



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Tribe opens new kids' facility

Council working with Humboldt County to expand services at the site • See Story page 2





Tribe works on adding services in Eureka

By Jim McQuillen ~ *Education Department Director*

The Yurok community in the south area is soaring because of their new digs.

The Education Department recently moved-in and opened the new site at the old Worthington School site located at 3400 Erie Street in Eureka.

The site offers over 7,000 sq. ft. for services directed at children, including Head Start, Child Care and JOM K-12 Tutoring, along with a 3,000 sq. foot community room for the children and community to enjoy.

“Parents are ecstatic and finally have what they have been asking for many years,” said Jim McQuillen, the Tribe’s Education Director.

The site is now up and running. Parents who wish to pick up an employment application or for those who wish to obtain tutoring for their children at the new accessible location can now do so.

“The new site is spacious and close to home. Tutoring has helped my son catch up and stay on track,” said Alice Warren, a parent of one of the children who receives services at the new site.

The Yurok Tribe’s Head Start serves all ethnic groups with low

income families getting priority. The new site currently offers after school tutoring for grades 2-12.

The new center is being leased from Eureka City Schools. The Head Start and Child Care will be state-licensed at the site serving children and families of the greater Eureka, McKinleyville, and Arcata communities.

The new Worthington site is large enough to support Head Start, Child Care, K-12 tutoring, community meetings, Yurok Language Classes, and in the future the possibility of a computer center for students, parents and the community.

The new facility is much better suited to serve the Yurok Tribe’s south area communities. The old location in Cutten was too cramped for the many children and parents who attend the Tribe’s Head Start’s Socialization Program for 4 and 5 year olds. There was no outdoor play area, or proper parking and the street was too busy and unsafe. The Yurok Tribe’s Head Start Program applied for and was awarded stimulus ARRA dollars in 2011 that paid for the majority of the remodeling of the school site. It’s a safer neighborhood, with much less traffic, better parking and has a large outdoor play area of over three acres for the children to play in.

The local neighborhood also seems relieved as we have brought

“THE NEW SITE IS SPACIOUS AND CLOSE TO HOME.”

Alice Warren ~ *Parent*

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On The Cover

The Yurok Tribe’s Education Department recently opened a new site in the South District. The Department is working with Humboldt County on a zoning variance that would allow the Tribe to offer more services at the Eureka location.

new life to the site after it was closed for about eight years. The site is no longer an eyesore or a place for unruly behavior or vandalism and weekend drinking.

The Education Department has also been working with the Humboldt County Planning Department on a zoning variance which would enable the Tribe to relocate its Social Services Department to the same location. The hope is to one day offer a “one stop shop opportunity” for our families to receive both education services as well as tribal TANF services. The TANF services will include a location where parents can obtain support such as resume writing, job searches, educational planning as well as other personal and family wellness-related activities.

The current site has four individual full classrooms, plus a large community room and a front office. The second wing for Social Services will include at least three additional classroom-size areas for various Social Services programs to occur, including: TANF, Social Services, and other wellness services.

The new center is a win/win for the department staff as well as the community.

“The site is cool. Tutoring has helped all of my kids a lot. I like that there is tutoring services five days a week at the new site,” concluded a JOM parent.

Please feel free to stop in and visit the new site located at 3400 Erie Street behind Pacific Gas and Electric offices off of Myrtle Avenue. ✨

Young Yurok man succeeds at teaching language, culture



Mike Carlson's students learn Yurok in the Tribe's TANF office in Crescent City.

Mike Carlson is dedicated to becoming fluent in Yurok.

“I have a responsibility to learn and teach Yurok because it is part of my culture,” Carlson said.

To honor that commitment, the high school senior took a job teaching the Yurok language to elementary-age kids through the Yurok Education Department's Johnson O'Malley Program and Language Program.

“Mike is a great teacher,” said Jim McQuillen, Education Department Director. “He is truly gifted and a role model for others to learn from.”

Carlson teaches four days a week at the Tribe's TANF Office in Crescent City. His students are learning how to say the names of different animals indigenous to Yurok Country, numbers, how to introduce themselves, common phrases and more.

“Hey-yo-mues (skunk), herk'weh (rabbit), twey-goh (raccoon),” Ricky Rollings an 8-year-old student yells out.

Despite already completing a full day at school, the kids are just as eager to learn during the afternoon class as Carlson is to teach them.

“It's going really well and they are picking it up too,” Carlson said. “They ask for the class to start even before it's time.”

The kids also understand why it is so crucial to speak their native tongue.

“It's cool,” said Weconah Stevenson, 11. “You get to learn your culture.”

Thanks to the Education Department and its committed language teachers, Yurok youth have far more opportunities to learn the language than in the past. The Yurok Language Program offers age-appropriate classes to toddlers all the way to adults.

This will no doubt help young people like Weconah achieve their goals.

“My goal is to learn it all and speak every single word in Yurok,” she said.

It also enables intermediate teachers like Carlson to continue to polish their skills.

“I am learning too,” Carlson said.

There are other ancillary bonuses to teaching in addition to the community service aspect. Teaching has helped Carlson become more comfortable speaking to and engaging large groups, a skill that is valuable to all employers.

“Teaching has really helped me learn how to make a good presentation,” the confident young man said.

Carlson, a culture bearer, is a senior is a senior at Del Norte High School and is preparing for college.

He is also an accomplished Yurok singer.

“When he sings the elder’s eyes tear up, the men swell up with pride and the young women’s’ eyes open wide. He sings like the old timers,” said Education Department Director McQuillen.

While he is still in the process of figuring out a career, he has taken several solid steps that will give him a wide variety of options. He has worked on trail crews, mentored kids as a camp counselor and now the language teaching job.

It is near certain that Carlson will hear in the future many appraisals like this one: “Mike isn’t a good teacher. He is the best teacher,” Ricky Rollings’ concluded. ✨

The Klamath dam agreements: Where are we now?


On October 26, 2011, a 10 foot hole was blasted into the bottom of 126 ft high Condit Dam on the White Salmon River in Washington State. The White Salmon River burst through the dam, free for the first time in 90 years. This dam was owned by PacifiCorp. Yes that’s right, the same PacifiCorp that owns the hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River. When PacifiCorp was faced with expensive upgrades for Condit Dam, they entered into negotiations with local stakeholders and reached an agreement for dam removal. In many ways, the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHTSA), which is an agreement to remove four of PacifiCorp’s dams from the Klamath River, is modeled after the Condit example. And Condit Dam is now history.

The Yurok Tribe (and others) fought extremely hard for necessary upgrades to PacifiCorp’s Klamath Hydroelectric Project during the FERC re-licensing process; upgrades such as fish passage through the dams, and increased flows within the project reach that would sustain healthy salmon populations. We fought for those improvements because there was no guarantee that the Klamath Dams would ever be removed, and because these improvements, absent dam removal are needed. The Tribe never gave up on dam removal, though. When it became evident that these upgrades would be extremely expensive to implement, PacifiCorp made a business decision to sign the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement, which provides for the removal of the four

PacifiCorp dams on the Klamath River. The Klamath River needs healing and it is the Yurok Tribe’s role to lead that effort. The healing will be a massive effort, the kind of stuff you can see from outer space. Dams must be removed. Farms must take less water. Wetlands, dry for decades, must be re-watered and restored so they can do their job of cleaning the water. This is how the river will renew itself.

There are those who say there are other ways to get the dams out. They say we should go back to FERC, the federal entity that issues licenses for dams, and rely upon them to simply order PacifiCorp to remove the dams. This does not reflect reality. FERC has NEVER ordered a dam removal. With regard to PacifiCorp’s Klamath Hydroelectric Project, FERC has already finished an entire Environmental Impact Statement, and it does not have dam removal as the preferred alternative. Instead, it proposes a “trap and haul” program where no fish ladders would be installed and fish would be trapped and hauled in trucks to places above the dams. It is nothing but fantasy to believe that FERC will ride to the rescue of the Klamath River.

Another argument against using the current dam removal agreement to move forward with Dam Removal is that PacifiCorp cannot obtain a California State Water Quality permit, therefore the State of California will refuse to issue a water quality certification. And then, the theory goes, FERC cannot issue a new license and PacifiCorp will have no choice but to



remove the dams immediately, and pay for the entire removal. Again, this is wishful thinking. PacifiCorp has many legal options to delay this outcome, and the Yurok Tribe believes that placing the fate of the Klamath River, the center of Yurok identity and existence in the hands of a California State Agency in Sacramento who has NEVER brought about a single dam removal is not a winning strategy.

The Yurok Tribe chose the KHSA because it is a winning strategy to get the dams off the Klamath River. Like Condit Dam, the Klamath Dams will be removed, and salmon, steelhead, and lamprey will once again have access to hundreds of miles of historic habitat that has been blocked for nearly a century.

But the Klamath River needs more than dam removal to heal itself. That's why the Yurok Tribe signed the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) along with the Dam Removal Agreement. The KBRA calls for large-scale fisheries restoration, improved water quality, and improved flow regimes. By guaranteeing that the farmers will divert less water from the river, the KBRA guarantees that more water will flow down the Klamath.

The increased flows and restoration activities called for in the KBRA are projected to result in more than an 85 percent increase of Klamath River salmon stocks. The removal of the hydroelectric dams will eliminate the toxic blue-green algae which poisons the river nearly every summer. It is also believed dam removal will bring about a more natural sediment regime which will disrupt the life cycle of fish disease pathogens that currently cause extremely high salmon mortalities in some years.

Currently, flows at Iron Gate Dam on the Klamath River are governed by the Bureau of Reclamation's project as it affects the needs of coho salmon. Traditional knowledge tells us that no single species can define the needs or health of the river, and yet the river is currently managed for coho only. Nothing prevents the Bureau of Reclamation changing their plan for managing flows in the Klamath River over and over again in coming years. Nothing prevents them from developing new "science" that proves that coho don't need as much water as has been required in the past. Simply put, relying upon coho protection flows is

not a smart long-term strategy for protecting the health of the Klamath, let alone restoring it. We believe that the long-term fate of Klamath River flows depends on controlling the demand for water. On the Trinity, for example, even through the Hoopa Valley Tribe has "protected and guaranteed" river flows for the Trinity, Central Valley interests continue to hammer away at that, and the threat of a water grab from the Trinity River has increased in recent years. We believe the KBRA which limits water withdrawals, is a smarter and more long-term strategy to protect and heal the river. The Yurok position on the Trinity River was and continues to be that the Trinity River dams should be removed. We encourage the Hoopa Tribe and others to support dam removal on the Trinity River.

Importantly, and despite the passionate assertions to the contrary, the KBRA does not terminate any water or other rights of any Tribes. For non-signatory Tribes, the KBRA specifically protects their rights. It states that: "Nothing in this Act or the Restoration Agreement amends, alters, or limits the authority of the federally recognized tribes of the Klamath Basin, other than the Party Tribes, to exercise any water rights the tribes hold or may be determined to hold." Furthermore, the KBRA itself does not terminate the Yurok Tribe's water rights; instead the Yurok Tribe agrees not to assert their right if the provisions of the KBRA are funded and being followed. If things fall apart, the Yurok Tribe's rights survive. This is much stronger than other Indian Water Rights settlements in the US.

Finally, many have argued that restoring the Klamath is too expensive. The Hoopa Valley Tribe has been advancing this argument forcefully. For example, last year the Hoopa Valley Tribe asserted: "We believe the hydro agreement can be funded," said Danny Jordan, self governance coordinator for the Hoopa Valley Tribe, referring to the KHSA. "However the KBRA has an enormous price tag. There's just no money to do this." It is difficult to understand why people would argue against asking for what is necessary to bring about the full restoration of the river. "Too expensive" or "too difficult" are not reasons to give up. The Tribe will never stop our efforts, and will always ask for what is necessary to restore the river. ✨

“IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE WOULD ARGUE AGAINST ASKING FOR WHAT IS NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT THE FULL RESTORATION OF THE RIVER.”

Trinity River flows ramp up in Spring

By **Tim Hayden** - *Senior Fisheries Biologist*

The Trinity Management Council (TMC) took the action on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, of approving the restoration release schedule for the remainder of Water Year 2012.

Peak Trinity River flow releases of 6000 cfs from Lewiston Dam will occur in early May, then ramp down to summer base flows through late July. Although peak flow releases are not expected to substantially increase river levels in the lower Klamath River in May, the Yurok Tribe recommends people use caution when swimming, fishing or boating in the lower Trinity River during periods of high river flows. The use of personal flotation devices is advised during river recreation activities this spring and summer.

The primary purpose of the hydrograph modifications is to facilitate riparian vegetation regeneration between Lewiston Dam and the confluence of the Trinity River and North Fork Trinity River. The Trinity River Restoration Program Flow Workgroup met on April 12 to discuss the merits of these changes to the hydrograph and unanimously recommended the final version to the TMC.

The Yurok Tribe is a partner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's, Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). The TRRP is a federal river restoration program authorized under the 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision to restore naturally produced populations of anadromous fishes for the benefit of tribal and public trust resources. The TRRP is an adaptive management science-based restoration program that uses a combination of flow management, mechanical river channel rehabilitation, fine and coarse sediment management, and watershed restoration actions to restore naturally produced salmon and steelhead populations.

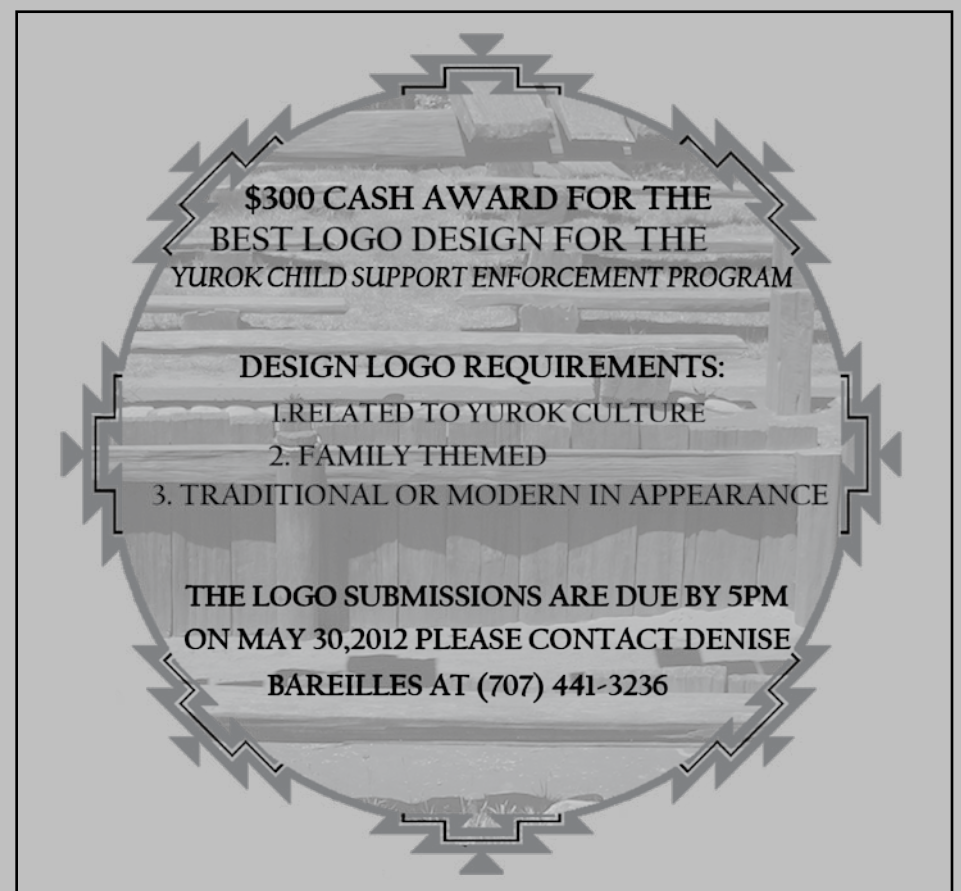
As a partner, the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program's, Trinity River Fisheries Division (TRFD) conducts a variety of biological monitoring and research activities in support of the TRRP, including; juvenile salmon outmigration monitoring, fall spawning surveys, fish habitat assessments, fry density assessments, and juvenile fish disease monitoring in support of the TRRP. In addition, the TRFD participates on several TRRP technical workgroups to advise and guide the TRRP

adaptive science based approach to river restoration. These workgroups include; the Interdisciplinary Design Team, Channel Design Team, Physical, Fish, and Flow.

The Flow Workgroup develops the annual Trinity River flow release schedule from Lewiston Reservoir for instream flows. Annual flow release volumes are determined on April 1 based on the total inflows volume to Trinity Reservoir from Oct 1 through April 1, and forecasted inflow volumes from April 1 through September 30 of each year.

The predicted annual inflow into Trinity reservoir as of the April 1, 2012 California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prediction is 1,025,000 acre feet (AF) at the 50% exceedance level. Per the 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision, that volume falls within the range of a "Normal" water year. The restoration release volume for a "Normal" water year is 647,000 AF.

Please contact Senior Yurok Fisheries Biologist, Tim Hayden at (707) 498-8258 if you have any questions regarding the 2012 Trinity River flow release schedule. ✧



Former Forestry head remains in jail

Del Norte Superior Court judges reduced the bail amount for three men suspected of allegedly embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Yurok Tribe.

The bail for Ron LeValley, Sean McAlister and Roland Raymond was originally set at \$1 million dollars each.

District Attorney Jon Alexander argued to keep Raymond and LeValley's bail at \$1 million. Alexander stated in court that LeValley has "friends in many ports all over the world" and is a flight risk. The District Attorney also argued that Raymond could not be counted on to return to court because he spent more than a month as a fugitive, but he was unsuccessful.

Two different Del Norte judges lowered the bail amount for LeValley, owner of Mad River Biologists and Raymond, the Tribe's former Forestry Director to \$150,000. McAlister, an associate at Mad River Biologists, got his bail reduced to \$50,000.

All three men are charged with burglary, embezzlement and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The two judges at the bail review hearings both said that \$1 million dollars was not commensurate with the charges. Investigators believe that Raymond and LeValley played leading roles in the alleged extensive embezzlement scheme.

While the case is now in state court, there is a chance that the case will be turned over to the federal government, according to the District Attorney's Office. The FBI is currently reviewing the results of the investigation as part of process that could end in federal prosecutors taking over the case.

On February 23, law enforcement officers from the District Attorney's Office, Yurok Public Safety and the Eureka Police Department served search warrants at Raymond's Eureka home and Mad River Biologists' headquarters also located in Eureka.

McAlister was arrested at Mad River Biologists. LeValley turned himself in later the same day. Raymond was nowhere to be found. On April 5, Raymond turned himself in at the Del Norte County Jail. Both LeValley and McAlister have posted bail. Raymond remained incarcerated as of the deadline for Yurok Today. Raymond is housed away from other inmates for his personal safety.

The three men are alleged to have executed an elaborate scheme using falsified invoices and purchase requests to steal \$870,000 from the Tribe over a three year period lasting from 2008 to 2010, according to court documents.

The majority of the money, around \$870,000, was deposited in Mad River Biologists' bank accounts, according to an affidavit justifying the search warrant. A portion of the money was transferred to LeValley's personal account, MRB Research Inc. and McAlister. LeValley allegedly wrote checks to Raymond totaling \$123,352, according to the court documents.

The purpose for the expenditures, stated on the falsified purchase requests submitted by Raymond, was that the money would be used to complete Endangered Species Act and other surveys on tribal land. The source of the money was Bureau of Indian Affairs, funding provided to the Tribe for forestry related activities.

Raymond, who worked for the Forestry Department from 1994 to 2011, held a position of trust and had authority to approve invoices for contract services. Raymond allegedly approved false invoices for surveys and other work that never took place, according to investigators.

Raymond, named "Director of the Year" in 2009, was also the head of the California Indian Forest and Fire Management Council where he is also suspected of allegedly stealing funds. According to court documents, investigators believe Raymond allegedly forged CIFFMC checks totaling \$35,475. ✨

Sign up for monitor training

The Yurok Tribe is holding a Cultural Monitor Training on **May 10, 11, and May 14, 15.**

The deadline to sign up is **May 7, 2012.**

The training will cover the following: **Federal and Tribal Cultural Laws, Monitor Safety, Artifact ID, Field Training, Map Reading and Comparative Osteology.**

For more information contact Rosie Clayburn at (707) 482-1350.

Update your TERO app

The Yurok Tribe's TERO Office would like to remind Tribal Members that Yurok Skills Bank forms must be updated every six months in order to stay active. Yurok contractors must also recertify every year to be eligible for Indian preference.

For more information contact **Ruby Grubbs** at **(707) 482-1350 ext. 1396** or by email at **ruby@yuroktribe.nsn.us**

2012 KLAMATH CLEAN UP



The Yurok Tribe's 11th Annual Klamath River Clean Up netted 40 yards of trash, 500 pounds of metal and 75 tires. Nearly 300 people participated in the event, which was organized by the Tribe's Environmental Program.

The Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods and a number of conscientious community members prepared the massive, mouthwatering lunch. The savory salmon barbecue pit was headed by Yurok Councilman Jack Mattz, who was aided by Sam Gensaw II and his son Sam Gensaw III.

The head cooks not only prepared delish fish, but passed on their knowledge to the young students from KRECR.

One young man in particular worked extra hard and listened attentively to the seasoned fish cooks.

"Zechariah Gable really went the extra mile. He's a quick learner and takes pride in his work," concluded Councilman Mattz. ✨



1. (right) Eldon Kinney removes an old boat from near the Klamath Glen.

2. An old sink flies into one the Environmental Program's dumpsters.

3. More than 300 people of all ages participated in the Clean Up.

4. Gary "Bear" Markussen cleans up the Klamath.

5. (left) Donnie Green and members of T.A.G. participate in the Clean Up.

6. Alicia Bates and her daughter Aleaha Aguilar walk to the south spit to clean up the beach.

Q and A with Forrest Gregg an Inventory Bookkeeper with the Yurok Tribe's Fiscal Department and Employee of the Month.



- 1. What is your title?** Inventory/Equipment Bookkeeper
- 2. How long have you been working for the Tribe?** I have been working for the Yurok Tribe since 02/23/2009.
- 3. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?** I decided to come to work for the Yurok Tribe because I could see the impact the Tribe's work has on the community and wanted to help out in any way to further improve our community. The Yurok Tribe does so much for our community and it is my pleasure to be a part of this organization.
- 4. What does your job entail?** My job entails a variety of obligations: I work with the Yurok Tribe's Insurance Company to get all equipment insured, all eligible drivers on Yurok Tribe's Insurance Policy, and I file all insurance claims. I coordinate with General Services Administration to maintain, procure, and assign vehicles to various departments within the Yurok Tribe. I work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to obtain I-Plates for

the Tribe's equipment and do an annual inventory with a BIA representative. I manage and track the Yurok Tribe's fleet of vehicles and maintain the data in a Microsoft Access Database. I conduct an annual inventory of all equipment which is in the Yurok Tribe's possession. I reconcile all of the Yurok Tribe's Assets which includes additions, disposals, and depreciation to match the General Ledger each fiscal year. I reconcile all travel for the Yurok Tribe when an employee has returned from traveling for the Tribe. I assist in the drop once a week at Pem-Mey Casino as a representative for the Fiscal Department. I have assisted the Salmon Festival Coordinator each year.

- 5. What is the most satisfying part of your job?** The most satisfying part of my job is working with such a great staff to accomplish our overall goals for the Yurok Tribe and its Tribal Members.
- 6. How does your position serve the tribal membership?** By implementing programs and projects that improve community resources on the Yurok Reservation.
- 7. What do you do outside of work?** I do many things outside of work, some of my favorite hobbies include: Fishing, golf, poker, cooking, and spending time with my family and friends.
- 8. What are your plans for the future?** My plans for the future are to keep working for the Yurok Tribe and assist in making this organization the best it can be. I plan to finish up my education and go back to Humboldt State University to get my degree in Environmental Resource Engineering while still working for the Yurok Tribe. ✨

POSTER CONTEST

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation is holding a contest to come up with a name for its signature, future, fish products. The name must be commercially viable as it is directly connected to the sustainability of the economic development venture. In other words, it needs to be something that will easily come up in a Google search. The YEDC is offering \$100 for the winning name. Submissions can be emailed to tsangrey@yuroktribe.nsn.us or mailed to 144 Klamath Blvd, Klamath, Ca 95548.

HELP WANTED

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation is looking to hire a host for Cat's RV Park. The position starts on June 1 and ends on October 31. Salary is negotiable. Those interested can pick up an application at the YEDC Office located at 144 Klamath Blvd. For additional information contact YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey at (707) 482 - 0657.

Tribe working hard to reacquire sacred land

The Yurok Tribe continues to work hard on the reacquisition of a culturally significant section of National Park land located within the Reservation boundaries, a process predicted at the outset to be difficult and lengthy.

The Yurok Tribe is holding three public meetings this month to share details of the potential legislation that could result in the public land transfer of former tribal land. The meetings will be held on May 7 at the Humboldt Area Foundation at 373 Indianola Rd. in Bayside, CA. and on May 9 at the Yurok Tribal Office, located at 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, Ca 95531.

May 7, 2012 3-5 pm @ Humboldt Area Foundation

May 7, 2012 5:30-7:30 pm @ Humboldt Area Foundation

May 9, 2012 4- 6 pm @ Yurok tribal office Klamath

The 1,200 acre parcel, currently managed by Redwood National Park, is located north and south on the coast from the Requa Overlook to the Flint Ridge trail. There are parcels of fee land near the northern and southern end of the property, which are not part of the draft legislation. The Tribe solely seeks to transfer the Park lands.

A Brush Dance takes place on the southwest corner of the acreage, which the Tribe has to get a permit to hold every summer. There are also a great number of Yurok burial sites, and an untold number of Yurok artifacts, which have been illegally removed over the years by looters.

According to the Redwood National and State Park management plan, it is the charter of the park to keep the land in the same condition it was 150 years ago when the Yurok Tribe was managing it. When Europeans first viewed the majestic redwoods they did not know that what they saw was a product of Yurok wisdom and labor.

The breath-taking setting of the old growth redwood looks that way because Yurok people, using traditional methods of forest management, made it that way. The land transfer would open up the door for future generations of tribal members to practice and pass on those same Yurok management skills in an old-growth redwood forest, keeping the tract in top condition.

The legislative proposal makes clear that the Yurok Tribe will continue to manage these lands in a manner that is compatible with existing Redwood National Park management plans. There will be no commercial timber harvests and the Tribe will take over the maintenance of the existing infrastructure located within

these lands. The lands will remain open to the public.

Owning the land would also create a new avenue for the Tribe to educate the public about Yurok culture, heritage and the Tribe's environmental objectives as they relate to Park lands, which will only enhance the experiences had by park visitors. For example, there is no information on the role of the Klamath estuary in the life cycle of the river's most celebrated fish, chinook salmon. The Tribe, which has the largest team of fisheries biologists on the giant river, is in favor of setting up kiosks or other types of media to provide that kind of useful and interesting information.

The public will have the same access they have now if the Tribe is successful. The only difference is that park visitors would be greeted by Yurok interpreters who have 10,000 years of education about ancient redwood forests. There is no one better to tell that story.

Through the same legislation, the Tribe is pursuing the transfer of 1,400 acres of Six Rivers National Forest land adjacent to California Highway 101. The stretch of the U.S. Forest Service land is known as the Yurok Experimental Forest.

The Tribe also aims to include Redding Rock, a culturally significant sea stack off Patrick's Point in the legislation. Currently, the five-acre oceanic rock slab is under control of the Bureau of Land Management. However, the Yurok Tribe has an agreement with BLM that gives it a stewardship and management role.

Submit artwork for the 50th Annual Salmon Festival poster contest

The poster contest for the Yurok Tribe's 50th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival begins May 10, 2012.

The artwork should symbolize the relationship between a young person or people and elders and how that connection continues to move the Yurok Tribe forward in a healthy way.

The deadline for entries is June 15, 2012. It is preferred that all artwork is submitted on a CD as a high resolution file. If that is not possible, the Tribe will work with artists to turn his or her submission into the type of document required.

The winner of the poster contest will win \$200 and his or her artwork will be displayed on a t-shirt commemorating the salmon celebration. The winning art will become the property of the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe's 50th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2012. For more information, contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 ext.1306.



Public invited to Wellness Court meeting

The Yurok Wellness Court is holding a “Community Honoring and Informational Gathering” on May 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Yurok Administration Office in Klamath, CA.

“We are inviting all who are interested in attending,” said Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti. “It will be a great opportunity to understand more about the Yurok Wellness Court and why we offer these services.”

The Yurok Wellness Court is designed to provide a path to healing for Yurok individuals who are involved in the judicial system due to substance abuse. Representatives from the Wellness Court, including Chief Judge Abinanti, will be making presentations at the meeting, which will offer attendees an in-depth view of how the Tribe’s Wellness Court and judicial system currently functions.

The Yurok Wellness Court is founded on the traditional moral principle of restorative justice as opposed to punitive justice that is sometimes conflicting with Yurok values. The overall goal of restorative justice is to offer tribal members in crisis the means to rehabilitate and reengage in a positive fashion within their community. Alcohol and drug dependence are typically symptoms of bigger problems, relating to traumatic incidents such as, trauma, child abuse, domestic violence or intergenerational trauma.

One of the main functions of the Wellness Court is to assist tribal members in navigating negative experiences, in a positive and healthy way through the Yurok Wellness Program. The one-year program takes a holistic approach to helping tribal members heal from the root problem and associated alcohol and drug abuse. The Wellness Program provides a multidisciplinary team approach to case staffing, ongoing judicial interaction, random and frequent drug testing, cultural intervention practices, appropriate sanctions and incentives, and a standardized regimen of substance abuse treatment and recovery supportive services. These services are anchored in the authority and encouragement of the Yurok Tribal Judge who holds the participants personally accountable in a culturally responsive and respectful manner.

Yurok Tribal Members who have completed the Wellness Court Program will be giving testimonials about their personal experiences overcoming their crisis situations at the gathering. The graduates of the program will receive well-deserved


recognition for overcoming their particular obstacles and making a commitment to be an active positive community member.

Community members are also encouraged to participate in providing their thoughts of the Wellness Program and will have an opportunity to learn about the Court’s criminal system.

The “criminal” branch of the justice system is comprised of the tribal judge, staff attorney, case manager, advocate, and probation officer, to assist both the victims and the perpetrators. Unlike a punitive justice system, the Wellness Court’s criminal department is rooted in the Yurok value of restorative justice, demanding that offenders pay their debt directly to the community and to those that have been perpetrated against, instead of solely using the ineffective act of imprisonment. For example, if one person steals from another, the court will help both parties agree on how the offender will pay their debt to society or “settle up”. Once the offender pays retribution, which could come in the form of labor, legal tender, recovery or an alternative means, the issue is over, balance is restored, according to Yurok values.

The Wellness Court’s family/civil branch deals with legal issues that occur among family members or between unrelated people. The family/civil arm of the Court seeks to help people settle and or mediate disputes between unrelated people and families, and provides the legal framework for divorce and addressing justice for children. The aim of the Court is not to solve people’s problems. The professional staff’s role is to offer the tools needed for people to come up with their own solutions. A self-help attorney is also available to aid people in sorting out and providing the proper paperwork for their case.

During the “Community Honoring and Informational Gathering”, the Wellness Court will be seeking input from the community and facilitating a discussion about how the Court can better serve the community. All participants will be asked two questions. The first question: How can the Wellness Court better serve you, your family and your community? The second: How can you, as a tribal member, become more accountable to yourself, your family and your community? Participants will write their answers on a sticky note, which will be placed on a large board in a prominent location. Each contributor’s concerns will be addressed in a “Just Us Circle” as part of an effort to better serve the tribal membership. There will be a suggestion box for those who do not favor speaking in large groups or who



want to remain anonymous.

To break up the seriousness of the event, the Wellness Court has planned a surprise guest guaranteed to lighten the mood and entertain attendees.

The “Community Honoring and Informational Gathering” is a potluck and the event’s organizers ask that people who wish to bring an item such as, a main dish, salad, fruit, a vegetable dish, drinks or a dessert to call Court Advocate, Lori Nesbitt. She can be reached at (707) 482-1350. ✨

2012 YUROK TRIBE ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR THE:

CHAIRPERSON
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ORICK DISTRICT

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ELECTION AS A REPRESENTATIVE (MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR AND 25 YEARS OLD FOR A DISTRICT SEAT) ON THE YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL.

YOU MAY PICK UP NOMINATION PAPERS BEGINNING JUNE 18, 2012 AT THE YUROK TRIBAL OFFICE IN KLAMATH. THERE IS A \$25 FILING FEE WHEN YOU PICK UP THE NOMINATION FORMS.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES JULY 20, 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT AT (707) 482-1350.

Grants available for home rehab projects in some areas

The Yurok Tribe is requesting applications from Yurok Tribal members living in the Yurok Tribe’s Pecwan, Weitchpec and East Districts to receive a limited amount of individual housing rehabilitation assistance for items such as replacement of windows, doors, roofs, weather stripping or other items that increase the housing envelope from outside elements, such as fire and smoke. The Yurok Tribe has been funded to provide 75 grants of approximately \$5,000 per household. The purpose of the awards is to assist tribal members with improved protection of homes against fire and smoke related damage in reservation communities that were impacted by 2008 Wildfires. Background: As a result of the 2008 Wildfires, the Yurok Tribe applied for and received a Disaster Recovery Initiative award from the State HUD Office for Community Development Block Grants. These funds were awarded to the Yurok Tribe to assist Yurok Tribal Members in the impacted areas to better prepare the residences in fire prone areas.

The program will continue until funds are exhausted or January 2014. Eligible applicants must be low-to-moderate income, as determined by current HUD Guidelines and be enrolled tribal members. Priority will be given to tribal members who are: 1) Lowest Income; 2) Elderly Tribal Members; 3) Disabled Tribal Members; 4) Highest Number of Dependents. If you are interested in an application for assistance with the application, please contact Samantha Myers, in the Yurok Planning & Community Development Department at (707) 482-1350. ✨

2012 Election Schedule

OCTOBER 10, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION

NOVEMBER 7, 2012 RUNOFF ELECTION

JUNE 18 (8:30AM) FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE

JULY 11 (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 (54 DAYS)

AUGUST 15 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 14

MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 20 (5 DAYS)

LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)

OCTOBER 3

LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS) PRIMARY ELECTION

OCTOBER 10, 2012

OCTOBER 19

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)

OCTOBER 31

DAYS)

LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

RUNOFF ELECTION

Ranger talks about patrols on Bald Hills

Illicit drug trade is a major threat to cultural and natural resources

By Marshall Neeck ~ NPS Chief Ranger

Beginning this month, NPS will again be conducting vehicle stops along the Bald Hills Road in order to discourage illegal drug activities from occurring within and near Redwood National and State Parks. While, marijuana cultivation has been prevalent on public lands for decades, the past several years have seen a dramatic increase in this illegal activity, especially by major drug trafficking organizations who are often involved in marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other dangerous drugs as well as money laundering, alien smuggling, identity theft, fraud, and other crimes. I have been a Park Ranger since 1986, and in that time have yet to see a greater threat to public lands and the people that reside near them.

Those who engage in these illegal activities often find our public lands easy targets. They bring in fertilizers, pesticides, and other poisons that pollute our streams and kill our wildlife. They cut down acres of trees, dig water ditches, and excavate vast amounts of soil for garbage pits and furrows without regard for impacts to culturally sensitive locations and other natural resources. These scars on the land and the criminals who create them pose particular threats to Yurok people, as well as park visitors and staff who may unexpectedly encounter them while out in the Park. These illegal operators carry guns, have ties to organized crime, provide drugs to our youth, and engage in other crimes that are destroying our society. In short, they are bad people that are doing bad things that affect all of us. Regretfully, our efforts to intercept and/or discourage such criminal elements before they become established on park lands often impacts others who use Bald Hills Road including Yurok Tribal members. Therefore I would like to provide some insight on why NPS rangers do what they do, and to respond to some particular concerns that Tribal members and Council members have raised.

Why Bald Hills Road?

In 2008 illegal marijuana cultivation sites were found within Redwood National and State Parks including a 5-acre site adjacent to the Bald Hills Road that contained nearly 10,000 plants. In 2009 rangers discovered evidence of additional illegal cultivation. One site had significant resource damage and contained over 5,000 plants. Another active site was discovered in 2010, as well as an additional abandoned site. Due to this activity, the NPS obtained funding in 2009 to help address these threats. We have since hired additional staff and engaged in a proactive program to address this problem.

Beginning April 2010, two NPS Rangers were assigned to patrol the Bald Hills Road. Their primary mission was to prevent the initial establishment of marijuana cultivation sites within the park. In that

year, rangers conducted 140 vehicle stops, 60% of which involved some type of illegal drug activity. Some of these were simple possession cases. Others involved more serious and complex illegal activities including cultivation, illegal firearms, and the involvement of Mexican drug cartels with one well known Mexican cartel member arrested and deported. Rangers repeated this style of operation in 2011, conducting 80 vehicle stops with 20% of those stops involving illegal drug activity. These stops also revealed evidence of Mexican cartel influences and involved the confiscation of drugs, weapons, cash, and a shipment of assault rifles.

The Bald Hills has clearly become a popular place for illegal marijuana and other drug related activities. Local intelligence has indicated this area as a likely target for past, present and future cultivation efforts. The Humboldt County Sheriff recently discovered 3,000 plants and 146 pounds of processed marijuana in a house just off the Bald Hills Road. Rangers are focused on stopping illegal drug activity in an area where it is known to occur. Because the Bald Hills Road is a major transportation artery for Yurok Tribal members, it is inevitable that some Tribal members will be stopped.

These efforts, while stringent, appear to be working. The incidence of illegal drug activity associated with car stops has significantly decreased. In 2011 no new cultivation sites were discovered, and there was no evidence of reoccupation of any old sites.

How do Rangers decide who to pull over?

Rangers engaged in road patrol activities on Bald Hills Road often make stops based on observation of simple infractions of the California Vehicle Code. Such infractions include but are not limited to tail light out, license plate light out, cracked windshield, outdated registration, and speeding. Vehicle stops based on such infractions often lead to the discovery of more serious violations including those associated with illegal drugs and firearms as mentioned earlier. This is a legitimate, legal and widely used law enforcement technique practiced with frequency throughout the country. Many departments use this technique to focus on drunk driving problems over holiday weekends or in specific locations. We use it to focus on an illegal drug problem. For those who are not involved in any illegal activity other than a minor traffic infraction, it is easy to perceive this type of contact as extreme or unnecessary. However, when such a high percentage of cars stopped have revealed illegal drug activities, we feel it is a necessary and justified practice.

"I got stopped for speeding, and was not going that fast"

The Bald Hills Road is classified as an "Undivided Two-Lane Highway"

and does not have a posted speed limit. Thus under California Vehicle Code §22349 the speed limit on the Bald Hills Road is 55 mph. However, this is the maximum limit. California Vehicle Code §22350 states that it is illegal to “Drive on a highway faster than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, traffic on, and surface and width of the highway, and in no event at a speed that endangers the safety of persons or property.” In light of the varied road and weather conditions, there are few times and places along Bald Hills Road where traveling 55 mph is legal, let alone safe. Law Enforcement Officers use their best judgment in these situations, with the ultimate goal of protecting life and safety.

“Rangers are intimidating and aggressive”

Every Ranger I know has a friend or colleague who has been killed or injured while conducting a traffic stop. It is risky business and sadly, there are some bad people out there who would not hesitate to harm a law enforcement officer. In a vehicle stop, the first few seconds of contact are the most dangerous and unpredictable for a law enforcement officer. On Bald Hills Road our primary target for such stops is people engaged in illegal drug activities who often have a history of violent, sometimes deadly confrontations. Our Rangers do not know who they are pulling over until that initial contact is made, therefore they must approach every stop as a potentially violent or deadly situation.

Rangers are trained for the scenarios that exist along Bald Hills Road to present a high profile stance from the very beginning of a contact. They will regularly approach vehicles with enhanced exterior body armor and rifles slung on front. They will use a commanding tone of voice and aggressively maintain control over a situation. These tactics are designed to send a message to would be attackers that violence is untenable. These are regularly practiced law enforcement techniques used to prevent situations from escalating to violence. Such tactics are designed to keep both law enforcement officers as well as the people they contact safe. For those reasons, when a Ranger makes a car stop, even law abiding people with no intent to harm are often subjected to these intimidating techniques until it can be determined that things are safe. Full cooperation with the officer’s instructions help assure the situation is safe and the level of forcefulness can be reduced.

“Rangers are not culturally sensitive to Yurok people”

The National Park Service expects their law enforcement staff to always conduct themselves in a professional manner. Every law enforcement ranger goes through intensive training to earn their commission including about 12 months of initial training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and a field training assignment. They also receive dozens of hours of training each year that include annual ethics certification. Supervisors and managers expect the use of diplomacy and education over force whenever possible. The entire Redwood National Park Law Enforcement staff recently attended a training put on by the Yurok Tribe’s Cultural staff and Tribal Police that addressed issues of racial profiling and cultural awareness. As

an outcome of that training we are pursuing additional educational opportunities for our staff. We also frequently consult with Yurok Tribal Police and look to them for guidance in sensitive matters. We will continue to attend tribal meetings and work to resolve differences and misunderstandings.

How do I make the Ranger understand that I and my other passengers are not a threat?

Rangers evaluate every situation for safety. Behaviors such as being loudly argumentative, not following instructions, disobeying commands, being disrespectful, and/or using threatening language are indications to an officer that violent behavior is likely. The following actions are good practices to follow for anyone who happens to be stopped by a law enforcement officer, especially along the Bald Hills Road.

- Follow the officer’s instructions.
- Keep hands visible at all times. Hands are of particular concern to officers. When an officer asks to see your hands, they are making sure they don’t contain a weapon that could do them harm. If you have to reach into a pocket or some other compartment, ask the officer first. He/she doesn’t know if your glove box contains your vehicle registration or a gun.
- Avoid making sudden movements. If you do have a gun, knife, or other weapon in the car, let the officer know immediately.
- Answer questions honestly and calmly. Officers are trained to recognize deception and when this happens, it raises their suspicion about other statements such as whether weapons or drugs are present.
- Let officers know if you have an item or container that holds religious items that you don’t want the officer to touch. We want to respect customs, beliefs and cultures. If it is not a safety concern, we will do our best to honor your requests.
- Refrain from using profanity or yelling at the officer or accusing them of inappropriate behavior. It is o.k. to ask questions of the officer, but the roadside is not the place for debate. If you do have issues with the actions of a Ranger, please feel free to contact me.

If you should observe suspicious activity along the Bald Hills Road or at other location within the Park, please report it using our new Marijuana Tip Line: 707-465-7353. Information regarding illegal activity may be left anonymously. If you have other questions regarding resource protection or law enforcement, please contact me at the address or number listed below.

**Marshall Neeck, Chief Ranger,
Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531
Phone: 707-465-7302 ✉**



Yurok Tribe

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

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2012 Yurok Tribe

10TH ANNUAL SALMON RUN MAY 25, 2012

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
AND BLESSING
KLAMATH TRIBAL OFFICE CC
7-8AM

SIGN-UP OR VOLUNTEER
CALL (707) 954-1350 EXT 1365
ASK FOR JOSH
FACEBOOK- SALMON RUN 2012: KLAMATH
SHUTTLES FROM TRIBAL OFFICE

TEN-MILE RELAY
WALK OR RUN



TWO-MILE LEGS
GO YOUR PACE

WELH-KWEW



CHO' CHPO
HEY-WU-CHEM'

HO TUE-REP

