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Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

Yurok Tribe flies first class

See Story on Page 2

Yurok taught at DNHS for the first time

For Yurok Education Department Director Jim McQuillen, learning the Yurok language at Del Norte High School was never a possibility.

It was people his grandparents' age who were taken from Del Norte County and shipped to boarding schools where assimilation in European-American culture was forced upon them.

Starting this fall, thanks to McQuillen's hard work, his department's effort and the support of the Yurok tribal council, Yurok language staff and elders, the local school district and Superintendent, high school students at Del Norte are able to take Yurok language class.

"This is monumental and long overdue that this is finally happening at Del Norte High School," McQuillen said. "It was just two generations ago when the federal government policies attempted to strip us of our culture, which is inseparably linked to our language. My youngest child is a senior in high school this year and she is the first of my six children able to take a Yurok language course in a local school. It is fantastic and long overdue!"

Yurok language is now offered along with Spanish and French to meet the high school requirement. We also hope that Tolowa will continue to be offered.

There is a silver lining too. Last year, the California legislature and governor passed a law (AB-544) that allows tribal councils to credential instructors to teach native languages in public schools. The new law requires the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to give a teaching credential to those that are recommended by a tribe to teach a native language. Currently, the Yurok Tribe has five teachers who are certified to teach Yurok in public schools.

Yurok tribal member Barbara McQuillen is the first instructor to teach Yurok at DNHS.

The Tribe's desire to have the class at the school is two-fold. There is a high, but declining drop-out rate among Yurok high school students. Integrating the Yurok culture into the curriculum can be a drop-out prevention tool. Many students feel that tribal culture is not appropriately recognized in the public school system and become disenfranchised. McQuillen believes that students will have another reason to stay at Del Norte High School.

"Now we have a class that Yurok students can immediately identify with," McQuillen said.

Contents

Page 6.....TRIBE PAVES SECTION OF BALD HILLS RD

Page 10.....$1.7 MILLION TO ADDRESS CRIME ON REZ

Page 13.....FISHING SEASON FAIRLY QUIET

Page 12.....TAKE A GLYPMPSE

On The Cover

Yurok Language will be taught at Del Norte High School for the first time. The first class poses for a picture in their classroom. This has been one of the Tribe's dreams for a long time.

The Yurok language class is keeping students in school.

"This class is why I come to school every day," said Derrik Wilson, a freshman in the class.

"It's my favorite class of the day because it's something I like to do," said junior Ian Oliphant.

The class is also another implement in the Tribe's toolbox to use in its effort to preserve the language. While the number of intermediate or conversational speakers is growing every day, there are only about a dozen fluent Yurok speakers alive today and the students recognize the significance of that.

"Our language is disappearing," said Lena-Belle Gensaw, who is also a freshman. "I go to class to build it back up and teach my siblings."

There are 22 students enrolled in the class at Del Norte High School. The class is an elective, which means the teens opt to take the class.

"My students are really excited to learn Yurok," said Barbara McQuillen, who is a Yurok tribal member and credentialed teacher. "I'm really happy to get to teach them."

Everyday the students do a "warm up" exercise in which only Yurok is spoken. In between grammar and vocabulary lessons, Barbara McQuillen moderates a game of Yurok Jeopardy. The game is played just like the popular television game show, except all of the alternating topics are in Yurok and the students have to answer in Yurok. Pronunciation counts.

The Tribe and school district are working to make the Yurok class a University of California and California State University A-G-approved to meet the entrance requirement to fulfill students' world language requirement. There is a strong indication that this will happen in the very near future, according to Education Director, Jim Mcquillen.

Ian Oliphant participates in a game of Yurok Jeopardy.

Students listen intently to their teacher, Barbara McQuillen.

Autumn is for Acorns

Autumn is acorn gathering time.

Typically, after the first big fall storm acorns drop like rain from the oak trees to the forest floor where they are readily harvested.

Collecting and processing the abundant nut is something Yurok tribal member Bob McConnell has done his whole life. McConnell learned from his grandmother, Aawok Louisa Dowd Wilder when and where to find and how to dry and store the traditional food.

According to McConnell, who is also the tribe's Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Yurok families have different approaches to transforming the bitter raw nut into an edible form.

"A great many people only use the light-colored part of the acorn and their final product comes out really tan," McConnell said. "I remember grinding acorns for my grandmother and when she saw I was tossing out the black pieces she let me have it. I still remember that reprimand today. She said, 'that's the sweetest part of the acorn,' she said."

Since time immemorial acorns have been a staple for Yurok people. The tree nuts can last for years if dried correctly and are high protein, fat and carbohydrates. They also contain essential minerals such as calcium, phosphorus and potassium and the vitamin niacin.

"Eating acorns once a week could improve your health," McConnell said. "It's a near perfect food."

When collecting acorns it is important to look out for ones with little black dots on their shells. The dark dots indicate the larvae of a weevil or moth has found its way through the hard exterior of the nut. However, the indication that a bug has entered the acorn does not necessarily mean it is ruined. According to McConnell, if the acorn is dried fast enough it will kill the larvae before it has time to grow.

"It's worth the time to dry them," McConnell said.

Once acorns are collected it is important to dry them right away. A good way to dry them is near a wood stove. They can also be dried in an oven at a very low temperature. After a few days of drying, crack open one of the shells, break one of the nuts to see if it will snap cleanly in half. If it does, it's ready to be ground up.

Traditionally, acorns were ground with stone implements. The lumpy powder must be leached with fresh water to remove bitter tannins before consumption. Once the acorn meal is processed it can be made into soup, which tastes nutty and sweet and has the consistency cream of wheat. The Yurok word for the soup is Kegoh. People, who are fasting ten days for the Jump Dance and White Deerskin Dance, add a small amount of the acorn mixture to water and drink it as part of the cleansing process. Acorns can also be leeched by burying them in a spring. After a few months the nuts are free of tannins and taste extra sweet. Ground acorn can also be made into bread or cakes.

Hundreds of sacred items returned to Tribe

The Yurok Tribe recently welcomed home from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian the largest repatriation of ceremonial items in the Tribe's history.

The 219 regalia pieces, returned through the National Museum of the American Indian Act, appears to be the most substantial regalia repatriation since the federal law was passed in 1989.

"There are no words that can describe what it means to have these prayer items back," said Yurok Chairperson Thomas O'Rourke Sr. "For Yurok people it is like bringing home prisoners of war."

The ceremonial pieces are used in the Yurok Tribe most sacred ceremonies, the White Deerskin Dance and the Jump Dance. The two ceremonies are held biyearly. Their purpose is to renew the Yurok world.

Yurok tribal member, Alicia McQuillen looks at two Jump Dance baskets during a ceremony to welcome home the prayer items.

"These ceremonies are critical to the health of Yurok culture. Without them we could not exist as Yurok people," said, O'Rourke.

Some of the items include: white deerskins, wolf headdresses, head rolls made of pileated woodpecker scalps and ceremonial caps. The items were collected in the early 1900s, a period of time when it was in vogue for affluent European Americans to own and showcase Native American ceremonial items in their homes.

The collector was Grace Nicholson, who owned a curio shop in Pasadena, California. Nicholson's holdings was the nearly the largest collection of Yurok items, second only to A.L. Kroeber, a renown ethnographer at the time.

By 1927, Nicholson sold what she hadn't sold to private collectors to the Museum of the American Indian in New York City, New York where it became part of the George Gustav Heye collection. In 1989, the United States Congress passed the Museum of the American Indian Act, which created the National Museum of the American Indian. The new act also transferred the stewardship of more than 800,000 Native American items, including the Yurok ones, to the Smithsonian Institute. The National Museum of the American Indian has three facilities, one in Washington D.C., one in New York City and one in Suitland Maryland, where the repatriated items were brought back from.

The recently returned items make up 30 percent of the National Museums holdings of Yurok regalia. The Tribe is negotiating the repatriation of another 20 percent of its prayer pieces.

"It is our hope that this repatriation signifies a paradigm shift that allows all tribes more open access to their most significant ceremonial belongings," said Troy

Fletcher, the Tribe's Interim Executive Director.

Four Yurok men comprised of a ceremonial leader, regalia holder, council member and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer flew to Maryland, picked up the items and drove them back to the Yurok Reservation.

"There is no way to put a value on how important these items are to our ceremonies," said Yurok tribal member Joe James. "Bringing them back was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

All of the prayer pieces are alive and have spirits of their own. They feel unsettled if they are not being used for their intended purpose, according to Yurok belief.

"We are ecstatic to have them back and I know they are happy to dance again," O'Rourke concluded.

Paving the way

The Yurok Tribe, in collaboration with Humboldt County, paved a particularly treacherous and curvy stretch of the Bald Hills Road.

"This partnership between the Tribe and Humboldt County will save lives of tribal citizens, county residents and the many tourists who visit this special area," said Yurok Transportation Manager, Javier Kinney.

The portion of the road is a 3.5 miles stretch of scenic thoroughfare from the land marker known as the Julio Tree to Pine Creek Road. It is just off the Reservation in Northeastern Humboldt County.

"I think the partnership between the Tribe and the County has tremendous benefits for both parties," said Chris Whiticomb, Humboldt County's Deputy Public Works Director. "The work we are doing will cut down sediment run-off into creeks, limit dust and make the region's roads safer."

The Yurok Tribe secured the funding for the project. The nearly $3 million dollar project is mostly funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Reservation Roads High Priority Program.

Another portion of the funding came from the Humboldt County Association of Governments.

"We really had to be creative and innovative with our funding to make this happen," said Yurok Planner Joe James. "We appreciate Humboldt County's contribution in financial and human resources."

The Bald Hills Road was originally a Yurok trail used by the many tribes in the region to transport goods, visit family upriver and send messages. It is still a vital thoroughfare. The road is the only avenue connecting both sides of the Yurok Reservation. The road, which traverses Yurok Reservation and Redwood National and State Park land, is also a popular access route to the Wild and Scenic Klamath River.

This project is also part of the Yurok Tribes long-term, strategic transportation plan. Here are a few of the more prominent and promising facets of the plan.

The Tribe is the first California Tribe to be awarded National Scenic Byways program funding to develop a Yurok Scenic Byways Program. The Tribe is considering the

Bald Hills Road as one of these educational roadways, which will feature signage, kiosks and other amenities geared toward giving visitors a deeper experience when touring the area.

The Tribe is also the only California Tribe to be awarded a U.S. Department of Transportation, Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks grant. The grant's objective is to study the feasibility of alternative transit systems in the Tribe's ancestral territory and the Redwood National & State Parks. One aspect of the feasibility study is to assess the feasibility of a river transit taxi system, which utilizes the tribe's traditional and contemporary modes of transportation along the Klamath River. The Tribe plans to submit for 2010 grant cycle in order to make this effort a reality.

"What we are doing is exacting a comprehensive transportation plan that benefits residents and visitors that bring important dollars to the region," concluded Kinney.

MLPA in its final stages

The Marine Life Protection Act Initiative is in the final stages of a process to set up an arrangement of marine protected areas on the North Coast.

The 28-member, North Coast Regional Shareholders Group has put forth a recommendation of where the areas should be located and what level of protection each should provide. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the Initiative's Science Advisory Team. Following the Science Team's review, the Initiative's Blue Ribbon Task Force will modify and/or pass on the proposal to the California Department of Fish and Game Commission. The Commission makes the final approval to the document.

Under the Shareholders group proposal, Yurok gathering practices in the Tribe's ancestral territory are minimally impacted by the protected areas. There is an area between Redwood Creek and Gold Bluffs Beach where only crab, salmon and surf fish can be harvested. There is also a special closure for Wilson Rock, which is one of most densely populated bird nesting grounds on the coast.

"We tried to minimize the potential for regulatory conflict as much as possible and make the State acutely aware that the Yurok Tribe has never relinquished the right to continue to use the coast and will continue to do so regardless of any actions taken in this process. We were largely successful at that," said Megan Rocha, who is the Yurok Tribe's representative on the North Coast Regional Shareholders Group. "Now it's in the hands of the Fish and Game Commission to do the right thing."

"Now it's in the hands of the Fish and Game Commission to do the right thing."

Megan Rocha -Yurok Representative

The purpose of the MLPAI is to create a system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to protect marine ecosystems from within mean high tide out to 3 nautical miles. The North Coast Study Region, which extends from the California/Oregon border to Alder Creek (north of Point Arena), is the fourth of the five identified study regions in the State and is in the MPA design process.

The team of shareholders, which boasts tribal, environmental, sport, commercial fishing and commercial seaweed representatives, inserted language into its recommendation intended to protect tribal gathering rights. The language reads: "Within the framework provided, the NCRSG has done as much as possible to respect the non-commercial subsistence, ceremonial, and customary uses of the Tribes and Tribal Communities by expressing intent verbally and in the descriptions that accompany individual MPAs that these uses will in no way be infringed upon, and that opportunities for co-management shall be sought between the state and specific Tribes and Tribal Communities for any given MPA."

The Initiative, which is publically and privately funded, has drawn substantial criticism in Indian Country all over the United States. After participating in the public process, many tribal members decided that the Initiative did not adequately address the fact that the State of California cannot limit tribes' ability to gather coastal and oceanic resources. Hundreds of tribal members from a number of tribal nations disrupted and took over Science Advisory Team and Blue Ribbon Task Force meetings in an effort to protect tribal traditions that have taken place since time immemorial.

"We have been able to stave off the State's intrusion into our homeland so far," said Yurok tribal member Georgiana Myers, an organizer for the Coastal Justice Coalition. "We also were able to educate California citizens to the State's attempt to trample on our rights."

The Coastal Justice Coalition is a group of Indigenous people and allies organized to protect tribal rights.

One of the things that is unique about the North Coast Regional Shareholder's Group is that it came up with one proposal. However, that does not imply that Yurok Tribe recognizes the State of California as being able to regulate its traditional gathering activities.

A paragraph was placed in the shareholders group narrative to put that fact on record. It says: "Despite supporting the presentation of one proposal to the BRTF, it must be understood that Tribes and Tribal communities in the north coast do not support any infringement on the subsistence, ceremonial, and customary uses of Tribal citizens by the State of California. Tribes and Tribal communities participated in this process in order to inform the process of their inherent, unabrogated rights to continue to use the lagoon, estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems as they have since time immemorial. The presentation of one array should in no way be construed as a recognition of abrogation of these rights and uses, a relinquishment to state authority, or recognition of state authority in the implementation of the MLPA on the part of Tribes and Tribal communities. Tribes and Tribal communities will continue to use these ecosystems as they always have and as is their inherent unceded right, despite state MPA designation in any location."

The Blue Ribbon Task Force is meeting on October 25 and 26 at the Fortuna River Lodge, which is the last time for public comment before the proposal is sent to the Fish and Game Commission.

The Yurok Tribe's 48th Salmon Festival

Paul Kuska and his son Mettah play Indian Card Games at the Salmon Festival.

The Klamath Justice Coalition marches in the parade at the Salmon Festival.

The winners of the middle divison of the Stick Game tournament pose for a picture.

(Right) Koy-Poh McQuillen, Tey-wu-lauw McQuillen and Andrea Peters participate in the presentation on traditional dresses at the Salmon Festival.

Yurok military veterans march in the Salmon Festival Parade.

Roger "Bronc" McCovey pitches an opponent during the Stick Game.

Jessica Reed placed first in the upper age division of the Pretty Girl/Young Warrior contest. The crown the tribe purchased for her was not ready at the festival. Apologies to Ms. Reed for the mix up.

Yurok tribal member, Rhiannon McCovey drives the Del Norte Roller Derby float in the parade.

Josey Carlson, the winner of the lower age division fo the Pretty Girl/ Young Warrior contest, tosses candy during the parade.

Tribe lands $1.7 million dollar grant

The Yurok Tribe landed a $1.7 million grant across five program areas to bolster existing services and create new ones to address a range of issues from juvenile justice to elder abuse victim services.

The Planning and Community Development Department, in a collaboration effort between the Yurok Tribal Court, Yurok Department of Public Safety and the Yurok Social Services Department submitted for grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). The CTAS is a new effort combining 10 different Department of Justice grant programs into a single solicitation to improve public safety, criminal and juvenile justice systems, and victim services in Tribal communities.

"This was a highly competitive and comprehensive grant application. It required a high degree of collaboration between several tribal departments," said Peggy O'Neill, the Tribe's Planning Director. "The Yurok Tribe was very successful, receiving the highest number of program awards."

With the exception of the Planning Department, all of the three limbs of the tribal government will receive funding. Some of the money will be used to protect survivors of sexual assault, help at-risk youth, and train Public Safety Officers.

Tribal Court

The funding will help to strengthen the Yurok Wellness Court in ensuring culturally alternative program services for non-violent offenders in Humboldt and Del Norte County Courts. Criminal cases are currently handled by the respective county courts as are pretrial, probation, and parole services. The goal is to increase concurrent jurisdiction in alcohol and substance related offenses and co-monitor offenders and defendants to maximize early onset of intervention and structured services.

"With this funding we are another step closer in exercising concurrent jurisdiction in matters related to our Yurok Tribal Members," said Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti, who is a Yurok tribal member. "We at the Yurok Tribal Court are taking the necessary action to respond to our tribal government and members in helping to reduce and prevent crime and victimization in our community."

> *"We at the Yurok Tribal Court are taking the necessary action to respond to our tribal government and members in helping to reduce and prevent crime and victimization in our community."*
>
> *- Chief Judge Abby Abinanti*

The Yurok Tribal Court will also receive funds to conduct mental health screening, treatment planning, case management and court monitoring for juvenile offenders in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. The Tribal Court will hire a Clinical Coordinator to increase access to mental health services, substance abuse counseling and other culturally relevant services for tribal youth who are involved or at risk of being involved in the state juvenile justice system.

To accomplish the Tribal Courts goals and objectives, agreements with local County Probation Departments will be developed to officially sanction the co-monitoring of offenders and establish protocols for the transfer of cases and assisting in the full faith and credit of Tribal Court orders. Both Humboldt and Del Norte County Probation Departments support the urgent need to help the Tribe broaden the options for our Tribal Members.

The Yurok Tribal Court will also be developing a Yurok Sexual Assault Program to provide direct intervention and recovery support services to victims of sexually related crimes. The program will offer survivors with medical services, emergency assistance, referral resources

such as counseling, and assistance through criminal proceedings. It will also set up 24-hour crisis hotline staffed by trained tribal Sexual Assault Crisis Workers. The Tribe will contract with a licensed psychologist for facilitation of group support meetings and individual and family counseling for culturally appropriate short-term services for adults, youth, children, family members of victims, and those collaterally affected by sexual assault, with the exception of the perpetrator. An emphasis will be placed on assisting victims regaining a sense of safety, power and control over their lives. The program will collaborate with other sexual assault response agencies and support services as well.

Public Safety

A portion of the grant funds will be used to train new and existing personnel in advanced crime fighting techniques, POST, crime prevention, investigative techniques, Indian Country law, interviewing and interrogation, conflict resolution, crisis entry for first responders, arson investigations for police officers, clandestine lab investigations, investigative training, sex crimes and domestic violence investigations and others. Public Safety will also provide cultural sensitivity to collaborating law enforcement.

"I'm relieved that this funding came through," said Public Safety Chief Thorin McCovey, who is an enrolled member of the Tribe. "We would not be able to put our officers through some mandated trainings without it."

The grant money will also enable the Public Safety Department to set up its own dispatch system, which will cut down on emergency response time. Currently, all emergency calls on the Reservation are routed through Humboldt and Del Norte Counties at a cost of $50,000 per year to the Tribe. Public Safety will also be able to purchase software needed to create a database for tracking crime-related information. Additionally, the grant funding will be used to purchase better equipment.

Social Services

The Social Service Department will be using its portion of Department of Justice funds to create a Yurok Advocacy Program to augment the Department's existing elder-related services. In its first year, Social Services will target the dozens of elders living in the Weitchpec area to Pecwan, where there is no electricity and severely limited emergency services. The new program, which includes a team of elder advocates, will assist elders who are victims of abuse, enhance outreach, and increase prevention of elder abuse and legal services. The elder advocate will ensure elder victims and families receive appropriate resources and provide direct and referral services in the aftermath of elder abuse. The advocates' duties include: crisis intervention, case monitoring, emergency assistance, youth/elder mentoring, resource & counseling referrals, forming new partnerships, orientation to the criminal justice system, court escort, case status and disposition, interface with domestic violence advocates, and assistance in finding relief & restitution in tribal court.

Giving back on California Indian Day

Two Yurok Tribal members spent California Indian Day beautifying their community. Abbey Crnich and Patti McCovey painted a bridge pylon in Loleta that had been the target of some very incompetent taggers. The two started work on Friday morning thinking it would only take a few hours, but after it was all said and done it took four days and cost $300.

Planning searching for funding for Morek Won

Morek Won Recreational and Community Center is a beautiful 5,360 foot building perched in center of the eastern half of the Yurok Reservation.

There's only one problem, the Tribe does not have sufficient funds to fully complete the building at this time. The Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Development Department was able to secure resources to build the exterior of the structure and is now looking for the funds to complete the half-court basketball gymnasium, commercial kitchen, lobby and bathrooms. The new facility sits along McKinnon Hill Road on Highway 169. There is no other community gathering place in the surrounding vicinity, which is populated by Yurok families and others who have chosen to call the Reservation home.

"This building will be such a great resource for the community," said Sophia Lay, a Planner for the Tribe's Planning and Community Development Department.

The building, once finished, will be a space for the Yurok Head Start children to play during winter months, a venue for wrestling practice and tournaments, and a great place to hold any number of community organized events.

The facility will also offer a safe, private place where memorial services can be held for those who pass away. The Center, with its commercial size kitchen, will also provide a convenient place to hold the reception/meal that commonly follows a memorial service. The only other commercial size kitchen, and facility capable of accommodating a large group of people, is the Weitchpec Tribal Office.

"It can be awkward to attend a funeral and grieve in the same building where people are working just down the hall," Lay explained.

The building will also be used as a central place for community meetings and an emergency evacuation site in the event of a flood or fire. During the 1964 flood the upper Reservation was left isolated due to landslides, bridge failures and flooding. Many houses were washed away.

To complete the facility, it will cost an additional $250,000.00. The Tribe's Planning Department has already completed the architectural and building plans. All that is needed is additional funding to complete construction of the building's interior.

The Tribe would also like to expand the facility to include a full basketball court to allow the community to host a basketball tournament. There isn't another full size basketball court in the area either. Jack Norton Elementary School has never had a regulation-size court despite fielding winning teams throughout the years.

If you have suggestions for possible funding sources to complete the Morek Won Recreation and Community Center please do not hesitate to contact Sophia Lay at the Yurok Tribal Office in Klamath. The number is (707) 482-1350 ext. 363.

The Morek Won building will be a great asset to the community.

Ride the bus and support Klamath River Early College

Each time a bus rider takes the Redwood Coast Transit, Route 20 bus at specific times, our school benefits from the fees! The Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods contracts with Redwood Coast Transit Company to provide a bus run for our students, however, anyone can ride on that bus. When riders pay the bus fee, Klamath River Early College's bus contract cost is reduced by the amount of that fee. The School is happy to provide this supplemental bus service to our community and, as a small school that relies on grants and donations to survive, we appreciate those people who ride it!

The bus schedule is as follows:

Northbound in the afternoon:

Departs Steelhead Lodge, Klamath Glen	3:30 pm
Departs Pem-mey , Klamath	3:45 pm
Departs Woodland Villa, Klamath	3:51 pm
Departs from the Cultural Center, Crescent City	4:20 pm
Arrives at the Lucky 7 Store, Smith River	5:00 pm

Quiet commercial season

Public Safety teams up with feds to protect river

Every year the Yurok Tribe builds on its enforcement capabilities of the commercial Chinook salmon fishery and 2010 is not unique.

A goal of the Yurok Department of Public Safety is to make sure that fish are harvested pursuant to the Tribe's fishing regulations, that only the highest quality fish make it to market, and that all tribal fishers are safe.

This season, the Yurok Public Safety Department partnered with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to stop illegal sales suspected of happening off the Reservation. The partnership led to the interception of nearly 600 fish in Brookings, OR. The suspects will be tried in Yurok Tribal Court for breaking tribal ordinances and federal court for violating the Lacey Act. There were a handful of other arrests that resulted in the in the seizure of 140 more fish.

"We had a fairly quiet season in terms of violations," said Yurok Public Safety Chief, Thorin McCovey.

McCovey attributes the fact there were few breaches of the Tribe's fishing ordinances to commercial fishers knowing the rules and penalties. There are efforts each year to inform the public of the fishing regulations, such as making the regulations available at Requa when commercial permits are issues, posting the regulations on the internet, and holding public meetings. The Yurok Tribe's primary fishing regulations (The Yurok Fishing Rights Ordinance) has been in place since the mid-1990s and Harvest Management Plans for the fall fishery are adopted by the Council each year.

Public Safety has officers on the river during every day that the commercial fishery is happening. However, there is need for more officers, McCovey said. The Department does not yet have the reach to catch organized bootleggers such as those arrested in Oregon. According to the investigation, the fish were headed to a buyer in Washington State.

This year the Yurok Tribal Council voted to move the down stream boundary up to the widest part of the estuary, which allowed the harvest to be spread amongst those fishing throughout the estuary.

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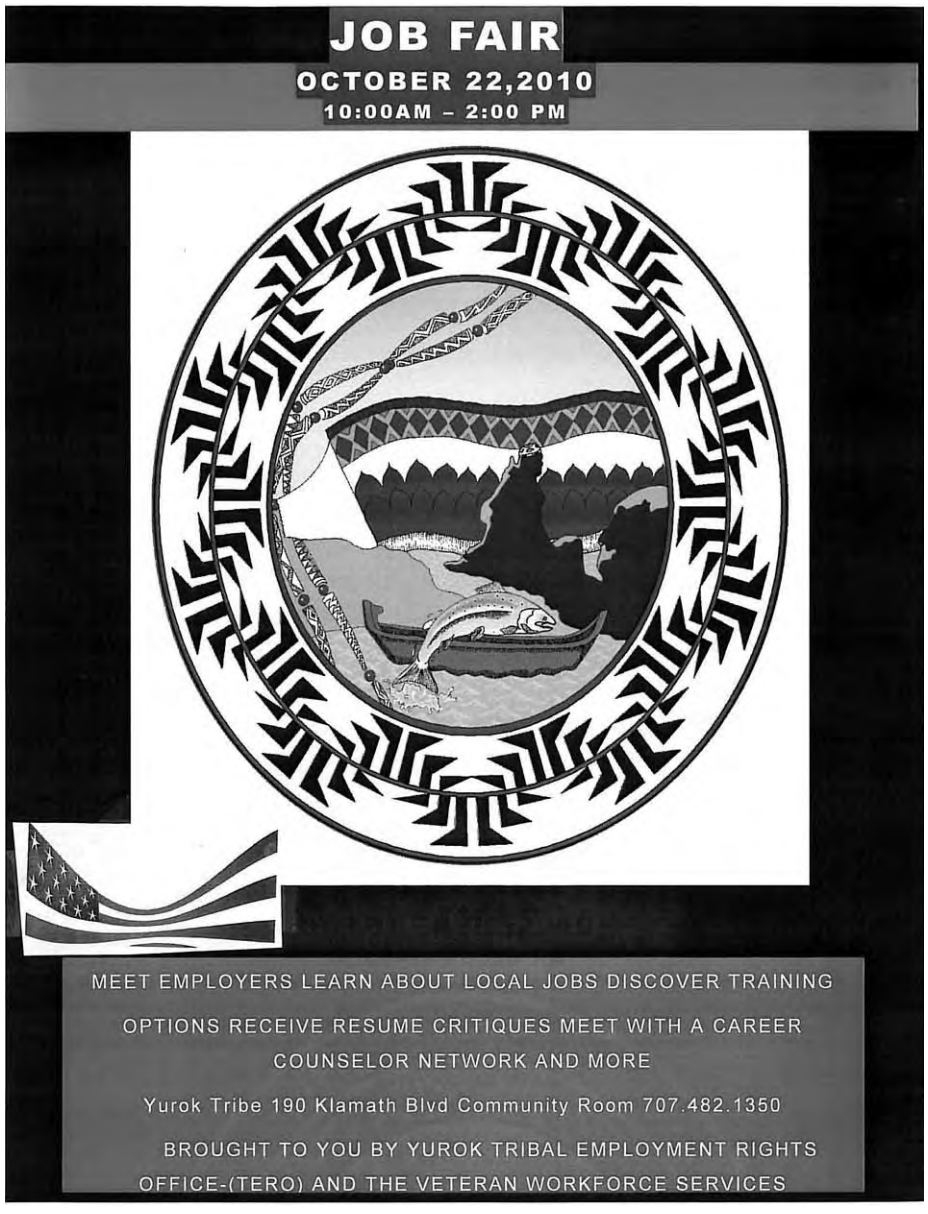

Public better informed about tribal fishery

The Yurok Tribe's effort to disperse accurate information regarding the management of the Tribe's fishery, to both Tribal and non-Tribal Fishers, seems to be paying off.

For years there has been a rift between tribal and recreational fishers. The fissure between the two groups is beginning to smooth following a number of tribally-sponsored public meetings.

"There has been disrespect on both sides," said Yurok Fisherman Willard Carlson at the most recent meeting in Klamath. "We can go ahead and put that crap away."

The gatherings, which have drawn dozens of tribal fisherman, non-tribal guides, tribal guides and recreational fishers, have also provided an open forum for the stakeholders to air their concerns about how each fishery is regulated and monitored. Representatives from the Tribe's Fisheries Program, California Department of Fish and Game, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration and Del Norte County have presented at the meetings.

Historically, some sport anglers have claimed the Tribe catches too many fish and that fishery is not properly monitored/managed. A Tribal Fisher perspective has been that sport anglers have no respect for their inherent and federally recognized right to harvest fish on the Klamath River, as well as conservation concerns regarding the management of the non-Tribal fishery (e.g. snagging at the mouth, fishing at tributary confluences, and catch and release fishing during stressful times of warm water.) There have been heated clashes on the river ignited by both sides. The conflict has even taken shape on the internet and in the news media.

"We're way beyond pointing fingers," said Mark Warner, a board member for the American Fishing Foundation, a sport fishing advocacy group for the Pacific coast region.

Most tribal and non-tribal fishers expressed that much of the bad behavior originates from a few folks; the non-tribal folks comprised primarily of out-of-the-area sport fishers who have never experienced a tribal fishery. Many of the local guides and sport fishers have grown up alongside Tribal fishers and seem to better understand

the Tribe's right and reliance on the Klamath fishery.

The Yurok Tribe has the most extensive salmon fishery monitoring program on the West Coast. In addition, to having fish counters on the water every second of the commercial season, there is also a crew of tribal game wardens and officers out enforcing the tribe's fishing regulations. The Tribe also spends millions of dollars each year to restore salmon and steelhead habitat.

"What I've seen at the meetings is a positive change in the perspective of those that attend," said Yurok Fisheries Manager Dave Hillemeier. "By receiving information directly from us, they are becoming more comfortable with how we manage our fishery. There is still work to be done, especially with those that don't attend the meetings, however it is encouraging to see relationships moving in this direction."

The next meeting will likely be held next spring or summer.

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Take a look at Glympse Airbrushing

Growing up on the Hoopa Reservation had many benefits for Yurok tribal member Carl Avery. The professional airbrush artist and business owner was surrounded by art, both contemporary and traditional. Hoopa was where he honed his skills and was inspired by others.

"Art is one of Hoopa's greatest commodities," Avery said. "I've heard it called a natural resource on the Reservation."

Avery is the proprietor of Glympse Airbrushing in Redding, Ca where he airbrushes everything from brand new Harley Davidson motorcycles to canvass.

"Anything you can put paint on, I will paint," Avery said. "My versatility is pretty high."

Last week, Avery was working on turning a World War II bomb into a piece of art for a local veterans' group. He was painting pin-up girls in the style of that era on the former explosive, which he will later turn into a table with a light illuminating from its top. He has also does work on cars, snowboards, helmets, clothing and other objects. He paints murals, tribal designs and portraits too.

Avery started airbrushing at age 14 when his father bought him an airbrush.

"He told me to start playing with the airbrush," Avery said.

However, Avery started exercising his creative ability long before his teenage years.

"My family was always into art. I was born into it," Avery explained. Avery's uncle, Tony Sylvia, also a Yurok, is probably his most infamous artist relative.

At 18, Avery left Hoopa for Redding to play baseball and attend Shasta College. However, soon realized that baseball was going to take up too much time. To put himself though school he got a job at an automotive body shop where he answered phones, did book work and occasionally airbrushed. By 2004, Avery had developed a reputation as an astute airbrush artist, but the body shop did not have enough money to pay him a fair wage. He quit, and after a short stint working at Circuit City, he started Glympse Airbrushing.

Avery's favorite jobs are ones where he can engage his ability to the fullest. Typically, his customers want more ornate artwork on motorcycles.

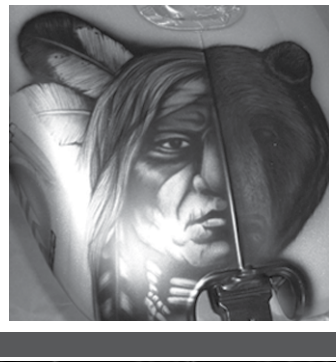
"You can go all out on a bike," Avery said. "On motorcycles, the wilder you go the more people tend to like them. If you go too big on cars it tends to look gaudy."

While he can paint anything his customers can dream up, Von Dutch is one of Avery's biggest influences. Von Dutch is known as the father of pin-striping. Pin stripers must have a seriously steady hand, which judging by his work, Avery does too. No doubt long hours of drawing basket designs during his days in Hoopa cultivated his ability to paint details like a master tatoo artist.

Tracy Avery, Carl Avery's mother is a great bead worker and seamstress. His father "couldn't draw a stick figure," despite opening the door for his son to pursue a career doing the work he loves.

"He saw something in me at a young age. I'm glad he did," Avery concluded.

Carl Avery can be reached at (530) 524-4670. His work can be viewed on his Facebook page.



Carl Avery airbrushes a self-portrait.

Avery airbrushed this Dodge Neon SXT.

Yurok Business Spotlight

Yurok Today features one Yurok businesses in each edition. Please contact Matt Mais at (707) 482-1350 to participate.

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