



Yurok Today

THE VOICE OF THE YUOK PEOPLE

Profile: Vice-Chairman Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.

Yurok Today: We're speaking with Thomas O'Rourke Sr., Vice-Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. Mr. Vice-Chairman, would you tell us something about your background?

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.: I'm one of twelve children. I am the seventh son of Richard and Lorraine O'Rourke. I have five sisters. I am the grand-



son of Dan Reed of Pecwan and Minnie Harry of Morekw (AKA Morekw Maddie). My grandmother Minnie was helper to the medicine man at the last Kepel fish dam ceremony. Her father's people were from Kepel.

I am married to Sherry (Thompson) Archie Thompson's daughter. We have nine children and we reside at Tully Creek.

I was born in 1960 and I grew up in Yurok village of Morekw along the Klamath

River. All my best memories are based around the land. They're around fishing, hunting, and gathering and around Yurok culture and life on the Klamath.

My family is a dance family; we still carry regalia that is hundreds of years old.

One of my special memories is when we brought back the jump dance for our people; it is one of the most memorable things in my life. The power that was there... It's something I'll always remember. There was fear but there was excitement, knowing that we

See VICE-CHAIRMAN, page 6

Update on Relicensing of the Klamath Hydro-Electric Project

By Fisheries Manager David Hillemeier

In late March, 2006 the federal agencies with prescriptive author-



Oregos seen from the West. Photo Arnold Nova

mainstem dams. Furthermore, the Bureau of Land Management (under the authority of section 4e of the Federal Power Act), required that substantially higher flows be provided in the J.C. Boyle bypass reach to provide for adequate fish habitat, and that the practice of "peaking flows" to generate power during the times of the day that it is most needed be limited to once per week. In

See LICENSING, page 15

ity in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) relicensing process issued mandatory prescriptions and recommendations that could dramatically affect the operation of dams within the Klamath River, and ultimately return salmon, steelhead and lamprey to the Upper Klamath Basin.

The mandatory prescriptions (under the authority of Section 18 of the Federal Power Act) issued by the Federal Agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) require that PacifiCorp provide upstream and downstream passage for anadromous fish at all of their

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN MCCONNELL

Yurok Today: Thank you for speaking to Yurok Today. In your lifetime you have surely seen many changes. Would you kindly begin at the beginning, and tell us about your family and your upbringing?

Howard McConnell: "On the Rube side, my family comes from Wausec. I used to live



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Chairman's Message



Restoring the Klamath

By Howard McConnell

erations—that's how low the fish stocks are.

Meanwhile, fall commercial salmon fishing has been severely limited or closed by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council along hundreds of miles of California and Oregon coastline. This is causing severe economic impact to Yurok commercial fishermen.

The Klamath River has supported and nurtured the Yurok people since the beginning of time. We honor it as more than just a precious eco-system—it is a sacred part of our Yurok tribal life.

When you think of the thousands of years that the Klamath River has been a source of transportation, food, and community life for our people, 90 years seems like just the blink of an eye. But in fact, a lot has changed since 1917, when the first of the dams went in on the river.

Can you remember the time when salmon, sturgeon, eels, and other water life were abundant in the river? This year, the Yurok Tribal Council had to declare a three day per week closure on tribal subsistence fishing for Spring Chinook salmon, following a two day per week closure in 2005. This was a hard decision, but we did it to preserve the salmon for future gen-

What's wrong with the river and the fish stocks? Many scientists agree that dams operated by PacifiCorp are largely responsible for the declining fish stocks and poor water quality. More than 350 miles of historic spawning habitat lie above the dams, inaccessible to migrating fish. Downstream, water flows are often inadequate and water temperatures are too high. In the dam reservoirs, toxic algae bloom.

Something needs to change.

Fortunately, this year we are presented with a special opportunity. Once every 30 to 50 years, the dams come up for re-licensing by the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission—and 2006 is one of

those years.

Two federal agencies have just released mandatory terms and conditions for the issuance of a new license for the dams. These require the installation of fish ladders, which permit fish passage over the dams. This would help, but it does not address the issue of water quality. The Yurok position remains clear: the complete removal of the PacifiCorp dams is the best way to restore the river.

Yurok Tribal Council, fisheries, executive, and legal staff are working hard every day in Klamath, Weitchpec, Sacramento, San Francisco, Redding, Yreka, and Washington to fulfill our dream of restoring a free-flowing, clean river. There are other stakeholders in the Klamath River Basin, and we are cooperating with them to arrive at an outcome that everybody can live with. But nobody can claim more of a permanent or vital interest in the Klamath River than the Yurok. We won't rest until river and fish are out of danger.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Diversity of opinion is very important for the Yurok Tribe. *Yurok Today* welcomes letters to the editor of up to 300 words. Include your full name, address and telephone number (if any); your address and phone number will not be published. We reserve the right to reject letters or edit for clarity, brevity, good taste and accuracy. In order to allow for full diversity, individuals are limited to one letter per newsletter issue. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the tribal council. For mailed or fax submissions, the letter must be signed.

Please Send to:

Editor
Yurok Today
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548
pr@yuroktribe.nsn.us





COLLECTING SPRUCE ROOT THE TRADITIONAL YUROK WAY

The sun was making a rare springtime appearance, but the trail was still muddy—and soon it petered out altogether. Leading the way was Yurok tribal member Susan (“Tweet”) Burdick. Joining her was a reporter from Yurok Today, along with two students from Burdick’s popular Humboldt State University basket-weaving course: Ruthie Maloney, a Yurok tribal member, and Audriana Peters, who is Tweet’s niece. Both students come from basket-weaving families: Ruthie’s great aunt was Amy Smoker, while Audriana’s grandmother was Daraxa Peters and her great-grandmother, Suzy Little.



It was spruce root—one of many roots and sticks that are used in Yurok basket-weaving—that we were after.



Susan (“Tweet”) Burdick teaches a Yurok basketry course at Humboldt State University. Here with students Ruthie Maloney and Audriana Peters.

For more than a dozen years, Burdick has taught college-level courses in Yurok basket-weaving and other traditional activities at Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods. To find spruce root, we followed her to a spot near the ocean on Yurok ancestral lands. She wasn’t shy about voicing her objections to the gathering policy in place at some local parks. There, she says, Yurok people who want to gather on their own ancestral lands are required to get a gathering permit—and are subject to citation if they don’t. She would like to see the parks act to restore native gathering rights.

“I learned what I know from my mother, grandparents and community,” says Burdick. “The knowledge that I have, it’s for

me to pass down. To find spruce root, you look for the spruce cones as you are walking through the woods. Once you’re in the right area, you look for the ‘Million Dol-



lar Carpet’—a soft, spongy patch of soil where spruce roots are likely to be growing. You clear off the branches and dig down until you come upon a good-size root. They should look scaly. Too dark a brown would not be a spruce.

“The basket weavers are the caretakers of the basket plants,” says Burdick. Gatherers speak to the trees, promising to respectfully use the collected materials. They gather only the surface roots, so the tree is not damaged. Springtime is the best time to pick spruce root, when the ground is still moist enough to dig easily. Once a length of root is taken, the remainder is left in the ground and covered over to allow it to continue to grow. Gatherers only take as much as they can use, and when they leave, they say “Wo-hiklaw,” (Thank You).

The bark of the kept root is stripped with a knife. Depending on thickness, most roots can be split into 2’s or 4’s lengthwise. Those wider than a thumb must be cooked. Traditionally they are cooked on the beach. Coals are covered with sand, the roots are put on, and then the roots are covered with sand.

Taking roots from the earth and then weaving them into baskets that are as practical as they are beautiful, the Yurok people demonstrate their deep sense of respect for nature. With the help of teachers like Burdick, the new generation is continuing the tradition.





SALMON FESTIVAL SET FOR AUGUST 20

Salmon Festival 2006 is set for August 20 in Klamath.

"This year we are working to make the event bigger and better than ever," said Festival Coordinator Tatia Viggers. "The activities will include the annual parade with floats, Yurok cultural demonstrations, the Veteran's Breakfast—and, of course, the salmon dinner."



Photo Arnold Nova

that no trails be opened near sacred sites.

"A tribal park is controlled by a tribe," Gates replied, "and we do not contemplate tourists in any sacred sites."

While he acknowledged that the concept plan calls for entering into co-management agreements with federal and state agencies, Gates reminded the audience that the tribe's land base is currently small. The proposed expansion of the tribal land base will eventually translate into greater tribal sovereignty, not less, he said. Hunters and gatherers, too, would benefit, as there would be enough land to sustain animal and plant populations. In addition, as many as 30 full-time jobs would be available to Yurok tribal members through employment at park enterprises.

The Yurok Tribal Council has made a decision to send out a questionnaire to the tribal membership to better gauge general opinion. Tribal council and staff say they are hopeful the Yurok people will rally behind the plan as they learn more about its advantages.

General Meeting on Tribal Park



Above, the March 24 meeting was held at the Orick Community Center. Right, Yurok tribal member Dave Gensaw addresses the tribal council and audience.

The tribal park concept was again the subject of discussion at a general meeting held at the Orick Community Center on March 24. Attended by the Yurok Tribal Council and dozens of Yurok tribal members, the event was the last

of six public hearings to be held on the plan.

The ambitious—and sometimes controversial—concept plan calls for using donor money from conservation groups to acquire some

47,100 acres of Simpson Timber land to create a tribal park.

"We're here to take your comments and work through your comments," Self-Governance Director Tom Gates told the audience.

As at the previous meetings, some tribal members voiced questions or concerns over the plan. One speaker was flatly opposed to the notion of placing an eco-lodge on or near Blue Creek. Another suggested that all sacred sites be separately administered by the tribe in order to protect them, and asked





The Johnson O'Malley Program

by Jim McQuillen, Education Director

The Bush Administration is proposing the entire elimination of the JOM Program from next year's budget for all tribes across the nation. If this cut is allowed, the educational progress which our tribe has begun could be lost. The Johnson O'Malley Program has been in existence since 1934. The purpose of the JOM Program is to provide supplementary assistance to meet the unique and specialized education needs of Indian children. Johnson-O'Malley funds are supplementary funds and are not to take the place of federal, state or local funds.

The Yurok Tribal Council has unanimously approved a resolution reaffirming its support for the Johnson O'Malley program, while strongly opposing reduction or elimination of program funding as threatened in President Bush's 2007 budget.

The Yurok Tribal Council states that "Yurok children represent the most important and precious part of the Yurok world—they are the future of the Yurok Tribe". Johnson O'Malley funding is critical to providing our Yurok youth with the same educational opportunities that others take for granted.

Since 1994, Yurok Tribe has actively implemented the Johnson O'Malley program, with more than 1,240 children enrolled now. The number of children receiving benefits under the program continues to climb each year. With the assistance of the Johnson O'Malley program, the Yurok Tribe is proud to have nearly 40 tribal members graduate from high school each year now; 170 tribal members are currently receiving assistance from the tribe to attend college or other higher education programs. There are many other examples of educational success and community building occurring.

The Johnson O'Malley program has given the Yurok Tribe hope, new opportunities and the ability to begin to build a successful, self-sustaining community. We have urged our law makers in the strongest possible terms to act now to help preserve this vital educational funding resource for Native American youth. Our tutoring, higher education guidance, youth sponsorship program, summer camp, youth activities, along with a key

component of community building, would be set back with a JOM reduction.

If you wish to write and share your opinion with our law makers, send a letter to: U.S. Rep Mike Thompson, 119 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515 (Fax 202-269-9598) or U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510-0504 (fax: 202-228-3954) or U.S. Sen. Barbra Boxer 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510-0501 (fax: 415-956-6707)



Left, Yurok tribal member Josey Carlson.
Photos this page Arnold Nova

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR LOW INCOME TRIBAL MEMBERS

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding is available to help tribal members who reside in Del Norte and Humboldt County meet their energy needs, such as wood, propane, wood pellets, kerosene, diesel, and electricity.

Beginning May 1st, tribal elders, disabled tribal members, and households with children ages 5 and under may apply for assistance. All other low income tribal households may apply beginning June 1st. Applications will be accepted until available funds are depleted.

Questions? Call Krystal Patapoff at 707-482-1350 Ext. 342 or write to: Yurok Tribe, P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, CA 95548. ATTN: LIHEAP.





were bringing something back that was vital to our culture.

Yurok Today: What made you enter politics?

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.: I wanted to bring forward the views of our spiritual people. I wanted to be sure that we had a voice in our political realm. Our spiritual well-being is what makes us Yurok. It's what makes us who we are.



Vice-Chairman O'Rourke at Klamath Headquarters

Yurok Today: You work a lot with Yurok young people. Can you give us an example of how you interact with the youth of today, and what kinds of activities you like to do with them?

"ALL MY BEST MEMORIES ARE BASED AROUND THE LAND. THEY'RE AROUND FISHING, HUNTING, AND GATHERING AND AROUND YUROK CULTURE AND LIFE ON THE KLAMATH."

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.: I go to

the schools and I share songs and share the knowledge that

"WE NEED TO REVIVE THE ECOSYSTEM AND REPLACE WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM THE LAND. THE FOLIAGE, THE TREES, THE ANIMALS. IT'S ALL PART OF ONE BEING. I CALL IT THE WEB OF LIFE. IT'S ALL CONNECTED."

was given to me. This summer I would like to put a sweathouse behind my house and invite

young people to come and sweat traditionally so they can learn what it is to be strong and live our culture. It is vital to our existence that we

all learn and maintain balance between all things.

Yurok Today: What is a good Yurok role model?

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.: Georgiana Trull goes way out of her way teaching the young people our language, Glen Moore Sr. and Archie Thompson to name a few. They've earned being mentioned. The highest thing that you can earn in this human world is honor. Good role models are

people who live right. People who walk what they talk.

Yurok Today: Would you also apply your idea of balance to economic development?

Thomas

O'Rourke, Sr.: Economic endeavors need to be environmentally friendly. I don't want to see factories along our river. There

individual can do alone. It takes all of us.

"MY PRAYER IS TO PRESERVE OUR IDENTITY BETWEEN THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW. TO KEEP OUR IDENTITY AS YUROK PEOPLE, TO CONTINUE TO DANCE UNTIL THERE IS NO MORE EARTH TO DANCE ON. ONLY THROUGH BALANCE BETWEEN THE OLD WAY AND THE NEW WAY CAN THIS HAPPEN."

are other ways to build an economic structure. Just how we develop and what we develop needs to come from the people. We have something very special and we need to pay close attention to how we manage it.

Yurok Today: Last question—what do you think the Yurok Reservation will look like in 10 to 20 years?

Thomas O'Rourke, Sr.: Restoring our land, that's a lot of work right there. To survive, we need to revive the eco-system and replace what was taken from the land. The foliage, the trees, the animals. It's all part of one being. I call it the web of life. It's all connected. These are things that no



*Sweathouse at Sumeg
Photo Arnold Nova*

My prayer is to preserve our identity between the old world and the new. To keep our identity as Yurok people, to continue to dance until there is no more earth to dance on. Only through balance between the old way and the new way can this happen. You have to find a balance. Some things can change, some things can't. People change, times change. Spiritual law never changes. Creator's Law never changes through all time.

*This interview was conducted by
Yurok Today Editor Jeff Riggs.*





TRIBAL PARK QUESTIONNAIRE: YOUR INPUT REQUESTED!

YOU WILL SOON BE RECEIVING IN THE MAIL A QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE TRIBAL PARK CONCEPT.

YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY MAY 15 USING THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED IN THE MAILING.

THOSE WHO RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A RAFFLE OF YUROK-LOGO ITEMS, INCLUDING STYLISH CLOTHES!

YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US!



May 2006 Council Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*SC - Small Conference Room *CC - Council Chambers *CR - Community Room	1 4PM Agenda Items and Dept. Reports Due! ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR 169 Trip 10:30am @Weitchpec	2 ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC Women's Group Meet-up *SC YUMA B&D Mtg	3 Salmon Festival Mtg 10-Noon *CR TANF Workgroup 9:30-Noon *SC Planning 1-5pm *CR	4 ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR	5 Planning Dept. 2:30-5:00pm *SC	6 Language Day 9:5pm *ED *CR
		Vice Chair on Travel (NTOD)				
7	8 ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR SS Advisory Committee Mtg 10:30-12:30pm *SC	9 TANF Workgroup 3-4pm *CR ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC Women's Group Meet-up *SC	10 Council Planning Mtg 10AM *CC Council Sign Payroll	11 Council Action Mtg 10AM *CC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR SS Staff Mtg 9:30-Noon *SC	12	13
		BOE @ND @Smith 9:20am District Road School Testing *CR				
14	15 4PM Agenda Items Due! ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR	16 Women's Group Meet-up *SC Council Finance Mtg 10AM *CC 10am Personnel Committee Regina District Mtg 5pm *SC UHS Mtg 2-4pm *SC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR	17 Council Finance Mtg 10AM *CC	18 CHIGA Mtg ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR Need Start Graduation 6pm *CR *CC New Employee Orientation 8:5pm *ED	19 Council Finance Mtg 10AM *CC	20 11am-1pm Spring Fling @Kaweah
				New Employee Orientation 8:5pm *ED		
21	22 ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR Public Hearing 10am @Klamath and 2pm @Weitchpec - Freedom of Information Act, Supreme Ordinance, and Copyright Ordinance	23 Women's Group Meet-up *SC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR UHS Board of Director's Mtg 5pm *SC UHS Mtg 2-4pm *SC Job Finders Training 9:30-2pm *CC	24 Council Planning Mtg 10AM *CC Council Sign Payroll Job Finders Training 9:30-2pm *SC	25 ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR Council Action Mtg 10AM @Weitchpec SS Staff Mtg 9:30-Noon *SC Job Finders Training 9:30-2pm *CC	26 Culture 10 Noon *SC NAGPRA 1:30-2:30pm *SC Job Finders Training 9:30-2pm *CC	27
		Emergency Efficiency Workshop 8:30-6pm *CC				
28	29 OFFICES CLOSED Memorial Day	30 Women's Group Meet-up *SC 4PM Agenda Items and Dept. Reports Due! ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC Job Finders Workshop 9:30-2pm *CR	31 Director's Mtg 9-12:30pm *SC	Apr 2006 SMTWTFSS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		Jun 2006 SMTWTFSS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

June 2006 Council Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		May 2006 SMTWTFSS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Jul 2006 SMTWTFSS 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 Director's Mtg 9-12:30pm *SC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR	2 Enrollment Mtg 11-2pm *SC
				Job Finders Workshop 9:30-2pm *CC		
4	5 ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR	6 Women's Group Meet-up *SC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR Small Business Training 5-7pm *CR UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC YUMA B&D Mtg	7 Council Planning Mtg 10AM *CC Council Sign Payroll TANF Workgroup 9:30-Noon *SC	8 Council Action Mtg 10AM *CC ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR	9 JOM Graduation 6pm @Azalea Hall - McKinleyville	10 11am-2pm Spring Fling @Azalea Hall - McKinleyville JOM Graduation 1pm @Weitchpec
11	12 4PM Agenda Items Due! ED Tutoring 3-7pm *CR SS Advisory Committee Mtg 10:30-12:30pm *SC	13 10am Personnel Committee ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC Women's Group Meet-up *SC	14	15 ED Tutoring 4-6pm *CR	16 Title VII Awards Ceremony 6pm @Crescent Bl. Middle School	17 11am-1pm Spring Fling @Weitchpec North District Mtg 2:4pm
18	19	20 Rapa District Mtg 6:00pm *SC UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC Women's Group Meet-up *SC	21 Council Planning Mtg 10AM *CC Council Sign Payroll	22 Council Action Mtg 10AM @Weitchpec SS Staff Mtg 9:30-Noon *SC	23 Council Finance Mtg 10AM *CC Culture 10 Noon @Weitchpec NAGPRA 1:30-2:30pm @Weitchpec	24 CIBA @San Jacinto
25	26 4PM Agenda Items and Dept. Reports Due! First day to begin Separation Papers for Council Office	27 Women's Group Meet-up *SC Director's Mtg 9-12:30pm *SC UHS Board of Director's Mtg UHS Diabetes Mtg 2-4pm *SC	28 Director's Mtg 9-12:30pm *SC	29 CHIGA Mtg	30	*SC - Small Conference Room *CC - Council Chambers *CR - Community Room



5TH ANNUAL KLAMATH RIVER CLEANUP A SUCCESS

More than 150 volunteers turned out April 8 for the 5th Annual Klamath River Cleanup. At locations including the Klamath town-site, MacBeth, Terwer, and Requa, Yurok tribal members and others generously contributed their time, collecting several dumpsters of trash to beautify the local landscape.

"It's a very fine day, and a lot of people picked up a lot of garage that shouldn't have been there," Raymond Mattz, Requa District Councilman, told Yurok Today.

"It's great to see the community come together," said Yurok Tribal Engineer Dustin Jolley. George

For many volunteers, this year wasn't their first. "I've been to different spots every year for 3 years," said Yurok tribal member Jeanne Riecke. She noted that the serious winter flooding had only added to the usual debris. Riecke expressed a hope that a similar event could also be held upriver.

Jack Mattz won the wood raffle—1½ cords of mixed wood. Waste Management provided the dumpsters, and Penhall Construction, Shasta Construction and the Humboldt Area Foundation were among the event donors.

For nine year-old Robert Ray—who was putting in his fifth year at the event—there were a few prizes to be gleaned from the midst of the trash. "The funniest thing I found was 4 golf balls," he said, "and I got to keep them!"

Gail Tarbell, a planning grant writer for the Yurok Tribe, made a final suggestion: "Pick up trash, and make it a habit!"



Above, Celina Kleinhans, Jamie Norris, Trudy Thompson and Derrick Norris do their part. Photo Arnold Nova.

Scott of Alberta, Canada, "enjoyed the day very much. It's a rare opportunity to return something to the Yurok community and to the Klamath River." Eric Kielke, an HSU Environmental Resources Engineering Student, described the turnout as "an amazing show of people."



2006

ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR THE:

CHAIRPERSON
VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ORICK DISTRICT

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR ELECTION AS A REPRESENTATIVE (MUST BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OLD FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR AND 25 YEARS OLD FOR A DISTRICT SEAT) ON THE YUROK TRIBAL COUNCIL:

YOU MAY PICK UP NOMINATION PAPERS BEGINNING JUNE 26, 2006 AT THE YUROK TRIBAL OFFICE IN KLAMATH. THERE IS A \$25 FILING FEE WHEN YOU PICK UP THE NOMINATION FORMS.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSSES JULY 28, 2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT AT (707) 482-1350.



Klamath Library Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteers are needed for the Klamath Community Branch of Del Norte County Public Library. The Klamath Branch Library is located at 219 Salmon Way in Klamath (inside the Klamath Community Center) and provides reading materials and computers for all ages, but it is staffed by volunteers. To provide more open hours, we need more volunteers!

Anyone who is interested in helping out should call Bill at the Library at 464-9793. No prior library experience is necessary. We will provide training.



YUROK TRIBE 2006 ELECTION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 11, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

NOVEMBER 8, 2006 RUNOFF DATE

JUNE 26, 2006 (8:30AM) FIRST DAY TO ISSUE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL OFFICE

JULY 13, 2006 (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO REGISTER WHEN MOVING INTO A DIFFERENT DISTRICT (90 DAYS)

JULY 28, 2006 (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATION PAPERS

AUGUST 11, 2006 (5:00PM) LAST DAY TO FILE INITIATIVE(S)

AUGUST 11, 2006 PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF ELECTION (54 DAYS)

AUGUST 25, 2006 LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY ELECTION (47 DAYS)

AUGUST 28-30, 2006 BOARD CERTIFICATION OF NEW REGISTRANTS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 MAIL OUT SAMPLE BALLOTS TO REGISTERED VOTERS (40 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS (26 DAYS)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2006 LAST DAY TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST BY MAIL (14 DAYS)

OCTOBER 4, 2006 LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE (5 DAYS)

OCTOBER 11, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

OCTOBER 16, 2006 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 20, 2006 MAILING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR RUN OFF (19 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 1, 2006 LAST DAY TO PICK UP ABSENTEE BALLOT IN OFFICE FOR RUN OFF (5 DAYS)

NOVEMBER 8, 2006 RUNOFF DATE



2006 VOTING DISTRICTS
CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON AND ORICK DISTRICT



CHAIRMAN

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with my great-grandmother, Fanny Rube, who was a full-blooded Yurok and spoke only Yurok—no English. When I was little, my grandparents would sit by the fireplace and tell us the stories that their own parents had told them—that's how things were passed down. We continue to have talented storytellers among us today who carry on the tradition. Storytelling is of the ways that a new generation learns what it is to be Yurok.

I was born and raised in Hoopa. We had no electricity and no running water. Life seemed pretty simple back then—you went to bed when it got dark, and you got up when it got light. When I was a boy I learned how to hunt, pick hazelnuts, and make acorn soup. We used to go down to the river to set a net and later, we'd pack the fish back up the hill. We made jerky in the smokehouse, and the

"ALTHOUGH I WENT WHEREVER THERE WAS WORK, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THE NEED TO COME HOME, BECAUSE I'M A YUROK PERSON."

food lasted all year.

I went into the navy when I graduated from high school in 1955. I married my wife Norma in 1961, and we've been together 45 years. We have three daughters—Denise, Stacey, and Lisa. Lisa lives at Tully Creek, Denise in Hoopa, and Stacey in Willow Creek.

When I got out of the navy I went to work in the mills, as most people did in Hoopa at that time. After the big flood of 1964, I worked for the Corps of Engineers doing surveys, road-building and tim-



Chairman Howard McConnell

ber-cruising. But gradually the mills were shutting down and jobs were becoming scarcer. I started driving trucks.

Although I went wherever there was work, I've always felt the need to come home, because I'm a Yurok person. In 1994, my wife and I settled down. As I learned more about tribal politics, I saw there was an opportunity to become the East District representative. I ran and was elected. Then I ran for Vice-Chairman and was elected to that position. This is my third year serving as Chairman.

Yurok Today: Could you talk about your views on education, and what education means for future Yurok generations?

Howard McConnell: Education is probably the key element in providing Yurok youth with the widest possible range of life opportunities. I think the quality of our tribal administration has been

signs that Yurok culture is growing stronger. This is something that we can all be proud of.

"YUROK CULTURE IS GROWING STRONGER. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF."

Yurok Today: Where do you see the economic development of tomorrow as coming from?

Howard McConnell: Logging will continue, albeit on a reduced scale. Fishing is depressed due to the environmental problems in the river—something we are trying hard to fix. Given the fundamental changes to the economy that we have seen in the last few decades, the Yurok Tribal Council, our Tribal Economic Development office, and our departments have been working hard to come up with creative new ways of giving our local economy a boost.

enriched by the contributions of Yurok tribal members who have gone away to college and then returned to work with us, bringing their new skills back for the benefit of the tribe.

"WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON IS ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT DOES NOT SACRIFICE EITHER OUR CULTURE OR OUR ENVIRONMENT."

Still, education begins at home, and to us that means teaching Yurok ways. We have a vigorous program in place that is teaching the Yurok language to the next generation. Yurok elders have been instrumental in helping with this and other Yurok cultural programs. These programs, which are being offered more and more, are

The tribal park is one of the economic development initiatives that we have been discussing with the Yurok people recently at a series of public working sessions. We are trying to purchase over 47,000 acres of land, using donated conservation group money. Part of that land would be turned into a park. According



IN-SEASON ADJUSTMENT TO THE YUROK TRIBAL FISHING RIGHTS ORDINANCE



NUMBER: 2006-02
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 21, 2006 through July 31, 2006
SUBJECT: Sturgeon and Spring Chinook Conservation Regulations

Because of concerns that the sturgeon population may be declining and extremely low abundance of wild stocks of spring Chinook, the Yurok Tribal Council has enacted the following regulations as a conservation measure.

1. No fishing will be allowed from Monday at 9:00 AM through Thursday at 9:00 AM.
2. Sturgeon and spring Chinook shall no longer be sold or bartered.
3. Sturgeon shall not be held by tying them in the river. Sturgeon found in this condition will be confiscated with no recovery of the sturgeon.
4. No fishing will be permitted within 500 feet below Coon Creek Falls.
5. Sturgeon harvest will be limited to two (2) sturgeon per individual Tribal fisher. Tribal fishers wishing to take sturgeon must obtain tags from Law Enforcement. Fishers must immediately attach tag to sturgeon when taken. Tags must be returned to Law Enforcement by August 1, 2006, whether or not they have been used.
6. Once an individual's allocation of two sturgeon has been met, the fisher's net must be tended at all times while fishing for other species, and any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
7. All fishers must obtain, read, and sign a Spring Fishery Information Sheet when getting sturgeon tags.
8. Penalties for violation of items 2 through 6 of this in-season adjustment shall be 1 year full suspension of fishing rights.

*Yurok Tribal Council
4/21/06*

CHAIRMAN *continued from previous page*

to the concept plan, there would be controlled amounts of tourism, boat rides, and maybe even a lodge. The park would need to be managed in a way that is easy on the environment, with absolute respect for sacred sites. But dozens of jobs could be created in the process. What we are working on is economic growth that does not sacrifice either our culture or our environment.

Yurok Today: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

*This interview was conducted by
Yurok Today Editor Jeff Riggs.*

Expansive views from the Requa overlook. Photo Arnold Nova





7TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING

All community members are invited!

Saturday, May 20th from 11-3

at the Klamath Tribal office

Saturday, June 10th from 11-3

at Azalea Hall in McKinleyville

(1620 Picket Road)

Saturday, June 17th from 11-3

at the Weitchpec Tribal Office

Hosted by Yurok Social Services

This is an alcohol and drug free event

Spring Fling is a fair that educates the community about programs and activities. There is free food, cotton candy, snow cones, slides, games, cake walk, and a raffle towards the end of each event with prizes donated from different businesses from Del Norte and Humboldt County.

Yurok Life is Highlight at Aleutian Goose Festival

Again in 2006 the Yurok session was a showcase event at the popular Aleutian Goose Festival. Participants who signed up and then braved a steady downpour to turn out on March 31 were treated to a variety of tribal presentations, a gourmet lunch and a soggy but scenic afternoon boat ride up to Pecwan.

The lunch, which included salmon, steelhead and frybread, was cooked the traditional Yurok way.

"The event gave us an opportunity to talk about natural resources issues with an informed group of participants, and share some of the wonder of our area," said Kevin McKernan, Director of the Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP). "We had a thorough presentation on Yurok government with an introduction by our executive director, Dennis Puz, Jr. We also had tribal fisheries personnel speak about Klamath Basin fish and water issues. Our goal was to have our visitors come away from the event with a new appreciation and respect for the Yurok people and the river, and judging from their comments as they left, I think we succeeded."

Salmon Festival Princess & Warrior Contest!

44th Annual Klamath Salmon Festival

August 20th, 2006

Sponsored by the Yurok Tribe
Native American Youth are welcome to participate!

Two age group categories:

Little 3 to 9 years old &
10 to 17 years old

Winners receive a CASH percentage of tickets sold

First Place 20%

Second Place 10%

Third Place 5%

Plus a few additional prizes!

TICKET SALES WILL BEGIN ON MAY 1st, 2006

For more information and registration packets, please contact Vicky Bates at the Yurok Tribal office in Klamath at (707) 482-1350

YUROK

SALMON FESTIVAL

POSTER CONTEST

KICKS OFF!

The annual Yurok Salmon Festival Poster Contest is now open.

Submit your original artwork for the 44th annual Klamath salmon Festival.

Win \$100 if your work is chosen as the Official Salmon Festival Poster!

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE MAY 31.

Send artwork to:

TATIA VIGGERS
Salmon Festival Coordinator
Yurok Tribe
190 Klamath Blvd.,
Klamath, CA 95548
tviggers@yuroktribe.nsn.us



*Ocean at Wilson Creek
Photo Arnold Nova*





Fall Chinook Fishery and Upcoming Fall Fishery Meetings

By Fisheries Manager Dave Hillemeier

In early April, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) recommend to NOAA Fisheries, the agency that is ultimately responsible for managing ocean fisheries, harvest levels that will reduce projected fall Chinook spawning escapement in the Klamath Basin to levels substantially below the 35,000 natural spawning escapement objective. If NOAA implements the recommendation of the PFMC, then approximately 21,100 adult fall Chinook are projected to spawn naturally in the Klamath-Trinity Basin. The resultant Tribal allocation would be approximately 10,000 adult fall Chinook, of which the Yurok Tribe is entitled to 80% (approximately 8,000 adult fall Chinook).

During the recent allocation season, as well as in past years, the Yurok Tribe has advocated for protection of the spawning escapement objective; primarily because of potential long-term impacts to the productivity of the stock and concern that the genetic integrity of sub-populations (such as those from the Shasta, Scott, or Salmon Rivers) could be compromised.

Even though fishing is projected to reduce the spawning escapement to extremely low levels, it should be noted that fisheries along the Pacific Coast and in the Klamath River remain severely constrained to protect Klamath fall Chinook. For example: 1) tribal subsistence needs will not be met, and there

will likely be no commercial opportunity, 2) commercial fisheries from slightly south of the Columbia River (Cape Falcon) to Point Sur (South of San Francisco) are primarily closed, except for small seasons in Northern Oregon and off of San Francisco; both with severe weekly limits per boat (75 fish per week/boat), 3) in-river recreational fisheries will allow no retention of adult fall Chinook, however catch and release of adults and retention of jacks will be permitted.

Meetings will be held with Yurok Tribal Fishers to discuss the structure of the fall fishery at the following times and locations:

Date	Location	Time
May 20, 2006	Crescent City UIHS Suite A 2298 Norris Ave.	10:00 a.m.
May 20, 2006	Klamath Yurok Administrative Office 190 Klamath Blvd.	1:00 p.m.
May 20, 2006	Eureka Yurok Tribal Office 3969 Walnut Drive	3:30 p.m.
May 21, 2006	Wautec Fire Station	10:00 a.m.
May 21, 2006	Weitchpec Yurok Tribal Office	1:00 p.m.

YUROK TRIBAL MEMBERS

ENROLLED MARCH 2006

1. Jasmine C. Abbott
2. Jason A. Attebury-Ely
3. Norman E. Brown, IV.
4. Elijah R. Casarez
5. Selena L. Casarez
6. Raeven S. Erickson-Malcom
7. Gabriel D. Hayden
8. Cheyenne Hostler
9. Jocelyn M. Keisner
10. Mateo C. Keisner
11. Caesar S. Keisner-McDarmont
12. Simon M. Keisner-Solis
13. David M. Lambert
14. Linda M. Lambert
15. Jace M. Minton
16. Angelina D. Ramirez
17. Neenumich W. S. Schleuter
18. Sandra G. Schwenk
19. Cha-Keni P. White
20. Stormie S. Woods

DENIED APPLICANTS

1. Craig A. Correia
2. Beth R. DeArman
3. Dawn L. DeArman
4. Seanna L. George
5. Bryce N. Johnson
6. Catilana A. Orduna
7. Juaquin E. Orduna
8. Yesenia A. Orduna

BLOOD DEGREE CORRECTIONS

1. Deanna N. Beacham
2. Isiah M. Beacham
3. Nadine A. Martin
4. Al K. Dean
5. Lonnie R. Dean
6. Lorice L. Dean
7. Nandayehri T. Dean
8. Richard P. Dean

RELINQUISHMENT

Linda Marie Fiester



Tribe Receives Funding for New Energy Services Program

by Georgiana Myers

The Yurok Tribe is working with the Schatz Energy Research Center from Humboldt State University to determine the need for energy efficiency and renewable energy services on the Reservation. A team made up Richard Engel, and Jim Zoellick from the Schatz Energy Research Center, Dustin Jolley Tribal Engineer, Energy Specialist Georgiana Myers and an Energy Technician to be hired in May, will be making energy assessments of residents' homes' on the Reservation beginning in June 2006. The work is being funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The official name of the project is, "First Steps Towards Human Capacity Building in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy System Maintenance for the Yurok Tribe."

What is an energy assessment? The project team will be visiting people's homes and looking for ways to save energy, lower resident's energy bills and increase the comfort of people's homes. This might include things like adding attic insulation, caulking windows and installing energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps. Although current program funds will not allow the installation of these measures, the program will be looking to provide these resources in the future. The energy assessment visits will also include inspections of renewable energy

systems, including solar electric and micro-hydro systems, with an eye toward maintenance needs. Watch for the Tribe's energy team in your area this summer!

The long-term goals of the project are:

- Increase the energy self sufficiency of the Yurok tribe
- Create energy related employment and economic development opportunities on the Reservation

Short-term goals include:

- Develop sustainable programs operated by tribal staff to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy services
- Increase the energy awareness of the Yurok Tribal staff and the greater community on the Reservation through training and community workshops
- Assess the need for energy efficiency and renewable energy system services on the Reservation, both up-river and down-river
- Identify and secure resources to address the identified needs

Watch for regular updates on the Tribe's new energy program in this newsletter, and watch for community workshops on energy efficiency and renewability to be held later this year. If you have any questions about the energy program please contact Georgiana Myers (707) 482-1350 ext. 363.

What's happening at the Yurok Tribe Head Start

Weekly on Wednesdays, we will be doing Kindergarten Transitioning activities with Mrs. Wilder's Kindergarten Class.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

May 5 at 11:00 Safety Rodeo at the Yurok Tribe Head Start
Participating: Yurok Tribe Public Safety, Highway Patrol, Del Norte Ambulance, Klamath Fire Department and Del Norte Search & Rescue.

May 12 at the Yurok Tribal Office: waffle ball game challenge between Klamath Head Start families and the Ke-pel, Cuten Home Base families.

May 12 Klamath Head Start Parents/Guardians bake sale at the Yurok Tribal Office 10:30-3:00.

May 18th at 6:00: End of the Year Celebration!! This is the end of the year celebration for the Head Start students and their families. It is a time of honoring all the Head Start students those who are graduating and those who will be returning students next year.

ENROLLMENT FOR NEXT YEAR 2006/2007

The Yurok Tribe Head Start sites Klamth/Ke-pel and Cuten are now taking applications for next fall. The child has to be 3 by December 2nd of 2006. If interested and would like an application or more information, call: The Yurok Tribe Head Start at (707) 482-2811.



Left, Head Start children attending a field trip at Ocean World in Crescent City. The children had an opportunity to pet the shark. Right, The Easter bunny visits the Yurok Tribe Head Start on their last day before their week off for Spring Break. The Head Start children also participated in an Easter egg hunt.



Employee of the Month



FEBRUARY 2006

MARCH 2006

Paul Romero

Computer Technician

Paul Romero began his career in technology while serving in the U.S. Navy as an aviation electronics technician. Since coming to work with the Yurok Tribe in August 2004, Paul's been a real "go-to" guy for employees needing help with everything from computers and telephones to printers—even the upriver microwave telephone system.



His long term goals are ambitious: making cell phone service, and eventually high-speed wireless, available throughout the reservation.

Paul's a single guy who lives in Crescent City. What does he like best about his job? "Helping people and fixing things," he says.

Taralyn Offins

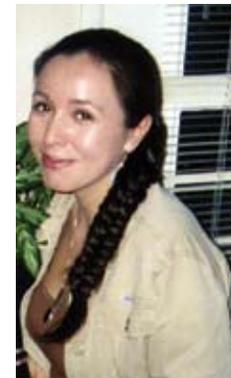
Council Support Assistant

Taralyn, a Yurok tribal member, was born and raised in Sacramento. Her family comes from the villages of Pectah and Morekw. She is the daughter of Teresa (Willison) Peralta and the late David Ipina. In October 2005, she and Ryan Offins were married.

Taralyn has worked at the tribe as council support assistant since May 2004. She assists the Yurok Tribal Council in their day-to-day activities, transcribes all council meet-

ing minutes, and disseminates council action and information to the Yurok community, public and tribal employees. Currently she's busy developing the Tribal Council's webpage to improve communication between the Tribal Council and the Tribal membership.

"It's great to work with people who genuinely are passionate and dedicated to serving our community," says Taralyn.



LICENSING
continued from page 1

addition to improving fish habitat, the increased instream flows will reduce the amount of water available to produce power at the J.C. Boyle facility, and the reduced "peaking" will reduce profits from operating the hydroelectric project. Therefore, PacifiCorp is faced with the possible requirement of providing fish passage that will likely cost well over \$100 million, as well as reduced generation of power from operating the hydroelectric project.

Under Section 10a of the Federal Power Act, various entities can make recommendations regarding the issuance of a new license;

however these do not carry the same weight as the above-mentioned 4e and section 18 mandatory prescriptions. The Yurok Tribe submitted 10a recommendations to FERC in late March, the focus being that FERC should



Photo Arnold Nova

deny PacifiCorp's request to license Iron Gate, Copco I, Copco II, and J.C. Boyle Dams, and that FERC should order the removal of these dams from the river, so that Yurok People may once again rely upon a healthy fishery resource.

The National Marine Fisheries Service also submitted 10a recommendations stating that the four dams should be removed from the river.

The relicensing process is far from complete,

with the next several months comprising an intense Administrative Law Judge process for all parties to contest issues of disputable fact. At the same time, confidential settlement discussions continue amongst the governments, agencies, and stakeholders that are most affected by the fate of the dams. It is our hope, that with the increased cost to provide fish passage, and the reduced electrical generation capabilities of the project, that PacifiCorps will do the right thing and agree to remove the primary four dams from the river. This would result in the most successful scenario for fish passage to the Upper Basin as well as address water quality problems caused by the dams.



Canoe Building with Glenn Moore, Sr.



Clockwise from top left, a canoe ready for the water; Glenn Moore, Sr., master canoe builder; three finished canoes by the river; on the water; the art of carving a redwood to make a canoe. Photos Frankie Joe Myers.



Yurok Today

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