

Balch recognized for saving Yurok officer

July 4, 2022



Crescent City Police Officer Tyler Balch was commended by Chief Richard Griffin and Mayor Jason Greenough at last Monday's city council meeting for saving the life of a Yurok Tribal Police officer exposed to Fentanyl.

Yurok Officer Gibson was subjected to the unknown substance and collapsed.

Officer Balch with prior training administered NORCAN antigens and was recognized for saving the Yurok police officer's life.

Due to low staffing levels, the Yurok Tribal Police Department and the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office have been teaming up to respond to reports of crime. Officer Gibson, came into contact with a "powdery substance" and subsequently lost consciousness while arresting a suspect who allegedly had drugs.

Officer Balch administered NARCAN, an emergency medicine used to combat suspected overdoses, to Gibson and took him to the hospital. Gibson was treated for Fentanyl exposure and was released.

The Yurok Tribe Police Department urged persons to careful when interacting with uunknown substances because they can cause an overdose quickly, even though an aerosolized powder.”

The Yurok Tribe Police Department also thanked the Crescent City Police Department for their “quick thinking and life-saving actions.”