

July 2010

Vol.
3/7

Program News

Prevention Program Offers Fun Family Activities

By Lorrie Bonifer, Prevention Specialist

- **Healing Circle:** Starting July 27 at 4:30 PM. There will be a healing circle in front of the building where the canoe is being carved. A small, portable fire pit will be used to cook hot dogs and make smores. Books will be available to read, everyone is welcome. Please bring your own camping chair. Every Tuesday at 4:30.
- **Day Fitness Camp:** Starting July 28 from 3:00-4:00 PM every Wednesday. This will be a fun filled activity and youth of all ages are welcome. We will have different games set out and youth will rotate every 10 minutes. *No Snacks or Prizes* will be given out. This is a strictly “come and have healthy fun and be fit activity.” It will be in the parking lot of the Community Center every Wednesday. (This is a community volunteer project, youth workers.)
- **Youth Talking Circle:** Starting July 28 and every Wednesday. Lorrie Bonifer will meet youth at TELO at 3:00-4:00 PM- no appointments - all youth are welcome.
- **Fresh Organic Veggies:** We have partnered with Newaukaum Valley in Adna for weekly fresh organic vegetables. Pick up days for produce are Fridays. Deliveries to Head Start and other locations. This program will be available until October 18.
- **Cooking Demo with Organic Veggies:** Pat Odiorne will lead a Cooking Demonstration at Head Start, Youth Center, and at the Elders Center once a month.
- **I am amazing:** This is a curriculum geared towards Head Start. This program covers many areas to help our youth learn refusal skills, builds self esteem and confidence. The Prevention Program combined with other departments will teach this class at Head Start.
- **Strengthening Families:** This is one night each week on Thursdays for 7 weeks. It is a family oriented class that assists families in working together to deal with complex and simple issues.

Events are sponsored by the Mental Health Mini Grant, Prevention Funds. Please contact Lorrie Bonifer at 360-709-1717 if you are interested in attending any of these programs.

Applications Available

Looking for work? Please contact the following to see what positions are available.

- **Enterprises:** Contact Anna M. Hartman at 360-273-1251 ext 112 or e-mail ahartman@chehalistribe.org. New positions available.
- **Tribal Center:** Sylvia Cayenne at 360-709-1508; or email Scayenne@chehalistribe.org
- **Lucky Eagle Casino:** Allison Carter at 360-273-2000

CHEHALIS
TRIBAL
NEWSLETTER



♦ “People of the Sands” ♦



2010 Head Start Graduation Celebrate with Friends and Family

- Twenty-five Head Start students graduate recognized and continue onto Kindergarten , page 2

Chehalis Canoe Family Travel the Puget Sound in the 2010 Paddle to Makah



On Monday July 19 final landing ceremonies were amazing as Makah Nation honored all the canoe families as they requested to enter their land. As the canoes were greeted by Elders, leaders and royalty dressed in their respective ragalia, making this the best greeting ever.

By Fred Shortman, Editor

This year marked the fourth time the Chehalis Canoe Family has participated in the Tribal Canoe Journey. Shortly after fireworks season ended, many Canoe Family members were seen excitedly packing and preparing for this year’s journey. Each individual anticipated spending time with family and making new friends while traveling the Puget Sound with “One Heart, One Mind.”

The journey began on Wednesday, July 7th at Squaxin Island, where camp was set up and formal protocol happened that night. The following morning the journey began through Puget Sound waterways. Many early mornings followed as the participating tribal canoe families began each day at 4:00 AM. It was hot the first few days with temperatures reaching into the mid-nineties. The heat created safety issues for both the pullers and land crew, who were grateful for

the hosting tribes providing much needed extra water.

As the journey continued the number of participants started to grow as familiar and new faces joined up at different locations to add to the pullers and ground crew. It wasn’t a vacation though, as the ground crew traveled in their “ground canoes” breaking down camp, and moving to the new location to set up again. Many hours were spent driving to the different tribes who were hosting the next stop. The tribes shared their songs and dances at the evening camps.

One heart, One mind is hard to explain and you really need to be there to get the full impact. It is what the Chehalis Canoe Family is all about: sharing, and teaching the youth about family and team values, about sharing in the workload and enjoying each other’s company. It’s not just about the work to be done, but about learning

and respecting each other and other Tribes’ traditions.

Campgrounds were established and delicious meals provided by each hosting tribe. Canoe families sang thank you songs, recognizing their hard work and the long hours for the cooks who worked diligently to feed this large group of canoe families breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hands up to the hosting tribes and cooks for their dedication in making this a safe and successful journey.

At camp many youth were seen learning and laughing together as they worked on their regalia or gift items for the final destination protocol. Each individual was required to make or donate ten items each, and for many it was their first time beading or making traditional items.

Many agreed that the early mornings were tough, but necessary to make the

See Canoe Journey, page 4

Fireworks Season is a Family Business and Shows Signs of Economic Improvement

By Fred Shortman, Editor

With the unusually wet and cold summer weather the 2010 fireworks season brought some challenges for both stand owners and wholesalers. The soggy fields quickly turned the entry roads into a muddy and sloppy mess. Trucks were dispatched to fix this and customers were able to access the fireworks they were planning to purchase.

There were 96 Fireworks stands set up throughout the reservation; Thunder Alley, Thunder Valley 1 and Thunder Valley 2, Top of the Hill, Thunder City Mall, Indian Country, Moon Road and one stand at the Tribal Center Parking lot and another on South Bank Road.

Fireworks season was a time for families to gather together to prepare their stands for another season. Many stand owners were seen rebuilding stands, painting and filling their stands with stock. The hiring of employees and arranging work schedules brought the anticipation of selling to customers and making it a successful business venture. For those tribal members who work in the fireworks stand, the hours can be long. Some of the families take turns

to provide security in order to protect their interests.

Marketing strategy is the key to success for the fireworks season. Listening to some of the sales pitches from the stands was quite unique and entertaining. To be successful many fireworks stand owners rely on their return customers who they refer to as “repeats.” The veteran stand owners always look forward to building a bigger customer base. The economy and amount of stands affected last year’s profit margins, and continued to impact this year’s fireworks season; although many stand owners agreed they had a successful season with some improvement over last year.

Consumers traveled great distances to continue their

See Fireworks, page 3



Selling Fireworks is a family tradition for tribal members. Pictured (L-R) are Grandpa Dennis Cayenne proudly to teaching his first granddaughter Makayla Ortez about selling fireworks. She just turned fourteen and it was her first year she worked in the stand.

FirstName LastName
Street Address
City, ST Zip

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2010 Head Start Graduates Receive a Celebration Heard for Miles Around



Head Start Graduates stand up and clap with excitement as the ceremonies ended, receiving a tremendous roar of applause from the community.

By Lloyd Commander, Director

The Chehalis Head Start held graduation activities at the Lucky Eagle Casino on Sunday, June 25. Over 200 family and friends attended to celebrate with the twenty-five students who completed their first step in their education. Grannie Annie Jones was special speaker and gave an inspirational speech for the 2010 graduates. Our program was exciting as we shared a wonderful dinner together and the celebration was heard for miles around!!

Head Start graduates are Latrevious Groninger, Keziah Gleason-Velasquez, Haezen Charles-Cayenne, Kadenze Shortman, Rhapsody Simmons, Leonard Zehe, Adrian Snell, Katrina Hawkins, Fayette Filby, Enrique Rivas, Nora Ortivez,

Jake Jones, Tere’ Cabrera, Ashton Boyd, Alexis Starr-Wright, Lucille Kilburn, Christine Edwards, Daniel Gitchel, Gary Walvetne, Falisity Bumgarner, Mariah Galloway, Raina Gosenberg, Alyssia Hoxie, Isabella Lujan, David Pickernell, Jr., Payton Simmons, and Clarence Youckton

We would like to thank the Chehalis Business Committee, Lucky Eagle Casino and the parents of the graduating class (led by Heather Galloway), the Head Start staff and many others that helped make this event possible. Many thanks to the volunteers who held fundraisers and the community members who donated money, to fund this worthwhile event.

The Dangers of Teen Sexting

Dawn Boley, Domestic Violence Advocate

Did you know? I want to share some very important information all parents and youth should know about cell phones and sexting. What is sexting? Sexting is defined as sending sexually suggestive messages, photos or videos between cell phones or via the Internet.

New technologies have made it easier and faster than ever to share information across town or around the world. Faceless forms of communications, such as email and texting, give false security of being anonymous and safe. I assure you it is not safe! Images can easily be shared with numerous others and can never truly be taken back. Texting or emailing leaves a digital footprint that can be easily traced by law enforcement.

- 39 % of teens said they had sent sexually suggestive messages by text, email, or IM.
- 20 % of teens said they had sent or posted nude or seminude photos of themselves.

Federal and state laws make it illegal to create, distribute or possess sexually explicit photographs of minors. **This is true, even when minors are distributing pictures of themselves.**

Minors involved in sexting can be charged with possession of child pornography, a serious crime in every state. Offenders are required to enter a national database of sex offenders for the rest of their lives.

If you receive an inappropriate image or text....

- Do not forward the image to anyone. Think about how it could hurt the person involved.
- If the text is from a friend, tell the friend you do not want any more texts like that.
- If the texts keep coming, block that sender. “Unfriend” the person from your social networking account. You may need to change you number. Only share your number with trusted friends.

Standing Tall Conference Continues to Inspire Youth

By Colleen Klatush and Theresa Pannkuk, Chaperones

Standing Tall! You would think the title says it all wouldn’t you? It’s the second year for me attending this Conference with the youth of the Chehalis Tribe. As a chaperone I was honored to be given the opportunity to go. Thanks, Tony Medina, for inviting me.

The Conference was started 21 years ago by Ken and Jessie Stevens from the Quinault Tribe and has grown stronger and larger every year. They invite motivational speakers from across the United States. Chance Rush is a hit every year, he’s very inspirational to the youth. I was able to speak with him one on one and discovered our common interests and cultural background.

Respecting your elders seems to be lost in some tribes, and very strong in other tribes. Many youth are proud to sing and drum, while performing native dances that were passed down to them from their parents and grandparents. I met many young people who were not afraid to talk to me and shared a little about their lives. They really enjoyed themselves at the Great Wolf Lodge. Yes, it is a fun place to be, but I said workshops first, and play during your free time. The workshops involved drum making, dream catchers, cultural and fashion clothing. They were taught photography and much more. These were great workshop for all the youth who attended.

I found a little sit down time to talk with other chaperones. Ken Stevens told me that

it was hard to put this year’s conference together. So we talked about tribes combining together to keep the Standing Tall Conference going. I thought it was a great idea to teach our youth, helping them into adulthood, and to assist their future plans by keeping them on the right path.

This is the second year that the conference was held at the Great Wolf Lodge, and we’d like to keep it here. It was a great experience for me and I hope that more of our youth will get the chance to have the same experience I did of rekindling old friendships, and making new friendships.

Every time I got into the elevator and I’d see a Native American youth I asked them who they were and what tribe they were from. They’d look at me with a smile on their face and tell me with so much pride about how this was a great experience for them. It made me feel really proud to be a Native American. Hearing those youth say that made me feel that there is so much faith and pride in that our youth for who they are and that their not afraid to say who or where they are from.

So respect your elders and “don’t talk back.” Stand Tall to be proud of who you are and where you’re from. If you didn’t get that message at the conference, then someone didn’t get why we were there. I hope our tribe will be one of many tribes to join in the effort to “keep the “Standing Tall Youth Conference” going for many more years.

For 10 Young Tribal Members, June 10th was a Night to Remember

Jason Gillie, Education Specialist

The evening began as families and community members gathered in the Casino Event Center to honor and recognize the graduating class of 2010. The graduates included: Shelby McCrory, Rikki Sutterliet, Loyala Davis, Tammy Klatush, Rhyse Pettite, Heidi Geiser, Shanin Clancy, and Frazer Meyer. Michael McClear and Akasha Sleight were also recognized, but were unable to attend.

After everybody had their fill of a wonderful meal of seafood, chicken skewers, prime rib, and salad; the evening began. The Education Department had several games for the graduates to play

based on the new TV show on NBC, “Minute To Win It”. The games ranged from “Hanky Panky”, where the students had to compete to see who could pull all the tissue out of a box the fastest, to “Johnny Apple Stack”, in which each student raced to see who could stack/balance four apples on top of each other. The graduates had a blast, the crowd had fun watching and rooting for their children. In the end, each student received a Pendleton blanket and a jacket from the Tribe, a computer, and a gift personalized to each student.

Good luck in the future to each and every graduate.

Youth Create Beautiful Beadwork for Fathers Day

By Diane Devlin, Culture Coordinator

Tribal Youth gathered at the Community Center on Wednesday, June 16 to attend a Cultural Class to create a Father’s Day Gift. Kids made beaded animal shaped key chains and perler-bead items for their dads, uncles or grandfathers for Father’s Day. The kids had a great time making different animal shapes, like dogs, cats, spiders and frogs from pony beads strung together. Some of the kids designed patterns from perler beads placed on page boards and then heated to bond the beaded patterns together. The kids finished their project by creating a personalized Fathers’ Day Card. Dan Penn helped the kids learn how to say Happy Fathers’ Day in Chehalis. The kids added the Chehalis words for “Happy Fathers Day” to the cards they made.

Note: Early Math Skills with Hands-On Activities. Breeding with pony beads or perler beads is a great way to teach kids the basics in beading. Even better, beading strengthens

math skills. The calculation and math required to construct and draft out beading patterns is often overlooked or not realized as a way to use math skills. The concepts of “different” and “same” will be used in later school years in math in both visual and word problems. These concepts are critical first steps in learning to classify objects based on their visual characteristics.

Kids can start very young to begin the steps towards beading and in turn practice math skills by learning to bead. Use extra-large pop-beads that are about four inches wide as a way to introduce these ideas to young children. Later pony beads are a good way to further develop beading skills and perler beads are great ways to help young hands shape ideas and design. Perler beads come in many colors and can be cylindrical in shape. Page boards come in shapes that can be filled in with the beads or kids can create their own design. There are endless designs and patterns kids can follow or create themselves.

If you would like beading ideas for your child call me at 360-709-1621.



Youth made some beautiful beaded gifts for fathers day at the community center. Pictured are (L-R) Jubilee Kainz showing her beaded key chain and Jordan Wyatt selecting the color beads for his project.

Chehalis Tribal Newsletter



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Articles and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of this publication or the Chehalis Tribal Business Committee.

The Chehalis Tribal Newsletter encourages tribal members to submit letters, articles, photographs, and drawings to be considered for publication. These are subject to editing.

Contributing writers, artists, and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members and staff.

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The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation...
“People of the Sands”

Fireworks (continued from page 1)

annual Fourth of July tradition to purchase their fireworks on the Chehalis Reservation. Even with the added pressure from cities that have banned fireworks, customers continue to celebrate with their own fireworks show. A few customers commented that they’ve selected spots where there isn’t as much pressure from Law Enforcement Officers stopping them from lighting them. Others received permits providing a safe environment for those who came to their shows.

At the end of the day on the Fourth, tribal and community members looked forward to another fireworks show at the ball field. It was a spectacular display as the crackles, explosions and bouquets burst into the sky above the Chehalis Reservation. The salutes are always a heart



The beautiful displays of crackling palms, bouquets, and the salutes ended the fourth of July celebration for many stand owners. Making it a celebration to remember.

pounding success as stand owners sit down with family and watch the show. There were a few scary moments during the show but thankfully no one was seriously injured. Pyrotechnics are dangerous, but worthwhile to provide a great celebration of our freedom.

Thanks for the Memories

Great job Barnaby and his many helpers. Your work and dedication in putting on our show is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to everyone who helped clean up after the show, including those who came to the show and our grounds crew who worked hard the next morning to accomplish this.

Also thanks to the Fireworks Committee and Law Enforcement for the time they committed to inspect each stand: Pam Youckton, Joyleen McCrory, Chris Ortivez, Chris Richardson and alternate Shoni Pannkuk.

Preparing Early for the Winter Months Helps the Environment

By Glen Connelly, Environmental Specialist

If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heat in the winter, now is the time to split and dry your wood. Seasoned (dried) wood burns hotter and cleaner in your fireplace. This means less soot in your chimney and less smoke blowing towards your neighbor. Here are a few reminders:

Store your wood off the ground, so air can circulate and dry it. (Old pallets work great.) Split your wood before stacking and it will dry faster.

Cover the wood pile with a tarp, or build a wood shed to keep the rain off of it.

Never burn garbage, or wood that has been

painted or treated. They produce toxic chemicals.

Wood smoke is the leading source of air pollution in our area and we all produce some of it. Every little bit we do to reduce pollution from wood smoke makes our community healthier for the elders, the children and those folks with respiratory illnesses. Tribal members can apply for a free firewood gathering permit at your Chehalis Department of Natural Resources, so don’t wait. Get your firewood stored now, and you’ll be ready to burn clean, dry wood next winter.



Enterprise has opened a new business located by the Great Wolf Lodge and EOT III in Grand Mound, called Burger Claim. They offer burgers and breakfast. You can eat at the quick serve restaurant or go through the drive thru. Stop by and check out the menu.

Back-to-School Celebration

Wednesday, August 18
Starts at 11:00 AM
At the baseball field

Come pick up your children’s school supplies. There will be a barbecue and fun filled activities for the family throughout the day.

Any questions, contact Nathan Floth at 360-709-1578.

Chehalis Tribal Youth Baseball Tournament

August 20, 21, 22
Come and enjoy a weekend watching the youth play baseball

There will be four different baseball divisions: High School, Babe Ruth, Little League and T-Ball, and a barbecue on Saturday for all the teams.

Please contact Cheryle Starr or Joyce Thomas at 360-273-5911 or email cstarr@chehalistribe.org or jthomas@chehalistribe.org.

Paying Old Debt by BalancePro*

By Diana Pickernell, Loans Coordinator

Paying a credit card or loan in good standing is a pretty simple task – you just go online or send a check to the address on your statements. However, if you have older bills that you were not able to pay in the past but now have the means to take care of, it may not be so easy. If you have been lucky enough to avoid a barrage of collection calls and letters, you may not know who is holding the debt. You also may not be sure about the best way to deal with a collection agency or if it is even a good idea to pay the debt.

Before trying to pay an old debt, you should first confirm how long it has been since you last made a payment on it. Every state has a statute of limitations that determines how long a creditor has to sue you to collect a debt. While there are many reasons that people pay a debt past the statute of limitations (such as a lender requiring it to get a mortgage or feeling a moral obligation to), others may not feel it is necessary if they don’t have to worry about legal action being taken against them. The date of last payment can typically be found on your credit report. You can get a free copy of your credit report from each of the three credit bureaus once a year from the Annual Credit Report Request Service (www.annualcreditreport.com, 1-877-322-8228).

Viewing your credit report can also help you locate the current holder of the debt.

There may be multiple listings for the same debt – see which agency has the most recent report date. Ideally, the collection agency’s contact information will appear on your credit report, but if not, you may have to search for it online. Another possible way to locate the debt is to call the original creditor and ask what collection agency they sent it to. Then call the collection agency to see if they still have the debt. If not, ask who they sold it to. You may have to repeat this a few times before locating the debt.

Once you find the agency that you believe holds your debt, send them a letter asking them to verify that they have it. Once you receive it, you can negotiate a payoff. Most collection agencies are willing to settle for less than the full amount owed if you pay a lump sum. Typically, the older the debt, the bigger the discount you can get. You should always get a settlement agreement in writing before sending a payment. If it is not affordable to pay off the debt all at once, it may be possible to make smaller monthly payments until the debt is satisfied. However, keep in mind that in most states paying even one dollar on a debt restarts the statute of limitations, so a payment plan typically only makes sense for more recent accounts.

With a little bit of research and negotiation, you can check paying off old debts from your to-do list. <http://www.balancepro.net>.

Spending the Day Fishing with Dad Made a Fun Activity for All



The Fatherhood fishing day created many fond memories for parents and children as they spent the day fishing. Picture (L-R) are: Teresa Mowitch-Johnson, Mikaelah Mowitch-Johnson, MaHanah Mowitch-Johnson, Christine Edwards, Lucille Kilburn, Donnelle Edwards, Todd Edwards

By Fred Shortman, Editor

Fatherhood Fishing Day 2010 on June 18th was another success with smiles all around. The weather cooperated and was partly cloudy with little wind and comfortable temperatures. The event was held on the Tribe’s Ponds property in Grand Mound with coordination from Greg Burnett who leases the property from the Tribe.

The Natural Resources Department and Fisheries earlier planted over 700 fish including some from the new fish hatchery. Both large and small fish were planted, some as large as five pounds, to add to the excitement. The kids were outfitted by

Head Start with rods, reels, gear, and bait, allowing everyone to fish. The kids also enjoyed a tasty BBQ provided by Head Start and cooked by Andy Olson with help from youth worker Skyler Baker.

Fishing with Dad was fun for the approximately 30 children from Head Start and their dads, grand-dads and other family who participated. Natural Resources and the Fisheries Department look forward to next year. Special thanks to Greg Burnett, the Chehalis Head Start Program and everyone who helped with the event.

Helpful Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness

- **Dress for the heat.** Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun’s energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella;
- **Drink water.** Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously, even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.
- **Eat small meals and eat more often.** Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.
- **Avoid using salt tablets unless**

- directed to do so by a physician.**
- **Slow down.** Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- **Stay indoors when possible.**
- **Take regular breaks** when engaged in physical activity on warm days. Take time out to find a cool place. If you recognize that you, or someone else, are showing signals of a heat-related illness, stop the activity and find a cool place.

4 2010 Paddle to Makah!



Blessing of the Canoe tulap it wiṯ it sp'aluux^wmitn as the youth were recognized who were travelling representing the Chehalis Canoe Family at the Tribal Center Parking lot. Pictured are (L-R) Marcus Youckton, Deidra Hawkes, TJ Trott, Cheyenne Pickernell, Shayden Baker, Skyler Baker, JR Pickernell, Whitney Lewis, Gabe Higheagle, Thunder and Lightning Sutterliet, Kayley Trott, Skylar Bracero.



The ground crew is a crucial part of moving to the next location. They are responsible for loading the truck and reassembling the camp. Youth could be seen working as a team setting up tents for everyone. Pictured here is Little Bear Davis and Skyler Baker Setting up tents at Fort Warden State Park.

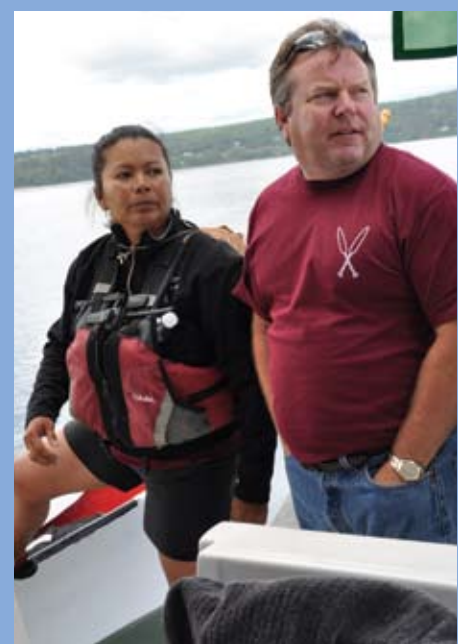


For three continuous days small craft advisories were in effect as the journey entered the Straits of Juan de Fuca. This photo is leaving Jamestown! The day ended early as the US Coast Guard required canoes to turn back due to 6-8 foot swells.

Hands Up to Those Who Helped Us Travel Safely on the Water
Support boats are crucial for the safety of the canoe and pullers. Being available to tow the canoe, exchange pullers, and give a break so they can rest and eat, re-energizing for the next stage of the journey.



Our hands also go up to Dave Lopeman, Squaxin Island Chairman for being available and using his a support boat (L). He provided assistance at different stages of the journey. This photo is towing the canoe to Chinook Marina after landing at Owen Beach.



Hands up to John Setterstrom and his wife Mary for being our support boat during part of the journey. Pictured (L-R) are Skipper Gail White Eagle and Support Boat Captain John Setterstrom on the Clarity while taking a break.



On the left are pullers taking a lunch break alongside the Clarity



Canoe Families rafted up together to create a “Flotilla” of canoes while they awaited to come ashore. This photo is the Puget Sound tribes on the first day landing at Solo Point.

Canoe Journey (continued from page 1)

tides for safe travel on the water. Skipper’s meetings were held the evening before to establish leaving time and tides. Support boat skippers were up early to meet their respective canoes. Our canoe family was fortunate to have two support boats during the journey.

Many thanks go out to Dave Lopeman, Squaxin Island Chairman and John Setterstrom for assisting us throughout the journey. Without them we wouldn’t have been given permission to leave the hosting tribe. Other thanks go out to the families who opened their yards to host a visiting canoe family providing much needed showers and access to laundry services.

We can’t forget to say thanks to Sylvia Cayenne, Canoe Family mama and mentor who encouraged and proudly said, “There’s my Angels!” referring to the white paddles that look like angel wings as they moved in unison. Knowing that tulap it wiṯ arrived ahead of schedule and with the pullers’ power pulls and prayers they pulled with their heart and soul. It’s not a race as everyone knows, but prayers help move the canoe along with grace and pride.

Thanks go out Elders Elaine McCloud and Trudy Marcellay for helping make our ragalia. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you next Year! 2011 Paddle to Swinomish.

Personal Experiences

Ashlea Parkinson, 17 year old tribal member commented, “Being the first time on the Canoe Journey, it was an eye opener. The Canoe Journey brought me closer to people and opened my eyes to my culture. How important respect and honor are to our elders and to nature as a whole. I learned so much from just watching others and how they interacted to certain situations. Getting involved with the Chehalis Canoe Family impacted my summer greatly.

I was able to hear people from different tribes gather and jam together. I had the opportunity to paddle on my first day. When we started out, I realized that everyone on the canoe had joined as one. Learning to paddle in rhythm was hard at first,

something that I’ve never experienced before. I learned that even if you don’t know anyone, they’ll make you comfortable and welcome you into their family circle.

The journey has encouraged me to be more active in our tribal activities and I most definitely will continue to encourage others to join us next year on the canoe journey. I am already excited for next year! It should be just as great as this year, if not better.

I went on the journey for experience, but now I can use this awesome experience for my senior project. I’ll share pictures and memories with students and teachers– and enlighten them on the culture and how amazing this journey really is. It was such a positive opportunity, and I’m so glad I went.”

Connie Baker, tribal member wrote, “I participated in our tribes Canoe Journey for the first time. It was everything I was hoping it would be. It was the emotional high that I had heard so much about, and not a minute of it was without some kind of memorable emotion.

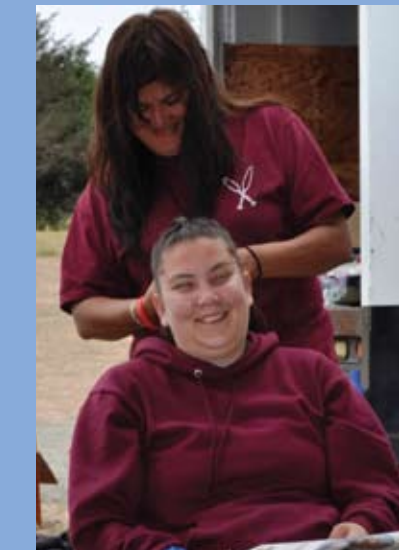
“One heart one mind” is the family function, and no matter what task or function was at hand, the family unit has to function as one. The teachings, the stories, the daily chores, and tasks that have to get done before anything else can proceed, is the daily addenda. And then the fun can begin, interacting with the other canoe families, and tribes was awesome, everyone is there for the same purpose, the same goal in mind, to have a safe, fun, and memorable journey, together, as one. The biggest family unit of all. And that was powerfully emotional. Everyone made everyone feel so welcome, like long lost family visiting. All journey long I had the feelings of de’ ja’ vu, everywhere I went just seemed familiar, some of the faces I saw, I thought I knew, when I mentioned this to Leona, she told me, My grandma (Elaine) says that the feeling of de’ ja’ vu, means that you are in the right place at the right time. That explained the whole journey for me; I was in the right place at the right time. I didn’t want to leave, and I didn’t want it to end.



Ragalia is made for formal protocol during the journey. Pictured (L-R) are Halissa Higheagle and Haila Old Peter cutting out the baskets for the tunics or vests.



Sean Allen working on one of his gifts for the final protocol giveaway.



Many canoe family members had their hair braided during the journey. Pictured is Dianna Pickernell braiding Glenda McNair’s hair in Makah.

Rules to Remember



One rule that was strictly enforced was to take care of your property. If found laying around the camp, members were required to dance in order to have them returned to them. These were recorded on camera or video.