



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Tribe wins crucial Klamath lawsuit

Pivotal case requires feds to address fish disease issue

See story on page 3



Council schedules meetings to discuss Ramah settlement

The Yurok Tribal Council has scheduled three town hall meetings to discuss the Ramah settlement. The Saturday meetings are on March 4 at 1pm at the Worthington Site, March 11 at 1pm in Klamath and March 18 at 1pm at the Weitchpec office.

The Yurok Tribe is interested in initiating the development of a Yurok Environmental Policy Act ("YEPA") Ordinance. Before the process begins, Council wants to hear from you. The purpose of this proposed Ordinance is to empower the Tribe to be governed by its own laws and standards to protect and heal our environment. The Tribal Council is seeking feedback on the following questions:

1. How would you characterize the Tribal government's duty to protect our environment?
2. When it comes to environmental health within Yurok Ancestral Territory, what are your top priorities?
3. What level of environmental management capacity do you wish the Tribe to achieve in the next 5 years? 10 years?
4. Do you feel like existing federal, state, or tribal laws do enough to protect the environment? Why or why not?

You are encouraged to share your responses and thoughts on the proposed Ordinance development at your next district meeting. For information on the date and location of your next district meeting, call Council Support during regular business hours at 707-482-1350 or email ggensaw@yuroktribe.nsn.us. Additionally, you are welcome to provide written comments to Cheyenne Sanders by calling 707-482-1350 ext. 1389, emailing csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, or faxing 707-482-1377.

On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into the Violence Against Women Act of 2013, which included an historic provision recognizing the authority of participating tribes to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction ("SDVCJ") over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit crimes of domestic violence or dating violence or violate certain protection orders in Indian Country (defined by Yurok as the Yurok Reservation, all Yurok allotments, and other lands within the Yurok Ancestral Territory that otherwise qualify). Last year, the Yurok Tribe received grant funds to plan to implement SDVCJ. The Yurok Tribe is interested in initiating the development of a Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Ordinance. Before the process begins, Council wants to hear from you. The Tribal Council is seeking feedback on the following questions:

1. How was domestic violence dealt with in your Yurok village pre-contact?
2. What resources do you think are needed for both survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence?
3. Do you feel like crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, or violations of protection orders are properly addressed by the Tribe now? By the county or state? What do you think needs to change?
4. What are your concerns with the Tribe exercising criminal jurisdiction for domestic violence crimes?
5. What do you think is an appropriate range of punishment for a domestic violence crime?

You are encouraged to share your responses and thoughts on the proposed Ordinance development at your next district meeting. For information on the date and location of your next district meeting, call Council Support during regular business hours at 707-482-1350 or email ggensaw@yuroktribe.nsn.us. Additionally, you are welcome to provide written comments to Cheyenne Sanders by calling 707-482-1350 ext. 1389, emailing csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, or faxing 707-482-1377.



YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548
Phone: 707-482-1350 • Fax: 707-482-1377

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Yurok Tribe will hold three public hearings to accept comments from Yurok Tribal members, Tribal employees, and community members on the following draft legislation:

- **AMENDED FAMILY CODE:** an amended ordinance for the purposes of establishing procedures for Family Law Guardianships (Chapter 13).

The Yurok Tribal Council has referred the above draft legislation to public hearing in accordance with the Yurok Tribal Public Hearing Ordinance. Public hearings are scheduled for:

<p>March 15, 2017 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548</p>	<p>March 14, 2017 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA</p>	<p>March 14, 2017 5:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Eric St Eureka, CA</p>
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Hard copies of the draft ordinances will be available at the Weitchpec, Klamath, and Worthington Site offices. You can also get a hard copy by contacting Cheyenne Sanders at 707-482-1350 x1397 or email csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us to request an electronic copy.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The Yurok Tribe is interested in receiving comments from members of the Yurok Tribe and Yurok Reservation community regarding all aspects of the draft legislation.

All comments must be received by Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Comment letters may be submitted by email at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, by fax at (707) 482-1363, by phone at (707) 482-1350 x1397, or by mail addressed to: Public Comment, Yurok Tribe Office of the Tribal Attorney, PO Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Please indicate in your comment the draft legislation and specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. For example, "Amended Family Code – Family Law Guardianship notice requirements." If leaving a comment by voicemail, please leave your full name, whether or not you are a Tribal member, and a callback number.

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On The Cover

A US Judge forces federal agencies to take steps to protect juvenile salmon from another disease outbreak. The ruling stems from a lawsuit filed by the Yurok Tribe Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources, and Klamath Riverkeeper.

Judge rules in favor of Klamath fish

Additional flows aim to address juvenile fish disease issue

A U.S. District Court judge ordered federal agencies to immediately take steps to protect juvenile coho salmon after several years of deadly disease outbreaks in the Klamath River.

Klamath River coho salmon are listed as threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. These fish are central to the cultural identity and survival of tribal nations along the river, and commercial fishermen rely on California's second largest salmon producer for their livelihoods.

The Yurok Tribe, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), Institute for Fisheries Resources, Klamath Riverkeeper, and the Hoopa Valley Tribe sought a court order to compel federal agencies to manage river flows to protect juvenile coho salmon. Mismanagement of Klamath River flows below four major dams led to an outbreak of disease from a parasite called *C. shasta* in more than 90 percent of sampled juvenile salmon in 2015 and nearly that many in 2014. During the course of the case, the Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service acknowledged their obligation to engage in consultation to develop mitigation measures to prevent future disease outbreaks.

In today's order, U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick found that the Bureau's operation of the Klamath Project is causing irreparable harm to the salmon and the Yurok Tribe and fishing families and that water levels appear favorable this year for the mitigation flows needed to reduce that harm. He found that, based on the best available science, "Plaintiffs have demonstrated that flushing flows and emergency dilution flows would reduce *C. shasta* rates among Coho salmon. There is no meaningful dispute among the parties on this point." He rejected pleas for delay to consider more evidence, stating "Where plaintiffs have shown a threat of imminent harm to Coho salmon, waiting for perfect science is not appropriate."

To protect the young salmon during the renewed biological review, Judge Orrick ordered the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to:

(1) Release sufficient water in the next few months to flush out organisms from the Klamath river bed that host an intestinal parasite known as *C. shasta*, which causes illness and death in salmon. Such flushing flows, which used to be commonplace in the Klamath River, have become rare over the past 16 years due to overly restrictive management.

(2) Reserve water to provide flows in the spring/early-summer to



further flush out *C. shasta* if a disease outbreak occurs.

(3) Have their technical experts submit to the court the parameters of these mitigation measures by March 9, 2017.

"Today's ruling will give the Klamath salmon a fighting chance until we can get the lower four dams out. Untold numbers of juvenile salmon died from this disease in 2014, 2015, and 2016, and this judgment will help us to protect fish stocks from another serious outbreak. The Court recognized that scientifically supported decisions in favor of fish are not only legally required, but that the tribes should have a primary role in working with the government in reaching those decisions," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe.

"Every kindergartener knows that fish need water," said Patti Goldman, a managing attorney for Earthjustice who argued in court for salmon protections. "The Court's order, especially in a year with, to date, above-average rainfall, will mean a real difference in the health of the river and fish."

"Today's decision is a prime example of the swift action needed to address declining salmon populations," said Glen Spain of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA). "This is the best scientific solution for the Klamath River that will work for juvenile coho and in turn will benefit generations of hardworking fishing families." ✨

Tribe, RNP air plans to release condors

Yurok-led effort seeks to return condors to Yurok territory

The National Park Service and the Yurok Tribe held five public meetings in California and Oregon to present plans to construct a co-managed California condor release facility in Redwood National Park.

The NPS, Yurok Tribe, and US Fish and Wildlife Service are among 16 partners teaming up to return North America's largest land bird to Park lands within Yurok Ancestral Territory, the center of its historical range. The Tribe's and Redwood National Park's proposed plan to release and manage a new population of condors in the Park and surrounding area has the potential to expand upon continuing efforts to recover the magnificent scavenger from extinction. Increasing both the number of birds in the wild and the geographic scope of condor recovery endeavors already underway in central and southern California, Arizona, and Baja California, Mexico will better ensure the survival of this critically endangered species.

"The park is excited to work with the Yurok Tribe and our partners to return the California condor to its historic range along the north coast of California," said Redwood National Park superintendent Steven Prokop. "This cooperative effort to expand the range of condors is critical to the long-term survival of California condors. Condors are a key factor in the ecological and cultural vitality of the redwood ecosystem."

"Partnering with the Redwood National Park at this point in the

project makes sense for the successful restoration of this sacred bird in our (Yurok) ancestral territory," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "The Yurok Tribe has been working diligently to make condor reintroduction a reality and we are very close to completing our goal of seeing prey-go-neesh fly over Yurok skies."

The Yurok Tribe, since 2003, has led this monumental undertaking to reintroduce condors into northern California and southern Oregon. Despite a century-long absence from the Pacific Northwest, the bird continued to play an important role in tribal ceremonies as it has since time immemorial. In support of condor recovery, the tribe has undertaken the scientific groundwork needed to determine if the region still has the ecological capacity to support the large vulture. Results of this work indicate that the sparsely populated redwood coast contains ample nesting, foraging, and breeding habitat that is quite different from other recovery areas, which would greatly diversify resources available to the species.

Due to a number of factors, including lead poisoning, the California condor was on the verge of extinction in the 1980s. Over the last several decades, conservationists and scientists have committed to saving condors from extinction and reintroducing birds into the wild. The total number of condors in existence has increased from a low of 22 birds to more than 400. ✨

We would like to recognize the Yurok Tribe Team on their two wins so far and also Thank Coach Jeremiah Swain for taking on the task as their coach. As this was their first time on a team these 1st and 2nd grade girls performed outstanding and they listened to every word their coach had to say.

We are all so very proud of you girls; keep up the fantastic team work and have FUN! Thank you Yurok Tribe for sponsoring our teams.



Yurok Tribal Court schedules Clean Slate events in March

Event is free and open to all

KLAMATH CA – The Yurok Tribal Court is hosting a Clean Slate Workshop set for March 25th & 26th, 2017 at Tribal Headquarters Community Room.

The workshop will be conducted in partnership with Oakland based Root and Rebound program designed to be a resource of legal information regarding such issues as reentry and criminal record cleanup. **This workshop is free and open to the community; however to clean up your record you must:**

- 1. GET FINGERPRINTED:** You will need to be fingerprinted in order to obtain your criminal record prior to attending the workshop; the Yurok Legal Access Center has the forms you will need to get this done.
- 2. SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT:** Call the Yurok Tribal Court Legal Access Center at 707-482-1350 Ext. 1336 or

1395 to get assistance with any Finger print forms, fee waivers, or for any other questions about the process;

- 3. BRING PAPERWORK:** On the day of the workshop, bring your LiveScan fingerprint report, any information you have regarding any court order fines, fees or restitution owed, and any court, probation, parole or correctional facility paperwork that has to do with your criminal history;

The Yurok Civil Access Center is located in the Yurok Tribal Court, 230 Klamath Blvd., Klamath CA and is open M-F from 8:30 to 4:30. For more information or assistance: Please contact Root & Rebound during our Reentry Legal Hotline on Fridays, between 9 AM - 5 PM. You can also write to us at: Root & Rebound, 1730 Franklin St., Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.



30 Day
PUBLIC NOTICE
RECOMMENDATION FOR
YUROK TRIBE
RESIDENTIAL LAND ASSIGNMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

The following Tribal Members have applied for a Land Assignment on the Yurok Reservation. Any Tribal Member wishing to comment on any of the following land assignment applications may submit written comments to the Yurok Tribe's Planning & Community Development Department. All comments must be in writing and include the name, address and signature of the person making the comments. Comments must specify which land assignment they are addressing and must be received by the Planning Department by March 24, 2017. If you have any questions please call Samantha Myers at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1361.

- (Category B) Transfer of an existing assignment: Lineal Descendant (Grandson) Harold Myers: Prior Assignee (aawok) Georgina Trull, Yurok Tribe # SGN-001 APN:533-062-020 Located in Sregon.
- (Category D) New Assignment: Jessica Allen, Yurok Tribe # WSR-009 APN: 530-053-010 Located in Weitchpec St. Rest.

Submit all written comments by the above deadline to the following address:

Attention: Samantha Myers
Planning & Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1027

Klamath, CA 95548

YUROK INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

15540 N. Hwy 101, Klamath, CA 95548-9351 Phone: (707)482-1506; (800)281-4749; Fax: (707)482-3117

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

January 30, 2017

TO:
All Tribal Citizens of the Yurok Indian Tribe

REGARDING:
Disclosure of Interest in Receiving Housing Assistance

In accordance with 24 CFR Section 1000.30c and OMB Subpart B-200.12 the Yurok Indian Housing Authority is making full public disclosure in regard to Georgiana Gensaw. Let it be known that Georgiana Gensaw is a relative of the Richard Myers Sr. that is a Board of Commissioner of the Yurok Indian housing Authority.

Georgiana Gensaw meets the eligibility requirements of both NAHASDA and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's for the Low Rental Transfer Program.

Please contact the office at (707) 482-1506 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully

Diane Bowers
Executive Director



Locals healing locals living in Weitchpec

When she saw an employment opportunity within the Yurok Social Services Department to assist Tribal members who are struggling with severe mental health issues, Celinda Gonzales was immediately drawn to the job.

"I'm from the community and I want to make a difference," said Gonzales, a Yurok Tribal member. "I don't want other people to go through what I've been through."

Eight months ago, Gonzales was hired to be part of a specialized, Yurok Social Services team that was assembled after seven beloved Tribal members from the Weitchpec area passed away as a result of suicide. The Yurok Tribe declared a State of Emergency because of the enormous tragedy. The Community Resource Specialist's hire, along with several others, was directly linked to the emergency declaration, which called for the implementation of a community-driven strategy to prevent this epidemic from escalating. Gonzales was born and raised in Weitchpec, the same place where she is based out of. With a service area spanning from Wautec to Orleans, her clients include: those contemplating suicide, foster youth, victims of domestic violence, foster children and elders.

Prior to taking the new position and even the declaration, Gonzales and several Weitchpec community members were already working to find a solution to this crisis among primarily youth and young adults. She pointed to people like Daniel French and Alice Chenault as some of the early leaders of this grassroots effort to bring more mental health services to the area and rally support from people outside of this remote part of the reservation. For example, French gathered the hundreds of signatures, which became the basis of the emergency proclamation. Chenault, a main organizer of the highly attended, first annual Suicide Prevention Walk, was working to raise awareness about the public health emergency by putting floats in local parades at events in more populated areas.

"The people who live here are always there for each other. This issue needed to be addressed and fast. It was time for action, to move forward. The thinking at the time was, what are we going to do to prevent more suicides. What are we going to do to save our people," Gonzales said. "With the empathy, love and compassion that people have for each other, it naturally progressed."

In less than a year, Gonzales has made herself an invaluable asset to the Tribe. The quick witted woman has become a certified trainer in several proven suicide prevention and youth wellness-related programs, including: Applied Suicide Intervention Training, QPR, Sources of

Strength and Incredible Years. The Social Services Department has put on these trainings in the community and will be facilitating similar learning sessions in the future.

"I highly recommend them, especially the ASIST and QPR training," Gonzales said. "I came home from the five-day ASIST training on Saturday and used it on Sunday."

A portion of the Community Resource Specialist's days are filled with tasks that revolve around increasing her clients' quality of life. Gonzales is a regular contributor Social Services community events, like the Fall Feasts. Most of her clients lack a vehicle and many of the common

features that people take for granted in cities, such as pharmacies, laundry mats and bus services, are nonexistent on that part of the reservation. She transports foster children to recreational and educational activities. Tribal elders depend on her for transportation to town for medical and other important appointments. The culturally connected staff member takes Tribal members to a generous Tribal elder's sweat house. The time-honored, healing practice is used to treat numerous physical and psychological ailments. To make sure the maximum benefit is obtained from the traditional endeavor, Gonzales helps prepare food for the participants to partake in after it is over.

These are the fun parts of her job, but there are other aspects that require a tremendous amount of mental and emotional strength. Gonzales is the only


person in the service area, who is on-call 24 hours a day, does the intake procedure when someone is considering suicide and reaches out the Tribe for assistance or when a victim of domestic violence is in need of services. For instance, there was a recent incident where an adolescent had expressed suicidal thoughts at school and the district contacted to her. She is working on protocol for the Klamath-Trinity School District to use if a similar situation arises in the future.

In addition to the intensive, suicide prevention training she has completed, Gonzales draws upon her own personal history to assist those thinking about taking their lives. Her son and brother passed away in this manner. She has found that the healthy coping mechanisms she has learned and put to practice over the years also work for other people who are suffering from an indescribable loss. In many ways, persevering through these calamitous events has helped her perform her job better. For example, Gonzales is able to provide real respite to parents who have been met with the worst possible circumstances, the death of a son or daughter due to suicide.

"For a parent, it would be easier if the child died in a car accident,"



Celinda Gonzales is YSS's Community Resource Specialist



she said. "People who have not had to endure something similar do not know the mental and emotional toll of losing a child in this way. It is not helpful to say that you do. Hearing it can actually make people, who are in a highly sensitive state of mind, feel worse."

She also has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to get back on a forward track after living through this type of crisis and she has a deep desire to help people do the same.

"It is crucial to create a safe space where people feel comfortable talking about their unique situation," Gonzales said. "When we are able to talk about these things they begin to lose their weight and we begin to heal. The pain will never truly go away, but it is possible to cope and live a productive life."

When a person contacts Gonzales and is considering ending his or her life, Gonzales will connect the client with Social Services Licensed Counselor and Yurok Tribal member Shannon Bates. If a friend or relative disclose that he or she is thinking about suicide, Gonzales suggested to remain calm, listen and suggest professional treatment.

"When someone is considering suicide it is important to let them know there are people who love and care about them," Gonzales said. "According to ASIST, you can't guilt trip them. We remind them that they are not alone, that life is worth living, that their life matters."

To further prevent suicides, Gonzales wants to begin organizing additional events in the Weitchpec area that are designed to be consistent with the Tribe's culture and to lift people's spirits. Plans are already in motion for a monthly elder's lunch, because the elderly are at-risk of suicide, too. She sees a need for more cultural learning opportunities for adolescents and teens, such as wood working, processing wild game and hanging nets. There is already a women's group, which Gonzales is a part of, but there is not an equivalent for men.

"The (women's) group has helped me in my professional capacity and personal life at home. That's why I'd like to see a men's group started. The men can have that same sense of brotherhood as we do sisterhood," Gonzales said. "I'm working hard on getting a man to stand up and volunteer to start a group."

In the year since the State of Emergency was declared there have been no suicides in the Weitchpec area. Gonzales attributes this to many positive changes that have unfolded over the last approximately 400 days. There are more staff stationed in the Weitchpec area and similar to Gonzales, they are all from general region.

"The community feels more supported since the State of Emergency was put in place," she said. "People are more comfortable going to counselling. All the people who work here are from here. They know who we are and trust us. The healing is starting."

Another solid indication that the suicide epidemic is beginning to subside is the fact that people are starting to talk openly about the issue, which is something that was virtually unheard of before.

"People are able to talk about it. They are able to share the good memories of the people they lost and express who they were," Gonzales said. "Those of us who have experience a personal loss can now be open with each other, be a support to each other." ✨

As a minimum measure to maintain the momentum of the last year, the Resource Specialist, requests that community members consider participating in one or more of the new trainings.

"I would like to see all of the services around here being utilized," she said. "I want to stress that."

While doing this work can be extremely challenging, it is equally rewarding for Gonzales. A new work week presents numerous opportunities to positively influence the lives of the people in her community.

"I look forward to going to work. It is a job I absolutely love. One the first day of the week, I think to myself: 'yeah, it's Monday. I get to go to work finding new ways to help my community,'" she concluded.

If you, a family member or friend are considering suicide, please call Celinda Gonzales at (530) 625-5130 ext. 1610.

Tribe seeks elders who lived to 100 or more

The Yurok Enrollment/Elections Department, at the behest of the Yurok Tribal Council, is creating an exhibit to honor Tribal elders who have reached 100- years-old or greater.

The Department is currently creating a list of these special elders and would like your help. Please send Krystel Patapoff-Pruitt the name and a photograph of the person you would like to be honored. The Our Centenarians project is open to Yurok people from any point in the Tribe's history. For example, if your great, great, great grandmother lived to 100, please let us know about her. Our Centenarians is just the first project to honor Tribal elders. We are planning to produce similar exhibits to recognize those who sacrificed to get us to where we are today. Krystel can be reached at (707) 482-1350 or at kpatapoff@yuroktribe.nsn.us ✨



2017 KLAMATH RIVER FLOOD



Photo by Troy Pruitt





Photo by Troy Pruitt



Photo by Troy Pruitt



Photo by Troy Pruitt



Yurok activist travels to Standing Rock twice

This is first in a series about the Yuroks who went to Oceti Oyate

When Yurok activist Willard Carlson heard what was happening in Standing Rock, it immediately hit close to home. Bulldozers were set to besiege Tribal burial grounds. The biological integrity of a large river was about to be compromised by massive oil pipeline project. Thousands of Native Americans were being threatened by a militarized police force.

The then rapidly devolving situation in North Dakota instantly brought to mind the Fish Wars of the mid-1970s, when armed soldiers attacked Yurok people for practicing inherent fishing rights. For Carlson, sitting idle was not an option then, nor was it last September when he received the news about Standing Rock. Compelled to action, Carlson travelled half way across the country twice to support the Standing Rock Sioux and the fight to protect natural and cultural resources from a shortsighted plan to move fracked oil from North Dakota to the Illinois.

“I couldn’t stay at home and not participate,” Carlson said. “Water is our most important resource. We cannot exist without it.”

The Energy Transfer Partners pipeline was slated to traverse treaty land and travel under Lake Oahe, the region’s sole drinking water source. The a \$3.8 billion project sought to ship oil 1,172 miles from North Dakota’s Bakken oil fields to Patoka, Illinois, where it will be transported to refineries. In addition the immediate threat to sacred sites, a rupture in the pipe, once it was constructed, would contaminate the Tribe’s drinking water supplies for the foreseeable future.

On Carlson’s first trip he had the honor of placing the Yurok flag in a long row of Native flags that line both sides of the road to the camp. Representatives from nearly 300 Tribal nations showed up to safeguard the river and cultural sites. It was the largest gathering of Tribes in history, followed by the occupations of Alcatraz and Wounded Knee, the latter is a place where Carlson had spent 34 days at the peak of the armed conflict.

“I’ve been involved in water sovereignty and Tribal issues for my entire life and I’ve never seen such a great interest in people pulling together like I saw in Standing Rock,” Carlson said. “There was a lot of harmony among the thousands of people who were all working together toward a common goal.”

During the Yurok Tribal member’s first trip to Oceti Oyate the local sheriffs, along with the company’s private security force and the National Guard had not yet commenced the campaign of terror against the peaceful water protectors that millions viewed via Facebook livestreams. In September, the atmosphere at the sprawling camp on the Missouri was fairly tranquil compared to when he went back in November.

“It was amazing to see that level of unity, which stayed the same during both trips,” Carlson said. “In November it started to get intense. The



Carlson and his daughter Chai stand in support of Tribal water rights and sacred sites.

militarized police had really stepped up the brutality against the water protectors.”

To guard the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners hired TigerSwan, a firm run by a former Delta Force operative with ties to Blackwater, the mercenary group whose members were convicted of murdering 17 innocent Iraqi civilians in 2007. TigerSwan, better known for its covert operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other natural resource rich, yet economically struggling nations, worked in tandem with the Morton County Sheriff’s Offices and US National Guard in an attempt to blunt the movement to block the pipeline. The state of North Dakota alone spent at least \$10 million on the massive police presence.

When Carlson returned in November, the sheriff’s deputies and corporate security force started instigating violence against the unarmed water protectors. Their actions, from Carlson’s perspective, resembled what he saw during the Fish Wars in Klamath and the encounters Black communities faced during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

“It was very similar to what happened in Selma, and Birmingham, AL in the 1960s,” said Carlson. “First, it was attack dogs, followed by water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas. One young woman lost her eye after police shot her with a rubber round. I did not know what to say to her. I asked if I could give her a hug, she said yes and then she began to cry.”

Her name is Sioux Z Dezbah, aka Vanessa Dundon of the Diné Navajo Nation, and she was one of the many who were wounded as a result of the extreme police brutality. He also saw several other demonstrators

with major injuries from the so-called sub-lethal wounds. Sophia Wilanski, another female water protector almost lost her arm after a Morton County Sheriffs flash grenade detonated on top of her coat, requiring her to undergo many surgeries to save the appendage.

“These people were just praying,” Carlson said. “They were not threatening anyone.”

On the night of November 20, 2016, a particularly terrifying night when the temperatures were well below freezing, police used water cannons to shoot a tear gas mixture at the water protectors. The toxic fog spanned the size of several city blocks and caused great harm to many demonstrators. Those injured included people of all ages, even children. An elder experienced a heart attack, many more suffered from hypothermia and other serious traumas.

“You had to watch your back there,” Carlson said. “I would advise people to remember you only have one of you. You’ve got to protect yourself.”

Despite the apocalyptic environment in Standing Rock, those opposed to the pipe line continued to cultivate the effort to peacefully resist the destructive project. The movement, spawned by Tribal youth aiming to prevent suicides among Native American teenagers, had amassed a powerful coalition comprised of people from every corner of the globe. The strong alliances formed in the camp were one of the keys to their success, according to Carlson.

“As a united front we are more powerful than individuals,” Carlson said. “It’s not going to be easy, but we need to form as many alliances as possible. We need to work together”

On December 6, 2016, the Army Corps of Engineers denied permits for the remainder of the project. However, it is unclear if the determination will hold given the new political climate. Shortly after the new president was sworn in he signed an order to move the Dakota Pipeline and Keystone Pipeline forward. It has yet to be seen what this declaration means on the ground.

Carlson, like many other people, see dark clouds on the horizon in terms of what may happen in Standing Rock and across the whole of Indian Country in the next four years. He advised those interested in protecting the environment and Tribal rights to unify in the face of these great threats.

“I want people to get really serious about protecting water sovereignty and sacred sites,” Carlson said. “We are under fire. 20 percent of this nation’s natural resources are on reservations. If we don’t unite, how else are we going to stop these corporate empires from going after these resources?”

Carlson is one of about a dozen Yuroks who traveled to Standing Rock. When he was there, it brought him joy to see them, as well as friends from other tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

“California and Oregon had great representation that everyone should be proud of. I saw a lot of Yuroks, people from Hoopa, Nomlaki from Round Valley,” he said.

Before he left for his first trip, Carlson heard people saying, “Isn’t it

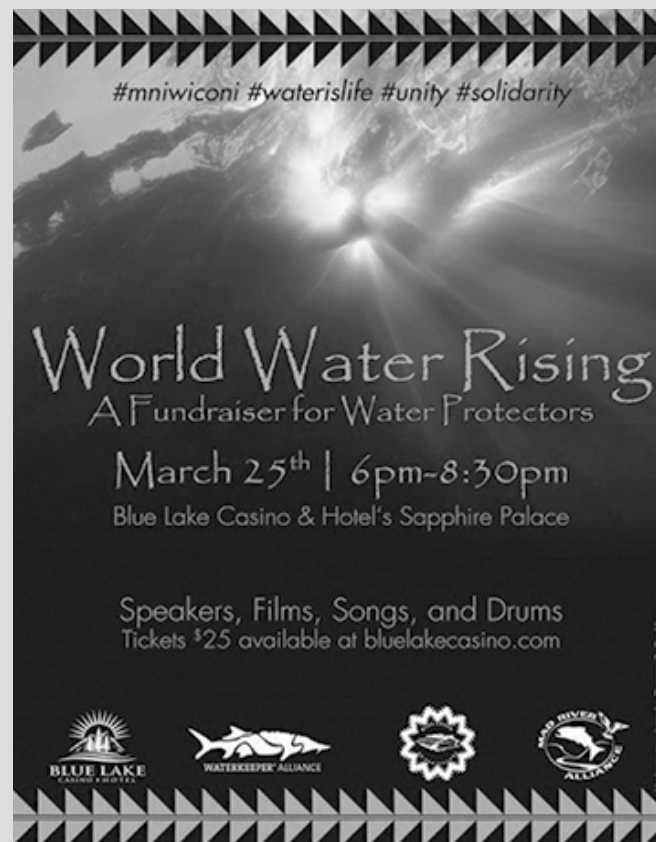
great that all of these tribes are rallying around one Tribe?”

“It wasn’t about one Tribe. It was on their land,” he said. “It was about protecting water. It was about protecting Tribal rights. It was about protecting our rights.”

Despite the overt acts of state sanctioned violence that he witnessed, Carlson said that he left Standing Rock, for the second time, feeling elevated because of the abundance of courage and strength embodied by those who had come to the camp from Indian Country and around the globe. He was inspired by the medical professional who had spent \$15,000 to treat everything from toothaches to fractured legs. It was equally uplifting to see people from tribes that had been former foes decide to put aside their differences for the greater good. The life-long water protector forged a new alliance with a former oil company scientist, who turned activist after he was asked to cover up fracking waste. There were far too many examples to list here of people stepping out of their comfort zone to confront something they know to be wrong.

“The unity and solidarity is what stood out the most to me. By far, the good superseded all of the bad things that happened,” Carlson said. “That’s what Standing Rock showed me.”

To protect clean water sources and sacred sites, Carlson is organizing an event, World Water Rising, A Fundraiser for Rapid Response Water Protectors, on March 25 at the Blue Lake Casino. World Water Rising will feature keynote speakers, entertainment and more. Tickets are available at bluelakecasino.com. Admission for the Waterkeeper Alliance and Mad River Alliance-sponsored event is \$25. ✨





CULTURE CORNER

First on the Yurok Culture Committee's January agenda was an update on five Redwood National Park projects, which will soon be completed within the Tribe's ancestral territory. The National Historic Preservation Act legally obligates the National Park Service to consult with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Committee on all projects that may affect historic properties on Tribal lands.

Most of these endeavors fall under that category, but this one does not. The park worked with Culture Committee members to create exhibits, featuring recorded historical and cultural anecdotes, on Newton B. Drury Parkway. The contractor the park hired went out of business, but not before completing 95 percent of the displays. A plan is being developed to erect the exhibits as soon as it is feasible.

The second project consisted of RNP maintenance workers replacing culverts on Coastal Drive between Alder Camp Rd. and Klamath Beach Rd, during the summer or fall. Karen Grantham, Joint RNP Chief Resource Manager, said the construction will not interfere with the Wehl-kwew Brush Dance. This project brought up another important topic related to Alder Camp Rd, a long-established yet currently closed thoroughfare that goes to Split Rock, a culturally important place that is included in many Yurok stories.

"I think you guys are trying to keep us out of the area," said Committee member Raymond Mattz. "In my opinion, it's a cultural site."

"I agree with Raymond. It used to be a state highway. Why would they shut it off if they can fix it?" asked Committee member Frank Lara.

Grantham said that the park had previously agreed to provide a key to anyone who wants to access the site. However, it was never determined where people can get the key.

Grantham stated that she would give it to Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer Frankie Myers.

The last three RNP project updates included: an improvement of Davison Rd. from US Hwy 101 to the NPS boundary, the re-routing of a segment of the Orick Horse Trail, and the placement of a welcome sign at Wehl-kwew. The park, Committee and ceremonial leaders have been working on a new sign to

encourage visitors to be respectful while in proximity to the Brush Dance site. In the recent past, people have used the sweathouse for a bathroom, let dogs damage the area and other inappropriate behavior.

The second agenda item was presented by Krystel Patapoff-Pruitt from the Yurok Enrollment/Elections Office. Enrollment is creating a wall to honor elders who have lived 100 years or longer and asked for a recommendation from the Committee on what to call the exhibit. First, the Committee said they would like to see future exhibits featuring traditional basket weavers, fishers and other cultural practitioners.

A Committee member suggested naming the wall Our Centenarians, which the Committee accepted as its official recommendation, in addition to an accompanying sentence in the Yurok language. The Enrollment Department is looking for Yuroks who have lived to 100 or greater. To submit a name, please contact Krystel Patapoff at (707) 482-1350.

During the Project Updates portion of the meeting, Yurok Tribal Council Rep. Joe James informed the Committee about a recent agenda item that he had recently sponsored and passed. The Committee members must now be paid on the day of the meeting.

"It is really important for you guys to get paid on the same day as the meeting," James said. "It is a sign of respect. It's a reflection of who we are as a people. We really value your contribution to the decision-making process."

Yurok Environmental Program's Joe Hostler gave the next project update. YTEP is creating a publication containing in-depth information YTEP's Climate Change Plan and the impacts of global warming on Yurok people. Hostler gave them a copy of the document to review for a discussion at the next meeting. He also shared a question with the Committee to show what kinds of topics will be covered in the plan.

"What is the mental health impact of losing a species like candlefish?" he asked

The January Cultural Discussion was about the Pecwan Cemetery. Himalayan blackberry brambles are encroaching on the resting grounds and there is no fence to keep it out once the highly aggressive invasive plant is removed. Thorny vines even obscure one Tribal member's gravesite.

"People walk right through there," Jackson said. "It is not obvious where it is."

THPO Frankie Myers said he would work with other Tribal departments to develop a plan to restore the burial grounds and had some ideas about how to move this project forward. ✨

Staff member drawn to diverse duties

Heath "Bubbs" Jackson named Employee of the Year

Heath "Bubbs" Jackson's work duties vary widely from day to day and he wouldn't have it any other way. On a Monday, the Yurok Tribal member might be transporting a water truck to Weitchpec. The next day he could be helping a new employee move into the Worthington site, which houses about 50 offices that Jackson is responsible for maintaining.

"Every day there is something different to do in the Public Works Department," said Jackson, who is a Maintenance Worker. "I prefer to work on all different kinds of projects, rather than just one. I really enjoy the fact that my responsibilities constantly change from one day to the next. It's a good fit for my personality."

A majority of the approximately 350-deep Yurok Tribal staff voted to name Jackson the 2016 Employee of the Year. The annual award is determined by the staff, which nominates and votes for the winner. The purpose of the Employee of the Year accolade is to recognize an individual for regularly going above and beyond their normal job duties.

Jackson's nomination clearly described his coworkers' appreciation for his professionalism and positive attitude. It read: "Bubbs is always hard at work, helping with anything we need in a timely fashion. He is such a joy to have around the office and is always in a good mood. We are so lucky to have him."

Jackson was raised in Hoopa and lived there until he enlisted in the US Marine Corps. In the service, Jackson was first stationed near San Diego, Ca at Camp Pendleton, where he was a member of the 7th Motor Battalion. For two years he worked as a diesel mechanic. After the stint at the Southern California Marine base he transferred to Okinawa, Japan, continuing the work of fixing everything from trucks to tanks. By the time his four year commitment was up Jackson had risen to the rank of E-4 Corporal. Wanting to be closer to family, he promptly moved back to Hoopa after he was honorably discharged.

For the 20 years following his time in the military, Jackson worked as the Assistant Director and Commercial truck driver for the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Food Distribution Program. Seeking a more diverse daily regimen, the always calm and collected Yurok man decided to pursue a position in the Yurok Public Works Department. He started on June 29th in 2015.

"I love working for the Yurok Tribe," Jackson said. "I would



like to thank the Tribe for the opportunity to work here. I truly enjoy it."

When Jackson was named Employee of the Year at the Annual Meeting, he was quite taken by the substantial amount of support that he received from the staff.

"I was shocked," he said. "I didn't think I was going to get it because of the people on the list. I was really surprised."

The 2016 runners up included: Assistant Tribal Court Director Jessica Carter, Council Support Assistant Shalishah Harmon and Planning and Community Development Director Peggy O'Neill. ✨

Yurok Obituaries



Viola Safford

Nov. 26 1920 - Jan. 10 2017

Viola Safford Dennison, 96, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Jan. 10, 2017.

Viola was born Nov. 26, 1920 to Charlotte Hodge and Frank Safford on Safford Island in Requa. She was a life-long resident of Requa.

Viola was known as "Auntie Vi" to all who knew her. She was a Yurok Tribal Member and was very devoted to her family. She loved the Klamath River and watching her family fish. One of her proudest accomplishments was raising her two nieces, Krystel and Michelle, after their father, Patrick Dean Patapoff, passed

away.

Auntie Vi had an amazing full life. She was a best friend, mother to us, and was excellent at teaching younger generations life skills. She always woke up looking forward to the next adventure and seeing the kids and was happy as soon as they walked in the door.

Auntie Vi was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Charlotte Safford; husband, Byron James Dennison; brothers, James Safford and Milo Safford; sisters, Evelyn Safford Patapoff and Velma Safford; niece, Eunice Fernandes; and nephew, Patrick Dean Patapoff.

Auntie Vi is survived by her immediate family, Krystel Patapoff-Pruitt and Troy Pruitt (Haley, Zoey, Patrick and Charlotte) Michelle and Ze Lima (Trinity and Byron), Jackie and Leonard McVey, Michael and Lorraine McVey, Lori McVey, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

We want to thank our friends and family for surrounding Auntie Vi with love. We would also like to thank the Emergency Room and ICU staff at Sutter Coast Hospital for all their hard work, dedication, and compassion for her and our family.

At her request, no services will be held.

She will be sadly missed by many.



Ellen Louise Goldsworthy

1929 - Jan. 19, 2017

Ellen Goldsworthy passed away in the morning of January 19, 2017 following a brief illness and hospitalization in Medford, Oregon. She was 87 years of age.

Ellen was born in Ontario, California to parents, Lena Isle and Samuel Honeycutt. She was named after her grandmother, Ellen John Isle, a Yurok from the village of Sta'wein. Her mother, Lena Isle was born and raised in Wau'kell (Klamath) where she grew up on the dairy of her father, James Isle (Isle Ranch). The family

later moved to Etiwanda in Southern California for warmer climate and to grow citrus.

At a young age, Ellen played the piano. She graduated from Chaffee High School and she lived most of her life in San Bernardino County. Employment included Sunkist and General Electric; she later was employed over 25 years as an electronics manufacturing technician at Bourns, Inc. in Riverside.

She was married to Roger Goldsworthy for over 48 years. They moved to Josephine County, Oregon in 1981. Ellen raised four daughters. She loved camping and taking trips with her family. Her favorite place to go was Yosemite. She was a great cook. Hobbies included playing cards with a group in Grants Pass. Ellen was a wonderful caring person and was loved by her family. She had faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She now rests peacefully.

Ellen is survived by her husband, Roger Goldsworthy, and four daughters; Sandra Hertler of Selma, OR; Gail Tarbell-Silva of Klamath, CA; Sharon Simonson of Diamond Springs, CA; and Nancy Geiger of Grants Pass, OR; 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren. She will be missed.

Aawok Troy Fletcher Memorial Scholarship

**Application Open
Jan 17 - March 15**



Troy Fletcher was a remarkable Yurok leader and champion for causes important to the Yurok People and culture. He filled many roles in his work with the Yurok Tribe, from starting his career as a fisheries biologist counting fish in the Klamath River, to directing the Fisheries Department as it developed the technical and policy expertise to protect Tribal fishing rights, to helping to guide the Tribe through difficult natural resource issues impacting Tribal water and fishing rights, to leading the Tribe as its Executive Director. His tireless work to restore the Klamath River and its fishery resources, in all of these roles, was an inspiration to all around him. His vision and leadership brought together diverse partners, built new management relationships, and established a bold and innovative vision for Yurok ancestral territory. The purpose of this scholarship is to further Troy's vision for the Yurok people; promoting education of Yurok tribal members in the field of Natural Resources.



Apply online at hafoundation.org

*Applicants for the Aawok Troy Fletcher Memorial Scholarship must:

1. Be Yurok Tribal members that have completed at least 2 semesters of college in the field of Natural Resources including one or more of the following: land acquisition, biology, fisheries, water issues, natural resource restoration, watershed restoration, wildlife management and other aspects related to natural resource, such as policy making. Federal Indian law and policy making as they relate to natural resources management are also acceptable fields of study.
2. Applicant must submit scholarship application through Humboldt Area Foundation (see hafoundation.org for details).
3. Application includes a 500-1,000 word essay that must be submitted to HAF by the March 15 deadline. Topic: Choose one area of natural resources and explain why you chose that area, what contribution you hope to make to that field, and how you would implement that change based on Yurok values and history.
4. Finalists must participate in an oral interview (probably in April, 2017) with the selection committee.
5. Award will be made by HAF when the successful applicant enrolls in the fall semester.

Yurok Marine Planning Town Halls



Klamath - March 9th 5:30pm
Worthington - March 16th 5:30pm
Weitchpec - March 23rd 5:30pm

A light dinner and childcare will be provided

YUROK TRIBAL COURT

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

Court File Number: YT-CV-2016-63
Case Type: FAMILY CODE

RECEIVED
YUROK TRIBAL COURT
DEC 15 2016

Yurok Indian Reservation

[RECEIVED]

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

NOTICE OF PETITION for
Change of Name

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

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





Yurok Tribe

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

www.yuroktribe.org

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IMPORTANT DATES

March 4 - Town Hall Mtg (Ramah) - 1pm - Worthington

March 8 - Council (Planning) 10am - Klamath

March 9 - Council (Action) 10am - Klamath

March 11 - Town Hall Mtg (Ramah) - 1pm - Klamath

March 14 - Public Hearing (Family code) 5pm Worthington

March 15 - Public Hearing (Family code) 12:30pm Weitchpec

March 15 - Public Hearing (Family code) 12:30pm Klamath

March 16 - Marine Planning Mtg - 5:30pm - Worthington

March 18 - Town Hall Mtg (Ramah) - 1pm - Weitchpec

March 21 - Council (Finance) 10am - Klamath

March 22 - Council (Planning) 10am - Klamath

March 21 - Council (Action) 10am - Weitchpec

April 5 - Council (Planning) 10am - Klamath

April 6 - Council (Action) 10am - Klamath

April 18 - Council (Finance) 1pm - Klamath

April 19 - Council (Planning) 10am Klamath

April 20 - Council (Action) 10am - Weitchpec



Klamath Youth Wrestling Club Head Coach Oscar Gensaw (Center) looks over the new wrestling mats. The team had its first practice in February.