

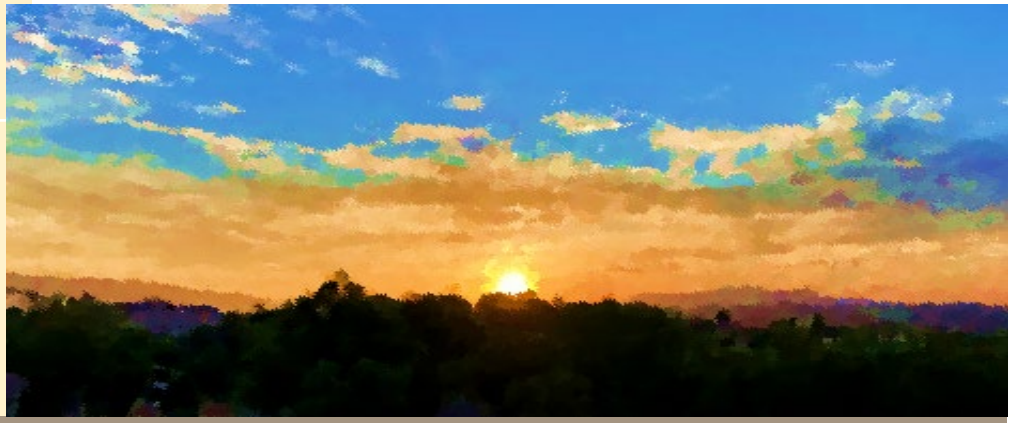
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The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California

Tribal Youth Court Periodical

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Our Mission

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Tribal Youth Court, TYC, aims to cultivate wellness-based responses to low status offenses. The TYC centers on educating tribal youth about tribal restorative justice practices and empowers them to engage in these practices in service of their communities.

Greetings,

We hope that your year is off to a great start! Holiday breaks have ended and schools are back in session. Our first Honors Program course is set to begin this month. Through our collaboration with American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Programs, we are pleased to share that the American Indian Studies Course at SDSU will be starting on February 12th. This course is an online written communications course that focuses on the rhetoric of written argument from interdisciplinary perspectives, referencing American Indian content. This course will cover the practice of interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating written arguments. Students will also learn to write complex arguments, use source materials responsibly, and make sound decisions about audience, context, structure, and purpose. Students will practice the fundamentals of writing and rhetoric by examining the unique phenomena of American Indian Tribal Nationhood. They will investigate what defines constitutions, the history of tribal constitutions, what influences their structures, and the relationship between Western civic modes and indigenous notions of nationhood. In taking this course, students will qualify to serve on our Youth Court peer jury. We refer to our jury of peers as Peer Decision Makers (PDMs). This enhanced training option, known as the *Honors Project*, provides academic enrichment with university-level credit, native content-based courses on tribal restorative justice principles and governance. These courses provide overviews of the legal system and the issues involved in tribal legal studies, preparing students to serve as PDMs. If you are interested in enrolling in this course or if you'd like to hear about our alternative training option for PDMs, please reach out to the Tribal Youth Court for information on how to enroll and get started. We hope to see many new faces in our Spring course!



Here's what to look for in February:

February 2nd: *Groundhog*

Day Falling between the winter solstice and spring equinox, February 2nd is a significant day in ancient and modern traditions. Annual festivities take place in Punxsutawney, PA, where spectators gather to see if the groundhog will see its shadow, indicating whether or not spring will arrive early, bringing an end to cold winter weather.

February 11th: *National*

Make a Friend Day It is never too late in life to make a friend. Friends can open you up to new experiences, help through challenging times, and provide the comfort of a safe, emotional space where we can be ourselves. Good friends are a treasure and this day can serve as a reminder to make friends wherever you roam.

February 14th: *Valentine's Day* Valentine's Day celebrates love! The origin comes from the legend of its patron saint, St. Valentine, a priest who served in Rome during the third century. He allegedly married couples at a time when marriage was outlawed. We celebrate this holiday by exchanging cards and gifts with loved ones. It is not just reserved for couples. It is a day to celebrate all love... friends, family, and even pets! Hello, Galentines!!

February 20th: *President's*

Day Celebrated on the third Monday of February, this federal holiday, which also recognizes the birthday of our first president, George Washington, is celebrated in the U.S. to honor the presidents who have served our country.

February 29th: *Leap Day- Year* A leap year, typically every four years, is a year when an extra day is added to the end of the shortest month, February. We use leap years to keep our calendar in sync with the seasons, and in alignment with Earth's revolution around the sun. Happy Birthday, February 29'ers!

Month of February: *Black History Month*

This month commemorates African American history and achievements. February was selected because it was the birth month of Abraham Lincoln, who is responsible for the Emancipation of Proclamation, and Frederick Douglas, who was a central figure in the abolitionist movement in the 19th century.



Coordinator's Corner

In the essence of "love," I'd like to share insights from an article that resonated with me. The article highlights the significance of nurturing relationships, but I don't think we need to add excessive pressure. Demonstrating love doesn't always necessitate grand gestures. Sometimes a gentle gaze or small act of kindness is all you need.

"Of all the holidays we Natives have to contend with in the U.S., Valentine's Day can be the most confusing for those of us looking to tradition for guidance in the ways of the heart. Native stories are big on themes like bravery, sacrifice, compassion, and leadership, but when it comes to romance- not so much. Native nations have traditional stories of courtship and specific songs of love. I've come across some in books, but the more interesting ones come by way of explanation by a storyteller or singer... Along with songs, Natives have tribal and family stories of courtship. For example, there are stories of men traveling by canoes or traveling over land for many miles to win the hand of a woman from another village or camp. In many of these stories, they have to overcome obstacles along the way and then are initially rebuffed once they arrive at their destination. Perseverance is the lesson as these men stick it out and prove themselves worthy. Such a person from our past is viewed with a certain amount of reverence..."

Valentine's Day should not be the sole occasion for expressing love. I do enjoy the sentiment of the holiday, but it is only another day to celebrate and embrace those we love.



Current Events>>> Law in the News

★ Museums across the United States are closing exhibits featuring Native American artifacts, in response to an updated Repatriation law. The closures come in response to updates in a federal repatriation law, effective January 12th. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), requires museums and institutions holding Native American remains and sacred objects, to consult with and obtain informed consent from descendants of affected tribes before displaying remains or cultural artifacts.

Museums are quickly seeking to implement the changes brought on through NAGPRA. Last month, the *American Museum of Natural History* (AMNH) in New York City announced it would close two of its exhibition halls. The president of the AMNH, Sean Decatur, acknowledges that the exhibits, saying "While the actions we are taking this week may seem sudden, they reflect a growing urgency among all museums to change their relationships to, and representation of, Indigenous cultures."

Interior Secretary, Deb Haaland, the first Native American to hold a U.S. Cabinet position, shared in a written statement that the new regulations would play a major part in, "...laying the groundwork for the healing of our people."

The new regulations under NAGPRA will require museums and federal agencies to consult and update inventories within five years.

Tribal Youth Court

What's Happening in February

The Tribal Youth Court has a full schedule coming up! See below for some important dates!

- Upcoming Calendar Events for February:

- On Monday, February 19th, the court will be closed in honor of President's Day
- Our first PDM Honors Program course begins on Monday, February 12th. The course is AMIND120, offered through SDSU See our website for more details on the Honors Program.



Love takes center stage this month, but February is also viewed as the bridge between a frost-kissed winter and the promise of spring. This month brings a feeling of transition, marking a gradual shift from winter's chill to hints of spring's warmth. May your February encapsulate the love, warmth, and beauty of the season.



Intertribal Court of Southern California

The Tribal Youth Court is a division of the Intertribal Court of Southern California (ICSC). Please refer to this section to find current news and updates about the court.

About the Court...

The ICSC serves as a consortium of tribes from across Southern California. ICSC currently serves the thirteen of its member tribes hearing cases on public safety issues, tort claims, family law, conservatorships and more. We highlight one of our member tribes below.

Please visit www.intertribalcourt.org to learn more about the court and its member tribes.

Frequently Asked Questions Ask the court >>>

Question: What happens if the Participant cannot finish all of the requirements in the time allotted of the Wellness Plan?

Answer: The Youth Court Coordinator's responsibility is to oversee and guide the Participant to ensure timely completion of all program requirements outlined in the Wellness Plan. Each plan is structured into five phases, referred to as branches, which break down the tasks/hours expected to be completed by the Participant. Although we strive to maintain the Participant's progress, we acknowledge that unforeseen circumstances may arise. It is important to communicate any setbacks that could impede plan completion, enabling us to make necessary accommodations.



Final thoughts...

Fun Law Fact:

In the state of Alabama, it is illegal to dress up as a priest, nun, rabbi, or any other member of the clergy. The consequences of violating this law could include being charged for a misdemeanor, and fined up to \$500 or a year in county jail.

Court Humor:

What did the photograph say to the lawyer?

- ***“Someone is trying to frame me!”***

Announcements:

- **Our PDM Honors Program course starts February 12th. Registration for the course is linked on our website. You can also email us to assist with registration.**



Coming Soon >>>

In Our March Issue

TYC and ICSC Updates

PDM Honors Program Spring Course

Monthly Newsletter Features

Intertribal Court of Southern California
Tribal Youth Court
49002 Golsh Road
Valley Center, CA 92082
www.intertribalcourt.org

Please email the youth court to submit a question for the “Q & A” section to be answered in an upcoming issue or inquire about a monthly newsletter subscription. Contact information below.

**Coordinator’s Corner Referenced Article

Chanate, R. (2012, February 15). *Native Americans and Valentines" Hearts, Tales, and Verse*. ICT News. Retrieved February 4, 2024, from www.ictnews.org

If you’d like more information on our Tribal Youth Court, please contact us at tribalyouthcourt@intertribalcourt.org or call (760) 751-4142 ext. 105