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Last native Eyak speaker dead at 89

By DEBRA MCKINNEY
dmckinney@adn.comPublished: January 22nd, 2008 02:51 PM
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Chief Marie Smith Jones, 89, the last full-blooded Eyak and last native speaker of the Eyak language, died of natural causes on Monday at her home in Anchorage, according to her family.



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Services will begin at 1 p.m. Friday at St. Innocent Russian Orthodox Cathedral, 401 Turpin St. Viewing will begin at 11 a.m.

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Marc Lester / Anchorage Daily News / Anchorage Daily News
In 2001 Eyak elder Marie Smith Jones was honored at the Chickaloon powwow.

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Video: Chief Marie Smith Jones delivers a prayer in Eyak in 1994.

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