



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

A YOUNG MAN'S VIEW

Merk Robbins wins a scholarship for an essay about solving problems on the Reservation • See Essay on Page 2



Breaking the Cycle

By Merk Robbins

The cool mountain air is blowing on my face. I am racing up to the top of the mountain on my quad. I don't really have any one destination in mind, so I just let my body subconsciously take me where it wants to go. For some reason I always end up in the same place. It is beautiful up here; I am standing on top of the mountain looking down onto the river winding the bend to the village of Pecwan. This is my safe haven; I am in the mountains listening to the sounds of nature and staring way down into the mountains and river in which I have grown up.

I am a fisherman. The Yurok people are river people, they always have been since the beginning of time. We fish the river with nets and harvest its delicious salmon. We can it, smoke it, toss it in the oven, or barbeque its delicious meat on a hot summer's day. However, our people have taken to more modern practices in order to provide for themselves and their families. In the old way, we would take only as much as we would need for our families and ourselves. Now however, not only do we fish to provide for our own families, but we have turned to harvesting and selling them to the wo-gey, or white man, for money. Wo-noye'eek, the creator did not intend for us to do this, but we have resorted to this as a way to help us survive in the modern world.

There are very few job opportunities on the Yurok Reservation. We are very isolated. With the exception of the

small lower reservation, we have no phones, no electricity, and only a single lane road, which turns into dirt as the only access to the remaining portion of the reservation. Subsequently, there are few jobs. There are a few; nonetheless, the number of Yurok tribal members here on the reservation far exceeds the number of available employment openings. Job opportunities include: Environmental Protection, Social Services, Forestry, Fisheries, and Education. However, there are over 5000 Yurok Tribal members and only limited spaces available for employment. Part of this problem includes: lack of land for economic development, inadequate telecommunications and electrical infrastructure, hard to access health care and educational opportunities, and limited land for agricultural production.

All of these problems work together to create an even bigger problem of individuals being without a job (Yurok Tribe). As a result, the unemployment rate for here on the reservation is very high. The national average of unemployment is 9.6 percent (Regional and State Unemployment Summary), but the unemployment rate on the reservation more than triples that number at over 30 percent. What's more, the unemployment rate on the upper reservation dwarfs this at a staggering estimated 85 percent (Sangrey 4). These numbers are appalling and I will do whatever I can to help my people do better and achieve great things.

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On The Cover

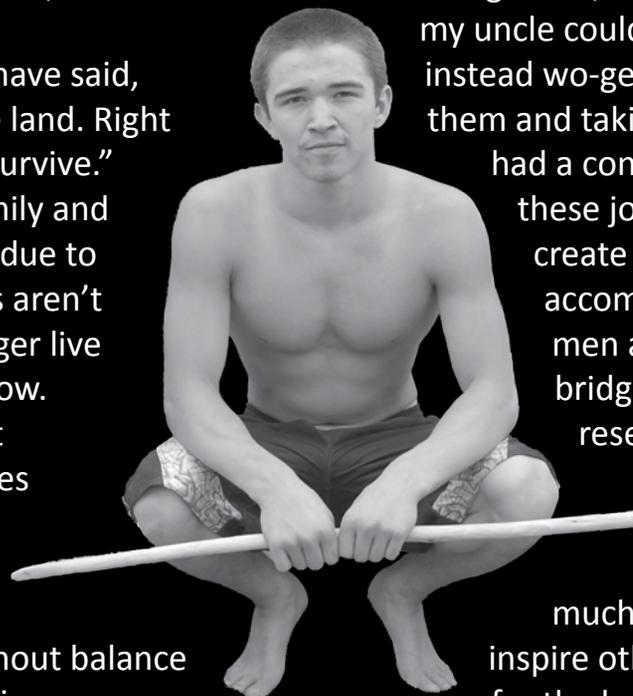
Merk Robbins won an essay contest that was open to all Native American high school students. He recieved \$2,500 for winning the writing competition as well as a trip to Washington D.C..

Subsequently, as a result of high unemployment, many people here on the reservation have turned to drugs and alcohol as a way to deal with their problems. People in the community who we love and care about, people of respected families, people of the dancing community (ceremonial participants), and members of our families have ruined or lost their lives due to drugs and alcohol. People without jobs, people who have nothing to do, people who have next to nothing, have turned to drugs and alcohol as a way to ease their problems. Thus, the seemingly endless cycle of poverty continues. We must *break this cycle* and the only way to do that, I believe is through education.

As Ne kue-chos, my grandma, would have said, "When I was little we used to live off the land. Right here is everything you need to live and survive." And she was right. Here we have our family and our cultural ceremonies. In spite of this, due to man's more modern practices, resources aren't what they once were and we can no longer live off the land Wo-noye'eek has let us borrow. There are fewer deer, salmon, and forest products available for us as native peoples to harvest. We must now adapt and balance out our native life with the life white man has thrust upon us and live in harmony with them both. For without balance of the two, we cannot live in harmonization.

My ultimate goal is to find balance of living in the white man world and living successfully here on my homeland while helping my people. In order to do this, I first must acquire the necessary tools and obtain an education as my first step. In turn, my short-term goals are to attend college as a student-athlete and major in civil engineering. I will have to leave this reservation that I was raised on, the one I have grown up on and where I have created so many friends and memories; I will have to leave this reservation so I can attain the knowledge essential for me to help my people.

In my tribe there are only a handful of natives who possess the necessary degrees and skills for specialized positions. After receiving my degree in civil engineering, I plan on using it to one day create my own business in



which I can come back and help my people towards a better future. I will create job opportunities for my people, instead of outside bidders coming in and taking jobs that rightfully belong to us. At this very moment there is a recreation center being built right up the hill from my house, a bridge being reconstructed only a mile up river from my house and another bridge being build three miles beyond that. The men who are building these things are white men. People who don't even live around here, of no native heritage have come and taken jobs that would otherwise be occupied by members of my community. My brother could have been working there, my dad could have been working there, my uncle could have been building those bridges, but instead wo-gey from out of town are constructing them and taking the jobs that come with them. If we had a construction and engineering enterprise these jobs would go to us. This is why I will create a native owned business that can accomplish these things and I will hire native men and women. We will build roads, bridges, and other building jobs on the reservation. Also, I will provide scholarship and internship opportunities for individuals who wish to further their education and specialize in much needed positions. I also hope I can inspire others to rise above and do great things for the benefit of all. We will be like the salmon, returning to the upper Klamath basin after many years denied; we will provide sustenance for our people as well as start new generations with a fresh beginning.

Works Cited:

"Background Information." The Yurok Tribe. 18 Mar 2011. <http://www.yuroktribe.org/culture/history/history.htm>
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Meet Merk Robbins

Merk Robbins loves to play sticks, dance in a traditional way and complete complex calculus problems.

The Hoopa Valley High School senior and accomplished wrestler recently won the Holland and Knight Charitable Foundation's Young Native Writers Essay Contest for his thoughtful and well-written piece, "Breaking the Cycle."

The highly competitive writing competition was open to all Native American high school students in the United States and only eight were selected to receive the prestigious scholarship.

"I am really excited because it's going to help me with my college expenses. I get to go to Washington DC and it's also the first time I've ever been on a plane," Robbins said.

In addition to an all-expenses-paid, five-day trip to DC, Robbins will receive \$2,500, get plugged in with prominent native political leaders and spend time with U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson, who represents the Tribe's region.

"It's going to be great to meet new people and learn the ways they are making a difference in Indian Country," the 18-year-old young man said.

Robbins' English Teacher, Vicki Kurtz encouraged him to participate in the contest, which was not an assignment, but an opportunity, she said.

"Merk is intellectually curious about everything," Kurtz said. "He's a very eloquent and poised speaker. He's a really phenomenal kid."

Robbins' essay is about a wide variety of issues occurring on the Yurok Reservation, ranging from education to unemployment. Robbins, whose family comes from Morek and Ke'pel, smartly discusses his frustration with seeing non-tribal members working on the upriver bridge project. This travesty largely motivated him to pursue a degree in engineering, which will enable him to come back to the Reservation, start his own construction firm and ensure Yuroks are the ones paid to complete those types of projects.

"I will have to leave this reservation that I was raised on, the one I have grown up on and where I have created so many friends and memories; I will have to leave this reservation so I can attain the knowledge essential for me to help my people," Robbins wrote.

Robbins, who led his team to its historic win of the Humboldt-Del Norte championship, will be wrestling at 133 pounds and working toward his goal at Santa Rosa College this fall.

Please read "Breaking the Cycle" on page two.✘

Tribe reaching out to at-risk youth

The Yurok Tribal Court is starting a culturally-centered program to help at-risk youth actualize their biggest dreams.

The Yurok Youth Wellness Program aims to turn troubled youth into tomorrow's leaders using a blend of Yurok cultural values, anchored by a solid support system. The Program is looking for youth who are struggling in school or at home.

Participants in the year-long program will be immersed in a rigorous, culturally appropriate life-skills training created to set a foundation for a healthy and successful future.

"The Court will work as an extended family member supporting a traditional village value system to restore our community back to harmony and instill wellness and healing from unconstructive behavior," Chief Judge Abby Abinanti.

Youth under the age of 18 will be paired with committed advocates, who will teach them how to set goals, communicate effectively and find inner strength. The Yurok teens, with the help of cultural leaders, will learn ceremonial rituals, gain knowledge of how to gather and preserve traditional foods and many other cultural healing practices.

THE PROGRAM BASICS

Phase One (16 weeks):

- Focus on individual wellness, setting goals, and case planning
- Youth meet with advocates 1-2 times a week
- Participants and advocates begin exercises to develop effective communication strategies

Phase Two (14 Weeks):

- Focus on family healing and wellness
- Participants attend the Strengthening Family Program(SFP), a 14 session life skills training program
- Youth meet individually with advocates at least once per week during this phase

Phase Three (12 Weeks):

- Focus on traditional skills building and cultural reengagement, including the introduction of language classes
- Four main activities during this phases:
 1. Youth paired with traditional leaders/mentors to cut wood, gather traditional Yurok foods, and distribute items to Tribal elders in the community
 2. Youth will be assigned to a Tribal elder to help with yard work and household chores
 3. Youth will participate in cultural activity workshops to gain knowledge about Yurok traditions, such as ceremonial rituals, fishing practices, food preservation, and beading
 4. Upon completion of cultural activity workshops, youth will identify an area of interest and assist a Yurok leader/mentor in regalia making, canoe building, language instruction, story-telling, food preparation, or traditional fishing

Phase Four (10 Weeks):

- Focus on aftercare planning and continued wellness
- To graduate from YYWP, youth must develop aftercare plans detailing their educational/vocational goals, and continued engagement in services and cultural activities
- Graduates will be honored with a graduation ceremony, or rite of passage, which includes the YTC team, extended family, and respected Tribal members
- YYWP graduates who develop expertise in a traditional practice will be able to continue leadership development and serve as cultural leaders for future program participants

The ultimate ambition of the Yurok Youth Wellness Program is to impart all that it takes to become an adult,

grounded in tradition, entirely able to traverse life's most difficult challenges and, most importantly, capable of helping others do the same.

In Del Norte County, contact Lori Nesbitt at the Klamath Yurok Tribal Office (707) 482-1350 ext 340 and in Humboldt County, contact Nick Beyer at (707) 954-3552. ✘

Klamath Salmon Festival

Sign up for the Noo-rey-o-won-ee (Beautiful girl inside and out)/ Keet-ko (Strong/Able boy) Contest

• Formerly known as the Pretty Girl/Young Warrior Contest



To sign up contact Andrea McCovey at 482-1350 ext 407
Melva Hurn (707) 482-1350 ext 361

Contestants Must:
Advertise raffle and contestant by poster;
Not be married, have children, or living with a cohabitant;
Sell a minimum of \$250 in order to place/receive a percentage of the proceeds.
Contestants/Parents are required to participate in the construction and preparation of the Salmon Festival

All tickets must be turned in by WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011 at 12:00 noon

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YTC recieves grant to start Youth Corps

Young Yurok Tribal Members will work to make elders' lives better

The Yurok Tribal Court recently was awarded a grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps Program to implement the Yurok Tribal Youth Corps (YTYC). The program is designed for youth aged 16-25 to work with Yurok Tribal Elders within the local service area of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

"The Yurok Tribe is excited to receive such a highly competitive funding source to assist our Tribal Youth and Elders," Yurok Tribal Member and Yurok Tribal Court Programs Manager Jessica O'Neill.

The goal of the program is to improve the lives of Yurok Elders and Veterans by providing health education services, assisting with home needs, and delivering and preparing traditional foods. The Yurok Tribal Court believes that youth participation with Elders will be an integral part in the restoration of a traditional Yurok value system and strengthen responsibility and respect within the community.

YTYC will consist of a 900 service-hour commitment to the local Yurok Community. There will be three groups of teams consisting of five members each. One team will be based in the Klamath/Crescent City area, one in the Weitchpec/Hoopa area, and one in the Eureka/Arcata area. The members will be available to assist Yurok Elders with such things as: traditional food gathering and preparation, food delivery and preparation, provide knowledge of health risks and health prevention activities. The program will provide basic training in such areas as CPR, first aid, cooking, cleaning, power tool safety, basic life skills, emergency response, team building, health education, and personal

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

Corps members will focus at least 100 hours on their individual development and life skill goals. Members who start Yurok Tribal Youth Corps without a General Education Development certificate will be guided through the necessary steps and provided with resources such as

study guides and preparation courses to successfully attain their GED. The following services will also be offered though individual and small group sessions: traditional health and healing, Yurok language classes, cultural competencies,

traditional skills, and cultural engagement.

The main goal of the YTYC is to help reestablish vital relationships between the younger generation and our older generation. In addition to the training provided to members they will also receive a living allowance for their community service involvement.

Please contact Youth Advocates, Lori Nesbitt at 707-482-1350 or Nick Beyer at 707-822-2282 for additional information or to request an application. ✘

"The Yurok Tribe is excited to receive such a highly competitive funding source to assist our Tribal Youth and Elders."

Jessica O'Neill~ YTC Programs Manager

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Protect youth from tobacco addiction

By Trish Carlson
UIHS-Yurok Tribal Member

There are many ways to protect our youth from the devastating effects of commercial tobacco. We can be the example and be positive role models and not smoke. We can support local policy to ban smoking in public or common areas. We can also do our part to educate youth and our community about the dangers of commercial tobacco. But did you know that limiting the amount of smoking youth see in movies is also a way to protect them from commercial tobacco.

A review of the top 100 box office hits showed that the trend of commercial tobacco use appearing in youth-rated movies (G, PG-13, PG) declined significantly between 1996 and 2004, but almost three out of four youth-rated movies still showed tobacco use in 2004.

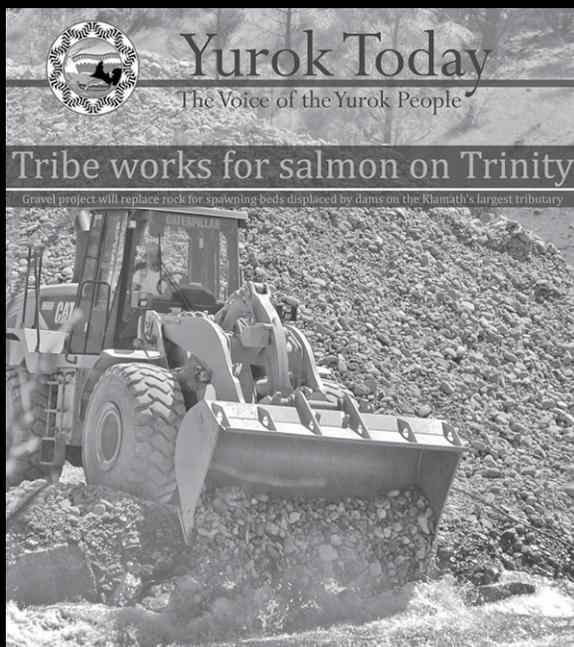
The tobacco companies are basically getting free advertising from movie makers, and that's not even the worst of it. Studies have shown that youth are influenced by what they see on the big screen. A 2008 report released by the National Cancer Institute concluded that smoking in the movies is causally linked to youth starting to smoke. Youth see it in the movies and then some of them will then want to try it. The less a youth sees smoking in the movies the less

likely that they will become smokers.

In a 2002 study of 5th through 8th graders it was found that parents who let their children watch R-rated films, the ones with by far the most smoking, are more than 15 times likely to have tried smoking compared to kids whose parents do not let them watch R-rated films.

The smoking that is shown in movies is not realistic. In the movies it seems like everybody smokes but in the state of California the rate is closer to 11% of the general population. Unfortunately the American Indian population smokes rates are about 30%. With these kinds of rates it's important to keep our Native Youth safe by preventing them from picking up this deadly habit. The good news is that it has been shown that anti-smoking messages reduce youth smoking rates.

United Indian Health Services, Inc is currently working on a smoking in the movies campaign through their NATVE Tobacco Project. We are working with youth to create educational PSA's and digital stories about this topic. We are also circulating petitions and meeting with tribal councils to sign resolutions to support policy for the American Indian Film Institute to address this issue in Native films. For more information contact the UIHS NATVE Tobacco Project at (707) 825-5070. ✪



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SPRING FLING FESTIVITIES

HUNDREDS ATTEND SOCIAL SERVICES EVENTS PROMOTING HEALTHY FAMILIES



1. Yurok Tribal Member Talise Evelyn Colegrove eats cotton candy at the Spring Fling.

2. Social Services Clerical Assistant and Yurok Tribal Member Springwind Rojas made hundreds of cotton candies for the kids.

3. Yurok Gene Dancing Eagle Quinn is all smiles at the 2011 Spring Fling in Klamath.

Tribes affirm rights

Nearly 100 tribal members from Tolowa territory to Wiyot recently took a small, but courageous step toward affirming a right to gather sacred marine resources in a culturally appropriate way.

The tribal citizens, with tribal identification cards in hand, collected several food and ceremonial items at Smith River Beach, Wilson Creek Beach, Patrick's Point State Park and Clam Beach. The "Gather In" was organized by the Tribe and the Klamath and Coastal Justice Coalitions. Currently, California's indigenous people have to purchase a state fishing license and follow a western set of regulations to gather for subsistence and religious reasons.

"Any attempt to institutionally diminish our right to gather coastal resources is in effect an act of ethnic cleansing," said Yurok Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer Bob McConnell, who participated in the civilly disobedient action. "I believe removing the fear of fines and incarceration from traditional gathering is a civil rights issue and I think the majority of Californians' agree."

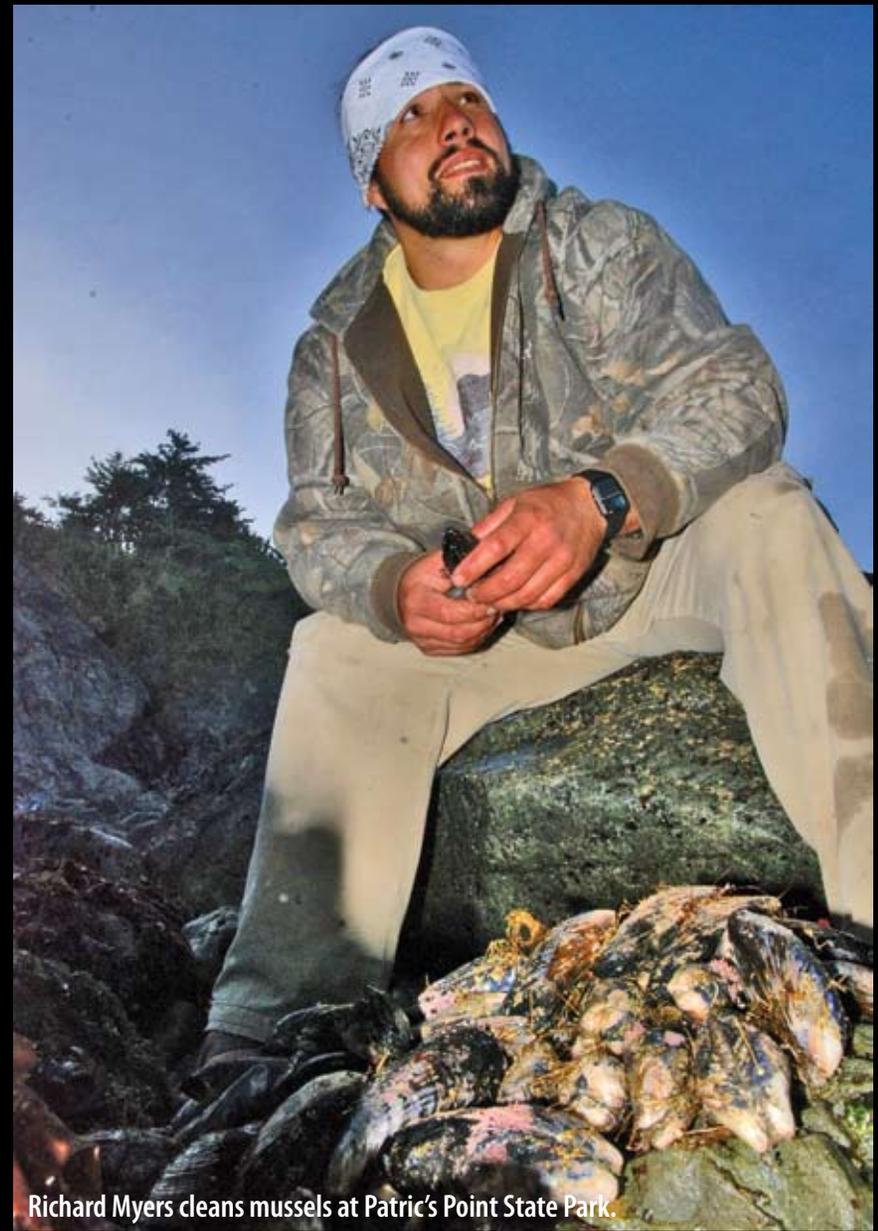
Prior to European contact Yurok people harvested ocean-based foods, medicines and materials needed to make ceremonial regalia from the Little River to Damnation Creek. All of what Europeans were in awe of on this stretch coastline was touched by Yurok hands.

"Our ancestors developed and passed on methodical harvest methods to comfortably sustain ourselves and, most importantly, share the same level of abundance with all future generations," said Thomas O'Rourke Sr., the Yurok Tribe's Chairman. "We are calling on all Californians to support us in perpetuating these indescribably important practices."

The Tribe is petitioning the State of California, through the Marine Life Protection Act process, to recognize existing, religious, ceremonial, subsistence and cultural harvesting. In the MPLA's Northern Study Region, where Yurok ancestral territory is located, the 28 member shareholder group unanimously came up with a proposal that allows for traditional tribal gathering. The proposal is also supported by dozens of county and city governments, as well as environmental groups.

The California Fish and Game Commission is meeting, as this edition of Yurok Today is at the printing press, to complete the final stages of setting up a series of marine reserves on the North Coast.

"Regardless of the outcome, the Yurok Tribe will continue to gather marine resources in our ancestral territory in order to perpetuate our lifeways. Tribal rights are nonnegotiable," Chairman O'Rourke Sr., concluded. ❖



Richard Myers cleans mussels at Patrick's Point State Park.



Rosie Clayburn collects clams at Clam beach.

YEDC readies Tribe's new RV park for summer

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation is working on overdrive to renovate its newly purchased Riverside RV Park and Campground.

"We are going to be ready to greet this summer's visitors with the best looking park," said YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey. "Travelers are going to find a surprise when they return our majestic area this summer."

Every year tourists spend approximately \$100 million dollars in Del Norte County, according to the California Travel and Tourism Commission.

"It's time a bigger portion of those dollars are spent on the Yurok Reservation," Sangrey said.

The RV Park is located on the banks of the Klamath River, a short jaunt from the ocean and one of the last large stands of ancient redwood forest.

The YEDC is currently enlarging the RV spaces to accommodate pull-thrus and priming the park site to maximize the experience of its visitors.

"The park was already in good condition and turning a profit when we purchased it," Sangrey said. "We are working on taking it to the next level."

This RVers paradise provides a perfect opportunity to relax or go on an unforgettable river, ocean or forest foray. The Park is an ideal base camp from which to fish salmon and steelhead, kayak in the Klamath estuary or in the ocean or watch some of the hundreds of bird species, including bald and golden eagles, that migrate through the Yurok Reservation.

The salmon fishing is some of the best in the Pacific Northwest. In a good year, thanks to the Tribe's extensive watershed restoration work, in late summer and early fall nearly a quarter million king salmon enter the old-growth redwood flanked estuary on their way up river to spawn. The fish can reach 50 pounds. On the beaches, killer whales, osprey and California Sea Lions can often be seen with or without the assistance of binoculars.

The well-kept grounds of Riverside RV Park are also in



The Riverside RV Park, located on the Klamath River off of Hwy 101, is the ideal base camp for river, ocean and old-growth redwood adventures.



The Riverside RV Park has a private dock and put in on site. It is a great place to explore the river and hike in an ancient redwood forest or on the most pristine beaches on the continent.

proximity to numerous hiking trails, river access points and Redwood National Park.

The RV Park has full hookups, free wi-fi, tent camping, parking, a boat launch and boat slips. There is also a free laundry mat and recreation room for visitors.

Just up the Hwy 101 there are first-class, frothy, hot and cold



The Yurok Tribe's Economic Development Corporation staff have worked hard to make the Riverside RV Park a perfect place to relax on the bank of the river.

coffee drinks and diesel fuel at Yurok tribally owned Kee-Ya Espresso and Pem-Mey Fuel Mart, where visitors can also try their luck at the slot machines.

All of the workforce putting sweat and energy into revamping the RV parks are Yurok tribal members.

"Our employees know that their hard work will benefit the whole tribe, the Klamath economy and entire community," Sangrey concluded.

For more information call (707) 482-0657 or email tsangrey@yuroktribe.nsn.us ❖

New eats at Pem-mey

The leadership of the Yurok Economic Development Corporation seized on an opportunity to hire more tribal members after the Subway Franchise decided not to renew its contract at Pem-Mey Fuel Mart.

The YEDC recently signed agreements with MexiGo Taco Express and Chester's Chicken.

"These two established brands allow the Tribe the opportunity to manage the businesses, and more importantly, enforce tribal hiring

policies," said Tanya Sangrey. "Subway wasn't open to that idea and sent jobs and capital away from the Yurok Reservation instead of back to it."

Currently, the unemployment rate on the Yurok Reservation is more than 30 percent and an even larger percentage live below the poverty level, according to the 2009 Department of Labor statistics — the most recent available. The unemployment rates for Del Norte County and State of California are less than half of that on Reservation. Assessments for the unemployment rates on the upper Reservation are closer to 85 percent.

In addition to the tasty Mexican food and an assortment of fried chicken eateries, Pem-Mey also opened its own sandwich shop. ❖



Yurok Tribal Member Jamyelynn Norris serves food at the new restaurant.

“Now, we were able to offer a more varied menu and create jobs for tribal members,” Sangrey said.

The Yurok Tribe is by and large grant supported. The pots of funds that come from private foundations, the federal government and state government are becoming exceedingly more difficult to come by in today’s shrinking economy. Pem-mey is one of Tribe’s successful economic development ventures and is part of a greater plan to create a sustainable economy.

MexiGo Taco Express serves everything from grilled burritos and Tostadas to taco salads and breakfast burritos. Chester’s Chicken, which will open shortly, offers bone-in fried chicken, chicken tenders, hot wings, breakfast sandwiches, baked beans and several other sides.

At the sandwich shop patrons can fill out an order form containing more than two dozen options used to build a personalized entrée.

“We’re happy to announce that we’ve hired four tribal members to fill these jobs,” Sangrey concluded.✱

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Know your fishing regulations

The Yurok Tribal Police want to remind you of the laws pertaining to salmon coming from the Klamath River. If you violate a Tribal Law or are in possession of a fish taken illegally from the Yurok Reservation, you may also be violating the Federal Lacey Act.

The Yurok Tribe Commercial fishing usually opens in August. As of an in-season adjustment dated April 11, all fish caught prior to Commercial Fishing Season shall have the dorsal fin removed. These fish may be bartered, traded or sold to a Yurok tribal members only. The selling and purchasing of Sturgeon Roe is not legal at any time. Commercial fish are only those which are caught pursuant to the Fall Harvest Management Plan. If there is no dorsal fin, the fish shall not be sold or bought.

All commercial fishers must be recertified, in which they will be trained in quality control if they haven’t been, made aware of the current regulations, and sign a contract agreeing to observe the quality control requirements.

Certified commercial fishers selling to the Requa buyers do not need a permit, just their ID card. The buyers are responsible for the paperwork and use fee.

Certified commercial fishers wanting to sell elsewhere must get a temporary permit specific for the fish they have in hand. The permit is only valid for five days and only for the number of fish specified. These are also the only fishers required to have the Fish Receipts, which they use when they sell the fish. Unused Fish Receipts, as well as used, must be returned to fisheries within the specified deadline.

Fishers caught selling fish illegally can be subject to the Yurok Tribal violations as well as the Lacey Act Federal violations.

Buyers of illegal fish can be subject to State violations as well as the Lacey Act Federal



Yurok Tribal Member Tasheena Natt checks her family’s net.

Violations.

To report a fishing violation or a Lacey Act violation, please contact the Yurok Tribe Police Department at 707-482-8185 or use the anonymous WE-TIP line, 1-800-78- CRIME (27463) ✱

Summary of the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C 46; 16 U.S.C 3371-3378)

The Lacey Act prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale or purchase of fish and wildlife taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, Indian Tribal, and Foreign laws.

Both Criminal and Civil penalties can be assessed. A Civil fine of up to \$10,000 and Criminal fines and/or up to 5 years imprisonment for each violation of the act may be assessed.

In addition to fines, any vehicles, vessels or equipment used during the commission of the crime as well as the fish or wildlife involved may be forfeited to the to the government.

REFERENDUM #1 – Blood Degree Criteria Change

Constitutional Amendment Proposal

INTENT:

The purpose of this Referendum is to propose a change to the Blood Degree Criteria and the Criteria for qualifying.

This is NOT changing the 1/8 Blood Degree Requirement, only that you must have At Least 1/16 Yurok of that to equal 1/8 Total Blood Degree.

The Constitution currently states that you must have a biological parent be an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe and possess at least 1/8 degree Indian Blood, or be a full or half sibling of an allottee of land on the Yurok Reservation with the same qualifying ancestry and lineal descendants of such persons and be at least 1/8 Indian Blood.

The purpose of this change is to require that an applicant possess at least 1/16 Yurok to be eligible for enrollment and be a total Blood Degree to equal 1/8 total Indian Blood. This would also include Section 3A- Tribal Enrollment Based on Extraordinary Circumstances.

The proposed change affects the following sections of the Constitution (Attached)

Section 2A – Must possess 1/16 Yurok and 1/16 other Indian to be eligible (Total equal to 1/8)

Section 3A - Must possess 1/16 Yurok and 1/16 other Indian to be eligible (Same as 2A)

Section 3D – Allottees of the Yurok Reservation and lineal descendants or such persons, when that applicant is not an enrolled member of another Tribe, or

Add Section 3E – Any person that can prove a direct Yurok lineal descendancy to the Yurok Reservation

1/8 Degree Indian blood is still required, but you must possess 1/16 Yurok of that 1/8 to qualify

- Example 1: Joe has 1/4 Indian Blood (1/16 Yurok and 3/16 Other Indian)

- Example 2: Jane has 1/4 Indian Blood (1/32 Yurok and 7/32 Other Indian)

Both Joe and Jane are 1/4 Degree Indian blood, but one would qualify and one would not.

- In Example 1, Joe is 1/16 Yurok and his total blood is over the 1/8 requirement, so he would be eligible for enrollment.

- In Example 2, Jane is 1/32 Yurok and her total blood is over the 1/8 degree requirement, but she **WOULD NOT** be eligible because she lacks the minimum 1/16 Yurok to qualify.

These proposed changes would provide an avenue for enrollment to applicants who can prove Yurok Lineal Descendancy to the Yurok Reservation when they are not members of another Tribe.

Pros

Only people that have Yurok blood, would be eligible for enrollment.

People whose ancestors lack an Allotment, but have ties to the Yurok Reservation could be eligible for enrollment Children (without parents enrolled) who are lineal descendants of Allottees or have ties to the Yurok Reservation could be eligible for enrollment

Cons

People that are Yurok, but less than the 1/16 Yurok minimum requirement, would not be eligible for enrollment, regardless of total blood degree Children with parents already enrolled, would not qualify for enrollment, if they do not have at least 1/16 Yurok

ALL PEOPLE WOULD STILL NEED TO HAVE A TOTAL OF 1/8 DEGREE INDIAN BLOOD

REFERENDUM #2 – Orick/South District Boundary Change

Constitutional Amendment Proposal

INTENT:

The purpose is to change the Orick/South Districts boundary line from the Little River to the Mad River. This would move the South Districts northern boundary line to the south side of the Mad River. The Orick District southern boundary would be the north side of the Mad River, which would include McKinleyville, Blue Lake and Korbek within the Orick District.

CONSTITUTION, SECTION 2 – Council Districts

“ORICK DISTRICT – This includes all Ancestral Lands located down river on the Klamath River from the Pecwan District and South of the center line of the Klamath River. The Orick Districts southernmost district boundary line, will be north of the centerline of the Mad River which extends from the Pacific Ocean to the westernmost boundary of the East District. Included within the District are the ancestral villages of Turip, Wohkel, Otwego, Wetlkwau, Osegen, Espau, Sikwets, Orek, Tsahekw, Hergwer, Tsotskwi, Pa’ar, Oslokw, Keihkem, Ma’ats, Opyuweg, Tsurau, Sumeg and Metskwo.”

“SOUTH DISTRICT – This includes all land south of the centerline of the Mad River Ancestral Lands, east of the Pacific Ocean, west of the boundary of the East District generally north south mountain ridge passing through Schoolhouse Peak, and within 60 miles of the Ancestral Lands.”

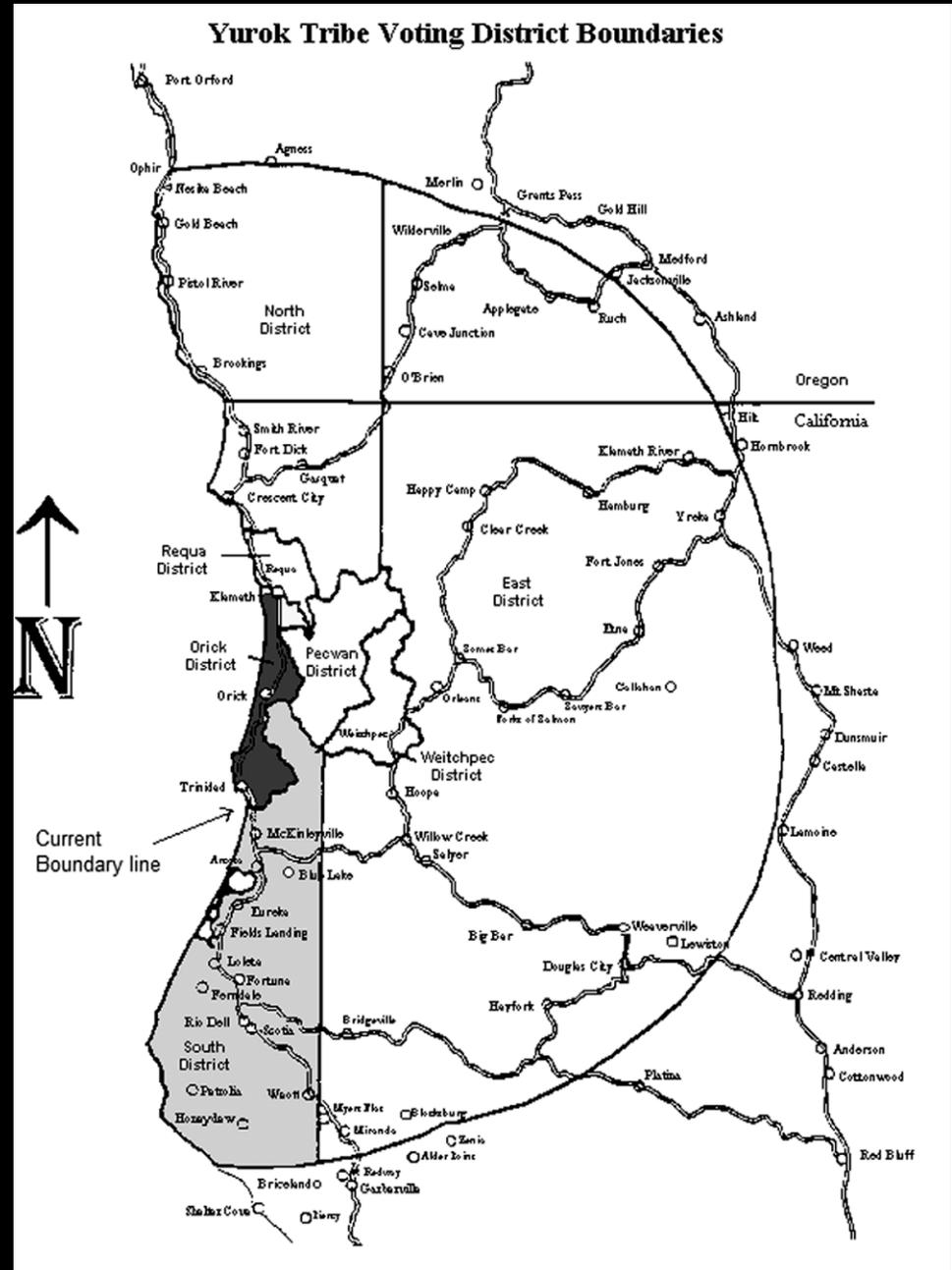
This would give the Orick and South Districts the following numbers:

The Orick District would gain 229 Tribal Members and 120 Voters from the South District

Orick District	Members	Voters
Currently:	41	34
Change to:	270	154

South District	Members	Voters
Currently:	2,157	1,048
Change to:	1,928	928

(Numbers as of May 2011)



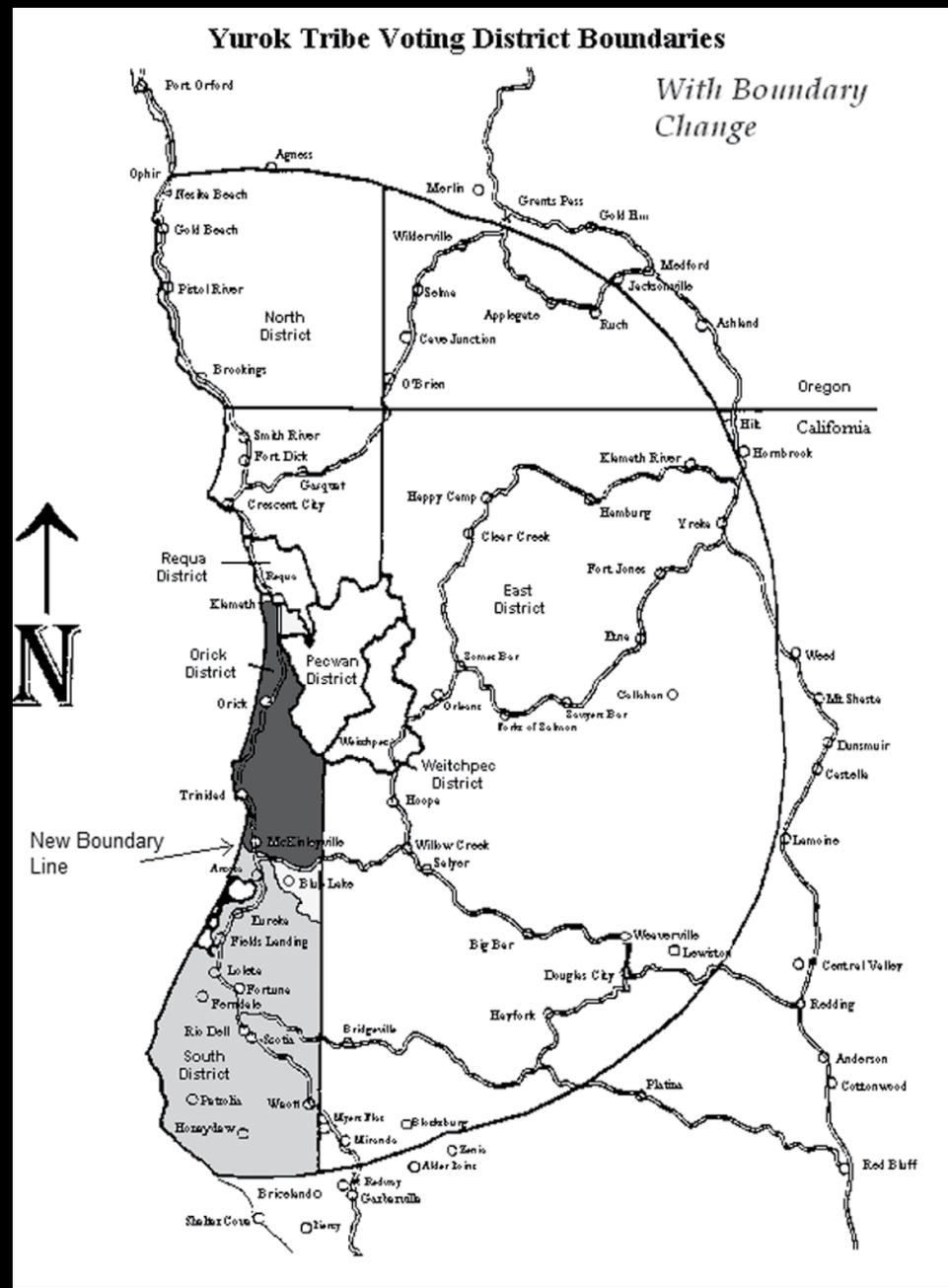
Pros

- Would give the Orick District a larger membership and voters
- Orick District would gain McKinleyville, Blue Lake and Korbek
- Orick District would be able to sustain District growth for years to come
- Would not greatly reduce the South District numbers
- South District would still be the largest of the 7 Districts
- Would not change the ancestral territory

Cons

- Would incorporate more people from metropolitan areas

- Changes the known district boundaries from what Tribal Members know
- South District would lose membership and voters
- South District would no longer include McKinleyville, Blue Lake or Korbel
- Tribal Members in McKinleyville, Blue Lake and Korbel, would be moved into a new District



New Boundary Line

Place your AD here
 Yurok Today is now selling advertising. Yurok Today reaches 2,800 Yurok Tribal households and is available online. Please contact Matt Mais for rates at (707) 482-1350 or mmais@yuroktribe.nsn.us

2011 ELECTION SCHEDULE

NORTH , REQUA AND WEITCHPEC DISTRICTS

- OCTOBER 12, 2011 - PRIMARY ELECTION**
- NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - RUNOFF ELECTION**
- JUNE 20 (8:30AM) - FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE**
- JULY 13 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)**
- JULY 22 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS**
- AUGUST 12 (5:00PM) - LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)**
- AUGUST 12 - PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (54 DAYS)**
- AUGUST 26 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)**
- AUG 29-31 - BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS**
- SEPTEMBER 2 - MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)**
- SEPTEMBER 16 - MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)**
- SEPTEMBER 23 - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)**
- OCTOBER 5 - LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)**
- OCTOBER 12, 2011 - PRIMARY ELECTION**
- OCTOBER 21 - LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL FOR RUN OFF (14 DAYS) ONLY IF YOU DID NOT REQUEST AN ABSENTEE FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION**
- OCTOBER 21- MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)**
- NOVEMBER 2- LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)**

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 - RUNOFF ELECTION



Yurok Tribe

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2011 Yurok Tribe



Cindee McKernan recently retired from the Yurok Tribe after nearly 23 years. During most of her career she worked as the Executive Assistant for the Yurok Tribal Council. The dedicated executive has seen the tribal government grow from a handful of employees to what it is today. Please see the next edition of Yurok Today to read a profile of her tenure with the Yurok Tribe. (Her daughter Jordan sits to the left of her in this photo.)