

Klamath b-ball court gets fresh new look.

No one can soberly say putting a 9.5 inch diameter leather ball through an eighteen-inch wide circle hovering ten feet in the air is easier to accomplish under the influence of illegal drugs.

“Activity is prevention,” said Cole Cross, an Indian Child Welfare Advocate for the Yurok Tribe. “That’s why we decided to completely rehabilitate the basketball court in the Klamath town site.”

Several of the Tribe’s departments worked together to facilitate the much-needed renovations to the very well-received basketball court. .

The Yurok Social Services Department is responsible for the new plexi-glass backboards and rims and the fresh boundary lines. Social Services also installed a new fence around the court to make sure kids don’t have to run onto Klamath Blvd. to chase a loose ball.

The Maintenance Department set up the backboards, new rims and put the picnic tables and garbage cans in appropriate places. The Tribe’s Public Safety Department posted drug and alcohol prevention signs around the court and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority picked up the tab for the tables.

Since the improvements were made to the court, kids and adults have been balling it up every sunny day. Previously, the court had only one functional hoop, no lines and no fence. Now, it is a park like setting where community members can get down on the court or relax, eat some snacks from Pem-Mey and watch some pretty intense pick-up games. The court also compliments the Klamath River Early College’s need for a more diverse selection of physical education opportunities. The Early College is currently located in the Klamath town site.

“Our kids use the sharp new court every chance they get,” said the school’s Founding Director Geneva Wiki.

Cole Cross said this is the first of many new recreational opportunities that the Social Services Department plans to spearhead.

“I’d like to think this is the beginning of more projects aimed at getting kids active through recreation,” Cross said. “I think there needs to be more activities and recreational opportunities within our community.”



Yurok and Klamath River Early College Student James Rhodes dribbles down the new court at P.E..