

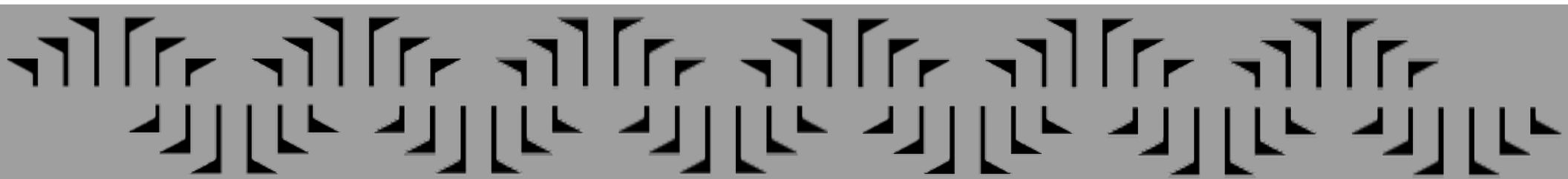


# Yurok Today

The Voice of the Yurok People

## Tribe to build justice center

SEE STORY ON PAGE 2



# New court facility will better serve tribe

The Yurok Tribal Court has grown from community-generated idea to a fully functioning traditional legal system created for a single purpose: making Yurok tribal members in crisis whole.

The Court has expanded faster than the Tribe has had time to find funding for and build infrastructure to house its many facets, which include: a chief judge, a prosecutor’s office, probation officer, Wellness Court, Family Court, a self-help program, mediation services, court advocates and administrators.

The Tribal Court has never had a permanent courtroom to adjudicate cases in a culturally appropriate way.

That’s all soon to change.

The Tribal Court recently obtained a \$1 million grant to build a Single Jurisdiction Correctional Alternative Multipurpose Justice Center. The 3,500 square-foot facility will accomodate all tribal court programs and be used to serve tribal members willing to engage in personal or family rehabilitative efforts, including mediation, reunification, drug rehabilitation, case management, treatment planning and referrals.

“We will be able to provide a much better service to the tribal membership if we are all in one place,” Chief Judge Abby Abinanti said. “It is our hope that this new facility becomes a beacon of hope for tribal members in crisis.”

Currently, the Tribal Court has limited sessions because its courtroom is located in a shared, unsecured space. The lack of

appropriate space has caused a backlog of cases. Participants in the court have to wait in the lobby of the Klamath tribal office, which provides no privacy or safety. Tribal justice staff operates out of cramped quarters spread out in different buildings and cities. The Tribe has the right to arrest, but has no holding facility. Other agencies (non-tribal) do not appropriately investigate or report offenses due to a shortfall of resources and lack of concern. The reservation’s remoteness and rugged terrain compounds the problems of inaccessibility.

The Tribe worked closely with community stakeholder groups to develop the plan for the new Justice Center and how it will serve those who need it most.

“Our traditional justice system is one of the greatest expressions of our sovereignty,” said Chief Judge Abinanti. “The facility will be uniquely Yurok and support the philosophy of the people.”

The Yurok Tribal Court is built on the traditional moral principle of restorative justice. The traditional cultural value creates a productive space for individuals, who have committed injustices to pay restitution for their crimes, rehabilitate and be restored to their rightful place within the Tribal Community.

The Single Jurisdiction Correctional Alternative Multipurpose Justice Center will be a place where the Tribe’s Court, Public Safety, prosecutor, social workers and partner agencies can

**“WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A MUCH BETTER SERVICE TO THE TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP.”**

**ABBY ABINANTI • CHIEF JUDGE OF THE YUROK TRIBE**

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A conceptual design of the Single Jurisdiction Correctional Alternative Multipurpose Justice Center created by the Worth Group.

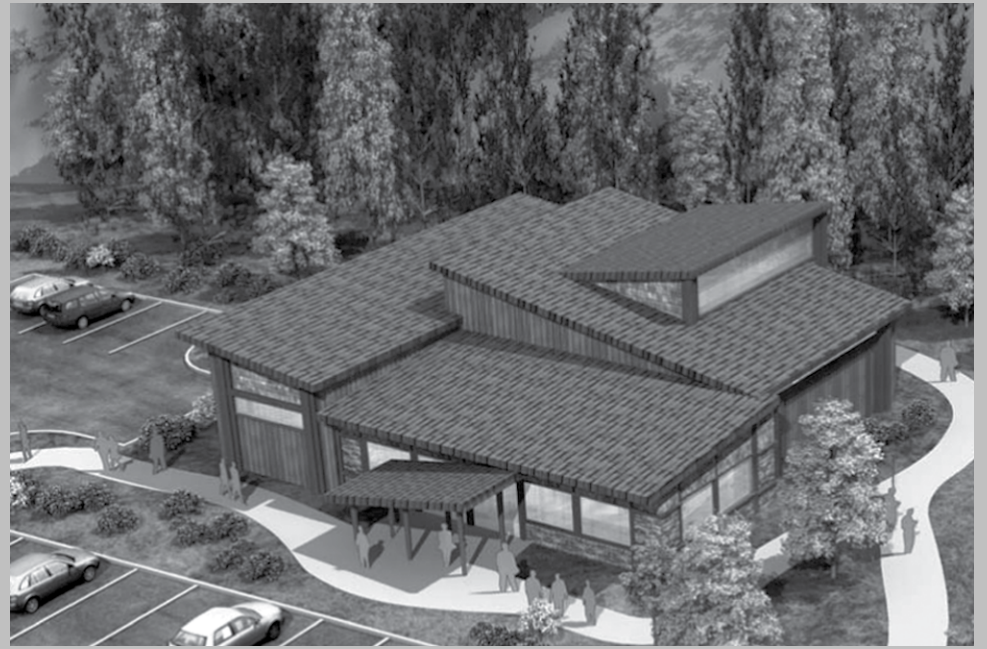
work collaboratively on the rehabilitation, reunification and reintegration of tribal members who have entered the tribal justice system.

**The new facility will also serve as the following:**

- A place for the Tribe to effectively exercise full legal authority over civil, family, wellness, and fishing court proceedings
- Provide a facility that creates a space for court proceedings and services that reduce incarceration of tribal members
- Promote a justice environment that increases respect for the justice system and supports de-escalation of problem situations and de-harmonizing behavior that disrupts the community
- Provide appropriate atmosphere for interventions aligned with the cultural & spiritual needs of members and families who are involved in the tribal justice system
- Provide facility space to allow for concurrent jurisdiction over offenses, in the prosecutorial, dispositional and the supervision phases

The Multipurpose Justice Center will include a courtroom, holding cell, judge’s chambers, court clerk, mediation, visitation, jury rooms, a multi-purpose room, confidential drug testing space, self-help office, waiting area and office space for attorneys, tribal mediators, advocates and Wellness Court staff. The holding cell will be used for in-custody offenders who are appearing for hearings or waiting for transportation to a county facility or for Wellness Court participants needing time-out for a short (less than a 24 hour) time span. The state-of-the-art facility will be located on trust land near Yurok tribal headquarters in Klamath. The aesthetic of the facility will also reflect Yurok culture. The Yurok Planning and Community Department, which will be overseeing the construction of the project in conjunction with the Tribe’s Culture Committee, has extensive experience in developing physical environments that reflect Yurok philosophy and cultural prerogatives.

Programs provided in the facility will offer viable alternatives to members seeking culturally appropriate judicial alternatives that promote peace, harmony, and protection of the individual human rights among our members and among others who may come within the jurisdiction of our tribal government.



A conceptual drawing of the new court facility from the top view.

A community meeting will be scheduled with the Tribal Council, Advisory Board and the community meeting to review and finalize project plans. The project will be defined in significant part by guidance from the Yurok Tribal Justice Advisory Board. ✨

## YEDC forming new board

The Yurok Economic Development Corporation is accepting applications to fill four open seats on its new governing board.

The new board of directors is part of the evolution of the YEDC. Potential board members should have significant experience in business-related fields including, but not limited to the following: real estate, restaurant proprietorship, and/or in the financial industry. In addition to business knowledge, applicants must also have an understanding of current YEDC economic enterprises.

“We are looking forward to working with the new board and plan to capitalize on the expertise each new member brings to the table,” said YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey, who is a Yurok tribal member.

The mission of the YEDC is “To build diversified, sustainable economies by creating new business ownership and employment opportunities for the Yurok People.”

Board membership is not a paid position, however some compensation may be available for costs incurred conducting YEDC business.

Please turn in a resume and contact information to the Yurok Economic Development Corporation by January 1, 2013 to be considered for a board seat. New board member inquiries should be sent to YEDC Director Tanya Sangrey via email [tsangrey@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:tsangrey@yuroktribe.nsn.us) or in-person at YEDC headquarters, located at 144 Klamath Blvd, Klamath, CA. Sangrey can be reached by phone at (707) 482-0657.

# Court secures funding for program

The Wellness Program has helped dozens of tribal members find sobriety

The Yurok Wellness Court will be holding its second Community Honoring and Wellness Gathering on Thursday December, 13, 2012 to celebrate the 11 current tribal members who have committed to abstaining from drugs and alcohol.

“We encourage everyone to come out and support these brave tribal members who have made the choice to turn their lives around,” said Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti.

The community wellness event will take place at Yurok Tribal Headquarters from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. Dinner will be provided. To donate a dessert, contact Tribal Court Administrator Jennifer Burgess at (707) 482-1350.

The Yurok Tribe’s fast growing Wellness Court has become a vital health service for Yurok people looking to leave a life of substance abuse. The Court’s holistic, non-adversarial approach has helped upwards of 50 tribal members achieve and maintain sobriety using a wide array of traditional healing tools.

The Tribal Court recently received a Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation grant from the United States Department of Justice to serve 60 Wellness Court participants in various stages of treatment and recovery.

The Wellness Court employs a community-driven, multidisciplinary approach to running its rehabilitation program. The \$491,482 grant will help the Court foster its collaborative coalition of professionals, ranging from the Yurok Tribal Council to United Indian Health Services and the Yurok Department of Public Safety to the Social Services Department and many others.

The CTAS grant will enable the Wellness Court to retain key employees charged with creating and implementing individual case plans for Court participants.

The CTAS funding will also be used to complete the



(left) Ron Bates Jr., Alicia Bates and Herman Quinn are graduates of the Yurok Tribe’s Wellness Program.

following: assess and screen candidates, perform clinical assessments, create treatment service agreements, help participants navigate the justice system, monitor program success, create contracts with residential treatment centers, purchase drug testing kits, provide outreach materials and host community forums like the Community Honoring and Wellness Gathering. The grant will help improve community safety and increase wellness.

Over the past year the Court’s participants have achieved an inspiring success rate. At the time the grant was written, of the 45 entrants, 14 had graduated the year-long Wellness Program. Seventy-nine percent of the graduates were assessed as “high risk” when they first entered the program. None of the people who completed all program requirements have since been arrested or have been involved in the family welfare system. Two graduates relapsed, however, they self-reported and

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**THE WELLNESS COURT EMPLOYS A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO RUNNING ITS REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**

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were able to return to sobriety with the assistance from the Court's supportive service providers. The results of the Yurok-specific rehabilitation program are far better than most other treatment programs. Prior to the formation of the Wellness Court, there were no culturally-appropriate treatment options for Yurok offenders navigating the State justice system.

Each participant in the program is offered an individualized treatment plan based on their initial assessment. The program is set up with a four-phased graduated approach that includes: Establishment (1 month), Treatment (3 - 6 months), Stabilization (3 - 6 months), and Maintenance (3 months). The Wellness Court currently has five contracts with treatment facilities to readily provide residential, outpatient, and transitional living services. These facilities are designed to meet the varying dynamics of each participant including those: entering treatment with their child, needing native specific treatment, meeting requirements to stay within county boundaries or requiring out-of-the-area services.

To be eligible for the Wellness Program, tribal members must be 18 or older and have current substance abuse-related charges in Humboldt County, Del Norte County and/or Yurok Tribal Court. Candidates cannot have any recent violent or sexual criminal offenses. The Program accepts participants from several referral sources outside and inside the Yurok Reservation. The tribal prosecutor, Judge and court advocate work with local county officials of Humboldt/Del Norte Counties to exercise concurrent jurisdiction whenever possible and defer Yurok tribal members into the program. The Tribe currently has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Del Norte County where eligible Yurok Offenders are screened and deferred into the Wellness Program. Internal referral sources include the prosecutor, social workers, and police. For dependency cases, applicants must have a current child welfare case as a direct result of substance abuse. The program length is a minimum of 12 months, but can be extended/shortened based on individual need, availability of services, and recommendation from the Wellness Court Team.

The Team includes the Chief Judge, Tribal Prosecutor, Coordinator, Court Advocate, Probation Officer, Social Workers and other relevant agencies. At the Judge's discretion, tribal



Yurok Chief Judge Abby Abinanti makes a speech at the first annual Wellness Gathering.

elders/cultural representatives are appointed on a case-by-case basis. The Team acts as senior members of the extended family, ushering each participant back to harmony. Case plans include services such as inpatient/outpatient, sober living, recovery/support groups, and AA/NA meetings. The YWC currently has five contracts with treatment facilities to readily provide residential, outpatient, and transitional living services for Wellness clients.

The Yurok Wellness Court was founded in 2010 on the traditional moral principle of restorative justice. The overall goal of restorative justice is to offer tribal members in crisis the means to rehabilitate and reengage in a positive fashion within their community.

The Wellness Court is designed to help individuals address the root causes of addiction.

"Alcohol and drug dependence are typically symptoms of bigger problems, relating to traumatic incidents such as, trauma, child abuse, domestic violence or intergenerational trauma," Chief Judge, Abby Abinanti.

The Court's governing board, the Justice Advisory Board is comprised of members of the Court, Prosecutor, Social Services, Police, Education, Community Development, Council and community members. ✨

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**THE RESULTS OF THE YUROK-SPECIFIC REHABILITATION PROGRAM ARE FAR BETTER THAN MOST OTHER TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

# 2012 FALL FEASTS

## WEITCHEPEC, KLAMATH



Public Safety Officer Brian Donahue



Monique Sonoquie and Richard Myers



Trey Soder and his mother Lori Nesbitt



Tristin Severns and Veronica Amaya



Star Gibbens, Joe Nix and their son Joe

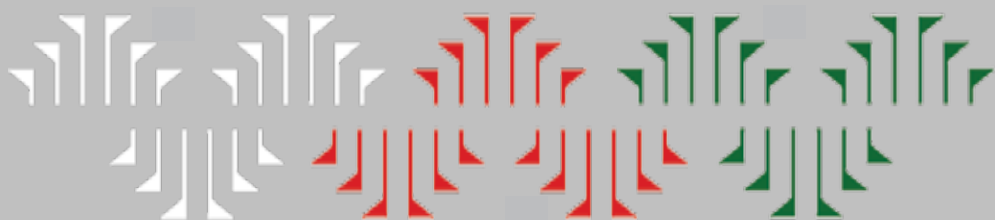


North Dist. Rep Jack Mattz, Sandra Mattz and (front) Haylee Van Osdol

The Yurok Tribe's Social Service Program's Fall Feasts were a hit in both Weitchpec and Klamath. More than 400 tribal members, friends and families attended the second annual autumn celebration.

Social Service Department Staff put out an amazing spread of turkey, hams, deer meat stew and all the fixings, not to mention numerous delicious desserts.

At the feasts, program managers informed attendees of new services, as well as provided free professional portraits for all who wanted them.



# Council establishes hunting law

New ordinance will help tribe rebuild deer and elk populations, fix habitat

The discerning eyes of hunters can have a broad and positive impact on the Reservation's populations of large game.

"Hunters can provide some of the best data on the health of large game populations," said Yurok Senior Wildlife Biologist, Chris West. "Regularly, hunters are in the field intimately interacting with the environment. Even information on how successful or unsuccessful they are when hunting can provide critical information on animal health and population ups and downs."

The Yurok Tribal Council recently passed the Big Game Hunt Ordinance to help capture the vast amount of useful information hunters' possess. The data will be used to make natural resource management decisions aimed at restoring big game populations and habitat. The understanding that decreasing game populations will impact the Yurok tribal membership in their ability to sustainably provide food for subsistence and materials for cultural use motivated the Tribal Council to pass the mandate. The purpose of the ordinance is "to gather data regarding harvest of big game on the Reservation...particularly (to be used) as a tool for understanding big game populations...on the Reservation," the new law states.

Shortly after European contact, big game numbers dropped drastically as unscrupulous hunters and trappers pillaged the resource without regard for future generations. Large swaths of forests were cut at unsustainable rates and toxic pesticides were used liberally for years in places where deer forage. Also, and likely just as consequential, traditional burning practices were prohibited. Prior to contact, thousands of deer could be viewed in herds on the fire-maintained, oak-studded hill tops.

For the past few years, hunters on the Yurok Reservation



James Gensaw Sr. harvested this very nice four-point buck.

have noticed another sharp decline in the blacktail deer population. Wildlife biologists largely attribute the downturn to habitat loss caused by unchecked clear cutting in the 80s and 90s and overhunting.

"It's obvious that deer numbers plummeted after European contact. However, due mostly to habitat loss and the bureaucratic road blocks hampering a traditional burn program, the deer population is currently taking another hit," said Yurok hunter and Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, Bob McConnell. "We encourage hunters to report their harvest. This baseline information will greatly help the Tribe make natural resource-based decisions to ensure our children and grandchildren have ample animals to hunt. We can have a thriving deer population on the Reservation, but it will take the re-introduction of fire to

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**“HUNTERS ARE IN THE FIELD INTIMATELY INTERACTING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.”**

**CHRIS WEST • SENIOR WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST**



the landscape and the education of the Tribal public as to the proper harvest methods that will insure population growth.”

The ordinance applies to deer, elk, bear, mountain lion and feral pig. The new statute acknowledges that bear is not a “traditionally hunted resource”, but the animals are sometimes killed to protect life and property.

### Here’s how the Ordinance works.

Prior to pursuing large game, hunters are now obligated to obtain a Harvest Reporting form from the Klamath or Weitchpec offices or download it from the Wildlife Programs web page <http://www.yuroktribe.org/wildlifeprogram.htm>. The form includes spaces for information such as: date taken, name and age of hunter, Yurok Reservation Hunt Zone (see map), location, species, gender and antler points on the animal if applicable.

The harvest report must be completed before leaving the field dressing site and submitted to the Wildlife Program within one week of taking the animal. The forms can be mailed to the Wildlife Program at P.O. Box 1027 Klamath, Ca 95548 or dropped off in-person at either the Klamath or Weitchpec administrative office. The information can also be phoned in to the Wildlife Program at 707-482-1822 extension 1028.

This new ordinance gives big game hunters the opportunity to engage in Yurok natural resources management decisions that will ultimately preserve the subsistence harvest of big game for future generations. The Yurok Wildlife Program will analyze the data and a report of the findings will be made available to the tribal membership on an annual basis.

A violation of the ordinance is punishable by fine in addition to any other specific sanction. The Yurok Tribe’s Department of Public Safety will be enforcing the ordinance and those suspected of violating the statute will be cited into Yurok Tribal Court. ✘

## O’Rourke wins 2nd term



Chairman Thomas P. O’Rourke Sr. was sworn in to a second term as Chairman of the Yurok Tribe. He stands with his wife, Sherry, following the ceremony.

## Q and A with Yurok Department of Public Safety Sgt. Thorin McCovey, the Yurok Tribe’s “Employee of the Month”.



1. **What is your title?** Sergeant
2. **How long have you been working for the Tribe?**  
Since 2002
3. **What is the most satisfying part of your job?**  
It’s hard to say
4. **How does your position serve the tribal membership?**  
The tribal police department is responsible for the Yurok reservation and everyone on it.
5. **What do you do outside of work?**  
Spend time with my family ✘

# Search endures for missing mother

The extensive search for a missing Yurok tribal member and mother of two is now entering its sixth month.

Katherine “Kathy” Gillham was last seen in Crescent City on June 11, 2012. Search and Rescue teams in both Del Norte and Humboldt County have searched several times for the missing 40-year-old in both counties. The California Highway Patrol flew its helicopter over the area where she was last seen. The Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office has made finding her a high priority and assigned a detective to the case. The Yurok Tribe has assembled a search team to find her as well. Gillham’s family hired private investigators, Cook and Associates, to locate her and is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to her return. The close-knit family has been trying to locate her from the moment it was clear something was awry.

“She has two kids, William and Holly,” said her niece Cynthia Bones. “Her kids are always at the top of her priority list. This is completely outside the realm of normal for Kathy.”

Gillham, who always kept in close contact with her family and has been in a relationship with Frank Lara Jr. for more than 20 years, left Grants Pass, OR just before 2 a.m. on June 11. She was taking her daughter, Holly, back to Rogue Community College.

“As soon as we found out she was missing our family got in the car and walked the road in sections from Crescent City to Big Lagoon to make sure she hadn’t gone over the edge somewhere,” said Bones, who misses her aunt intensely. “In most of the areas multiple people looked together. My mother Poppy, along with several of her friends from the biker community rode up and down the road all the way to Grants Pass, OR. With their help, missing person flyers have been put up across the nation.”

Gillham was driving a charcoal gray 2004 Mitsubishi Endeavor with the California license plate that reads 6UXE841. The investigation has so far turned up video footage of her, captured by security cameras at Elk Valley Casino around 3 a.m. on June 11, the last day she was seen, but not much else.

Katherine “Kathy” Gillham was last seen in Crescent City on June 11, 2012.



The make and model of Gillham’s SUV



“Unfortunately, we still have no answers. We need information,” Bones said. “Kathy is greatly missed by all of us.”

Gillham is an avid Klamath River gill net fisher and loves boat racing. She attends the dances every summer. Most of all she is committed to caring for her family.

The Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office considers Gillham a “high risk missing person” and her disappearance “suspicious” because of how out of character it is for her not to communicate her whereabouts to her family and the time of night she left Oregon.

“

**THIS IS COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE REALM OF NORMAL FOR KATHY.”**

**CYNTHIA BONES • KATHERINE GILLHAM’S NIECE**

Gillham suffers from diabetes, and may require medical attention.

Gillham has brown hair and brown eyes. She stands 5'4 and weighs nearly 200 pounds. A past knee surgery left her with a distinct limp. In the Elk Valley footage she was wearing black jeans, brown t-shirt with a deer on it and had a thin chain necklace around her neck. She has friends and family in Weitchpec and Hoopa, but has not contacted them, according to the private investigator.

**Anyone with information can call Humboldt County Detective Cheryl Franco at 707-268-3644 or Detective Rich Schlesiger at 707-268-3642 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at 707-268-2539. Anonymous information may be left on the Crime Tip line. Information can also be sent to Cook & Associates at (707)839-7422. ✧**



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All proceeds support the YMIC!

Thank you for your support.

For orders please contact the Legal Department at 707-482-1350



## Transportation Team a big hit in national tribal conference

The Yurok Tribe's Transportation/Road Maintenance Team made quite an impression at the 15th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference and it wasn't only for the 450 pieces of Klamath salmon they cooked on sticks.

"We went to the conference to learn the newest transportation planning strategies and highlight recently completed projects like Bald Hills and Requa Roads," said Isaac Kinney, a Yurok tribal member and Transportation Planner. "People were impressed with our ability to work collaboratively and creatively with other Tribes, state and county governments to maximize the production value for each dollar we spend."

The Transportation crew, which also includes Yurok tribal member Jeff Hodge, and is headed by Yurok tribal member Joe James, took the opportunity to learn in great detail the intricacies of the new \$105 billion federal roads budget. Map-21, which will be implemented in fiscal years 2013 and 2014, is the most recent road authorization since 2005.

MAP-21 will fund programs for new road construction, multi-modal transportation, and transit, all providing new opportunities for the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Transportation/Road Maintenance Team also showed off some of its heavy equipment skills at a contest for operators. Yurok tribal member Michael Dorgan took home first place for his command of maneuvering a loader. ✧

Michael Dorgan prepares a sand pit for 450 pieces of salmon.





# Yurok Tribe

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