



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People



YEDC TO BUILD FISH PLANT

THE FACILITY WILL PROVIDE JOBS AND PRODUCE A NUMBER OF HIGH-QUALITY SALMON PRODUCTS-SEE STORY ON PAGE 2

Tribe to make traditional salmon products

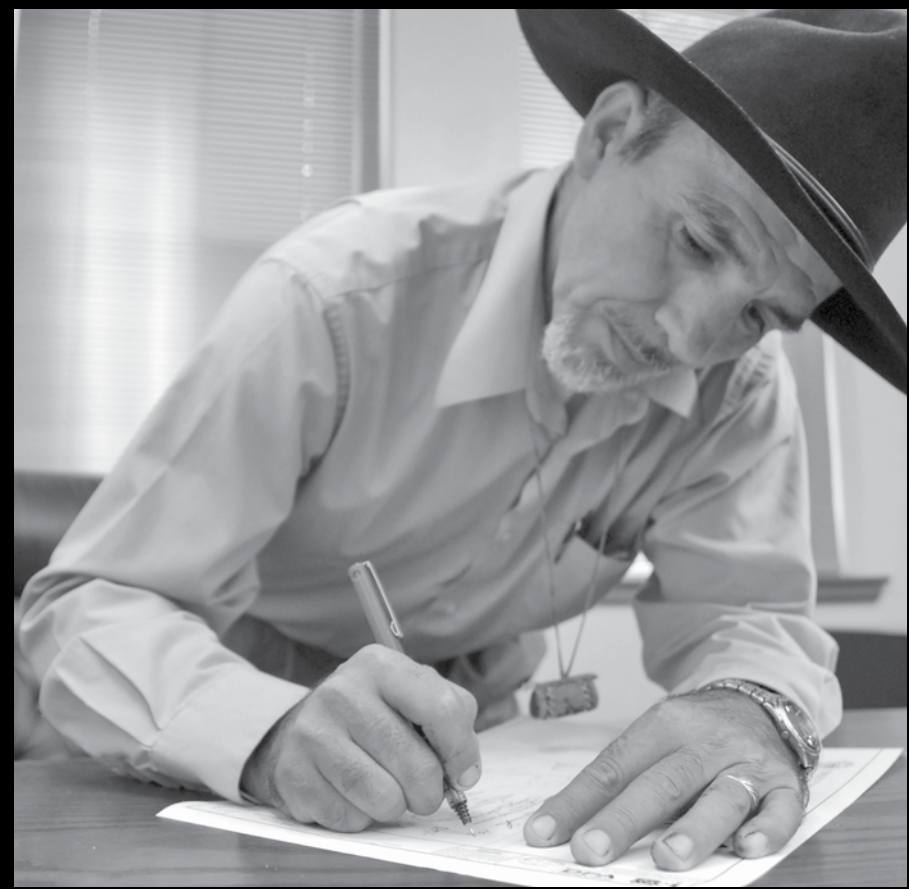
By this time next year the Yurok Tribe will have a fish processing plant capable of flash freezing, smoking and packaging Chinook salmon.

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation recently signed the final contracts to break ground on the \$2 million economic development venture, which will be funded by an Indian Community Block Development Grant, a Rural Housing, Economic Development grant and Pacific Marine Fisheries grant.

The approximately 6,200 square foot plant will be located directly adjacent to the Requa Resort on the Klamath River. It will be comprised of a raw fish processing room, smoker room, smoked fish processing room, blast freezer, raw /thaw refrigerator, finished cooler, staff room and office space. The plant will have the capability of creating a number of high quality salmon products.

“95% of the design on the Fish Plant’s exterior and interior and have gone to bid on this project,” said Tanya Sangrey, the head of the Economic Development Corporation. “This fish processing plant will no doubt create good-paying jobs for tribal members.”

The Klamath River boasts some of the best quality



YEDC Chairman Thomas O'Rourke Sr. signs the contract to build the facility.

salmon in the world. The fish are harvested at the peak of their lifecycle, which gives them an optimal taste and superior health benefits. This super food is one of the best sources of nutritionally vital Omega-3 fatty acid. The beneficial fatty acid helps with everything from heart disease to cognitive performance.

YEDC received the equipment bids on Oct 25, and received and opened the construction bids on Oct. 26, 2011.

The state-of-the-art structure was designed to put out no light

“This fish processing plant will no doubt create good-paying jobs for tribal members.”

TANYA SANGREY.~ YEDC DIRECTOR

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On The Cover

This is a rendering of the fish processing facility. The plant will be located near the Requa Resort and will be capable of producing some of the highest quality salmon products on the planet.



pollution so it will not be visible from Brush Dance site located directly across the Klamath River. Special measures were taken to ensure the viewscape from the sacred site was not denigrated. The architecture of the building draws from traditional Yurok buildings.

In addition to providing jobs, the project has other collateral benefits. Cannery Creek, which pours into the Klamath Estuary will be restored. Invasive species will be removed along with trash and other wildlife-unfriendly debris. Native plants will replace the non-natives in the effort to repair the riparian corridor.

“Fisheries, the Environmental Program, Watershed Program and YEDC are out there right now making plans to permanently fix the creek. The plan to fix the creek will be completed the week of Nov 1st, then we will start to repair Cannery Creek,” Sangrey said.

The Yurok Tribe’s Public Utilities District has

already installed four new large water tanks holding 20,000 gallons of water and dug a new well at Requa to help with the fish plant’s and the Requa Resort’s consumption of water. The installation of the new tanks will make the operation of the fish plant and the Requa community’s water system run much smoother.

“This is clearly a team effort,” Sangrey said “The YEDC is especially grateful to the Public Utilities District for their help.”

In addition to the plant the Tribe now owns two RV parks, Pem-Mey Fuel Mart and kee-Ya Coffee.

“The Mission of the Yurok Economic Development Corporation is to build diversified, sustainable economies by creating new business ownership and employment opportunities within the ancestral territory of the Yurok People. This fish processing plant is one step closer to fulfilling the YEDC mission” concluded Sangrey. ✘

Community Yurok Language Class Schedule

Weitchpec Tribal Office-Advanced Class-Tuesdays 4pm-5pm

Weitchpec Tribal Office-Community Class-Tuesdays 5pm-6pm

Klamath Tribal Office-Community Class-Tuesdays-5-7

Eureka-TBA

Program raises awareness about violence

Laurie La Vonne Gray cherished spending time with her baby daughter. She worked at the Hupa Health Association. Her favorite song was “Let’s just kiss and say goodbye.”

The woman of Yurok and Hoopa descent was killed by a gunshot wound to her head delivered from her husband. Today, her life-sized silhouette stands in the Yurok Tribal Office as part of the Silent Witness Project and as a dark reminder of the potential devastation that can happen in an intimate relationship where violence is present.

The Yurok Tribe’s Social Services Department is hosting the Silent Witness Project as well as a variety of events throughout the month in honor of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, including two community events in Weitchpec and in Klamath. The Silent Witness Project, put together by the Humboldt County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council’s Prevention Committee, is intended to “honor the lives of the

victims who have been murdered” in acts of intimate partner violence.

“What I want to come from this is for people to start talking about it,” said Jessica Clayburn, a tribal member and Program Outreach Specialist for Social Services. “If we don’t talk about it we will never find an end to this horrible problem.”

“We hope to raise awareness by having these silhouettes on display and create the realization that intimate partner violence is serious, can be lethal and is a part of our community,” echoed Social Services Director and Yurok tribal member Stephanie Weldon.

The silhouettes of 29 adults, a child and two companion animals represent documented murder victims in Humboldt County between 1985 and 2004. Stories of each person accompany the striking display. The Committee recognizes that there are likely more victims that they don’t know about.

The Committee hopes “that by shedding light through these stories of silent witnesses that we can stop victim

“What I want to come from this is for people to start talking about it.”

JESSICA CLAYBURN ~ OUTREACH SPECIALIST





(left) Social Services Intern Nicole Quinn, Crisis Worker/Victim Advocate Porsha Cobbs and Outreach Coordinator Jessica Clayburn organized the events.

blaming against people who may be experiencing intimate partner violence, a largely hidden crime. We must all play a role in preventing intimate partner violence, which will not only save lives, but will strengthen our communities and foster well-being for ourselves and future generations.”

The definition of the term domestic violence is changing to include: elder abuse, sexual abuse, child abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, and financial abuse or any other kind of destructive behavior that takes place in a domestic setting. What was formerly thought of as domestic violence, an altercation between a man and a woman, is being exchanged with “intimate partner violence” to be more inclusive.

These types of mistreatment can often go unnoticed because it takes place behind closed doors, especially, financial abuse, which occurs when a person in a relationship controls all of the money.

“Financial abuse robs a person of his or her freedom,” Clayburn said. “If a person doesn’t have access to their own money it makes it much more difficult to leave if he or she decides.”

The community events in Klamath were held Friday October 28th and in Weitchpec tribal office’s. The theme of the events was “Cho’ skuy soo hey-we-chem” (Live good or healthy) and both showcased a powerful short film about domestic violence in our local Native communities created by Yurok Social Services and Red Deer Consulting. ❄

Yurok girl scores 4.0



Josie Carlson is succeeding in school, sports and is learning her language.

Josie Carlson was nervous about leaving Klamath to start middle school in Crescent City. The 600 strong student body was intimidating.

Turns out she had nothing to worry about. She made friends and scored a 4.0 grade point average on her first report card. She even made the A-team in basketball. 60 girls tried out.

For her success scholastically she was awarded \$150 from the Yurok Tribe TANF Program. Children whose families are enrolled in the TANF program receive incentives for getting good grades and staying in school.

“She takes her education very seriously,” her very proud mother Victoria Carlson said. “She was pretty happy to get that.”

Victoria Carlson attributed her daughter’s success in school to self discipline and focus. She does her homework every day and stays away from distractions, like television, until all of her work is done. Victoria, who is working on a Bachelor’s of Science, said Josie’s interest in school might also come from watching her do homework.

Josie Carlson, who comes from Sregon and Blue Creek, participates in the Brush Dances up and down the river every summer. She is probably the best Yurok speaker in her age group. The 11-year-old also spends a lot of time with her dad, Pergish Carlson, who owns a fishing guide service on the river.

“She is learning to drift fish,” Victoria Carlson said. Josie Carlson is also a very good pole fisher.

In addition to making the middle school basketball team, she was chosen as an All-Star in the Del Norte League. This year she learned how to play softball, a sport she had never considered. As a shortstop she made the All-Star team.

“She learned really fast,” Victoria Carlson said. “By the end she was getting down and really liking it.” ❄

Tribe, public comment on dam removal

The tribal membership and the greater public came out in great numbers to tell the U.S. Secretary of the Interior how important it is to remove the four fish-blocking dams on the Klamath River.

“We know this river is our lifeline, not just for today or next fishing season, but forever. My son will learn how to fish, eel and gather from the river,” Yurok tribal member Georgiana Myers told the DOI. “We will never stop. We have no other choice to continue our way of life so that our people will remain Yurok.”

The Department of the Interior recently finished a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR) for the removal of Iron Gate, Copco I and II and J.C. Boyle Dams. The study analyzes the pros and cons associated with four different alternatives;

two of which include dam removal (or partial dam removal) and implementation of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement.

The studies show that the benefits of dam removal far outweigh the temporary negative impacts. This was likely the most important occasion to address Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in regards to how incredibly important it is to take out the dams. Secretary Salazar will decide in March 2012 if dam removal is in the public interest. If the Secretary makes a positive determination, Congress has to pass a bill in order for the KBRA to be implemented.

The DOI held public meetings on Tuesday, October 18 in Klamath Falls, OR, on October 19 in Chiloquin, OR, in Yreka on October 20, Orleans on October 25, Arcata on October 26 and in Klamath at the Yurok Tribal Headquarters on October 27.

The Draft EIS/EIR can be downloaded at KlamathRestoration.gov. Some of the benefits of dam removal according to the Draft EIS/EIR include:

- The number of spawning Chinook salmon will increase by more than 80%, which will substantially increase fishing opportunities.

- The toxic blue-green algae will no longer threaten the health of those who enter the river ever again. Fish diseases that can infect up to 90 percent of the Chinook will also drastically decrease.
- Spring Salmon will once again spawn above the Salmon River.
- All anadromous fish, including eels, will have access to plentiful sources of cold clean water that will remain in the face of climate change. ✘

“ We know this river is our lifeline, not just for today or next fishing season, but forever. ”

Georgiana Myers ~ Yurok tribal member





(top left) Pro dam removal advocates rally in Yreka.

(bottom left) Yurok tribal member Lauren Alvarado holds a sign.

(top right) Yurok tribal member Annelia Hillman speaks from a bullhorn at the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds.



Yurok youth training to serve elders

The Yurok Tribal Court is looking for 12 highly motivated young adults to work with Yurok elders in an effort to elevate the quality of life the oldest Yurok citizens.

The Yurok Tribal Court is looking for people aged 18-25 to work with Yurok Tribal Elders within the local service area of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The purpose of the Yurok Tribal AmeriCorps Program is to improve the lives of Yurok Elders and Veterans by providing health education services, assisting with home needs, and delivering and preparing traditional foods. While the positions are paid, there are other valuable attributes that come with the job.

“The younger generation’s participation with Elders is an integral part in the restoration of a traditional Yurok value system and strengthens responsibility and respect within the community,” said Jeanne Riecke, the Director of the Yurok Tribal Court and a Yurok tribal member.

So far the Tribal Court has hired four young adult Yuroks, but has funding for an additional 12 more. The four have undergone a wide array of training to help them better meet the needs of those that they will be serving.

The Yurok Tribal AmeriCorps Program is a 900 service-hour commitment to the local Yurok Community. Those who participate will receive \$5,670 for their one year service commitment. At the end of service the Members will receive a \$2,775 educational award to use toward approved schooling or toward paying off student loan debt.

The Members will be available to assist Yurok Elders with

such things as: traditional food gathering and preparation, food delivery and preparation, provide knowledge of health risks and health prevention activities. The program will provide basic training in such areas as CPR, first aid, cooking, cleaning, power tool safety, basic life skills, emergency

response, team building, health education, and personal finances.

“This is a great opportunity for young men and women to learn conventional and cultural life skills,” said Jessica Carter, the YTC’s Program’s Administrator. “It is also a solid resume builder.”

YTAP members will also be trained in identifying, reporting, and recognizing elder abuse and neglect.

Tribal Corps members will focus at least 100 hours on their individual development and life skill goals.

Members who start the Program without a General Education Development certificate will be guided through the necessary steps and provided with resources such as study guides and preparation courses to successfully attain their GED. The following services will also be offered though individual and small group sessions: traditional health and healing, Yurok language classes, cultural competencies, traditional skills, and cultural engagement.

The main goal of the YTAP is to help reestablish vital relationships between the younger generation and our older generation. Please contact Elder Services Coordinator, Kim Yost at (707)482-1350 ext 406 for additional information or to request an application. ✘



(Left) Sean O'Neill, Chrystal Sternberg and Brandon Yost have begun in the Yurok Tribal AmeriCorps Program.

Yurok woman earns big scholarship

By Elizabeth Kelsey-Dartmouth College

Yurok tribal member and Dartmouth junior Blythe George is one of 20 college juniors nationwide to receive a 2011 Beinecke Scholarship.

Established in 1971 by the Board of Directors of the Sperry and Hutchinson Company, the Beinecke Scholarship Program aims to “provide substantial scholarships for the graduate education of young men and women of exceptional promise,” and provides \$4,000 prior to entering graduate school in the social sciences, humanities, or the arts, and an additional \$30,000 while attending graduate school.

Each year, approximately 100 colleges and universities are invited to nominate a student for a Beinecke Scholarship. George is the fourth Dartmouth student to receive the scholarship in the past four years, and joins Anise Vance '11, Gabrielle Ramaiah '10, and Jodi Guinn '09 in the honor.

George is still adjusting to the news. “I still remember the first time I heard about it, thinking: could I really reach so high a goal?” she says. “The level of commitment, planning, and sheer luck needed to secure Dartmouth’s nomination made winning the award a far-off dream.”

A Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and sociology major whose classes at Dartmouth have included “Poverty and Public Policy” and “Class in the Classroom,” George’s studies focus on education reform and poverty reduction. Her senior thesis will explore how the U.S. education system has addressed the achievement gap between Native and non-Native youth in northern California.

George has long had an interest in bridging the socioeconomic class divide in educational opportunities. As a Presidential Scholar at Dartmouth, she compiled literature reviews on contemporary Native American issues. She has also participated in the Tucker Foundation’s Early College Awareness program to introduce disadvantaged youth in the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont to the opportunities and benefits of higher education.



Joseph Melling

Yurok Blythe George, a Dartmouth junior, received a \$34,000 Beinecke Scholarship.

Her extra-curricular activities include the Alliance for Socioeconomic Awareness and the First-Generation Student Network, where she has helped promote dialogue about class and privilege at Dartmouth and beyond.

In the spring of George’s sophomore year, she interned with the Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC), and says it was one of the “defining experiences” of her undergraduate career. The opportunity enabled her to work with the disadvantaged youth of her tribal community, the Yurok Tribe of northern California. Through this work, she says, “I realized the final dimension of my academic interests—applying my work in education reform in my own community, so that education could once again be a vehicle out of the cycle of poverty that awaits so many reservation kids.”

After she graduates from Dartmouth, George plans to pursue a joint PhD in sociology and social policy and will apply her knowledge to understanding how the Native American experience is represented in the field of sociology. ✘

Dell'Arte brings Nutcaper to Klamath

The Dell'Arte Company returns with their beloved holiday show! This year DAI presents THE NUTCAPER, a madcap twist on the classic Nutcracker story. A delightful tale of tails for the whole family, it's the story of unlikely heroes -- three unemployed and hungry mice who are down to their last hard nut, which they just can't seem to crack. Having fallen on lean economic times, what's a poor mouse to do?

Unaware of the potential moustakes, moustery, and mayhem, the trio hatch a plan to break into the Rat Kingpin's fancy mansion and use his nutcracker, rumored to have the strongest jaw in the county. With miss-step after mouse-step they accidentally take the famed Nutcracker hostage! The Nutcracker and the mice gang become friends through a series of comic errors, thus discovering the true spirit of the holiday season: generosity and kindness are the best gifts of all. With family and friends by one's side there is no nut too tough to crack.

Tchaikovsky's famous music for The Nutcracker Ballet is the buoyant orchestration for this zany comedy. THE NUTCAPER also boasts a fantastic Dell'Arte cast, including Pratik Motwani and Meridith Anne Baldwin, recently seen in the summer music spectacular Mary Jane: the Musical. Joan Schirle—Mary Jane herself and Founding Artistic Director of Dell'Arte International—directs this imaginative retelling.

DAI is proud to announce that admission to THE NUTCAPER is co-sponsored by the Yurok Tribe's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program and is FREE for most of the performances.

The show will tour throughout Northern California and Southern Oregon, including: Klamath, Orick, Point Arena, Redway, Scotia, Bridgeville, Port Orford, Hoopa, Burnt Ranch, Mckinnleville, Trinidad, Eureka, and Arcata, among other places. A goal of the Dell'Arte holiday show is to make this family entertainment available to both rural and urban communities that rarely see live professional theatre. Venues range from large professional theatres to local elementary school cafeterias.

The audience is asked to contribute non-perishable food items, which the cast collects and donates to local food banks. It is estimated that the annual DAI holiday show reaches approximately 7,000-10,000 people each year, including many school-age children.

DAI opens THE NUTCAPER tour with three free performances

The Dell'Arte Company
presents

the 28th
Annual
Holiday
Show

The NutCaper
A Nutcracker Tail

Nov. 28, 2011 6pm
Yurok Tribal Headquarters
FREE PERFORMANCE
BRING a Canned Food Donation

This event is co-sponsored by the Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department

at the Carlo Theatre in Blue Lake, November 25-27, 2011. The tour concludes on the same Carlo Theatre stage, December 15-18, 2011. Tour dates, times, and locations soon to be announced. Ticket information can be found at www.dellarte.com, or call DAI at (707) 668-5663. More questions? Email Matt Chapman at matt@dellarte.com. ✨



Jack Mattz will serve as the North District Representative.

Run-off coming soon

The 2011 Election cycle is not over yet.

Jack Mattz will now be serving the North District after unseating incumbent Raymond McQuillen (117-107). Sid Nix will keep his seat as the representative for the Weitchpec District, which was challenged by Alice Chenault. Both will be sworn at the Yurok Administrative Office in Klamath on November 7, at 11am. A light lunch and cake will be served.

There will be a run-off election between incumbent David L. Gensaw Sr. and Ron Bates Sr. for the Requa District seat on November 9, 2011. Gensaw Sr. and Bates Sr. took in more votes than Frank L. McCovey, Dave Severns and Juanita Williams. ✘

POLLING PLACES

Requa District Poll

**Yurok Tribal Office
190 Klamath Blvd
Klamath, CA**



Sid Nix will be serving his seventh term in the Weitchpec District.



Yurok Tribe

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2011 Yurok Tribe



The Yurok Tribal Council certified six Yurok language instructors to teach in California School Districts. (Left) Annelia Hillman, James Gensaw Sr. Archie Thompson, Barbara McQuillen, Carole Lewis and Jackie Winters who received the certificate for Brittany Vigil.