lands within Yurok ancestral territory. "This is a win-win situation for the Tribe and local community," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "The new sites will markedly improve emergency services communications coverage. We will once again be able to practice our culture in peace on Red Mountain."

The agencies working with the Yurok Tribe and the California Office of General Services to complete this project, include the California Office of Emergency Services, Cal Fire and Redwood National Park. The input gathered at the meetings in Klamath and Eureka will be incorporated into a draft Environmental Impact Statement. The public will again have an opportunity to discuss the plans when the document is finished. Those meetings will be scheduled at a later date. The removal of the aging infrastructure atop Red Mountain and the installation of the communications devices on the other peaks is expected to be completed before the end of 2022.

The Red Mountain complex sits on a 4,500 foot peak in a sacred area known as the Helkau Ceremonial District. The Helkau District is a series of high mountain ceremonial sites near the Blue Creek watershed. The district, comprised of Chimney Rock, Doctor Rock, Peak 8 and Red Mountain, was established as a result of the Gasquet-Orleans Road debacle in the late 70s and early 80s, when the US Forest Service attempted to construct a paved logging road from Gasquet to Orleans.

The proposed road would have cut through the special district, seriously comprising the Tribe's ability to conduct vital ceremonies. Members of all of the local tribes' fought the road on every available front. What ensued was a decade of heated conflicts over the project, which included acts of civil disobedience, and a drawn out court case that went all the way to the US Supreme Court. While the case did not net a positive result for the Tribes, the delays it caused saved the site from destruction. In 1984, the US Congress passed the California Wilderness Act, which protected it in perpetuity. With the



Current coverage offered by Red Mountain



Improve Coverage offered by replacement sites

Wilderness Act, Tribes gained a new tool for protecting religious freedom after being defeated and denied freedom of religion by the highest court in the United States.

In the mid-1990s, the US Forest Service made a decision, based on information from the G-O Road case, to remove the Red Mountain telecommunications site by 2022.

During the G-O Road controversy, the U.S. Forest Service commissioned a number of exhaustive ethnographic and archeological studies on the area. The reports concluded that the "most effective management technique would be the prevention of interference with Native American religious activities by prohibiting those activities that would bring physical harm to the sites...no permanent Forest Service or other government installation be established in the vicinity of any of these sites." The Forest Service set forth actions to protect the cultural, archaeological, historical and religious sites within the Helkau District. In 1993, USFS issued new leases for site users and sent a notice saying that they in had until Dec 31st, 2022 to find an alternative location.

The Yurok Tribe, as well as individual Yurok Tribal members have long advocated to the state and federal government to vacate Red Mountain. "There are no words in the English language that can correctly describe the immense importance of Red Mountain to Yurok people. 2022 cannot come soon enough," concluded Rosie Clayburn, Manager of the Yurok Tribe's Culture Division. ❄

Yurok tribal members Dr. Kishan Lara Cooper, an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Child Development at Humboldt State University, the Yurok Tribal Council's Pecwan Rep. Mindy Natt and Cheyenne Sanders, the Yurok Tribe's Associate General Counsel were awarded the 2016 "40 under 40 award" by the National Center of American Indian Enterprise Development. NCAIED selected people based on the following criteria: leadership, initiative, advocacy, dedication, and significant contributions to Indigenous people throughout the nation. Yurok Today asked three questions to the three Yurok award winners.



Mindy Natt
Tribal Council Rep.

What or who inspired you to pursue your occupation? I have always been very interested in the day-to-day operations of the Tribe. Just before my first term on the Tribal Council began, I had graduated from College of the Redwoods and felt like I was in a place to help move the Tribe in a positive direction. As a proud Tribal member and person who was raised on the river, I wanted to make a lasting difference in my community and serving on the Tribal Council was the best way I saw to do it.

What role did education play in your current success? I am still going to school and trying to improve myself. I plan on doing the second part for the rest of my life. If you're not learning, you're not growing. I encourage many young people to continue their education all the way through college. Going to school has the potential to put a person in a better position to give back to his or her community. I also think it is important to bring what you learn back to the reservation and share it.

What advice would you give a Yurok in the beginning of her/his teenage years? I think it's important for young people to know who their family is and where they come from. When I was a teen, one of our amazing Elder's told me to always remember who you are and where you came from. I truly believe in what he said and the older I get, the more it makes sense. Be proud of who you are and never let anyone take that away from you. Be yourself and success will follow. ✨



Cheyenne Sanders
OTA Assoc. Counsel

What or who inspired you to pursue your occupation? I've always known I wanted to be a lawyer and I never stopped going to school or working towards that goal. In undergrad I double majored in American Indian Studies and Political Science and began to understand the unique role law has in Indian Country. It became a passion and has led to many different opportunities.

What role did education play in your current success? It played a tremendous role. Education opens so many doors and new opportunities. I've had the opportunity to travel the world, study in DC, and challenge myself in so many others ways thanks to my time in undergraduate and law school.

What advice would you give a Yurok in the beginning of her/his teenage years? Forge your own path! I grew up in a home where no one had gone to college, let alone law school. I didn't have a family member or friend that could show me the way, but I did it anyway - and you can too (and it's all worth it, I promise!). ✨



Dr. Kishan Lara-Cooper
Associate Professor and Chair
of the Department of Child
Development at HSU

What or who inspired you to pursue your occupation? As a young person, I always cherished my peers that were singers, dancers, fisherman, basket makers, and hard workers. It broke my heart when I would see them devalued in school and labeled as a "problem" by the system. It has been my hope to shift the paradigm of these systems to create a space for indigenous knowledge and to recognize the beauty of our people. As a professor, I have the opportunity to teach, train, and work with professionals who work with Indigenous children, families, and communities in the educational and judicial systems.

What role did education play in your current success? The most valuable education comes from our language, creation stories, ceremonies, and elders. These teachings guide us to live in balance and harmony with the world. A Doctor of Education degree has provided opportunities to protect our language, culture, and ceremonies; its helped to give voice to our elders in mainstream settings; and its provided the tools to advocate for indigenous children and families.

What advice would you give a Yurok in the beginning of her/his teenage years? Yurok people are a resilient and beautiful people. Our ancestors fought to preserve our way of life so that we could continue to hunt, fish, gather, speak our language, and participate in ceremony. Each of you are valuable to our community. Each of you can make an important contribution in protecting our way of life for your children, grandchildren, and future generations. ✨

Yurok revisits scene at Standing Rock

More than 300 tribes gather to stop pipeline project

Editor's note: This story was written by Cynthia "Cindy" Matzger, a Yurok Tribal member, photographer and filmmaker. See her photo essay on page 8 of this month's edition.

On the morning of December 5, 2016, I was atop Media Hill in the Oceti Sakowin Camp (renamed Oceti Oyata Dec. 11th), when snow began to fall so lightly that it was like watching little fairies dance their way from the sky to our hats and parkas. Spirits soared following the previous day's announcement that the DAPL easement had been denied. Thousands of veterans poured into Standing Rock and aimed to march to the Backwater Bridge, the site where hundreds of water protectors were doused with water cannons in freezing temperatures, shot at with rubber bullets and tear gassed on the night of November 20, 2016. When the march began at noon, those dainty snowflakes turned into tiny daggers that hit our eyes and any exposed skin like multiple bee stings. The temperature dropped to a single digit as the winds whipped veterans and us water protectors along the icy highway. It was now a full-on blizzard. Upon returning to camp, we learned the roads were closed. We went to thaw out at California Kitchen aka Grandma's Kitchen, who in addition to feeding hundreds daily, also offered up their new plywood floor at night for people to sleep around the wood burning stove (so much gratitude for all they do). Then we sat in our car for over an hour praying they would let us leave as we were staying at the hotel/casino and were in no way, shape or form prepared to camp in subfreezing blizzard conditions. Finally, just before dark, cars were cautiously allowed to exit camp. We inched along the highway, trying our best not to join one of many cars that had slid off the icy road.

The blizzard continued to rage across North Dakota that night and all the next day. Travel halted completely. The Standing Rock Sioux's Prairie Knights Casino & Resort was booked solid even before the weather turned. And yet, the staff remained even-keeled and gracious as the building became a refuge for water protectors who got stranded



Billy Mills is from the Lakota Oglala Sioux Tribe, which is located in South Dakota. Mills won the olympic gold medal (10,000 meter run) in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.



Carlos Benally - Crow Creek Sioux Tribe (South Dakota) Artist

away from camp and those who left camp because they were unprepared for the snow storm. The casino's Pavilion housed and held ceremony for hundreds of veterans who had come with the intention of protecting the water protectors but who now found themselves focused on their own safety.

In the heated casino/hotel, people shed ski masks,



Serena Cleveland and her baby Penelope are members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, which is in Minnesota.

scarves, hats and outer clothing that once kept them completely incognito. Despite being stranded and waiting in line for an hour to get inside a restaurant they warned may run out of food, people were laughing and sharing stories. As I walked through the large lobby of Prairie Knights, my heart swelled at the sight of so many native faces. The love, pride and diversity reflected in those faces inspired me to try and document one of the most unique aspects of this movement: Standing Rock has become the largest gathering of Indigenous Nations in American history. It is estimated that over 300 tribes are represented. That so many different tribes have come together in unison brings great power to this environmental and spiritual crusade. As I began to talk to people, I began to learn. There were tribes I had never heard of - one woman told me her tribe of 800 people is actually considered extinct. One lesson I take away with me is to learn who the original inhabitants are of places I visit and to have greater awareness and appreciation for all our relatives across this land.

I'm so thankful to all who were open and generous in allowing me to photograph them. From a Chief, to an Olympic gold medalist to veterans and artists to a true female warrior who refuses to back down despite being brutally attacked by the militarized police. Many Nations - one goal: Protect Mother Earth.

The situation at Standing Rock changes moment to moment. But no matter the hardships or the victories; the ceremonies, the songs, the prayers continue. Aho. ✨

Captions for photo essay on pages 8 & 9

Tribal affiliation and location included in descriptions

1. L. Frank - Tongva/Ajachemem/Rarámuri Peoples (Los Angeles Basin, San Diego, CA/ Mexico) Artist/Writer/Activist
2. Chief Arvol Looking Horse - Lakota Sioux (North Dakota, South Dakota) Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe.
3. (left) Dawn Owl - Seneca Nation/Lakota Tribe (New York/North Dakota & South Dakota) Veteran and Yancey Ramage - Lakota Tribe (North Dakota & South Dakota) Veteran
4. Emmett Eastman - Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux - (North Dakota, South Dakota)
5. Gary Farmer - Cayuga, Six Nations (Canada) Famous actor & musician with over 100 appearances in film and television.
6. Lisa Varela - Yaqui Tribe (Arizona)
7. Phil Little Thunder - Sioux Tribe (North Dakota, South Dakota)
8. Sioux Z Dezbah aka Vanessa Dundon - Diné Navajo Nation (Arizona) She was permanently blinded by police after being shot in the face by tear gas canister at Backwater Bridge Nov. 20, 2016.
9. Derek Hinkey - Paiute/Shoshone (Nevada) Professional boxer, actor/ model
10. Waskoness Pitawanakwat - Ojibwe Tribe (Canada, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota)

* See Matzger's photo spread on page 8 and 9.

Yurok Today is looking for Tribal members who travelled to Standing Rock

Yurok Today is working on an article about the many Yurok Tribal members who traveled to Standing Rock and their experiences while standing in support of Native rights and in solidarity against the pipeline. If you are interested in participating in an interview for this story, please contact Matt Mais by email at mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us or by phone at (707) 482-1350. Please feel free to email photos to the same address. Thank you.

PHOTO ESSAY BY CYNTHIA "CINDY" MATZGER, A YUOK TRIBAL MEMBER, PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILMMAKER. ON PAGE SIX, THERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF HER EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRST BLIZZARD TO HIT STANDING ROCK .







Language Prog. creating paths to fluency

New project will provide aid to ten new teachers and much more

In December, the Yurok Language Program started implementing a comprehensive plan to produce ten new teachers, put more Native educators in public school classrooms and make fluency a very real prospect for young Yurok Tribal members.

Carole Lewis, Barbara McQuillen, and Kay Inong, architects of the modern Yurok Language Program, created the Yurok Language Project: Bridging the Language Gaps from Preschool to College. The innovative program seeks to provide professional and financial assistance to prospective teachers, who are interested in earning both standard and Yurok language teaching credentials. The Yurok Language Project also aims to greatly increase Tribal member access to Yurok language classes.

Currently, age-appropriate Yurok language classes are available at the Yurok Tribe's Early Head Starts/Head Starts. Basic to advanced courses are available at some of the public elementary, middle and high schools within the Humboldt and Del Norte County area. While all of the local high schools offer Yurok I, II and III, Hoopa Valley High School and Eureka High School are the only two that offer Yurok IV. There has been a huge amount of progress over the past decade, but there are still educational gaps which limit Yurok students' ability to become fluent.

Also holding Yurok students back is the fact that there are nearly 1,200 Yurok children in these local districts, and only four Yurok language teachers working in its classrooms. This is largely because language instructors, unless they also have a standard teaching credential, cannot make a living as a result of the part-time nature of the position.

"We thought that if we developed a program to help people get a language and standard teaching credentials at the same time, it would help us overcome these obstacles," McQuillen said. "The participants will be able to land a fulltime job with benefits and a union. It will also bridge these educational gaps and enable many Yuroks to take language classes from Early Head Start through high school."

To fund the Yurok Language Project, the three Yurok women, led by Lewis, successfully applied for the highly competitive, \$2.5 million Native Languages Community Coordination Grant from the Administration for Native Americans. Shortly after receiving the funding, they hired Victoria Carlson, a veteran Yurok teacher and Tribal member, to oversee the new program.

"I believe that our elders and fluent teachers, who have passed on, would be very proud of the work that we are all doing to increase the knowledge of the Yurok language. I made a promise to my grandpa (Jimmie James) to always keep learning the language. He told me it's going to get hard, but you've got to keep going and never give up," said Carlson.

The Yurok Language Program is now ready to enroll Tribal members into the Yurok Language Project. Those who are accepted into the program, and continue to meet its requirements, will receive approximately \$3,000 per semester for five years, as well as other stipend benefits for attending language workshops, camps, institutes and immersion pods.

To be eligible for the program, Tribal members or descendants must be a current college student or provide proof that they plan to enroll by Fall 2017. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, have already earned at least 36 college units. Additionally, participants must be working towards completing a bachelors degree or higher, along with a teaching credential, by 2021. Yuroks who have completed a bachelors, masters or doctoral program and have a teaching credential may also apply.

The teacher candidates will determine the grade and subject for which they would like to earn a credential. For example, participants may choose to become qualified to teach preschool, college or anywhere in between. "The goal of this program is to develop a wide-range of professional teachers from the preschool to college," McQuillen explained.

Applications are available at the Yurok tribe's Education Department webpage on the tribe's web site. The Yurok Language Program prefers that applicants have previous language experience — three to four years in high school would be ideal, but not absolutely necessary for a highly motivated person.

"The language portion of the project is very thorough," McQuillen explained.

The ten teacher candidates will receive intensive training in teaching the Yurok language and will provide instruction to students in preschool through college. They will also take part in an intensive, eight-day language institute, an immersion camp and monthly language workshops and immersion pods.

To ensure the future teachers' success, the Yurok Language Program has set up a support system to help the candidates

through every step of the process.

“We have hired a Language Specialist Brittany Vigil-Burbank who will also be an advisor for the teacher candidates, and will assist the students through each stage of their development,” Victoria Carlson said.

After completing the university and Tribal requirements, each participant must pass or be poised to pass the Advanced Yurok Credential Assessment test. Those who earn satisfactory scores will receive a Lifetime Native Language Credential, the highest language accreditation.

Program graduates are expected to pursue positions in Humboldt and Del Norte County schools that serve large numbers of Yurok students. Coincidentally, these schools are suffering from teacher shortages, a result of attrition rates outpacing the number of incoming instructors.

In 2021, when the Yurok Language Project candidates graduate with credentials, it is more than likely that Yurok students will be able to take language classes from Early Head Starts to high school and college, too. Continuous education is the most expedient way to produce fully fluent Yurok language speakers, which is a primary goal of the Yurok Language Program.

The Yurok Tribe was one of only five to receive the

Administration for Native Americans grant. It is the first and only time ANA will be offering the funding. The Yurok Language Project is literally a once in a lifetime opportunity for ten people to obtain valuable job skills and provide a much needed service to the community.

The forthcoming teachers will be uniquely positioned to positively influence the lives of Yurok children, along with many more tribal descendants, living in the Humboldt/Del Norte area. They will be part of a solution to the longstanding disparity between the large number of Native students and the small quantity of indigenous teachers. This imbalance is believed to have real-life implications for many members of the local tribes, who do not feel adequately represented by the districts.

“We believe that success rates will skyrocket when the number of Native teachers in the classroom is proportional to that of our students. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a teacher to enroll in this positive project. We will make a difference in the lives of our young Tribal members for many years to come. I would also like to thank this team, and especially Carole Lewis, for starting this visionary project,” concluded Jim McQuillen, the Director of the Yurok Education Department. ✨

CONGRATULATIONS 2016 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the first graduates of the Motherhood/Fatherhood Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships class. The relationship building course is part of a series of learning tools, which also includes another class called Motherhood/Fatherhood is Sacred. These culturally centered courses are put on by the Yurok Social Services Department. From the left back row, Bonnie Sherman, Earl Davidson Jr., Jeff Guido & Yvonne Guido (facilitators) Traci Enloe, Kodi Downs. Front row Fonda Childs, Tracy Green-Mahoney and Reynaldo Martinez



Committee talks about creating wills

Brush Dance also a topic at last meeting before winter break

The November Culture Committee meeting was quite brief due to an abbreviated agenda. The first topic on the docket was a review of the draft Probate Ordinance, which was facilitated by Denise Bareilles, an attorney for the Yurok Tribal Court.

The group of elders had an interesting conversation about what it means to form a last will and testament from a traditional perspective.

"Indians didn't do wills because they weren't supposed to talk about when they're going to die," explained Committee member, Walt Lara. "We're going to have to do this whether we like it or not, if we want our children to get what we give. There are a lot of elders that need to write a will."

It is important to write your wishes in a will to ensure that your property passes to the person selected by the current owner. The Committee encouraged Tribal members to create a will of their own, and to include ceremonial items, so that these sacred objects receive respect and continue to be used for generations to come as the current owner intends. "If you do not put your wishes in a will, your property will pass to the next generation based on state or federal law, instead of by the owner's personal wishes," Bareilles said.

The Yurok Tribe is in the process of passing a Yurok Probate Ordinance, which will, if passed, enable Tribal members to probate their non-trust property in the Yurok Tribal Court. The probate of federal trust property will remain under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. However, the proposed Yurok Probate Ordinance regarding trust property allows the Tribe to insert its unique cultural values in the Ordinance so that it directs the BIA in the probate of Yurok federal trust property.

Committee member Betty Jackson suggested to create a list and take pictures of the baskets and ceremonial items that will be inherited, via a will, by the next generation. Documenting these invaluable objects will reduce the stress experienced when a parent or grandparent passes on.

The Committee also noted that it was important for the will's recipients to be familiar with the contents of the document. "It's not just the older people who need to understand about having a will, it's the younger people too," Lara said in reference to offspring

knowing what to do with land that they inherit.

Several Committee members had stories about land, or pieces of property, being transferred to a non-family member caregiver of the deceased.

"The one that took care of them is the one that got the property," Lara said.

The Yurok Tribal Court will be setting up workshops to assist with drafting wills. There is no charge for this service.

The second agenda item was about the Requa Waterline Project. Richard Myers, a Committee member, wanted to make sure there would be a cultural monitor on site for the duration of the project. The fact that there will be a monitor on site satisfied the Committee's concerns.

This month's cultural discussion was about the Brush Dance.

Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer Frankie Myers asked the Committee a series of questions to prompt the discussion.

"A long time ago, there was no such thing as a Brush Dance House. It was your house where you lived. Did we always take the roofs off? Why do we keep the roof on? Why don't we have Brush Dances all year long?"

Committee member Walt Lara responded in the affirmative: "They kept the roof on if it was raining."

Historically, the Brush Dance was put on at different times of year, but sometimes the purpose was different from what it is today and it was not required that a baby be prayed over.

"You could do this thing where you didn't have a baby in there, but you could do the dance and play cards," explained Committee member Richard Myers. "I think we should bring that back."

One Committee member, Mel Brooks talked about changes in the ceremony that he has seen over the years.

"The Indian children couldn't participate in the praying part of the ceremonies back in the day," Brooks said.

The discussion wrapped up shortly thereafter. The Committee decided to forgo a December meeting because there likely would not be enough members present because of the holidays. The next Culture Committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 27. ❄️

CULTURE
CORNER

Jump Dance basket returns to ceremony

Generous business owner offers very old object to Tribal member

For two decades, Wes Crawford was drawn to a beautiful Jump Dance basket that sat on a shelf at the house of his friends Chuck and Barbara Snell.

The Yurok Tribal member could feel the sacred object speaking to him, asking him to bring it back to the ceremony, where it would be possible to once again hear the prayers being sung and be surrounded by Yurok people.

"I know that the basket was crying to dance," Crawford said he would tell Chuck in a kind-hearted way. "I would tease Chuck, especially during dance time."

Crawford described Chuck and Barbara as kind and generous human beings, who are longtime supporters of the local tribes. Chuck Snell started the successful Trinidad business, Sea Around Us in 1967. Many Yurok Tribal members, including Crawford, patronize Sea Around Us because it sells the dentalium, clam shells and cut abalone pieces that are used to make traditional regalia and modern jewelry.

"The Snells have helped with the continuation of local culture for over sixty years!" exclaimed Crawford. "For years, they have sold shells and other natural materials to Indian people making regalia."

Over the decades, Crawford developed a friendship with Chuck Snell and the basket would routinely come up in their conversations.

"I would tell him that it's probably keeping him up at night," Crawford said, referring to the basket crying.

Sadly, Chuck Snell passed away in 2013. After his services, Crawford went by the Snells house to pay his condolences to Barbara and her son, who now run Sea Around Us. While they were talking, Barbara took the Jump Dance basket off the shelf and handed it to Crawford.

"She told me that Chuck said he wanted the basket to dance," he explained. "She said 'come back before the dances and you can take it as long as you bring it back.'"

Examining the ceremonial item closely, he noticed two pieces of paper at the bottom of the basket. On the time-worn sheets were hand-written notes, describing the past owners of the item. Aawok Dewey George's mother had made the basket, which was sold to a school teacher in Pecwan. The teacher sold it to Chuck in the 1950s.

"It was a very old basket," Crawford said.

Just before the next Jump Dance, Crawford picked up the basket from Barbara. To fill the vacant space on Snell's shelf, Crawford gave her a cap, decorated with dentalium and woodpecker feathers. The years had taken a bit of a toll on the basket, so he added some new feathers to it.



Chuck Snell, before he passed, told Crawford that he knew one of the O'Rourke's. "Chuck once asked me if I knew Tom O'Rourke, the Chairman of the Tribe. When I told him I did in fact know him very well, Chuck said, 'I like him. Do you think I could trust him to dance that basket?'" Crawford said. "I told him he could. Chuck said, 'Well I know where to find him if he doesn't!' and laughed."

After making the minor modifications, he brought the basket to Chairman O'Rourke, a lifelong ceremonial practitioner and friend, who he was helping to set up camp at the Jump Dance.

"When (Chairman O'Rourke) gave it back to me, he said the basket brought a lot of smiles and a lot of happiness at the dances, especially the story about it," Crawford said.

After the Jump Dance finished up and the basket was returned to Crawford, he received a phone call from Barbara. He thought she was reaching out to get the basket back.

"She was calling for me to come pick up the cap and let me know that she wanted me to have the basket," Crawford said.

Ever since, Crawford has been caring for the basket. He considers himself a guardian rather than an owner of the ceremonial object.

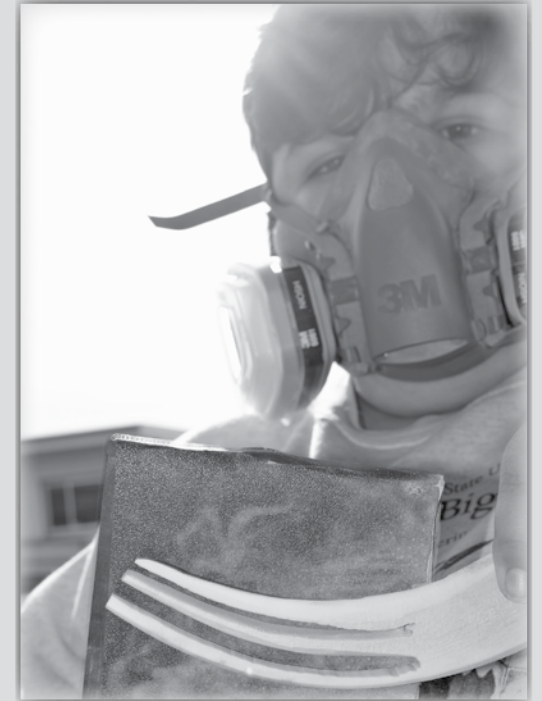
"It was made to dance and seeing that it does is my responsibility," he said.

When Crawford went to pick up the cap that he had left with Barbara, she gave him another surprise that he will never forget. She handed him a high quality head roll.

"She didn't have to do that. It was an awesome thing she did," Crawford concluded. ✨

Education puts on Make and Take events

Holiday gift-making classes happen in Eureka, Weitchpec and Klamath



Northcoast WEWIN - Woman of the Month

Nomination by: Lisa Sanderson

Name of Nominee: Alita Helena Redner (Leets)

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

This month, Northcoast WEWIN is proud to recognize Alita Redner.

Alita is a proud member of the Yurok Tribe and is a descendent from Old Village in Weitchpec, where she lives with her two boys Matthias and Henry. Her mother, Laura Offins, is a prime supporter in her life. Alita has worked as a dedicated TANF case worker and Social Worker for the Yurok Tribe, Weitchpec Tribal Office. Motivated by her love for her people Alita has been a pioneer at coordinating multiple activities and groups that enhance community well

being and partnership. In 2015, despite her demanding schedule as a working single mother, she honorably received her BSW in Social work from HSU. Her success is a wonderful example to her community to never give up and that you can accomplish anything as long as you stay focused.

Leets has inspired many in her community both professionally and personally. She never judges and beams with encouragement and love when you're around her. Alita is true inspiration to us all and – to use her own words – is a true “Good Women”! Thank you, Alita!



Do you know of a local Native woman who leads by positive example? Send us a nomination with a brief explanation of why you think she deserves recognition along with a high-resolution picture to

northcoastwewin@gmail.com. Please note that we honor woman of all ages and tribal affiliations.

Join us on Facebook at www.fb.com/northcoastwewin ✨

Graduates from the first Motherhood/Fatherhood class



Back row from the left, Yvonne Guido, Bonnie Sherman, Motherhood/Fatherhood Dancers, Katrina Simpson and Gary Thurston Front row, Earl Davidson Jr., Jeff Guido, Reynaldo Martinez And Tracy Green- Mahoney

Fatherhood is Sacred



Motherhood is Sacred

The Yurok Tribe is pleased to announce the start of Fatherhood/Motherhood is Sacred groups and we would like to invite you to

Attend our groups beginning January 10, 2017

Eureka Worthington Site

This series will 12 weeks long

And will be ongoing

Tuesdays 4pm to 6pm

Uplifting, Encouraging, Assisting, & Teaching

For more information please contact the
Yurok Social Services'
Yvonne@(707) 954-9048

SAVE THE DATE

Public meetings for the proposed reintroduction of California condors in Yurok ancestral territory will be held in January 2017 at the following dates and locations:

1/23 Sacramento, CA - 6-8 pm - Federal Building, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento

1/24 Eureka, CA- 6-8 pm - Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka

1/25 Yurok Tribal Office - 10 am – 12 pm
-Klamath, CA

1/25 Medford, OR - 6-8 pm - Jackson County Auditorium, Central Point, OR

1/26 Portland, OR - 6-8 pm - Oregon Zoo, 4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland





Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested



www.yuroktribe.org



In December, Yurok Tribal members Susie Long and Isaac Kinney were sworn into the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's Board of Directors. Shortly thereafter, they began serving their terms.

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

Court File Number: YT-CV-2016-63
Case Type: FAMILY CODE
RECEIVED
YUROK TRIBAL COURT
DEC 15 2016
Yurok Indian Reservation
[RECEIVED]

In re ALAY LEE HILL
(Write current name of person's to be changed)

**NOTICE OF PETITION for
Change of Name**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

- PETITIONER:** ALAY LEE HILL has filed a petition with this court for decree changing a name as follows:
 - Present Name: ALAY LEE HILL
 - Proposed Name: AYLA Lee Hill
- THE COURT REQUIRES** that all persons interested in this request shall appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least three (3) court (business) days before the hearing date and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.
- HEARING DATE, TIME AND PLACE** (At least 90 days from filing date):
 - Date: March 23, 2017
 - Time: 10:00 AM
 - Location: KLAMATH, CA
- NOTICE:** A copy of this NOTICE of PETITION for Change of Name shall be published in TWO (2) consecutive issues of the Yurok Tribe Newsletter.
- ISSUED:**
Clerk of the Court: Natasha Bully
Date: 12/15/16

