



Building the tule boat. Photo by Jim Johnson, Studio 7



Tule boat on the river. Photo by Jim Johnson, Studio 7



Third Grade students from all 50 public, charter and not-for-profit private schools throughout Petaluma participate in the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance innovative outdoor science program, thanks to a new major impact grant from Petaluma Educational Foundation. Photo by Todd Cary

PEF to Fund "Major Impact" Grants

Recent, unprecedented statewide cuts to education prompted the Petaluma Educational Foundation (PEF) to redesign its grant program to better fund innovative educational programs that will impact education well into the future.

Under the new funding model, PEF offers two distinct types of grants with different funding levels. Before the change, PEF funded more than 1,359 "Invest in Education" grants, totaling about \$1.5 million, awarded to teachers throughout Petaluma's 33 schools.

The revamped program, which begins in early 2010, will offer PEF Enrichment Grants of up to \$2,000 for curriculum projects that supplement the student experience. In addition, a second tier of grants, called PEF Major Impact Grants, will provide up to \$15,000 for innovative programs of extraordinary scope.

The Petaluma Wetlands Alliance received an inaugural PEF Major Impact Grant for a science program offering docent-guided discovery tours for students through the wetlands in Shollenberger Park.

In addition to the grant

programs, PEF funds about 200 scholarships for graduating high school students and provides funding for cultural enrichment events in art and music.

Teachers, classified personnel and principals in K-12 public, charter and not-for-profit private schools in the Petaluma area are eligible for the PEF Major Impact Grant Program. Community groups, with an established presence within the schools, students and parents may also apply with teacher sponsorship and site principal approval.

COMMUNITY

Plans Afloat for Next River Heritage Fair

The date is not yet set for the next year's River Heritage Fair, but the 200 plus visitors to this year's event launched organizers on a course to make the Fair an annual celebration all about the history and the future of the Petaluma River.

This year's Fair, hosted by the Friends of the Petaluma River (FPR), featured a variety of displays aimed at educating the community about the history of the Petaluma River and at demonstrating how it can be used for recreation.

Among the music, food and activities, including the annual Mayor's Boat Ride kickoff and historic vessels "Alma" and "Grace Quan"

open for public tours, a highlight of this year's Fair was the launch of the Tule Boat. The Tule Boat is a California Native American-style craft built by River Heritage Center volunteers, Leonard Page, Ron Miska, Noah Miska, Ethan Miska, Eve O'Rourke, Dolores Baril, Richard Baril, Miguel Elliott and David Hansen, under the direction of experienced builder, Charles Kennard.

Tule-reed boats were used in lakes, bays and slow-moving rivers by the Ohlone and Coast Miwok peoples in the San Francisco Bay and its tributary rivers and by the Pomo in the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Clear Lake, according to Kennard.

The boat is 14.5-foot

long, shaped like a canoe and weighs about 170 pounds when dry. The bindings used to hold the bundles of tule stems included wild grapevine, tule rope and Manila hemp.

The finished craft will be kept on display at the River Heritage Center where it will be available for viewing at FPR events.

Although not completely finished, the River Heritage Center, located in the historic livery stable in Steamer Landing Park at D and Copeland streets, the FPR plans to establish the site as a place for people to connect with the River through recreation and the enjoyment of nature, according to David Yearsley, FPR executive director.

New Radio Series Explores "One Big Idea"

Step into the Radio Lab on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. on KRCB FM 91 for a new series of programs that offer a patchwork of people, sounds, stories and experiences centered around "One Big Idea."

In October, the program uncovers a world full of "Parasites," and examines claims that some may actually be

beneficial to the host. A program called "New Normal" on Oct. 13 tells the stories of adaptation that may leave listeners thinking differently about war, violence and human nature. The "Numbers" program on Oct. 20 ponders what a world without numbers might be like.

Diverse Latino Voices Aired

The premier anthology series, titled "Voces" airing on KRCB Public Television Mondays at 9 p.m. offers a glimpse into the heart and soul of diverse Latino cultures.

The 8-part series presents films from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rican, Chile, and Peru covering a wide range of subjects, including biographies of sports, music legends and community activists.

"Latino culture is deeply woven into the fabric of American life – one doesn't exist without the other. These Latino stories presented in this new season of "VOCES" – Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Chilean, and Peruvian stories – are, above all, Ameri-

KRCB-FM broadcasts on 91.1 FM and 90.9 FM in Western and Northern Sonoma County, as well as on Comcast Cable 961 and streaming live at www.krcb.org. KRCB FM Radio 91 is a National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate.

can stories," acclaimed actor Edward James Olmos, said of the series he will be hosting.

VOCES captures the diversity of voices within the Latino community with a commitment to stirring the interest and imagination of all Americans, regardless of their background; these informative and inspirational stories give voice to millions of Latinos living in the United States, according to series promoters.

For more information, check www.voces.tv KRCB Public Television broadcasts from studios in Rohnert Park on digital channels 22-1, 22-2 & 22-3 and is seen over the air in Sonoma, Marin, Napa and parts of Lake and Mendocino counties. KRCB is also seen on Channel 22 via Comcast.