

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, 'People of the Sands'



Best wishes

Joan Martin retires from Tribal Gaming Authority
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Summer fun

Modified program gives youngsters the chance to play, socialize, learn

Youngsters on the Chehalis Reservation participated in the 2020 summer youth program during the months of July and August.

Because of COVID-19, this year's program was modified to keep kids safe and healthy. After more than two months on a statewide stay-at-home order, the opportunity for youth to get out of the house, be active and spend time with their friends was most welcome.

The summer schedule is normally filled with field trips and events to keep youth engaged, but the program had to adjust its schedule because most activities weren't possible this year. Tribal Youth Manager Leroy Boyd and other tribal leaders arranged a workable system to keep the program going daily from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

See SUMMER, page 4



Chehalis tribal youth enjoyed crafts and staying physically active by playing inside the gymnasium during the summer youth program.



Update on traffic safety project

New roundabout will improve flow

Throughout the summer months, major construction is taking place as a roundabout is built at the main entrance to the Chehalis Reservation at the intersection of Highway 12 and Anderson Road.

Numerous tourists and locals travel this section of the highway each day. The turnoff of Highway 12 leads to the End of The Trail gas station and Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, which is frequently used by those who visit reservation lands.

The high-traffic area has been prone to vehicle accidents

See PROJECT, page 5



Roundabout construction temporarily delays traffic along Highway 12.



TGA will miss mainstay Joan Martin

Background investigator gave her all to work

Joan Martin retired from the Chehalis Tribal Gaming Agency (TGA) on July 14 after more than 25 years with the organization.

Joan held many different titles and took on various responsibilities during her tenure with TGA. She retired as the background investigator. Joan helped the agency achieve nearly perfect audits with the state and National Indian Gaming Commission. She played a monumental role in the growth of tribal gaming and Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel overall. She has impacted every TGA employee in one way or another.

Fellow staff members and Joan's relatives attended her retirement party at the Lucky Eagle. Her co-workers shared a few words about their time working alongside Joan. Darrin Jones, Director of TGA, said she means a lot to everyone and that things are going to be different without her in the building.

Joan was known for her tireless

work ethic and for barely ever taking a day off. "She's always there and always willing to do her part, so she is going to be greatly missed," Darrin said.

He continued by explaining how much he's learned from Joan and recently retired Marlene Hjelm. Both Joan and Marlene served TGA for more than two decades, providing outstanding service to the department. When one thinks of Chehalis TGA, they think of Joan and Marlene.

Darrin said he went to Joan for guidance and leadership. He explained that she helped him reach his professional goals and always provided advice or input regarding operational matters.

During Joan's days at TGA, she worked alongside Marlene and Courtney Brown daily. So, it was only fitting that Marlene and Courtney wrapped her in a Pendleton blanket to recognize and honor her for dedicating a significant time of her life to TGA.

Courtney took a moment



'She's always there and always willing to do her part, so she is going to be greatly missed.'

- DARRIN JONES

to thank Joan for all of the knowledge she shared with the rest of the staff. She described that Joan would be at work early and leave late, so it seemed like she was always there. She said Joan will be missed, but she is excited for her as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.

Joan was so focused on work and community activities that she

didn't take much time to relax and enjoy the later years of her life. During the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide shutdown, she had time to relax and not worry about responsibilities at work.

She really got into watching soap opera television shows, and it helped her realize that it is the right time to step away and enjoy retirement.

Courtney Brown, Joan Martin and Marlene Hjelm celebrate Joan's final day with the Tribal Gaming Authority. She retired after 25 years serving the organization.



Report criminal activity

The **Chehalis Tribal Law Enforcement Department** is committed to protecting and serving our community. We have enhanced your ability to report criminal activity. Options are available 24/7. All communication through the hotline and email is confidential and anonymous.

Crime tip hotline:
888-646-7407

Email: crimetips@chehalistribe.org
EMERGENCY: Dial 911

Non-emergency dispatch: 360-273-7009

Business line:
360-273-7051

New Lucky Eagle CEO ready for bright future

Chehalis tribal member takes casino helm

JaNessa Bumgarner was recently named the new Chief Executive Officer of Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel. It is the first time a Chehalis tribal member has served in the role. The move became official on July 17.

The announcement was the culmination of a three-year plan in which previous CEO, Lisa Miles, worked closely with Bumgarner to prepare her for the new role. Miles, who has served Lucky Eagle for nearly 17 years and was formerly the Chief Financial Officer, said she was proud to play a role in the transition and appointment.

"There is no doubt JaNessa is the right choice as we move forward," Miles said. "I am confident she will continue to move Lucky Eagle in the right direction."

Bumgarner, who earned her



JaNessa Bumgarner

Bachelor of Science Degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, has most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer since December 2017. Prior to that, she was the Director of Hotel Operations from 2013-17.

"I am truly humbled and honored to serve the Chehalis Tribe in this capacity," Bumgarner said. "I am looking forward to the future and the many opportunities and challenges that lie ahead."

The announcement comes just weeks after Lucky Eagle re-opened its doors to the public following a 10-week closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Lucky Eagle just surpassed 25 years of operation in June.

Bumgarner announced last week two immediate changes to the executive team, which included the promotion of Kevin Bray to Director of Food & Beverage and re-assigning the Facilities division to Chief Community Relations Officer Rodney Youckton.

Tribal dump update

Now open with limited hours

NOON-4:30 P.M. EVERY DAY

All garbage must be contained inside bags. Non-bagged items will not be accepted.

QUESTIONS: Call Ray Secena at 360-790-9904



NUTRITION COUNSELING FOR CTWC PATIENTS

Registered dietitian, nutritionist and certified intuitive eating coach Cathy Visser offers nutrition education for healthy eating and diabetes education. Lessons tailored to your specific needs.

Email: trueforyounutrition@gmail.com

Questions: Diabetes LPN Sandra Dickenson, 360-709-1660; Community Wellness Manager Christina Hicks, 360-709-1741

Chip sealing set for Sept. 7-11

The Chehalis Tribe and the Confederated Construction Company is partnering with PaKaPa Inc. to perform chip seals on Niederman Road and Howanut Road. The work is scheduled during a five-day period from Sept. 7-11.

Chip seals are an effective way of preserving pavement condition and life. They seal the pavement surface and provide a new high-traction riding and wearing surface.

During the chip sealing operation, delays will occur. Please observe all traffic control signs and drive slowly on the newly chip-sealed surface.

Helpful tips

1. If you happen to get a bit of the oil on your car or shoe, rubbing with a citrus-based cleaner on a cloth will generally remove it.

2. A speed of 25 mph or less

MORE INFORMATION

Refer questions or concerns to project coordinator Brian von Clück at **360-709-1862** or **253-678-5557**.

is recommended to lessen gravel spray from several days to weeks following the chip seal. This will save windshields and help prevent paint chips.

3. Delays are generally short. However, a road or lane is usually closed for a period of 30 minutes while oil and rock are applied, and then cured and set. If it's an emergency and you need to leave your driveway, contact one of the ground crew and they will guide you out as quickly as possible.

Keeping Our Citizens Informed.

Visit chehalistribe.org and click on the Code Red link



CodeRED

REGISTER FOR CODERED ALERTS!

Sign up for the CodeRED notification system to receive alerts and updates during emergency events.

All citizens and businesses are encouraged to register.

REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF11857858E5>

REGISTER ON YOUR SMARTPHONE:

Text "CHEHALIS" to 99411

FOR CITIZENS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS:

Call Arick Burnett at (360)709-1770 for assistance.

SUMMER

From page 1

Many steps were taken to prevent a potential spread of the coronavirus. Youths had their temperatures checked at the Community Center when they arrived in the morning. Hand sanitizer stations were installed around the building and masks were readily available.

Youth Center staff set up the program to follow suggested social distancing guidelines while still making it fun for youth. They were served breakfast, lunch and a snack daily in a cafeteria set up to have a maximum of four people at each table. Food was served to the tables to prevent crowding in lines.

One of the major differences was kids were split into small groups. The groups followed a daily schedule filled with art class, Heritage & Culture courses, movies and entertainment and recess. The youth also enjoyed fun days with swimming, basketball

and friendly games of ping-pong.

The Heritage & Culture classes provided knowledge of Native American traditions and specific information regarding original ways of the Chehalis tribal people. Dan Penn taught a Coastal Salish language class and told stories of the legacy of generations of ancestors.

Youth learned about weaving certain materials and the significance the practice has to Native Americans. Weaving cedar was a necessity in times past. The Chehalis Tribe is known for its intricate basket weaving. Youth were taught the basic skills and techniques as they wove together cedar and raffia grass as one of their first projects. They also made medicine bags, necklaces and drums.

During the final week, members of the program participated in spirit week. Monday was pajama day, followed by tie-dye shirt day, picture day, superhero day and blue Friday wrapped up the summer program.

Youngsters participated in many activities during the summer youth program, including making tie-dye shirts, working on art projects, cultural learning and dressing up for spirit week.





PROJECT

From page 1

through the years. Efforts to make the section of the highway safe and planning for the project by Grays Harbor County, Thurston County and the Chehalis Tribe has been extensive.

Construction was headed by Rognlin's Inc., a company out of Grays Harbor County. Superintendent Ed Clevenger explained that the project has many steps to consider to meet the timeline and have everything complete by mid-September.

Steps in building the roundabout

- Excavation of the construction site
- Pouring the gravel layer
- Pouring concrete for the splitter islands

that divide the lanes of the highway and the center island that vehicles will circle around. They must also factor in the curing time for the cement.

Because they have to keep the section open for traffic to flow through, workers are creating the roundabout in phases. One lane will always be open for vehicles to pass through. A temporary stoplight will help commuters navigate while construction continues and flaggers will navigate traffic during certain stages.



While efforts to increase safety at the intersection of Highway 12 and Anderson Road delayed traffic for commuters during the summer months, the end result will be improved traffic flow.



HEALTH/Wellness



Wellness Center stands strong against COVID-19

In spite of all that has shaken our community from the past to the present moment, the Chehalis Tribe is a community. Through the collaborative and creative work of this community, we will thrive and cope with the stress of job security, or child care and academic resources, or our anxiety and fears.

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center wants to be present for you. Please let us know how we can help.

Many of the same protocols in the clinic are still in place, but the white tent outside of the clinic has played a greater role in recent weeks. It serves as our drive-thru COVID-19 testing site. You may receive testing without an appointment from 8-9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Please be aware that our daily capacity is 30 tests. You can enter the clinic for testing at other times, but call in advance to receive instructions and ensure we have testing ability left for the day.

We recommend that if you had a negative test and have symptoms and

GET A TEST

If you are having symptoms related to COVID-19, call the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center at **360-273-5504**.

are concerned, call to schedule an appointment to allow your provider to discuss what the test results might mean. Appointments can be made for in-person, telemedicine or telephone visits.

Finally, if you have a scheduled appointment and develop symptoms on the day of your arrival, please call ahead to let clinic staff know. We might reschedule to ensure safety for you, our other patients and our staff.

We thank you for allowing the clinic to serve you.

*Sincerely,
The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center*

Safely reconnect with loved ones during pandemic

Start socializing slowly in pods

Sadly, "social distancing" was incorrectly named from the start. We know that, in the long run, social distancing can be harmful to us psychologically. It is good for us to be socially close, but because of the pandemic, it has been safer to maintain physical distance. As the state works its way through a phased reopening, many are asking when they can safely gather with friends and family members other than just their household. There is no widespread agreement how or when to reconnect with friends and loved while minimizing the risk of transmission.

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center has put together guidelines for how to do this. It allows for "bubbles" or pods consisting of two households coming together to socialize and interact with each other. It must be carried out responsibly. It's important to be mindful of public health recommendations and any family members who might be at higher risk or who are presently ill. The risk, throughout the process, will be spreading the SARS-CoV-2 virus to friends and loved ones. Remember, the virus has not gone anywhere.

Recommendations

- As a first step, your household may start getting together with one other household for a total of no more than 12 individuals. Twelve is not a hard and fast rule, but please be reasonable. Gatherings can take place in a home, a backyard a park, etc.

- The gathering has no time limit.

- Interactions can be as frequently as individuals within the bubble agree upon.

- Individuals may choose to wear a mask or not. We think it is safer to wear one.

- Household members should not meet with a second household one day then a different household the next. Stick with the same two households for a period of two weeks.

- If everyone has remained well during the two weeks, discuss with the group about adding more people or a third household for the next two weeks.

- The group may continue to expand after the following two weeks if everyone has remained well.

- If at any time a member of the group becomes ill, we recommended that person get tested for COVID-19 right away.

- This process may need to be reversed if we start seeing COVID-19 infections.

Public can help revamp Hazard Mitigation Plan

Share knowledge of area's vulnerabilities

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is embarking on a planning process to prepare for impacts of natural disasters. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the tribe will update its 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan to enhance resilience throughout the reservation and surrounding community.

The planning process is being led by Arick Burnett, Manager of the Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management, with support from Beverly O'Dea of Bridgeview Consulting, LLC, the hired technical consultant. The project is funded by a planning grant and will take about six to eight months to complete.

Tribal members will be asked to contribute by sharing knowledge of the area's vulnerability to hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement will be solicited through a multimedia campaign that includes web-based information, questionnaires and maps.

The process will be led by an Emergency Management Project Team made up of representatives from the Chehalis Tribe, tribal members and other stakeholders from within the planning area as the tribe determines appropriate.

Meetings will occur as needed throughout the process via conference calls or web-based

CONTACT US

Please direct questions or comments regarding the Disaster Mitigation Act update process to Arick Burnett, Manager of the Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management, at aburnett@chehalistribe.org; Bev O'Dea of Bridgeview Consulting at **253-301-1330** or bevodea@bridgeviewconsulting.org; or by calling **360-709-1770**.

Take our short survey by either scanning the QR code on your phone or visiting surveymonkey.com/r/Chehals_Tribe.



because of the limitations in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notice of the meetings will be posted at chehalistribe.org. The site will serve as the primary means for the public to gain plan information and learn ways to participate.

The public is highly encouraged to provide input on all phases of the plan's development.



Assistance with bills, food

We have received funding to assist with the following if you have been facing financial hardship because of COVID-19 (past due amounts only past March 17 to now). You will be required to provide documentation. Payments will be made directly to the vendor.

- Food vouchers
- Past due payments for electricity
- Past due mortgage/rent

CONTACT: Melanie Hjelm at 360-709-1632 or mhjelm@chehalistribe.org; Frances Pickernell at 360-709-1754 or fpickernell@chehalistribe.org.



TRAUMA-SENSITIVE YOGA GOES VIRTUAL

WHO: Chehalis tribal members/community members

WHAT: Michelle, owner of JoonBug Yoga, is creating virtual yoga videos. All you have to do is press play!

WHERE: Find the videos at chehalistribe.org

WHEN: New videos are added each Tuesday and range from beginner to intermediate levels.

ADDITIONAL INFO: Yoga mats and blocks are available for pick up. First come, first served.

MONTHLY RAFFLE: To enter the raffle, take a selfie while doing virtual yoga and text it with your name to the information below. Or call and let us know you followed the video!

CONTACT: Domestic Violence Advocate Samantha Sandstrom at 360-789-3627 or ssandstrom@chehalistribe.org.

Foot care at the Wellness Center

Podiatrist Dr. Behre will be available at:

- 1-4 p.m. Sept. 8, Oct. 27, Nov. 30, Dec. 15
- 8 a.m.-noon Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 15

To schedule an appointment:
Call 360-273-5504

Questions: Diabetes LPN Sandra Dickenson, 360-709-1660
Community Wellness Manager Christina Hicks, 360-709-1741



Minimize chances of developing diabetes

The Native American population has the highest rate of diabetes and it is one of the leading causes of disease-related deaths within all of Indian Country.

There are two forms of diabetes – type 1 and type 2. Type 1 is treated by injecting insulin to keep blood glucose at a safe level and allow the body to function properly. Type 2 is more common and professionals are not sure of the exact cause. However, leading factors are obesity, age, diet and genetic background.

Diabetes attacks the kidneys, which causes the organs to fail and could lead to death. Once the condition has reached that level of severity, dialysis or kidney transplants are the only two options to stay alive.

Tribal member's journey

Many Chehalis tribal members struggle with diabetes and describe it as a daily battle.

Sam Secena shared how he has been fighting the disease for more than 30 years. Sam, 59, said he had signs of diabetes since he was 15 or 16. Because of complications from the disease, he lost one of his legs, had a finger cut off and one finger partially removed. He goes to dialysis four days a week and takes many medications to stay alive.

Sam said, "growing up you don't realize what you are doing to your body, but someday it will catch up to you."

For him, that time is now. He said the only person he has to blame is himself. He lived much of his life in denial, not believing he had diabetes. And once he was diagnosed, he refused to admit that it would seriously impact his life.



Sam had several heart attacks from complications related to his diabetes. He said it wasn't until the fourth or fifth heart attack that he quit being in denial. Diabetes affects family and loved ones of the diagnosed individual. He has a wife, two sons and a daughter and has realized the pain his disease has caused them. He wants to live for them and everyone else who cares about him.

Sam said over-consumption of alcohol and sweetened drinks is what led to his diabetes. He would advise younger generations to make better choices, eat well and find someone to look up to who practices a healthy lifestyle. He emphasized the fact that native

youth need positive role models to shift toward enhancing the health of the entire native population.

Healthy lifestyle choices

Native Americans, especially those who already more susceptible to the disease because of their genetic makeup, are more likely to become diabetic. Therefore, it is important to have a routine checkup with a medical provider

CONTACT US

Sandra Dickenson, CTWC diabetic nurse, focuses on outreach and holds many different events to provide information and create awareness. She can be reached at sdickenson@chehalistribe.org.

and to monitor your health. Early sign of diabetes include frequent urination, dehydration/extreme thirst, increased appetite and nerve damage.

Be aware and pay attention to signs that your body is giving. If these symptoms occur and persist, talk to a medical provider immediately.

Although there is no known cure for diabetes, it can be treated and put in remission if action is taken quickly enough. The best treatment for those diagnosed with the disease is a lifestyle adjustment including diet change and increased activity.

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center has many resources available to help treat diabetes. Medical providers are making a constant effort to prevent others from having to suffer from the deadly disease.

USDA food program

9:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M. SEPT. 15
CHEHALIS TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency's program offers an assortment of food to fill your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards.

The program offers frozen meats such as bison, pork chops and ham and in-season fruits. Tribal community members can get an application from Debra Shortman at the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center.

CALL: Debra Shortman, 360-709-1689 or 360-438-4216



WIC THROUGH SPIPA

Breastfeeding help, health education, checks to buy food and services referrals

NEXT DATE: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sept. 10 at the Wellness Center

CONTACT: Debra Shortman,
360-709-1689





2020 CENSUS SNAPSHOT: AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE

What is the census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all American Indians and Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census.

What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to provide a better future for our communities and future generations. By participating in the 2020 Census, you help provide an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Your responses to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year for programs and grants in our communities.

The 2020 Census is our count. Our responses matter. Regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or where we live, we all need to be counted.

Responding to the 2020 Census is:

> Safe

Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any other government agencies or law enforcement, including federal, local, and tribal authorities.

> Important

The federal government and local American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and decision-makers will use 2020 Census data in a variety of ways that can benefit Native people and our communities.

> Easy

In early 2020, every household in the United States will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail.



DEADLINE EXTENDED

Because of COVID-19, the 2020 Census has been extended to Oct. 31.

PARTICIPATION

The Chehalis Tribe is asking for all of its members to participate.

BE COUNTED

Call 844-330-2020 or go to my2020census.gov.

LET US KNOW

Email dhawkes@chehalistribe.org to confirm completion (screen shot or photo) and to receive a 2020 Census T-shirt.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

WAYNE BARR
MERLE BENDA
THOMAS BLACKETER
ALVIN BOYD
DOUGLAS BOYD
HENRIETTA BOYD
SYLVANNA BRACERO
SIPRIANNA BRACERO-ROSLAUGH
JORDAN BRAY
RENESMEE BROWN
MICHAEL BROWN
ADRIAN BROWN
JOHNNY BUMGARNER
LON BURGESS
RYAN BURNETT
JENEE BURNETT

ALLEN BUSH
MARK COLSON
KAIDEN DELGADO
RONALD FANNING
KYLE FANNING
OSTYNN FARRIER
KAYLEEN FULTON
SHAYLEEN FULTON
ELIZABETH FULTON
PAUL GIBSON
BRADLEY GITCHEL
JAMES GUNNELS
WILLIAM HECK
ADRIAN HJELM-SNELL
FAITH HOHEISEL
JORDAN HOWE
AMANDA JENNINGS
JOVONNI JIMENEZ SANCHEZ
ANTHONY JOE
CHASE KLATUSH

AMIYAH MCELVAIN
ANDREA MCGOUGH
NYAH MCCRORY
KLY MEAS
L'REE MINTHORNE
SARAH MYER
MAKYA ORTIVEZ-HICKS
VICTORIA PARENT
HAKAN PHILLIPS
GERALD PICKERNELL
NATALIE PICKERNELL
SALLY PIKUTARK
MILA ROGERS
MONICA SANCHEZ
JOSEPH SANCHEZ
LEO SANCHEZ
MISTY SECENA
DAWSON SLIGHTE
RILEY SMITH
STARLA STARR

LEE STARR
LATAYA TANNER
WILLIAM THOMS
ROSE WILLIAMS
ASHLEY WITTEW
ARES WITTEW
CYNTHIA YAWN
GERALDINE YOUCKTON
SHEENA YOUCKTON
OWEN YOUCKTON
PRESTON YOUCKTON
DAULTON YOUCKTON
ANTHONY YOUCKTON
ANTHONY YOUCKTON JR.

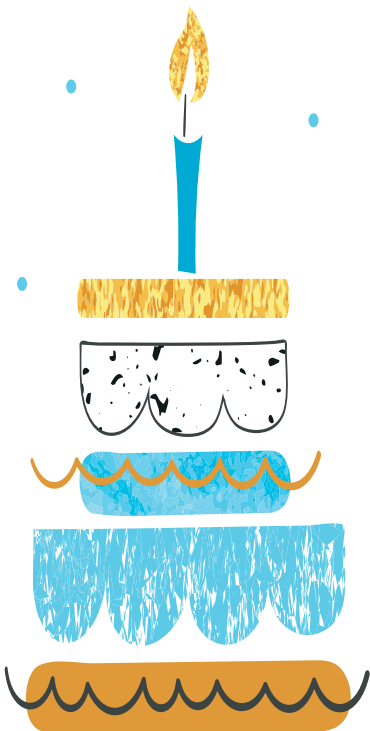


Johnny Bumgarner: Happy birthday to my husband! Love you!

IN LOVING MEMORY



Manny Medina: Happy first heavenly birthday to my brother Manny. You are missed so much. Love you bro. – Marla





ESTABLISHING SOLIDARITY IN TRADITION, NATURE

Tribes honor the land at Lamprey Ceremony

The Chehalis Tribe and Cowlitz Indian Tribe joined at Rainbow Falls to take part in a Lamprey Ceremony on July 30.

The two tribes shared many of the same language, cultural traditions, stories and ceremonies prior to colonization.

In recent years, both tribes have focused on historical preservation of tribal artifacts and carrying on the heritage of their ancestors.

The Lamprey Ceremony is a way to continue following those traditions while honoring the land and all of its resources that were vital for the survival of native people for generations.

Rainbow Falls is located along the Chehalis River and is a historical site for the tribal people that inhabited the natural environment. The land is where they harvested plants for food and medicine.

Native ancestors would travel to the falls to pick berries and fish. The site also served as a crossroads for the Chehalis, Cowlitz and Nisqually people.

River connection

Chehalis tribal member Calvin Bray, who attended the ceremony, was grateful for the invite. He



Emma Johnson and William Thoms helped arrange the meeting of the two tribes on July 30 at Rainbow Falls.

shared his favorite memories of going to Rainbow Falls for annual tribal community picnics as a youngster. He said the main reason he wanted to attend is that he felt it was important to get back to traditional ways.

He hopes this helps establish solidarity among the tribes and for other local tribes such as Nisqually and Shoalwater Bay to take part in future ceremonies to help bring the groups back together.

'I could feel that connection with our families ... with the river. It was nice to get that sense of the appreciation for the lamprey and their life cycle.' - WILLIAM THOMS

Sharing stories

William Thoms of the Chehalis Tribe and Emma Johnson of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe are both leading the effort to share history of the tribal people in the Pacific Northwest region with fellow Native Americans.

They see the importance of carrying on the ways of their ancestors to the culture of today's people, which is the reason they share knowledge and stories pertaining to their tribal history.

William told a story that originates from an ancestor who was both Chehalis and Cowlitz. He described the myths (stories) and traditions as a canoe.

It is belief of natives that as long as tribes carry on these traditions and continue telling stories, the canoe will remain tied to the land and tribal people will have access to it.

It is once these stories are no

longer shared and rituals are stopped that the canoe drifts away without guarantee that the native people will be able to regain the canoe and those practices would be gone forever.

'We are the same people'

Johnson and Thoms arranged the Lamprey Ceremony, which leaders and youth from both tribes attended. In regards to the two tribes, Thoms said, "we are the same people and we should respect that."

The groups gathered on the grounds above Rainbow Falls for prayer and storytelling. The second half of the ceremony took place along the riverbanks of the Chehalis.

Patty Kinswa of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe sang as she played the drum and members of both tribes placed an offering in the river to honor and give back to the lamprey.

"I could feel that connection with our families ... with the river," Thoms said. "It was nice to get that sense of the appreciation for the lamprey and their life cycle."

Proposed dam

The tribe is concerned because of the proposal of a Flood Retention Expandable (FRE) at

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CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

**The Confederated Tribes
of the Chehalis Reservation,
'People of the Sands'**

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

SUBMISSIONS

We encourage tribal members to submit letters, articles, photographs and drawings to be considered for publication in the newsletter (materials are subject to editing). Contributing writers, artists and photographers include Chehalis tribal community members and staff.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Frazier Myer, Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team

TRIBAL CENTER

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Address: 420 Howanut Road
Oakville, WA 98568

Office: 360-709-1726

Fax: 360-273-5914

VISION STATEMENT

To be a thriving, self-sufficient, sovereign people, honoring our past and serving current and future generations.



BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Harry Pickernell Sr. Chairman

Jessie Goddard:
Vice Chairman

Sheilah Bray: Treasurer

David Burnett: Secretary

Leroy Boyd Sr.:
Fifth Council Member

chehalistribe.org

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**The Chehalis Tribal
Newsletter is a
publication of the
Confederated Tribes
of the Chehalis
Reservation**



Members of the Chehalis Tribe and Cowlitz Indian Tribe participated in the Lamprey Ceremony to honor the land and its wildlife.

SOLIDARITY

From page 11

this location (Rainbow Falls) of the Chehalis River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is consulting with the Chehalis Tribe about the traditional cultural properties along that part of the river.

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe joined the opposition toward constructing a 250-foot dam.

Construction of a dam would negatively affect the entire ecosystem, including the lamprey population and many other species such as salmon that spawn in this area.

It is also one of the reasons that this specific area at Rainbow Falls is significant to tribal people.

Sacred lands

Natives have utilized resources given by the river for thousands of years to sustain their livelihoods.

Thoms explained that even though the Cowlitz and Chehalis tribal governments are in different places right now, there is no reason the tribes can't be in the same place culturally.

Both tribes can continue the practices of their people, such as having ceremonies together and joining efforts toward protecting their sacred lands.

Tribe leases land for homes

*Glen Connelly, Director of the
Department of Natural Resources*

We have good news for the tribal community. The Chehalis Tribe is rolling out its new Home Site Lease Program!

The plan is to lease tribally owned trust land to enrolled Chehalis tribal members so they can build their very own houses.

Some requirements and restrictions exist, but the basic program is set up as follows:

- Enrolled Chehalis tribal members can apply to lease up to 1 acre of land.
- A pre-qualification letter from a bank must show you can afford to build a house.
- You must tell us who will live in the house and allow a brief background check because there are restrictions for recent criminal activity.
- Once you are accepted, you can pick out a parcel from

LEARN MORE

Questions about the new program can be directed to the Tribal Realty Program at **360-709-1850** or the Tribal Planning Department at **360-709-1807**.

available lands and the proposed lease will be brought to the Business Committee and then the BIA for approval.

■ Once the lease is approved, you will have two years to build a house.

■ The lease will be good for two 25-year terms (50 years) and can be renewed or passed on to your spouse or children if they are enrolled Chehalis members.

We look forward to helping you get settled in your own new homes!

