



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Tribe, Club install playground

Foster City Rotary Club partners with Tribe on third project - See story on page 5



APRIL 2018 PUBLIC NOTICES

30-DAY COMMENT

ELECTION NOTICE

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

CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON and ORICK DISTRICT.

Any Yurok Tribal members that are interested in running for Election as a Representative for the Yurok Tribal Council may pick up nomination papers in person beginning June 18, 2018, at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath. All Candidates must be 25 years of age for a district seat and 30 years of age for Chair and Vice-Chair, as of October 10, 2018.

There is a \$105 filing fee due when you pick up the Nomination forms and background check packet at the Klamath Office in Person. A Live Scan will also be done at the time you turn in your background check packet.

The Nomination Period closes July 20, 2018.

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

2018 ELECTION SCHEDULE

- OCTOBER 10, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION**
- NOVEMBER 7, 2018 RUNOFF ELECTION**
- JUNE 18** - (8:30AM) FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE
- JULY 16** - (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)
- JULY 20** - (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS
- AUGUST 10** - (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)
- AUGUST 10** - PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (60 DAYS)
- AUGUST 17** - (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT (250 words) AND NEWSLETTER (750 words)
- AUGUST 24** - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)
- AUGUST 27- 29** ELECTION BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS
- AUGUST 31** - MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)
- SEPTEMBER 7** - MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (32 DAYS)
- SEPTEMBER 28** - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)
- OCTOBER 9** - LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (1 DAY)
- OCTOBER 10** - PRIMARY ELECTION
- OCTOBER 26** - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) *ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION*
- OCTOBER 19** - MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)
- NOVEMBER 6** - LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (1 DAY)
- NOVEMBER 7, 2018 RUNOFF ELECTION**

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on the following land assignment application 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 May 24, 2018. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- (Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Vincent McCovey: Prior Assignee (Awok-Earl Griffith Jr). Yurok Tribe # MCKH-022 BIA # HRP-655 APN:534-126-008 Located, Morek Village.
- (Category B) Transfer of existing assignment: Patti James: Prior Assignee (Sylvia Amos- Carroll) Yurok Tribe # NCK-008 BIA HRP- 422 APN: 532-142-005 Located in Notchko Village.
- (Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Darren Howerton: Prior assignee (Awok-Tori Sylvia) Yurok Tribe # WNV- 009 BIA HRP 508 APN: 530-053-010-18 Located Weitchpec New Village.
- (Category B) Transfer of an Existing assignment: Larissa Sanderson: Prior Assignee (Marie Lavender) Yurok Tribe # WSR-001 BIR# HRP- 313 APN:530-071-006 located in Weitchpec St.Rest.

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

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On The Cover

Richard Nelson, the Yurok Tribe's Watershed Department Director and Tribal member, installs part of the new playground in Klamath Glenn.

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Unknown Tribal Members
Yurok Tribal Court Case #'s: YTCV 2018-002
and YTCV 2018-003

A Complaint of Violations of the 2017 Harvest Management Plan (nets within 100 yards of the River or in boats during a closure) have been filed by:

Office of Tribal Attorney, in the Yurok Tribal Court, on behalf of the Yurok Tribe.
The hearing will be held in the Yurok Tribal Justice Center as follows:
Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
Court Address: 230 Klamath Boulevard,
Klamath, CA 95548

If you object to the forfeiture of this net, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections. Your appearance must be in person.

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

Attorney for the Petitioner:
Office of Tribal Attorney
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Boulevard
Klamath, CA 95548
(707) 482-1350

US National
Human
TRAFFICKING
Hotline
888-373-7888

Tribe defends salmon in court

Case aims to protect fish from lethal infection

The Yurok Tribe sent a contingent of Klamath River salmon supporters to sit in on a federal court hearing, which was held to decide whether or not sufficient water will be released this spring and summer to prevent another juvenile fish kill.

“For the Yurok people, there is nothing more important than the Klamath salmon,” said Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr., the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “Our fish are an essential part of our way of life and right now, because of the current drought, they are vulnerable to crisis-level disease rates.”

On April 11, 2018, William H. Orrick, a judge in the US District Court of Northern California, heard a motion that was filed by the Klamath Water Users Association and four irrigation districts in an attempt to overturn a March 2017 injunction, which mandated that the Bureau of Reclamation must release more water in the spring and summer to shield baby salmon from a deadly pathogen called *Ceratonova Shasta*. the judge's decision is expected to be release any day now.

The original injunction stems from a lawsuit that the Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes, as well as Earth Justice, initiated against the BOR after the record-low salmon run in 2016. At the time, it was the lowest in history. In 2017, another drought year, the number of spawning salmon was significantly smaller than the previous year, making it the worst on record. The collapse of the Klamath salmon population is largely attributed to elevated disease rates among juvenile fish. This year, the proliferation of this particular disease poses a very real threat to the limited quantity of coho and Chinook salmon that were born in the fall



Yurok Tribal member Eldon Kinney went to S.F. to support salmon.

of 2017 and will migrate to the ocean in the spring.

On Wednesday, the Yurok Tribe would like the federal judge to honor the remaining terms of the injunction because these actions are based on the best available science and provide the most certainty that fish will not be infected with C. Shasta. If completed, the stipulations in the court’s order will also reduce the possibility of another year similar to 2017, when the Tribe decided to cancel both the subsistence and commercial fishing seasons to protect the few fish that returned to the river.

Ramping up flows in spring and summer is the only scientifically proven and effective approach to addressing the conditions that

lead to largescale juvenile fish die offs.

Before infecting salmon, *C. Shasta* uses as its host a worm that resides on the rocks on the river bottom. The high spring flows, called for in the initial injunction, are meant to mimic natural snowmelt on the dam impeded river. The fast moving water transports sediments that scour the river bed and kill the disease organism.

Over the weekend, the BOR carried out one of the provisions included in the injunction, which involved increasing the river's flows for 72 consecutive hours to achieve the above-listed objective. The second phase of the court order consists of releasing emergency flows, if pathogen levels in the river reach a specific height between spring and summer, when salmon are most susceptible to contracting the disease.

Every time there is a drought, a more common phenomena as of late, disease problems will plague the Klamath fish stocks, until the river's flows are appropriately managed. The injunction also requires the Yurok Tribe and others to work with the BOR on a long-term plan to reduce pathogen populations and increase the number of juvenile salmon that successfully make it to the ocean. However, the plan won't be completed until 2019.



Tribal staff and members traveled to San Francisco for a crucial Klamath court case, which aimed to overturn Judge William Orrick's previous decision to provide adequate water for salmon. Pictured here are members of Earth Justice, Tribal members and other Klamath salmon supporters.

"In every decision we make, we consider what it will mean for our fish and for our people several generations into the future. We would like the court and the BOR to take the same approach to prudently managing the Klamath River, the lifeline of the Yurok people," concluded Chairman O'Rourke. ❖

Yurok initiative focuses on mental health

For many, Adverse Childhood Experiences cause health problems in adulthood

It is a goal of Skuy'soo- hue-nem'moh (SOC) to start to destigmatize Mental Health and to educate our communities. Mental health is something that affects all of us. Understanding some of the underlying issues that may trigger our emotions sometimes can help us to better address our needs. For this reason, we wanted to share this article about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Trauma informed care is beginning to gain momentum in many communities, and understanding ACEs and how we can implement prevention and intervention is a key part of trauma informed care.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect and a range of household dysfunction such as witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, parental discord, or crime in the home. ACEs are strongly related to development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems, including substance abuse, throughout

"ACEs have created a chronic public health disaster."

- Robert Anda, M.D., M.S., Co-Principal Investigator, Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

the lifespan. When children are exposed to chronic stressful events, neurodevelopment can be disrupted. Disruption in early development of the nervous system may impede a child's ability to cope with negative or disruptive emotions and contribute to emotional and cognitive impairment. Over time, and often during adolescence, the child adopts coping mechanisms, such as substance use. Eventually, this contributes to disease, disability and social problems, as well as premature mortality.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

Over the past 15 years, many studies have examined the relationship between ACEs and a variety of known risk factors for disease, disability, and early mortality. The original ACE study began in 1995 and was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the health maintenance organization Kaiser Permanente. More than 17,000 Kaiser patients completed a confidential survey containing questions about childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction, as well as items detailing their current health status and behaviors. (Felitti et al, 1998). Participants were mostly middle class, white adults with health insurance.

ACEs are common. For example, 28% of Kaiser participants reported physical abuse and 21% reported sexual abuse. Substance abuse and mental illness of a parent and divorce or separation were also common events.

Here is what the study revealed

- ACEs cluster. Almost 40% of the Kaiser sample reported two or more ACEs and 12.5% experienced four or more. Because ACEs cluster, many subsequent studies now look at the cumulative effects of ACEs rather than the individual effects of each.
- ACEs have a dose-response relationship with many health problems. Participants in the ACE Study were followed over

time. Findings demonstrated that a person's cumulative ACE score has a strong, graded relationship to numerous health, social, and behavioral problems throughout their lifespan, including substance use and abuse... Also, many ACE-related problems tend to be co-morbid or co-occurring. Since the launch of the initial ACE Study, numerous other studies with different populations have been conducted with similar results. The Relationship of ACEs to Substance Use and Related Behavioral Health Problems Research has demonstrated a strong graded (i.e., dose-response) relationship between ACEs

and a variety of substance-related behaviors, including:

- Early initiation of alcohol use. For states, tribes, and jurisdictions focusing on underage drinking, these results suggest the importance of addressing ACEs as one component of preventing underage drinking, as responses to underage drinking may not be effective unless they help youth recognize and cope with stressors of abuse, domestic violence and other adverse experiences (Dube et al, 2006)

- Problem drinking behavior into adulthood (Dube et al, 2002)

- Increased likelihood of early

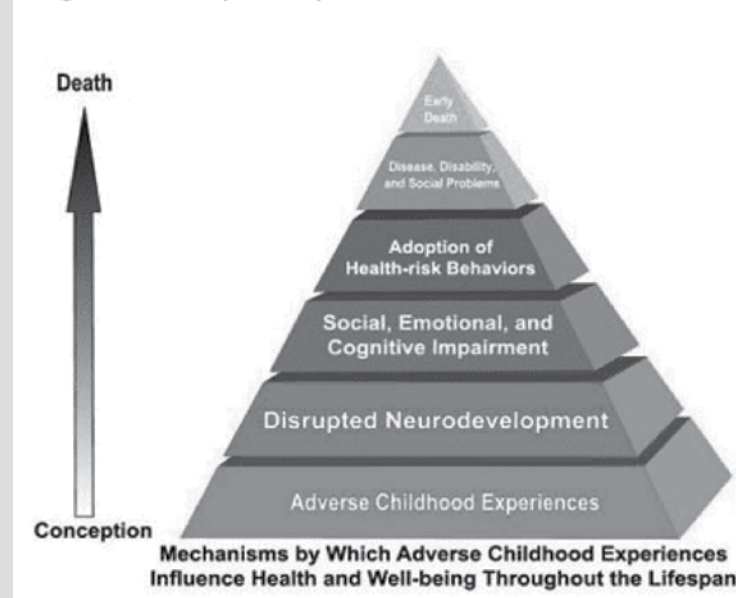
smoking initiation (Anda et al, 1999))

- Continued smoking, heavy smoking during adulthood (Ford et al, 2011)
- Prescription drug use (Anda et al, 2008)
- Lifetime illicit drug use, ever having a drug problem, and self-reported addiction (Dube et al, 2003)

Research has also demonstrated a strong graded relationship between ACEs and related behavioral problems, such as the following:

- Increased risk of suicide attempts, including attempts by men and women, as well as attempts during adolescence and adulthood (Dube et al, 2004).
- Lifetime depressive episodes (Chapman et al, 2004).
- Sleep disturbances in adults (Chapman et al, 2011)
- Sexual risk behaviors (Hillis et al, 2001)
- Teen pregnancy (Hillis et al, 2004) ✱

Figure 1. Lifespan Impact of ACEs



Tribe, Club collaborate on playground

Foster City Rotary Club donates third playground to the Tribe

The Yurok Tribe's Planning and Community Development Department team seamlessly orchestrated the recent installation of the Klamath Glenn Playground.

The Planning Department's staff, led by Bessie Shorty, a Yurok Tribal member, coordinated everything from fundraising to site identification and from arranging youth leadership activities for volunteers to the actual install, which was completed on April 4, 2018.

The Foster City Rotary Club graciously donated to the Tribe the Klamath Glenn Playground, as well as two others. The first two, located in Tulley Creek and the Klamath Townsite, are up and running. The Yurok Tribal Council selected the location of each of the sites. For all three, the Tribe was responsible for coming up with funding to acquire the ancillary items related to the installation and for supplying some of the volunteer laborers who worked, alongside members of the Foster City Rotary Club on the installation of the recreational infrastructure. Additionally, the Foster City club, based in San Mateo, CA, brought with them teens from its affiliated San Mateo High School Interact Club to participate in the installation and to take part in the youth leadership activities.

Earlier this year, Bessie Shorty, who is a Grant Writer for the Planning Department, organized a broad fundraising campaign to purchase the additional items needed for the playground and food for the volunteers. The funding was also used to buy wood chips to create a soft landing within the playground's perimeter and a border to hold the wood particles in place. Shorty employed GoFundMe.com to obtain some of the required money and successfully solicited funds from several nonprofit organizations, including a \$3,600 donation from Del Norte First Five and a \$1,000 contribution from the California Endowment for the Humanities.

Putting in 12-plus hours per day, Shorty worked well into the evening to facilitate two dinners for the civic club and community volunteers, as well as icebreaker activities and a gift giveaway. Shorty also assisted the Foster City Rotary Club with shopping for lunches and helped prepare the dinners for the workers. On one of the evenings, she prepared a fresh batch of fry bread to accompany one of the dinners. The Requa



Ryan Ray, the Yurok Tribal Council's Requa District Representative, performed many strenuous parts of the job.

Inn donated two delicious dinners for the approximately 40 contributors.

"I was excited to contribute to the installation of the new playground in Klamath Glenn, which is a large subdivision where many young Yurok families live," Shorty said. "Previously, there were no public playgrounds for the numerous children that live in the area."

The Planning Team was also charged with obtaining approval to use the site from the property owner, the Yurok Indian Housing Authority, which, agreed to set aside the parcel for the playground. Shorty and Planner William Ulmer-Gensaw, a Yurok Tribal member, also led staff meetings to discuss the project, develop a plan and assign tasks.

Christa Norton, from the Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney, was largely involved in the project's logistics. She ordered the non-donated playground infrastructure, such as the borders and mulch. Kate Fischer, Assistant Director of Planning Department, calculated the dimensions for the recreation area. William Ulmer-Gensaw, a Planner and Yurok Tribal member, photo-documented the installation process. He was on-site for the

entire installation and was the go-to person if the volunteers needed anything.

“I really enjoyed working on this project because I know the playground will improve the quality of life for the many kids that live in Klamath Glenn,” said Ulmer-Gensaw.

The Foster City Rotary Club and about two dozen youth from the San Mateo High School Interact Club stayed at the Redwood Holiday Inn Express for three nights. During one of the evenings, Yurok Social Services Department Social Worker, Teresina Obie, and her intern Ruby Aguirre, a Masters in Social Work student from Humboldt State University, taught the Interact and Rotary members how to make beaded necklaces, before sitting down to an amazing meal.

The materials for this activity were purchased by Social Services and organized by Larissa Sanderson, a Tribal TANF Case Worker and Yurok Tribal member. On another night, Shorty arranged for them to have a bonfire on the beach. With help from Yurok Tribal Council Representative Ryan Ray, Shorty, along with Yurok youth Raiy-ro, Son-ehl, Darren and JOM Tutor Adrean Armendariz coordinated the sharing of eels donated by Frankie Joe Myers, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer. The cultural exchange also included Yurok stories, a Stick Game discussion, a Flower Dance discussion and Yurok songs. Plenty of Smores were shared as well.

For the Rotary Club, the playground projects are an opportunity to fulfill its commitment to “service above self.” They involve the youth group from the affluent area because working on these types of projects is a self-esteem builder, according to Greg Kuhl, the Foster City Rotary Club’s Playground Coordinator. Additionally, laboring side-by-side with Yurok youth, and adult volunteers provides a chance for the teens to experience a new culture.

“Playground building helped to build community for the young people,” Don Smith-Power from the Foster City Member and Coordinator of the Give Away Activity.

In addition to the Planning and Social Services Department’s contributions, other tribal agencies participated too. So did Klamath Boys and Girls Club youth and the Club’s Coordinator Harold Jones and staff members Stormy McCovey and Tara Jordan. The Yurok Watershed Restoration Program graded and rocked the site of the new playground. Watershed Program Director, Richard Nelson, together with Josh Myers, Phillip Williams and Cody Bates did much of the heavy lifting involved in the installation. Ryan Ray, the Yurok Tribal Council’s Requa District Representative, also performed many of the more

strenuous parts of the job.

Two JOM tutors, Adrean Armendariz and Justin Woods, from the Yurok Education Department, also helped put up the playground. For their contributions to the project, the Yurok Tribe would like to acknowledge the following organizations and individuals: First Five Del Norte, California Endowment, Judge Abby Abinanti and several individuals who participated in the GoFundMe.com fundraiser.

“I would like to offer many thanks to the donors who helped make this community project such a great success. As the past Head Start Director it was pretty awesome to see my former Head Start students taking on leadership roles in our community by educating others on what it’s like to be Yurok,” said Bessie Shorty. ✨

• Please see photo spread on next page

Attention Yurok Business Owners:

Yurok Today would like to feature your business in a story, which will be included in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. See story on Page 10 of this publication to see an example of what this might look like.

If you would like to participate in this new section of the newsletter please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1306 or mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us



Thank you!

PARTNERSHIP RESULTS IN KLAMATH



GLENN KIDS GETTING PLAYGROUND



Photo by William Ulmer-Gensaw

Tribal owned biz creates wearable art

Yurok Designs and Photography aims to empower and inspire Native people

Yurok tribal member and business owner Kristi Smith's astonishing ability to create original art traces back to her great grandmother, a talented traditional basket weaver and culture bearer.

Starting at an early age, Smith, the founder of Yurok Designs and Photography, was drawn to Aawok Nettie McKinnon's fine basketry, especially the distinctive designs the master weaver wove into each functional art piece. Today, these particular patterns are a primary influence in the Yurok entrepreneur's creative process, which is a fundamental aspect of her flourishing enterprise.

"What I do enjoy best is the designs. I have loved them since I was a child," Smith said.

Yurok Designs and Photography, formed in 2014, offers a wide array of artistic apparel and fine photographs featuring cultural themes, such as her great grandmother's baskets and regalia.

"I am trying to build a platform from which to empower indigenous people and educate the world about our culture. I also see YDP as an avenue to share our designs in a contemporary fashion, such as on clothing, hats and other accessories," Smith said.

Since time immemorial, Yurok people have infused preeminently creative and complex elements into the everything from intricately carved elk horn purses to everyday items, like spoons and cooking baskets. Similar to some of her late great grandmother's creations, Smith's line of products are a modern form of functional artistry.

"I call it wearable art," she said. "The concept came to me after walking through open doors, praying and listening. I tend to print designs I like and hope the customer likes them as well!"

All of Smith's merchandise contains strong or subtle cultural and social connotations, all of which are meant to inspire indigenous people. For example, on one of her shirts she arranged into the shape of a salmon the phrases "Undam the Klamath," "Honor Tradition" and "Water is Life." She also has in her inventory items that are adorned with her favorite basket designs, including: Snake Nose, Obsidian Blade, Frog Foot and Sturgeon Back.

"I like mixing them up and I try to put something unique into each piece I produce," Smith said.

Smith, a fifth generation artist, views YDP as a vehicle for positive social change, more than an engine for economic gain. For her, the business is an outlet to express the Yurok story, as well as the shared struggles that all indigenous individuals have had to endure



Kristi Smith's grandmother, Lavina (McKinnon) Conner, wears a sleek, YDP hoodie.

since European contact.

"What I do is not about me or furthering some career. It's always been about creating a legacy, as well as spreading and sharing our culture," Smith said.

In the summer of 2016, when she saw private police brutalizing Native people in North Dakota, Smith immediately decided that she had to do something. The politically savvy business proprietor, armed with her artistic acumen, facilitated a fundraiser around a special shirt that she designed. She sent to the Water Protectors every dollar that was made from its sales. The sacrifices that Native people experienced during the largest gathering of Tribal nations in modern history moved Smith to her core and that feeling continues to be reflected in her work.

"Right now, I feel compelled to create wearable art with action phrases, such as my "Sage Against the Machine" Design I made during the Standing Rock occupation," Smith explained.

Smith has engaged in several efforts to protect invaluable cultural resources, including the occupation that led to the recent removal and relocation of the Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse.

Supporting tribal causes has also allowed her to meet a legion of likeminded artists and activists.

“The relationships I have formed with other artists and Indigenous people has opened many doors as far as opportunities for professional and personal growth,” she said. “As the people who know me know, I am drawn to activism and defending the sacred.”

Smith lives in Chico, Ca where she is very active in community causes too.

She worked with the local Mechoopda Tribe on a fundraiser to bring the Joseph Family from Hoopa out to present a talk called “The Resistance” and was about their experience in Standing Rock. She was the Co-Chairperson on a Mechoopda team that created Chico’s first-ever Indian Market, which happened last fall.

“We have not had a Native American craft fair in this area and I am pleased to say that I was able to bring that to my hometown last year around the ‘Thanksgiving’ holiday,” Smith said. “It was very successful and the Mechoopda have offered to host a second annual market.”

Smith’s interest in fighting for tribal rights and resources can also be tied back to the time she spent in her youth with her great grandmother, a Jessie Short plaintiff. During this period in her life, the elderly woman lived in a studio next to the Smith family home in Chico. The McKinnon matriarch taught her great granddaughter how to prepare traditional foods. She also informed Smith about many other facets of her Yurok identity.

“I was too young to realize how blessed I am to have had those years with her,” Smith said.

Smith’s parents are Marc and Jolene Smith. Her family descends from the Morek Village on McKinnon Hill, a location she holds closely to her heart.

“This is the place I still call home. I feel deeply connected to the area. My grandma, Lavina (McKinnon) Conner is the surviving child of Neil and Nettie. Lavina's daughter, Jolene is my mom,” Smith said.

While Smith lives in Chico, Yurok Designs and Photography has roots on the Yurok Reservation. The formation of YDP has a link to the grand opening of the Redwood Hotel Casino. In 2014, Smith had read on the Yurok homepage that the hotel was looking for high quality photographs to highlight tribal heritage in the hotel. Serendipitously, she had begun documenting the family’s collection of regalia in order to create a digital record of these irreplaceable items before further wear and tear or decomposition. Smith submitted to the hotel’s administrators a photo of one of her great



Kristi Smith started Yurok Designs and Photography.

grandmother’s ceremonial caps.

“I thought it would be ‘right’ to have Nettie's work in the hotel as she testified in the Jessie Short case and I felt like that was something I could do to honor her legacy,” Smith said.

The portrait impressed the Redwood Hotel management team so much that they elected to showcase in the Tribe-owned establishment Smith’s framed photograph of the cap, as well as a print that she calls Dentalia String. Shortly after the partnership with RHC began, Smith and her mother, Jolene, decided to start Yurok Designs and Photography.

Over the past four years, YDP’s product line has grown, as have the number of businesses that offer its merchandise. In addition to hats and t-shirts, Smith has created a line of onesies — adorned with sturgeon designs — for infants and toddlers. YDP also

sells handmade earrings and basket design embossed items, including: backpacks, hoodies and beanies. These products can be found at the following locations: Redwood Hotel Gift Shop, Klamath Book Nook, the Northern California Indian Development Council’s Eureka office, Karuk People’s Center in Happy Camp, California Indian Museum and Culture Center in Santa Rosa, and the California State Indian Museum in Sacramento. YDP items can also be viewed on yurokdp.com and on Facebook which can be found here, <https://www.facebook.com/yurokdesignsandphotography/>. In the spring and summer, Smith travels to numerous shows to sell her wares.

Over the years, Smith has created a loyal customer base and her work has received rave reviews online and in-person at the bazaars she attends up and down the Northern California coast.

“I love when people come up to me and say, ‘I was hoping you'd be here, I love your stuff!’ I love seeing pictures of people wearing my product. I feel like I am doing my family proud,” Smith said. “I enjoy helping people one on one find something they enjoy.” ✨



SAVE THE DATE: The date of the 2018 Annual Tribal Membership Meeting has been changed to Saturday, August 4. The meeting begins at 10am in Klamath. We look forward to seeing you there.



Yurok Teacher Candidate Spotlight

The Yurok Language Program would like to recognize this month's "Teacher Candidate Spotlight", Nikolai Valentine, for her continued effort and success in the Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl "They Will Teach" Yurok Language Teacher Program.

The Program started in February 2017 with 10 Teacher Candidates who are responsible for completing a dual track to earn both their Level 3 Yurok language Teaching Credential and their Bachelor's Degree (or higher) with state teaching credentials through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

In Year 1 of the program, Nikki completed 100% of all activities for both tracks. These activities included: 12 immersion pods, monthly grammar workshops, attendance at the eight-day Yurok Language Summer Institute and the four-day immersion camp, classroom observations, teacher development trainings, pre- and post-assessments, monthly check-ins with YLP staff, submittal of paperwork like monthly attendance verifications for each of her classes, course schedules, and final grades. The completion of these requirements demanded hard work, persistence, commitment to her academic goals, and dedication to improving her language skills.



Here is the Yurok Language Program's Teacher Candidate, Nikolai Valentine.

Throughout the program, Nikki has remained in excellent communication. She never hesitates to ask questions or to seek support in order to complete tasks, which speaks directly to her character and her ability to accomplish many goals simultaneously. She is driven and hard-working in all that she does. She has been dedicated to improving her language skills while completing her teaching credential through Cal State Teach.

Notably, Nikki has had perfect attendance for all language activities for Year 2. She has a full-time job teaching and four children at home, but she always shows up and participates in language work, despite her busy schedule. This work has paid off as she will soon be eligible for recommendation to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as a Yurok Language Teacher! Congratulations, Nikki, on your continued success in our program!

The Yurok Language Program was awarded a 5-year Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Native Language Community Coordination (NLCC) grant. The project focuses on teacher development in order to bridge language gaps that have existed for some age groups. 10 Teacher Candidates have been awarded the "Kee Laa-yo-lue-mehl Scholarship" ✘

CULTURE CORNER

Tony Marks-Block, a researcher with Stanford University, presented the first agenda item at the joint March meeting of the Culture and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Committees.

The scientist is investigating the influence that multiple approaches to controlled burning has on the production of the hazel stems that traditional basket weavers' favor. In addition to the Culture Committee, Marks-Block is working with the Cultural Fire Management Council, Research Ecologist Frank Lake from the US Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station and

several local basket weavers. Marks-Block is comparing how hazel responds to the following types of burning: prescribed broadcast fires (cultural burns), pile burning and propane torch burning.

While the long-term study is not yet complete, Marks-Block's early findings indicate something Yurok people have known for millennia. Appropriately timed, low to moderate intensity fires produce the longest and strongest hazel stems.

"Broadcast burning is the most effective for producing good stems for weaving," he said.

The hazel stands treated with traditional firing techniques sprouted sticks that were significantly wider in diameter and longer in total length. Marks-Block is looking for additional weavers to interview. If you would like to participate in this research project, he can be reached at tonymb@stanford.edu

Joe Hostler, an Air Quality Specialist for Yurok Tribe

Environmental Program, was next up on the day's docket. Hostler is working on a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which has been in the works for the better part of three years and is expected to be completed later in 2018. As the project has progressed, Hostler has delivered multiple updates to the Committee and sought its counsel on the report's content.

"The plan is focused on what people are worried about in relation to alterations in the environment, which are arising in response to climate change," Hostler said.

YTEP is concerned that access to traditional resources will be limited as result of warming air, river and ocean temperatures.

Part of the document contains a calendar featuring when multiple, key subsistence species, including everything from seaweed to eels, are available for harvest. The tribe-specific almanac will be used to compare the timing of past and future harvests of traditional resources.

The Committee reported, to Hostler, on a shift in the migration of the primary fish runs on the Klamath River.

Prior to the onset of climate change, spring salmon "were caught in March and April and now it is May and June. There are not nearly as many springers around as there used to be in March and April," said Committee member, Susan Masten.

Bob McConnell, also a Committee member, recalled seeing big salmon spawning on a creek near Hoopa in the winter time. Now the creek is vacant in terms of fish.

"Today, that creek doesn't even support steelhead," he said.

Additionally, McConnell, in the 1970s, used to see large groups of salmon travel up the Trinity River, the Klamath's largest tributary, well into October. On October 13 in 1973 two of his relatives landed 100 salmon from Hostler Hole.

"Nowadays, there aren't many fish at that time of year," McConnell said.

Both spring and fall salmon play vital roles in the Tribe's traditional ceremonies.

"The spring salmon was the one we used for the First Salmon Ceremony," said Committee member, Walt Lara.

The third item on the agenda was the recently proposed Kewet Ceremonial District. The Tribe is considering the designation of the area around Weitchpec Mountain as a culturally sensitive area. Obtaining a classification, similar to the Helkau Ceremonial District, will make the property eligible to be listed on the Register of Historic Places. Locations that are simply eligible to be on the register are afforded the same protections, as those that are officially listed.



New hazel shoots erupt from a recently burned shrub.

"The purpose of the district is to protect ceremonial sites and trails and the viewshed as a whole," said Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer. "The ceremonial district outlines the cultural landscape."

In recent years, cannabis cultivators have compromised sacred sites within this special zone. For example, Committee member Richard Myers explained, a marijuana grower took over a place, within the Kewet District, where ceremonial practitioners used to camp and dance.

"We don't go up there anymore because of the growers," he said.

The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program, Tribal Employment Rights Office and Cultural Manager are working in collaboration with the THPO on developing the exact geographical area, which will be covered in the Kewet Ceremonial District. In addition to the above-listed cultural elements, they are also looking at water sources, creeks where salmon and steelhead spawn, as well as village sites and other culturally critical locations.

"The coast around mouth of the river is effected and should be included," said Raymond Mattz. "All of the runoff travels downstream and poisons the mussels and everything else. It's crazy."

The Committee decided to call a special emergency meeting to discuss with the greater community the formation of the district. The meeting happened on March 28.

The final items on the agenda were brief and included a review of National Park Service road stabilization and removal project, along with interpretive panels at Sumeg Village at Patrick's Point State Park. ❄

Yurok Judge leads new justice project

Hon. Christine Williams is the Director of Aoki Center Tribal Justice Project

The Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies at King Hall, UC Davis Law School, celebrated the launch of the Aoki Center Tribal Justice Project on Thursday, April 12, in the courtyard of the law school. A collaborative effort with California tribal judges, including Yurok Tribal member and Judge Christine Williams, lawyers, and leaders, the Tribal Justice Project seeks to enhance the capacity and sovereignty of tribes in California by providing culturally appropriate training for tribal judges and court personnel and establishing an intertribal appellate court at the law school.

By targeting the needs of tribes in California and other Public Law 280 states, the Project will be the first of its kind to fill a critical educational gap. In contrast to most other states, California and five other states are governed by Public Law 280, a federal law that allows the state to assume concurrent jurisdiction in certain criminal and civil matters over Indians on certain tribal lands. Historically this law has created significant challenges for tribes in California and other Public Law 280 states that wish to establish their own tribal courts. Training will be provided in areas accessible to tribes throughout the state and at King Hall. The first training is scheduled at the Yurok Tribe, California's largest tribe, in late June.

The Aoki Center hopes that the variety of curricular offerings in Federal Indian Law and Tribal Justice as well as extra-curricular programs and opportunities for service to tribes will encourage more Native students to become lawyers and to attract students to King Hall who are interested in providing legal services to California tribes.

Hon. Christine Williams, a member of the Yurok Tribe and the Chair of the California Tribal Judges Association, is the Director of the Aoki Center Tribal Justice Project. Certified in Indian law, Judge Williams has spent her legal career focused on representing Tribes in a broad spectrum of legal matters such as tribal court development, Indian child welfare and cultural resource protection. She currently serves as the Chief Judge for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians in El Dorado County. Previously, she assisted in the formation of and development of the Northern California Intertribal Court System, a consortium court serving four tribes in Mendocino County, California, where she also served as its Chief Judge. Judge Williams has a long history of providing training and education on various areas of Indian law and Indian Child Welfare law and history. She serves as an appointee to the Tribal Court State Court Forum.



Hon. Christine Williams is Yurok Tribal member & Director of the Justice Project.

Jennifer R. Leal, a descendant of the Washoe and Mono Lake Paiute communities from northern California, is the Project's Program Administrator. She brings to the project extensive experience in the areas of tribal relations, tribal court administration and judicial education. Previously, Ms. Leal worked for the National Judicial

College – National Tribal Judicial Center in Reno, Nevada as the Program Manager. Therein she utilized her prior role as the Tribal Court Administrator for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California – Washoe Tribal Court in Gardnerville, Nevada to inform her work. While working at a national level, she developed distance-learning curricula and facilitated discussions on problem solving tribal court administration challenges. Ms. Leal also contributed to the early idea and design of the Judicial Council of California's Court Toolkit for Tribal/State/Federal Administrators and Clerks. She became faculty in 2013 and provided education on court administration to Alaska tribal court administrators and clerks using David Kolb's Learning Style Inventory for adult learners. Since leaving the National Tribal Judicial Center and returning to California, Ms. Leal served as the Executive Assistant

to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians' Tribal Chairman, Robert Martin, who was also Chairman in 1987 and represented the Tribe during the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians* and Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Ms. Leal earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in American Indian Studies from UCLA. Her graduate research concentrated on history and law and primarily focused on tribal courts.

Professor Mary Louise Frampton, Director of the Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies at King Hall, will provide oversight and faculty support for the Tribal Justice Project. Professor Frampton introduced a new course in Tribal Justice in Fall 2017 in consultation with Judge Williams. That course added to the curricular offerings at King Hall by the preeminent Federal Indian Law scholar, Professor Katherine Florey. She is particularly interested in the extraterritorial application of law, theories of jurisdiction, and the powers of tribal courts.

This Project was created with support from the Yurok Tribe of Northern California and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

<https://law.ucdavis.edu/centers/critical-race/tribal-justice/>

Review spring fishing regulations

Spring fishing regulations are in effect through July 28. The intent of these regulations is to protect wild spring Chinook and green sturgeon. Net fishing is allowed from 9:00 a.m. Friday through 9:00 a.m. Monday. Angling is permitted during the net closure. Bartering is limited to five chinook per week to Indians; no sturgeon can be bartered. All white sturgeon must be released. Green sturgeon are limited to two per fisher and must be tagged upon removal from the net; tags are available from fish counters, Jami McCovey at the Klamath Office and Elizabeth Davis at the Weitchpec Office. Sturgeon tags that were issued before 2018 are not valid. Sturgeon longer than six feet must be released. No fishing is permitted within 1300 feet below Coon Creek Falls.

**SAVE THE DATE:
SALMON RUN
MAY 25-27**



The Annual Salmon Run is happening from Friday, May 25 to Sunday, May 27.

Yurok Obituaries

Roy J. Thomas was born on April 4th, 1955 and started his journey home on February 26th, 2018. Roy suffered a serious fall five years ago which left him as a quadriplegic. He is now free from the body which bound him. Roy is preceded in death by his grandmother; Irene Quinn, parents; Roy J. Thomas Jr. and Marge Thomas, sister; Dixie Taylor, and brothers; Rodney Franks and Ronnie Franks. Roy was a brother, father, grandfather, cousin and friend to many. Roy was a Yurok Tribal member. He spent many hours traditionally fishing on the Klamath River for eels, salmon and sturgeon. His family enjoyed the fruits of his labor. He was a man of many trades. He enjoyed bird watching and was a true outdoors man Easter was and important holiday to Roy. He enjoyed gathering his family together eating mussels and hunting for Easter eggs. We made crazy hats together and competed against each other for prizes. He enjoyed sharing his time and stories with his four grandchildren. He loved to cook and eat



Roy J. Thomas
04.04.55 - 2.26.2018

good food. Roy was a man who loved his two daughters. He was a compassionate man. He had an unconditional spirit of love. There was no judgement or guilt toward the failures of others. Our father was our greatest cheerleader. He was a role model of what a loving parent is. He was sober for the last eight years of his life. In his last few years he loved his power chair (aka new ride). He was able to get back outside and enjoy some much needed independence for his free spirit. His sudden passing has left us all saddened, but also grateful he is no longer confined. He will be greatly missed. Roy is survived by his two daughters; Alicia Hinshaw and Anita Thomas, sisters; Pam Malloy and Linda Roberts, grandchildren; Dustin Patton, Brittany Patton, Bryce Gillum, and Tommia Thomas, great grand baby; Penny Patton, as well as many other family and friends. The funeral services will be announced when the weather warms and the family has more time for grieving and preparation.



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Members of the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program, Police Department and Watershed Stewards Program cleaned up a section of Highway 101 on the Yurok Reservation, near Klamath. The stretch of highway is dedicated to Labecca Nessier, who was the Tribe's Emergency Manager until her untimely passing in the spring of 2010. One of YTEP's primary priorities is to keep in a pristine condition the Klamath River and adjacent coastline. All trash that lands on the highway inevitably makes its way to the river and then the ocean. In this picture are (right) YTEP Asst. Director, Koiya Tuttle, Watershed Steward Thaowan Giorno, Env. Specialist Christine Cosby and Watershed Steward Michelle Lopez. Not photographed participants included: Macy Bommelyn, Louisa McCovey, Kassandra Grimm, Matt Hanington, Richard Myers, Toni Scott, Arlen Charles, Fred Griffin and Manuel Esquiviz