

February 14, 2014

Pit River Health Looks To The Future.

Pit River Indian Nation Builds New Clinic.

February 14, 2014, Burney, California.

Photo (for Article):The names left to right:



Donna Cawker, Wayne Gibbs, Leah Hursey, Destiny Tavares (staff), Bill George.

"Today is such a beautiful day!"

-Vernon Rhodes

Pit River Health Board looking to the future. There, they see a New Health Clinic on the Pit River Indian Reservation.

(Photo by Roberto Dansie, Executive Director Pit River Health Services)

Vernon Rhodes steps across the forest in the mist of falling branches, rocks, water and snow. At seventy-one years old with a lifetime of hard work behind him, nothing was going to stop him from the task at hand this day. He was consecrating ancestral land to build a new Pit River Health Service. There will be a clinic, a wellness center, and recovery center for the new generation of his Pit River Tribe. Vernon spoke some words in his Achumawi Pit River language, words vibrating with good medicine. He grew quiet, and looked off in the distance, I got the sense that he was seeing something there. "That is where the kids will play" he said pointing with his chin "and over here" he said pointing with his forehead to the right "is where the dialysis center is going to be." He explained how some elders struggle to walk. The dialysis center was to be the first building and the most accessible. "And way over there" he said moving his eyebrows up and down as he leaned his head towards the left "that is where the gym is going to be". Vernon could see it all, filled with excitement. "Today is such a beautiful day" he said and he was right. It was an incredibly beautiful day: The Tribal Council had just donated the land to build the health and wellness facilities that the people needed. With the hard work and vision of the health board, the tribe and the community, the future Pit River Nation will find themselves

with much needed resources for their health and wellbeing. Their leaders have found the courage and the wisdom to be good ancestors. It is a good day on the reservation.

Article by

Roberto Dansie, Executive Director Pit River Health Service

Previous articles in Indian Country Today:

Roberto Dansie, " A Life's Service To Children".

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