

JANUARY EDITION



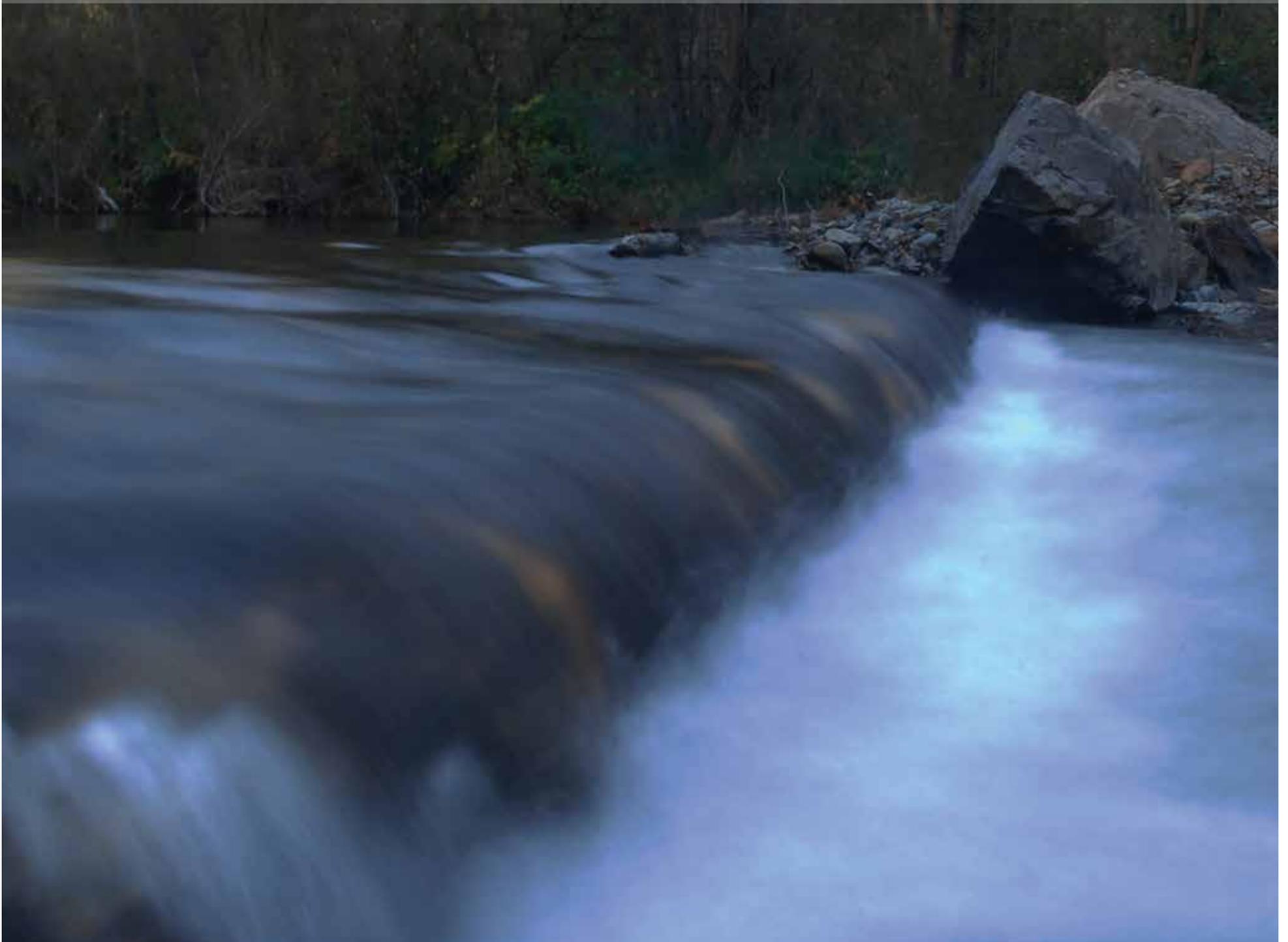
Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

TRANSFORMING THE TRINITY

TRIBE COMPLETES CRITICAL RIVER RESTORATION JOB

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Tribe finishes major Trinity River project

Tribal team creates salmon habitat on Klamath's largest trib

The Yurok Tribe's Watershed Restoration Program recently finished putting the final touches on an extensive project that is designed to increase the amount of favorable juvenile salmon habitat along the Trinity River.

The Limekiln Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project was the first large-scale restoration project completed in its entirety by Yurok Tribe. The Bureau of Reclamation-funded project was a joint effort between the Yurok Tribe's Watershed and Fisheries Departments. It was conducted in accordance with the Trinity River Restoration Program's long-term plan to improve fish populations and wildlife habitat on the Klamath's largest tributary.

The project was completed on schedule and within the budget, despite many challenges faced during its implementation. The Yurok Tribe's Watershed Department has completed similar projects on the Trinity River in the recent past, although these projects were partnerships with private construction companies – where the Limekiln Gulch project was accomplished by Tribal biologists, restorationists and technicians.

"We are really excited about this for two reasons," said Richard Nelson, the superintendent for the project and Yurok Tribal member. "We showed the agency that our river restoration projects meet or exceed the highest of professional standards. More importantly, this work will strengthen salmon and steelhead stocks and improve habitat for native wildlife, which will benefit many future generations."

"The scope of work that the crew accomplished, in the amount of time that they did it, was astonishing," added Yurok Tribal Council Representative Jack Mattz, who toured the site. "They did an excellent job."

The Yurok Tribe is a partner in the Trinity River Restoration Program, and is working to rehabilitate and restore habitat for fish populations that support the Yurok Tribe's federally recognized

fishery in the Lower Klamath River. The Limekiln Gulch Project, located six miles east of Weaverville on a property managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), consisted of constructing several sophisticated juvenile salmon habitat features. The site is the size of the Klamath town site or several city blocks. On what was previously a straight stretch of river, the Watershed Restoration Program used heavy machinery to establish side channels that were later lined with native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The crew also installed large wood structures that resemble beaver dams and serve as hiding spaces, especially in high water, for small salmonids. Big boulders were placed where they would propagate protected pockets of aerated water. The restoration crew also made marshy, slow water habitat. In addition to providing shelter for small salmon, the complex features that the Watershed team built into the river will yield myriad benefits for juvenile salmon and steelhead. Waterfowl and other wildlife will use the new fish-friendly features, too.

Constructing a holistic environment, conducive to the success of everything from bacteria to black bears, requires a tremendous amount of skill. Using heavy machinery, highly talented, Tribal Watershed restorationists, like Roger Boulby, Tony Alameda and Randy "Goose" Mattz molded each of the elaborate elements. These three Tribal members, along with Dewey Myers, Dan McQuillen and project superintendent Nelson performed the majority of the mechanical restoration work over the summer, which saw record high temperatures and constant clouds of smoke from out-of-control forest fires. Despite the poor air quality and 100-plus degree days, the team worked diligently on a daily basis to get the job done.

"The crew had to endure a considerable amount of adversity, but it didn't slow them down," said Nelson. "These Yurok Tribal members did a fantastic job."

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On The Cover

Yurok Tribe completes first major river restoration project on the Trinity River, the Klamath's largest tributary.

The once barren section of river is now a self-sustaining, biologically diverse ecosystem that will only improve over time. As the freshly planted black cottonwoods, ponderosa pines and willow grow, they will provide additional shade to keep the river cool. Many decades down the road, after the cottonwoods and conifers have multiplied, the oldest ones will perish, but that is not the end of their relevance to the river. When the big trees fall, they will supply the river with large wood, marking a significant stage in the circular progression of a natural system.

In addition to providing a safe space for salmonids, the wood/rock structures, comprised of dozens of tree trunks and limbs, will direct the flow silt and sediment to specific locations, where it will settle. Plants will quickly occupy the fertile medium and produce more habitat.

Along with native grasses, the Watershed Restoration Program planted mugwort, sedges, and rushes. All these riparian and wetland plantings will help provide benefit to the overall ecosystem on the Limekiln Gulch project.

The slow water element will soon be populated with billions of bugs for baby salmon and steelhead to feed on until the fish are big enough to move out into the ocean. The wetlands will also provide forage and resting places for migrating and resident ducks and geese.

The BOR plan required that all of these river enhancing elements were included in the far-reaching restoration project. According to the environmental impact statement for the Limekiln Gulch Channel Rehabilitation Project, the main goals were to “recreate complex salmon and steelhead habitat, enhance natural river processes for the benefit of wildlife, and provide conditions suitable for reestablishing native riparian vegetation.”

The Limekiln Gulch project is part of ongoing Trinity River Restoration Program of which the Yurok Tribe is a partner. The Program works cooperatively to restore salmon and steelhead populations on the Trinity, which is heavily impacted by dams. The objective of the Trinity River Restoration Program is “not to create pre-dam conditions.” The primary aim is to create the characteristics of a free-flowing river. As more and more of these habitat features are constructed on the river, salmon and steelhead stocks will recover.

“These projects will continue improving salmon and steelhead stocks, until long after we’re gone. That’s why we do this,” concluded Nelson.

Along with the BOR, the US Bureau of Land Management and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board also contributed to this project.

The following are those that worked in some capacity on the Limekiln Gulch Project (This was a joint effort/collaboration between Watershed and Fisheries Departments)

- **Project Management**
 - o Rich Nelson: Project Superintendent, Project Director
 - o DJ Bandrowski: Project Engineer, Project Foreman
 - o Aaron Martin: Lead Fisheries Biologist, Habitat Specialist

- **Tribal Leadership (assisted with contracting and negotiations with the Bureau)**
 - o Dave Hillemeier
 - o Tim Hayden
 - o Rich Nelson

- **Project Support Staff:**
 - o Jessica Clayburn
 - o Will Proctor
 - o Diane Bowers
 - o Jeannie Duncan
 - o Patty O’Neal
 - o Don Barnes
 - o Theta Taylor
 - o Frankie Myers

- **Heavy Equipment Operators:**
 - o Roger Boulby
 - o Randy (Goose) Mattz
 - o Tony Alameda
 - o Dewey Myers
 - o Dan McQuillen
 - o Richard Nelson

- **Laborers**
 - o Will Bowers
 - o Herman Quinn
 - o Jim Swain

- **Fisheries Technicians – Assisted with Revegetation**
 - o Axel Erickson IV
 - o Hank Alameda
 - o Vincent McCovey
 - o Tim Ulrich
 - o Bill Sylvia ✨

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Tribal member passes California Bar

Cheyenne Sanders, a Cornell Law School graduate, works for the Office of the Tribal Attorney

On December 9, Chief Judge Abby Abinanti officiated a California Bar swearing-in ceremony for a Yurok attorney at the new Yurok Justice Center.

Yurok Tribal member Cheyenne Sanders, a Cornell University Law School graduate, was instated into the State Bar of California.

“When Cheyenne said that she was taking the California bar exam, I told her that I wanted to be the first one to congratulate her,” said James Dunlap, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. “I knew she would pass it on her first try because she excels at everything she does.”

Prior to passing the California bar, Sanders completed the equivalent exam in Washington State and began working for the Tribe in 2014. She is a member of the Yurok Bar and a board member for the California Indian Law Association. Her work includes drafting land purchase agreements, intergovernmental agreements and legal briefs on a variety of topics. She is also a tribal prosecutor in Yurok Tribal Court proceedings.

“When I heard that she was coming back to work for the Tribe, I was really happy,” Chief Judge Abinanti said. “The more I work with Cheyenne, the more I am pleased that she made that decision.”

The quick-minded Yurok women learned that she wanted to be a lawyer at an early age. In high school, Sanders witnessed the catastrophic fish kill on the Klamath River that resulted in 60,000 dead salmon. She watched the Tribe’s attorneys battle to hold the federal government accountable for causing the terrible tragedy, which visited a tremendous amount of agony upon the Yurok, Karuk and Hupa people.

“It was our lawyers who were fighting for our rights and to bring justice to our people,” Sanders said. “That is why I went to law school. I want to serve my Tribe in a meaningful way.”

The attorney is already well on her way to making a positive impact in Indian Country. Now that Sanders completed the bar exam, her new primary focus will be on Indian Child Welfare Act cases, but she will continue her works on developing Tribal ordinances and protecting Tribal lands.

“When Cheyenne was hired we set a goal for her to pass California Bar, which would enable her to represent the Tribe in state court,” said Nathan Voegeli, General Counsel for the Yurok Tribe. “Judging by her work in the Tribal



Cheyenne Sanders is a member of the California and Washington Bar.

courtroom, I am sure she will do a fantastic job.”

Sanders was born and raised in Kirkland, WA. Each summer, her family would take trips to Klamath for the start of salmon fishing season.

“Since the third grade, I missed the first month of school to go fishing and spend time with my family in Klamath,” Sanders said.

After high school, Sanders moved from Kirkland to attend college at the University of Washington in Seattle, where she double-majored in political science and American Indian Studies. After graduating with honors from UW, she interned with two US senators, the National Science Foundation and for a private law firm, where she worked on federal Indian law cases. After receiving an acceptance letter from Cornell University, she moved

to Ithaca, New York to pursue a juris doctorate.

Fresh out of the Ivy League law school, Sanders started working for a Washington DC-based non-profit, which advocated on behalf of the 566 federally recognized tribes in the United States.

One week into the job, Sanders received a call from the Yurok Tribe's Human Resources Department, asking her if she would like to work of the Office of the Tribal Attorney, which is the place she always wanted to wind up.

"I immediately accepted the job. I didn't even have to think about. I packed up and started working for the Tribe a week later, because this is where I always wanted to be," Sanders concluded. ✨

State of the Tribe
Please look for a State of the Tribe article in the February edition of Yurok Today. The address to the Tribal membership will contain a detailed update on many important and timely issues. ✨

Tribe/Del Norte sign agreement

Police pact enables Tribal cops to enforce state laws

The Yurok Tribe and the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors commemorated the signing of a cooperative memorandum of understanding last month that will considerably expand law enforcement coverage in the far corner of Northern California.

The pragmatic pact will make it possible for qualified Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety officers to become reserve deputies of the Del Norte Sheriff's Office. Once deputized, the Tribal police officers will be able to enforce state laws on Tribal lands.

"The Yurok Tribe is very excited about this partnership between the Tribe and the County. We'd like to thank Sheriff Apperson and the entire Del Norte County Board of Supervisors for moving this important initiative forward," said James Dunlap, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "This agreement will increase the number of police officers able to enforce state criminal laws on Tribal and non-Tribal lands."

"We are equally enthusiastic about the collaboration between both agencies," said David Finigan, Chairman of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors. "Without spending a dime, we will see more highly qualified deputies on duty at any given time, making it safer for all county and reservation residents."

There are several requirements that a Yurok Public Safety officer must fulfill in order to obtain the designation of reserve deputy sheriff. In order to qualify for consideration, candidates must be Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified and pass a background check, which are also prerequisites for entering the Yurok Public Safety Department. Tribal officers also have to participate in an interview with the Sheriff, who will make the final determination of whether or not the officer will receive reserve deputy status. After an officer is deputized,

he or she will complete a P.O.S.T. - approved Field Training Program. Additionally, the dually deputized officers are mandated to maintain the same in-service P.O.S.T. training regimen as regular Del Norte Sheriff's Officers.

Currently, the Yurok Tribe cannot enforce state laws on the reservation, a result of federal legislation that was passed in the early 1950s. Public Law 83-280, except in very specific situations, gave six states, including California, jurisdiction over crimes committed by or against Native Americans on Tribal lands.

The Yurok Public Safety officers classified as reserve deputy sheriffs will be able to arrest state lawbreakers within the reservation. In certain circumstances, such as a high-speed chase, cross-deputized Yurok Public Safety officers may be called to assist Del Norte officers, according to the agreement.

"This agreement provides a mechanism for Yurok Public safety to better protect and serve the whole community. I have no doubt that we will see a drop in the crime rate thanks to Sheriff Apperson's commitment to public safety for all residents," concluded Leonard Masten, Yurok Public Safety Chief. ✨

PUBLIC SAFETY - ARREST LOG

* Those arrested are considered innocent until proven guilty in Tribal Court.

Chad Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Possession of a controlled substance
Chad Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Resisting arrest
Chad Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Disturbing the peace
Chad Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Criminal threat
Ronald Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Refusing to comply with lawful order
Ronald Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Brandishing a weapon
Ronald Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Resisting arrest
Ronald Holzhauser - 12/22/15 - Reckless driving
Jerrid Roberts 12/17/15 - Shoplifting
Jerrid Roberts 12/17/15 - Possession of paraphernalia

YIHA opens housing tract for elders

The Trinity Elders Village is a fantastic housing community in Hoopa

The Yurok Indian Housing Authority recently opened the Trinity River Elders Village, an ideal housing community for aging Tribal members.

The project's twelve energy efficient homes were specially designed to meet the unique needs of elderly individuals. Also within the Trinity River Elders Village is a community building, containing a kitchen and a large common area, perfect for parties, card games and family gatherings. The high-tech houses, located in Hoopa, are equipped with leading edge safety features and several energy-saving components. The Elders Village sits within a gated cul-de-sac that has a great view of the local mountains. Well-lit, Americans with Disability Act-compliant sidewalks lead in loop to the community center, where YIHA will be offering monthly activities, such as exercise, art and gardening classes.

"We are excited to unveil this project to our elders. It is the type of top-quality housing that they deserve," said Earl Brown, YIHA's Executive Director.

The Trinity River Elders Village is the first-ever California Low Income Housing Tax Credit Project in Indian Country. Each of the roomy residences have each of the following attributes: two bedrooms, a carport, a bathroom, washing machine and dryer, dishwasher, free internet access, a refrigerator and large freezer in the storage room.

The shower, sinks and all other important infrastructure, even the washer and dryer, can all be accessed from a wheelchair. Each home has two heating sources, a pellet stove and heat pump, as well as an air conditioner. All of these climate control devices require very little electricity to operate. To further reduce power bills, solar panels installed on the roof and will provide more than 50 percent of the needed power. The energy-saving abodes are air tight and air balanced. Occupants can set the temperature and it will be the same in the entire house, ensuring there are no drafty or overheated areas.

All of the homes contain multiple safety components that were installed in different rooms, based on research indicating where the most common accidents occur. For example, in the master bedroom, bathroom and kitchen there are pull-cords, which a person lying on the ground can reach, and when



tugged they immediately alert emergency response personnel. Additionally, a light on the front of the house will turn on to reduce the amount of time it takes for first responders to locate the person in distress.

A special type of doorbell was selected, so that those with hearing or eyesight problems will know when someone is at the door. When pushed, the doorbells make a louder sound than normal ones and turn on a blinking light inside the house.

"These homes were built to last, using the most modern technology available. They will serve our eldest Tribal members for many generations to come," concluded Brown. ❄

Yurok judge tapped to co-chair forum

Chief Judge Abinanti serves on the CA Judicial Council's Tribal Court-State Court Forum

SAN FRANCISCO—Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye has appointed Chief Judge Abby Abinanti of the Yurok Tribal Court as the new co-chair of the Judicial Council's Tribal Court-State Court Forum. The forum is made up of California tribal and state court judges, court staff, and representatives from the Governor's Office and Attorney General's Office. Judge Abinanti has been a member of the forum since its inception in 2010. "Tribal and state courts share the same goals of public safety, accountability, and a fair process for those who appear before them," said Judge Abinanti. "It's in the best interest for all Californians that these courts coordinate and share resources to achieve a seamless delivery of justice."

Tribal Court-State Court Forum The forum develops measures to improve the working relationship between California's tribal and state courts on areas of mutual concern, such as jurisdictional issues, information sharing, and judicial education. Forum members have made recommendations, proposed legislation, and dealt with various issues, such as tribal access to confidential juvenile court files and juvenile appellate records, filing and viewing each other's protective orders, and providing court-appointed counsel for tribal members who are parties to juvenile dependency proceedings. In addition, the forum helped create a clearinghouse of resources on the Indian Child Welfare Act and on tribal justice systems.

More on Chief Judge Abinanti Judge Abinanti succeeds one of the original co-chairs and driving force behind the creation of the forum, Chief Judge Richard Blake of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. "Tribal and state courts in California have already learned much from one another," said Judge Blake, now president of the National American Indian Judges Association. "But there is more work to be done. The forum is in good hands with Judge Abinanti." Forum co-chair Justice Dennis M. Perluss, who serves as presiding justice of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Seven, echoed those sentiments. "I've had the pleasure of serving on the forum with Judge Abinanti for several years," added Justice Perluss. "She is a passionate advocate who will help the forum find solutions to challenges that tribal and state courts share." Judge Abinanti has been a Yurok Tribal Court judge since 1997, and was appointed Chief Judge in 2007. In conjunction with the



Chief Justice Abinanti was selected to be co-chair of the Tribal Court-State Court Forum.

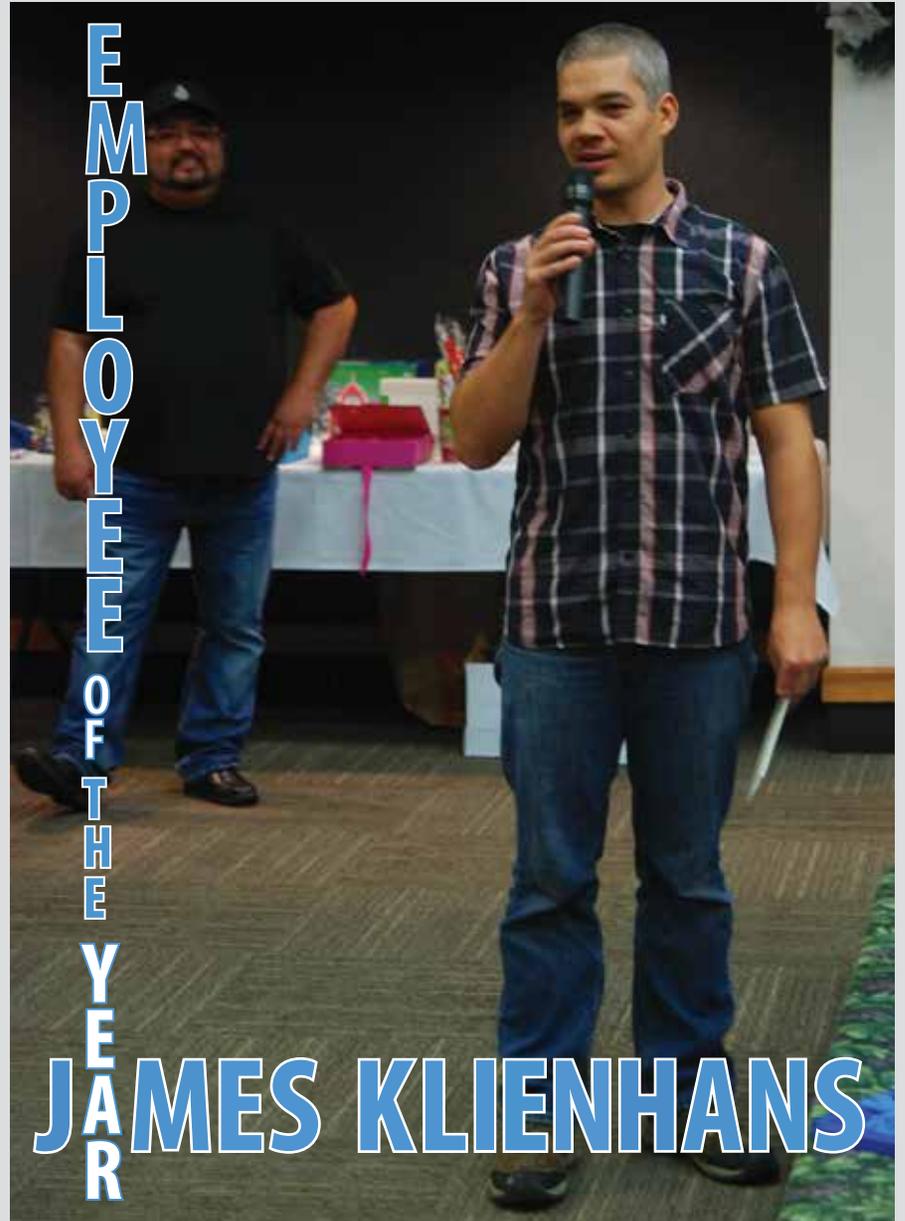
Tribal Council, Chief Judge Abinanti was instrumental in expanding Yurok tribal jurisprudence. She also leads the effort to enhance services for Yurok tribal members, families, and children. Among her innovations: a tribal-run program to help members expunge their criminal records; a tribal child support program; and a wellness court for nonviolent offenders with substance abuse issues. A partnership with the state criminal justice system, the wellness court enables the tribe to transfer its members from state criminal court to the tribal justice system. In addition to her tribal court career, she also received her JD from the University of the New Mexico School of Law, and in 1974, became the first California tribal woman to be admitted to the California State Bar. She served as directing attorney for California Indian Legal Services, and currently serves as a commissioner for the Superior Court of San Francisco County in its Unified Family Court.

Tribal Courts in California California has 23 tribal courts, representing more than 40 tribes (there are 110 federally recognized tribes in California) The number of tribal courts has more than doubled since 2003 Exercise various types of jurisdiction over a range of case types (administrative, civil, family, juvenile, probate, and criminal jurisdiction.*



TRINITY RESTORATION PROJECT





EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
JAMES KLIENHANS

Tribal Council passes law banning GEOs

Genetically engineered organisms are harmful to the ecosystem

On December 10, 2015, after several months of committee drafting and opportunity for public comment, the Yurok Tribal Council unanimously voted to enact the Yurok Tribe Genetically Engineered Organism (“GEO”) Ordinance.

The Tribal GEO Ordinance prohibits the propagation, raising, growing, spawning, incubating, or releasing genetically engineered organisms (such as growing GMO crops or releasing genetically engineered salmon) within the Tribe’s territory and declares the Yurok Reservation to be a GMO-free zone. While other Tribes, such as the Dine’ (Navajo) Nation, have declared GMO-free zones by resolution, this ordinance appears to be the first of its kind in the nation.

This announcement comes on the heels of the Federal Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval of genetically engineered “AquAdvantage” salmon in November.

On April 11, 2013, the Yurok Tribe enacted a resolution opposing genetically engineered salmon, and then secured a grant from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to support the Tribe’s work in continuing to protect its ancestral lands, including: waters, traditional learning and teaching systems, seeds, animal-based foods, medicinal plants, salmon, sacred places, and the health and well-being of the Tribe’s families and villages. GMO farms, whether they are cultivating fish or for fresh produce, have a huge, negative impact on watersheds the world over. The Yurok Tribe’s homeland is on the Klamath River, where massive algal blooms, exacerbated by agricultural runoff and antiquated hydroelectric dams, turn the river

toxic each summer.

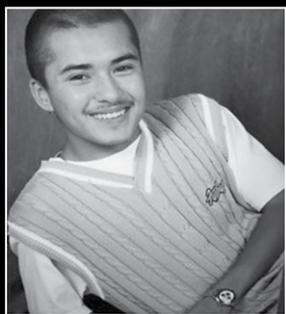
The Yurok People have managed and relied upon the abundance of salmon on the Klamath River since time immemorial. The Tribe has a vital interest in the viability and survival of the wild, native Klamath River salmon species and all other traditional food resources.

“The Yurok People have the responsibility to care for our natural world, including the plants and animals we use for our foods and medicines. This Ordinance is a necessary step to protect our food sovereignty and to ensure the spiritual, cultural and physical health of the Yurok People. GMO food production systems, which are inherently dependent on the overuse of herbicides, pesticides and antibiotics, are not our best interest,” said James Dunlap, Chairman of the Yurok Tribe.

The Ordinance allows for enforcement of violations through the Yurok Tribal Court. Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti stated, “It is the inherent sovereign right of the Yurok People to grow plants from natural traditional seeds and to sustainably harvest plants, salmon and other fish, animals, and other life-giving foods and medicines, in order to sustain our families and communities as we have successfully done since time immemorial; our Court will enforce any violations of these inherent, and now codified, rights.”

The Yurok Tribe is working with other Tribes in a regional collaboration as part of the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition (NCTCC), and the Tribe and NCTCC are co-hosting an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Summit in Klamath in the spring of 2016.✳

Yurok Obituaries



Jerome Hawk Matilton
7/31/1981- 6/30/ 2015

Jerome Hawk Matilton, 33, of Portland Oregon, died June 30, 2015.

Jerome was born on July 31, 1981, in Portland Oregon to loving parents Steven Dale Matilton and Gloria Bueno.

Despite struggles in life Jerome was a smart, loving, giving, kind young man with a great sense of humor.

Jerome worked for Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters .

Jerome is survived by his parents father Steven Dale Matilton, mother Gloria Bueno, step father Charles Murr, brother Jason Bueno, paternal grandfather Clyde Matilton Sr, maternal grandmother Virginia Tahkeal Perry, uncles Paul Smith, Clyde Matilton, Kevin Matilton, Jesse Hawk Bueno, Jerry Bueno, aunts Sheryl Matilton, Teresa Matilton, Tammy & Tommy Evenson, Lily Salguiero, Carmen Romero, Julia Bueno, Michelle Bueno, April Bueno and numerous cousins who were all like brothers and sisters. Jerome is preceded in death by loving grandparents Mary Agnes Smith and Julian Marcelino Bueno.

Jerome was full of life and his foot prints will be forever be implanted in our minds and hearts .

Jerome was an organ donor and his legacy lives on with his gift, four recipients received life saving transplants.

Jerome will truly be missed by his family and friends, he is gone but will never be forgotten.



CULTURE CORNER

The December Culture Committee meeting featured discussions about sharing cultural knowledge, and a cultural response to climate change.

The Committee also recognized Aawok Bill Pearson's tremendous contribution to the preservation of Yurok culture.

Before the meeting began, Betty Jackson challenged the Culture Committee members to share at least one traditional skill with the local community. Jackson shared a letter that she had written, which explained multiple cultural teachings. "We have a responsibility to pass on our culture to the next generation," Jackson said.

Committee member Bertha Peters suggested that the committee discuss one element of Yurok culture at each meeting. All were in favor. As a result, this edition of Cultural Corner contains several cultural applications, relating to phenology, traditional foods and community development.

The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program's Air Quality Specialist, Joe Hostler, started the first of a two-part discussion about the impacts of climate change in Yurok Country and how the Tribe can cope with the changes to the environment. Hostler is conducting a study, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency's STAR Grant Program, on the timely topic.

"We are focusing on water, changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise and other changes associated with water," Hostler explained.

Hostler began by asking the Committee if they had witnessed any potential impacts of global warming.

"It's already happening here," said Walt "Black Snake" Lara. "There is a slippery weed growing on the mussels that I've never seen before." Betty Jackson noted the failure of a spring that had produced clean water for decades, if not centuries. The Committee also pointed out the recent increase in the regularity and severity of the ocean algal blooms, which is responsible for the presence of high levels of demoic acid in mussels, crabs and other bivalves. The deadly toxin has greatly limited the harvest of several traditional foods.

Next, Hostler inquired about how the Tribe can contend with the changing climate and resulting consequences to the Tribe's traditional food and water resources.

John Melvin, the Chair of the Culture Committee, pointed out that in the past the traditional village system was spread out and took a little water from many different springs and streams. Currently, the communities on the reservation draw water from a few sources, putting them at risk of running out of water in times of drought. Melvin mentioned that it would be prudent to consider the traditional approach as a backup strategy. It will ensure people have enough water in times of

sustained drought.

Committee member Bertha Peters suggested that practicing the traditional food processing methods, which sustained the Tribe since the beginning of time, will help Yurok people get through the times when resources are sparse. She mentioned drying acorns as one of those time-tested techniques.

"When there are years of abundance, gather enough to hold you over for year or so," Peters said.

Hostler also mentioned that the phenology could change in response to a warming climate. Phenology is something the Tribe has done since time immemorial. It is the study of the timing of natural events, such as the correlation between the dogwood blooming and the sturgeon running up river to spawn.

Walt Lara and Betty Jackson both gave an example of this. Walt Lara said it was dangerous to collect mussels when one can see sparks under his foot steps, while walking in wet sand at night. The small flashes of light, which are come from a microorganism in the ocean, are a result of bioluminescence. It indicates the presence of an algal bloom or red tide. Red tides induce high levels of demoic acid in shellfish.

Jackson stated that the best time to pick seaweed is after the bracken fern has completely unfurled.

"We picked bracken ferns on the way back to Hoopa and we put seaweed on them to dry," Jackson said.

Culture Committee Meeting Facilitator Bob McConnell asked the advisory group if they had ever heard the term Peyleen chey wey or big hunger. At least several generations ago, there were no fish or acorns available for a sustained period of time. Frank Lara said that he had heard of the term from his grandparents.

"The inland people had to travel to the coast to trade for dried fish, rock fish and other coastal foods," Frank Lara said.

Hostler then asked the Committee to share any lessons that were learned from the massive floods in 1955 and 1964. The Committee pinpointed a need to put all of the important infrastructure above the high water level witnessed during those two floods and another one near the end of 1861. A huge flood occurred on the Klamath River in late December of that year, wiping out Fort Terwer, which had just been established somewhere near present day Klamath Glen. The Committee recommended figuring out the height of the 1861 flood.

For the second part of the discussion, which will happen at a later date, Hostler asked the Committee to consider the potential loss of culture, resulting from the diminished populations of cultural use plants and animals that may come about from climate change.

"Up north in Alaska, those natives are already seeing the dramatic impacts of climate change and my concern is that Yurok will too eventually have additional impacts from climate change on top of all the current impacts we've had to deal with, including: gold mining, logging, large-scale marijuana cultivation and other man made problems — which can add up to a very serious threat to our cultural survival," Hostler said. "Yuroks have survived past drastic changes and I wanted

to see if elders had any lessons or advice on what to do when the world around us is falling apart.”

Just before the meeting adjourned Bob McConnell made an announcement. The longtime Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer is leaving the Tribe in February to become executive director of the Cultural Fire Management Council. McConnell has worked for the Tribe for 20-plus years. Please look for a story about McConnell’s many accomplishments, while working for the Yurok Tribe, in the February edition of Yurok Today.

“I think this is the best thing I can do to help heal our land and our people,” concluded McConnell. ❄



Graduate grateful for grant from Tribe

Written by Jon Riggs

I would like to thank the Yurok Tribe. The grant I was given to help continue to pursue my college education is much appreciated. I received an associate’s degree in the Applied Sciences of Welding Technology. I originally went to college to gain skills as a welder but because of the mandatory classes such as sociology, biology, and history, I walked away with so much more than welding skills. My mind is now open and aware of political and environmental issues that before college I didn’t realize even existed. Today I not only realize the severity of the problems our generation faces, but I am now equipped with the skills to fight the good fight! Right now I live in Vancouver WA, but my plan is to come back to the tribe. I recently realized that helping people is the only line of work that doesn’t leave me feeling empty, selfish, and self centered at the end of the day. There has always been a huge part of me that has wanted to be with other Yuroks and this feeling has made deciding who I want to spend my life helping fairly easy. I encourage all people to go to college. I believe it is through education that things can be made right in all aspects of life, including the preservation of native traditions. I am a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. I have been in and out of treatment centers and jails since I was eighteen years old. I have been angry and selfish my whole life. I have sat around and pointed out the flaws of the world without lifting a finger to help it. But not today! Nov 28 will mark three years clean and sober. Jan 26 will mark two years without a cigarette! My addictions ran my life but today I am free. I am thirty years old and am finally doing something worthwhile with my life. It is never too late to start and I now believe it is my responsibility to my brothers and sisters to do the best that I can in this short life. Again, I thank the tribe for its help and will do everything that I can to pay it forward. ❄



Yurok Language online

A beginners Yurok Language class is now available online. The class is on Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. It can be viewed in real-time here, <http://yuroktribe.org/TheYurokTribeCurrentEvents.htm>. Archives of the lessons are also available on that page. The class is also available in real-time here, <https://livestream.com/accounts/16075508> ❄

Yurok man overcomes major obstacles

Bobby Jones, a Wellness Program participant, runs a thriving business

After Bobby Jones's father died unexpectedly, the successful business owner, father and former addict faltered back into a pattern of living that he thought he had left behind long ago.

"I was feeling lost and hopeless," Jones said. "My pops was my main support person. He was a constant in my life."

Following the loss of his closest confidant and friend in early 2013, Jones stumbled back into substance abuse for a short period of time. However, the slip-up resulted in some serious consequences, such as Child Welfare Services temporarily taking custody of one of his children.

The Yurok Tribal member's cousin, Kim Yost, also a Yurok Tribal member, played an instrumental role in getting Jones back on the road to recovery.

"She said, 'you have to snap out of it,'" Jones recalled. "She said, 'you're the big Bob Jones now.' It stuck with me. If something were to happen to me, there would be no one there for my kids. That was a big motivating factor."

Knowing that his chances of winning the fight against addiction would increase exponentially if he had professional substance abuse counselors in his corner, Jones decided to reach out to the Yurok Wellness Court, which offers a culturally appropriate treatment for drug and alcohol dependence.

"My main support was the Wellness Court and Anthony Trombetti," Jones explained. "Anthony is a man who will go to any length as long as you're doing the right thing."

Trombetti, a member of the Yurok Tribe, is a family advocate for the Yurok Tribal Court. At the time when Jones was in need of a leg up, Trombetti was a Wellness Coordinator for the Yurok Wellness Court. The Tribal counselor helped Jones develop and implement a plan to maintain his sobriety and reunite with his child.

"CWS, for years, has used the term, 'in order to get your kids back,'" Trombetti said. "The Tribal approach is to do the 'work'

necessary for the children to get their parents back, which requires a different dynamic and a more holistic methodology. Getting ones kids back is the beginning. Parenting them to adulthood is the real finish. With that approach, Bobby's children were able to get their Dad back. It's the difference that made a difference."

During the county court process, Trombetti accompanied Jones to all of the hearings. Sometimes, when Jones did not have transportation, the Wellness Coordinator would drive him to the proceedings.

"I could always count on him," Jones said.

Jones also worked with Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, Anthony Obie and Jolanda Ingram-Obie. He expressed gratitude for their contribution to his continued sobriety. "The Judge is honest and fair," Jones said. "It's nice to know there are real people out there, like those two. They were there for me."

During the Yurok court proceedings Jones would give accounts of what he was doing and what he was not doing,

which allowed for him to be very honest about his progress and maintain his victories. Trombetti told Jones that he would not help him, but he would assist him in the decisions Jones would have to make. Jones was doing the right things and doing things right, according to Trombetti.

After completing the Wellness Court program, Jones, a convicted felon, was determined to find a way to raise his children without any assistance from the state. As a criminal history, which included several short stints in county jail and state prison, prevented him from landing a job working for someone else, the fiercely independent man decided to forge his own path.

Since Jones had worked for all of his adult life doing carpentry and landscaping work, he selected to start a business combining the two. He called it Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance and it has really taken off.

"With a lengthy criminal history, I didn't have a lot of options, so I made one," the humble and hardworking man said.



(left) Bob and Devin Jones are part of Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance.

Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance operates year-round in Del Norte County and on the Yurok Reservation. The Tribally owned company does everything from lawn care to ground-up landscaping jobs for new construction projects. In addition to remediating storm damage, tree removal, tree trimming and brushing, Jones builds decks, porches and other outdoor features for his clients. Indoors, Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance installs laminate flooring and cabinets. The company also fixes dilapidated siding, and completes an array of home improvement-type projects. Now a few years in, Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance is flourishing.

"Anything around or in your home, I can do," Jones explained. Jones's business is also capable of expanding his employee base in order to complete larger projects. For example, if he receives a work request from a hotel owner or government entity, he can call upon a temporary staff pool that he has on standby.

"I have a list of guys I can hire to satisfy the demands of larger jobs," Jones said.

When Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance was in its infancy, Jones participated in the Hoopa/Yurok Vocational Rehab Program, which is also called Renewal. Renewal is where he learned

the basics of running a business and how to write a financial plan.

"I didn't know what to do. I just knew how to work. I owe a lot to David Tripp, John Lynch and Debra Pizzuto from Renewal," Jones said. "It's an awesome program. I wish more people knew about it. They helped me build up my business and my self-worth."

Jones also sought out the services of the North Coast Small Business Development Center. The NCSBDC helped Jones fine tune his business plan, which further illuminated what it takes to sustain a profitable company.

"I have to give credit to the small business center," Jones said.

Today, Jones sees the world differently than he did before he began his journey to becoming a business owner. Now, with long-term sobriety under his belt, Jones acknowledges and takes ownership of his personal history. His past indiscretions are firmly in the rear view and he has begun looking toward the future. He hopes to one day pass on Redwood Coast Landscaping and Maintenance to his children, but only if they want it.

"One day, my kids will be able to step into this or do their own thing. What is most important to me is that they have options. Options that I didn't have," Jones concluded. ✨

E-Waste Recycling Week



FREE Drop Off!

February 1st- 5th, 2016



Computers, Monitors, Fax Machines, Printers, Scanners, Servers, Laptops, TV's, Stereos, VCR's, DVD Players, Microwaves, Typewriters, Cell phones—Working or Not, and anything that contains a chip.



Klamath Glen, Roy Rook Boat Ramp, Feb 1st, 10am-12pm
Klamath, Main Tribal Office, Feb 2nd, 1pm-3pm
Wautec, Firehouse, Feb 3rd, 11am-1pm
Weitchpec, Tribal Office, Feb 4th, 11am-1pm
Tulley Creek, Fire Station, Feb 5th, 10am-12pm

Call in advance to drop off your E-Waste during business hours the week of February 1st at the YTEP Lodge, Klamath.



For More Information, Contact the YTEP Office at: 707-482-1822 X1001 or X1011

E-Waste is Hazardous Waste and is ILLEGAL to dump in trash.

2016 Yurok Meth Summit

You are Cordially Invited

ACTION: 2016 Yurok Meth Summit - Taking Action for Change

Please join us. Your expertise is vital to creating an Action Plan for our local communities!

Criminal justice systems, Departments of Health and Human Services, mental health systems, often collide, creating significant barriers to treatment and support services. ACTION: Taking Action for Change helps communities develop and implement plans for community change through cross-system collaboration, organizational change, and enhancing practice, identify gaps in service, and clarify community resources.

Goals

- Improve System Collaboration
- Further the delivery of appropriate services to people with substance use disorders involved in the criminal justice system
- Assist in identifying gaps in service
- Optimize use of local resources
- Setting Community Priorities
- Developing an Action Blueprint for Change

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in creating an action plan for our local communities!

Location:

Yurok Tribal Office
 Community Room
 190 Klamath Blvd.
 Klamath, CA 95548

Date & Time:

February 27,
 2016
 8:30am - 4:30pm

Please **SAVE THE DATE** and **RSVP BY EMAIL OR PHONE!**

There are registration forms for this event, and can be obtained by reaching Jalea Orcutt.

Contact Jalea Orcutt to RSVP or for more information at jorcutt@yuroktribe.nsn.us or at 707-482-1884

Sponsored By: The Yurok Tribe's Department of Public Safety & Meth Prevention Program USDOJ Grant # 2011CKWX0103





YUROK TRIBE

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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 on the following draft legislation:

- **AMENDED PROBATE ORDINANCE:** An amended ordinance for the purposes of establishing a summary Tribal Court procedure for probating trust and non-trust estates.

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:

February 4, 2016 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Klamath Office Administration 190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548	February 4, 2016 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Weitchpec Office Hwy 96 Weitchpec, CA	February 4, 2016 6 p.m. – 7p.m. Former Worthington School 3400 Erie St Eureka, CA
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DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

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

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. You do NOT have to attend a Public Hearing in order to submit comments. Comments may be submitted in writing via postal email, email, or fax. Comments can also be made over the phone by calling Cheyenne Sanders at 707-482-1350 x1397. All comments must be received by **5:00pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2016.**

Comment letters may be submitted by email at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us, by fax at (707) 482-1363 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 specific section, if any, to which the comment is directed. For example, **“Comment Letter—Probate Ordinance, Yurok birthright preference.”** Comments can also be made by phone by calling 707-482-1350 x1397. If leaving a voicemail, please include your full name and voting district.



Yurok Tribe

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www.yuroktribe.org

www.yuroktribe.org

Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548

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IMPORTANT DATES

FEB 4 - HEARING - AMENDED PROBATE ORD. - 12PM-1PM - KLAMATH
FEB 4 - HEARING - AMENDED PROBATE ORD. - 3PM-4PM - WEITCHPEC
FEB 4 - HEARING - AMENDED PROBATE ORD. - 6PM-7PM - WORTHINGTON
FEB 8 - Livestreaming Yurok Language 1pm - <https://livestream.com/accounts/16075508>

FEB 10 - COUNCIL PLANNING MTG.- 10AM - KLAMATH
FEB. 11 - COUNCIL ACTOIN MTG. - 10AM - KLAMATH

FEB 15 - OFFICES CLOSED - PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB 19 - CULTURE COMMITTEE - 10PM - WEITCHPEC

FEB 24. - COUNCIL PLANNING MTG.- 10AM - KLAMATH
FEB 25 - COUNCIL ACTION MTG. - 10AM- WEITCHPEC

FEB 27 - METH SUMMIT- KLAMATH - 8:30AM -4:30PM

MAR 9- COUNCIL PLANNING MTG. - 10AM - KLAMATH
MAR 10 - COUNCIL ACTION MTG. - 10AM - KLAMATH

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

FEB 16-26

Want to be a USCG Boat Master Captain?

The Yurok Tribe's Transportation Department is hosting a two week
Boat Captain's Master Training Course
February 16-26, 2016
Klamath, CA
8 am-5 pm

The USCG Master Course is for anyone who wishes to operate a U.S. Coast Guard inspected vessel, up to 100 Tons, and carry more than six passengers for hire. This license will allow you to carry more passengers and operate larger vessels.

This course requires attendance for the entire ten days, and will include first aid/CPR training. The Master 100 Ton candidate should be experienced in handling a boat prior to taking this course. All candidates must have a firm understanding of reading, writing and basic math. This license is required if operating commercially with passengers on the Klamath River or on any waters that can be navigated to the ocean or interstate (Inland USCG waters).

Tribal members are eligible for conditional scholarships, call for more information
Non-tribal members may be able to attend at cost of \$855/person

Master's Course Requirements:

- Must be a US Citizen
- Minimum age – 19 years old
- Drivers License is required
- Must have two forms of picture ID
- No felony or drug convictions
- Must pass Physical Exam (preregistration with UIHS required)—Drug Test, Eye Exam, Color Blind Test

**To sign up,
or if you have Questions
Call Joe James at
(707) 482-1350 x1355**

The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, February 10th