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Chicano Batman

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Photo by Morgan Hancock | Izzy Star hits a home run in the final softball game of the season at the Bear River Recreation Center in Loleta, California on Saturday, April 30.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES DEBATE ON CAMPUS

by Liam Gwynn

Humboldt County district attorney candidates Stacey Eads, Micheal Acosta, and Adrian Kamada debated a variety of pressing issues on Monday in Cal Poly Humboldt’s Native American Forum.

Students from the sociology department moderated the debate, choosing questions submitted by Cal Poly Humboldt students. Each candidate was given a two minute introduction and a two minute closing statement. After the introductions, the moderators would ask candidates

a question and they would each get a two minute response followed by a round of one minute rebuttals.

The Three Candidates

Stacey Eads is currently the Assistant District Attorney and has 20 years of experience as a criminal prosecutor. She is the lead prosecutor for the Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Crimes prosecution team . She touts her many years of experience, connection to the current District Attorney Maggie Fleming, and love for Humboldt as leading factors in why people should vote for her.

Micheal Acosta has been a practicing

defense attorney for twenty years. Acosta moved to Eureka after being recruited by the California Indian Legal Services as a staff attorney. He’s a controversial figure and is running on the idea that he would implement major changes to face problems like policing for profit, racial inequality, and gender discrepancies in sentencing. Acosta isn’t just controversial because of his ideas, he’s also currently facing a felony drug possession charge in the Humboldt Superior Court.

Adrian Kamada graduated from Cal Poly Humboldt with a BA in Political science and a minor in Envi-

ronmental Science and Ethics. Kamada has eight years of experience. He served as Deputy District Attorney from 2014 to 2020, when he transitioned to a position as a public defender. Kamada is running on a promise to lower the crime rate, which he says has risen by 30% in the last five years. He wants to do this by implementing new methods of criminal correction for first-time offenders that focus on keeping people out of the criminal justice system with alternative help like mental and drug abuse treatment.

SEE DA DEBATE • PAGE 3

Humboldt’s frogs are thriving

Spring is here and so are frogs

by Sophia Escudero



Photo courtesy of Brian Hudgens | A Northern red-legged frog, a relative of the California red-legged frog, sits in a bed of moss.

Humboldt County, with its streams and rivers, undeveloped wild spaces, and above-average amount of rain, is an ideal habitat for amphibians.

The Pacific tree frog, also known as the Pacific chorus frog, is the most common local frog. Its habitat spans from Northern California to Alaska, and it makes its home in ponds, rivers, forests, grasslands, and even urban settings. The distinctive “ribbit, ribbit” song of the Pacific tree frog can be heard clearly in spring as the male of the species attempts to attract a mate. However, they can be harder to spot than to hear.

“They seem to blend with their background,” said adjunct professor Brian Hudgens of the Cal Poly Humboldt wildlife department. “It’s not as fast as a chameleon, but they do. If you put a green one against a brown background for a couple days and then come back, it will turn brown.”

Less audible is the California red-legged frog, which gives its call underwater and can be found in slow-moving water and ponds. The California red-legged frog has a celebrity history, having been named the California state amphibian and starring in a Mark Twain short story, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” This frog is a threatened species due to habitat loss, despite efforts being made by the state of California and the federal government.

Another protected frog is the foothill yellow-legged frog, which is a species of concern. The yellow-legged frog lives in streams and, although they vary in coloration, can be identified by their rough skin and habit of jumping into moving water. Their historic range extends from Oregon to Baja California.

SEE FROGS • PAGE 5

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CORRECTION | Last week's article *USA TODAY* investigates Humboldt professor read: "One Dean who spoke out experienced retaliation." This was incorrect, the individual referenced was a department chair not a dean.



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DA Debate

FROM PAGE 1

Standout Questions:
Could you please explain what racial justice means to you and could you provide concrete examples of instances where you’ve helped promote racial justice in Humboldt county?

Acosta was called to respond first and was prepared with direct instances citing cases he worked on with the California Indian Legal Services. He cited a case where he was able to reduce a black man’s sentencing that was disproportionate to the sentencing that white people had received for the same crime.

“Where you really see it in sentencing is where dispositions are made, and people of color get harsher sentences and get treated differently by the probation department,” said Acosta.

Eads responded to the question by denying that race played a role in prosecutions but providing instances of how she has helped minorities by prosecuting for children who had experienced child abuse but were not believed because their community didn’t think that someone in their race could commit that type of abuse.

“I think that race, outside of a hate crime type of analysis, really doesn’t have a role in terms of how we prosecute an individual,” said Eads.

Kamada responded by acknowledging the fact that minorities are incar-

cerated at a higher percentage and saying that the problem needs to be fixed.

“Religion, race, ethnicity, those things don’t have anything to do with justice, but we can’t ignore the fact that there has been injustice for a long time towards people of color,” said Kamada.

If you are elected DA, will you prosecute the Lawson case?

Eads answered first saying that she wants to prosecute the case but that they need to have enough evidence before taking it to the preliminary hearing again, because if the judge doesn’t think there’s enough evidence then it will be almost impossible to prosecute in the future.

“We can only bring it before the judge one more time, and if we don’t have enough evidence to do that we will not be able to find Justice for Josiah,” said Eads.

Kamada gave a similar response saying that he won’t promise anything he can’t guarantee while reassuring everyone that it would be a priority and claiming that he has the support of Charmaine Lawson in his election.

“I will do everything possible, including coming up with new investigation techniques if necessary, but I can’t make a commitment that I can prosecute that case unless I’ve seen the entire case file,” said Kamada.

Acosta’s response was bold, saying he would prosecute the murder case

and bring charges not just to the murderer but also to accomplices in an attempt to get information from a plea deal.

“There is significant new evidence this time to bring charges back and whether you do that through the complaint process or the grand jury indict-

COVID-19 cases make a comeback

by Sophia Escudero and August Linton

Positive COVID-19 cases are once again on the rise in Humboldt County. According to the Humboldt County Public Health Department, 137 confirmed cases were reported between April 19 and April 26, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in Humboldt County up to 17,311.

A Humboldt Notification was sent out to the campus community in response.

“The University encourages the campus community to continue wearing face masks,” the email reads. “We want to remind everyone that N95 masks are recommended and effective for reducing transmission for the wearer.”

Tina deProspero is one of the COVID-19 testing staff currently working on campus. Despite the inherent risk of exposure that comes with her job, she says that she’s not that worried about being infected. She hasn’t tested positive since she started this job in August 2022

“I make sure I’m wearing my N95, and if somebody looks like they’re going to sneeze I’ll put my goggles down,” said deProspero.

According to deProspero, about half of the people come to the testing center are “weekly testers,” those who are mandated by the university to test weekly as a result of their vaccine exemption or other special circumstance. Visiting sports teams make up another large portion of the people they test. DeProspero says that she always sees an uptick in testing after breaks and after weekends.

While mask restrictions have been lifted for campus, the CDC recommends wearing a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status if you are sick, have been in close contact with some-

ment process is open to question, but absolutely yes, probably against more than one person,” said Acosta.

Registered Humboldt County voters will be able to vote for the Humboldt County district attorney position during the Statewide Direct Primary Election on June 7.

one who is sick, live with someone who is at high risk, or are in a county with a high COVID-19 Community Level. The current level for Humboldt County is low.

University testing services now require that students and staff being tested have insurance coverage. DeProspero said that in the case that a patient does not have insurance, the testing center gives them a rapid antigen test.

“That really bugged me though, I was like, we better be able to test everybody,” said deProspero.

Aside from wearing a mask, hand washing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and socially distancing are still strongly recommended.

In an interview with the Washington Post, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci said that although rates of death and hospitalization have been decreasing, the pandemic is still active.

“Right now we’re at a low enough level that I believe that we’re transitioning into endemicity. We’re not in the full-blown explosive pandemic phase,” Fauci said. “That does not mean that the pandemic is over. A pandemic means widespread infection throughout the world.... In our country we’re transitioning into more of a controlled endemicity.”

That outcome is what deProspero is also anticipating.”I’m just hoping that it’ll work its way through,” she said.

Free N95 and surgical masks can be found at the College Creek Mailroom, the Jolly Giant Commons mailroom, the University Police Department, the Admissions Welcome Center, the Library, and the Gutswurrak Student Activities Center.

Understaffed SDRC can’t support students with disabilities

by Morgan Hancock

Disabled students support each other where the administration doesn’t

Ash McElroy is a proudly disabled student. They came to Cal Poly Humboldt well aware of the hills and stairs the campus was built upon. McElroy informed Housing they would need an accommodating dorm for their mobility aid, Housing assigned McElroy to the notably inaccessible College Creek dorms on the hill.

“To their credit, they put me on the first floor, but I could not get my chair through the door,” McElroy said. “I was like, hey, this is not working. Can we move me?”

Housing took months to reply after denying the dorm was inaccessible in the first place. McElroy requested at least adding a push button to get in the door.

“They told me that actually my building was accessible and they didn’t know what I was talking about,” McElroy said.

In an email to McElroy, Housing said a locksmith had confirmed that the press to open button does work.

“I had to have the SDRC go and take pictures of the building to prove that there is not one. Like how’s [Housing] straight-up gaslighting me about this?” McElroy said. It would take a few more months before housing accommodated McElroy’s needs.

13% of Cal Poly Humboldt students have a disability, the second-highest rate of disability in any Cal State University. Humboldt is right behind Cal State Maritime Academy, which has only 600 students. Smith believes the access to green space, small classrooms, and positive learning environment attract students with disabilities to Humboldt’s campus. At the Student Disability Resources Center, Mary Smith and one other part-time staff advisor address accessibility needs on campus.

“We feel like we’re drowning,” Smith said. “We have nearly 800 students with registered disabilities and one and a half advisors. At California State University San Bernardino, the ratio of accessibility advisors to students is one to 65. At Cal Poly Humboldt, the ratio is

one to 500.”

“A majority of the disabilities on campus are psych disabilities. It used to be learning disabilities,” Smith said. “Learning disabilities are much more manageable. It requires some training and accommodations, but usually, you set them up, and they’re good to go. Psych disabilities are a much more revolving door. You can’t set someone up, and they’re just good to go. The level of services is way more intense.”

In the past years, between the pandemic and Cal Poly Humboldt’s fiscal history, Smith has struggled with job security.

Two years ago, the administration offered a retirement buy-out offer. Smith took it and retired.

“They never replaced me, and they called me back...I have so many asks, and I also have absolutely no job security,” Smith said.

The strain of an undersupported SDRC can go undetected by non-disabled admin, faculty, and students. It is not something that disabled students have the privilege to ignore. Alicia Martin is a Cal Poly Humboldt grad student and the founder and director of Adaptable, the campus club for students with disabilities.

“We’re the only club that serves this population of students on campus, and there’s a lot of pressure,” Martin said. “We’re not funded by A.S. It’s all just completely our time and our energy. And we love doing it, but it’s overwhelming. Because we end up having to support students who can’t access food. Who can’t get into buildings. Who aren’t able to hear or see their lectures. Who are months behind in course work because their accommodations aren’t met.”

Martin is working with students on campus to transition to a post-pandemic world. The pandemic forced to change and exacerbated problems that impact students with disabilities. On the other hand, with so many people adapting to the pandemic new adaptive technologies became commonplace.

“Some of this technology is very useful,” Martin said. “We have people who don’t use sign language and rely heav-

FREE CLASSES

Earn credits without having to pay

by Angel Barker

Cal Poly Humboldt is offering two free classes for the summer 2022 term. These classes will be free for students for up to 8 units. Anything beyond 8 units will cost the standard \$289 per unit.

Class scheduling will be offered in person, online (synchronous and asynchronous), and with some hybrid options. Enrollment is currently open for students through your Student Center portal.

Add/drop dates depend on which classes and schedules you choose. There are three summer session dates:

- First 5-week session: May 23-June 24
- Second 5-week session: June 27-July 29
- Ten-week session: May 23-July 29

For all of the options of classes to take this summer, scan the QR code below.



ily on lip-reading, and so Zoom was great. Now, they’re transitioning back to the classroom.”

Students with disabilities continue to support each other despite the obstacles and limited bandwidth on campus. They find support from each other while advocating for universal design. Universal design centers on usability and access for all. It often makes life

more convenient for everyone when design is accessibility-based. Accommodating issues on a need basis frames people with disabilities as a problem.

“We are not the problem,” Martin said. “[Campus operates] on a medical model of disabilities. In a social model, the people who say I can’t are the problem, not me.”

Chicano Batman brings growing Latino music scene to Humboldt

Chicano Batman and Divino Niño took control of the Arcata Theater Lounge



Photo by Abraham Navarro | Chicano Batman bassist Eduardo Arenas leads with a wild solo as lead vocalist Bardo Martinez stands in the background and a fill in drummer beats away at the Arcata Theater Lounge on April 27.

by Abraham Navarro

Hit Los Angeles band Chicano Batman sold out the Arcata Theater Lounge on April 27. The American/Colombian band Divino Niño warmed up the audience. Received with open arms and a few reeling mosh pits buzzing with fervent energy, this show firmly confirmed a living foothold for the growing Latino music scene in Arcata.

Divino Niño were joyous to receive before the main event. They started with the intoxicating song “Quiero” from their 2019 album Foam, which got the crowd swaying to song after song.

Divino Niño, formed by childhood friends from their hometown of Bogotá,

Colombia, plays surreal psychedelic dream-pop with Spanish lyrics and a unique style perfect to open for Chicano Batman.

When Chicano Batman were ready to perform, the crowd was reeling and ready for the four piece team to rock the night.

Their iconic sound is marked by familiar basslines and funky swaying beats, characteristics of the psychedelic-soul twisting inspirations they derive from.

“Polymetronomic Harmony” from their 2020 album Invisible People was the haymaker that turned the crowd



Photo by Joahnna Tool | Eduardo Arenas of Chicano Batman on guitar at the Arcata Theater Lounge April 27.



Photo by Joahnna Tool | Lead vocalist Bardo Martinez and guitarist Carlos Arévalo of Chicano Batman at the Arcata Theater Lounge on April 27.

into a swarm of music hungry fiends, flailing every which way in the pit.

The energy out of every note nudged listeners to their feet, electric energy flowing through the audience as lead guitarist Eduardo Arenas’ fingers flew across every fret of his guitar with lightning speed. For some songs, he danced gracefully up and down the neck of his bass, laying out the backbone for the rest of the band to follow up and deliver.

Carlos Arévalo rocked the guitar and held the melody together from his stronghold on stage right. Though he seldom moved from his spot, his presence was felt throughout the entire set.

The music was medicine, but the performance was deliverance. Lead vocalist Bardo Martinez took the entire stage, jumping in the air and dancing like a possessed person writhing to the beat of the music and the rhythm of the roaring crowd.

Not only did Martinez sing, but he took on the keyboard, kept up with his bandmates on the guitar and danced his heart out to the screaming fans in the sold out show.

Not a single fan walked out without the marks of Chicano Batman firmly on their souls.

Local bands rock the Gutswurrak

by lone Dellos

Band members wait in front of the bathrooms, eyes anxiously fluttering from the stage to the growing audience in the Gutswurrak Student Activities Center. After the deepest sigh one could possibly take, they make their way to the stage and prepare their set. It’s Local Band Night at the SAC. Humboldt’s local bands overcame their nerves and brought the good times to the stage.

Starting the night off, local duo Cowboy Daddy took to the stage. Composed of lead vocalist and guitarist Skye Freitas and drummer/keyboard maestro Conner West, the two have performed as Cowboy Daddy for a little over a year. They work well together, always looking to each other while on stage. They lock eyes to land the ending chords of a song, or to check on each other mid-set.

This was Freitas’s first live performance in over a year, but aside from temporarily losing her guitar pick, the performance went off without a hitch. She soon discovered it in the right hand pocket of her jacket.

“The right is always right,” Freitas said.

The second band to perform was Shaggy Joon, composed of local duo Lily Worthington and Grant Apicella. Worthington plays guitar and sings, and Apicella backs them up from behind the drumset.

They came up with the name for the band in Worthington’s dorm room, and they’ve been playing together for about a year. Complicated strumming patterns and rapid chord changes are handled without a sweat when Worthington is on stage, and the assured confidence with which they handle a guitar are nothing to point a finger at. Worthington dedicated one of the songs to their girlfriend.

“If you got somebody you love, pull them tight,” they said.

They encouraged the crowd to dance a little slower to the song. Concert at-

tendees locked hands and exchanged loving stares as they swayed gently, the gentle guitar riffs and bubble lights setting a dreamy mood.

Shaggy Joon closed out the set with “2 a.m.,” one of Worthington’s favorite songs to perform live. They thanked the remaining audience for sticking around until the end of the show, and began to pack up their things. Despite the small crowd size, most attendees stuck around until the end of the night.



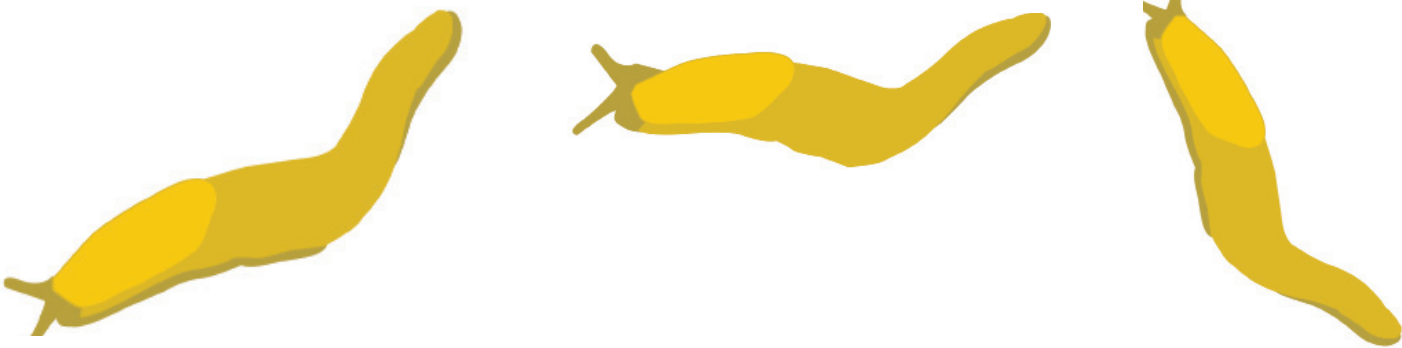
Photo by Abraham Navarro | Skye Freitas, 24, the guitarist for Cowboy Daddy addresses the audience at the Gutswurrak Student Activity Center on April 28.



Photo by Abraham Navarro | Cowboy Daddy’s drummer and keyboard player Conner West, 25, and guitarist Skye Freitas, 24, jam out at the Gutswurrak Student Activity Center on April 28.



Photo by Abraham Navarro | Shaggy Joon guitarist and vocalist Lily Worthington sings at the Gutswurrak Student Activity Center on April 28.



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FROGS

FROM PAGE 1

“The foothill yellow-legged frogs are breeding now, and you might be able to see egg masses attached to rocks and cobble near the shallow edges of our local rivers,” Hudgens said. “I actually would appreciate hearing if any of your readers see an egg mass and want to pass along the location and any photos.”

While both the California red-legged frog and the foothill yellow-legged frog are listed as threatened or endangered species in the state of California, the Humboldt populations are thriving.

“Most of the places where it lives, or where its historic range covers, are the foothills on the edge of the Central Valley,” Hudgens said of the yellow-legged frog. “And those are areas that are under a lot of developmental pressure, a

lot of agricultural pressure, and the rivers and streams around here don’t have the same kind of pressure.”

To help out local frogs, the most important thing you can do is speak out against the development of their natural habitats. Humboldt is a haven for native frog species, and protecting their habitats protects them. When you are in a frog breeding ground, such as a river or pond, it’s important to keep an eye out for eggs and tadpoles underfoot. Washing shoes and swim equipment before and after going to the river can help stop the spread of disease to different populations.

You can create a habitat for frogs in your own backyard. Providing any size pond or standing water can encourage frogs to lay eggs, especially if you live



Photo by Brian Hudgens | A foothill yellow-legged frog hides in plain sight on the banks of the Trinity River.

Beautiful bearded irises

Featured flowers: highlighting Cal Poly Humboldt’s fabulous flora

by Nina Huffman

These deep purple petals belong to the bearded iris. In Greek, “iris” means rainbow. The flowers were named after the messenger goddess who traveled using rainbows. Indeed, irises come in a variety of color variants including yellow, orange, peach, pink, black, white, blue, and purple. The deep purple variant pictured here is called Raven’s Girl. The scientific name of the bearded iris is *Iris germanica*.

Irises have two types of petals. Three petals curve downwards from the center of the flower and are called falls. Three petals stand upright from the flower’s center and are called standards. The two types of petals can be different colors or the same color on an individual flower. Irises have wide, flat, blade-shaped leaves and tall, bare stems.

Irises can be identified based on whether they grow from bulbs or rhizomes. PlantInstructions.com says that rhizomes are horizontal stems that grow underground, branching out from the parent plant, just below the surface of the soil. Rhizomes can be dug up and used to propagate new plants. A bulb is also a modified stem, but it does not grow directly from the parent plant. Most irises grow from rhizomes.

According to GardenFundamentals.com, irises that



grow from rhizomes can be further categorized based on whether they are bearded, crested, or beardless. A beard is a fuzzy patch of hairlike extensions on each fall near the center of the petal, and a crest is a raised section of tissue located in the same place as the beard. If a flower has neither a beard nor a crest, then it is considered beardless.

Most of the larger iris species, including the bearded iris, are native to the Mediterranean, North Africa, and Asia.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, there are 28 species of iris that are native to the United States. It is illegal to pick or disturb irises on national forest land.

Irises bloom multiple times a year. Their beautiful flowers can be seen on our campus throughout the summer.

To help out local frogs, the most important thing you can do is speak out against the development of their natural habitats. Humboldt is a haven for native frog species, and protecting their habitats protects them.

near an existing frog habitat. Hudgens recommends allowing the pond to dry out fully once a year in order to discourage invasive bullfrogs, which prey on native species and compete with them for resources. Bullfrogs take two years to fully mature, while native frogs reach adulthood in a matter of months.

“If you’ve got a stream running through your backyard, maintaining a nice cobble area will really help out the yellow-legged frogs,” Hudgens said. “If you’re in an area with bullfrogs, trying to keep them out is probably the biggest thing we can do for all of our amphibians.”



Photo by Brian Hudgens | A Pacific tree frog, otherwise known as a Pacific chorus frog, rests on tree bark.

Jacks play last softball game of the series

by Eddie Carpenter

On April 30, Cal Poly Humboldt Softball played the last two games of their series against Cal State San Marcos. Due to weather conditions, the softball games had to be relocated to the Bear River Recreation Center in Loleta. In the second game, senior pitcher Emily McAdams pitched a five hit complete victory—a 10-2 win in five innings. Humboldt won in terms of run rules.

McAdams, JoAna Mullins, Megan Holt and Katelyn Dendas were recognized in between games with a Senior Day ceremony.

“Saturday’s games were a triumph. We came out the first day...with high emotions and excitement to celebrate our seniors and knowing that it would be their last games in Humboldt State uniform,” Dendas said. “Unfortunately, we did lose the first one, but we came back and we took the second from San Marcos.”

With the Jacks’ 7-29 conference record, they did not make the postseason this year. The team was faced with many challenges this season.

“We came out pretty hot in San Bernardino— the first series of the conference play. We kind of stutter-stepped for a little bit and we lost a couple series,” Dendas said. “This team is adaptable. We’ve gone through a lot together. We’ve gone through the loss of a teammate and a global pandemic. And we were able to keep pushing and keep trying. Every game was a fight. There was never a sense that...every game would be handed to the team. Even though on record it



Photo by Morgan Hancock | The Jacks celebrate a homerun hit by Izzy Star who went three-for-three with four runs batted in, two runs scored and a home run on April 30.

doesn’t show, there was a lot of heart and dedication throughout the whole season by this team.”

Humboldt timbersports takes gold

Editors note: synopsis written by Bryan Looney of the Timbersports team

There is something about the sound of chainsaws running and the sight of seeing an axe in motion that takes the audience’s breath away. All these tools were put to the test last week at the University of Montana, Missoula in the 82nd annual conclave. The Cal Poly Humboldt Logging Sports team has been training all year long for their biggest competition of the year against schools such as University of Montana, Idaho, Oregon and even our own Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. There were even professionals from past STIHL timbersports competitions that worked with some of our team members. With over 110 collegiate athletes participating, Humboldt was able to take home the gold with 264 points. When we heard about the news, pretty much everyone stopped for gas and shortly celebrated. This is a victory that couldn’t have been won without the graduating seniors and the big supporters of the team. As the school year ends, the team members begin to wrap up the semester with a smile on their faces knowing their hard work has been paid off. The Logging Team would like to thank all the supporters and the donors that made this event possible.

- A Team**
Zoey Cardoza
(Vertical chop and double buck)
Madison Benson
(Horizontal hard hit and vertical chop)
Cassandra Renteria
(Double buck, womens Obstacle pole and burling/log rolling)
Veronica Lerman
(Pole climb and log rolling)
Clinton Kafka
(Mens obstacle pole and double buck)
Bryce McCurry
(Mens Obstacle pole and double buck)
Austin Nolan
(Mens Single buck and Pole Climbing)
Ian Blundell
(Mens Horizontal Hard hit and Vertical chop)
- B Team-**
Franziska Daumberger
(Choker course)
Brittney Tresenrider
(Horizontal hard hit)
Bryan Looney
(Mens double buck, Obstacle Pole)
Stephen Borcich
(Powersaw and Pole Climbing)
Wyatt Grognet
(Axe throw and Burling)
Jony Gonzalez
(Mens double Bucking and Obstacle Pole)
Thomas Franaszek
(choker course and Double Bucking)
Kevin Christensen
(Obstacle Pole and Horizontal Hard Hit)



Photos courtesy of Bryan Looney | Jony Gonzales and Bryan Looney compete in the doublebuck at the Timbersports Conclave hosted by University of Montana, Thursday, April 28.

Los Bagels

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The conundrum of blood quantum

Wrestling with being Native yet socially white

by Matthew Taylor

Over a century ago, two young women hid in the vegetation alongside the bay waters surrounding the small island of Tuluwat. Lying just off the coast of Eureka, Tuluwat is also known as Jaroujiji in Soulatluk, the language of the Wiyot Tribe. Those women’s English names were Matilda James and Nancy Spear. They were two of the few survivors of the Feb. 26, 1860 Wiyot Massacre. The massacre took place the night of the tribe’s most sacred of holy days, the World Renewal ceremony. Over 200 Wiyot people died that night at the hands of white Humboldt settlers. Nancy Spear and her sister Matilda James are my ancestors. I am a descendant of the Wiyot people, and yet I’m also white and thus experience white privilege.

When my mother was little, my grandpa would often take her to the local powwows here in Humboldt. My grandpa is a registered member of the Wiyot Tribe and carries within him the history of our family’s struggles - a long history of generational trauma, mental illness, and alcoholism.

My grandma, a non-Native person, was embarrassed to go to these events and cultural celebrations. She felt that because neither her husband nor children looked Native enough, they didn’t belong in that space. My mother and I grew up completely separated from that part of our family. Even today we are reluctant to reach back out to the tribe, not because we want government benefits or even full membership, but because we wish to gain what our family has lost - culture, history, heritage.

Eddie Carpenter, a fellow reporter at the Lumberjack and registered member of the Hoopa Tribe, has had similar difficulties as a white-assumed Native person. Carpenter prefers not to be labeled as white-passing due to the term’s colonial history.

“Despite being a tribal member I get mistaken a lot for being a white person,” Carpenter said. “As a child I kind of got bullied a little bit for being mistaken for that identity. Most of it was little microaggressions such as, ‘you don’t look native to me.’”

We do differ in some experiences, though. Unlike Carpenter, my grandpa and his sister are the only members of

my family who still make the federal minimum “blood quantum.” Also unlike Carpenter, I didn’t get the oppor-

people with minimal Native ancestry from taking government benefits that they often don’t need, while others,

aware of when in Native spaces. “I do not self identify by colonial tools from imposed social structures that were used to conquer and divide my people from the inside out,” Carpenter said.

I don’t wish to take up space that is not mine to take. But I don’t wish to deny a history that my family has nor reject a people, the Wiyot people, that are part of me.

The experiences and connection that the Wiyot people have to this land is represented within my family. We are still healing from our generational trauma and we are still deeply in love with the land we now call Humboldt. In the years to come, my hope is to bring my family back into the community and to use my resources, connections and skills to give back to the tribe that gave me my mother, my grandfather, my great grandmother, and my life.

“Despite being a tribal member I get mistaken a lot for being a white person.”

-Eddie Carpenter, registered member of the Hoopa Tribe

tunity to be raised within my culture. “White-passing is an outdated term,” Carpenter said. “Because it is based on the ‘one drop rule’ of the Black/white binary categories within U.S. politics.”

There is a lot of debate within Native American communities on the usefulness of blood quantum minimums. Some believe it helps to deter white

like Carpenter and I, believe that it is a harmful colonial system that has historically erased - and continues to erase - the existence and power of Native people. However, there is no doubt that Carpenter and I experience significant privilege due to our perceived whiteness. This is a truth we do not deny, and one that we try to actively be



Photo by Matthew Taylor | Group of Native American nursing student in Arizona circa 1920s. Lowest, left woman is Julia Eileen Beauchamp, a Wiyot woman and ancestor of Matthew Taylor.

Letter to the editor: Iris Rose, Humboldt student and grounds keeper

Students returning to face-to-face instruction on campus are a welcome sight and indicator that after two years of the pandemic derailing normal operations things are slowly getting back to normal.

As a groundsworker on campus, I take great joy in seeing students making the most of their college experience- whether it be a picnic lunch with fellow students, a sunshine study session (get that vitamin D while it’s available!), or someone stopping to take a picture of a flower in bloom.

While the opportunities for playfulness are bountiful, as a groundsworker I have a slightly different perspective on who (or what) is enjoying it, and I’d like to share a few thoughts about slacklining that people may not have thought of.

Where slacklining is set up can mean the difference of a healthy landscape or one that has been trampled and abused- even if unintentionally. Many people- both slackers and non slackers - are unaware of the potential damaging effects slacklining can have on the natural environment.

The trees themselves can be damaged in numerous ways. The site on the tree that is used as an anchor to make the line taut can receive harm to the outer bark and the cambium layer (that’s the layer of the trunk just below the bark where new growth of outer bark occurs).

The type of tree and its age can also be huge factors in how slacklining affects it. A tree that is too young may be yanked too hard with the application of sudden pressure. The type of tree can make a difference because of the different types of bark surfaces and how the line is in direct contact with it. Tree branches may be snapped or damaged when someone is getting on and off the line.

What does the ground cover and surrounding landscape look like? Will they be trampled to access the line and when a wayward fall occurs?

Loud noises disrupt birds and other nearby wildlife. Raccoons slumbering in the heights of trees are particularly scared of loud noise and music. Those incredible pumpkin spiders that receive such awe every fall (and other arachnids and insects) might not appreciate the art of slacklining as much as humans do.

I’m not sure if there’s an acronym for choosing the safest slacklining site, but here’s an opportunity to create your own. Be sure to include: age/type of tree, the surroundings (both wildlife and landscaping), and location (is the site near buildings?).

While there has been talk about the installation of a permanent slacklining site on campus, nothing has yet been determined, and at this time I’m honestly not sure if the activity is permitted on campus. I’m not saying I’m opposed to slacklining, but more requesting the considerations of the surroundings and to think of how your actions can make an impact.

From one of your friendly Cal Poly Humboldt Groundsworkers: please slack responsibly.



2 BURRITOS \$15

3 TACOS \$6

&

TACO TUESDAY

\$1.45 TACOS

