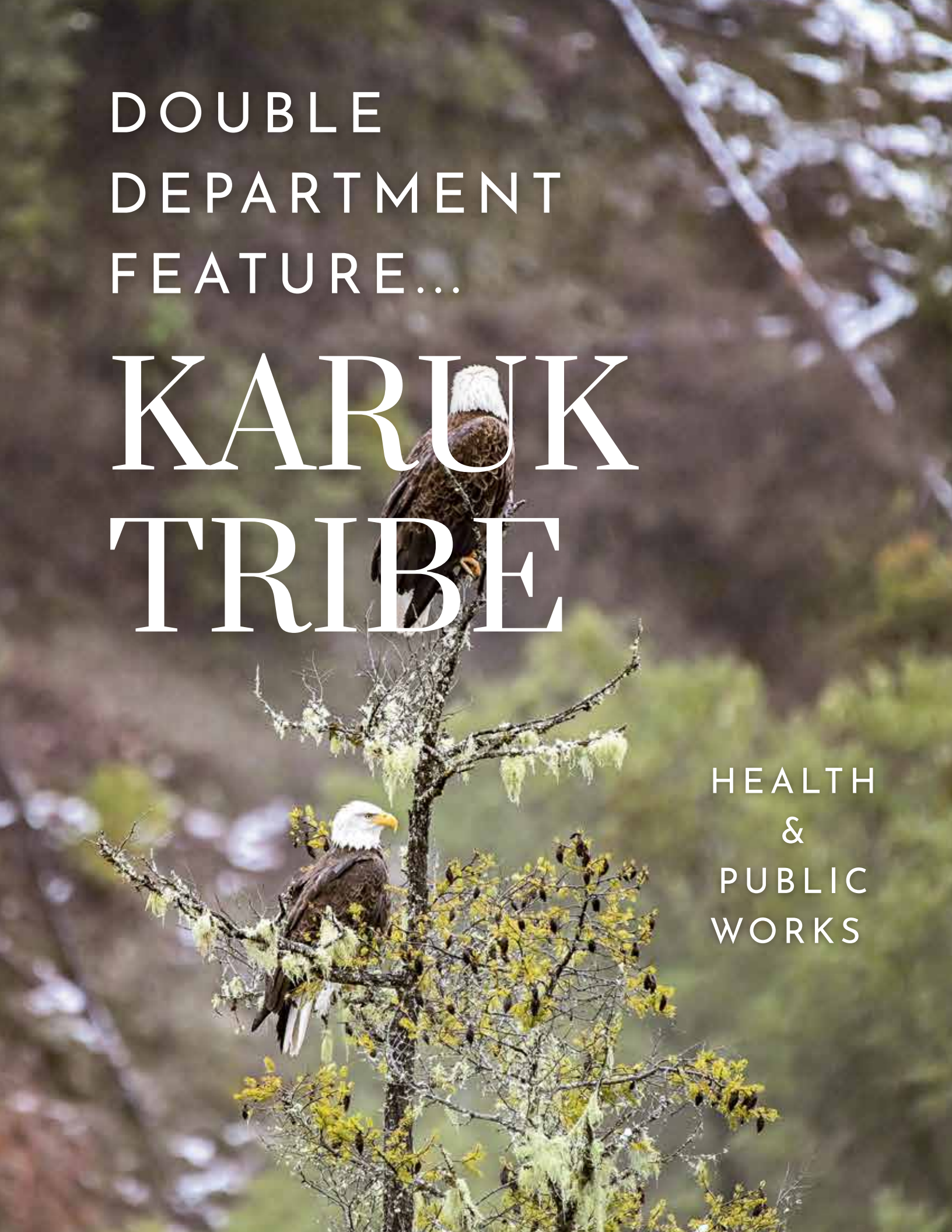


DOUBLE
DEPARTMENT
FEATURE...

KARUK TRIBE

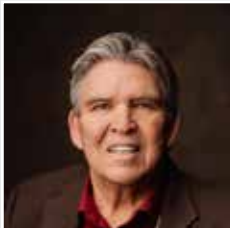
HEALTH
&
PUBLIC
WORKS





AYUKÎ

Greetings from your Tribal Council



Russell Attebery
Happy Camp
Chairperson
TERM: Nov. 2023–Nov. 2027



Kenneth "Binx" Brink
Happy Camp
Vice-Chairperson
TERM: Nov. 2022–Nov. 2026



Jennifer Goodwin
Happy Camp
Member at Large
TERM: Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028



Scott Quinn
Happy Camp
Secretary/Treasurer
TERM: Nov. 2023–Nov. 2027



Arch Super
Yreka District
Member at Large
TERM: Nov. 2025–Nov. 2029



Laura Mayton
Happy Camp District
Member at Large
TERM: Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028



Robert J. Super
Yreka District
Member at Large
TERM: Nov. 2024–Nov. 2028



Kristen King
Orleans District
Member at Large
TERM: Nov. 2025–Nov. 2029



Alma Mendoza
Orleans District
Member at Large
TERM: Mar. 2026–Nov. 2027
Partial Term

AYUKI KOOVURA

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

From the Chairperson

Buster Attebery

Chairperson Update



Chairperson & Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum



Chairperson & Assistant Secretary Billy Kirkland

Ayukii koovura,

I hope all is well in Karuk country. I have a couple of announcements for students who want to pursue their higher education. Brionna Gonzales, Education Director, worked very hard to convince the University of California (UC) system that Karuk Members and Descendants should be able to waive tuition and fees at UC schools. Through a lot of patience and persistence, she completed that goal. There are 9 UC campuses in California; the closest to Karuk students are UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and UC Merced. Sacramento State has a Native American College on its campus, called Wileety Native American College, which includes Native American-focused academic and community spaces through programs like Native American Studies and student support centers. I was honored to be a guest speaker at their opening in September 2025.

Here is another opportunity for a college scholarship: The American Indian College Fund. Applications for 2026 are being accepted until May 31st, 2026. You can apply by emailing scholarship@american-indianservices.org or by calling the American Indian College Fund at (303) 426-8900.

I want to let our Membership know that the Council has not forgotten about our goal to provide more services to our Elders and more job opportunities for our Members. To accomplish those goals, we will need to increase our revenue streams. We are getting ready to break ground on our Gas Station and Mini-Mart adjacent to our hotel property in Yreka. The gas station will provide an immediate revenue stream because we will receive a tax exemption. We are also doing a feasibility study of a gas station in Happy Camp. We are also contemplating starting a construction company. I know that other Tribes do very well when they hire out to do government projects. We have many projects in mind. Forest restoration projects, water conservation projects, restoring the lands in the upper Klamath as a result of dam removal, and more, all these projects will require heavy equipment and people to operate them.

I am on the steering committee for the sports betting initiative, representing the Northern California Tribal Chairpersons Association. We hope to get this initiative on the ballot for 2028. If voted in, it would legalize sports betting in California, and all Tribes would receive a \$5 million-per-year guarantee, with that amount increasing as sports betting revenue increases. I have requested that the limited gaming Tribes (Tribes with fewer than 350 class 3 slot machines), like the Karuk, receive a percentage set aside from sports betting.

My door is always open, and any Member or Descendant request or suggestion will be taken seriously.

Our lead Legal Counsel, Ray Martin, and I recently paid a visit to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and Assistant Secretary Billy Kirkland in Washington, DC. Our mission was to have the Department of the Interior reverse the decision to allow the casino currently operating in Medford, Oregon. The Tribe that operates the casino has a reservation 180 miles away in Coos Bay, Oregon. They have no historical or ancestral connection to these lands in Jackson County; in fact, Jackson County was once Karuk land. This Tribe already has a very successful casino in Coos Bay. This casino project was denied by the first Trump Administration and then approved just days before the Biden Administration left office. It was unlawful, which is why the Karuk Tribe has asked the Trump Administration to reverse the decision. Currently, the casino in Medford is costing the Karuk People between \$200,000 and \$400,000 a month, which is money we could be setting aside for our Elders programs.

As always, my door is always open, and any Member or Descendant request or suggestion will be taken seriously.

Suva nik
Chairperson Attebery



Karuk Tribal Chairperson Attebery and Vice-Chairperson Brink with U.S. Senator Adam Schiff



Karuk Tribal Chairperson Attebery, Vice-Chairperson Brink, Legal Council Ray Martin, & SnR policy Advisor Colleen Rossier, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff

From the Vice-Chairperson

Kenneth Brink

Advocating for Karuk Country



Vice Chair presenting at press conference with state leaders in Sacramento.



Vice Chair & Director of the Office of Tribal Relations, Reed Robinson



Vice Chair & Tom Schultz, 21st Chief of the Forest Service.

Ayukii Indian Country, I am proud to share that we had a productive meeting with the Forest Service Chief. Given that 98% of our Aboriginal Territory overlaps with the Forest Service, we are key partners, and both value building on our decades of collaboration. We discussed our concerns about the Slater Fire's footprint and our desire to restore historic fire regimes and create conditions conducive to our Indigenous fire management practices to once again maintain our homelands.

We also discussed the importance of collaboration with the Tribe and our local crews during wildfire incidents, and that risk-based decisions should be made based on the conditions, meaning that in some years, it's wiser to create a larger box to get beneficial fire on the ground in a way that does not defer risk to future years.

We also had great meetings with Senator Schiff, Representative Huffman, and Senator Padilla's staff. We truly value their partnership and support in advocating for our Tribal rights, our tribal fisheries, restoration of our fire practices, and protection of our communities.

Recently, leaders gathered to highlight a suite of wildfire mitigation and prevention bills, including two important, beneficial fire bills advancing in California this year. The Karuk Tribe is a proud sponsor of Assemblymember Damon Connolly's Beneficial Fire Capacity Act (AB 1891), legislation designed to expand training, workforce capacity, and support for cultural and prescribed fire across the state.

The Tribe also supports Assemblymember Chris Rogers' Good Fire Act (AB 1699), sponsored by Pacific Forest Trust, which complements these efforts to expand the use of beneficial fire and strengthen wildfire resilience across California. These efforts build on generations of Karuk stewardship and help restore fire as a tool for healthy forests, wildfire resilience, and climate adaptation.

Senior Advisor Policy Colleen Rossier and I joined partners, including Paul Mason of Pacific Forest Trust and Eric Horne of Megafire Action, who organized the press event, to highlight the importance of these two-companion state beneficial fire bills.

Kenneth Brink, Vice Chairperson.

From the Vice-Chairperson



Left-to-right: Ellen Shultzabarger, Associate Deputy Chief for National Forest System, Colleen Rossier, SnR Policy Advisor, Karuk Tribe, Ray Martin, Legal Council, Karuk Tribe, Tom Schultz, Chief of the Forest Service, Reed Robinson, Office of Tribal Relations



Colleen Rossier, SnR Policy Advisor, Karuk Tribe, National Congress of American Indians President, Mark Macarro, Karuk Vice Chairperson, Kenneth Brink.

Karuk Tribe Summer Youth Employment Program looks to continue strong for 2026



Youth Workers with Public Relations learning how to use Cameras.

The Karuk Tribes Summer Youth Employment Program is designed to help prepare our youth for real-world success by building confidence, responsibility, and workplace readiness skills as they transition into adulthood. Investing in our youth and uplifting future leaders remains a tribal priority.

Important Dates

- **Applications Open:** April 6
- **Applications Close:** May 8 – **Hard deadline, no late submissions accepted**

During the open application period, Human Resources and the Education Department will host in-school sessions during Karuk Youth Leadership meetings in all service areas. These sessions will:

- Review program expectations
- Walk through the application process
- Provide tips for successful completion

Evening Application & Family Support Sessions

We will also host evening Application and Family Support Sessions where youth and their families are invited to enjoy light refreshments while receiving assistance with completing applications (parental signature required), submitting applications on-site (parental signature required), asking questions about the program, and participating in a mock interview. These sessions are designed to support both youth and families in preparing for a successful summer work experience. Interviewing is a vital skill for people to develop, and this will be a great opportunity for the youth to practice in a safe and positive environment.

Dress & Professional Expectations

This year, we are placing additional emphasis on **professional readiness**. During interviews and while on the job, youth are expected to dress professionally. Hoodies, graphic T-shirts, tank tops, midriff-baring clothing, and ripped denim or jeans with holes are not permitted. To help support interview success, business casual shirts will **be available** to borrow for interviews if requested in advance. We also ask that youth arrive groomed, with hair neatly styled or combed, wearing deodorant, and presenting themselves in a professional manner. These expectations align with workplace standards and help youth **build habits** that will **support** them beyond this program. We are truly excited about this year's program and the meaningful skills and experiences our youth will gain.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to **Education Director Brionna Gonzalez** at ext. 7035 or **HR Manager Lisa Henderson** at ext. 2043 or 7034. We are happy to help and look forward to a great summer together.



Fisheries slots available for 2026.

Karuk Descendant NAOP Approval: A Multi-Year Effort Comes to Fruition



Karuk student at UC Campus



Scott Aseltine, Karuk Language Director



Brionna Gonzales, Karuk Education Director

On February 12, 2026, the University of California formally confirmed that Enrolled Karuk Descendants are eligible under the Native American Opportunity Plan (NAOP) — ensuring tuition coverage at all nine UC campuses.

This milestone represents the culmination of years of government-to-government advocacy between the Karuk Tribe and the University of California.

The work began through formal action by the Karuk Tribal Council, including the passage of Resolution 24-R-028, and detailed legal and policy correspondence asserting that Karuk Descendants are citizens of the Tribe. During that process, former Education Director Scott Aseltine, alongside Jason Hockaday, worked directly with Tribal leadership and UC representatives to clarify enrollment classifications, tribal sovereignty, and eligibility standards.

The Tribe formally affirmed that both “Members” and “Descendants” hold Karuk citizenship status, and that exclusion of Descendants would conflict with Tribal sovereignty. That position ultimately shaped the approval confirmed in February 2026.

This achievement reflects sustained Tribal leadership, policy development, and advocacy to expand educational access for Karuk students.

NAOP covers in-state systemwide Tuition and Student Services Fees for eligible students. Undergraduate students must submit a FAFSA or California Dream Act application. UC contacts eligible students directly once documentation is verified.

We proudly celebrate this affirmation of Karuk citizenship and sovereignty.

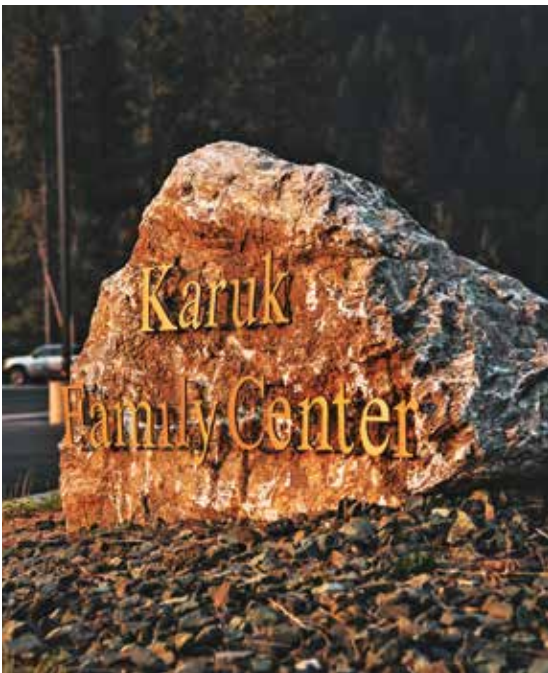
Our sovereignty. Our students. Our future.



KARUK HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health & Community Health Department



Karuk Tribe Health & Human Services

Ayukii koovúra (hello everyone),

The Public Health and Community Health Department continues to grow in ways that reflect the needs, strengths, and resilience of our people. Over the past year, we have expanded our team, strengthened outreach, deepened our commitment to culturally grounded care, and continued building programs that support health equity across all districts.

One of the biggest changes has been the growth of our Public Health staffing. Not long ago, the Public Health Department was staffed by one nurse. Today, we are proud to share that Public Health now includes two Public Health Nurses and one Registered Nurse. This growth increases our ability to provide prevention services, health education, case management support, and community-based outreach. It also strengthens our capacity to respond when illness spreads quickly, when families need help navigating care, or when public health concerns require timely communication and coordination.

Alongside that growth, our Community Health Representative (CHR) program has continued to expand across service areas. We now have three CHRs serving Happy Camp, three serving Yreka, and one serving Orleans, with plans to add an additional CHR in Orleans in

*We now have three CHRs serving Happy Camp,
three serving Yreka, and one serving Orleans*

Our program continues to incorporate culturally responsive care tailored toward Karuk people

the future. CHRs are trusted members of the community who provide health education, advocacy, and support services while honoring Karuk culture, traditions, and values. They help bridge the gap between clinic-based care and what health looks like in everyday life at home, in the community, and within our cultural ways of being.

Many community members know CHRs as the people who show up when things feel overwhelming. CHRs support families managing chronic conditions, help coordinate care and appointments, assist with transportation needs, provide screenings and prevention education, and act as advocates when someone needs help understanding the healthcare system or communicating with providers. This work is deeply relational, and it reflects the Karuk value of caring for one another.

We are also excited to share that Health & Human Services has purchased a new outreach van, which will help us expand mobile outreach and increase access to care in our more rural communities. For many families, transportation and distance can be a major barrier. This mobile resource supports equity by helping us meet community members where they are, especially elders and those living farther from clinic services.

Traditional Medicine

As our department grows, we remain grounded in a Karuk understanding that healing is more than treatment it is relationship, balance, and connection to land, culture, and spirit. Our program continues to incorporate culturally responsive care tailored toward Karuk people, and we have been working to revitalize plant medicine practices in a respectful and responsible way.

In collaboration with Pirish Plants through the Department of Natural Resources, we have worked to ensure that plants used for traditional medicine are gathered and cared for in a way that reflects Karuk Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Over the last two years, we have received willow peelings from the Karuk Annual Basketweavers Gathering, which have been used to make willow oil and willow salves. These traditional medicines have been shared at community gatherings including diabetic luncheons, elder events, the Karuk Tribal Reunion, and additional outreach activities.

Our long-term vision is to thoughtfully expand access to traditional medicine so that it can be available as a culturally responsive



Karuk Health Services van



Traditional foods, Acorns and smoked Salmon



Attendees at the Annual Diabetic Conference

option alongside Western care. In Karuk culture, “medicine” is not limited to pills or shots. Medicine can be plants prepared as teas, tinctures, salves, or smoke. Medicine can also be songs, prayers, good thoughts, and words spoken with intention. Medicine can be ceremony, fasting, and actions that restore balance like caring for the river. Karuk teachings remind us that healing is spiritual, physical, and relational all at once.

Kúfip (Willow): A Plant With Many Teachings

Species: Salix

This season we would like to highlight a traditional plant that has many uses for Karuk people: Kúfip (Willow). Willow grows along rivers and damp places throughout Karuk homelands and has long been used for both practical and medicinal purposes. It is a well-known basketry plant and also carries healing properties that have supported Karuk people for generations.

Plant medicines are sacred and must be treated with respect. When gathering, we are reminded to take only what we need, gather from healthy and abundant places, and share with those who cannot gather for themselves especially Elders. We are also taught to avoid overharvesting, not to pull up whole plants, and to always offer thanks to the plant, the water, and the land.

Willow contains salicin, a compound similar to aspirin. When prepared safely as a salve or oil for external use, willow may gently support comfort for some people, especially related to pain and swelling. However, individuals with an aspirin allergy or sensitivity should not use willow products. Beyond its physical uses, willow teaches resilience. It bends without breaking, stays rooted near the water, and reminds us that strength can live in flexibility.

2025 Annual Diabetic Conference: Reclaiming Wellness Through Traditional Medicine

This year’s Annual Diabetic Conference was held in Yreka at Rain Rock Casino, and it brought together community members from across districts. The theme, Reclaiming Wellness Through Traditional Medicine, reflected our commitment to supporting diabetes care in a way that honors culture and lived experience.

We were honored to welcome expert basket weaver Verna Reece, who shared her relationship with willow and answered questions

We are also taught to avoid overharvesting, not to pull up whole plants, and to always offer thanks to the plant, the water, and the land.

We were honored to welcome expert basket weaver Verna Reece, who shared her relationship with willow and answered questions from participants.

from participants. The conference also included a willow oil roller workshop led by Pirish Plants, using infused willow oil made from peelings donated at the annual basketweavers gathering. Community members enjoyed cultural demonstrations and traditional foods, including acorns and smoked salmon.

For many people living with diabetes, pain and discomfort can affect daily life. Neuropathy, joint aches, muscle pain, and sleep disruption are common challenges. When used safely and appropriately, willow preparations may gently support comfort for some individuals, making it easier to walk, be active, and participate in ceremony and community life. Overall, the conference was well attended, with approximately 60 participants, and it strengthened the shared message that wellness is strongest when cultural knowledge and clinical care walk together.

Orleans Walking Trail: Planning for Health Equity

We are also excited about continued planning for the Orleans Walking Trail project. The Diabetic Program is collaborating with the Roads Department and Pirish Plants to develop a safe space for physical activity in Orleans. At this time, Orleans does not have a wellness center, and many community members must walk along roadways where there is traffic. This project aims to create a place where families, youth, and elders can move their bodies safely and comfortably.

This walking trail represents more than a path it represents equity. It reflects our commitment to building supportive environments that reduce barriers to wellness. We are still in the planning phase and look forward to sharing additional details as the project progresses.

Moving Forward Together

The Public Health and Community Health Department is committed to expanding outreach, strengthening chronic disease support, improving rural access to care, and integrating traditional knowledge into modern health systems in respectful and meaningful ways. We are grateful to serve our people and to continue growing alongside the community.

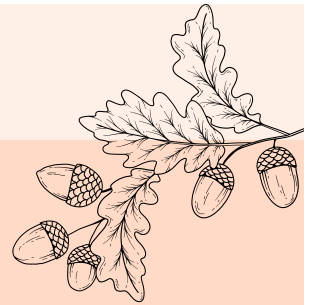
Yôotva (thank you) for allowing us to do this work, and for supporting a future where health reflects who we are as Karuk people.



Students perform a demonstration dance.



COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE CHR



SERVING YREKA|HAPPY CAMP|ORLEANS DISTRICTS

“Supporting resiliency and wellness through a culturally competent approach.”

WHAT IS A CHR?

CHRs are trusted members of the community who provide health education, advocacy, and support services. They connect community members with health care while honoring Karuk culture, traditions and values.



WHAT SERVICES DO CHRS PROVIDE?

- Health Education & Prevention
- Home Visits
- Chronic Disease Support
- Care Coordination
- Transportation Assistance
- Screenings
- Elder care
- Health Translation & Advocacy
- Community Outreach



CONTACT US

Karuk Tribe Health and Human Services
Community Health Program

- Yreka Clinic: (530) 842-9200
- Happy Camp Clinic: (530) 493-5257
- Orleans Clinic: (530) 627-3452

Well Child Checks

Beat the Back-to-School Rush!

Summer is the BEST time to schedule your child's yearly check-up!

Make sure they are healthy, growing strong, and ready for school.

During a Well Child Check we:

- ✓ Check height and weight
- ✓ Check blood pressure
- ✓ Test vision and hearing
- ✓ Update school-required vaccines
- ✓ Complete sports physical forms
- ✓ Answer parent questions about growth and development

Don't wait until August — appointments fill up fast!

Children may NOT be able to start school or sports if forms and vaccines are not up to date.

Call today to schedule your child's Well Child Check!

Let's start the school year healthy, strong, and ready to learn!



What you need to know about Purchased/ Referred Care



Friendly reminder to all membership that HIS Contract Health Services (PRC) is not an entitlement program and not everyone is eligible.

KNOW YOUR STATUS BEFORE OBTAINING SERVICES.

PRC Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must be an Indian or descendant of an Indian from a Federally-Recognized Tribe Must be a permanent resident of Siskiyou Co. CA or Orleans, Ca for six months.

If you are eligible, PRC coverage is not automatic. Should you have an emergency situation requiring you to obtain care at a non-IHS facility, you must notify your PRC Office within 72 hours. If you do not do this, you will be responsible for the bill. PRC coverage is for emergent, life-threatening situations only! Sore throats, ear aches, rash, follow-up care, medicine re-fill, etc... Are not considered emergent or life-threatening.

Friendly reminder to all members, federal regulations stipulate that Emergency visits will not be covered if it would have been closer to go to a KTHP facility first. If there is a KTHP facility in the area and you choose not to use it, you will be denied and held responsible for the bill.

Referral:

Medical care that is not available at the KTHP facility. **A REFERRAL IS NOT AN IMPLICATION THAT PRC WILL PAY FOR CARE.** A patient must meet eligibility criteria, medical priorities, and use of alternate resources. The referrals are reviewed and based on availability of funds; the referral is then approved, denied or deferred. If a referral is denied, the patient may obtain medical care at their own expense.

IHS-CHS Authorization:

The PRC will prioritize all referrals and call-in requests and make recommendations for approval or denial. The PRC staff or their appointed designee is the only person who can approve and authorize payment of services.

In most cases, an approved referral is limited to one medical treatment and/or one appointment. Please call Purchased/Referred Care prior to any follow-up appointments, or referral to another specialist/facility for approval to make sure your coverage is still in effect.

Alternate Resource:

HS-PRC is a payer of last resort. When a patient has Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, Veteran’s Assistance, CHAMPUS/TRICARE, Workman’s Compensation, or is covered by any other resource, that resource is the primary payor. All Explanations of Benefits (EOB) and payment checks from the primary payor(s) must be brought or mailed to the PRC office without delay, when received by the patient. Many times the non-IHS will turn the patient’s bill over to collections because they are unable to get the EOB from the patient. The non-IHS provider cannot collect payment from IHS until they filed the bill with the EOB. Therefore, it is crucial for the patient to provide the EOB either to the non-IHS provider or to the Purchased/Referred Care in order to complete the payment process.

Pregnant/Prenatal Care:

If PRC is requested to pay for the charges for your delivery/newborn care and hospitalization you must apply for OB medi-cal. According to Federal Register IHS Regulations, it is mandatory that all other resources be utilized before PRC funds can be obligated. The California Medi-cal Services has a program for which you may be eligible for. All pregnant women will be interviewed, advised and/or assisted if needed in applying for the OB Medi-cal. If you are denied, you will need to take the letter to the PRC office to be filed with your OB referral form. Failure to cooperate with IHS-PRC will result in denial to authorize payment for any charges you may incur.



The Silent Killer



High blood pressure is also called hypertension. It is a very common health problem. Many Native American people have high blood pressure. Some do not even know they have it. High blood pressure is called the “silent killer.” It does not always hurt. You may feel fine. But inside your body, damage can be happening.

When your blood pressure is too high, your heart has to work too hard. Over time, this can:

- Hurt your heart
- Damage your kidneys
- Cause a stroke
- Cause blindness
- Even cause death

This can happen slowly. You may not see it coming.

- Get your blood pressure checked at the clinic.
- Use a home blood pressure machine if you have one.
- Write your numbers down. Anything over 190/100 should be reported immediately
- Share them with your doctor or nurse.



Very high blood pressure can cause a stroke or heart attack without warning.

If your provider gives you medicine, take it exactly as told.

- Do not skip doses.
- Do not stop just because you feel okay or because you feel ill.
- Do not wait until you feel sick.

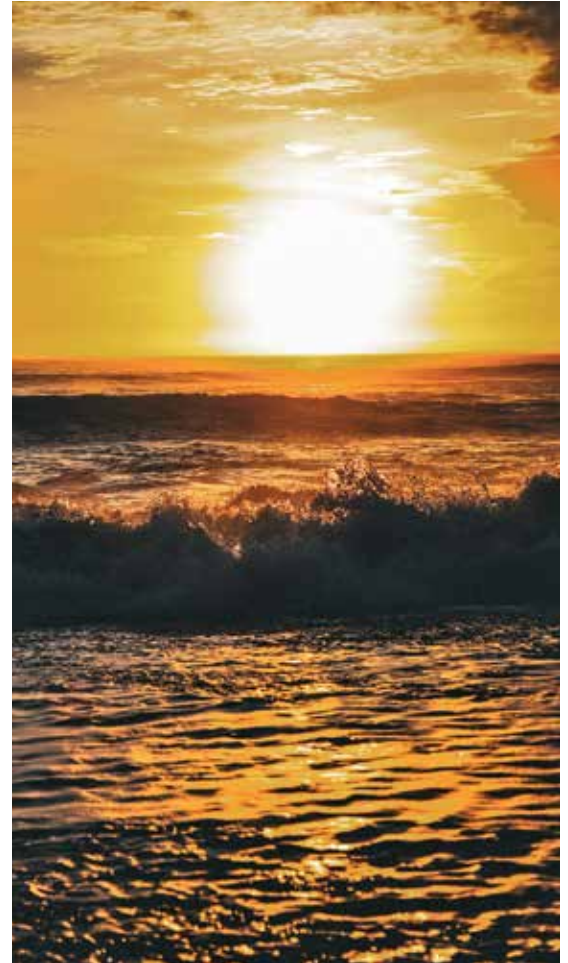
If you stop your medicine, your blood pressure can go very high. Very high blood pressure can cause a stroke or heart attack without warning. A stroke can make it hard to walk, talk, or care for yourself. A heart attack can take your life. Your medicine helps protect your heart and brain every day. You can also help your body by:

- Eating less salt
- Drinking more water
- Moving your body each day
- Not smoking
- Keeping your clinic visits

Taking care of your blood pressure means taking care of your family too. When you stay healthy, you can be there for your children and grandchildren.

High blood pressure may be silent. But the damage is not.

Respectfully submitted by Danci Harris Lead LVN



Get your blood pressure checked at the clinic.

iikiv (necklace) Project



iikiv (necklace)



iikiv (necklace)

Ayukii koovura,

Our department is excited to share the progress of the Karuk Education's 8th Grade Graduation iikiv (necklace) project at Jackson St Elementary, which brings together our children for a time of learning, creativity, and connection. Over the past few weeks, our young participants have taken part in activities that celebrate our culture, traditions, and the strength of our community. This project was designed to help our kids learn more about their heritage while developing new skills and building friendships. We introduce ourselves in the Karuk language, then the kids will either grab the iikiv they are working on or choose the beads and shells they want to use. They have a necklace mapped out on a piece of paper so the kids know the pattern and how many beads and shells they will need. We talk about language and the reason we are making the iikiv. We tell them these are being made to represent all the hard work the 8th graders have done in order to graduate. Projects like these remind us how important it is to continue nurturing the next generation. Helping them grow strong in who they are and where they come from. We look forward to seeing the finished iikiv and the excitement on the children's faces when they see their completed work.

Yôotva,
Alexis Mclaughlin

Cultural healing with the Transitional House Manager

The Karuk Men's Transitional Home Program is designed to provide a supportive sober living experience combined with temporary housing assistance. Our primary goal is to create a safe, sober and stable environment for participants as they transition toward self-sufficiency and long-term recovery. The program specifically serves enrolled members of the Karuk Tribe and their descendants, recognizing the importance of community and cultural ties in fostering lasting change.

In addition to housing and sober living support, we place a strong emphasis on encouraging cultural knowledge and participation in traditional cultural activities. We believe that maintaining a connection to cultural roots is essential for holistic healing and empowerment. Through various cultural programs and events, we strive to engage participants and nurture their sense of identity and belonging.

We would also like to provide an update on the recent cultural initiatives supported by the Karuk Human Services Department/ Karuk Men's Transitional home program through the SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Grant funding.

In 2025, we successfully funded several Karuk cultural activities aimed at strengthening our com-

munity's connection to their heritage. One of the highlights last year was the traditional drum making class, where skilled Karuk practitioners shared their expertise and knowledge with participants, fostering a deeper appreciation for this vital cultural art.

Continuing this momentum, from January through March 2026, we have been conducting regalia bead classes. These sessions have seen consistent attendance from 10 to 25 tribal members, all of whom have greatly benefited from the teachings. The engagement in these classes not only enhances cultural skills but also contributes to the personal healing and well-being of our tribal community members.

Our overall goal is to integrate cultural therapy into our programs by reinstating cultural knowledge and identity within our tribal communities. We believe that reconnecting our people with their traditions is a powerful tool for healing.

Looking ahead, we are eager to expand our offerings by introducing additional Karuk culture classes. We anticipate that these future classes will continue to serve a therapeutic purpose and provide meaningful enrichment for all participants.

George Wilson
Transitional House Manager

We believe that reconnecting our people with their traditions is a powerful tool for healing.

Karuk Tribe Elders Program

In January of this year, the Karuk Tribe began the implementation of the highly anticipated and much needed Elders Program. This process started with the hiring of Anthony Ballard as the program director, and Neal Bergman as the program coordinator. Anthony has worked for the tribe since 2006 and Neal worked at the casino for a few years. These two men bring a lot of energy and excitement to the program.

The program has secured a location in Yreka for an Elders Center, which includes office space and a gathering place for the elders. The Elders Center is located at 351 Oberlin Road, Suite 2, in Yreka. The center has a large screen TV, coffee and snacks, game table and games, and a computer for elder use. The Elders Center will give elders a place to get together in a climate-controlled environment.

The KTEP team has spent a lot of time meeting with the elders listening to what they want and need. All of their concerns, needs, and wants were documented and creative ways to meet them are being implemented. Through collaborations with other tribal programs and community partners, KTEP is providing services such as fall prevention, supplemental food, clothing, assistance filling out forms and applications, and legal services. This summer,

through a partnership with Legal Services of Northern California, KTEP will be hosting a legal clinic in Happy Camp. An attorney and Notary will be on site to assist elders with wills, Power of Attorney, trusts, and other legal needs. Elders will be transported from Orleans and Yreka to attend the legal clinic.

A vision of KTEP is, Pa yíchachha koovúra pihñíich kéeniikich áraasas pa túnviiiv káru, or the gathering of generations. The elders hold so much knowledge and wisdom that must be passed on to future generations and KTEP is committed to facilitating this exchange.

The KTEP team is very excited when considering the future potential of this program while bringing events and activities to all three locations. Any and all feedback is greatly appreciated and welcomed. Please submit any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns to:

Anthony Ballard, Director of Karuk Elders Programs, aballard@karuk.us, 707-951-1146, or Neal Bergman, Elders Program Coordinator, cbergman@karuk.us, 707-951-1394, or Just drop by the Elders Center at 351 Oberlin Road, Suite 2, Yreka, CA 96097

The elders hold so much knowledge and wisdom that must be passed on to future generations and KTEP is committed to facilitating this exchange.

2026



Karuk Tribal
Reunion

September
19

Pursuing Traditional Health Care Practices



Ayukii

The Department of Human Services is pleased to announce its participation in Traditional health care practices. Traditional health care practices are expected to improve access to culturally responsive care; support these facilities' ability to serve their patients; maintain and sustain health; improve health outcomes and the quality and experience of care; and reduce existing disparities in access to care.

The California *Traditional Healer and Natural Helper* model is rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems that have supported Native communities for generations. These healers and helpers are individuals recognized within their communities for their wisdom, cultural grounding, and ability to guide others through emotional, spiritual, and social challenges. Their work is not based on Western clinical frameworks but on relationships, cultural teachings, and holistic approaches to wellness. For the Karuk Tribe, traditions emphasize balance, connection to the lands and rivers, community responsibility, and a model that aligns naturally with long-standing cultural values.

Within Karuk tribal jurisdictions, Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers can play a vital role in strengthening community behavioral health and SUD programs. They provide culturally relevant support that Western systems often overlook, such as guidance through ceremonies, traditional plant knowledge, and culturally grounded conflict resolution. Their presence helps bridge the gap between tribal members and formal health or social service systems, especially for individuals who may feel misunderstood or marginalized in mainstream settings. By offering support in ways that honor Karuk identity, these helpers promote health, trust, safety, and cultural continuity.

Caption

For the Karuk Tribe, traditions emphasize balance, connection to the lands and rivers, community responsibility, and a model that aligns naturally with long-standing cultural values.

Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers often serve as early points of contact when individuals Healer clients returning for rehabilitation or incarceration. Their culturally informed approach can prevent issues from escalating and reduce reliance on external systems that may not fully understand tribal contexts. This community-based support network reinforces the tribe's sovereignty by ensuring that healing practices remain in the hands of the people who understand their cultural meaning best.

Finally, integrating Traditional Healers and Natural Helpers into Behavioral health tribal programs supports the revitalization of Karuk cultural practices. As these individuals share knowledge, mentor youth, and participate in community events and ceremonies. They are helping to preserve the Karuk language, stories, and traditional ecological knowledge. This strengthens cultural identity and fosters a sense of belonging—key components of long-term wellness. For the Karuk Tribe, the program is a pathway to cultural empowerment and self-determination.

Karuk Human Services looks forward to helping to build this sustainable program and to continue to provide cultural health and wellness to all of our communities and for many generations to come. Soon, the department will be contracting qualified culturally-grounded practitioners to become healers and helpers in the late spring.

Yôotva



Enrollment Department

Axmayikyav from the Enrollment Department

Enrollment Committee



Mildred Grant
Chair



Jeanerette Jacups-Johnny
Vice Chair



Sammi Jo Jerry
Secretary



Charlene Naef
Member At Large



Kenneth Brink
Council Vice Chairperson

We currently have 3,620 Enrolled Tribal Members and 6,303 Enrolled Descendants

Our Enrolled Member numbers have actually been dropping in the last few years due to under reporting of deceased family members that were found during attempts to update addresses during the stimulus period so we would like to ask families to please keep us informed of any passing of loved ones with our deepest sympathies and condolences and also to **Please keep us informed of any address or name changes at your earliest convenience so you won't miss out on any future mailings, including all registered voters who are registered as Absentee.**

Enrollment Office Services

Our office offers an array of services:

- Enrollment/Descendancy applications for the Enrollment Committee.
- Issue Tribal Verification's for enrolled Members and Descendants.
- Collect Census Data on all **Tribal Member** households (we do not release any personal information only non-identifying information). Please update your census with our office every three years.
- Process mail lists for Tribal Mailings; please make sure your address is up to date so you don't miss out on important mailings or the newsletter.
- Issue Free California Fishing License Applications. (Income Eligible)
- Issue Family Trees
- Issue ID cards. **(Email is best for all renewals, both picture & form)**
- Issue DMV/Sales Tax Exemption forms to Tribal Members living on Trust Land.

Please feel free to contact our office at (800) 505-2785 Ext. 2028 & Ext 2039. You can also reach us by email at rattebery@karuk.us & ccook@karuk.us

Robert Attebery
Enrollment Officer



KARUK TRIBE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES **Clinic Update Announcement**

We're improving your care experience!

To better serve you and reduce wait times, we are introducing a
new check-in system.

What's Changing?



Arrive 30 Minutes Early

Patients must check in 30 minutes before their scheduled appointment.

- ▶ This allows time for updated paperwork and system processing.



Bring All Medications

Please bring all current medications to every visit.

- ▶ This includes prescriptions, over-the-counter meds, and supplements.



Bring ID Card & Insurance Cards

Please bring your ID card and any insurance cards to every visit.

- ▶ This is needed for verification and billing purposes.



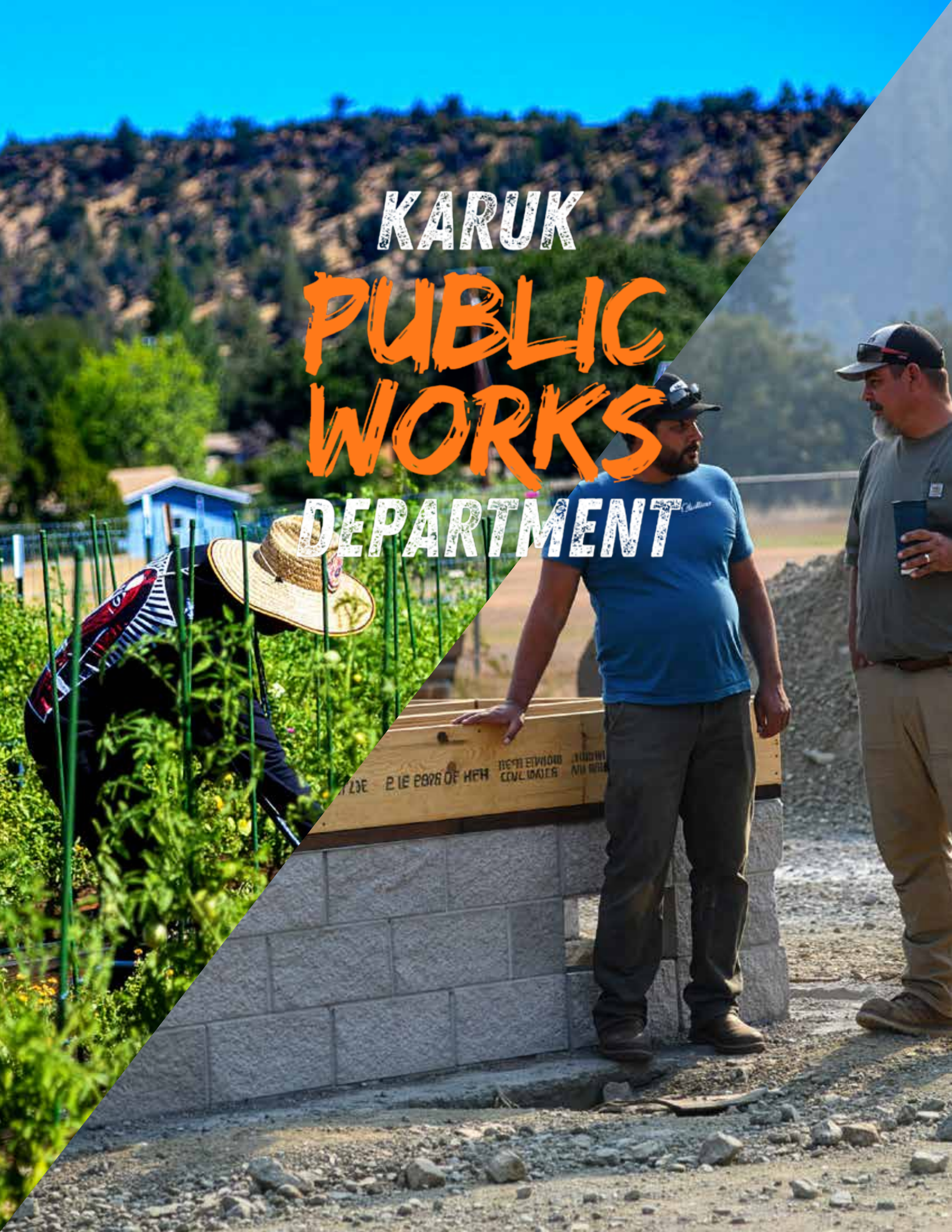
Effective Immediately

Please contact our clinic front desk for assistance.

KARUK

**PUBLIC
WORKS**

DEPARTMENT



Catching up with Public Works.



Ayukii,

Where have the last three years gone? Seems like yesterday I was offered the Position of Director of Public Works for the Karuk Tribe. As I have said in the past, it's an honor to represent our people in day-to-day operations both locally and on the world stage. We have many Federal Govern-

ment and State officials who want to participate in conversations and consultations that change our environment or build stronger relationships with our neighboring Tribes.

I feel very confident that the work being performed in Public Works has been beneficial and rewarding. A highlight of the Karuk Department of Transportation is the Happy Camp Safe Streets project, which will transform downtown Happy Camp like never before. This project was well underway before I was hired, but I truly feel that communication with CalTrans and the Tribe has become stronger. Working with Misty Rickwalt on her dream for a new park in Orleans is the next project we will tackle together. It's always easier to see the big picture when dreamers work together.

The Lands Department, led by Crystal Jacobs, is moving smoothly as we work to secure adequate office space for multiple departments. Work Force Housing is always at the back of our minds. A great

opportunity will be available to one lucky individual, as we will be holding a raffle for a parcel of land in a desired community with many amenities. Keep an eye out as we move forward.

A great opportunity will be available to one lucky individual, as we will be holding a raffle for a parcel of land in a desired community with many amenities.

Construction and maintenance are vital to our long-term growth strategy. We are currently understaffed in Yreka Community and are working to secure adequate staff to support the annual requirements of property ownership. The rising cost of new construction, permits, and materials has made remodeling the current trend, leaving ample room for investment.

Emergency Services with Darrell Frost, a well-known retired law enforcement officer, has been rewarding for much of the staff and all three communities we serve. CPR and First Aid classes have been taking place at multiple locations throughout the year. During wildfire events, Darrell has been a dedicated employee, offering to work multiple hours to ensure the Tribe has all the right information.

Karuk Public Works will continue to strive in all of our communities, offering support for all entities of the Tribe and its diverse membership. We are looking forward to another successful year!

Yōotva!
Jack Lantz
Director of Public Works
Karuk Tribe
jmlantz@karuk.us
Office: 530-493-1600 ext. 2060
Work Cell: 707-458-5814

Karuk Emergency Preparedness is here to serve!



Karuk Emergency Preparedness is here to serve and protect life and property, through education and training in preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery (All Hazards Approach). It has been a busy year for your Emergency manager, Darrell Frost who came to the Karuk Tribe from a diverse background in local Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management.

Changes this year included the addition of John Evans who is assisting with our Emergency Water Grant. John has been instrumental in tracking and delivery of Emergency water for Tribal Elders in Happy Camp, Somes Bar and Orleans, providing clean drinking water to the downriver communities. John has taken the lead in providing larger amounts of drinking water by outfitting three water wagons for special events and in times of water shut off situations.

We have installed Several Filtered Water dispensing kiosks in all of you tribal housing areas including Orleans, Happy Camp, and Yreka. This is a step up from just providing Bottled water which is still provided at all of our Senior nutrition programs. This Grant was from the generosity of the California Department of Water resources.

We continue to provide support services for our tribal youth during Spay and Neuter Clinics, Summer River programs, Days Camps, and Overnight Camping activities. Other activities include assisting other programs with their Emergency Action Plans, Clean Water Filter Systems for the home and delivery of Clean Air Purifiers.

We were extremely busy during the last Fire Season doing Emergency Evacuations in Forks of Salmon and delivered Emergency Meals, Water and Fuel to those who could not evacuate. Delivering emergency medications through road blocks for our Clinics, and providing direct services to Tribal communities, including Generators, Fuel, support services in an emergency and real time weather updates. We are honored to serve the Karuk People and communities as your Emergency Preparedness Staff.



Emergency Preparedness



KDOT Updates!



Ayukii from the Karuk Tribe's Department of Transportation

We are pleased to announce the hiring of our new Transit Coordinator, Khristeena Fears, following a year-long recruitment effort. She 'hit the ground running' and has already applied for a California Air Resources Board (CARB) grant to strengthen the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding that will support development of the Karuk Tribe's first transit services. Khristeena will also use the recently completed Transit Feasibility Study to guide the program's initial phases. We are excited to see Karuk Tribal Transit Services move from planning to reality. Please reach out to her with all your transit questions by phone; (530) 627-3063 or email; kfears@karuk.us.



The Happy Camp Complete Streets project has been awarded to contractor ST Rhoades, and construction will begin this spring as weather allows. If interested in working on this project, please add your information to the TERO skills bank (contact Michelle Cook) so you'll be on the list when the contractor reaches out for hiring. They'll be looking for flaggers, laborers and others. This project has been in development since its inception approximately 15 years ago. It'll be a big change to the community and we hope you'll be patient during construction. Ultimately, it'll be a beautiful transformation for Happy Camp. Yôotva to all who have worked so hard to make this project successful.



In January KDOT applied for Tribal Transportation Safety Program (TTSP) funding to complete planning and preliminary design for a 2.7-mile shared-use path along State Route 96 in Orleans, connecting Camp Creek Road to East Peach Creek Road. This corridor currently has no shoulders, limited sight distance, poor lighting, and a history of serious crashes, including three fatalities.

The project will add a separated path and raised speed-table crosswalks to improve visibility, calm traffic, and protect pedestri-

ans and bicyclists. It is one of the highest-priority projects in the Karuk Tribe's Transportation Safety Plan and is included in the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, aligning with both tribal, state, and federal safety goals. If funded, we will be holding community meetings for your input. Please join us so we have the opportunity to consider your valued suggestions on this project.

Beyond transportation safety improvements, we've also been coordinating with the Tribe's Public Health Nurses to combine funding resources for phased development of the Community Park in Orleans. Extensive community outreach in 2017 and 2018 fashioned the preliminary park design which reflects the community's vision for this space. We plan to begin with a paved path and benches, then move forward with additional park elements such as a play structure, basketball court and restrooms, as funding allows. If you would like to contribute funding, materials, or labor to support this project, we welcome your involvement!

The Karuk Regional Transportation Consortium (KRTC), comprised of tribal, federal, state and county members, has not lost momentum despite government shut-downs and federal restrictions. We last met in January of this year, and will meet again in-person in May of 2026. Although the consortium is in its early stages, it is intended to serve as a unifying partnership among agencies to enhance roadway conditions throughout Karuk Territory.

When you see our KDOT road maintenance crew (Bucky, William and James), they'll undoubtedly be hard at work on one project or another for the Tribe. Please slow down when passing by equipment and workers in or along the roadway.

Also, when you have a minute, go check out all the Transportation information on the Tribe's new webpage – there is a wealth of good information on there. And, as always, please reach out with any questions, comments or concerns regarding the roads in Karuk Country. We are here to serve you!

-Misty Rickwalt, Transportation Director
(530) 627-3016, mrickwalt@karuk.us



Welcoming the new Karuk Department of Transportation Coordinator!

Ayukii, my name is Khristeena Fears, I am the new Transit Coordinator here at Karuk Department of Transportation (KDOT), located in Orleans. I am excited to announce that we will soon be launching the Karuk Tribe Transit System! A new fixed route service designed to support the mobility needs of our community. The van will have the capacity to hold up to nine individuals, including one wheelchair position, and will be fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant to help us safely meet the needs of everyone in the community.

In the beginning stages, the service will transport passengers between Orleans and Happy Camp several times a week. Once in Happy Camp, you can catch the Siskiyou Transit and General Express (STAGE) to Yreka, and from there coordinate timing with other connecting agencies to expand your travel options. Once in Orleans, you can catch the Yurok tribe transit to Weitchpec or you can continue your travels to Willow Creek, Ca where you then have to option to coordinate a ride with the Humboldt Transit Authority-North State Express: 299-East to Weaverville or 299-West to Eureka/Arcata.

This vital resource will allow many community members who are unable to drive the freedom to safely travel to more services and opportunities. As our program matures, we plan to expand our routes to offer direct travel to additional destinations. We anticipate this project will be river road ready by August 2026.

I have recently applied for the California Air Resources

Board – Community Air Grant. If awarded, this grant will give us the ability to expand our knowledge, plan for future needs, and support long term sustainability that will strengthen our goals.

As planning continues, and with the collaboration of Orleans Elementary School, National Indian Education Association (NIEA), and the Schatz Energy Research Center (Arcata, CA), we will be holding important community meetings to gather insight and input from all of you. So please—when you see us hosting a meeting—grab a friend, relative, or neighbor and stop by. There may even be a small incentive for showing up and participating, so be sure to get involved. The future of our transit system needs your voices and ideas.

If you are interested in potentially becoming a transit van driver for KDOT, please keep an eye out for the job posting that will be coming soon to our website under employment-open positions.



Khristeena Fears

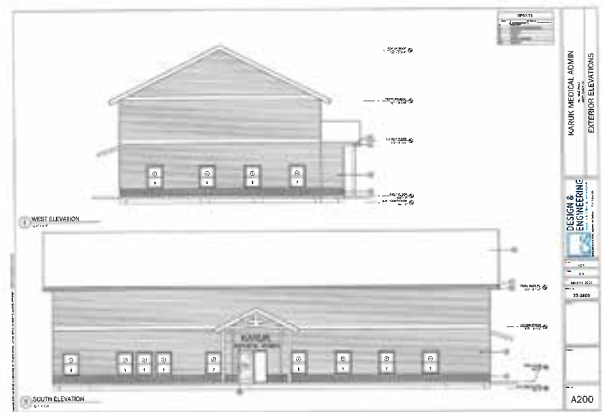
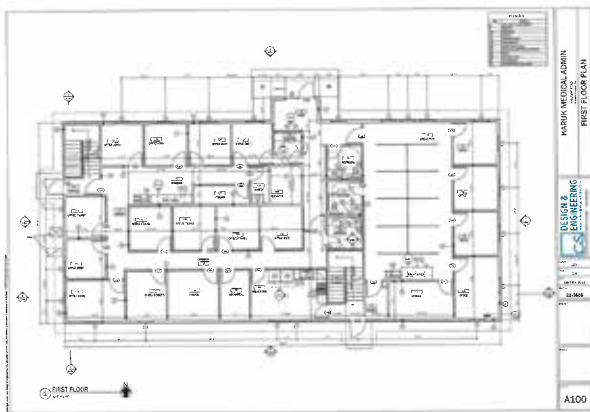
Karuk Tribe's New Medical Administration Building, Happy Camp, California

The Karuk Tribe has taken an exciting step toward streamlining healthcare services for its community with the commencement of construction on a new 4,600-square-foot medical administration building. This modern facility, scheduled for completion in late fall 2026, marks a significant milestone in the Tribe's ongoing commitment to improving access and efficiency for its members.

For years, the Karuk Tribe's medical administration employees have worked from multiple buildings, which sometimes complicated communication and coordination. The new building will bring all medical administration staff under one roof, fostering greater collaboration and ensuring that administrative operations are more cohesive and responsive to the needs of the community.

Strategically situated on Hillside Road, the new administration building is part of a growing healthcare compound that already includes a new medical clinic, a dental clinic constructed in 2024, and behavioral health facilities constructed in 2018. This centralized location will simplify the patient experience, as community members will no longer need to travel between different compounds to manage their healthcare needs. All essential services and administrative support will now be conveniently located in one area, making healthcare access faster and more efficient.

The Karuk Tribe's investment in this new facility shows its dedication to comprehensive, culturally sensitive healthcare. By consolidating services and staff, the Tribe aims to provide a seamless experience for patients while supporting the professionals who deliver essential medical services.



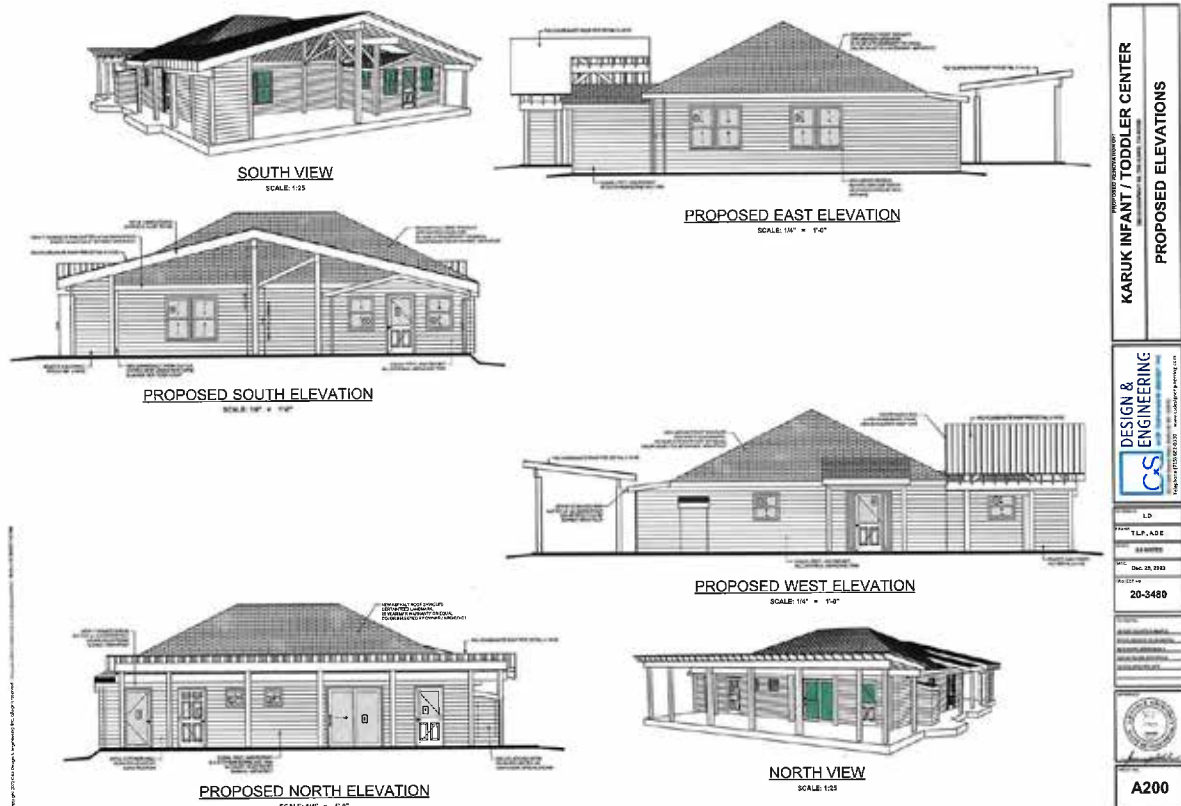
Orleans Infant/ Toddler Center

The Karuk Tribe is making a significant investment in the future of its youngest members by renovating an existing residential building into a state-of-the-art Infant/Toddler Center in Orleans, California. This new facility is strategically located in the center of the Orleans community, right next to the Elementary School and the Orleans Head Start, creating a vibrant hub of early childhood education and care.

The construction is being carried out by Pacific Integrated, a 100% Karuk Tribal owned construction company. Their involvement ensures that the project not only serves the community's needs but also supports tribally owned businesses.

For years, families in Orleans have struggled with a lack of child care options: This has often made it difficult for both parents to pursue full-time employment, putting economic strain on households. The new Infant/Toddler Center aims to change that reality. By providing reliable, high-quality care for infants and toddlers, the center will open up new opportunities for families, empowering them to become two-parent working homes if they choose.

The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2026, and excitement is building throughout the community. The center will not only address a long-standing need, but it will also strengthen the community of Orleans by supporting families, creating jobs, and fostering a positive environment for the next generation of Orleans children.



Karuk Tribe's New Head Start Facility in Yreka, California

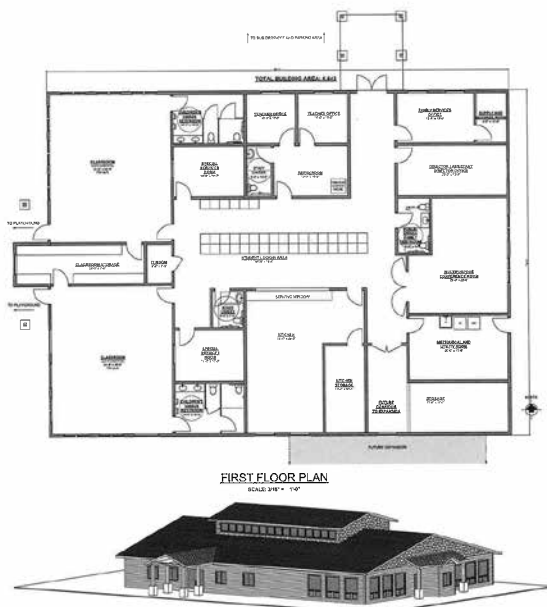
The Karuk Tribe is celebrating a major advancement for early childhood education in Siskiyou County, having secured critical funding through the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program to build a brand new, state-of-the-art Head Start facility in Yreka, California. This project will replace the current undersized building, which has long required staff to split their days into two separate sessions to meet the needs of local families.

The new 6,500-square-foot facility will be located on Ap-suun Road, adjacent to the Karuk Tribe Housing Authority administration building. This location was thoughtfully chosen for its accessibility, centrality, and proximity to vital tribal resources.

The existing Head Start center in Yreka is no longer able

to accommodate the growing enrollment and evolving educational needs of the community. As a result, the dedicated Head Start staff has been operating two sessions each day, striving to provide quality early education in a space that simply cannot meet demand. The new facility will eliminate this barrier, allowing all eligible children to attend together in a safe, modern environment designed for learning and cultural enrichment.

Funding for the project comes from the ICDBG program, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This federal funding is specifically aimed at supporting infrastructure and community development in Native communities, and for the Karuk Tribe, it marks a significant investment in the future of their youngest members.



The Karuk Tribe's construction team has already selected a design and engineering firm for the project after a thorough review process. The contract for these services is scheduled for approval at the next Tribal Council meeting, a crucial step before ground can be broken and construction officially begins.

Once completed, the expanded Yreka Head Start facility will provide a welcoming, culturally relevant learning space where children can thrive, and families can connect. The project exemplifies the Karuk Tribe's ongoing dedication to educational excellence, community wellbeing, and the preservation of Karuk heritage for generations to come.

Karuk Tribe's Skyline Workforce Housing Development

In a significant step toward addressing the ongoing housing crisis in Happy Camp, the Karuk Tribe has initiated a project to construct eight new homes, aiming to support workforce development and help the community retain essential employees.

Happy Camp, nestled in rural western Siskiyou County, has long faced a critical shortage of affordable housing. This scarcity has made it difficult for local employers, ranging from schools to healthcare providers and administrative staff, to recruit and retain employees in the area. The lack of housing options often forces workers to seek employment elsewhere, undermining the economic stability and growth of the community.

Recognizing the urgent need for solutions, the Karuk Tribe has taken proactive steps to address the issue. The construction of eight new homes is the first phase of a broader initiative to increase local housing stock. These homes will provide affordable, quality living spaces for employees who want to contribute to the

community but have struggled to find suitable accommodations.

"Housing is one of the biggest barriers to economic development in Happy Camp. "By building these homes, we're not just supporting tribal members, but the entire community. It's an investment in the future of Happy Camp."

The Karuk Tribe's goal is to build even more homes in the near future, creating a sustainable pipeline of housing that supports workforce growth and community resilience.

Residents and employers have welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that improved housing options will help stabilize the workforce, boost local businesses, and enhance the quality of life in Happy Camp.

As the eight new homes are at 40% completion, the Karuk Tribe continues to advocate for more resources to further address housing needs. Their efforts exemplify a community-driven approach to solving one of rural California's most pressing challenges.

Construction Updates ---



Skyline Workforce Development Progress as of March 1st 2025



Skyline Workforce Development Progress as of March 1st 2025



Skyline Workforce Development Progress as of March 1st 2025



Skyline Workforce Development Progress as of March 1st 2025



Skyline Workforce Development Progress as of March 1st 2025

Updates with Karuk Land Management

Ayukii,

The Karuk Land Management Department has been working on several exciting projects this past year.

We facilitated the purchase of multiple properties expanding tribal ownership. Recently, the Tribe acquired a new building for the Karuk Department of Natural Resources in Yreka. This 3,000 square foot office space also comes with 3 apartments that will be utilized as workforce housing. This expansion of Karuk Department of Natural Resources employment in Yreka opens the opportunity for the Tribe to further engage in natural resource work along the upper Klamath River.

Currently, we are in escrow for a 25,000 square foot commercial building that will enable multiple departments to expand their services that assist tribal membership and the community. This would be another great opportunity for tribally owned business to bid on the renovation contracts when the time comes.

We also purchased several other properties that will be utilized for workforce housing. This allows the Tribe to recruit employees that serve in essential positions. As the Tribe and its departments expand, we are constantly seeking qualified employees to further our goals and developments.

We are happy to announce the occupancy of the new Department of Public Works building in Yreka. This building offers ample work space for the Department of Transportation, the Lands Department, Maintenance, and Emergency Services. The future development of this property will include essential training opportunities for

employees helping to better serve the entities of the Karuk Tribe and its membership.

The Lands Department has been working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on our environmental site assessments that are necessary for the Fee to Trust application process. Having the Lands Department certified in this field and assisting with the assessments, has expedited our trust application time frame thereby saving the Tribe thousands of dollars.

At this time, we are finalizing the Agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the co-management of an ecological reserve in Happy Camp. This will grant the Tribe the ability to seek funding for restoration efforts on nearly 240 acres of land in Karuk aboriginal territory.

The Lands Department is excited to get the Yreka Community Garden ready for another growing season. Last year the garden produced between 250-500 pounds of fresh vegetables weekly for the community. We distributed these vegetables to multiple locations for membership and employees to pick up. We will be working with the Elders Program on a home distribution system for elders in the Yreka and Happy Camp areas. We would appreciate your feedback on the garden before the season begins. We are getting ready to place our order for plant starts and would love your input on what you would like to see grown this year!

We are always looking for volunteers to help in the garden. Please reach out to the Lands Department if you would like to come participate in helping feed the community fresh healthy vegetables.



Yreka Garden



Garden Produce

Creating Healthy, Active, and Connected Communities



Florrine Super, Wellness Program Director

Across Yreka, Happy Camp, and Orleans, Wellness Center programs continue to provide meaningful opportunities for youth, families, and elders to stay active, connected, and engaged. The **After-School Program, Teen Nights, and sports activities** create safe and positive spaces where youth can build friendships, develop skills, and stay active throughout the year. **Gentle Fitness classes** support community wellness by providing accessible opportunities for regular physical activity.

Cultural programs including **Karuk language, basket weaving, regalia making, and beading** bring community members together to share knowledge and strengthen cultural traditions. In Happy Camp and Orleans, programs include **tutoring support, open gym, cultural classes, preschool activities, and community activity days**, giving families welcoming spaces to learn, create, and connect.

Together, these programs continue to grow participation and create positive experiences that strengthen our communities.

Florrine Super, Wellness Director



KWC during snow.



Basketweavers Jarrod Lincoln



Carol Thom



Ivan Super & Irma Amaro



Faith Goodwin

For Immediate Release

Karuk Tribe Proud to Sponsor Assemblymember Damon Connolly's Beneficial Fire Capacity Act (AB 1891) Karuk Ancestral Territory, California —

The Karuk Tribe proudly announces its sponsorship of Assemblymember Damon Connolly's **Beneficial Fire Capacity Act (AB 1891)**, landmark legislation designed to expand California's capacity to implement prescribed fire and cultural burning as essential tools for forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and climate resilience.

As sponsor of AB 1891, the Karuk Tribe brings generations of lived experience and Indigenous knowledge to the forefront of state wildfire policy. For thousands of years, Karuk people have stewarded lands along the Klamath River through cultural burning practices that enhance biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and sustain culturally significant resources. The Tribe's leadership in advancing beneficial fire policy reflects a long-standing commitment to restoring balance to fire-adapted landscapes.

"Fire is medicine, and it is central to who we are as Karuk people," said Karuk Tribal Chairperson Russell "Buster" Attebery. "By sponsoring AB 1891, we are working to ensure that California invests in the workforce, training, and capacity building necessary to bring good fire back to the land. This bill recognizes that proactive stewardship — including cultural burning led by Tribal practitioners — is key to protecting our communities and ecosystems."

The Beneficial Fire Capacity Act seeks to strengthen and expand California's beneficial fire workforce to enable the increases in pace and scale needed to reach California's ambitious goals as set out in the 2024 Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets report. The Act does so by dedicating 10% of CALFIRE's annual greenhouse gas reduction fund (GGRF) wildfire resilience allocation to support and grow tribal and community-based beneficial fire

organizations' programmatic capacity and training offerings, as well as by creating a competitive grant program to support training, research, innovation, and new organizational capacity building. As catastrophic wildfires grow in frequency and intensity due to climate change and a legacy of fire suppression, expanding the safe and effective use of intentional fire is both urgent and necessary.

Recognizing that Tribes have been burning to manage California landscapes for millennia, the Karuk Tribe emphasizes that Tribal sovereignty and Indigenous knowledge must remain central to the implementation of AB 1891, and applauds Assemblymember Damon Connolly for creating a 25% tribal set-aside in this bill. Supporting cultural fire practitioners and fostering

Tribal-state partnerships are critical components of building long-term fire resilience across California.

"Beneficial fire has been a proven practice utilized by California's first peoples for thousands of years," said Assemblymember Connolly. "It is an honor to stand with the Karuk Tribe and the Watershed Research and Training Center to introduce AB 1891 to dedicate grant funding to beneficial fire practitioners. The evidence is clear, beneficial fire projects help our ecosystems foster biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, and preserves natural habitats and forests. It is time we expand these practices and give California another tool to help make our state more resilient to wildfires and natural disasters."

The Tribe thanks Assemblymember Connolly for his leadership and collaboration in advancing this important legislation and urges policymakers to support AB 1891. Through shared commitment and meaningful partnership, California can restore healthy fire regimes, reduce wildfire risk, and honor the Indigenous stewardship traditions that have sustained these lands since time immemorial.

Honoring & Remembering

Steven Gregory Martin Sr., 73, of Orleans, passed in his home where he wanted to be, on the morning of February 24, 2025.

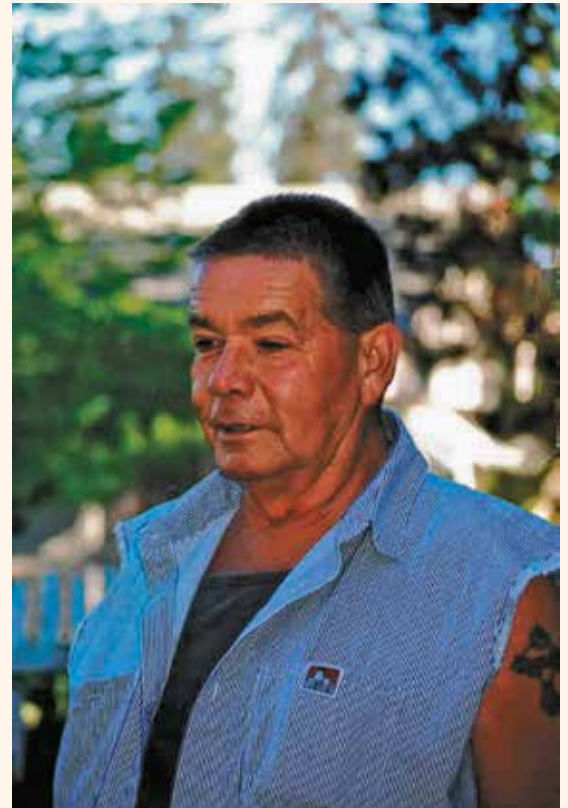
Steve was adopted and raised in Orleans, by Virgil and Francis Martin. A Karuk tribal member, Steve sat on the Karuk Tribes Housing Authority many years ago. He enjoyed life outdoors when he was younger, and worked for many years as a logger. Then as manager at Orleans Market for a time, before becoming owner/operator of "Steve Martin Trucking".

Nice cars/trucks, good music, family and friends, camping and hunting were what made him happiest. You could always count on a good amount of sarcasm from him, but he was honestly one of the most knowledgeable people around.

Steve was preceded in death by both his parents, Virgil and Francis Martin, sister Adrienne "bubbles", son Virgil Ka mis Martin and grandson Donald "Trooper" Olson. He is survived by His ex-wife but best friend Charlene Naef; siblings, Gilberta "Birdy" Whipple (Andy), Leo Chase (Lynda) and Patricia Kozma. Children; Angel Morton, Steve "Jr" Martin (Sarah) and Sheena Martin (Donald). Grandchildren; Travis Whittaker, Brigette Whittaker, Francis Morton, Stevi Morton, Ish-Kaysh Tripp, Pakuni Martin, Nae Rew Martin, Steven Martin III, Taia Peterson, Virgil (Duece) Martin, Ikpihan Martin, and numerous great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

At his request, no services have been or will be held.

May your eyes be clear to hunt, your body be free of pain so you can chase 'em, and your bright eyes and smile return now that you're on the other side. We love you daddy.



Steven Gregory Martin Sr.



Karuk Tribe

Post Office Box 1016
Happy Camp, CA 96039-1016

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