

# Historic Hathkapasuta Returns to Forks



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Grandma Agnes Baker Pilgrim will perform the traditional River Blessing June 14.

By  
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After a 10 year hiatus, the beloved Hathkapasuta River Celebration will return to Illinois River Forks State Park this Saturday, June 14 from 10 to 6 p.m. The title derives from a Takilma Indian word meaning "A family gathering by the river." The entire day's activities will be offered free to the public.

The schedule of live music kicks off with I.V. String Band at 10 a.m., followed by Lonesome Road at 11. At noon, the festival highlight of an "All Species Parade" is scheduled, featuring Coyote Rising's giant puppets. Parade participation is open to all comers. Immediately following, the traditional River Blessing will take place, offered by Grandma Agnes Baker Pilgrim, the last living Native American of the Takilma (Dagelma) band.

Afternoon music includes Only Natural offering reggae and hip-hop beginning at 1:30 p.m. followed by belly dancers and the rock and roll group Daybreak at 3 p.m. Headliner Alcyon Massive will conclude the live music presentations from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Event organizers are Tim Leyba and Suzanne Vautier of the Cultural Enrichment and Ecological Network (CEEN) and Kenny Houck, representing the I.V. Community Development Organization (IVCDO), with support from Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC).

A variety of valley non-profits will be tabling at the event, which will also include demonstrations, exhibitors and food vendors. Family friendly activities include kids' art projects sponsored by IRVAC and CEEN, a salmon tent activity center, rock painting, nature hikes, snorkeling and book distribution.

Demonstrations and displays will be offered by Wilson Biochar, Kerbyville Museum, Kerbyville Natural Farm, the IV Disc Golf Can-Do project sponsored by Ford Family Leadership Program, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), City of Cave Junction, Tree House Florist & Gifts, Hampton's Rock Shop, I.V. Soil and Water Conservation District, Josephine County Weed Management Area, Robert Cornett, Siskiyou Trail Association, Josephine Community Library, The Nature Conservancy, I.V. Fire District, Dome School, Siskiyou Field Institute, Siskiyou Mountain Herbs and Rich Nawa.

The revival of Hathkapasuta is part of a detailed plan initiated by the IVCDO to demonstrate to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) that the community is committed to the park and wants it to remain open.

The state had slated the park to be decommissioned in September 2012. However, spearheaded by the IVCDO, a contingent of local citizens travelled to Salem to object to the decision. Over the following 18 months, the non-profit has met with state and BLM officials to create a viable plan to retain and improve the park with the goal of bringing the long-neglected facility up to state standards.

At issue is the fact that the central 40 acres of the state park is owned by the federal government. For the past 7 years, no lease agreement existed between the two governmental entities. An Adopt-a-Park agreement was signed by the IVCDO in 2013 and recently, a new lease was signed between OPRD and the BLM.

Following the river blessing, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place signifying the new partnership between OPRD, BLM and IVCDO to keep the park open to the public for the next 5 years.

## Concerts in the Park

Summer 2014

**Thursday Evenings**  
**6:30 - 8:30**  
**Jubilee Park**  
**Cave Junction**  
**Free admission**  
Bring your lawn chairs or blanket  
Refreshments for sale by IV Little League

**June 12 • Dale Hopper**  
**June 19 • Science!, Acoustic Duo**  
**June 26 • The "J" Barley Band**  
**July 4 • No concert scheduled**  
**July 10 • Lonesome Road: Country Blues Rock**  
**July 17 • Guppy Whimsical duo**  
**July 24 • Dawna Crocker & Rosie: Coffee House singer songwriters**  
**July 31 • East Fork County Bluegrass**  
**Aug 7 • Ras Cricket and the Cultivators: Reggae**

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