



Photo above by Andrea Taylor; photo right by Diane Rodriguez

Jai Kibby Jr. (above) is the only fancy dancer in the dance arena during a demonstration of fancy dancing at the Siletz Tribal Restoration Pow-Wow.

Young ones in regalia (right) await their dollars after the Tiny Tots dance. See more photos from the Restoration Celebration on pages 9-12.



Courtesy photo

Robert Kentta

## First Nation historic site signs put up in Yachats area of Oregon coast

YACHATS, Ore. – The installation of five signs commemorating the history of the First Nation people who lived in the Yachats area is complete, according to View the Future, a forward-looking organization based in Yachats.

VtF raised more than \$6,000 in donations and also obtained a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation's Oregon Parks Foundation Fund for the signs.

The last two signs were recently installed on the Amanda Trail, which starts just south of Yachats and connects to the trail to Cape Perpetua. The Ya'Xaik (pronounced Yah' khik, gargled h) people lived in the Yachats area and were related to the Alsi to the north.

Joanne Kittel, chair of View the Future, has researched and written, with Tribal assistance, about the Ya'Xaik people who lived in this area for thousands of years before Europeans arrived.

"Their rich and enduring culture is a testament to their ingenuity, talent and sensitivity to the sustainability of their environment. I hope people will visit the Amanda and Ya'Xaik Trails and learn more about the Ya'Xaik People," said Kittel.

Many of the donations were made in honor of Ben Christensen, a former professor of Spanish literature at the University of California at San Diego who retired in Yachats with his wife, Kathee. Ben was passionately involved in supporting trails in the Yachats area and educating locals and visitors about local First Nation history.

On Aug. 1, 2015, he was working with a crew on the Amanda Trail when he suffered a massive heart attack. Despite the efforts of crew members and EMTs from the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District, Ben died on the trail he so loved. Kathee and their family decided to carry on with the First Nation signs project in Ben's memory.

Five signs were developed and designed through the collaborative efforts of Kittel, who co-authored *The Yachats Indians, Origins of the Yachats Name and the Prison Camp Years*; Diane Disse, a writer, graphic designer and former educator at the Lincoln County Historical

See Signs on page 6