

HPUL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER PRESENTS

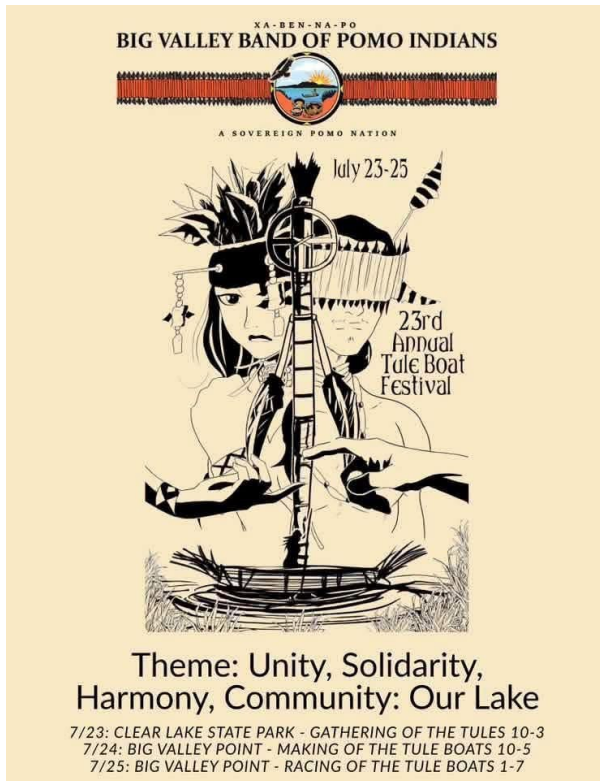
2026 TULE BOAT FESTIVAL



The Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Education Department participated in the 23rd Tule Boat Festival held on July 23, 24 & 25. This event is hosted annually by Big Valley Rancheria, on Mission Road in Lakeport, Ca. This event focuses on Pomo Culture and Tradition.

This year's theme was "Unity, Solidarity, Harmony, Community: Our Lake." To begin Day 1 of this event we circled for prayer and dance. Followed by prayer and dance we cut and gathered Tules from the lake.

We would like to thank Tribal Members, Rudy Brown and David Richter-Penn, as our Cultural Teachers for taking lead and passing down tradition, connecting our generations, and creating a sense of belonging for all!



Holding the HPUL Flag, back row, left to right, Matthew Smith, Jr. & David Richter-Penn; middle row, left to right, Molly Rahmer, James Penn, Candace Brown, Rudy Brown, Vincent Bechtol, Rudy L.P.W. Brown, Joy Marcks; bottom row, left to right, Presley Niko, Mason Krohn, Leo Brown, Lily Krohn, Jack Marcks, & Kaleb Penn.

Day 1: Cut, Collect, and Gather



This process involves cutters, gatherers, runners, and sorters. Together everyone must work as a team. The adults cut and supervised the teenagers with cutters in the water, often reaching below the water's surface. The Tules are then passed to the younger youth through the dense Tule bed. The youth then have to work as a team to carefully weave their way through the patch without bending the Tules. Next they hand the Tules off to the group that awaits them ashore. Finally the Tules are carefully sorted by the adults and elders who share their knowledge and stories throughout the process.



Pictured above, (left) Rudy Brown, & (right) David Richter-Penn Cultural Teachers both cutting Tules. Pictured below, Candace Brown directing the youth ashore.

Day 1: Cut, Collect, & Gather

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Front to Back: JACK MARCKS, BILLY BROWN, RUDY L.P.W. BROWN, & PRESLEY NIKO

RUDY L.P.W. BROWN

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JACK MARCKS

Left to Right: PRESLEY NIKO & BILLY BROWN

Day 2: Tying Knots, Sorting, & Bundling

Left to Right: KALEB PENN, RUDY L.P.W. BROWN, DAVID RICHTER-PENN, MATTHEW SMITH, JR., & JACK MARCKS



Left to Right: RUDY BROWN, MOLLY RAHMER, & RUDY L.P.W. BROWN

HPUL Tribal Members & Cultural Teachers Rudy Brown and David Richter-Penn, with the assistance of Joy Marcks, HPUL Education Director taught the youth how to knot the twine before securing and sorting the bundles. Once there are roughly 100 knots tied, the group can then begin to sort and bundle the Tules accordingly.

This process ensures the ends of the Tules are flush, the bundles are sized, and bent or broken Tules are removed. Finally, the bundles are weaved together and the transformation of the Tule boat begins!



Left to Right: MASON KROHN & DAVID RICHTER-PENN



Tying Knots & Bundling-Team Work & Patience



Pictured Above: Cultural Teachers Rudy Brown & David Richter-Penn instructing Kaleb Penn, James Penn & Jack Marcks the art of tying the Tules without cutting the bundles. Pictured bottom left to right are Mason Krohn, James Penn, & Lily Krohn observing the lesson. Pictured bottom right (left to right) are Molly Rahmer, Rudy L.P.W. Brown, Jack Marcks, Presley Niko, Rudy Brown & and Lily Krohn patiently waiting their turn to tie.

Passing On Tradition-Youth Teaching Youth



Passing On Tradition-Youth Teaching Youth



Youth continued to share their knowledge and teach one another, until all youth have had their turn to tie the bundles with the knotted twine. Once the bundles were tied, they are then checked by the Cultural Teachers before connecting the bundles.



Weaving the Bundles

After tying, sorting and bundling, Cultural Teachers inspected the bundles before beginning the weaving process with a stick they found from the surrounding area. The stick is then carved to push the twine in-between the bundles.

Rudy Brown and David Richter-Penn then taught the youth how to weave the bundles one at a time. The younger youth observed the older youth during the weaving process.

The Tule boat then began to take its formation!



Day 3: Race Day

On July 25, 2026, racers gathered at the point. All together, over 10 tribes participated in 11 races. Racer categories were divided by age, gender and teams. Racers representing HPUL were Leo Brown, Dyani Van Horn-Penn, Lily Krohn, Vincent Bechtol, Molly Rahmer, David Richter-Penn, Alyssa Jackson, Presley Niko, and Jessica Jackson.

Pictured left is first time racer Dyani Van Horn-Penn with her father David Richter. On your marks, get set, GO!



First Time Racer - Leo Brown!





Above-Racer Alyssa Jackson placing 2nd in the Women's Race!

Below-Racer Molly Rahmer giving it her all!





Returning Racer-Lily Krohn took 1st Place in the Girls age 9-12 race! **Way to go Lily!**





1st Time Racer-Vincent Bechtol takes 2nd place in the Boys age 9-12 race!



Above left, Jessica Jackson competes in the Elders Race while (above right) Joey Rahmer, competes in the Men's Race!

Pictured bottom left TEAM RELAY taking 2nd Place! Team Relay Racers from left to right David Richter-Penn, Alyssa Jackson, Lily Krohn and Presley Niko. Congratulations Team Relay!

Race Categories:

- ◇ 1 Boy/Girl Racer 6-8 years of age
- ◇ 1 Boy/Girl Racer 9-12 years of age
- ◇ 1 Boy/Girl Racer 13-17 years of age
- ◇ 1 Man/Woman Racer 18-54 years of age
- ◇ Senior Men/Women 55+ years of age
- ◇ TEAM RELAY: 1 Boy, 1 Girl, 1 Man, 1 Woman



On behalf of the HPUL Education Department, we would like to thank the adults “who made a difference,” Rudy Brown, Candace Brown, David Richter, Matthew Smith, Jr., Daniella Santana-Cazares, Abygale Alexander, and Michelle Page. We truly appreciate your dedication and commitment in assisting our youth during the 3 day Tule Boat Festival.

In addition, we would like to recognize youth participants Presley Niko, Molly Rahmer, Mason Krohn, James Penn, Kaleb Penn, Vincent Bechtol, Lily Krohn, Jack Marcks, and Rudy Brown for cutting, gathering, bundling and building our Tule Boats.

Over the course of the 3 days more than 50 HPUL Tribal Members attended, participated, and/or spectated this annual event.

Day 3, pictured above back row, left to right are William Marcks, David Richter-Penn, Molly Rahmer, James Penn, Trevyn Penn, Rudy Brown and Rudy L.P.W. Brown. Middle row, left to right are Presley Niko, Brittany Dennison, Melody Ables, Aiden Jackson-Penn, Joey Rahmer, Aimee Jackson-Penn, Lily Krohn, Mason Krohn, and Ethan Bechtol. Front row, left to right are Joy Marcks, Billy Brown, Kaleb Penn, Vincent Bechtol, Leo Brown, Kaezlee Van-Horn Penn, Emree Krohn, Wrenlee Krohn, Dyani Vanhorn-Penn, Alyssa Jackson, Serenity Ables, and Ryan Brown.



Tule boats, were built and used by the Pomo people along Clear Lake. Traditionally, these boats were canoe shaped and were used for transporting, gathering and fishing. The Tule Boat Festival is hosted annually by Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians in the summer month of July. All are always welcome to attend!