



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Hundreds of students attend Career Fair

Yurok Education Dept. puts on three on college and career-readiness events

See story on page 3





MARCH 2019 PUBLIC NOTICES



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

Court Case Number: CV19-008
Case Type: FAMILY CODE

In re: STEVEN RAY ABINANTI
(Write current name of person's to be changed)

DECLARATION of Publication of Petition for Change of Name

NOTICE: This DECLARATION must be filed at least FIVE (5) COURT DAYS prior to the hearing scheduled for your Petition for Change of Name.

Write Your Hearing Date: April 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

- I, Matt Mais, declare that I have caused ~~two~~ ^{one} NOTICES of PETITION for Change of Name in this matter to be published in ~~two~~ ^{one} consecutive issues of the Yurok Tribe Newsletter.
- I have ATTACHED an original clipping of the published notice to this signed Declaration of Publication or Notice of Petition for Change of Name.

Under penalty of perjury, I declare and affirm that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and ability.

DATE: _____
Signature of Declarant
Matt Mais
Print Name
mmais@yuroktribe.rsn.us
Email Address
(707) 482-1350
Telephone Number

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

Court Case Number: FL 19-009
Case Type: Family Code

FILED
YUROK TRIBAL COURT
MAR 08 2019
BY WES
YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION

Maria Viola Robbins
Petitioner of (name of petitioner or petitioners)

In Re: PRESLEY JOVAN HARMON

ORDER to Change Name

- The petition was duly considered:
At the hearing held on (date): March 8, 2019

THE COURT FINDS

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

3. The name of
Present name to Proposed name
Presley Jovan Harmon to PRESLEY JOVAN ROBBINS
(First, Middle, Last) (First, Middle, Last)

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

It is so ORDERED

DATE: 3/8/2019

Judge
Ally Johnson

Court Rev. 3-2014

YTNC-110

Page 1 of 1

NOTICE OF PETITION TO PROBATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Shaun Redhat has filed a case CV19-007, at the Yurok Tribal Court to administer the Estate of (E:wak) Levi Robert D. Franklin-Donahue. The hearing will be held at The Yurok Justice Center 230 Klamath Blvd, Klamath, CA 95548 on July 11th, 2019 at 11:00a.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person having objection to the initiation of probate as aforesaid shall file written objection with the above-entitled Court within ten (10) days before the hearing date stated above.

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

Court Case Number: FL19-005
Case Type: Family Code

FILED
YUROK TRIBAL COURT
FEB 08 2019
BY WES
YUROK INDIAN RESERVATION

ORDER to Change Name

Stacy Lee Charles Sr.
Petitioner of (name of petitioner or petitioners)

In Re: Gregory Noel Eugene Smith

- The petition was duly considered:
At the hearing held on (date): 2/8/2019

THE COURT FINDS

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

3. The name of
Present name to Proposed name
Gregory Noel Eugene Smith to Gregory Noel Lee Charles
(First, Middle, Last) (First, Middle, Last)

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

It is so ORDERED

DATE: 2/8/2019

Judge
Ally Johnson

Neesee too'ix hey-wa-shok
"Together We Heal"

Every Life is Sacred

**4th Annual
Suicide Awareness Walk**

Sunday June 2 2019 10 am

Registration is from 9:00-10:00am
Libby Nix Community Center Hwy 96, Weitchpec.
Walk begins at 10, with a reception to follow at the
Libby Nix Community Room.
Shuttle available
Together We Heal

LANGUAGE IS MEDICINE
BENEFITS OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE LEARNING

- ACADEMICS**
When language and culture are an integral part of native children's education, there is an improvement in standardized test scores, high school & college graduation rates, and attendance rates.
- MENTAL HEALTH**
Indigenous language and culture are shown to increase the quality of life, self-esteem, and self-efficacy of native people; especially youth. It is also proven through research to decrease the rates of youth suicide, domestic violence, and levels of anxiety.
- PHYSICAL HEALTH**
Studies are now starting to reveal that language and culture have a positive influence on native communities' health. The findings show language and culture lower rates of drug & alcohol abuse, cigarette smoking, and diabetes.
- LEARNING**
There are many cognitive benefits that improve with language and cultural retention among all generations. There is increased cognitive function, ability to focus, innovative problem solving abilities, and staved off age related intellectual decline.

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On The Cover

Rachel and Andrea Peters participated in the Yurok Education Department's American Indian Career Fair.

American Indian Career Pathways Fair

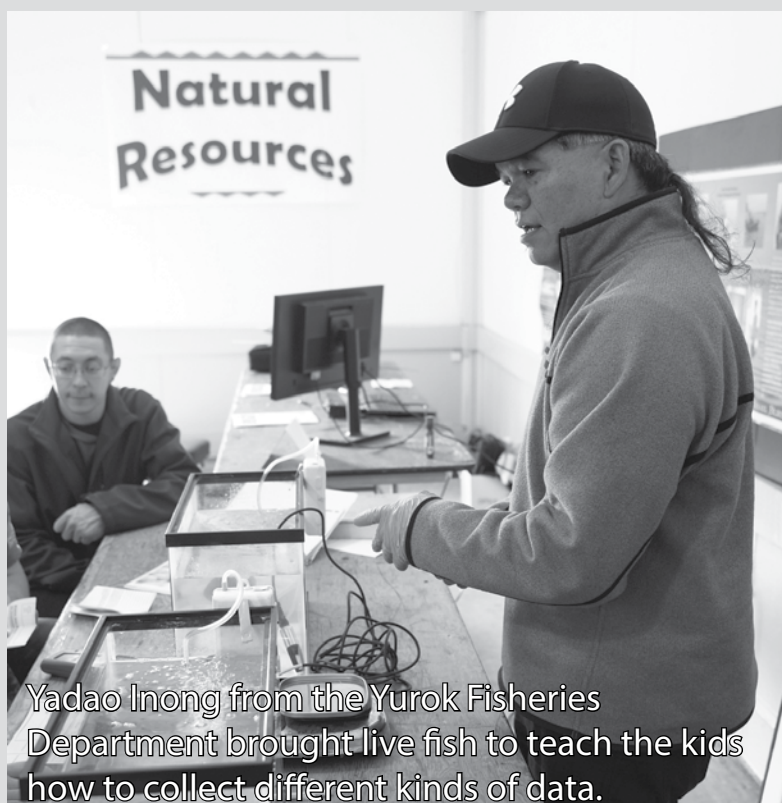
More than a hundred Yurok, Tolowa Dee-ne' Nation, Elk Valley and Resighini Rancheria students participate in the Yurok Education Dept's college and career readiness event

Here are photos from the Yurok Education Department's first American Indian Career Pathways Fair at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds. Approximately 150 students were in attendance. The career fair is part of the Redwood Coast Indian Career Pathways Program's work to ensure that all Native youth become career and college-ready. The collaborative program's primary partners include: Yurok Tribe, Tolowa Dee-ne' Nation, Resighini Rancheria, Del Norte Unified School District and College of the Redwoods. Many Tribal departments and organizations, as well as Tribal business owners and local agencies took part in educational event for Native American students in grades 6-12. The Yurok Tribe would like to thank all of the organizations that participated in the successful Career Pathways Fair. The Yurok Education Department is putting on Career Fairs in Hoopa at the Mattz Gymnasium on April 5 and at the Redwood Acres Fairgrounds in Eureka on April 12.

Yurok biologist Tiana Williams-Claussen informed the students about careers related to wildlife biology.



Yurok Tribe Environmental Program biologist Kori Ellien displayed dozens of insects that inhabit the Klamath River and indicate ecosystem health.



Yadao Inong from the Yurok Fisheries Department brought live fish to teach the kids how to collect different kinds of data.



Leanne Knutson, a biologist for the Yurok Fisheries Department, taught students about occupations in fisheries management.

Yurok Chairman invited to special event

Chairman advocates for base funding hike, dollars for the Klamath, climate change

Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James delivered testimony to a House Subcommittee on how the Yurok Tribe can work with Congress to address climate change threats to the Yurok people and the Klamath River Basin.

“The Yurok Tribe is grateful for this opportunity to provide testimony about ways that we can partner with the federal government to prepare for and adapt to climate change,” Chairman James said. “We have always been a proud and resilient people, and we informed the committee about how we can continue with that tradition as we face new challenges such as climate change.”

Chairman James’ testified before the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. A video of his testimony can be viewed by copy and pasting the following link into your web browser: <https://youtu.be/BzEb2IGydjg> It begins at 1:43:00.

Although addressing climate change itself will require global commitments, the Tribe’s testimony focuses on how the Yurok Tribe is building its capacity to address impacts that are already happening. The Yurok Tribe will testify that preparation and adaptations to climate change effects is more cost-effective than responding after catastrophes strike. In addition, the Tribe’s resiliency-centered approach to managing the lands of the lower Klamath aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, as well as improve water quality and fish habitat.

“For us, climate change is no longer discussed as something that will happen in the future, it is happening now. Many of the predicted effects of climate change including floods, droughts, extreme fire behavior, and increased stress to aquatic life, are already happening,” according to Chairman James’ oral testimony.

The Klamath River’s Chinook salmon, the Yurok Tribe’s most valued resource, are already struggling because of the effects of climate change. In the past three years, the Tribe has cancelled its annual commercial fishery and even closed its subsistence fishery for the first time in history in 2017 because of record low salmon runs. Climate change is only expected to increase the stress on this and other species important not only to the Tribe, but to the regional economy.

“When fish runs are too low to support fishing, impacts to our community and associated way of life are substantial,” Chairman



Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James also advocated for additional funding to traditional burning and emergency response.

James said. “Fishing remains an important part of our sustenance and economy. The Yurok Tribe supports large-scale water quality and habitat improvement projects throughout the Klamath Basin.”

The Yurok Tribe is seeking to expand efforts already underway to minimize the effects of climate change, including regional water quality improvement projects, fisheries restoration and forest revitalization. To build resiliency, the Tribe is restoring old-growth forest systems in the Lower Klamath watershed, which also benefits of salmon and native wildlife. Chairman James will inform the House Subcommittee about an urgent need for funding to bolster the Tribe’s ability to perform fisheries and water quality restoration work throughout the basin.

Emergency Response

In addition to the risks to the Klamath Basin’s natural resources, emergency response will be another primary element of the Chairman’s testimony. More frequent weather extremes are already becoming apparent, whether they are floods, such as recently occurred, or fire, which has increased in frequency and severity in the past two decades. Because of this, the region’s transportation and emergency response infrastructure is coming under increasing strain. For example, last week, the Tribe issued a state of emergency declaration after a particularly powerful rain event caused landslides, the failure of multiple Tribal community water systems and extensive road damage on the reservation.

“The role of the Yurok Tribal Government is to protect our people and resources, which means we must be prepared to respond to all of these crises. We seek funding to proactively prepare for climate change instead of reacting after catastrophe strikes. In the event of disaster, we need the resources and infrastructure in place to protect our members,” Chairman James said. “It’s a wise investment to prepare instead of react to these challenges.”

This was the second time in two weeks that Chairman James

has testified before members of Congress and the third time a Tribal representative has been invited to speak before federal lawmakers this year. On February 27, Chairman James educated the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs about the Tribe’s effort to reintroduce the imperiled California condor in the Pacific Northwest. In September Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti accepted a request to brief the committee on how the federal government can aid tribes in improving outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.✪

Yurok Chairman speaks before Congress

Senate Committee praises Tribe-led effort to return condors to Pacific Northwest

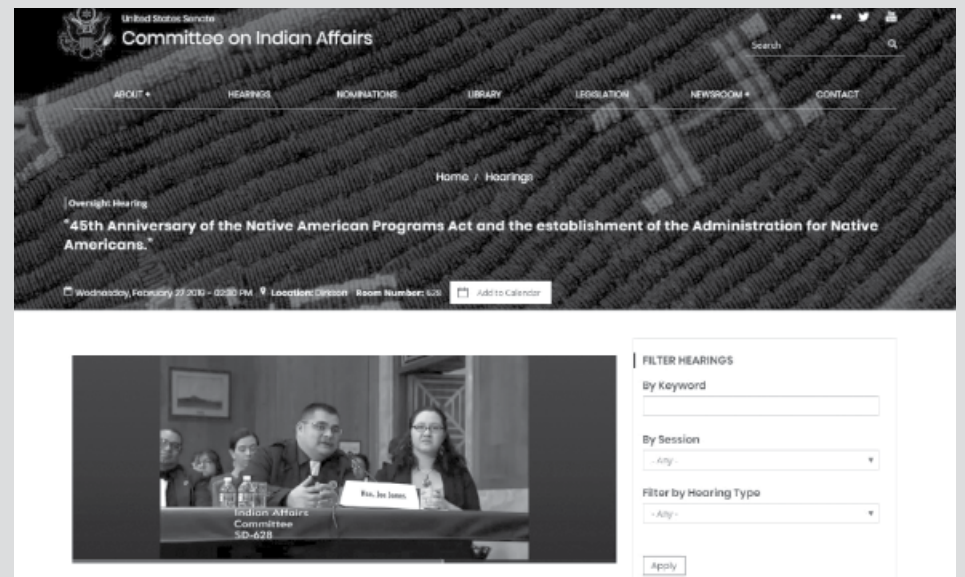
Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James was called to inform the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs about the Yurok Tribe-led effort to reintroduce the imperiled California condor in the Pacific Northwest.

The Senate Committee invited Chairman James to speak at its special event to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the landmark Native American Program’s Act, the legislation that authorized the Administration for Native Americans. In case you missed it, a recording of the Chairman’s testimony can be viewed by copy and pasting the following link into your web browser: <https://bit.ly/2H5axr0> Chairman James testimony begins at 47:25:00

“I would like to thank the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for the opportunity to participate in this momentous event,” Chairman James said. “I think the committee members will be pleased to hear about the great progress we’ve made toward the reintroduction of prey-go-neesh (condor) to Yurok Country, with support from the Administration for Native Americans.”

The Native American Program’s Act, passed in 1974, is responsible for creating the Administration for Native Americans. The program seeks to promote self-sufficiency among the federally recognized tribes in the United States and has contributed to the Yurok Condor Reintroduction Initiative.


Since 2008, the Yurok Tribe has been laying the groundwork to reestablish the critically endangered condor in the Pacific Northwest, the latitudinal center of the bird’s historic range. The Yurok Condor Reintroduction Initiative represents the first bid to return this ecologically and culturally invaluable species to its former home in Northern California and Southern Oregon, where the majestic birds have been absent for more than a century.



Yurok Chairman Joseph L. James and Wildlife Program biologist Tiana Williams-Clausen educated the Senate Committee on Indian affairs about the Yurok-led effort to reintroduce the California condor in the Pacific Northwest.

While a date has not yet been set, the Tribe expects to release birds in the near future at a site within Yurok ancestral territory, on a property owned by Redwood National Park, a primary partner in this undertaking. The Tribe elected to pursue this endeavor because the condor is inextricably linked to and an irreplaceable part of sacred ceremonial practices.

According to Chairman James’ testimony: “Prey-go-neesh was one of the first people of the world, and one of the most powerful beings in Yurok cosmology. He is a sacred spirit, a scavenger who never partakes of killing or violence. Instead he takes directly and transforms it back into life, the purest form of renewal. This, combined with his ability to fly the highest, equipped him



as the messenger to carry Yurok prayers to the heavens to be received by the creator. As such, he figures prominently in the Yurok concept of world renewal, the Yurok reason for being, and is integral to our world renewal ceremonies, our highest ceremonies.”

Tiana Williams, one of the Yurok Wildlife Program’s lead biologists, accompanied Chairman James at the Senate hearing. Williams, a Yurok citizen and Harvard University-trained scientist, answered technical questions from the committee.

The main collaborators in the Tribe’s Condor Initiative include: Redwood National Park, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish and Wildlife Service, Sequoia Park Zoo, Oregon Zoo and LA Zoo.

This is the third time in less than year that a Yurok representative has been called to provide testimony to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. In September of 2018, Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti briefed the committee on how the federal government could better assist tribes in improving outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system

The Administration for Native Americans has funded much of the Yurok Tribe’s condor reintroduction work as well as other important Tribal endeavors. The federal program is one of the most crucial in all of Indian Country. ✪

Tribe, partners prepare for CA condors

Tribal biologists, partners participate in hands-on training at Jonsson Center

In anticipation of the first California condor reintroduction in the Pacific Northwest, Yurok Tribe Wildlife Program biologists, in collaboration with representatives from Redwood National Park, Oregon Zoo, and Sequoia Park Zoo, recently completed an intensive training at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation.

At the Oregon Zoo-owned facility, the interagency group worked collectively to acquire several new skills, and sharpen others relating to the management of a healthy condor population. For example, the team of professional scientists practiced installing transmitters, drawing blood samples, and inoculating the birds against disease.

“We are very thankful for the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation’s offer to dedicate their time and energy toward building our capacity to effectively facilitate condor restoration,” said Tiana Williams-Claussen, a Yurok Wildlife Biologist and Tribal citizen. “We will employ all of these techniques and procedures when prey-go-neesh returns to Yurok Country.”

Redwood National Park, Oregon Zoo, and Sequoia Park Zoo are primary partners in a Yurok-led condor reintroduction effort, which seeks to reestablish this critically endangered species in the Pacific Northwest, the latitudinal center of the bird’s historic range. Once released at a site on park lands within Yurok ancestral territory, the condor population will be closely monitored and the birds will be captured periodically for health evaluations. The Sequoia Park Zoo is working in coordination with the Yurok Tribe and other condor affiliated zoos to design and build their own condor quarantine and treatment facility, graciously agreeing to perform medical triage and

treatment on infirmed or injured birds.

For the last several years, staff from the tribe, park and zoos have travelled to established release sites to participate in similar trainings scheduled to coincide with biannual health evaluations. Only a week prior to the Oregon training, tribal and park biologists, along with a Sequoia Park Zoo’s staff veterinarian, were training in southern California, trapping and treating wild condors along with keepers from the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Zoos and biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the hands-on exercise at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation, the team worked together, using sophisticated technological tools to perform assessments on the fitness of seven, two to three year old birds, considered juveniles but fully grown. The biologists learned how to administer vaccines to protect the long-soaring scavengers from pathogens potentially encountered in the wild. Staff were trained in how to implant microchips in the avian subjects for tracking purposes, too.

Practicing techniques for safely handling birds to accomplish these objectives was another focus of the training. For the protection of the bird and its handler it is imperative to know how to safely hold the animals, which have bone-crushing bills and sharp talons.

“Handling methods have continually evolved in the 20 years that I have worked with condors,” said Chris West, the Tribe’s Senior Wildlife Biologist. “At the Center for Wildlife Conservation, we trained in the most current techniques, which maximize the safety

YUROK WILDLIFE TEAM TRAINS FOR PENDING C



Tiana Williams-Claussen, one of the Yurok Wildlife Program's lead biologists, carefully captures a condor at the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation.



Chris West, the Yurok Wildlife Program lead, holds a condor that is being tagged. Radio transmitters were also attached to the birds, which allow wildlife managers track each condor's movement patterns.



This juvenile condor is about to take flight from a power pole, which actually delivers a mild shock to help the bird understand the threat before being released.



In the wild, condors are regularly examined for lead exposure, the single biggest threat to the species' recovery.



Kent Barnes is a Yurok Wildlife Program Biologist holds a California condor, while a veterinarian collects a blood sample.



The California condor iris changes from blue to red as it matures.

CONDOR RELEASE



at the Johnson Center. Inside of the netted enclosure is a model
nor shock to the birds that land on it. This will teach condors to
ased in nature.



can to red as the bird matures.

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D-3221A1

Requa water project nearly complete

Planning Dept. installs state-of-the-art system for Requa residents, businesses

The Yurok Planning and Community Development Department is putting the finishing touches on a state-of-the-art water storage and distribution system in Requa.

Starting in just a few weeks, Requa residents will enjoy best quality water as a result of the Yurok Tribe's \$2.7 million project.

"Residents will notice a night and day difference in terms of the improvement in water quality," said Josh Norris, who oversaw the endeavor for the Planning Department. "Aside from the well, just about everything is brand new. The well has always provided pristine water supplies."

The contemporary infrastructure replaces an antiquated water delivery setup that the Tribe inherited many years ago. The new water system includes: a massive tank, pipes made from modern materials, multiple pumps, digitized water meters and sensors to collect real-time data. Despite the significant upgrades, existing water users will pay the exact same fee as was previously charged.

"The automated system will meet all of our current needs and has the ability to support the establishment of additional homes and businesses," Norris said.

The new tank has a 100,000 gallon carrying capacity. It was placed at the highest available elevation to to make the new arrangement more energy efficient.

Numerous digital sensors were positioned throughout the system to collect and send different types of data from the well, the pumping station and the tank to the water operator. The devices compile information related to tank levels, water purity and pipe ruptures.

"The water levels will be known in real time. It is not likely to happen, but if a pipe bursts the pumps will automatically shut down and the sensors will immediately show us the location of the problem," Norris said.

The previous, analogue equipment was prone to failure because its many decades-old components had deteriorated to such a large extent. Also, when the power went out, residents would simultaneously lose access to water by virtue of the fact that the electricity-powered pumps stopped functioning. With the new system, the majority of the homes will receive gravity-fed water from the above-ground reservoir, which will also



This tank has a 100,000 gallon carrying capacity and will provide dependable water security.

improve water pressure. In the event of an electrical outage, these households will continue to get water. The few homes on Fizer Lane are above the new tank, so water must be pumped up to the houses.

"The tank's large storage capacity provides much better water security," Norris said.

The water source for the Requa system is a 100-foot deep well near Salt Creek. It is routinely tested and has continuously met the most stringent water quality standards.

"The water coming out of the well is great. It always has been," Norris said.

In the past, there were no fire hydrants on Requa. The USDA Rural Utilities Service grant, the primary source of funding for this project, enabled the Tribe to install two emergency water connections to help firefighters in the unfortunate instance of a house or business conflagration.

The grant dollars also put Yurok people to work. The Yurok Tribal Employment Rights Office was involved in the hiring of Yurok citizens, who were employed throughout the year-long endeavor. Some of the individuals hired worked on the physical installation of the pipes, pumps and tank, while others performed flagging and cultural monitoring duties.

When the pipes were installed, the contractor used directional

drilling technology, rather than trenching, to clear an underground path and limit ground disturbance. In general, the driller followed the path of the old piping to minimize disruptions to the residential area and to protect the many invaluable cultural resources in the Requa area.

“Directional drilling was a lifesaver. It enabled us to navigate over and around existing pipes. It also saved time,” Norris said. “We are pleased that this project is so close to completion.”

The Yurok Planning and Community Development Department secured the \$2.7 million for this project from a USDA Rural Utilities Service grant. Converse Construction submitted the winning bid for the undertaking. ✨



Photo by Josh Norris

Onna Joseph was a flagger for the Requa water line project.

Tribe praises former Planning Director

Peggy O’Neill plays a major part in the development of the Yurok nation

The Yurok Tribal Council is genuinely grateful for longtime Planning and Community Development Department Director Peggy O’Neill’s commitment and dedication to serving the Yurok people.

“Peggy has been an instrumental figure in the development of the Yurok Nation. The Yurok Tribal Council would like to acknowledge her exceptional service to the Yurok community,” said Joseph L. James, the Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “Over the past two decades, Peggy has made many meaningful contributions to the positive progress we’ve made in Yurok Country.”

After working for the Tribe for almost 19 years, Peggy is taking a new position with the Yurok Indian Housing Authority, where she will be an accountant.

As the Planning Department Director, O’Neill was a crucial member of the team responsible for an exponential increase in the number of tribal facilities and capacity to administer programs for the benefit of the Yurok citizenry. Since 2000, O’Neill has supervised the Tribe’s highest profile projects, such as the construction of the Yurok Administration and Community Center and the upriver electrification initiative. The director also brought in many tens of millions of dollars in grant funding to complete community and economic development-centered endeavors.

“I loved working for the Yurok Tribe. It has always been more than just a job for me, it was like working for family and being part of a community,” said O’Neill.

Just before 2000, O’Neill’s husband, David O’Neill, a Yurok tribal member, encouraged her to apply for the Planning Director job after watching her accrue an amazing list of accomplishments on behalf of other local tribes and tribal agencies. When Peggy O’Neill started her employment with the Yurok Tribe, the organization’s base of operations

was in a repurposed PG&E building in Eureka. The Tribe had just begun putting effort toward fulfilling a constitutional mandate to develop community resources, including the modernization of roads, power and telephone system, on the reservation. At the time, there were no electrical or phone lines from Wautec to the Weitchpec area, nor was there much office space from which to run programs or offer services. The Bald Hills Road was a dangerous dirt and gravel path from Martin’s Ferry Bridge to well inside the national park boundary. Within her first month of the job, O’Neill was directed to devise solutions for all of these shortfalls. Instead of being overwhelmed by such a tall order — like most people would be — O’Neill began seeking to find solutions to resolve the immense backlog of infrastructural issues.

“Throughout my whole career with the Tribe there was always a new challenge to address, which was one of my favorite aspects of the job,” O’Neill said. “It was very rewarding to solve some of these issues. Prior to working for the Tribe, I never wanted to stay more than seven years in any one position because that is usually how long it took before I felt there was not a challenge. Here, the challenges never end. In one week, you can find yourself working on road issues, or the opioid crisis or building a recreational facility. There is a tremendous need that will continue for a very long time.”

In addition to supervising the main construction of the Klamath office build and the installation of an electrical grid, the former Planning Department Director oversaw dozens of profoundly important projects, ranging from the construction of the Yurok Veteran’s Cemetery to the Wautec, Weitchpec and Tulley Creek Fire Stations. O’Neill and her equally exemplary staff played a major part in the planning, design and



Peggy O'Neill served for 18 years as the Yurok Tribe's Planning Director.

establishment of the following critical infrastructure: Weitchpec Transfer Station, Neil McKinnon Community Center, UIHS Clinic in Weitchpec, Kenek Building in Tulley Creek, Weitchpec Community Solar System, paving Bald Hills Road, Pem-mey Fuel Mart, Klamath Head Start facility, Requa Resort, Yurok Justice Center, Redwood Hotel Casino, Yurok Country Visitor Center, Klamath Boulevard Project, Yurok Public Safety Department headquarters, Yurok Knowledge Park, Requa Waterline Program and many other projects that are in the planning or construction phase.

While simultaneously securing funding for and facilitating large projects, O'Neill's Planning Department was also an incubator for professional development. She taught advanced accounting to all of her staff, made it mandatory for each to present their projects to the Tribal Council and employed several other measures to build up each person's skills. Many of the staff members that O'Neill mentored have gone on to achieve great things. For example, long-serving Planner Mandy Mager is now the City Manager in Blue Lake and former Planner Nicole Sager was recently selected to be the Executive Director for the Yurok Indian Housing Authority. Two members of the Tribal Council were her former employees. Another Planning team member was an executive officer for a different Tribe and another holds a position with the BIA.

"One thing that I'm the most proud of is working with some really great people. I feel good about where former employees went after working for me," O'Neill said.

Despite her almost two decade-long tenure at the Tribe, O'Neill's most memorable experience happened just last month when a prestigious college asked her to deliver a presentation about the upriver power project. She was introduced by a Nobel Peace Prize winner at the Stanford University conference, which was titled, *Energy Seminar: Energy Access is Energy Justice; The Yurok Tribe's Trailblazing Work to Close the Native American Reservation Electricity Gap*.

"To me, that was pretty exciting. It was a highlight of my career," O'Neill said.

During her talk, O'Neill detailed the challenges associated with installing powerlines in remote parts of the reservation with checkerboard landownership and a multitude of right-of-way hurdles. She also offered a challenge to the college students interested in working for the state or federal governments. O'Neill beseeched the burgeoning scholars to treat tribes better than their bureaucratic forebearers and to not create unnecessary obstacles for indigenous nations.

"When you look at regulations written by the state they almost always omit tribes and tribes are unable to apply for bonds or grant funds because they are left out. I told the Stanford students to remember tribes when they are writing laws and policies," she said.

A video of O'Neill's presentation at the Stanford seminar is available here: <https://energy.stanford.edu/events/energy-seminar-catherine-sandoval-energy-access-energy-justice-yurok-tribes-trailblazing-work>

While tribes are too often omitted from outside government policy-making, O'Neill has learned ways to overcome most of these impediments to progress. Over the years, she has developed a sound strategy for educating misinformed county, state and federal decision-makers about Native American rights and needs.

"You have to constantly reeducate government representatives about the Tribe's sovereignty and legal protections," said O'Neill. "When you walk into a room it is important to speak from a position of authority because that's what the Yurok people deserve. If someone tells you 'no', always ask them to explain why and ask them to show you the policy behind the decision. It is shocking how often people misinterpret policy."

O'Neill also has some sage advice regarding the successful acquisition of grant funding.

"It's important to develop a reputation as someone who gets things done on time and within the predetermined budget. The granting agencies want to fund success," she said. "Tell your story, answer the questions, be compelling and always go for it. It is important to show granting agencies what it's like to live on the reservation because they frequently don't know. You will be surprised by how successful you will be if you just try harder."

Based on her years of experience at the helm of the Planning Department, O'Neill believes the Tribal development agency ought to pivot in terms of its grant-writing and project management priorities in the near future. She sees a need for the department to dedicate its efforts toward pursuing projects that will encourage greater economic development and the development of meaningful employment opportunities for Yurok citizens.

"I think it's time to switch directions and focus on planning for economic development. There is a need to grow the Tribe's ability to create the living-wage, career-type jobs that people want," said O'Neill.

Until just recently, the magnanimous Planning Director considered retirement, but the excitement of working with a dear friend at the Yurok Indian Housing Authority and a fresh set of obstacles to overcome was so enticing that she decided to remain in the workforce. She is sincerely enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing in some way to YIHA's mission of helping Yurok families move into a home and improving access to affordable housing in Yurok ancestral territory. On O'Neill's last day, the community room packed with people who wished her well. ✨

Tribe honors Ron Reed's stellar service

Assistant Forestry Department Director retires after 23 years with the Tribe

Ron Reed, the Yurok Forestry Department's Assistant Director, recently retired after putting in 23 years with the Yurok Tribe.

"Ron Reed did a fantastic job working for the Yurok Forestry Department. He played a pivotal role in determining on how to best manage our forests and prairies lands for the benefit of future generations of Yurok people. We wish Ron the absolute best in all of his future endeavors," said Frankie Myers, the Yurok Tribe's Vice Chairman.

Prior to taking the Assistant Director position, Reed was an Assistant Forester and a Forester. Here is a breakdown of his most exceptional accomplishments.

1. He started out as an Assistant Forester with a 4-person Forestry Program. Even though Reed loved working in the field, he kept asking the Forestry director for projects out of his comfort zone, and this led to a couple of promotions, even a stint as Acting Forestry Director.
2. He inspected intensive 10-Year Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) and Brown's Transects in years 1986, 1997, 2007. In 1986, Reed supervised an inspection crew, while working for Hoopa Forestry as a Lead Supervisory Forestry Technician, performing CFI work on the Yurok Reservation. He helped design the 1997, 2007 and 2019 CFI projects. 2019 is yet to be funded. He inspected CFI contractors for compliance in 1997 & 2007 projects.
3. Reed wrote successful Sudden Oak Death Disease (SOD) grants for performing stream baiting monitoring projects to detect the absence or presence of SOD on the reservation. He was also involved in experiments for tanoak resistance to SOD. This project has been on-going for the last 13 years with negative results.
4. Fuels Projects: Reed wrote and received grants for fuels projects and supervised multiple crews for the following:
 - a. Wildland-Urban Interface, Cleared trees and vegetation around Tribal members' homes, structures and Tribal infrastructure to meet Cal Fire specifications.
 - b. Firewood for elders since 1998
 - c. Multiple thin & release projects.
 - d. Roadside brushing projects.
 - e. Shaded Fuelbreaks
5. Timber Sales
 - a. Wrote and had approved the environmental assessment for the Cappell Creek "C" Timber Sale.
 - b. Helped foresters with all previous timber sale reports.
 - c. Oversaw all postharvest timber activities in all previous timbers sales including: slash treatment through hand & machine piling, mulching, and prescribed fire. Other activities included; erosion



Ron Reed served for 23 years with the Yurok Forestry Department.

- control, tree planting, and road grading.
6. Noxious Weeds
 - a. Wrote and received grants for Meadow Knapweed eradication projects. Coordinated and supervised field work.
7. Fire
 - a. Wildland Fire Arson Investigator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - i. Tule River Indian Reservation
 - ii. Sioux Tribe South Dakota
8. Organizations:
 - a. Native American Fire Prevention Alliance –Treasurer
 - b. National Network of Forest Practitioners (grass roots organization)
 - c. California Indian Forest Fire Management Council
 - d. Inter-Tribal Timber Council
 - e. National Fire Protection-(Home Ignition Zones)
 - f. Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (noxious weeds)
 - g. USFS (pest management)
 - h. Bureau of Indian Affairs-(All aspects of forestry/fire)
 - i. Hoopa Valley Tribe
 - j. Cal Fire (fee property timber sales)
 - k. Cultural Fire Management Council
 - l. Rizzo Lab UC Davis (pest management) ✱

Profile of Kepel Head Start facility

Kepel Head Start offers optimal learning environment for its students

When the Kepel Early Head Start and Head Start bus travels down the highway from Orleans, the adorable sounds of children singing can be heard all along the Klamath River corridor.

The Yurok Education Department's Robert R. Kinney and the Kepel Head Start staff taught the students the lyrics to eleven songs composed in the Yurok language. The children choose a few from the selection to practice on each day's commute.

"For this age group, songs are one of the most effective teaching tools," said Kinney. "Children enjoy singing and are very enthusiastic about language education."

The Kepel Head Start and Early Head Start provides an ideal educational environment for young children. The school is staffed by local residents who are sincerely committed to the students' scholastic success. The facility, located near the traditional village of Kepel, is perched on a bluff with a stunning view of the Klamath River. When they're not in the classroom, the students participate in various playground activities in the fresh air. Starting about right now, the teachers and support staff assist the preschoolers in planting an impressive vegetable garden. From early summer to late fall, these nutritious vegetables are added to the lunch menu, which is always entirely comprised of wholesome foods and healthy beverages.

In addition to its Klamath River vista, another aspect that is unique to the Kepel Head Start site is its proximity to multiple sacred ceremonial grounds. This special circumstance offers many hands-on learning opportunities related to language and culture.

"Every year, we try to plan a trip with the students to the Brush Dance at Sregon and every other year we take them on a field trip to the Jump Dance at Pecwan. These field trips provide an incredible platform to teach our students about our traditional culture and values," Robert Kinney explained. "The ceremonies also create an optimal space to strengthen the students' Yurok language learning skills. Additionally, many of the families that attend the Jump Dance attend Kepel Head Start, too."

Concurrent schooling in two languages is also proven to boost brain development as well as encourage many other quantifiable benefits.

Credentialed teachers from the Yurok Language Program regularly visit the Head Starts to enhance the students' Yurok speaking skills. The instructors also offer more advanced courses to the Head Start staff. At each location, the Education Department uses a teaching implement called Creative Curriculum, which covers common themes, such as trees and other plants, ball lessons, science and recycling/reusing lessons. Within these categories are special interest areas, including: outdoors, computers, cooking, movement & music, sand & water, discovery, library time, art, toys and games, theatre and blocks.

"With such a broad set of topics we are able to draw the interest of every student," Robert Kinney explained.

This curriculum is reinforced in multiple ways to ensure that students absorb the information. For example, the Head Start staff puts the Yurok words of specific flora on flashcards to help the children commit the plant monikers to memory.



Necia is a student at the Kepel Head Start.

"The flashcards also contain specifics about the traditional uses of trees and other plants, including those used in basket-making, eating or medicine. We also identify which ones are employed in the construction of boats, houses or ney-puy cooking sticks," Kinney said.

The teachers and support staff at the Kepel Head Start and at the other sites use the curriculum to incorporate the Yurok vocabulary into many of the day's lessons. The age-appropriate language training focuses on real-world uses of vocabulary.

"We integrate the language into daily instruction in myriad ways, such as song, exercise and reading," Kinney said. "The students also know how to greet one another and share information about their family background."

The students know the Yurok words for basic greetings, how to name their parents and their birthplace. The skilled Head Start teachers also introduce language instruction, along with American Sign Language, into the breakfast and lunch breaks.

"We use Yurok Language all throughout the day in our classroom. We start our day by greeting children in Yurok and asking how they are feeling," Kinney said. "The children will be able to recite dozens of words and phrases in Yurok by the time they graduate from Head Start."

When children are between 0 to 5 years of age, they are at an optimum stage in their development to gain a second language. A substantial amount of research shows that individuals in this critical phase can obtain competency in two languages just as effortlessly as learning one.

Another effective tactic the Yurok language Program employs to teach this important subject is to place stickers with a Yurok words on nearly every item in the schoolroom.

"The students are literally surrounded by the Yurok language. They are also surrounded by staff who care deeply about their success," concluded Robert Kinney. ✨

Yurok scholar pursues MD at Stanford Univ.



Yurok tribal member Melissa Eidman, the granddaughter of aawok Billy Willson from Weitchpec and daughter of Billee Lynn Willson, has been selected as a 2019 Knight-Hennessy Scholar and plans to pursue an MD at Stanford School of Medicine.

In 2014, Melissa transferred from Sacramento City College to Stanford University where she studied Native American community health and earned a bachelor's degree in human biology with honors.

In 2017, she received the Kenworthy Award for Student Innovation in Public Service from the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford and won a Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research for her honors project, *Still reservations: Examining barriers to health and health-seeking behavior on the Yurok reservation.*

After winning a 2017-18 John Gardner Public Service Fellowship from the Haas Center, Eidman spent 10 months working for the Sacramento Native American Health Center and the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH). Since April 2018, she has been working to decrease the number of opioid-related deaths in Indian Country by serving as program coordinator of CCUIH's medication assisted treatment project.

In addition to her intention to return to the Yurok Reservation as a primary care physician, Melissa aspires to improve the health and healthcare of Indigenous peoples across the nation and around the globe.

The Knight-Hennessy Scholars program is a new program to support graduate education at Stanford University. This year, the program received 4,424 applications and is accepting 75 scholars into the cohort. Recipients receive funding to cover tuition, housing, and other educational expenses. Knight-Hennessy brings together students from a multitude of fields to find innovative solutions to the world's complex problems. ✨

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For more information, contact James Gensaw at gensawj@eurekacityschools.org at Eureka High School, Rm 207, Madison Flynn at mflynn@yuroktribe.nsn.us or call the Yurok Tribe Education office at (707) 444-0433 ext. 1908



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Yurok Tribe

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Volunteers will help remove litter and invasive plants from the banks of the beautiful Klamath River.
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Klamath, CA 95548
Upriver
Yurok Tribe Weitchpec Office
Hwy 96, Weitchpec, CA 95546

Bring:
Closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, and work clothes.
Water, snacks, gloves will be provided!

Downriver, Klamath Information: Haymar Lim (hlim@yuroktribe.nsn.us) or Kaitlyn Woolling (kwoolling@yuroktribe.nsn.us)
Office: (707) 482-1822 Ext. 1008 Cell: (707) 954-0462
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*Art by Margaret Keating
1st Start*

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