

## **AB109 woodshop and welding programs recognized for sculpture**

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Red Bluff >> The Tehama County AB109 woodshop and welding programs were recognized at Tuesday's meeting by the Board of Supervisors who thanked the program participants for a statue they created and contributed to an auction benefiting Tehama County non-profits.

The statue of a salmon was both designed and built by the AB109 program and sold at the Rural County Representatives of California annual meeting's charity basket raffle and auction in El Dorado County. It initially went for \$3,000 to Mark Rodgers of YGreene Energy Fund. Following the auction, Supervisor Bob Williams, who is the RCRC chairman, said he was approached by YGreene, which offered to double the price to \$6,000.

"During the basket raffle auction, the counties went in alphabetical order so a lot of our folks who normally purchase big items had already made their purchases," Williams said. "Afterward Ygreene Energy Fund approached and told me they felt they had stolen the sculpture and wanted to double the price."

Williams had previously spoken to supervisors about a statue a Humboldt County artist created for the 2016 auction. After the meeting, Chief Probation Officer Richard Muench approached and offered to challenge the members of his AB109 program to create a piece for the 2017 auction.

Muench said the success of his program belongs to Mike Shaffer as "no program is good without a true believer and Mike Shaffer is a true believer."

Muench thanked Sheriff Dave Hencratt and Health Services Agency Executive Director Val Lucero for their assistance with the program, which is not just about acquiring skills, but helping people get their lives back on track.

"Thank you to the supervisors for making this possible and to the community for supporting the program," Shaffer said.

Supervisor Candy Carlson said she is proud of the work the program participants do and that they are amazing and talented.

The auction in total brought in \$52,370 for the five charities selected by Williams as chairman. The organizations, which included the Corning Senior Center, Corning Christian Assistance, Tehama County Friends of the Library, Tehama County Senior Nutrition Program and Providing Essentials for Tehama Shelter (PETS), have each received \$10,474.

"I am overwhelmed by the generosity of this gift," Williams said. "This substantial donation will benefit the residents of Tehama County who need it most and I am thankful for the opportunity to lead an organization dedicated to serving our rural communities."

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