Healing voyage

The Chehalis Canoe Family waits to ask permission to come ashore during the Canoe Journey. Below: Youth lead dances honoring the hosting tribe during final protocol.

Powerful Canoe Journey rich in tradition, wisdom

The 2017 tribal Canoe Journey was aptly named “Standing Together,” meaning we can overcome the challenges of this world hand in hand. The transnational indigenous voyage is a metaphor for life. It brings together communities across the Northwest from places as far-flung as Ketchikan, Alaska, and Grand Ronde, Oregon.

The Chehalis Canoe Family left July 20 for Suquamish to participate in the sacred journey that is rich in meaning and cultural...
significance. The We Wai Kei and Wei Wai Kum Nation from Campbell River, Canada, hosted the event.

The Canoe Journey requires physical and spiritual discipline.

At each stop, canoe families follow protocols. They ask for permission to come ashore, often in their ancestral languages. At night in longhouses, there is gifting, honoring and sharing of songs and dances. Meals, including evening dinners of traditional foods, are provided by the host nations.

Time to reconnect

The Chehalis Canoe Family traveled on the water with ‘Tu-lap ti weah, our 27-foot ocean-going war canoe. The ground crew kept busy moving camp day to day with very few two-day layovers until the final destination in Campbell River.

They traveled for three weeks and covered great distances just as their ancestors did. It was magical and healing being in a canoe.

It is an opportunity to reconnect to our relationship with the water and our ancestors while traveling from tribe to tribe on the coastal Salish Sea.

The positive energy received while learning from other tribes is incredible.

Lessons learned

Many lessons are taught and shared by each canoe family during the journey:

- How to make, decorate and care for your regalia.
- Songs, drumming, dancing and other tribes’ languages are learned.
- Don’t call the canoe the “b_ _ t” word because it will require you taking a dip in the water to return honor to the canoe.
- Carry yourself with honor because you represent the canoe family.
- Respect, listen and share with other tribes as you journey to the final destination.
- Care for Mother Earth by picking up after yourself.

See VOYAGE, page 3
Youth shares experience on journey

The next generation learns the ropes of sacred canoe voyage during paddle to Campbell River

Contributed by Malikah McNair, Chehalis Tribal Youth

My experience on this year’s Canoe Journey was incredible. It was exciting for me because I got to travel outside of the country and see a territory I have never seen before.

During the journey, I got to help Aunt Sylvia, Grandpa Chet and my mom Glenda Comenout on ground crew. This meant we had to set up tents, blow up air mattress and make sure the canoe pullers had a bed to sleep on when they got back from being on the water all day.

We woke up before daylight to get the pullers on the water. We would eat breakfast, then it was time to move our camp to the next place. It was always “30 minutes” away even though it seems like we drove forever to get there.

When it came to dinner, we got sing songs with the hosting tribe and enjoy a meal with them. Some days, the lines were too long and we didn’t get to eat, so we would have to go back to camp to eat pizza or hamburgers.

We would play the stick game while we waited. The adults never beat us the whole trip. We would play kids versus adults. It was fun. The elders would always come sit with the kids.

On the last day of the canoe journey, me and my brother Micah got to go out on the canoe, but the water was too rough for us so my Uncle Bubz (Todd Delamater) had us put on the support boat for our safety. We got separated but knew officers at the landing would help us find our canoe family. We found our mom safely.

When it was our turn for final protocol, I got to lead all of the dancers onto the floor. This was a great experience for me because I was able to show the host tribe that I have listened to my teachers and represent my tribe with pride. My brother got to lead the singers onto the protocol floor and take leads during the songs, too. After protocol was over for us, my mom let me stay and dance with the Squaxin Island Tribe. I also got to dance with the Quinault Nation for its protocol. The host tribe brought out masks that told a story. The host said all of the names of the masks and what they revealed. I thought it was very cool.

That was my experience on this year’s Canoe Journey. I hope you will join me and the Chehalis Canoe Family on the Canoe Journey to Puyallup next year.

VOYAGE
From page 2

leaving it like you weren’t even there.

Listen to your elders – they offer great wisdom.

Practice self-discipline because the event is drug- and alcohol-free.

Facing challenges

It was dry, warm and often smoky during the journey. After leaving from Lower Elwa to Canada, phone service became very spotty and it was difficult to keep followers updated.

Even with the challenges each day, many were determined to make 10 gift items to be given away at final protocol.

Journey completed

The Chehalis Canoe Family joined 86 canoes when it landed on Aug. 5 in Campbell River, British Columbia. It is an awesome sight to witness. There were more than 50 indigenous nations represented.

After the work on the water was finished, feasting and celebrating continued for five days in the Wei Wai Kum “Thunder Hall,” a spiritual house.

The Chehalis Canoe Family extends gratitude to all those who helped out on our journey. The community was grateful everyone returned home safely.

Pullers take a well-earned break on the water during the Canoe Journey. The voyage requires hard work from everyone involved, but it is an exhilarating and spiritual achievement with many rewards.
Tribal elder retires

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel hosted a retirement party for Robert Penn on Sept. 1. It was a bittersweet moment for one of our tribal elders as he bid farewell to his job with the casino.

Robert began working for the casino in 2000 in the Food and Beverage Department and Security. He was then hired as a Tribal Gaming Agent in October 2008.

Robert was a humble, dedicated employee of the Chehalis Tribe and the casino. His work ethic was second to none and he applied his knowledge to do an outstanding job.

Robert patrolled Lucky Eagle's gaming floor and was very well known. Colleagues, tribal elders and friends came to honor him with a cake and many handshakes, hugs and well wishes.

Congratulations and good luck Robert!

35 years of service recognized

The Chehalis tribal Human Resources Department's special recognition program continues to award employees for their years of service and outstanding commitment to the Chehalis Tribe. The team is committed to shining a spotlight on employees who achieve outstanding results. It's a fun way to reward great work with an experience equal to their accomplishment.

One of our very own employees received this recognition on Aug. 23. It was a special surprise for Margie Youckton, who was hired Aug. 23, 1982. She has been working in the Accounting Department handling payroll ever since.

The event was kept a secret, and Margie was very surprised as she walked into the main tribal center. She was greeted by her colleagues with a roar of applause and cheers. Awaiting her was a cake decorated in Seattle Mariners colors (her favorite), flowers and cards signed by the Business Committee and many other employees. Margie shared her early memories of when she started, how she worked in the “dungeon” and how much the tribe has grown. She also thanked everyone who came to witness this event for providing a heartfelt moment.

It was an honor to continue to give recognition to an outstanding, dedicated employee. Congratulations, Margie, on your 35 years of service!
Tribe says thanks with picnic

Employees enjoy a day of fun

The Chehalis Tribe acknowledged and rewarded employees with its annual picnic on Aug. 18 at Columbus Park on Black Lake. It was a special day with a variety of fun activities. Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel provided a delicious lunch. Employees were encouraged to bring a dessert to qualify for an additional raffle.

Swimming in the lake, the horseshoe pit and the popular volleyball tournament kept folks busy. Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel.

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The volleyball tournament is always highly competitive. Winners not only take home money, but they get to hold bragging rights until next year’s event. The

The law enforcement team has proven to be a worthy adversary and was champion in previous years. There is one rule strictly adhered to – all teams must consist of tribal employees. Many teams put their best effort and athleticism forward to defeat others. Out of seven teams, the champions were Those Guys. Horseshoe champions were Kaleb Merriman and Leroy Boyd. Harry Pickernell was declared the corn hole victor.

It was a nice summer afternoon for colleagues to visit, share a meal and exchange stories. Attendees also were updated on upcoming events tribal programs are offering. Tribal employees demonstrate teamwork at its finest and provide valuable service to the Chehalis tribal community.

A special recognition ceremony honored employees who have been working here for many moons as well as those who only recently started. Emcee Philip Youckton, Events Coordinator, announced each employee’s name, department and the years of service. As each individual came forward to accept an award, he or she was met with a thunderous roar of recognition from colleagues. It was an honorable moment and brightened the day as everyone’s hard work was recognized by supervisors and the Business Committee.

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CTLF’s first fundraiser is a big success

Event raises money for tribal, community business ventures

The Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund hosted its first fundraising event at the Community Center’s Gathering Room on Aug. 25. The goal was to raise funds needed to continue to deploy loans to tribal members, other native members and community members.

It was a well-attended event. Guests from various companies and vendors were invited by Chehalis Tribal Enterprise staff, Chris Richardson and with support from CTE’s CEO, David Burnett. Their presence and distinguished guests added excitement. Traditional Native American food was catered by Twana Catering, owned by Marcella Johns-Colson. The Chehalis Canoe Family was invited to perform, and their drums and coastal songs lifted souls and opened hearts.

Most silent auction items were native paintings, jewelry and beautiful crafts donated by individuals and members of the CTLF Board. Each table bid for desserts prepared and purchased by staff and CTLF board members. We also sold raffle tickets for special prizes donated by Great Wolf Lodge, Convenience Store and a tribal elder.

CTLF staff, Eletta Quiboloy and Diana Pickernell offered a presentation that emphasized the need for more capital. Emcee Amadeo Tiam then announced the raise the paddle event. Attendees raised their paddles to donate money ranging from $25-$1,000.

We raised almost $16,000 through the silent auction, dessert dash, raise the paddle, raffle and ticket sales. The funds will help us implement our new Rental Assistance Loan Program and add to our other loan amounts.

Thanks to everyone who participated and made our event successful! We extend our special thanks to CTLF board members, Chehalis Business Committee, Chehalis Tribal Enterprises, Chehalis tribal fish cooks for the delicious salmon, Chehalis tribal elders, the Chehalis Canoe Family, Community Center staff, Chehalis Information Technology staff, Fely Wiedebush for centerpiece décor and arranging silent auction items, emcee Amadeo Tiam, Roderick Harris, who played the flute and to all who helped us in their own way.

LEARN MORE

CTLF is a certified native Community Development Financial Institution that offers financial assistance to tribal members, other native members and community members to sustain their lives and build successful businesses that will help improve the economic conditions of their surroundings. We offer training on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, budgeting/forecasting and building credit scores.

If you would like more information on the program or services we offer, please feel free to stop by our office or call 360-709-1631. Our regular business hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Community witnesses awe-inspiring eclipse

Mother Nature, sun, moon put on a show

By Travis Hendrik, Human Resources Training and Development Manager

At 10:18 a.m. Aug. 21, Western Washington experienced a near total eclipse. Millions of people looked skyward for the rare celestial event.

Many from the region journeyed to central Oregon to witness the total eclipse in person. At the Chehalis Reservation, we reached nearly 95 percent totality.

Those gazing up might have missed the strange and unique wonders that occur on the ground during a solar eclipse. While the sun and moon were the big draw, Mother Nature put on her own show.

First, most people observed the temperature drop shortly after the eclipse began. With only 5 percent of the sun’s light directly reaching us, it felt like an early evening temperature drop in mid-morning.

Some folks also noticed the light’s eerie color change. Many commented that it had a blue hue or that things looked sharper and clearer, such as shadows or colors. This strange effect happened because light from the sun was filtered by the moon’s shadow and our atmosphere.

Finally, for those who knew where to look or knew what they were seeing, the trees and leaves put on an amazing eclipse sideline show.

Similar to how an old-fashioned camera lens or the lens of your eye works, leaves on trees filter the light of the sun every day, except in reverse.

In fact, you could watch the entire event happen without special glasses!

We only have the unique opportunity to see this marvel in action during solar eclipses.

Parenting classes nurture family bond

The Healthy Families Project connects native families with a home visitor and offers parent/child activity and learning ideas, infant/childhood development screening, connections with local early child and family resources, monthly group connections for families and Positive Indian Parenting classes.

Upcoming classes will be from 5-7 p.m. in the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center’s PT Room.

**Sept. 28:** Lessons of the Cradleboard

**Oct. 5:** Harmony in Child Rearing

**Oct. 12:** Traditional Behavior Management

**Oct. 19:** Lessons of Mother Nature

**Oct. 26:** Praise in Traditional Parenting

**Nov. 2:** Choices in Parenting

Lunch & Learn

Join the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center for our monthly Lunch & Learn from noon-1 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Wellness Center’s PT Room.

The talk features Kathi Murray, Lieutenant Commander in the United States Public Health Service, Area Diabetes Consultant, Portland Area Indian Health Service.

The topic is “Diabetic Amyotrophy and Proximal Diabetic Neuropathy.”

A healthy lunch will be provided. Call Sandra Dickenson at 360-709-1660 or Christina Hicks at 360-709-1741.

in brief
FOLKs on the move at trio of community-minded events

By Orinda Goddard, Lead Vocational Rehabilitation Program Counselor

The Chehalis Tribe brought families and friends together for a jam-packed day of low-cost entertainment on Aug. 4. We started the warm day off with the fourth annual Vocational Rehabilitation Outreach Parade, next came the Community Garage Sale and the evening featured an outdoor movie night.

The parade kicked off at 10:30 a.m. Colorful floats made their way down Howanut Road. The parade was established to show off our tribal departments to the community.

This year’s theme was TV cartoons, and tribal departments shined with creativity:
- Planning – Flintstones
- Behavioral Health – Rugrats
- Casino Administration – Care Bears
- Law Enforcement – Popeye
- Head Start – Paw Patrol
- Wellness Center – Doc McStuffins
- Accounting – Marvel superheroes
- Youth Center – TV Cartoons

Philip and Loi drove our pilot car to start our parade as they do every year. Mustang NW Region Champions players represented Pony baseball in a mustang by Ray Secena, Jr. This year, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel rode around in a little

The Planning Department took a trip to Bedrock City with its “Flintstones” float at the Vocational Rehabilitation Outreach Parade.

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see EXTRAVAGANZA, page 9
EXTRAVAGANZA
From page 8

buggy delivering cold water to participants and the audience.

Thanks to all of you for participating and giving back to our community. The event not only highlights employees and entities that the Chehalis Tribe operates but demonstrates how everyone can pull together to support a safe family event.

After the parade wrapped up, lunch was provided while people waited for the results of the winners. The meal and awards were donated by the Tribal Business Committee. Big T Barbeque cooked and served the delicious lunch, and everyone really enjoyed spending time together.

We appreciate all of the hard work you put in to create your floats. We sure hope more departments participate in the parade next year.

To give feedback on how things could be better, please let us know.

Community goodies

The Community Garage Sale ran from 1:30-6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. The event was created to raise funds for the Chehalis Tribe Cancer Walk and to help tribal members and community members make extra money.

There were 27 tables set up selling crafts, food, household items and clothing. We raised $200 for the cancer walk and people selling made a few bucks. It was a win-win for everyone.

Thank you again to the community for supporting this event. It couldn’t have been better without you all.

Cinema under the stars

Outdoor Movie Night started at 7 p.m. with small door prizes, hot dogs, chips, soda, popcorn and candy for all those who came out. The highly popular animated movie “Moana” was the featured film.

We had more than 50 people take part. Vocational Rehabilitation, Youth Prevention, Events, Law Enforcement, Tribal Groundskeeping and Education programs all donated toward this community gathering. Lewis County Community Services Representative Meja Handlen donated a big screen television for the event.

A big thanks to all of you!

Feedback

We will provide a survey for feedback during the Chehalis Tribe’s annual meeting. It will cover what other kinds of events our community would like to see in the future from our programs. You also can fill out a comment card in the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation office at the Community Center.

These events could not have been so successful without the support of the tribal community and programs. Thank you all greatly.

The annual Community Garage sale was held in the Community Center’s Main Gym. It gave elders, adults and youth an opportunity to set up tables and make a little spending cash.
Youth find summer work rewarding

Youth workers made a lasting mark on our community. The 2017 summer youth worker program offered a variety of opportunities and participants received job skills to prepare for their future. It wasn’t just an opportunity to earn a little extra money but also to gain important experience for career success.

Sixteen youth workers were hired for the summer to intern with various tribal programs. The tribe’s youth program taught them skills that can help in the future. Hopefully, they can return the favor by using their new skills to enhance the tribal programs.

The summer was well spent gaining knowledge in their appointed positions within the tribe. This is an important step to prepare for a career after graduating from high school or college. The young adults gained experience in resume writing as well as CPR and first aid training. Training was necessary to be able to perform and complete some of their assignments.

When not in classes or training, the workers assisted programs and were very helpful. Many agree it was a gratifying and educational summer. Their work didn’t go unnoticed and the programs appreciated their help. It is a great way to invest in their future. Keep up the great work!

Heartfelt thanks to tribe

In our moment of the loss of our loved one, Gerald “Jerry” Sloppy, our family would like to thank the Chehalis Tribe and all of the tribal community. So many thoughtful and helpful people came forward to help us through this challenging time.

We would like to thank everyone for all the food to lift us up during our time of loss. Many tribal fishermen donated fish from their freezers and either smoked or dedicated their time cooking them for the dinner. We would like to thank the Darrin Jones family for providing fresh, yummy shrimp for salads. The family made most of Jerry’s favorite foods to celebrate his memory and the time he shared with friends and loved ones. The Chehalis tribal community did the rest. Thank you all for your donations, hugs, prayers and love. It was very appreciated that the tribe opened the Community Center for the dinner after our ceremony.

Even though he wasn’t a tribal member, everyone accepted Jerry as one of their own. He was a special man and did simple things to assist others in need – it was his way. He will be greatly missed by many.

Again, a special thank you to the Chehalis tribal community! – From the Gerald “Jerry” Sloppy family (wife Carolyn; daughters Dena Russell, Lisa Turner and Laurie Aldrich; son Jerry W. Sloppy, eight granddaughters, one granddaughter and two great-grandsons)

K-12 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

WHAT WE OFFER

- Homework tutoring: After-school homework club from 3-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Youth Center
- Grade incentives: At the end of each quarter, Chehalis Tribal Students who are enrolled in the Education Program will receive an award
- Student of the Month: We choose students based on good grades, attendance, character, behavior, learning and being respectful to peers and teachers

DEPARTMENT STAFF

John Shortman Jr.: 360-709-1749
Jodie Smith: 360-709-1897
Reed Howard: 360-709-1788
Nathan Floth: 360-709-1878
Angelica Villegas: 360-709-1759
Frances Pickernell: 360-709-1785

The Chehalis Tribal Education Department provides a safe and healthy environment that encourages life-long learning opportunities
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1
Darrel Cayenne
Debra Cayenne
Karlea Youckton

3
Autum Beckwith
David Gunnels
Julie Miller
Dante Quilt
Sean Shortman

4
Alyssa Albert

5
Cori Abell
Nathan Gomez
Elijah Quilt
John Secena
Roxanne Thompson

6
Jason Gillie
Kathy Jones
Billy Palmer
Robert Vigil

7
Skyler Baker
Dennis Cayenne
Tonya Higheagle
Kelsey Potter

8
Chris Ortivez
Walter Pickernell-Daniels
Jake Tanner

9
Jude Ortivez

10
Ruth Rogers

11
Nancy Romero
Freddie Sanchez, Jr.
George Sanchez, Jr.

12
Norita Comeaux

13
Joaquina Coty
Ethan Owens
Jason Slighte, Jr.

14
Mason Combs
Gary Gunnels
Nick Purcell
Cody Revay

15
Billie Higheagle
Malika McNair
Kaelyn Secena

16
Trudy Marcellay
Aniyah Ortivez-Hicks

17
Ruben Lopez

18
Timothy Poling

19
Charlie Latch: Happy 12th birthday, love Dad.

20
Eugene Klatush
Destiny Sanchez-Allenbach

21
Julia Higheagle
Eddie Klatush

22
Sylvia Cayenne
Kayla Nyreen
Bryan Secena-Sanders
Ethan Wittwer

23
Sean Shortman

24
Whitney Lewis
James Pickernell

25
Shanin Clancy
Karen Davis
Samuel Wright

26
Angelicia Canales
Dustin Klatush
Sasha Starr

27
Gerald Cayenne
Charles Latch III
Michael Romero
Richard Romo, Jr.
Bette “Sheena” Tanner

28
Ruth Rogers

29
Nancy Romero:
Happy YOU Day Aunt
Nancy! We love you.

30
Eli Snell:
Happy birthday to our twins. Love you bunches, from Mom, Dad and the rest of the family. <3 <3 <3

MORE WISHES

DENNIS CAYENNE, SYLVIA CAYENNE and JAKE TANNER: Happy birthday! Have a great day, from sister, Mom and family.

CHRIS ORTIVEZ and JORDAN BIRD: Happy birthday. Love you so much, Jenni and Family.

NANCY ROMERO: Happy YOU Day Aunt Nancy! We love you.

Eli Snell: Happy birthday Eli Snell. We love you, from your wife and family.

DUSTIN KLATUSH and SASHA STARR: Happy Birthday to our twins. Love you bunches, from Mom, Dad and the rest of the family. <3 <3 <3

MARISSA DANIELS: Happy Birthday. We love you! Grandma Linda and your whole family.

SEAN SHORTMAN: Happy birthday and congratulations on wedded bliss, from your family and friends.

ALYSSA ALBERT: Happy birthday. I love you granddaughter, Gramma.

SYLVIA CAYENNE: Happy birthday. You make the world a better place, from your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of your cousins.

ROBERTA SECENA: Happy birthday Mom, from all of your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and everyone who has the pleasure of your love!

JOEY OSMOND: Happy birthday, from your family and friends.

ROGER SHORTMAN: Happy birthday to my husband. I love you very much! Love Margaret.

LINDA DANIELS: Happy birthday, from your family and friends.

CHARLIE LATCH: Happy Birthday, from all of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ANGELICA CANALES: Happy 9th birthday to our Turtle Ca$h, love and hugs from your favorites.
help families purchase supplies and clothing.

Other program staff members were available to share resources.

It’s an important step to develop and nurture relationships between programs and families.

The Domestic Violence, Behavioral Health Program and Indian Child Welfare staff also greeted community members. They explained available program resources.

After, children scampered off in different directions to play. The K-12 Education Program hired Merry Makers, Inc. to deliver fun for all ages. The warm day called for water play! Children screamed and yelled with delight as they slid down the bouncy water slide. They challenged themselves by solving the maze and obstacle course. It was organized chaos, but children and parents had a blast.

Public Safety staff took the opportunity to interact with the community. The electric police car was a huge draw for younger kids.

Staff also provided information on resources available to the parents. There is help everywhere if you know where to look.

Little faces lit up as children circled the picnic area. Afterward, many lined up to get a raffle ticket.

Free ice cream was redeemable at the ice cream truck parked on site. It was a sweet treat indeed.

Something missing from past years was filling up on food. Karen Klatush and her daughter Lydia Klatush-Fromm provided a lunch for attendees while taking a break from energy exertion.

Thank you very much. See everyone next year!