

DECEMBER EDITION



# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

**A YUROK LIVING LEGACY**

**SEE STORY ON PAGE 4**



**ORICK REP.**  
**LARRY HENDRIX**

## Update from the Orick Representative

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your representative on the Yurok Tribal Council. It has been my pleasure to serve you for nearly twenty years. At this time, the Council is debating a process that would change the way the Yurok Indian Housing Authority operates. I have talked with several of the Orick District members and found that they are not in favor of this drastic change to the Housing Ordinance. During my tenure on the Council, I have watched many Housing directors come and go and since Judith Marasco returned to the position of director, we have seen numerous projects fulfilled. Millions of dollars of grant money have been received and projects completed. At this time I would like to hear from all of you as to your position on this matter. I will be required to vote on the change very soon and wish to vote as the majority wishes.

I will be supporting a change in the way that Public Hearings are set. At this time we do not have evening or weekend hearings and I wish to support a change so that more people have an opportunity to attend. I am also in support of Town Hall meeting where the people can talk with the Council and Staff on upcoming projects and economic ventures.

Again, I thank you for your support, I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me at (707) 502-9931 or send me your comments via email at: lhendrix@yuroktribe.nsn.us ✨

### **NOTICE - UNSUB YUROK TRIBAL COURT**

The Yurok Tribe Public Safety Officers seized the following nets at the locations listed below.

COURT CASE: # 2013-195 (Complaint #20130297)  
SEIZURE LOCATION: Estuary Klamath River (25' Gill Net)  
APPROXIMATE DATE: 08/23/2013

COURT CASE: #2013-196 (Complaint #20130326)  
SEIZURE LOCATION: Mouth of Minot Creek (30' Gill Net)  
APPROXIMATE DATE: 09/07/2013

COURT CASE: #2013-197 (Complaint #20130342)  
SEIZURE LOCATION: Approx 100 yards above bridge (25' Gill Net)  
APPROXIMATE DATE: 09/23/2013

COURT CASE: #2013-201 (Complaint #20130352)  
SEIZURE LOCATION: Just below Tulley Creek (100' Gill Net)  
APPROXIMATE DATE: 10/21/2013

These nets were seized in accordance with Yurok Tribe Fishing Rights Ordinance Section 7(b). The nets will be forfeited if no claim or appearance is made. You may be held liable or charged for a violation of YTFO Section 7(b) upon claiming ownership of the nets.

To claim ownership, immediately notify: The Yurok Tribal Court: P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, CA 95548. Phone (707) 482-1350.

Hearing for the above Cases will be held:

DATE: Thursday, December 19, 2013; 10AM  
PLACE: Yurok Tribe Council Chambers  
190 Klamath Boulevard, Klamath, CA

**AFTER THE HEARING DATE NETS MAY BE FORFEITED AND SOLD!**

## Contents

Page 6.....Fall Feast photo spread

Page 8.....Yuroks, Karuks team up on internet project

Page 11.....Yurok business sells traditional food and more

## On The Cover

RICHARD MYERS RECENTLY RETIRED FROM THE YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL. THE PECWAN DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE SERVED FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS. THE FORMER COUNCILMAN MADE MANY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRIBE AND INDIAN COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

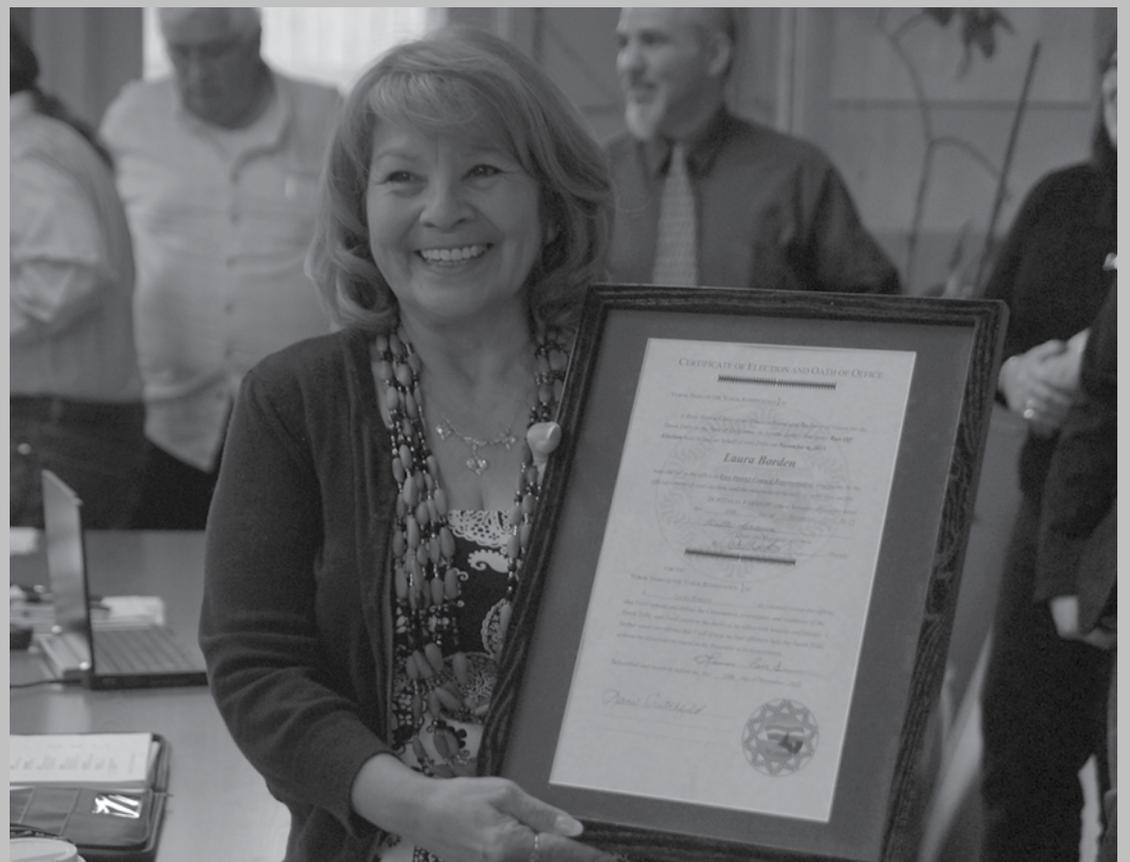
# Yurok Tribal Election Results

(Top right) Councilmember Bonnie Green will be serving a second, consecutive term as the South District Representative. Councilmember Green ran unopposed. Councilmember Green served as the South District Rep. from 1995 to 2006 and as Vice Chair from 2006 to 2009.

(Bottom left) Mindy Natt will be serving as the Pecwan District. Councilmember Natt will take over for Richard Myers, who served nearly 20 years on the Council before retiring this fall. Councilmember Natt ran against Darlene Magee.

(Bottom right) Laura Borden ran against longtime East District Representative Lyle McKinnon. The final vote tally was 127 to 91 in Councilmember Borden's favor. McKinnon served on the Tribal Council for 12-years from 2001 to 2013.

Constitutional amendment – Yurok Constitution Article IV, section B(h) to permit leases of up to fifty years, rather than the current 20 years – failed. The final vote 355 in favor and 277 opposed. The amendment required a two-thirds majority to become law.



Recently retired, Yurok Tribal Councilman Richard “Dickey” Myers is one of the longest sitting and universally respected leaders in the Tribe’s history.

The Pecwan District Representative served on the Tribal Council for 16 years, starting in 1995. From the start, he set out to achieve numerous, weighty goals for his district, the Tribe and in Indian Country. His ambitious objectives were driven by the tribal membership, whose lives he would forever change for the positive, and nearly constant prayer.

The veteran tribal leader wanted to improve Highway 169, bring power to the upper Reservation and heal the Klamath River as well as create living wage jobs, construct a cemetery and increase access to affordable housing. He was also interested in working to reclaim the Tribe’s land base, cultivating the Tribe’s Language Program and protecting cultural resources.

“It was a struggle and nothing happened over night, but I almost finished everything that I set out to do,” Myers explained, before humbly assigning the majority of the credit to the community and his fellow Tribal Council Members.

In addition to getting the highway fixed, Myers, who would never boast about it, also played a major part in making the Veteran’s Cemetery a reality, reacquiring large tracts of the Tribe’s homeland and the proliferation of the Language Program, which was declining when he started and is now being taught in several public schools. He was also a leader of the campaign to remove four Klamath dams, which required him to travel to Europe and participate in a frank conversation in front of 30,000 people with the then wealthiest person in the world. Legislation, to remove the dams and begin the largest river restoration project in history, is inching its way toward the United States Congress.

The Navy veteran was born and raised in Sregon, the same village his ancestors came from. In addition to serving on the Tribal Council and serving as the NCIDC Chairman for nearly a decade, Myers was a volunteer fire chief, a ceremonial leader and participated in several national Native American organizations. Myers’ leadership style is one of example. While serving on the Tribal Council he consistently employed a positive attitude in the face of adversity, and possessed an enormous amount of patience and humility. What kept him on the Council was a “love for the people, to try to make a healthy community and because we have so much need.”

His priority for the last two decades has been to make life better for Yurok people. As an elected official he favored and championed solutions that originated the tribal membership. He also attributes his success to the hard work of tribal employees.

“Not many people know how hard these people work,” Myer said.



In front of 30,000 people, retired Yurok Councilman Richard Myers speaks to the then richest man in the world about removing four Klamath Dams.

### **The importance of tribal member participation**

In Myers’ view, the tribal membership is a vital organ in the Tribe’s governing body. Every month the former Pecwan Representative facilitated a district-wide meeting in his living room. These intimate meetings were the perfect place for people, whether or not they voted for Myers, to voice their concerns about the direction the Tribe, as a whole, was heading. The always calm and collected mediator was especially cognizant about the fact that his job description included serving his naysayers with the same vigor as he would his supporters.

“After I was elected, I was not Dickey Myers anymore. I represented my district and the entire Yurok Nation,” Myers said. “The ideas come from the people.”

What some people call the end of the road, Myers calls the center of the universe

When Myers was first elected, the one-lane highway, offering the only way in and out of his district, was in complete disrepair. Myers and the Council began advocating to Caltrans to upgrade the narrow and windy road, which has claimed too many lives. As much as the Tribe’s governing body increased pressure on Caltrans, the deeper the state agency dug its feet into the ground.

Myers remembers one Caltrans bureaucrat in particular who claimed Highway 169 was no different than Highway 36. On his way to attend to tribal business in Redding, Myers drove the mountain thoroughfare. There were similarities between the roads, but there was one major, life-saving difference. Expansive turnouts were placed at the end of every mile. Myers confronted the so-called civil servant, who immediately back pedaled from his preposterous position.

“It was baloney,” Myers recounted. “Our road was far more dangerous than Highway 36.”

It wasn’t until Myers worked with a more conscientious Caltrans employee to film a fire truck traveling down the highway did money become available to fix the road. From another angle, Myers via his position as chairperson of the National Congress of American Indian’s Transportation Subcommittee, also worked on securing funds to fix roads Reservation-wide. In the following years, new bridges emblazoned with traditional basket designs and other road upgrades were also installed as well as the paving of several miles of Bald Hills Road, the connecting route between the west and east sides of the Reservation.

### **Talking to the richest man in the world**

Hail and rain, equally powerful to the precipitation that falls in the temperate rainforest that is Yurok Country, came down hard the night before Myers addressed Berkshire Hathaway’s Warren Buffett in Omaha, Nebraska.

To apprise Buffett and his shareholders of the damage the dams cause, Myers waited outside in that freezing rain to make it to one of six microphones, available on first come, first serve basis, to those who braved a human stampede starting at 6 a.m. Berkshire Hathaway controls Mid-American Energy, owner of PacifiCorp, the operator of the dams. Berkshire shareholders financially benefit from the power produced by the four, fish killing Klamath dams.

Myers made it to a mic, but he was the last of the Klamath coalition, comprised of Karuks and Hupas, environmentalists and commercial fishers, to speak in front of NBA-size crowd there to practically worship the “Oracle of Omaha”, Buffett’s unofficial moniker.

“Everything I wanted to say had already been said,” Myers explained. “It was the most nervous I’ve ever been in my entire life.”

Myers signature calm took over and he spoke to Buffett in the same fashion as two people having coffee. The Yurok representative creatively made a connection between another Mid-American Energy project involving natural resources and a Native American Tribe.

“I wanted to connect the problems with that project to our river and the dams,” Myers said.

Before the next annual Berkshire meeting, PacifiCorp agreed in principle to remove the dams.

### **His work went far beyond Yurok Country**

While Myers was involved in many of the Tribe’s success, his work has also benefitted all of Indian County. One of longtime, former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Tom Gates, fondest memories with Myers is of a Washington DC cultural meeting. The conversation between representatives from 12 federally recognized tribes became more than moderately heated.

“The various tribes had splintered into various camps and could not find consensus. It appeared as though a national tribal cultural movement would fall apart on the spot,” Gates recalled.

Some of the tribes had lost all hope of coming to an agreement, were packing up and heading for the door. Although they had not planned to do this, Myers and Aawok Glenn Moore Sr. walked up to podium.

“Richard and Aawok Glenn Moore Sr. made a last ditch effort by making an impromptu speech and burning root. Calm came to the group and we went on to establish the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers,” Gates said.

It was cultural preservation that drove Myers to the Council in the first place. He was a participant in the long and painful battles to preserve the Tribe’s fishing rights and to stop the Gasquet-Orleans Road from destroying the Tribe’s most sacred places.

“I wanted to protect all that we have,” Myers said. “We had a great group of people. I was lucky to be a part of it.”

### **The future of the Yurok Tribe**

When the Tribe secures complete control of its resources, Myers believes the overall health of the community will change drastically for the better.

“If we can get control of our resources it would open up so many opportunities that everyone who wanted to work could have a decent job,” Myers said. “There are a number of business opportunities that we can pursue that do not involve destroying the environment.”

Myers envisions the Tribe, one day, becoming fully self-sufficient and free from ineffective state laws that inhibit traditional resource stewardship practices like the use of fire to reinvigorate forests and prairies.

He attributes the Tribe’s success to the ability persevere even when it is extremely difficult to do so.

“Once we decide to do something, we stick to it,” Myers said.

Taking time to relax (sort of)

The primary reason Myers chose to retire was to take care of his aging father, who lives with him in Oregon. In addition to attending to his father’s needs, Myers will also be serving on United Indian Health Board “just to stay in the loop” and to advocate for increased elder care. He plans to fish, complete his honey-dos for his longtime spouse, Debra Myers, and clean up his yard. Myers, a father of 9, also hopes to keep up with his growing family including his 27 grandchildren with 2 more on the way, and 4 great grandchildren. His whole family is excited to have more of their dad available and hopefully a lot less politics at the dinner table.

“I’m going to relax my mind for a little while,” Myers concluded. ✨

**Myers served on Council from 1995-1998 and from 2000 to 2013.**

# Voting is the foundation of the democracy

As consistent as the changing colors of a cottonwood tree, veteran Yurok Tribal Councilmember Bonnie Green arrives impeccably dressed, her hair styled fashionably and with a clipboard under her arm.

No, she's not campaigning. This is how she rolls to annual tribal elections, of which she's missed only one in the Tribe's history and that was because she was receiving medical treatment.

"I really think elections are important," said Councilmember Green. "The elections determine the future of the Tribe." At the recent primary election for the East and Pecwan District seats, the former Vice Chairperson and current South District Representative tallied each vote on graph paper attached to the clipboard. While Green has complete confidence in the count, she keeps an independent record out of habit. During the first few elections, inexperienced vote counters made occasional errors, but none made it through to the final certified count. Green caught a few of the discrepancies.

"For a long time now they have done a fantastic job. They have mastered the procedures involved with putting on an election and really deserve a lot of credit," Green said.

The process executed in Yurok Tribal elections is complex and for good reason. The numerous precautionary protocols, like having a Public Safety officer on-hand to confirm each ballot box is empty, are specifically designed to protect the integrity of each individual vote, the foundation of the Tribe's democracy.

Every phase of the election is overseen by Enrollment/Elections Director, Earl Jackson, a Yurok tribal member. Jackson, who is a Marine Corps veteran, knows the voting day operation like the back of his hand and clearly communicates each person's duties.

"It's important that everyone's on the same page," Jackson said. "We have an excellent group of volunteer polling officials, who take their jobs very seriously."

Often, the electoral exercise, staffed mostly by volunteers, runs into wee hours of the morning. After each vote is cast, the ballot boxes are locked shut and shuttled to the Tribe's headquarters in Klamath. In front a Yurok police officer, the receptacles are emptied and sorted by district.

In the Community Room, which remains open to the public,



Whether she's running or not, Bonnie Green rarely ever misses a chance to see the Tribe's democracy in action.

the votes are run through a machine. The absentee or mail-in ballots are counted and each signature is compared with handwriting on the voters' tribal identification card.

The election-day votes and the absentee ballots are then combined to calculate the final vote. From there, those numbers comprise the unofficial election results, which still have to be certified by the Yurok Election Board.

Also, on election night, Yurok Enrollment Assistant and Yurok tribal member Krystel Patapoff organizes a dinner and keeps the coffee fresh.

**The Election Board includes: Julia McCovey - East District, Chairwoman Betty Brown - North District, Roberta Lindgren - Orick District - Vice Chairwoman Lana Crutchfield, Pecwan District - John Wolfe, Requa District - Jessika Eleck, South District - Cindy Green and Jewel Frank - Weitchpec District.**

**The hard-working election volunteer polling officials include: Harlan Alvarado, Cynthia Bones, Roy Brown, Margaret Caldwell, Cindy Green, Ruby Grubbs, Jeannette Lara Jones, Robert Kinney, Javier Kinney, Kim Koch, Kathy McLaughlin, John Melvin, Yvonne Miller, Jeannette Robbins and Wilma Roberts. ✨**

# TANF arms Yurok youth with job skills

Hard working. Respectful. Ambitious. Those are just a few of the words employers used to describe the participants of the new Yurok Tribal Assistance for Needy Families' Youth Employment Services program.

A dozen Yurok teens, varying in age from 14-18, participated in Yurok TANF's YES program. YES is designed to teach Yurok youth everything they need to know about employment. Each of the twelve teens participated in a rigorous, two-week training at College of the Redwoods Humboldt, ranging from resume writing to job retention. After completing the courses, the eager new employees were placed in real jobs, which matched their interests.

"We received rave reviews from all of the employers," said Samantha Frick, TANF's Employment Technician. "We heard repeatedly how well-organized, courteous and smart these young Yurok kids are."

In order to participate in YES, each income eligible applicant was required to write a one-page essay describing what they want out of the program.

"I hope to gain work experience that I can use to help define my future goals. I hope to one day utilize the skills that I learn to serve my community," explained Yurok teen Erika Peters in a well-crafted letter to the Youth Employment Services program. Prior to job placement, TANF had each teen complete a survey designed to determine what type of industry they were interested in. The employment readiness training topics included: introduction to writing a resume, interview skills, personal appearance on the job, employer expectation, time and conflict management, job retention, motivation in the workplace, customer service and how to perform CPR/First Aid.

Nicholle Boulby, who took a position as a School Readiness Advocate at Del Norte First 5, a non-government agency

which provides childcare as well as a whole host of child development-related programs, said the job opportunity offered her a life-changing experience.

"I learned how to interact in a more professional way," Boulby said. "I think anyone who has the opportunity to participate in this program should take it because it's a great learning experience and it will help in the future."

The other jobs the teens took on ranged from clerical assistant to forestry technician and cash register attendant and administrative assistant. The employers included: Yurok Enrollment Department, Yurok Education (Head start, Child Care and Administration) Yurok Forestry, Yurok Indian Housing Authority, First Five Del Norte, Arcata Parks and Recreation, Angels of Hope, which is a youth driven consignment store and restaurant where all of the employees are between 14 and 18-years-old. Yurok TANF reimbursed the employers for wages and taxes.

Throughout the six-week, real-world job experience, Youth Employment Services staff checked in regularly with the employers and employees to offer support and maximize the usefulness of the program.

Boulby and two other the YES program participants made such an impression their employers offered them permanent positions.

Next summer, budget permitting, TANF will again be putting on the YES program, but on a larger scale. This year, more employers made positions available than youth who signed up. TANF encourages those interested to take advantage of this invaluable, real world work experience.

"There is no replacement for real-world experience. I would like to thank all of the employers and the youth who made this important program such a success," concluded Frick. ✨

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“ WE RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS FROM ALL OF THE EMPLOYERS.”

SAMANTHA FRICK • EMPLOYMENT TECHNICIAN

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# FALL FEAST FAMILY PHOTOS

The Yurok Tribe's Social Services Department put on Fall Feasts this year in the South, East and Requa Districts. Gallons of three homemade soups were served for free, along with a number of sides and desserts. The Department also offered family photographs. Most of the prints were delivered on the same night as the Feasts. Several hundred people, both tribal members and non-Indian, attended the holiday celebrations.





# Tribes team up on high-speed web project

The Yurok and Karuk Tribes' Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative will positively and profoundly impact the lives of every resident living within the tribes' territories.

Today, the Karuk Tribe secured a highly competitive, \$6.6 million dollar grant from the California Public Utilities Commission's California Advanced Services Fund, which will be used to match a \$6.2 million pot of money, coming from both of the Northern California tribes, to complete the \$12.8 million fiber optic project. The grant will enable the tribes to extend high-speed broadband services from Orleans down to Weitchpec and from Weitchpec to Wautec. The 82.4 mile, fiber optic line will travel across Martins Ferry Bridge, over Bald Hills and south to Orick and will create a redundant link from the Yurok Tribe's microwave network in Klamath to Crescent City. The project will also create another fiber route out of the Eureka area, creating a third redundant link for Humboldt County.

"I would like to thank the California Public Utilities Commission for truly understanding how important broadband is to our rural area," said Yurok Vice Chairperson Susan Masten. "I would also like to thank the Karuk Tribe for spearheading this project." In addition to 664 tribal and non-tribal households, the project will offer broadband service for up to 170 non-residential entities including multiple health care clinics, tribal offices and businesses. The high speed internet will open up access to higher education, online commerce and many other quality of life-improving opportunities that could not be possible without it. The improved communications capability will also aid law enforcement and be used by emergency services personnel in the event of a natural disaster such as flood, fire or tsunami. Currently, a large swath of the eastern half of the Yurok Reservation lacks any kind of internet or phone service and some sections also lack power. When the broadband project is complete, two schools and the Yurok Tribe's Head Start will, for the first time, have access to an internet service comparable in quality to any major city.

The Tribes will combine two existing projects to cover an 80 square mile area. The Yurok Tribe will equip a recently installed 20.5 mile stretch of power and utility infrastructure, along State Route 169, with the new fiber optic line. The Tribe received a \$4.9 million USDA High Energy Cost Grant to purchase the electrical system. The Karuk Tribe previously obtained a \$1.1 million USDA

Broadband Connect grant to build a fiber optic line from the Karuk Community Center in Orleans to Siskiyou Telephone's existing node, located 3.5 miles east of the rural town.

A number of hurdles remain before the project can be built such as cultural and environmental reviews and right-of-way agreements and property easements.

With a combined total of nearly 10,000 enrolled members, the Yurok and Karuk Tribes are two of California's most populous Native American tribes.

The CASF provides grants to bridge the "digital divide" in un-served and underserved areas in the state. With an initial funding of \$100 million, the CASF supports projects that will a) provide broadband services to areas currently without broadband access and, b) build out facilities in underserved areas, if funds are still available, according to the California Public Utilities Commission.

"This is a game changer for everyone in this region. I applaud the Yurok and Karuk tribal councils for their vision and commitment to pave the way for broadband in our rural area," concluded Yurok Vice Chairperson Susan Masten. ✨

**Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative will provide service to the following:**

**Fire & Police**

Yurok Public Safety office- Tribal police & fire – transfer center – near Weitchpec  
 Yurok Wildland Fire Department– Tulley Creek – near Weitchpec  
 Wautec Fire House  
 Bald Hills Rd – Cal-Fire Fire Station  
 Orick – Volunteer Fire Department  
 Orick – Cal-Fire Elk camp  
 Orleans Volunteer Fire Dept

**Redwoods National and State Parks South Operations Center, Orick, Ca**

**Schools**

Orick School District – Elementary  
 Orleans Elementary  
 Weitchpec – Magnet School

Wautec - Jack Norton Elementary  
 Ka Pel - Head Start – Hwy 169  
 Orleans Head Start  
 Health Care  
 UIHS – Weitchpec  
 Orleans Medical Clinic

**Tribal Offices:**

Yurok Tribal Government Weitchpec  
 Karuk Tribe DNR – Orleans  
 Karuk Tribe Computer/Senior Center – Orleans  
 Karuk Panamnik Community Center - Orleans

**Cal-Trans:**

Cal-Trans Maintenance Station – Orleans  
 USDA Forest Service:  
 6 Rivers Ranger Station – Orleans

**664 residences (343 un-served and 321 underserved)**

# Yurok biz offers traditional food, meds

Margo Robbins knows that keeping as close as possible to a traditional diet is one of the best ways to live a long and healthy life.

In order to make year-round access to traditional food and medicine a whole lot easier, Robbins, an experienced gatherer and herbal medicine practitioner, started a business, Footsteps Unlimited. The Yurok-owned business also has a website [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com), where for a truly modest fee, processed acorns, wormwood herbal salve and more can be purchased.

"I started the business because I think it's important for people to incorporate traditional food and plant medicine into their lives," Robbins said.

Tanoak acorns provide more nutritional value than almost any other food on the planet, and are far healthier than any item that can be purchased in a grocery store. The dried flour that Robbins offers can be made into key-goh (soup) in a matter of minutes. It can also be baked into bread, pancakes and even cookies. Despite the superior health benefits and abundance of acorns on the Yurok Reservation, acorns are mostly only consumed at ceremonies. Robbins wants to change that. If people try it and like it they will be more inclined to go out and process the tree nuts on their own.

"If people eat acorn soup at all, it's usually during dance time. There are not a lot of people that know when and where to gather acorns, or how to make acorn soup. I want to change this," Robbins said. "I want acorns to become a food that people eat on a regular basis."

The salves Robbins makes are based on lessons she learned from Aawok Josephine Peters and Rachel Knight, Yurok elders who regularly practiced plant medicine. Traditional cures have the benefit of withstanding the test of time and when used correctly do not have the negative side-effects associated with nearly all modern medicine.

"I offer herbal remedies for sale as a means of educating people on the benefits of plant medicine. Traditionally, we had herb doctors that knew about every plant, and what it was good for," Robbins said. "For every illness that we get, there is a plant to cure it. What I know, I choose to share so that others may benefit from it as well."

Robbins makes a wormwood salve for muscle and joint health. Wormwood is used for arthritis, sprains, sore muscles, poison oak rash, and wound healing. These pungent herbs will help heal joint and muscle disorders, alleviate the pain and swelling of rheumatism and arthritis, and quickly heal open wounds and skin abrasions, according to [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com).



Margo Robbins is the owner of Footsteps Unlimited and [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com).

Her pepperwood salve is also good for the body. Pepperwood salve will alleviate the pain and swelling of rheumatism, arthritis, sore muscles, and minor sports injuries.

Both salves can be applied by massaging waxy substance onto the affected area twice a day.

For internal sicknesses, Robbins offers a traditional tea, which can be used to treat the common cold. The tea, which also helps with upset stomach, is made from pepperwood leaves. A hand-woven, miniature burden basket, made from hazel sticks and willow roots, that can be used to steep the tea leaves, is also available through [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com).

Traditional accessories such as black pine nut and dentalium, brown pine nut and dentalium necklaces, pine nut, olivella and dentalium necklaces can also be purchased through [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com).

For now, Robbins' endeavor is a labor of love and she alone gathers and processes all of the materials. If Robbins' business becomes profitable, the money will go toward her children and grandchildren's college education.

"I have taken the things I am interested in, am inexplicably drawn to, and have turned them into a small on-line business. I am a Yurok Indian with traditional values living in a modern day world. This business, Footsteps Unlimited, combines both," Robbins' concluded.

In addition to the website [footstepsunltd.com](http://footstepsunltd.com), Robbins' wares can also be obtained at local craft fairs. She will have a table at the UIHS/Potowat Christmas Craft Fair in Arcata and the Maggie Dickson Kiwanis Christmas bazaar in Hoopa. ❄

# RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A COLA

AMANDA DONAHUE

Social Security District Manager

Many people ring in the new year with Champagne. People who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) get to ring it in with a COLA. This year, more than 60 million Americans are receiving a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) in their monthly benefit payment.

The 1.5 percent COLA begins with increased benefits for more than 57 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2014, and payments to more than 8 million SSI recipients in late December 2013.

The estimated average monthly Social Security payment to a retired worker is \$1,294 (in 2014), up from \$1,275 (in 2013). The average monthly Social Security disability payment for an individual is \$1,148 (in 2014), up from \$1,131 (in 2013).

The basic monthly federal payment for SSI is \$721 (in 2014), up from \$710 (in 2013).

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security payroll tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$117,000, up from \$113,700. Of the estimated 165 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2014, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

The amount of earnings needed for one credit of Social Security coverage has gone up as well, but all workers can still earn up to four credits in a year. In 2014, a worker earns a credit after earning \$1,200. In 2013, one credit of coverage was \$1,160. It takes forty credits to be fully insured for retirement benefits.

Information about Medicare changes for 2014 is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice) to learn more about the COLA and other Social Security changes in 2014.

*From everyone at Social Security, have a Happy New Year. ❄️*

## YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US (BECAUSE WE MAKE IT EASY)

AMANDA DONAHUE

Social Security District Manager

If you've read anything about Social Security in recent years, then you probably know that our most convenient office location is wherever you happen to be — thanks to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Whether you're on your home or office computer, or at the park or the beach with a mobile device, Social Security's online office is just a click away. However, we recognize that some people prefer to do business with us face-to-face. If that's you, we still would like to let you know about an online feature that can make finding your nearest Social Security office much easier.

From your computer or your mobile device, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/locator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). That link will take you to our Social Security Office Locator. Once there, key in your ZIP code and you'll get the address, phone number, and hours of the Social Security office closest to you.

The Locator page also gives you the option to see a map and get directions. If you are on the run and have your mobile device, this feature has the capability to "Map It," providing turn-by-turn directions, making it easy to get to the office from where you are at the time. Of course, it's still up to you to find a place to park (if needed).

You don't have to worry about parking or traffic or lines if you

transact your business at our online office on our website. If you can use our online Office Locator, you'll probably be able to easily take advantage of our other online features.

For example, you can get a personalized, instant estimate of your future Social Security benefits by using our Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). Or, do some retirement planning with our Benefits Planners at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners). You can even apply for benefits from your home computer by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline).

We also encourage you to set up a my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Then you will have quick and easy access to a number of personalized, secure services. Get your Social Security Statement online, or if you already receive benefits, get an instant benefit verification letter right over the computer.

You may just want some information. You can get that online as well. Browse our library of publications, which you can read or listen to, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). Get the Social Security forms you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov/online](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online). Or, get an answer to a question by visiting our frequently asked questions at [www.socialsecurity.gov/faq](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/faq).

**You can find these and many other Social Security services at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). ❄️**

# Tribal Court putting on community gala

## *The theme of this year's gathering: Reporting is Supporting*

Recently, a bad batch of methamphetamine popped up in Yurok Country, causing multiple people to have severe, psychotic breaks.

It was clear that certain community members knew the origin of the contaminated drugs, but no one came forward.

"The silence is killing us. All too often crimes occur on the Reservation and no one speaks up because of stigma associated with what people believe is snitching," said Jolanda Ingram-Obie, a Yurok tribal member and Tribal Court Staff Attorney. "Reporting a crime is not snitching."

On December 17, 2013 the Yurok Wellness Court is holding a community gathering. The theme of the public get together, which includes a free dinner and number of keynote speakers, is "Reporting is Supporting." The purpose of the gathering is to discuss the role reporting crimes has in creating a healthy community.

The term snitch originated in Great Britain, where it was used in the 1800s by police who paid small-time crooks to tell the officers about

more sophisticated and destructive criminals. The stigma connected to snitching is perpetuated today by pop culture, including famous hip hop artists who rap about those who report crimes as somehow being weak. Being responsible for one's actions and holding others' accountable for their misdeeds are both traditional Yurok values.

"Reporting a crime is part of being committed to the wellbeing of our community. It is the first step toward safety and accountability," said Anthony Trombetti, a Wellness Coordinator and Yurok tribal member. "When you report crimes, like sexual abuse or domestic violence, you are supporting your community by opening up the

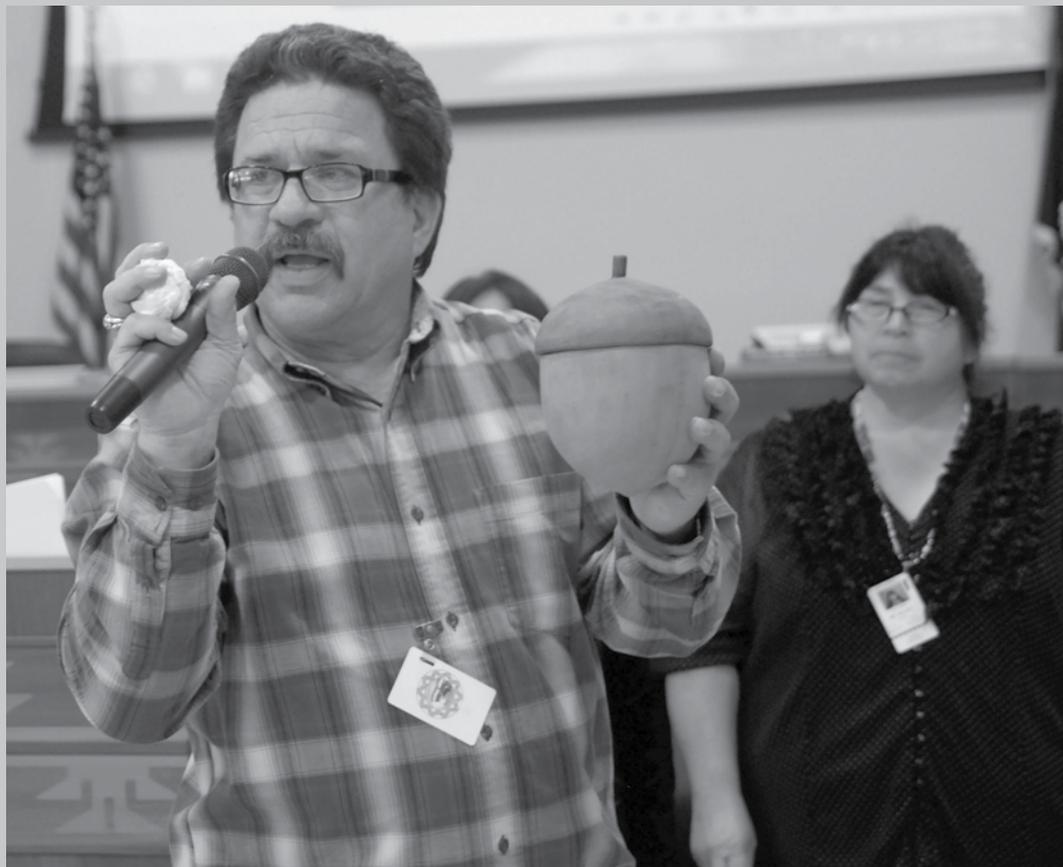
door for healing for the victim and accountability and eventually help for the perpetrator."

### **New Tribal Court Resources**

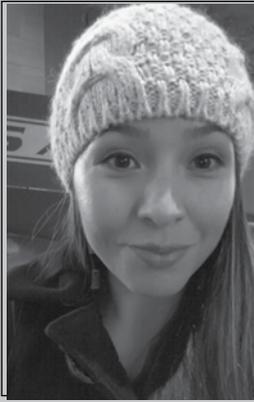
The rapidly growing Yurok justice system has greatly lessened the Tribe's dependence on non-tribal organizations when dealing with domestic violence, sexual abuse and child abuse. At the meeting, Wellness Court staff will roll out all of the new resources the Court has available to help victims of those crimes and the people who commit them. The Wellness Court can even help those who want to, report crimes, like putting drugs or alcohol in the hands of a minor, but are apprehensive about going directly to the police.

The Wellness Court's goal is to change the mindset on the Yurok Reservation about informing law enforcement or the Court of a crime. If those who commit crimes know there is a good chance they will be turned in, they will leave the Reservation.

"Reporting really is supporting," Trombetti explained said. "It supports the person who witnessed the crime and is saddled with the negative baggage of knowing an injustice has occurred. It is supportive of getting the victim out of harm's way and enabling access to aid such as medical treatment and counseling. It is supportive of perpetrators being held accountable and settling up." "It's about healing for the witness, victim and offender," echoed Lori Nesbit, Wellness Court Probation Officer and Yurok tribal member. The "Reporting is Supporting Gathering will begin at 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the community room at the Tribe's headquarters in Klamath. ❄️



Yurok Wellness Coordinator Anthony Trombetti gives a speech about substance abuse and treatment at the 2012 Wellness Gathering.



## Q and A with Employee of the Month, Executive Assistant Taralyn Ipiña.

### 1. How long have you been working for the Tribe?

I have been working in the Council Support Office for 9.5 years.

### 2. Why did you decide to work for the Tribe?

Growing up in Sacramento, a pursuit of mine has always been to move home and work for my Tribe. In 2004, my grandmother aawok Christina (Reed) Ipiña became very ill, so I jumped at the opportunity to move home to care for her and work for the Tribe.

### 3. What is the most satisfying part of your job?

I enjoy the diversity of my job. At times my job can be very challenging but ultimately I believe that my work is strengthening our tribal communities.

### 4. How does your position serve the tribal membership?

I handle a wide variety of complex and confidential situations and am responsible for confidential and time sensitive material concerning the Tribal Council. I oversee the clerical and administrative function of the Council Support office and supervise Council Support Staff. Most importantly I serve as a key contact for the Tribal Membership to reach out to the Tribal Council.

### 5. What do you like to do outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I especially enjoy outdoor activities; my favorites include snowboarding, motorcycle riding and softball.

## Wood Vendors

We are now accepting applications for LIHEAP Wood Vendors

Two vendors will be selected for each district. Priority will be given to past vendors that are in good standing.

Wood vendors will provide 1 cord of seasoned wood to tribal households that have been approved for energy assistance through the LIHEAP program.

Please call the Yurok Social services Department at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1342 with questions or to obtain an application.

## Public Safety - Crime Log



September 26, 2013 – *Yurok Public Safety officers cited Coty Sanders for a traffic violation. The officers found a loaded firearm and two pipes used to smoke methamphetamine. Public Safety seized the illegal contraband.*

September 26, 2013 - *Yurok Public Safety confiscated and destroyed multiple marijuana plants from a Weitchpec residence.*

## Reporting is Supporting

A Community Effort

**Tuesday,  
Dec. 17th**

**5:30pm to  
8:00pm**

**Klamath  
Tribal  
Office**

**Come and be a  
part of the Yurok  
Wellness  
Community**

**The "We Got Your  
Back" Campaign  
will be there as  
well.**

**Door Prizes and a  
Silent Auction  
will be held to  
support our  
efforts.**

To arrange a notice,  
contact Matt Mais.

### Yurok Wellness Court

#### Community Honoring and Wellness Meeting

**Please join us in Klamath for an evening of  
music, food, sharing and supporting.**



**YUROK TRIBAL COURT**  
YUROK WELLNESS  
PROGRAMS  
190 KLAMATH BLVD.  
KLAMATH, CA 95548

**For more information call: Katelyn  
(707) 482-1350 ext. 1405**



Co-Sponsored by: Hal-Koo-mah Corporation and the Yurok Tribe

Title VII American Indian Education

## ~Tri-Tip Dinner ~ Silent Auction Fundraiser

at

**Elk Valley Casino "Betty Green" Event Center**  
2500 Howland Hill Rd, Crescent City, CA

Donations for:  
Scholarships & Title VII Programs  
**On Saturday, December 7, 2013**

*Dinner Tickets:*  
*\$25 per person, \$40 per couple,*  
*or*  
*purchase a table for 8 for \$160*

Doors Open at 6pm  
**Dinner to be served at 6:30pm**  
Silent Auction  
throughout the evening

*\*Vegetarian dish upon request*

For tickets contact:  
Arthena Santos 707-954-5125 or Serena Chavez 707-218-5852

**\*\*Sponsored Tables available for a table of 8 persons\*\***

## Yurok Today now offering free birth notices and obituary service

Yurok Today is now publishing birth notices and obituaries. The cost-free feature includes a notice comprised of 400 words or less.

Yurok Today is also offering space for a 3.5" by 5" photo to be published along with both birth notices and obituaries, also at no cost. The notices must be written by the participant. The deadline is the 10th of each month and will be published the following month. For example, if a notice is submitted on May 10, it will run in the June edition of Yurok Today.

Yurok Today is sent to nearly 3,000 households and is published online at [yuroktribe.org](http://yuroktribe.org). To participate in the free service contact Matt Mais by email at [mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us) or by phone at (707) 482-1350.

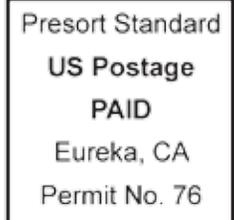


## Yurok Tribe

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

Yurok Today  
190 Klamath Blvd.,  
Klamath, CA 95548

Address Service Requested



WWW.YUROKTRIBE.ORG

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# GIVE TO TOYS FOR TOTS

The Yurok Tribe Enrollment Department will be having the Marine Corps Toys for Tots distribution this year for Klamath children ages infant-12. The Department sent applications to Margaret Keating Elementary School and the Yurok Tribe's Head Start and at the post office.

The deadline to sign up for the distribution is December 2nd.

If you are interested in donating a new toy, please bring it unwrapped and drop off with the Enrollment Department at the Yurok Tribe.

On December 19th parents can pick up their children's toys at the Yurok Tribal Office from 10-3.

\*Please note that the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program is a completely separate program than Rural Human Service's Santa's Workshop.