

10-21-2016

Affidavit of C. Matheson

Cajetan Matheson
Coeur d'Alene Tribal Member

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Attorneys for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe

DISTRICT COURT - CSRBA
Fifth Judicial District
County of Twin Falls - State of Idaho

OCT 21 2016

By _____

Clerk
Deputy Clerk

In Re CSRBA) SUBCASE 91-7755 (and consolidated subcases)
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)
 Case No. 49576) AFFIDAVIT OF CAJETAN MATHESON
)
)
)

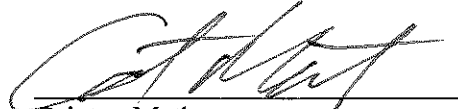
AFFIDAVIT OF CAJETAN MATHESON - 1

- (3) Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the video identified in paragraph 2 above.
- (4) Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of Coeur d'Alene Tribal Resolution 24-2001.
- (5) Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the magazine article, "Sacred lands shouldn't smell," written by Mark Matthews and published in The High Country News on November 25, 1996.
- (6) Attached hereto as Exhibit 4 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the magazine article, "Pollution in paradise," written by Mark Matthews and published in The High Country News on November 25, 1996.
- (7) Attached hereto as Exhibit 5 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "The last harvest," written by Brian Walker and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on October 21, 2014.
- (8) Attached hereto as Exhibit 6 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "North Idaho's gem," written by Jeff Selle and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on November 19, 2014.
- (9) Attached hereto as Exhibit 7 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Everything is interconnected and dependent," written by Keith Cousins and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on May 9, 2015.
- (10) Attached hereto as Exhibit 8 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Digging up heritage... one potato at a time," written by Keith Cousins and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on October 21, 2015.
- (11) Attached hereto as Exhibit 9 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Tribe, state offer Lake CdA health seminar," written by an unknown author and published in The Spokesman Review on March 16, 2016.
- (12) Attached hereto as Exhibit 10 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Students learn water topics from Coeur d'Alene Tribe," written by Mary Malone and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on May 13, 2016.
- (13) Attached hereto as Exhibit 11 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Coeur d'Alene Tribe members begin 100-plus mile journey in dugout canoe," written by Becky Kramer and published in The Spokesman Review on June 7, 2016.
- (14) Attached hereto as Exhibit 12 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Canoe landing ceremony Wednesday in Cd'A," written by and unknown author and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on June 7, 2016.
- (15) Attached hereto as Exhibit 13 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "Coeur d'Alene Tribe canoe stops at City Park," written by Bethany Blitz and published in the Coeur d'Alene Press on June 9, 2016.

- (16) Attached hereto as Exhibit 14 is a true, accurate, and correct copy of the newspaper article, "City celebrates first Indigenous People's Day," written by Rachel Alexander and published in The Spokesman Review on October 11, 2016.

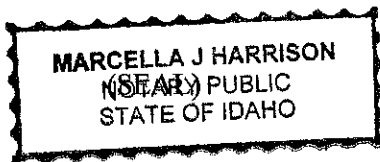
Further you affiant sayeth naught.

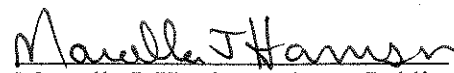
Respectfully submitted this 18th day of October, 2016.


Cajetan Matheson

NOTARIAL ATTESTATION

That on the 18 day of October, 2016, and after being duly sworn, and after providing sufficient proof of identification or personally known to me, Cajetan Matheson personally appeared before me attested to and executed this document.




Marcella J. Harrison, Notary Public
Residing at: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
My commission expires: 4/14/2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20th day of October, 2016, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document upon the following individuals via email and/or by placing the document in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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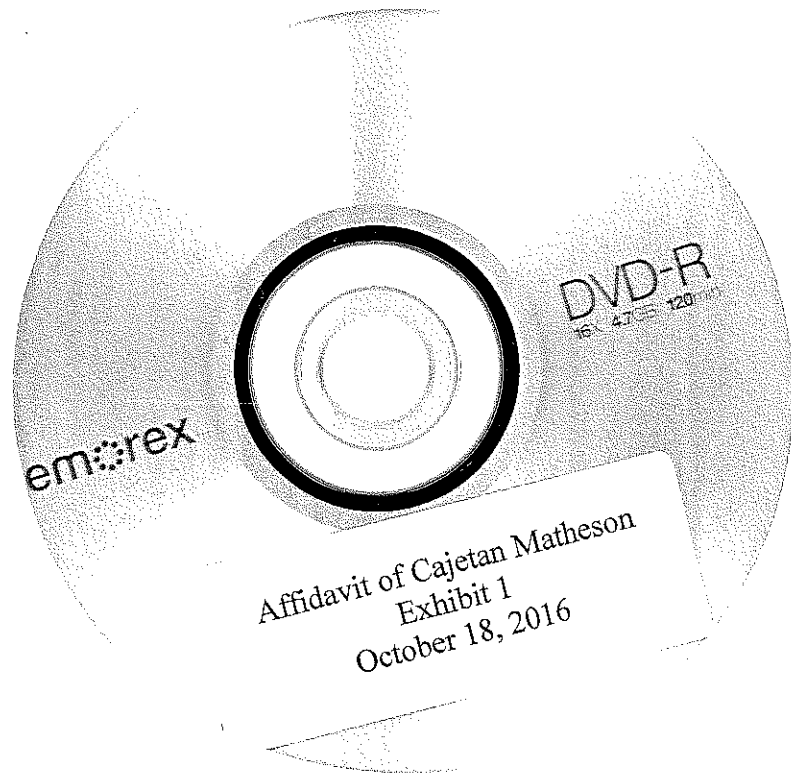
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13621 S HWY 95
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

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CATALDO, ID 83810

RONALD D HEYN
828 WESTFORK EAGLE CREEK
WALLACE ID 83873


By: Marcella J. Harrison

EXHIBIT 1



Affidavit of Cajetan Matheson
Exhibit 1
October 18, 2016

EXHIBIT 2

LEGAL COUNSEL
WARNING AND HEALTH ADVISORY
REGARDING SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES
IN THE COEUR D'ALENE RIVER BASIN

WHEREAS, The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council has been empowered to act for and on behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe pursuant to the Revised Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe by referendum November 10, 1984, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, December 21, 1984; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial Coeur d'Alene Tribal members have occupied and depended upon the natural resources of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin for their physical, cultural and spiritual well-being;

WHEREAS, the Tribe, in conjunction with the United States Departments of the Interior and of Agriculture, completed and approved on September 14, 2000, a Report of Injury Assessment and Injury Determination (ROID), which assessed the injury to natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin resulting from over a century of mine pollution;

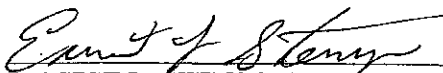
WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency June 2000 "Draft Coeur d'Alene Basin Human Health Risk Assessment" indicates that lead concentrations in portions of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin pose significant human health risks to Tribal members, especially young children and pregnant women, who engage in subsistence activities in the Basin, including the gathering of water potatoes;

WHEREAS, lead concentrations present in the soils and sediments of the South Fork and Main stem of the Coeur d'Alene River have caused Tribal, Federal, and State government authorities to develop and post signs warning of the human health risks posed by the presence of lead in soils and sediments of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a health advisory and warning is issued, until further notice, advising Tribal members not to engage in subsistence activities, including the gathering of water potatoes, or recreational activities such as swimming, that expose them to the soils and sediments in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council held at the Administration Building, 850 A Street, Plummer, Idaho, on November 21, 2000, with the required quorum present by a vote of 5 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 OUT.


ERNEST L. STENSGAR, CHAIRMAN
COEUR D'ALENE TRIBAL COUNCIL


NORMA JEAN LOUIE, SECRETARY
COEUR D'ALENE TRIBAL COUNCIL

EXHIBIT 3

High Country News

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE WEST

Sacred lands shouldn't smell

Mark Matthews | Nov. 25, 1996 | From the print edition

Note: This article is a sidebar to this issue's feature story (<http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2910/>).

In 1994, the Coeur d'Alene tribe spent \$200,000 to remove 1,000 tons of lead-contaminated soil from a riverside area long used by the tribe. But when the tribe wanted to construct a levee on private land to protect the site from floods, the other landowner, the Coeur d'Alene Mining Association, said no. Floods last winter then deposited new lead-contaminated sediments on the area. For tribal council member Henry SiJohn, 79, the flooded lands are sacred, and as the tribe's environmental liaison, he has led the fight to regain ownership of the lake and lower river to clean them up:

Henry SiJohn: "When the pollution took effect in the river, the water didn't look right to the Indian, or taste or smell right. And it didn't feel good on their skin. In walking around the marshes they would hear the death cries of wild animals and find the carcasses and they concluded there was something wrong with the water. We didn't have any data or statistics to go on. All we had were the five senses.

"Our people would take sweat baths ... and that involved praying in a completely dark lodge so that your focus is on the Creator. After the incantations, singing and cleansing, emerging from the sweat house was like coming out of your mother's womb and being reborn again. Cleansing the body was like freeing yourself of all the bad things in the earth, and so the water had to be pure.

"When I would apologize to the older people for the devastation that has been wreaked upon the land and water, they would shake their heads and say, 'White

people just don't have think power.'

"The effect of the pollution on my people cannot be measured. This ground has been consecrated by the bones of the ancestors.

"The Coeur d'Alene tribe is very optimistic that someday we may have jurisdiction over this very wonderful land and the lake. When we do, we'll see to it that we keep the water clean."

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EXHIBIT 4

High Country News

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE WEST

Pollution in paradise

A robust service economy can't bury mining's toxic waste

Mark Matthews And Paul Larmer | Nov. 25, 1996 | *From the print edition*

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho - To reach the 14th hole at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in northern Idaho you need nerves of steel - and a boat. The golf green sits on the blue waters of Lake Coeur d'Alene, a miniature island tied to shore by an underwater tether.

"It's the only floating green in the world," boasts Jerry Jaeger, president and co-owner of Hagadone Leisure Co., which operates the 337-room resort.

Besides providing a dramatic golfing challenge, the green is a technological marvel, says Jaeger. Any excess fertilizer gets caught and pumped through pipes back to the shore to avoid polluting the lake.

"We've gone way beyond any requirements," says Jaeger, noting that his resort won the Urban Land Institute's "most ecologically sensitive development" award in 1993. "As you can imagine, we care a great deal about the quality of the lake's water."

What Jaeger doesn't mention is his resort's less publicized claim to fame: It sits on the shores of what may be the world's largest toxic stew. Thanks to a century of silver, lead and zinc mining in the 120-mile-long "Silver Valley," parts of Lake Coeur d'Alene's bottom are smothered by an 11-inch layer of contaminated sediment - 75 million tons in all, by one estimate.

Along with old golf balls, the fine silty clay is laced with lead, cadmium, zinc and other dangerous heavy metals that have bled down from the mountains above the

lake. Though most of the mines and smelters are closed, hundreds of abandoned mineshafts and mounds of tailings - the rock refuse left over from mining - lie hidden in the hills. Every time it rains, runoff, made more torrential by eroded, logged hillsides, flows through the mine sites, picks up metals and spreads them downstream. The polluted waters flow down the Coeur d'Alene River, and what doesn't settle in the river eventually reaches Lake Coeur d'Alene, some 50 miles downstream.

Don't tell that to the thousands of people who swim, fish and even drink the lake's waters. No dead bodies float on the sparkling waters; everything looks just fine. Were it not for a few posted signs warning people to go easy on fish consumption and avoid touching the dried mud along the Coeur d'Alene River, most people would never guess that the post-mining civilization is being built on a foundation of poisonous debris.

And, in Jaeger's view, there's no need to stir things up, either psychologically or physically.

"I drink lake water, and I've never had any ill health effects," he says. "I've never even had a hotel guest ask me about mining pollution in the lake. I don't deny that it's there, but I've been told by knowledgeable people that it is buried deep and is basically inert."

The 1,450-member Coeur d'Alene tribe, whose reservation nestles against the lake's southern shore, have a different perspective. For the past decade, the tribe's environmental staffers have worked hard to create public concern. With the help of federal dollars, they have gathered and commissioned hundreds of reports and studies showing that the metals are not all safely buried in sediments, especially when the waters are stirred by floods. Some of the data are visible to the eye: dead birds, and wetlands where only one species of plant can live. Then there are the devastated fisheries and the elevated lead-levels in the bloodstreams of some children in small towns.

"People can't believe there's a problem when it looks so good," says Phil Cernera, 37, a biologist for the Coeur d'Alene tribe. "But we've got levels of lead in the

lower river that are 4,000 times background levels. Every beach is basically a redeposited tailings pile."

Armed with information, the tribe and a handful of environmentalists have pushed hard for a basinwide cleanup that could involve everything from removing tailings piles to dredging up toxic hotspots in the river and the lake.

But no one has stepped up to the tee. EPA officials say a lack of money forces them to concentrate on airborne pollution within one specific area in Idaho - the 21-mile-long Bunker Hill Superfund site near Kellogg. The state of Idaho used several million dollars from a settled lawsuit with several mining companies to clean and restore a few small sections of stream above the Superfund site (see sidebar). But it's a drop in the bucket. And the four companies that still mine in the area say that while they are willing to fund some cleanup projects, they won't accept full responsibility for a mess created largely by now-defunct companies.

The tribe is not giving up. It has sued the mining companies for hundreds of millions of cleanup dollars. Last spring, lawyers from the federal Department of Justice filed a similar suit. If the lawsuits succeed, the watershed could become the locus of one of the most massive restoration efforts ever undertaken to rectify the damage caused by mining.

The uncertainties are many. Even if substantial cleanup money is found, no one knows if the Silver Valley can be fixed: The technology doesn't exist yet, and a comprehensive cleanup seems impossible given pollution's presence in every nook and cranny of the ecosystem. The pervasive pollution here could well take centuries to work its way out.

Polluted, top to bottom

The best way to grasp the magnitude of the Silver Valley's pollution problem and the changing face of its human settlements is to start at the top of the watershed and work down.

Heading west from 4,700-foot Lookout Pass, among the evergreen-clad mountains

on the Montana/Idaho border, terraces of yellow mine tailings stick out here and there from the steep slopes. These are the highest sources of pollution in the basin, and the heavy metals they leak flow downhill, joining forces with pollution simultaneously leaking from hundreds of sites below.

Though the mines are scattered through the mountains, most are near water, says Stu Levitt, a spokesman for the Coeur d'Alene tribe. The mines needed water for processing ore, he says, "and the most convenient way to get rid of tailings was to pop them in the river."

About 20 miles west of the border, the grade flattens at the town of Wallace, elevation 3,500. Just above here, up Canyon Creek, lies a major source of pollution, the abandoned Hecla mill in the town of Burke. Built in 1912, the complex looms like the set of a futuristic movie. It's hard to imagine that two railroad lines once ran up this narrow canyon and that thousands of men labored deep inside the mountain walls.

Though the mill has been closed for several years, it hasn't stopped polluting. Every day, a stream that runs under the mill picks up and carries hundreds of pounds of heavy metals down through Wallace and eventually into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. A three-mile stretch of stream below the mill is the site of one of the few restoration efforts in the Silver Valley (see sidebar page 12).

Fifteen years ago when mining crashed, Wallace became a ghost town, and you could buy a small house for under \$10,000. Today, it's a popular tourist stop, and new people have started fixing up the houses.

The story is much the same 10 miles farther down the road in Kellogg, where the valley widens and the mountains become rounded. Despite bearing the stigma of a town located in the 21-mile-long Bunker Hill Superfund site (named after the biggest mine in Kellogg - the one miners affectionately called "Uncle Bunker"), Kellogg looks more like a quaint Swiss resort than a down-and-out mining town.

Just outside town, near the mining museum, a giant tram runs tourists and skiers up into the hills. Summer music concerts at the nearby ski resort attract thousands.

Here, mining merely provides a quaint historic context for a growing tourist and recreation-based economy.

But a century of heavy-metal pollution has left its mark in the blood of children who grew up here. When health officials first tested for blood-lead in Kellogg's children in 1974, they found levels 6.5 times higher than today's "level of concern" established by the Environmental Protection Agency. That same year, house dust averaged 10 times the level of concern, with yard soil not far behind.

High lead levels can lead to coma, convulsions and death; lower levels may damage the nervous system, interfere with growth, harm hearing and retard learning.

These concerns led mining officials to build two huge smelter stacks in Kellogg in the late 1970s. The idea was to disperse the pollution beyond the surrounding hills, but the stacks turned out to be more curse than blessing, as weather inversions often forced the pollution down into the town.

At one point, fire destroyed half the bags in the baghouse, the main pollution collection device of the lead and silver smelter. Rather than close the smelter, Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp. (not to be confused with Gulf Oil) compared projected earnings to the money it could lose in lawsuits. Gulf executives decided profits would be bigger. In 18 months, more than 20 years' worth of pollution fell like an invisible rain over the area.

Two families later sued Gulf Resources for \$20 million in damages and in 1981 received an out-of-court settlement for their children of between \$6.5 million and \$8.8 million.

But soon after, the corporation began funneling most of its money overseas, much of it into New Zealand real estate, and filed bankruptcy in a U.S. court. Little can be recovered, apparently, for either cleanup or pensions owed.

Jerry Cobb, environmental health specialist with the Panhandle Health District, says he can't tell area residents how the exposure affected their health. Tests on

men who worked at the smelter between 1940 and 1965, however, showed they died from kidney disease at a rate four times higher than normal. Deaths from kidney cancer were double the normal rate, and deaths from stroke were one-and-a-half times the normal rate. Results of a new study on long-time area residents are expected next year, he says.

It's healthier to live in Kellogg today, because federal officials have removed much of the original soil from residential areas and capped many yards with plastic sheets covered with clean soil. Building codes that will remain in effect forever make it illegal to break the plastic barriers.

Even so, people living in Kellogg may still be receiving metals exposure, says Cobb. Tests in 1994 found that nearly one-fifth of the children had blood-lead levels greater than normal.

Meanwhile, a whole new group of people - including retirees from California and other urban centers - are moving to the Kellogg area. Cobb says he and other health officials have tried to raise red flags to developers and county and town officials about the potential dangers of building in areas outside the Superfund site.

It has been hard to get their attention.

Says Cobb, "I guess for the newcomers, lead lying in the ground is less hazardous than lead moving towards them at 3,000 feet per second in the form of a bullet fired on a Los Angeles street corner."

Not a basket case

While the effects of mining are plain to see in the upper basin, they are more subtle in the lower basin, which encompasses the 30-mile stretch from Kellogg down to Lake Coeur d'Alene, 2,500 feet above sea level.

No one disputes that the 1,200 pounds of heavy metals flowing out of the Superfund site every day have killed the Coeur d'Alene River for at least three miles, until water entering it from Pine Creek dilutes the toxic stew. But there are

different views on the condition of the river below this confluence.

"I've seen headlines in the paper saying the whole system is dead," says Geoffrey Harvey, senior service water analyst with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene. "You can't convince folks of that who have pulled fish out of the river."

While Harvey concedes the lower river doesn't provide much fish habitat, he blames that on sedimentation rather than heavy metals. He says the river continues to function as a migratory area for kokanee salmon and cutthroat trout and supports a top-notch bass fishery. And although the state doesn't think everything is fine in the lower stretches of the South Fork, Harvey says, "It's also not a basket case. It's somewhere in between."

The Coeur d'Alene tribe has a vastly different view. Standing next to the river near a sand beach that has tables and trash cans for picnickers, Phil Cernera, who coordinates the tribe's Natural Resource Damage Assessment team, says he can't believe the state would invite people to come play on a lead-contaminated beach and boat ramp.

"They're treating people like guinea pigs," he says, pointing to a prominent wooden sign which warns that the heavy metals in the water and sand can be hazardous to human health. Cernera says the river certainly kills fish. Federal researchers found that fingerlings exposed to South Fork water died within 96 hours. Cernera thinks no one sees any dead bodies because there are so few fish left to die.

"The mines say it is healthy and thriving for wildlife and fish," he says. "That's not what we're finding."

The heavy metals have killed more than fish. Between 1992 and 1995, wildlife officials found about 60 dead animals in the lower basin that all tested positive for lead poisoning. Many were elegant tundra swans. Tribal and U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists say about 600 more poisoned animals probably died but were not found.

Cernera says most of us don't realize what we are looking at, and points to what

looks like a thriving wetland lining both sides of the interstate. It is actually a contaminated dump, two miles long and 30 feet deep, he says, with Fragmenties, an introduced five-foot-tall metal-resistant grass, the only thing growing there.

"No wildlife lives in that grass," Cernera says.

At Lane Marsh, in a series of "lateral lakes" just above Lake Coeur d'Alene, a white speck sits on the water - a lone tundra swan. The thousands of swans that stop at the lakes on their way north have long departed. "This straggler will most likely die," Cernera predicts. The swans ingest lead when they pull up food from the bottom. Besides tundra and trumpeter swans, Cernera says, a host of other species, including mink, ducks, ospreys, marsh hawk, Canada geese, mice, voles, cutthroat trout, yellow perch and brown bullhead, are poisoned by metals.

Still, state officials maintain that the number of animals that die from metals poisoning is tiny compared to the thousands of waterfowl and other migratory birds that visit the area. "Some swans and geese do die here from lead poisoning," Harvey points out, "but they all don't die."

To dredge or not to dredge

If the severity of the Silver Valley's pollution problem can start an argument, talk about solutions can provoke outright hostility - even in places where there seems to be agreement.

Everyone, for instance, agrees that the runoff from tailings along the South Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries in the upper basin needs to be shut off. But how? The mining companies say the waste rock can largely be stabilized on site, then capped and revegetated. The tribe says the mined rock needs to be removed.

These differences, though, seem minor compared to the issues surrounding cleanup in the lower basin.

When the Coeur d'Alene tribe first calculated the cost of a basinwide cleanup, it came up with a hefty \$1 billion. Almost half of that total was for one activity -

dredging contaminated sediments from the lower river and the lake.

After shaking off their initial price shock, mining officials set about debunking dredging. They found evidence that digging up the sediments would release heavy metals back into the water, further endangering people and wildlife. State officials backed them.

"The tailings in the lower river are the consistency of silt. Removing them would create a big mess in a hurry," says state water-quality expert Harvey. "The best thing to do is to shut off the sources up river, and over time new sediment from the North Fork (which joins the South Fork a few miles below the Superfund site and has not been heavily mined) will eventually bury the older contaminated stuff."

Tribal officials now acknowledge that dredging all of the lake may be unnecessary. Their most recent cost estimate for a basin cleanup has dropped to between \$500 million and \$600 million. But Cernera says dredging may still be appropriate in some portions of the river, especially below the town of Cataldo, where the waters slow down and dump much of their sediment load. New dredging technologies literally suck up sediments without creating much of a stir, he says.

"We're researching every place where dredging has ever been done to see what our options are," Cernera says. "We think the metals in the lower river and the lake are still a threat."

"Phil won't be happy until we get rid of every bit of tailings in the whole system," says Holly Houston, a spokeswoman for three of the remaining mining companies in the Silver Valley - Hecla Mining Co., Asarco Inc., and the Sunshine Mining Co. "But this is not a billion-dollar problem."

Houston says the mining companies have already promised \$40 million to clean up contaminated yards within the Bunker Hill site. And they have voluntarily started stabilizing several waste rock piles along the river. A \$500 million project to address the whole basin would bankrupt the companies, she says.

"Hecla hasn't made a profit in seven years, and Asarco already has numerous

Superfund sites," says Houston. "The price of silver is down from \$6 an ounce to only \$4.50 an ounce. You're unlikely to see even \$50 to \$100 million from the companies."

A litigious solution

The companies may be forced to dish out that much money or more, however, when the courts eventually rule on the two lawsuits brought against them by the tribe and the federal government. The suits each seek nearly \$1 billion.

Tribal officials say they had no choice but to go after the companies through the courts. The one entity set up to deal with pollution outside the Superfund site - the Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Project, created by the federal government in 1983 when it designated the Bunker Hill Superfund site - has proven to be a paper tiger. While more than \$100 million has been spent cleaning up the Superfund site, the basin project spends only hundreds of thousands on baseline research - such as identifying toxic hotspots and potential repositories. Little actual cleanup work is being done, says Stu Levitt, the tribe's representative on the project.

Tribal press secretary Robert Bostwick say the only cleanup work ever done on the river basin outside the Superfund site is being funded by a settlement with the state of Idaho initiated by a lawsuit against the mines. And the only reason industry is now taking some small steps to clean up their lands, he says, is because of litigation.

The companies have countersued the federal government, claiming it should be held responsible for much of the pollution since it failed for decades to regulate mining wastes.

"The pollution is a tragedy, but it happened when society wasn't concerned about the environment," says Houston. "People weren't thinking about saving birds and trees, and there were no laws protecting the environment when mining began. That isn't an excuse for the pollution, but it's not right to expect the few companies that haven't gone bankrupt to pay for it all."

The companies have also turned to Congress for relief. A bill introduced by Sen. Larry Craig, R, would have limited the amount of money the companies have to put toward mining restoration. Though it died in the last session, it will undoubtedly surface again next year.

Bostwick says the mining companies should stop fighting and start negotiating. The billion-dollar cleanup they are so afraid of could actually be accomplished if all the parties sat down with a spirit of cooperation, he says, and it might not be that financially painful. An interest-bearing trust fund of \$150 million could pay for cleanup activities for 20 to 50 years in the Silver Valley, he says.

"We wouldn't know what to do with a billion dollars all at one time even if we had it," says Bostwick. "It's hard to spend more than \$10 million in a year."

The money for such a trust fund could come from the mining companies and the state and federal governments, he says, and "the tribe would even chip in some of its own."

Out of sight, but not mind

The smelter stacks at the Bunker Hill Superfund site are gone. Last Memorial Day, as military jets saluted overhead and people danced in the streets, federal officials toppled the four phallic monuments - the largest 715 feet tall - like trees into pits, and buried them.

It was a symbolic end to the mining era, but symbols alone cannot heal the Silver Valley. Nor will a robust tourism economy ever completely bury the pollution of a century. If the Silver Valley is to recover within a few generations, people will have to intervene in a big way. And that will require big bucks.

"It took us 100 years to pollute this place, and it may take us at least that long to remedy it," says Cernera. "Doing nothing, though, is unacceptable."

Mark Matthews writes from Missoula, Montana. Paul Larmer is an associate editor with HCN.

The following sidebar articles accompany this feature story:

- [Piling a new economy on the old \(http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2911\)](http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2911)
- [River cleanup is slow, expensive and maybe hopeless \(http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2912\)](http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2912)
- [Sacred lands shouldn't smell \(http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2913\)](http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2913)
- [A tribe that takes the high road \(http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2914\)](http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2914)
- [Logging, floods push metals downstream \(http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2915\)](http://www.hcn.org/issues/94/2915)

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EXHIBIT 5

'The last harvest'

BRIAN WALKER/bwalker@cdapress.com | Posted: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 12:00 am

HEYBURN STATE PARK - After 91-year-old Felix Aripa made his way down a steep slope here to revel at students carrying on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's tradition of digging up water potatoes from a wetland, the tribal elder made a declaration.

"This is the real Idaho spud," said Aripa, pointing to the harvest activities on Monday.

The Tribe this week is educating students in the region, from elementary schools to colleges, about the traditional fall gathering of water potato harvest, preservation of meat and other survival methods for the winter ahead.

"This brings the Tribe back to its roots," said Taylor Abrahamson, a North Idaho College student and tribal member. "We need to keep it going."

Rebecca Nakanjako, an NIC student from Uganda, was thrilled to take a bag of the golfball-sized potatoes with her after digging in the wetland.

"It felt like I was praying hard to get small things," she said with a chuckle, referring to being bent over to search for the potatoes in mud.

While most of the harvesters used shovels to search for the spuds, some tried their feet in the traditional way tribal women did it. Women used their bare feet - often in icy water - to feel the spuds with their toes.

"In the old days, the water would be 2 or 3 feet deep," said Mark Stanger, of the Tribe's fisheries department. "This was the last harvest of the year."

Stanger said the harvest helped the Tribe prepare for winter, but it was also an opportunity to spend time with families and other tribes. Some of the potatoes are given to seniors who can no longer make it to the harvest. They are used in foods at memorials and other community events.

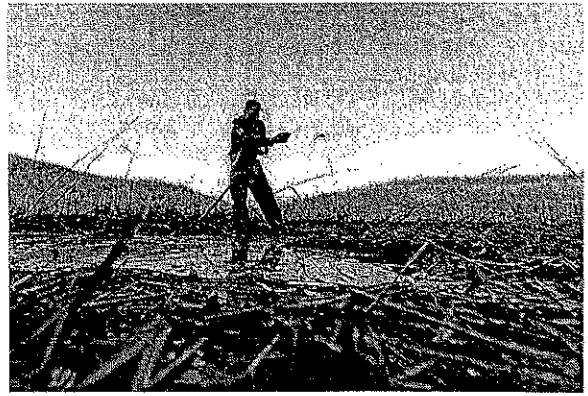
Stanger said some tribal members attend the harvest in their wheelchairs to help keep the tradition alive.

The potatoes can be boiled or baked and eaten with butter, in soup or dishes just like larger spuds.

Water potatoes are a wetland plant with arrow-shaped leaves which rise above the water. Ducks and waterfowl eat the seeds, while muskrat, porcupine and deer eat the tubers.

At Monday's harvest, a channel in the wetland had been created by a muskrat.

"My dad said to steal (water potatoes) from the muskrat only when you're down to skin and bones," Aripa said.



'The last harvest'

Tom Biladeau, fisheries habitat biologist with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, tosses a water potato onto a stack after harvesting the root vegetable from a marshy area of Lake Coeur d'Alene Monday near Hayburn State Park.

Up the hill, Glen Lambert and Vincent Peone of the Tribe dried and smoked whitetail deer meat over a fire for attendees to taste.

"It was all about preservation for the winter," said Peone, adding that the meat used to be dried from sweathouse boughs over a fire. "There were no refrigerators."

Other stations at the celebration included information on beavers, traditional tribal tools, aquatic invasive species and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe language.

Peone said it's critical to pass on traditions and educate others.

"By doing this, our ancestors are still alive," he said. "Without an identity, you are a lost people."

EXHIBIT 6

North Idaho's ge...

JEFF SELLE/jselle@cdapress.com | Posted: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:00 am

COEUR d'ALENE - Lake Coeur d'Alene has had its environmental problems in the past, but water experts said Tuesday that it is still a healthy lake, though close management will be needed to maintain it.

"Our Gem, Coeur d'Alene Lake Collaborative," was the name of a symposium held Tuesday at The Coeur d'Alene Resort to discuss the past five years of Lake Coeur d'Alene Management Plan implementation.

Nearly 200 people came to discuss the history of the Lake Management Plan, the health of the lake and plans to manage its health into the future.

The day-long symposium kicked off a three-day water conference that resumes today with more than a dozen plenary sessions covering topics ranging from water adjudication to minimum stream flows in the Spokane River and how that could affect water users in Kootenai County.

The first panel discussion Tuesday covered the history of the Lake Management Plan and how much progress water managers have made in the past five years.

The Lake Management Plan was developed as part of the negotiations between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state of Idaho, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the mining companies that participated in the expansion of the Bunker Hill Superfund site in the 1990s.

For the past five years, the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan staff has been extensively studying the metals and nutrients in the lake and how they interact.

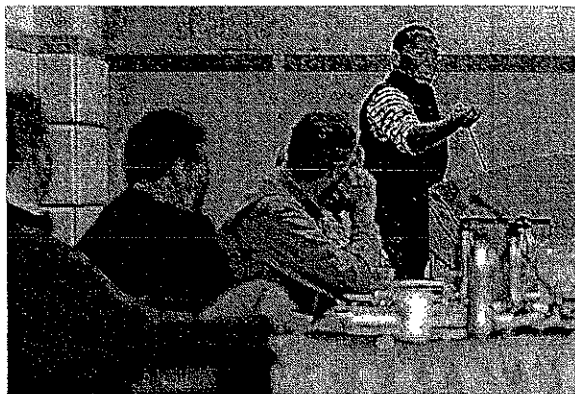
What they have learned is that under certain conditions, heavy metals on the bottom of the lake could be released if nutrients are elevated in the lake, so nutrient control is key to keeping the lake healthy.

"We need to control the nutrients in the lake to maintain high oxygen in the lake," said Dr. Craig Cooper, from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. "The lake is still looking good, but it may be starting to trend away from an oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) state."

Cooper was one of several scientists who helped the crowd of students, tribal members, water managers and politicians understand the complex nature of the lake.

He showed computer modeling that indicates conditions over the past three years could be headed toward a tipping point where the lake starts becoming eutrophic, or nutrient-rich.

"Overall some of the metals are declining, but metabolism is trending away from oligotrophic status," Cooper said. "But it isn't a big problem today."



North Idaho's gem

Panelist Quanah Matheson, cultural director for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, shares his thoughts on the importance of the health of Lake Coeur d'Alene during the "Our Gem" symposium Tuesday at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

He said the key to preventing future problems is to continue monitoring the interaction between the metals and nutrients in the lake.

Dale Chess, who works on the Lake Management Plan for the Tribe, gave a presentation on the modeling of the lake's food web. He discussed how metals management could affect plankton in the lake that other species depend on as a food source.

Carson Watkins, from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, gave an overview of the fishery in the lake, explaining the balance between the lake's warm- and cold-water fish species.

He also explained the difference between the native and non-native species in the lake.

"We need to strike and maintain a balance between native and non-native species as well," he said.

Jon Firehammer, from the Tribe, explained the predator effects on the cutthroat population in the lake. He explained how certain species are competing with or preying on the native trout population.

Firehammer said the Tribe has spent the past 10 years studying the cutthroat trout in two streams on the southern portion of the lake. He said they have found only 2 percent of the trout return to spawn in adulthood, and that should be 10 times higher.

While there could be many causes for that low return, Firehammer said, predatory behavior is certainly one factor.

They have trapped several northern pike and smallmouth bass and found, among other species, redband cutthroat trout. His study shows several areas in the lake where the problem occurs more often, but Windy Bay appears to be where the problem is most persistent.

A luncheon panel of speakers was assembled to try and put an economic value on the lake.

"The value more than exceeds what we are going to talk about today," said Steve Griffiths, president of Jobs Plus.

Griffiths said the lake has 100 miles of buildable waterfront and, depending on the economy, that land alone would be valued between \$1 billion to \$2 billion. He said the actual direct economic impact of the lake is \$2.1 billion a year and the economic impact on support industries is more than \$200 million a year.

Chip Corsi, IDFG, said the fisheries' economic impact was measured by his agency in 2011. They learned the statewide impact is close to \$500 million annually, and \$20 million in Kootenai County alone.

Lake Coeur d'Alene is responsible for \$11 million of that county impact, and the Coeur d'Alene River alone generates \$6.7 million annually.

Corsi explained that the study takes into account all spending associated with a fishing trip, including overnight stays, restaurants and fuel.

He said there are also hidden economic impacts associated with the wildlife that is attracted by the lake's fisheries, such as osprey and eagle watching boat tours.

Wanda Quinn, with the University of Idaho, said she lives on Fernan Lake - which has severe water quality issues, especially with blue algae blooms.

"Fernan is not healthy and we don't want Lake Coeur d'Alene to go that way," she said. "Imagine what would happen to our community ... what happened to Fernan happened to Lake Coeur d'Alene."

Quanan Matheson, of the Tribe, likened the lake to one of his elders.

"From our perspective, the lake is a female. When we go to the lake, we go to nurse," he said. "If you look at the lake as a person, you will treat it differently."

Toward the end of the day, the audience was asked to separate into groups and give input into where the next phase of the Coeur d'Alene lake collaborative is headed.

The conference will focus on downstream water issues starting today and into Thursday.

EXHIBIT 7

'Everything is interconnected and dependent'

KEITH COUSINS/kcousins@cdapress.com | Posted: Saturday, May 9, 2015 12:00 am

John Firehammer told a group of sixth-graders from Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy on Friday morning that everything on Earth depends on water.

"Everything is interconnected and dependent on each other for survival," added Firehammer, a Coeur d'Alene Tribe biologist.

The group of students, members of three different classes, stood attentively while Firehammer then discussed the Tribe's relationship with the native species of cutthroat trout.

This week 455 students from schools across the Northwest participated in the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Water Awareness Week event on the shores of Lake Creek. The event began in 1995 as a collaboration between the Tribe, Business Professionals of America and representatives from state agencies. At the inaugural event, one sixth-grade class spent two hours doing water-related activities.

"When our partners left shortly after, we kept doing it and it's grown and grown over the years," said Gina Baughn, Coeur d'Alene Tribe natural resources education specialist. "I love this event so much. We're hoping after this experience the kids go home as ambassadors for the Tribe and talk about what they learned today."

Baughn, alongside her colleague Bobbie White, ran the half-day field trip like a well-oiled machine on Friday, with Baughn blowing a whistle to let the sixth-graders know it was time to move to the next of nine stations. Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy split its group of sixth-graders into two groups of three classes, with the first group attending on Thursday.

"It was pretty cool to learn about the history of the Tribe and where everything was placed and located in the past," said Cameron Zaragoza, one of the sixth-graders on the trip.

For Baughn, teaching students the history of the Tribe - everything from where different settlements were located in the past, to the connection members had with the thriving cutthroat trout population - is just as important as teaching them about the current state of water in North Idaho.

"It's really necessary to get that historical aspect across," Baughn said. "That helps the kids understand how much of an impact pollutants getting into the water have had on the environment."

From 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., the charter academy students walked alongside Lake Creek with their counterparts from Freeman Elementary School in Washington and learned from experts about a wide variety of water-centric topics. The stations included a lesson in hide tanning, a demonstration on how water quality can be affected, a study of cutthroat trout, learning the layers of soil, and a look at various wildlife affected by the waterways in North Idaho.

Sixth-grader Cooper Barnes told The Press that he was enjoying every station. But after giving it some thought, Barnes said handling some insects native to Lake Creek during the micro-invertebrates lecture was his favorite.

"I know a lot about animals, but I've never really known too much about insects before today," said

Cooper Barnes, a sixth-grader. "They're really cool, especially the water ones."

Geri Hagler, one of the sixth-grade teachers who chaperoned, told The Press that it's important for her students to get opportunities for hands-on learning because they retain the information better.

"Our students usually write thank you cards and, reading over them, it's amazing that each of the students write about really specific portions of the event," Hagler said. "The Tribe is very gracious to invite us every year and give the kids a quality educational experience during water awareness week."

During the interview with Hagler, Barnes excitedly ran by on his way to the next station and could barely contain his happiness while telling his teacher, "this is the best field trip ever."

"They're always so attentive, it's just wonderful to see," Hagler said with a smile. "I'm always inspired by how much they learn here because I hope these kids will use these lessons to preserve our water for future generations."

EXHIBIT 8

Digging up heritage ... one potato at a time

KEITH COUSINS/Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:00 am

PLUMMER — Cash Wolfe could barely contain his excitement Tuesday morning as he and his teacher, Astaciana Esparza, walked down to the muddy banks of Chatcolet Lake.

Cash, 3, wanted to get muddy and made sure Esparza was got her share of mud as well. Esparza teaches Cash at the Early Childhood Learning Center in Plummer, and encouraged the child to keep looking for water potatoes between helping her dig.

"I see something floating," Esparza said excitedly as Cash placed his hands in the murky water and pulled out a small water potato. "You found one!"

Throughout the week, more than 500 students will visit Heyburn State Park in Plummer for a celebration of the Sqigwts Ha'chsetq'it — Coeur d'Alene for water potato.

Along with getting a chance to get muddy and hunt for water potatoes, members of the Tribe set up 12 educational stations where students could learn about aspects of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's culture.

Water potatoes are a traditional food source for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. In the past, Coeur d'Alene families would return to the lake at this time of year to pick water potatoes, the last food source harvested prior to winter, using wide curved root diggers made of wood from syringa trees.

"Today, the Tribe celebrates their heritage and culture by teaching children in the region about the culture and language of the Tribe through activities centered on this culturally significant food," said Heather Keen, spokeswoman for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. "We teach to pass down to future generations. We remember where we come from and pray for another day of life and for future generations. We preserve, enhance and establish our cultural way of life through this."

Traditional storytelling, hide tanning, and powwow dancing were among the many stations each of the attendees got to visit.

At the native foods station, students tried smoked salmon and elk jerky while Mark Stanger, a Coeur d'Alene Tribe elder, explained the cultural significance of native plants and animals. Stanger told The Press that he is known as "Sela," Coeur d'Alene for grandfather, and that he enjoys the opportunity to share his culture with the next generation.

"It's our traditional way — family helps raise family," Stanger said. "To me, this is just like teaching my grandchildren."

It was the muddy work by the lake that drew the most glee, and sometimes shrieks, from the students. Children of all ages eagerly donned rubber boots and waded into the mud to hunt for water potatoes.



Water potatoes

Astaciana Esparza, a teacher at the Early Childhood Learning Center in Plummer, helps Cash Wolfe, 3, to harvest a water potato Tuesday during a Coeur d'Alene Tribe event at Heyburn State Park.

"Shovel me bro," one student said to another when he had selected a prime picking location.

"Check that out, it's a big one," another said while triumphantly holding up his water potato.

While her class headed to clean the mud off of their clothes, Esparza told The Press she talks a lot about the culture and origins of the event to prepare her kids for the experience. Getting to interact with their elders, and using the native language, is an invaluable lesson, she added.

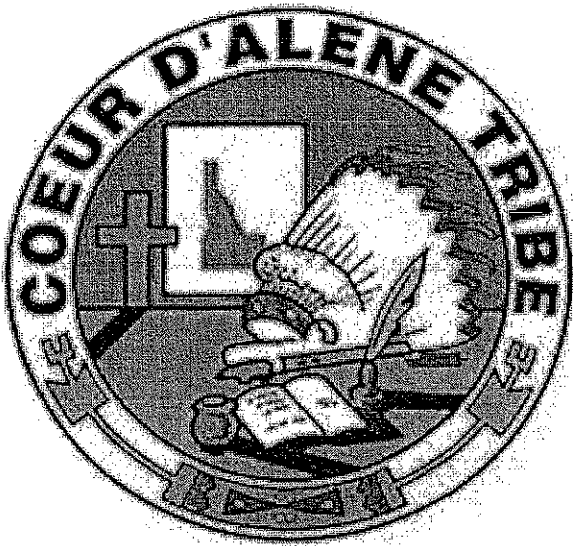
"They get a chance to be immersed into their own culture," Esparza said. "They'll remember this forever."

EXHIBIT 9

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016, 1:03 P.M.

Tribe, state offer Lake CdA health seminar



Community members have a chance to learn more about the health of Lake Coeur d'Alene at the upcoming "Our Gem" Symposium, which will take place on Tuesday, March 22 from 8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. This is the second year for the symposium. Speakers will explore a number of diverse topics relating to the health and condition of the lake, including discussions on nutrient reduction, native fish restoration, and the relationship between water quality and our local property values.

"Lake Coeur d'Alene is a key part of our region's identity and one of the reasons why many of us choose to live here. Each and every one of us has our own story about how the lake impacts us but we also need to remember that the things we do in our everyday lives can impact an impact the condition of the lake for all of us," said Laura Laumatia, Lake Management Coordinator for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. "We hope to bring some attention to what is happening below the surface and how each of us can take action to protect our gem, Lake Coeur d'Alene"/**Heather Keen**, Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe. [More here.](#)

- Our Gem Symposium agenda

POSTED MARCH 16, 2016, 1:03 P.M.

CDAT Ent. 0071737

EXHIBIT 10

Students learn water topics from Cd'A Tribe

By MARY MALONE/Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, May 13, 2016 12:00 am

The westslope cutthroat trout is recognized primarily by two red slashes on the lower jaw, biologist Jon Firehammer explained to a group of 15 students who gathered closely around him to see the fish Thursday morning.

Firehammer, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and biologist with the Tribe's fishery, measured the length of a small trout as he prepared to tag it with a microchip called a PIT tag to track the fish and collect data. As the population of the native fish declines, biologists with the fishery are working to re-establish the number of fish in the area.

"We know exactly what stream these fish are going up to spawn in," Firehammer explained to the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy students. "We know, based on those tags, how many of those fish are returning from the lake and how well they are surviving."

During the 14th annual Water Awareness Week event hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Firehammer and fisheries technician

Dan Jolibois explained to students the history, process and importance of tagging the fish.

Members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe set up 10 different stations next to Lake Creek, located south of Coeur d'Alene near Worley, to educate students about water and the environment. Throughout the week, students from six elementary schools in the area, between fourth and eighth grades, visited the area to learn about water, fish, forestry, tribal culture and more.

"It is a celebration of water and the importance of it to the Coeur d'Alene people," said tribal member and event organizer Gina Baughn.

Averaging more than 100 students at the event each day, tribal member and event organizer Bobbi White said community members, tribal members, local neighbors and home-schooled children make appearances as well.

Nancy Larsen, Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy sixth-grade teacher, said she enjoys bringing students to the event each year.

"This is amazing," Larsen said. "And every year it gets better and better."

Shane Neirinckx, 12, said the information at the "Trout Life Cycle" station was one of the most important things he learned as he and his classmates from Charter made their way through the stations.

"The tagging station I think was really important so you know what needs to be done if the trout are dying or



River critters

Lakeside Elementary students Jonathan Jordan, left, Meyha Wienclaw, middle, and Quincy Hall, right, inspect a crayfish at a booth during the 14th annual Water Awareness Week event hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on Thursday.

something is going wrong," Shane said.

This year was Shane's second time at the event and his dad, John, said it is a really good program for kids.

"The more they see it, the more it is going to stick," John said.

While Shane said the tagging was most important, he said the bugs — learning about all the different species in the local waters — was the most interesting. The "Macroinvertebrate Sampling and Analysis" station was popular among the students, set up with microscopes and several water bugs the students could hold, as well as one they could not.

"When you go to a pond, not everything is safe to touch," said fisheries biologist Bruce Kinkead as he pulled out a large bug. It resembled a cockroach, but its sharp beak can puncture leather and inject a toxin into its prey. The belostomatidae, commonly known as the "giant water bug," also has extremely strong legs and can pick up an 18-inch trout, Kinkead said.

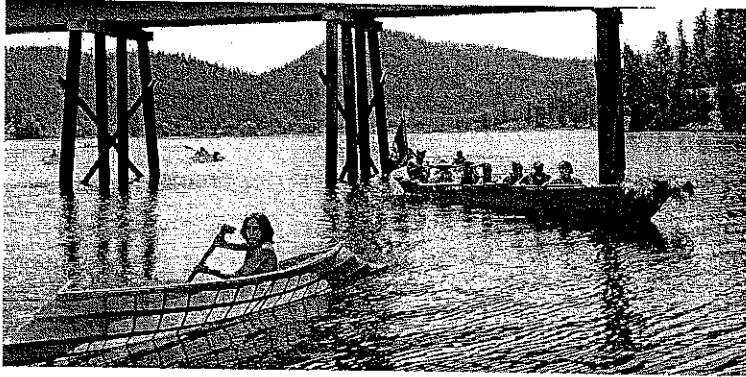
Most of the stations had hands-on experience for the students. The kids snacked at the "Soil Analysis" station, where they used things like pudding, crushed pretzels and gummy worms to learn about the different layers of soil. At one station the students learned how pesticides, animal feces and other land pollution affects the quality of water in lakes and streams. They played games, stood in the teepees and also checked out the different styles of canoes — the small, lightweight "sturgeon-nosed" canoe and the long, heavy wooden "shovel-nosed" canoe, carved from a 28,000 pound log, that will soon take its maiden voyage.

Coeur d'Alene tribal member Anette Matt set up a station for tanning deer hides. She explained to the students that, historically, "everything you can think of" was made from hides — clothes, shoes, blankets, purses. All students were given a chance to help Matt tan a hide by removing the hair layer and the yellow layer underneath, creating a rawhide. To get the rawhide to soften, Matt said water and the brains of the animal are used. The process is called "brain tanning."

After Matt wet the hide so it would not tear, Alex Mitchell, a 12-year-old charter academy student, used a draw knife to remove some of the hair, noting that it was more difficult than he thought it would be. Mitchell said he enjoyed hide tanning and hoped to learn more throughout the morning about the importance of water and "how it affects us and life."

EXHIBIT 11

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016, 7:06 P.M.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe members begin 100-plus mile journey in dugout canoe

By Becky Kramer ☞

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Smoke from burning sweetgrass drifted over the 35-foot-long dugout cedar canoe and its seven paddlers.

Words of prayer and blessing were spoken, seeking protection for the trip ahead.

And then the crowd erupted with cheers, whistles and back-slapping excitement as the paddlers took their places. Vincent Peone, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, slipped into the canoe's last open seat and picked up his paddle. The shovel-nose canoe glided through the marshy waters at the southern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene, gaining speed as the paddlers found their rhythm.

in the hand-carved canoe. Members of the tribe will paddle north on the lake that bears their name, before heading down the Spokane River and into the Columbia. They'll meet four other Inland Northwest tribes on June 17 at Kettle Falls, an ancient fishing spot, for a summer solstice celebration and a salmon ceremony.

The trip was planned to call attention to the tribes' interest in restoring salmon to the Columbia River above Grand Coulee Dam, which has blocked fish passage since the 1930s.

But for Peone, the journey really started last summer, when a 700-year-old western red cedar arrived on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. The 28,000-pound log was a gift from the Upper Columbia United Tribes, which purchased logs for its five member tribes to fashion into canoes for the trip to Kettle Falls.

Peone and his cousin, Jeff Jordan, spent hundreds of hours on the project. They helped schoolkids and elders use elbow adzes and other hand tools to carve the shovel-nose canoe – the first made by the tribe in recent memory.

Each fragrant cedar shaving helped connect tribal members to the time when canoes were “kings of the lake,” in the words of Felix Aripa, a 92-year-old tribal elder. Canoes were used for transportation, fishing and even for lulling fretful babies to sleep.

“Today we’re bringing back our canoes,” said Aripa, who spoke at the canoe blessing before the launch.

“This has been a long time coming,” an emotional Peone said. “It’s way overdue.”

He sat in the canoe’s second-to-last seat, with Jordan behind him. At the front of the canoe, cedar boughs filled an open seat, honoring the tribe’s ancestors. The Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s flag flew from the stern.

A drone hovered above the canoe, recording the action.

“Because this is such a grand historical re-awakening, we have a drone,” said Peone, chuckling.

The canoe moved easily through the water, an elegant but sturdy craft. The shovel-nosed canoe was one of several designs used by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. It was the workhorse of the lake, with a function similar to a pickup truck.

Six smaller sturgeon-nosed canoes launched with the larger canoe, accompanying it up the lake. The lighter canoes were made of cedar and maple frames, covered with Kevlar. Some of the sturgeon-nosed canoes were made by families from the tribe, who entered a lottery for a chance to work with a master canoe builder.

Maria Bighead, her husband, Murle, and three generations of the couple’s extended family worked on that project.

that, and I want my family to be part of that. It will bring us closer to our ancestors, who were out on the water."

Fifteen-year-old Kodamen Matheson took off school on Tuesday to paddle a sturgeon-nosed canoe up the lake. He planned to do extra homework that night so he could get parental approval to be back on the lake Wednesday.

"He said, 'Dad, you're taking me tomorrow,'" said his father, Quanah Matheson.

Camp Larson, which is on the west side of the lake across from Harrison, was the tribal members' destination for the first leg of the trip. They'll resume the journey Wednesday, with plans to arrive at Coeur d'Alene's City Beach in the late afternoon.

Two boats followed the canoes with relief paddlers, switching out the seven-member crew as people grew tired.

"Every ripple of the water and the scent of the lake brings us closer to our families," said Charlotte Nilson, a Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council member.

Aching arms and shoulders also helped make the experience authentic.

"Paddling is hard work," Peone acknowledged. "We're the motors."

PUBLISHED: JUNE 7, 2016, 7:06 P.M.

Tags: canoe rendezvous, canoes, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kettle Falls, Lake Coeur d'Alene, Spokane River, Upper Columbia United Tribes

There are two comments on this story »

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EXHIBIT 12

Canoe landing ceremony Wednesday in Cd'A

Posted: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 12:00 am

Handcrafted traditional canoes made by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are returning this week to Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and other area tribes once relied on canoes for transportation but in today's world, the skill and knowledge needed to build and navigate these canoes has all but disappeared. That changed last summer when the Coeur d'Alene Tribe received a massive old-growth cedar log from the Upper Columbia United Tribes. Over the past nine months, tribal members and the community pitched in to shape the 28,000-pound log into a shovelnose canoe, one type of canoe historically used by the Tribe.

"Making this shovelnose canoe has sparked a sort of cultural awakening within our Tribe. We've seen hundreds of tribal members who have taken an interest in the canoe, stopped by to lend a hand, and they've learned more about our history and our people in the process. Our Tribe is stronger today because of the interest and investment that has been made in preserving our culture," said Chairman Chief Allan.

The canoe will begin its maiden voyage today across Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Coeur d'Alenes will bless their new canoe at 10 a.m. at Benewah Lake, at the southern end of Lake Coeur d'Alene, before taking off on an historic journey, retracing the steps of their ancestors.

The canoe will travel north on Lake Coeur d'Alene and arrive Wednesday at the north end of the lake. The Tribe will celebrate the canoe's arrival with a landing ceremony at City Beach. The public is invited to attend the festivities that will begin at 2 p.m. as the canoe makes its approach. Dancing, drumming and singing will lead up to welcoming remarks at 4 p.m. by Chairman Allan and Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer.

The canoe is scheduled to land on the beach around 5 p.m.

Boaters who are out on Lake Coeur d'Alene today and Wednesday are asked to be mindful of the canoes and minimize their wake if they pass the canoe.

After leaving Lake Coeur d'Alene, the canoe will attempt to follow a historical route, making adjustments for dams that have been built along the Spokane and Columbia Rivers.

The Upper Columbia United Tribes also donated logs to the Kalispel, Spokane, Kootenai, and Colville Tribes, which have been working on their own canoes. Each tribe will paddle from its respective reservation. On June 17, the tribes' journeys will end when all the Upper Columbia United Tribes meet in Kettle Falls, Washington, where tribes from around the region once gathered to harvest salmon and to trade.

EXHIBIT 13

Coeur d'Alene Tribe canoe stops at City Park

By BETHANY BLITZ/Staff Writer | Posted: Thursday, June 9, 2016 12:00 am

Members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe lined the shore of City Beach, searching the horizon for Warch, the canoe. All at once, people started murmuring to one another and pointing — the shovel-nosed canoe had just turned the corner around Tubbs Hill. As the canoe pulled up to shore, a team ran out to greet it, turning it sideways so the people inside could disembark.

The canoe's crew walked up the beach, greeted by other tribal members dressed in traditional regalia. Only a few hours before, members of the Tribe had been drumming and dancing at City Park, celebrating the awakening of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and its return to the water by way of canoe.



Canoe drumming

Members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe play a traditional drum after the "Warch" canoe landed at City Beach.

"We get so involved with the hustle and bustle of work, and sometimes we forget about what's really important. I was telling people yesterday, this is what men and women do, they take their culture and they pass it on," said Coeur d'Alene Tribe Chairman Chief Allan. "You see all the men and women when they come in (from the canoe) and you see their smiling faces and that's worth more than a million dollars to me."

Last summer, the Upper Columbia United Tribes started a project that invited all five tribes — the Kalispell Tribe of Indians, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe — to build their own dug-out canoes.

Each tribe received an old-growth cedar tree to carve out. The process to make a canoe is very involved and took the Coeur d'Alenes about 10 months to complete. However, Vince Peone — a lead wildlife technician for the Tribe who took a leadership role in building the canoe — said the canoe will never really be finished.

"It's a work in progress. A cedar canoe, you have to be taking care of it constantly," he said. "We have to keep it out of the sun and in the water and fix any problems that occur."

All the tribes agreed to paddle their hand-carved canoes to Kettle Falls, Wash. They will meet July 17 and have a reception and celebration. The next day they will perform a traditional salmon ceremony.

The Tribe launched Warch on Tuesday at Benewah Lake after an opening ceremony by the chairman and prominent elders.

The canoe — named for the word for "frog" in the Coeur d'Alene language because a frog hung around the cedar log while it was being carved out — had already been on the water before Tuesday for practice runs.

From Benewah Lake, tribal members paddled the canoe to Camp Larson, where they were greeted by family and friends, all excited for the revitalization of the Coeur d'Alenes as water people.

"When we finally made it into camp, there were so many people waiting for us," Peone said. "It was super spiritual and very moving to have all the tribal council there and friends and family. It was really, super moving to take out that boat."

The Tribe paddled the canoe from Camp Larson to City Beach in Coeur d'Alene Wednesday.

Warch is paddled by seven people and a coxswain. The front seat is reserved for the Tribe's ancestors. It is covered in a blanket and cedar branches. Peone said no one sits in that seat, but one day in the future, he will.

The shovel-nosed canoe is accompanied by other, smaller, sturgeon-nosed canoes, made by different families within the Tribe.

Louina Louie's family made one of those sturgeon-nosed canoes. The whole family went to the water Monday night before the launching ceremony the next day to do their own family blessing.

"I just started crying. We haven't had those canoes in our waters for so many years. In the canoe, you are sitting on the water, you're wet and you can feel our ancestors in the water," she said. "When you're in the canoe, you smell the wood. You worked on it, you carved it — your blood, sweat and tears are in it. And that's why I think I started crying when my dad started singing, because all the work we put into it and then to hear our songs with the canoe, it was so beautiful. It felt like we were home."

Louie and her daughter, North Star, were at City Park Wednesday to participate in the dancing and to welcome the canoe to Coeur d'Alene, a historically significant place for the Tribe.

The mother and daughter joined many other tribal members dressing in traditional regalia — buckskin dresses and moccasins covered in beautiful, intricate beading. Some of the dresses were more than 100 years old, saved by their ancestors to carry on tradition. The men donned rooster-like tail feathers and elaborate headdresses made of porcupine quills.

The first dance was only for the tribal women to participate in, then the men joined in, then the Tribe invited everyone at the park to dance. The little kids ran about, but often when they encountered one of the men stomping the ground and their headdresses moving dramatically, they ran away.

The dances were very methodical, moving in a big circle, every step matching the beat of the drums. Sometimes dancers threw in some fancy footwork, crossing one foot behind the other, then moving forward again.

One of the dancers, Kyle Davis, had bells around his ankles that rattled with every step.

"It's part of our culture, you start dancing when you're in diapers," he said. "It's not something you walk into, we have been practicing and learning for years."

The traditional drumming and song was performed by two groups. Rose Creek is an all-women group. Each woman started drumming and singing when they were 15 or 16 years old. Now they are all in their 20s. The other group was White Horse, all members of the Nomee Family.

The dancing ended with "The Happy Dance." Everyone held hands in a big circle and side stepped clockwise. Suddenly, all the dancers threw their hands in the air and rushed to the middle of the circle, shouting at the top of their lungs.

After the canoe landed on City Beach, Chairman Allan and Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer exchanged gifts. The Tribe gave Widmyer a ceremonial blanket and Widmyer gave the Tribe a circular piece of wood with Lake Coeur d'Alene painted on it.

"I think the relationship with our city and the Tribe is stronger today than it ever has been," Widmyer said. "It's only going to get stronger."

Warch the canoe will be transported 3 miles down the Spokane River from Little Falls Saturday morning. There, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Spokane Tribe will meet and continue the 92-mile journey together to Kettle Falls.

The Tribe decided to skip 100 miles of the Spokane river due to too many dams, portages and the hard rapids. The canoes will be accompanied by another safety boat and a support vehicle.

Loyine Louie stood at the water's edge with her daughter, North Star. Dressed in her traditional buckskin dress, watching the canoe come in, she smiled.

"That spiritual connection we have, it's an awakening," she said. "We should welcome our canoe, that's why we're here. I'm so proud."

EXHIBIT 14

City celebrates first Indigenous Peoples

By Rachel Alexander
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Through song, dance and prayer, the indigenous peoples of the Inland Northwest sent a clear message during a celebration Monday: We're still here.

At a gathering that began outside Spokane City Hall and ended on Riverfront Park's Canada Island, a group of over 100 people celebrated the first Indigenous Peoples' Day since the City Council voted in August to rename Columbus Day.

"That acknowledges for us that we're still here and we have a future," said Dave Brown Eagle, a Spokane tribal member who opened the celebration.

Spokane is home to one of the largest urban indigenous populations in the U.S. There are 14,286 enrolled tribal members in Spokane County according to Tonni Lodge, CEO of the Native Project, representing about 300 tribes.

The celebration included drumming and song from the Salish School of Spokane, intertribal

dances, prayer and reflection. "We celebrate the resilience, the fight, the stamina, the love that carried each and every ancestor forward," said Jo-Ann Kauffman in an opening prayer.

The gathering mixed joyful celebration of indigenous cultures with sober reflection on healing from the trauma of genocide. Outside City Hall, about two dozen people of all ages dressed for fancy dancing, grass dance and jingle dance stepped in a cir-

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CELEBRATION

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cle to the beat of a drum.

On Canada Island, many young people tried their hand at Powwow Sweat, a program developed by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe that reimagines traditional dances as cardio exercise routines. The island is due to be renamed and reimagined by the Spokane Tribe of Indians as part of the larger Riverfront Park redesign.

Kauffman, a Nez Perce tribal member, approached the City Council about changing Columbus Day to

Indigenous Peoples' Day earlier this year. She said Monday that truth and reconciliation were a first step to healing relationships between indigenous people and settlers.

"He brought an era of genocide to the Western Hemisphere," she said of

Columbus.

Many spoke about the common connection local tribes have with water and salmon.

Louisa Louie, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, had tears in her eyes as she talked about the Spokane River.

"Because we were put on reservations, we were taken away from the water. A lot of us are coming back," she said.

Tribal leaders carried a traditional Salish sturgeon-nosed canoe built by local artist Shawn Brigran to Canada Island on Monday as part of the celebration.

Brigran, a member of the Spokane Tribe, has built 16 canoes for local tribes. Some of the canoes traveled with local tribal members to North Dakota in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest of a planned oil pipeline across sacred sites.

Louie's was one of six families on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation recently selected to build their own canoe through a workshop with Brigran.

"When that canoe touched our water, I could feel our ancestors welcoming us home," Louie told the crowd.