

JANUARY EDITION



Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

TRIBE TO BUILD SALMON SANCTUARY

6,500-ACRE BLUE CREEK ACQUISITION MOVING FORWARD • STORY ON PAGE 3





Dear Tribal Members, this column is meant to keep you updated on the activities of the Tribe. Please let me know what type of information you want or concerns you may have about our Tribal government, programs or services. You will also be able to see this column on the Tribe's website and Facebook page in an effort to reach out and provide information to you in a timely way.

Yurok economic development initiative wins award

The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce recently awarded the Yurok Tribe a Del Norte Pride Award for our extensive economic revitalization effort underway in Klamath. The Del Norte Pride Award is given to organizations that "greatly improved the aesthetics of the community." At the sold-out awards banquet, the Redwood Hotel Casino, Yurok Country Visitor's Center and Cultural Knowledge Park were described as a beautifully built improvement to Klamath and a substantial contribution to the county's tourism industry. Many tribal members and tribal staff have put their blood, sweat and tears into this economic development endeavor. I give them my sincere appreciation for bringing into existence the Tribal Council's vision for the future of the Reservation. We have lot more to do and I am confident that it will get done with the same professionalism and pride as

the work we have already completed. We are going to achieve our goal of turning the Reservation economy around, so that more Yurok families can return home. I have no doubt that we will receive more awards and rewards as this historic economic initiative continues to progress.

Wellness Court/Visitor Center Projects

The construction of the Yurok Wellness Center and Yurok Country Visitor Center is on schedule. Both new facilities will be open this spring. The Yurok Wellness Center will house the Yurok Tribal Court and will include: a courtroom, two administration offices, judge's chambers, a clerk's filing window, a meeting room, kitchenette, and a holding room.

The 2,500 square-foot Yurok Country Visitor Center, which sits across the street (Klamath Blvd.) from the Cultural Knowledge Park, will highlight tribal businesses and promote the wares of local artisans. The Visitor Center will also offer tourists a mixed-media display, designed to teach visitors about Yurok culture, history and present initiatives. The Amphitheater will feature traditional story telling, small concerts and other group functions.

The Tribe looks forward to working closer with new Del Norte County Sheriff/CHP

We are looking forward to seeing recently elected Sheriff Erik Apperson's campaign commitment to work closely with the Yurok Tribe become a reality. During his candidacy, Sheriff Apperson promised to cross deputize all qualified Yurok Public Safety Officers. He also vowed to keep open the lines of communication between Public Safety and his office. Despite the Yurok Tribal Council's and the Yurok Public Safety Chief's

Contents

Page 6.....The secret life of eels

Page 8.....Tribe signs MOU with State of Californiag

Page 10.....Comment on proposed GEO ordinance

On The Cover

Photo of Blue Creek by Dave Jensen and used courtesy of Western Rivers Conservancy.

numerous attempts to bridge the gap with the previous Sheriff and push these to critical issues forward, both did not occur, during his stay in office. As a result, the county-wide crime rate reached unacceptable levels. As the two departments work together, the quality of service throughout Del Norte will improve. This new coordinated approach to law enforcement and the influx of professional peace officers on the streets will make this community safer for everyone.

Our relationship with the local California Highway Patrol is also moving in a positive direction. At the Tribe's request, commanding officers at the CHP have facilitated meetings with Yurok Public Safety and tribal staff to talk about ways to better serve the Yurok people and greater Klamath community. The CHP will soon be putting on events in Klamath as part of an effort to form a closer relationship with those who live here. I encourage everyone to attend. **Wok-hlew** ✨

Tribe reclaiming rightful role in Blue Creek

Creative deal designed to put land back under tribal management

Through partnerships, mutually beneficial agreements and sheer determination, the Yurok Tribe is on the path to reclaiming its rightful role as steward in one of the most culturally and ecologically important watersheds in the Klamath Basin.

The Yuroks, in conjunction with Western Rivers Conservancy, anticipate finalizing in the first months of 2015 the purchase of 6,479 acres of land in the Blue Creek and neighboring Bear Creek watersheds from Green Diamond Resource Company for \$9.9 million. This will be in addition to approximately 8,500 acres that were acquired in the Blue Creek and Bear Creek watersheds at the end of 2013 and 22,495 acres the Tribe purchased in 2011. Funding for this purchase is expected to come from grants made by the Wildlife Conservation Board and California Coastal Conservancy. The Tribe plans to turn the ice-blue Klamath tributary, which better resembles a river, into a salmon sanctuary.

The entire 47,000 acres Blue Creek drainage lies within Yurok Ancestral Territory. The picture-perfect headwaters are protected by the California Wilderness Act and their inclusion in the Siskiyou Wilderness. The watershed is one of the most biologically diverse places in the entire planet. More than 1,300 vascular plant species thrive in the mountains that feed the creek cold, clean water. Rare trees such as the Brewer's Spruce and Sadler Oak are endemic to the extraordinary enclave.

"Blue Creek is the very seed of the ecosystem. From there, we can grow out again," said Thomas P. O'Rourke Sr., Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. "We have for thousands of years, if not tens of thousands of years, managed our land in a responsible way."

Blue Creek is also home to many mammals including the Pacific fisher, spotted owl and Humboldt marten. In fact, the Humboldt marten was thought to be extinct until 1996, when a population was discovered in the remote wooded watershed. Prior to 1996, the elusive carnivore was thought to be extinct for approximately 50 years.

In addition to an amazingly varied cast of plant and animal species, Blue Creek's highest biological purpose relates to the prosperity and proliferation of Chinook salmon. At the peak of the fall king salmon migration, the mouth of Blue Creek runs more than 15-degrees cooler than the main-stem Klamath, which is typically 72 degrees or better. The salmon-stressing water temps in August and September are a result of a warming effect caused by the Klamath River dams. Once the temps breach 70, the metabolic and immune systems of both adult and juvenile Chinook salmon begin to break down. At the same time and as a result of torrid river conditions, parasitic pathogens such as *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*, which caused the 2002 fish kill, multiply like bubbles in a boiling pot.

Almost every year, a frigid, Olympic-size pool, known as Blue Hole, forms at the mouth of Blue Creek and it is vital to salmon survival. After chilling in the cold-water refuge, a salmon's body temperature can drop by a full 8 degrees, making it possible for the fish's physiological systems to be brought back into balance. When a salmon's immune system is functioning, it can fight off deadly pathogens.

Blue Creek is one of the few places where large groups of fish can find respite when the river is too warm. Sedimentation, a result of too much logging, has destroyed most other

extensive cold water refugia on the lower Klamath. It is not hyperbole to say, if it were not for Blue Creek, few salmon would be left on the third largest fish producing river on the West Coast.

Forest health is directly related to fish health

A sustainable salmon run requires more than an unimpaired riparian zone. The Yurok Tribe plans to restore the parts of the Blue Creek watershed that were heavily logged to an old growth forest full of biodiversity. Historical timber operations in the watershed, which receives about 100 inches of rain annually, left a maze of roads that have the potential to dump giant loads of fish-choking silt into the creek. Many of the roads will be re-contoured and fortified with native flora. Some of the former logging land contains mono-crops of Douglas fir and redwood. The Tribe plans to rejuvenate these unnatural forests, which provide very little benefits to wildlife, by reintroducing hardwoods, such as tanoak, maple and madrone. A myriad of understory plants and fungi will flourish in these renewed, heterogeneous forests, including: huckleberry, salal, bear grass, tanoak mushrooms, deer, black bear, pileated woodpecker and many more.

The planned, traditional use of fire will be employed to reduce the chances of an environmentally catastrophic conflagration. The Yurok use of fire also promotes healthy oak trees, hazel stands and too many additional positive outcomes and cultural benefits to list here.

The newly purchased land is a candidate to be included in a forest carbon sequestration program. Restoration activities can take place on lands set aside for carbon sequestration. The forests also remain accessible to traditional hunters and gatherers.

Since time immemorial, the health of the Yurok people has been directly connected to that of the forest. One day soon, through this restorative effort, the scars created by European contact will no longer be distinguishable.

“If we take care of the forest it will take care of us,” said Chairman O’Rourke.

The importance of salmon

The arrival of the first fall fish is a special time on the Yurok Reservation. Tribal members, who have had to move elsewhere for employment, return and unite with their families at their ancestral fishing holes. It is ordinary to see



three and even four generations fishing together on the Klamath. Elders too infirmed to participate are visited with smoked salmon napes and kind conversation with younger fishers.

The Yurok word for salmon, Ney-puy, translates to “that which is eaten.” Ney-puy, for many Yurok families, means being able to eat three meals a day. The meat is smoked into jerky, kippered and/or frozen in vacuum-sealed bags, making it possible to cook nutritious meals year-round. Without the cold-water refuge at Blue Creek, these cultural practices would likely cease to exist.

In years of relative abundance, which are far too few, the Tribe manages a modest commercial fishery on a small section of the Klamath, located below the Hwy 101 bridge. The highly regulated fishery makes it possible for about 300 families to buy school clothes for the kids and possibly pay a few bills, but not much else.

Through the same determination and perseverance that drove the Blue Creek acquisition, the Yurok Tribe is working to reacquire more ancestral territory. The purchase of the Blue Creek and Bear Creek parcels is an investment in the future of the Tribe. It will ensure that cool, clean water continues to cascade from Blue Creek into the Klamath when salmon need it most. An abounding array of plants will re-colonize the floors of the restored forests with the Yurok Tribe’s management. Wild animals will once again, in substantial numbers, populate the landscape. Some will dance in sacred ceremonies and others will provide food for people. Most will occupy a niche within the intricately interconnected web of life, until the end. ✨

Yurok men have always given eels to elders

It is a traditional practice for men to give ke'ween to those who cannot harvest the delicacy

Since time immemorial, Yurok men have used a variety of traditional techniques to harvest ke'ween from the Klamath.

Yurok men and boys hook Pacific lamprey at the mouth of the river using traditionally carved hooks. Less commonly, dip nets are also used to harvest eels at the spit. Further up river, woven baskets are used to harvest the traditional delicacy.

"When I was a kid, all of the Indians had dip nets. I used to dip two at a time down at the mouth," said Mel Brooks, a Yurok elder.

Brooks, at five-years-old, started the process of learning how to eel from his father.

"My dad would tell us about the water all the time. He taught us how to read the tides, about eddies and how the eels move as the ocean goes in and out," the Yurok culture committee member recalled. "My dad would throw the eels ten to fifteen yards up the beach, where I was safe from sneaker waves. I liked it. It felt like I was doing something, running up the beach with an eel in each hand,"

At about 12, Brooks began eeling on his own down at the mouth, during the switch from high to low tide. He worked his way from the top of the spit, where the current is calmer, to the front edge where the Klamath meets the Pacific.

On nights when the murky river wasn't too swift, and there was a minimal moon light, Brooks and other Yuroks of his generation would stand waist-deep in the cold river, facing perpendicular to the current.

"You can feel the eels with your bare legs," Brooks said. "If they touch the back of your legs you are in the wrong spot."

Ke'ween is an important part of Yurok people's seasonally based diet, which includes a variety of fish species that enter the river at different times of the year. These delicious fish are packed with protein, omega 3 fatty acids and vital vitamins and minerals.

Eels are cooked in many different ways, including: baked fresh, barbequed, smoked, half-smoked and fried, and kippered.

"My favorite way to eat them is smoked. We would have smoked eels all winter. We also used them to barter," Brooks said.

It is also a traditional practice to give eels to those who cannot harvest the delicacy. Elders especially love the rich flavor of the fatty fish.

"We always gave eels to people who couldn't get them. I'd give eels to people, even if they had a man, but he didn't fish. I just wanted that old person to have the fish. I didn't care if the man ate one. My dad did that too," Brooks recalled.

Unfortunately, in recent years, Yurok fishers have noticed a decline in the number of Pacific lamprey entering the river. It is not clear why this is happening. However, it is known that ammocoetes are extremely susceptible to major disturbances in river flow, such as dewatering events. Also, ke'ween, like ney-puy, becomes stressed and prone to disease when river temperatures breach 72 degrees. As a result of four dams on the upper Klamath, the river regularly hits temps higher than that each summer.

While eels are caught all the way up to the top of the Yurok Reservation, the mouth of the river is where the most eeling takes place. Where the Klamath meets the Pacific Ocean is breathtakingly beautiful, however, there are risks related to eeling there. When the tide is going low, which is the best time to go eeling, the frigid river flows fast into the ocean, and is cold enough cause hypothermia in less than 15 minutes. Almost every year an unfortunate person is washed out into the pounding surf, where it is difficult to get back to shore.

Eeling safety measures

There are a number of ways to prevent potentially life-threatening situations at the mouth. The first is to never turn away from the ocean. On high surf days it is not uncommon for large waves to wash over the eeling area. When the waves are calm there is still the potential for a sneaker wave.

If knocked down by a wave, a person should jam the end of his eel hook deep into the sand to keep from getting pulled out to sea and hold on until the water recedes. If you are washed out into the ocean, the best chance for survival is to swim parallel, away from the river's current, and then toward the shore. In the cold water, hypothermia will begin to set in within

minutes. The condition causes muscles to seize, until a person becomes paralyzed from the cold. Remembering these tips is critical to staying safe on the spit.

Cultural protocols for eelers

When there are a lot of eelers on the spit there is a protocol to ensure everyone takes home eels. The spot closest to the ocean is often where the most action is. After an eeler at the front of the line hooks a ke'ween, it is considered a sign of respect to move to the end to let others have the same opportunity.

"If you're in a line and the guy below you misses the eel, he let that one go," Brooks explained. "My dad told me he's fair game if you accidentally hook his foot if he steps in front of you. Dad said, 'you never fish in front of another man.'"

Be respectful of private property

When the river is emptying out on the north side of the beach, there is only one access point for those without high-powered jet boats. The only parking is on Yurok elder Lavina Bowers' property, which she allows because she wants to the cultural practice to continue in perpetuity. Adjacent to the dirt parking lot is a former Yurok village site, containing a ceremonial pit and burial grounds. It is important that those who use the parking lot, due so with respect. Lastly, it is always a good idea to pack out what is brought down to the beach and pick up what others have left. ✨



Ke'ween roasted over an open fire is delicious and nutritious.

The secret life of eels (Pacific lamprey)

It is estimated that Ke'ween have been around for about 400 million years

Ke'ween (Pacific lamprey) has one of the most complex life cycles of any creature on this planet.

These amazing Klamath River fish have inhabited the earth for more than 400 million years, twice as long as sturgeon. Eels, as they are commonly called, are a vital wintertime food source. Ke'ween are caught, using carved hooks and woven baskets. The fish migrate, just like salmon, from the ocean into the river to spawn. What makes these creatures truly unique is a metamorphosis that makes the

transition of a caterpillar to a butterfly look like a slight transformation.

After eel embryos hatch, the snake-shaped fish lives for up to seven years under the mud in places where the current is slow. The earth worm-size ammocoetes (pronounced am-o-seat), or baby eels, feed on phytoplankton and algae by filtering the fine silt at the bottom of deep pools and eddies. At this stage in the life cycle, the fish are mostly blind because of a lack of fully developed eyes. In particular places

on the Klamath, many generations of eels can be found rummaging through the sediment looking for food and recycling nutrients on the edge of the river.

Following the three to seven year stint in the silt, an ammocoete goes through a slow, but massive metamorphosis. First, circular rows of teeth form in cylindrical mouths and then over-sized eyes develop on the still pencil-long fish. As they reach the juvenile stage, even the eel's internal organs are rearranged. Unlike most fish, ke'ween does not have true fins, jaws or even bones. Like sharks, their flexible frames are comprised of cartilage. Following the completion of the physical transformation, which begins in summer and ends in winter, eels finally enter the water column. At this point they are called macrophthalmia.

Between spring and fall, the free-swimming eels head out to sea with a completely new strategy for survival. The lampreys become 15 to 25-inch parasites that feed on a wide variety of fish including: salmon, steelhead, halibut, pollock and others. Eels eat by attaching their mouths to other fish, using their teeth to penetrate the scales and skin. Their mouths are also capable of creating suction, enabling for the extraction of blood and other bodily fluids. In the ocean, eels have been found in depths ranging from 300 to 2,600 feet and up to 62 miles off shore.

After spending from one to four years in the ocean, lampreys return to their natal rivers in groups, mostly at



night, to begin the long spawning migration. During the up river run, eels use their mouths to affix to rocks when rest is required. Today, lampreys make it all the way to Irongate Dam. Historically, they likely ascended at least as far as the Klamath Lakes.

Lampreys spawn in the same types of substrates, small gravel, that salmon conduct the reproductive process. Both males and females use their mouths to collect rocks and gravel, which is used to form a nest or redd at the top of a riffle. The pair then head a short way up-current from the redd and intertwine their bodies. The female deposits up to 100,000 eggs and males release milt. After this process is complete, both perish, and the cycle that has likely existed for nearly a half a billion years continues to perpetuate. ✨

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Vocational Rehab - Feb. 9 - 9am-10:30 - Weitchpec
- Tai-chi - Feb.10 - 5pm-7pm -Weitchpec
- Yurok Language - Feb. 12 - 3pm-5pm - Weitchpec
- TRIBAL OFFICE'S CLOSED – Feb.16 – PRESIDENT'S DAY
- Bow making (tanf) - Feb. 17 - 10am-4pm - Weitchpec
- Land com. meeting - Feb.17 10am-2pm - Weitchpec
- Food 4Ppeople - Feb.17 - 10:30am-2:30pm- - Weitchpec
- Tai-chi - Feb.17 - 5pm-7pm -Weitchpec

- YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL – PLANNING MEETING – FEB. 18 – 10AM KLAMATH
- Head Start Parent Meeting - Feb. 18 - 5:30pm-6:30 - Weitchpec
- YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL – ACTION MEETING – FEB. 19 – 10AM WEITCHPEC
- Yurok Language - Feb. 19 - 3pm-5pm - Weitchpec
- YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL – 10 AMFINANCE - FEB 23 – 10AM KLAMATH
- Vocational Rehab - Feb. 23 - 9am-10:30 - Weitchpec
- Rep Chem - 10:30am-1:30pm - Weitchpec
- TERO Rep. - 11am-3pm - Weitchpec

Tribe signs MOU with State of California

Agreement with Dept. of Child Support Services will help Yurok children

KLAMATH, CA – The Yurok Tribe of Northern California recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to facilitate the transfer of Title IV-D tribal child support cases to the Yurok Tribe. This is the first agreement to be entered into between a tribe in the State of California and the DCSS to transfer cases from the California county child support agencies to Yurok Child Support Services (YCSS), and the Superior Courts of California to the Yurok Tribal Court.

The transfer process consists of identifying Yurok tribal cases and providing participants with a notice of eligibility for case transfer and an opportunity to respond to the notice by agreeing or objecting to the transfer. A court hearing will be held in the California Superior Court for the case participants' input in the matter, and the court will make the decision of whether the case will be transferred.

The services provided by YCSS include: locating the physical location and resources of the case participants, establishing paternity, establishing child support orders, modification of child support orders, providing non-cash alternatives for child support payments, income withholding orders for wage garnishments, other enforcement methods, and collecting and processing child support payments. YCSS can also work cases in other jurisdictions. For example, child

support orders may be obtained and enforced, even when the other parent lives in another state or tribal reservation.

In addition, YCSS offers other essential services through our Family Centered Services Project to help reach families

in our caseload that may be struggling or lack stability. These services include: job skills training with tribal enterprise employers, financial counseling, child support debt management (arrears owed to the State of California – Compromise of Arrears Program), parenting plans, and Yurok family language activities. The goal is to provide social and economic supportive services to parents and their children in a way to strengthen family relationships.

**Please contact
Yurok Child Support
Services for additional
information at: phone:**

**(707) 269-0695, email: yurokcass@yuroktribe.nsn.us,
or mail: P.O. Box 45 Eureka, CA 95502. An application
for services is available at: [http://yuroktribe.org/
tribalcourt/child_support.htm](http://yuroktribe.org/tribalcourt/child_support.htm). ✨**



Pictured after the signing are (left to right) bottom row: Vickie Contreras, Deputy Director, DCSS; Alisha Griffin, Director, DCSS; Thomas O'Rourke, Chairman, Yurok Tribe; Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge, Yurok Tribal Court; (second row from left) Laura Woods, Case Specialist, YCSS; Lisa Dugan, Director, Humboldt Child Support Agency; Debbie Mayhue, Director, Del Norte Child Support Agency; Nola Penna, Deputy Director, Del Norte Child Support Agency; Lesley Bell, Regional Administrator, DCSS; Denise Bareilles, Attorney/Project Manager, YCSS; Sky Thompson, Attorney, Yurok Tribal Court; Kristina Moseley, Administrative Assistant, YCSS; Katelyn Sanderson, Account Specialist, YCSS; and Elaina Erola, Intern, Yurok Tribe

STAFF ANNUAL MEETING

TRIBE HOLDS ANNUAL GALA AT DEL NORTE FAIRGROUNDS



(LEFT) TARA IPINA, STACY O'ROURKE, ADIA SUPAHAN, ROSE GIBBENS, SPRINGWIND MARSHALL AND JUDE MARSHALL HAVE SOME FUN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.



DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PEGGY GOINS SPEAKS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.



YUROK FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM STAFF AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TROY FLETCHER (LEFT) CONGRATULATES WALT LARA ON HIS RETIREMENT.

Comment on proposed tribal ordinance

Tribes proposes ban on all genetically engineered organisms, certain pesticide use

Should the Yurok Tribe have an Ordinance that prohibits and penalizes the growing of genetically engineered organisms (“GEOs”) such as GEO crops, plants, and salmon and also certain chemical pesticide use on the Yurok Indian Reservation?

1. Should the Yurok Tribe regulate the use of chemical pesticides on the Yurok Indian Reservation by residential users?
2. Should the Yurok Tribe regulate the use of chemical pesticides on the Yurok Indian Reservation by commercial users?
3. Are you aware or concerned about the toxic effects of herbicides (particularly glyphosate e.g. “Roundup”), organophosphates and genetically engineered foods, present in many common processed and whole foods?
4. Are you concerned about the herbicide-resistant and GMO-laden foods distributed by the federal government to Tribal people, such as GMO “Roundup-Ready” soy found in infant formula through the WIC program?
5. Should the Yurok Tribe take active steps to protect the health and integrity of our traditional seeds, plants, salmon, and other life-giving foods?
6. Do you know of any traditional or effective non-chemical methods for weed/pest removal that you would like to see considered as part of the Tribal Ordinance? What are they?
7. Do you have any specific concerns or approaches you would like to see included in a Yurok Genetically Engineered Organism and Chemical Pesticide Ordinance? What are they?

Background Information

The Tribe’s position is to support of the protection of Klamath River Wild Salmon and indigenous plants and

berries. The Tribe has taken a firm stand against the use of Genetically Modified salmon for any purpose, as it is a threat to the health and wellbeing of our community. An ordinance about GEOs would further the Tribe’s interest in protecting Wild Salmon and against any genetic alteration to Klamath River Salmon.

Because of the scientific nature of this ordinance, some terms may be unfamiliar. For your information, we used the following definitions in drafting the above questions:

1. Genetically Engineered means: An organism or crop whose genetic material (DNA) has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally.
2. Pesticide means: A substance intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate any pest. The term also applies to herbicides, fungicides, and various other substances used to control pests.
3. Residential means: Single family homes or rental residences; private land with no commercial purpose.
4. Commercial means: Land or buildings intended to generate a profit.
5. Organophosphates mean: A general name for a chemical that makes up many pesticides. The Federal government acknowledges that organophosphates are highly toxic to bees, wildlife, and humans.
6. WIC Program means: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants and Children, that provides Federal dollars for food for low-income pregnant woman, postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Please submit your comments to Cheyenne Sanders, OTA Staff Attorney, via email at csanders@yuroktribe.nsn.us or by phone at 707-482-1350. ✨

TERO TALK

DON BARNES

YUROK TERO DIRECTOR

Aiy ye kwee'

The winter season is upon us, which means construction and development is slow. With no new construction in the near future, the Scenic Byways Visitor Center and Yurok Justice Center projects are winding down, with interior design elements and finishes remaining. Our Caltrans Hum 169 road widening project is also coming to a close for the winter, but Steelhead Constructors will be back in the spring to hopefully finish the eight locations they are working on. The only project in the not-too-distant future is the construction of the Trinity River Elder Village in Hoopa, but the details of this project are yet to be determined.

As for all future employment opportunities, please make sure you have an updated application on file with us in TERO, including current phone numbers, addresses, email, and recent work history. We are always receiving requests for temporary employment opportunities through our tribal departments and our tribal entities (Redwood Hotel & Casino, YEDC, YIHA), but we can only refer members who are actively updated within a year and whom we can contact. You never know when an opportunity will arise, so it's best to always be updating your information with us.

During this winter season, we have begun actively looking for opportunities to finance training in a variety of fields, from customer service to construction. We have begun a partnership with Amber Wier, of the North Coast Small Business Development Council, to provide a Business Boot Camp workshop, designed to assist Tribal members in developing their business ideas into real business enterprises. The dates are TBD, but we are hopeful this workshop will start in early March, with Mrs. Wier providing the initial training along with follow-up consultation for boot camp participants to continue development of their business start-up ideas. With all the positive growth in our communities, we hope to see more native-owned businesses joining in our success and development efforts. Stay tuned for an announcement about this opportunity in the near future.

TERO has also teamed with the Redwood Hotel & Casino to



Meet the TERO team. (left)TERO Field Rep. Raymond McQuillen, TERO Director Don Barnes and Thunder Nix-Rivera.

provide assistance for new employment opportunities for three tribal members to attending bartenders' school. These members will then become the lead bartenders for our Abalone Bar & Grill. We are also assisting with training for two current RHC employees in marketing, trade, and public relations, with the ultimate goal of seeing these members advance their career opportunities into the management of the RHC image and brand. Congratulations to the new RHC staff, and to the continued success of our current RHC staff.

Finally, TERO wants to formally welcome two new staff members. Thunder Nix-Rivera took over office operations as TERO Assistant last October, while Raymond McQuillen became our first TERO Field Representative in December. Both tribal members offer many great qualities that will only enhance our

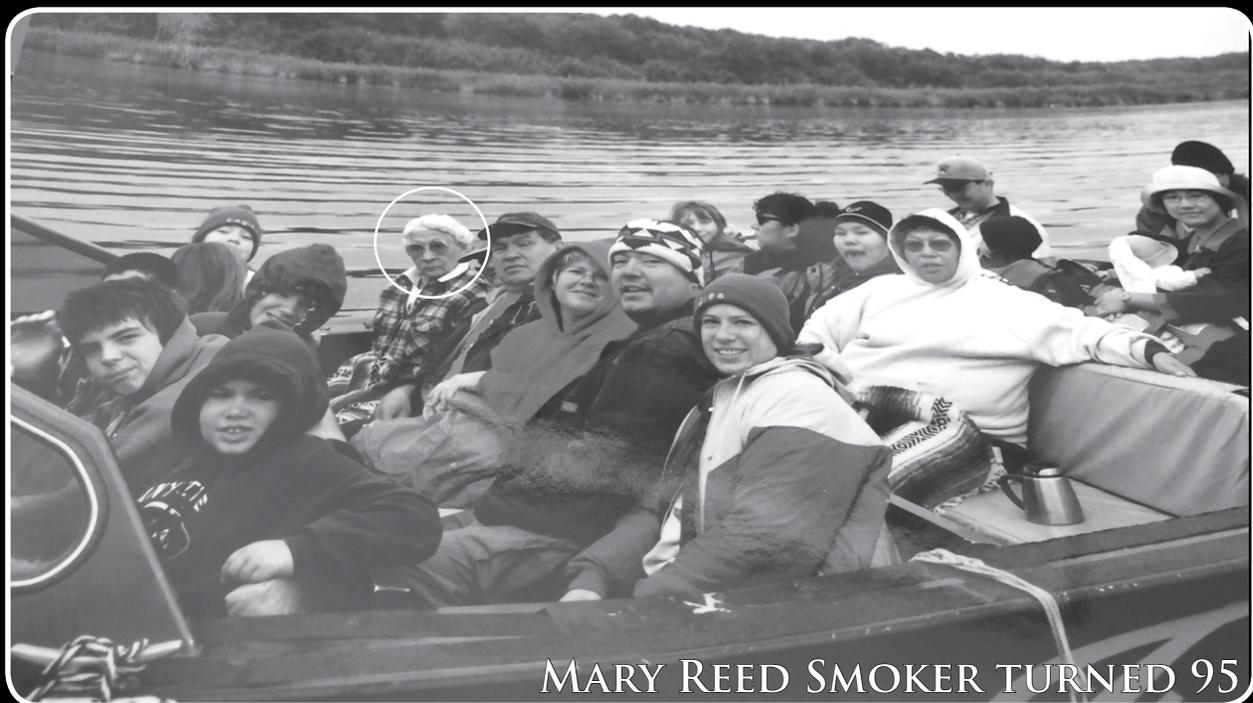
office and the services we provide. We look forward to the positive impact both will have in the department.

Aiy-yu-kwee’,

My name is Raymond McQuillen, I am the new TERO Field Representative. I have many years working for the Yurok Tribe and in the Yurok community. My professional background is in real estate and Indian Housing. My wife and I have three children and I have a large extended family. I will be out in the field ensuring contractor compliance with the TERO Ordinance and that Tribal Members are working onsite at the many various projects on or near the Yurok Reservation. I will be available to members every Wednesday at the Weitchpec Tribal Office with the office hours of 10:00am to 3:00pm. I look forward to helping Tribal Members obtain and maintain the skills necessary for employment.

Aiy ye kwee’

My name is Thunder Nix-Rivera, I am the new TERO Assistant. I am excited to be back home and to be given the opportunity to service our members and our community. I encourage all members and their families to apply with TERO, so that opportunities that arise can be of benefit for a positive move forward in growth within the tribe. If you or someone you know has already applied, please contact the TERO Department to UPDATE, UPDATE, UPDATE! ✨



MARY REED SMOKER TURNED 95

**WE WISH YOU
A VERY HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**
FROM YOUR KIDS, GRAND
KIDS AND GREAT GRAND
KIDS

Reminder!

**Free Non-lead Ammunition
for Yurok Tribal Members living on or around the Reservation!**



As a way to help Tribal members transition away from ammunition containing lead, a known neurotoxin that affects both people and wildlife, the YT Wildlife Program is offering free non-lead ammunition to interested tribal members. By 2019 California will have instituted a law requiring all hunting done under California jurisdiction be done with non-lead ammunition.

Please contact Kent Barnes at (707) 482-1822 x 1025 to order a box. Information needed includes your name, contact information, and preferred caliber.



Attention all Yurok and Native Artists: The Yurok Tribe needs your help to carry out Cultural District Planning along Klamath Blvd in Klamath, CA. There have been many building improvements in this area over the last few years. We want to build upon that work and further enhance it through the integration of cultural art. Some of the more recent projects that have been completed and/or are underway along the Boulevard include: the Redwood Hotel Casino, Yurok Scenic Byways Visitor’s Center, the Cultural and Knowledge Park and Amphitheater, the Gateway project, and the Yurok Justice Center.

To accomplish the work of incorporating cultural art along the boulevard, we have developed a project that we are calling the “Our Town” project. The funding for the project is coming from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Yurok Transportation program.

Some of the key areas we would like to focus on with this project are outlined below. **If you have the skill and ability to create some of the artwork we are identifying, or if you would like to participate in the planning process, please send your resume, examples of your work, and a fee schedule to Libby Maynard with the Ink People Center for the Arts, no later than 3pm on February 17, 2015. You can send your information via email @ libby@inkpeople.org or by delivery to 23 5th St. Eureka, CA 95501. Please call Libby Maynard at (707) 442-8413 if have any questions.**

- Light Pole Banners: Develop four seasonal banners that that include color schemes, fonts, and back ground designs to enhance the Yurok Country program and Yurok Culture.
- Winter-Holidays, Snow in the mountains, Rain
- Spring-Flowers (lupine, lilies, trillium, azaleas/ rhodies, ferns, dogwood, redbud), Salmon,

- Summer-Fishing, Salmon Festival, wildlife, gathering, berries, river.
- Fall-Fall colors, Maples, acorns, falling leaves, mush rooms, Halloween, Thanksgiving, moon, sunsets
- Seating along the Boulevard: We are open to all suggestions for seating options, including those constructed from unconventional building materials or from unconventional designs.
- Mosaics: Mosaics can be incorporated along the outer walls of the amphitheater or on trash receptacles along the boulevard; other areas could include mosaic tiles incorporated in seating areas, pathways, signage, etc...
- Amphitheatre: Develop and/or perform in a Yurok storytelling program; this can include the development of up to five Yurok stories that can be presented to audiences at the amphitheater.
- Sculptures: Space has been identified for the installation of metal or concrete sculpture installation; this includes the center median, the space around the amphitheater and the area to the south of the Bates building. Additional space may include the discovery park, the Justice Center and the hotel/casino. Sculptures may include metal salmon, elk, eagles, herons, woodpeckers, otters, condor, etc... Other sculpture mediums may be proposed, included cement and wood.
- Golden Bears: The original golden bears are currently located at the south end of the town site; the bears are in various states of disrepair. We are looking ideas to incorporate the bears into the project in a culturally appropriate and historically respectful way.
- Logo and Poster for the Scenic Byway &Visitors

Center: Develop a logo and poster to represent the Yurok Scenic Byway and Visitors Center. The logo will be used for merchandising and marketing purposes. ✨

Celebrate love and friendship in Feb.

AMANDA DONAHUE

Social Security District Manager

February is the month when we celebrate love and friendship. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has also declared February as American Heart Month to bring awareness to the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States: heart disease.

We encourage you to wear red all month to promote cardiovascular disease prevention.

Just as the heart is vital to our emotional and physical well-being, Social Security disability benefits are often a vital lifeline for people who are unable to work due to severe disabilities—whether heart-related or not.

There are numerous ways to protect our hearts, including eating well, exercising, and not smoking. We get checkups, and make sure to keep our cholesterol down.

However, sometimes these measures aren't enough. In fact, disability will affect one in four of today's 20 year-olds before reaching retirement age. The Social Security disability program excels in providing financial help to people when they need it most—help they earned by paying Social Security taxes on their earnings or as dependents of someone who paid Social Security taxes.

Social Security pays benefits to covered people who can't work and whose medical condition meets the strict definition of disability under the Social Security Act. A person is considered disabled under this definition if he or

she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or result in death. The person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work based on their age, education, and experience. You can find all the information you need about eligibility and benefits available to you by reading our publication, Disability Benefits, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

If you are disabled, and think you are eligible to receive disability benefits, you will need to complete an application for Social Security benefits. It's easy to apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

We also invite you to visit our Faces and Facts of Disability website to watch and read stories about people who have truly benefited from Social Security's disability program and to get the facts about this very important program. Helping people is at the heart of what we do. You can learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

During American Heart Month, go ahead and wear your heart on your sleeve. Go red, and go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts. ✨

Public Safety - Arrest Log

Jan 4, 2015 - Chad Holzhauser Unlawful Carrying and Possession of Weapons

Jan 6, 2015 - Chad Holzhauser – criminal trespassing

Jan 18, 2015 - Paul Vanmechelen Jr. drunk in public

New Redwood Hotel Casino Job Openings



Full-Time Positions

RHC Executive Asst. - Salary Grade NE11

EVS/Housekeeping Supervisor— Salary Grade NE6

Maintenance Tech - Salary Grade NE5

Bar Tender – Salary Grade NE FTP 1

Food and Beverage Manager - Salary Grade E6

Steward - Salary Grade NE1

Busser - Salary Grade NE1

IT Technician - Salary Grade NE8

Controller - Salary Grade E15

To view complete job descriptions visit redwoodhotelcasino.com
If you have questions, please contact Redwood Hotel Casino Human Resource Manager Sandra Lowry at (707) 482-1777.

BECOME ONE OF OUR ADVENTURE GUIDES!

Want a great job? Redwood Hotel Casino is hiring. We're now accepting applications for:

- Maintenance Technician
- Accounting Specialist
- Cage Cashier
- Drop/Count Team Member
- Payroll Specialist
- Revenue Auditor
- Vault Cashier
- Bartender
- Beverage Server
- Busser
- Cook
- Food and Beverage Supervisor
- Prep Cook
- Server
- Steward
- Guest Service Attendant (assists with hotel front desk, PBX, Gift shop)
- Housekeeper/Engineer
- Human Resources Assistant
- Adventurers Club Lead Representative
- Adventurers Club Representative
- Security Officer
- Security Officer II
- Security Supervisor
- Slot Attendant
- Slot Floor Supervisor
- Slot Technician

Stop by our office, visit our website at redwoodhotelcasino.com, or call **707-482-1777**.



171 KLAMATH BLVD ▲ KLAMATH, CA 95548



Yurok Tribe

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www.yuroktribe.org

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Klamath, CA 95548

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Yurok attorney, Amy Cordallis speaks about John Corbett's lengthy career as the Tribe's senior attorney. The tireless tribal advocate was hired in February of 2003 and recently retired from his post. Corbett served the tribal membership well and we wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.