

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

October-November 2021 FIND HISTORY, HERITAGE, RESOURCES AT CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG

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Burn sets up prairie restoration

By Charles Latch

The Chehalis Tribe partnered with Pacific Northwest organizations to hold a 22-acre prescribed burn Oct. 4 on reservation land.

Natural Resources and Trust Services departments teamed up with various state ecology groups to make the cultural burn possible. Tribal community members and the Chehalis Canoe Family held a ceremony before the blaze on Balch Road's prairie with a controlled burn crew in attendance.

Native American ancestors in the region used the cultural practice for generations prior to colonization. It restored natural resources such as camas, carrots, strawberries, blackberries and other seasonal plants important to their daily lives.

The focus of the recent prescribed burn is to restore

See BURN, page 4



A recent cultural burn on the Chehalis Reservation aims to eliminate invasive species and bring a hearty camas harvest.



The Chehalis Tribe's new venture, the Flying J Travel Center in Tumwater, offers robust amenities.

Flying J truck stop opens

Tribe's travel center delivers safety, comfort to customers

By Frazier Myer

Chehalis Tribal Enterprises is excited to invite customers to its newest business the Flying J Travel Center at Exit 99 off Interstate 5.

The Flying J opened its doors at 2725 93rd Ave. SW in Tumwater on Oct. 13. Semi-truck drivers and others in the area have quickly taken notice of the new establishment. CTE held a grand-opening ceremony on Oct. 28 to honor and bless the significant moment for future tribal prosperity.

The travel center for professional truck drivers offers amenities such as showers, washers and dryers, a visitor lounge area, Taco Bell restaurant, easy self-checkout machines, diesel and unleaded fuel and much more. The truck stop provides weigh stations and more than 70 parking spaces

See FLYING J, page 2



Oakville and Rochester superintendents received a generous contribution from the Pilot Company at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

FLYING J

From page 1

for drivers to comfortably and safely sleep overnight.

The Flying J also features 12 premium spaces for a fee. The spots have water and electricity stations truck drivers can hook up to. Anyone can reserve and use the amenities. For example, people traveling in RVs can utilize showers and laundry facilities while they relax and recover.

Partnering with the Pilot Flying J company is estimated to more than double the fuel sales revenue than if the tribe operated the business alone, Chehalis Tribal Enterprises CEO David Burnett said.

"Taxes are going to be the biggest impact for the tribal government," Burnett said.

The tribe's fuel tax agreement with the state ensures 34 cents for each gallon sold comes back to the tribe in tax revenue.

A long road

Bringing the business to fruition involved a lengthy process that took nearly nine years to complete. The tribe acquired the land in 2013. Unforeseen circumstances meant breaking ground and construction were put on hold until April of this year. The Flying J officially opened six months later in October.

Burnett explained that the Chehalis Tribe decided to purchase the land in 2013 and make improvements to a truck stop already on site to make that business operational. That plan was halted when the tribe attempted to place the property into reservation trust land. Tribal leaders were notified that the land



Semi-truck drivers will find a safe place to rest during their travels at the Flying J Travel Center.

FLYING J

The Chehalis Tribe's new 24-hour travel center is at 2725 93rd Ave. SW, Tumwater. Amenities include diesel lanes, showers, ATM, bulk propane, CAT scale, Lottery, Pegasus, laundry and Taco Bell restaurant. For more information, call **360-790-4495** or go to pilotflyingj.com.

had extensive contamination.

The BIA required action from the tribe and the state Department of Ecology. The two parties developed a plan to clean up the site before the BIA could officially place the land from fee to trust. Burnett said the process took time because numerous steps went into cleaning the contaminated area.

Crews were hired to demolish the old building and remove a

'The establishment is a huge improvement to this area.'

- Gabe Toma, President of the Tumwater Chamber of Commerce

mountain of dirt. The soil was hauled 50 miles south to Kelso and processed. After clean soil was placed at the site, the Department of Ecology analyzed the area, declared it safe and issued a "no further action needed" letter to the BIA. This enabled the tribe to place the land in trust and begin developing the land.

Before construction could start, the tribe first had to choose whether to operate as an independent business or partner with a major brand. Tribal leaders put a lot of consideration into the decision. In 2018, the tribe was weighing the benefits of both options, Burnett said. A brief negotiation with the Pilot

Flying J company didn't result in an agreement. Months later, the company contacted the tribe highly motivated to complete a deal.

Beneficial collaboration

CTE assessed the alternative of operating independently. That evaluation resulted in an estimate of 300,000-400,000 gallons of fuel sold each month. But by partnering with Flying J, brand recognition increased the projected volume of sales to more than 850,000 gallons a month.

Collaborating with the established national company generates significantly more business. All major trucking companies are tied into contracts with specific fuel companies and must use their brand. Therefore, most truck drivers are not allowed to purchase fuel from an unbranded store. Partnering with the Pilot Flying J company will generate much more profit than if

See FLYING J, page 3



Customers can choose from a variety of hot and cold drinks and snacks.

FLYING J

From page 2

the tribe had opened the business independently.

The Flying J brand is owned and operated by the Pilot company. There is a Pilot Travel Center directly across the freeway at 2430 93rd Ave. SW, Tumwater. The Chehalis Tribe's new establishment isn't meant to take business from the neighboring truck stop. Both entities believe the entire area will grow and benefit all businesses located at Exit 99.

The Flying J Travel Center will ultimately increase the tribe's net income. Burnett said in addition to profits generated from the fuel tax agreement, the business will create employment opportunities for tribal and community members.

The collaboration is also significant because it creates a working relationship between the Chehalis Tribe and Pilot Flying J. The brand donated \$2,500 to Rochester and Oakville school districts. Both school superintendents were present at the travel center's ribbon-cutting ceremony. Rochester and Oakville are the two districts that serve kids on the Chehalis Reservation.

"Overall, we're excited to be here and partner with the tribe," Pilot Flying J Travel Manager Eric Homer said.

He explained that the business will be a major draw because of its location on the I-5 corridor. The spot allows easy access for all guests, from professional truck drivers to those on daily errands. Truck drivers provide a vital service delivering goods



The new truck stop offers parking for more than 70 trucks and RVs.

and supplies to help meet day-to-day needs. Flying J is an essential stop for drivers to park, fuel up and sleep to remain in compliance with state Department of Transportation safety laws. WSDOT requires drivers rest a certain number of hours while on the road.

Boon for Tumwater

In addition to creating a financial footprint for the tribe in the Tumwater area, the Flying J will have a positive impact on more than just the tribe's growth. It will enhance the city's overall image.

President of the Tumwater Chamber of Commerce Gabe Toma has worked with the organization for more than five years and served as president the previous three years. He described the significance the Flying J has already had on the surrounding area.

"The establishment is a huge improvement to this area," Toma said.

Toma highlighted that it's important for the organization to support local businesses. An establishment of this size will create job opportunities, improve surrounding property value and provide important services to travelers and local customers.

Burnett spoke at the ceremony and wanted to express that key business opportunities were made possible by Chris Richardson, who passed away in February. Richardson was an enrolled Chehalis tribal member, managing director at CTE and a dedicated businessman. He spearheaded numerous opportunities and built partnerships with companies that helped the tribe grow in recent decades. He is deeply missed by the tribal community.

HR adds training specialist

Denise Miño enjoys working with tribe

The Chehalis Tribe's Human Resources Department is pleased to welcome Denise Miño as the new Training and Development Coordinator.

Miño previously worked at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel as the Learning and Development Leadership Specialist for the past two years. Prior to that, she worked for the state in various roles related to training, technology, emergency management and public health.

Denise is a graduate of Tenino High School and has a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University. She is a graduate student at Walden University where she is studying to become an industrial and organizational psychologist with an emphasis in Human Resources Management.

Denise said she enjoys working with the tribe.

"It's the people. I loved the people I worked with at the casino and am excited to be a part of the HR team on the tribal government side. I have lived in the area for most of my life and have some long-standing connections to the tribe," she said.

Human Resources Director Stephanie Pickernell is excited to get the training program up and running again.

The first order of business will be to put on core competency classes, including harassment- and safety-related trainings.

Up next, Human Resources staff will create and lead a supervisory training series and provide other courses that will help strengthen the workforce.

Please watch for staff training opportunities in the near future.



Denise Miño

RAISING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



On Oct. 22, Chehalis tribal employees dressed in pink to show support for breast cancer survivors, honor those lost to the disease and help champion finding a cure.

BURN

From page 1

the camas plant. In full bloom, it is a vibrant purple lily. The small, bulb-like root was an important food source for Chehalis and other Salish Tribes of the Northwest.

Camas can be dug up from April to June. Ancestors traditionally slow-roasted the plant over an open fire for 24-48 hours until it turned brown. Heating the plant caramelizes the sugars and sweetens the camas. It was dried and stored for eating in colder months.

The plant also is considered an anti-diabetic food because it does not raise blood sugar levels. Attempts to revive the plant tribal ancestors used as a staple resource saw a major step with the controlled burn on Balch Road.

In modern times, the general population is taught to be afraid of blazes because of wildfires, which are prevalent on the West Coast and destroy hundreds of thousands of acres each year. House fires also raise fears.

Chehalis people, along with other regional indigenous tribes, used fire for thousands of years as long-term prairie maintenance to provide the highest yield when cultivating seasonal harvests and storage of supplies for cold seasons. Prairies were normally burned every three to five years depending on type of harvest yield.

Embracing tradition

Tribes across the nation are losing part of their culture as they become assimilated to mainstream social norms and no longer practice traditional ways of the native people.

Chehalis tribal members William Thoms and Dan Penn of Trust Services spoke about the importance of the cultural burn to bring back prairie resources.

"Times are different, things are different, our needs are different, but it feels good and it feels like we were doing the best we can to honor this practice," Penn said.

Thoms told those in attendance that the work done by Trust Services staff is more than just paperwork and going through files.

"Our real job is to find all these old traditions that have seen this lapse and do everything we can to bring them back," Thoms said.

Community members were given the opportunity to speak about the land and significance of resources on the prairie.

"These are the things that don't



Chehalis tribal members hold a ceremony at Balch Road's prairie for the first cultural burn in centuries. The practice was used by native ancestors to replenish essential resources provided by the land.



Prairie Technicians Sean Evangelista (left) and Farley Youckton Jr. earned a certification that allows them to work on prescribed burn fire lines.

have a monetary value. This is our wealth, this is who we are," Chehalis tribal member Glenda Comenout said.

Extensive training

The tribe's Department of Natural Resources hired Prairie Technicians Farley Youckton Jr. and Sean Evangelista to train for controlled burns. Training was extensive, taking six months to complete. The technicians obtained red-card certification issued by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, giving them the ability to work on the fire line during prescribed burns.

Youckton, an enrolled Chehalis tribal member, said training included a 40-hour online class, physical fitness tests, pesticide-applicator classes, first aid classes and safety courses on how to operate a chainsaw.

All of the training doesn't compare to the act of performing large controlled burns. Youckton

said this is the first time he put his training into practice.

"It was a new experience. It turns out grass can be really hot," he said.

Although he understands the cultural significance the event has for the tribe, Youckton said there are dangers involved in a prescribed burn. Fire can be very unpredictable, which is why the burns are thoroughly planned and require a large crew to keep it from spreading out of control.

Though winds were mild and conditions favorable, the fire was more intense than Youckton anticipated. His safety training was put to use as the fire spread quickly. Youckton and Evangelista stayed composed and completed tasks with assistance from professional prairie restoration groups.

Habitat enhancement

Sarah Hamman, Director of the Science and Ecostudies Institute and co-founder of the

'Our real job is to find all these old traditions that have seen this lapse and do everything we can to bring them back.'

**- William Thoms,
Culture Resource Specialist**

Camas Prairie Cultural Ecosystems Collaborative, has led teams on controlled burns at numerous sites across the state. She has been a part of projects such as these for years, but this is her first time working on a tribal reservation.

Hamman said the burn is something that took years of planning and effort from various parties to develop and organize. She led the burn by instructing the tribe's technicians and her crew of nearly two dozen professional wildfire fighters.

"It brings back the important cultural practice that has helped keep these prairies as prairies for thousands of years," Hamman said of the importance of burns on tribal lands.

This burn will enhance the habitat of the prairie by eliminating invasive species such as Scotch broom, which has no value and is a nuisance.

Just before the start of spring, members of the tribe's Department of Natural Resources and Hamman's Camas Co-Lab will plant camas seeds in the area burned to develop a harvestable yield of camas for tribal members.

100-year bridge installed in just one day

Innovative kit used to create new structure

By Charles Latch

The Chehalis Tribal Planning Department upgraded tribal infrastructure with installation of an innovative new bridge on the reservation. It is the only bridge of its kind west of Oklahoma and was completed in a single day.

Howanut Road connects both sides of the reservation and serves as a popular alternative to the highway for locals commuting. The construction location was next to the Fisheries building. Brian VonCluck, Utilities Project Manager for the Chehalis Tribe, explained that the bridge was needed based on a failed annual inspection from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Community members utilized a temporary road while the old bridge was closed.

VonCluck said the bridge is unique because construction of this magnitude usually takes 18 months to complete and is typically done with box culverts. Planning and construction crews saved time and money by designing intuitive ways to complete the project using a bridge kit. Planning placed a temporary road on the site Oct. 4, demolished the bridge Oct. 11 and installed the new bridge on Oct. 22.

"This will be the future of bridges," VonCluck said.

Transportation Planner Bryan Sanders spent the past two years working on the project. He said



Planning and construction crews used a kit to complete the bridge next to the Fisheries building.

the bridge is expected to stand for at least 100 years and the improvements will make it much safer for everybody moving around the Chehalis Reservation.

The bridge also will help protect against flood waters on the Black River during the rainy season. And it will allow residents to utilize Howanut Road year-round.



Counselor takes client-centered approach

Matt McIver brings flexible attitude to Behavioral Health

Matt McIver recently began working with the Chehalis Tribe Behavioral Health department as a mental health counselor in November. McIver is a licensed clinical social worker.

He grew up in Olympia and graduated from Capital High School in 2003. From there, he earned a degree in business administration from Washington State University. McIver worked in sales and marketing for a number



Matt McIver

of years but found that line of work unfulfilling and lacking purpose. This led to a career change. He started his career by working in schools, particularly in special education departments. He mainly worked with students who have social and emotional struggles.

He has years of experience coaching basketball, football and track. He eventually went back to school and earned his master's

in social work from Simmons College with a concentration in clinical social work. The past four years, he worked as a therapist for at-risk youth and their families. McIver specializes in cognitive and dialectical behavior therapy.

Although he has worked mainly with adolescents, he feels comfortable with clients of all ages. He describes his approach as laid back and client-centered. As a social worker, he is trained to meet clients "where they are at," meaning he doesn't believe in a one-size-fits-all approach or trying to put his personal agenda on a client. He believes in following the

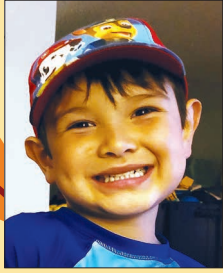
client's lead and working together as a team to assess each individual's needs and wants throughout treatment and adjusting interventions accordingly.

McIver and his wife recently moved back to Olympia after spending seven years on the East Coast in Boston and Maine. They have two children: 3-year-old son Caleb and 1-year-old daughter Alma. During his free time, McIver enjoys playing basketball and being in the outdoors.

He is excited to be back home in the Pacific Northwest and looks forward to being a part of the Chehalis tribal community.



Aria Lopez: Happy 2nd birthday perfect girl. Mom and Dad love you so much!



Landon Simmons: Happy 6th birthday. We love you! Simmons family



Payton Simmons: Happy birthday to our favorite girl. We love you! Simmons family



Michah McNair: Happy birthday son. May all your wishes come true on your special day! Love Momma, Shannon, Sister and Sissy



Tyson Canales: Happy birthday my son! Eleven years young and we are so very proud of you. You are strong, resilient and intelligent beyond your years. You are a hard worker at everything you do and an AMAZING big brother. We love you, Mom.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

PRINCE ADAMS
 KEVIN ALBERT
 GERALD ALDRICH
 FRANCISA AYALA-KLATUSH
 JORDAN BAKER
 SIMON BAKER
 TARYN BAKER
 JAUNITA BILL-SANCHEZ
 NATHAN BOYD
 KENNETH "BOONER" BROWN JR.
 COURTNEY BROWN
 SIDNEY BROWN
 DAPHNE BURKE
 BOBBIE BUSH
 TYANNA CANALES
 TYSON CANALES
 JAYLEE CAYENNE
 MADELINE COLSON
 TANAYAH COMENOUT
 RANDY CORNWELL
 RACHELLE FERGUSON
 ASHLEY FERN
 KATY FOX
 CASILDA GARCIA-STARR
 DYLAN GLEASON-WHEELER
 PENNY GLEASON
 ORINDA GODDARD

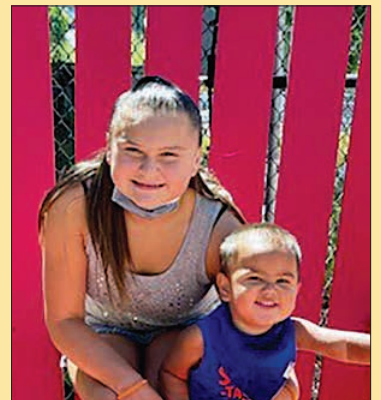
MADOLEEN GODDARD-BOYD
 ANTHONY GOMEZ
 LUCY HILL
 GABE HIGHEAGLE
 HEATHER HOYLE
 ENRIQUE JIMENEZ SANCHEZ
 ANTONIO JONES
 ALICE JONES
 WILLOW JONES
 BROOKLYNN KLATUSH
 CHRISTIBETH KLATUSH
 TAYLEENA KLATUSH
 ROACHEL LAMBRETH
 CYRENA LITTLESUN
 ATHENA LOPEZ
 MONIQUE LOPEZ
 ARIA LOPEZ
 JOAN MARTIN
 LISA MCCLLOUD
 MICHAH MCNAIR
 MAELANI OMAN
 ASHLEY ORTIVEZ
 AURORA ORTIVEZ
 LUCILE ORTIVEZ
 WAYNE ORTIVEZ
 TERRY PALMER
 SHONI PANNKUK
 YVONNE PHILLIPS-HAUKOM

VALERIE PICKERNELL
 DESIRRAY POPE
 GRACE QUILT
 JOSEPH REVAY SR.
 LINNAEA SANCHEZ
 LUWANNA SANCHEZ
 NATALIE SANCHEZ
 SOFIE SEKISHIRO
 KANE SIMMONS
 PAYTON SIMMONS
 RACHEL SIMMONS
 KRISTOPHER SHORTMAN
 ALEXIS STARR-WRIGHT
 AMIL STARR JR.
 MAYNARD STARR
 CARRIE SQUALLY
 APRIL THOMPSON
 KEIRA THRAILKILL
 LORI TOVREA
 MIA VIGIL
 RYAN WHITE
 JOURNEY WHITEEAGLE
 KYIAN WITTWER
 PHOENIX WITTWER
 CHRISTOPHER YAWN
 MARCUS YOUCKTON
 PAM YOUCKTON



BELATED WISH

Andrea Phillips: Happy birthday! Cheers to 50 years sis! Love ya, Yvonne.



Simon & Taryn Baker: Wishing both of our November babies a very happy birthday! Love Mom, Dad, Jeremiah and Laela.

Wellness Center adds space, services

Expansion improves safety procedures and offers room to grow

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center has a new extension to provide specific services to community members.

The addition is in the back near the tiny homes. It will provide space for COVID-19 testing and allow urgent care for patients who need to be seen quickly but don't have life-threatening concerns. This will keep patients that are coming in for routine checkups or appointments separate from those who might have or been exposed to COVID-19. The new wing essentially will keep the community healthy and prevent the spread of a serious outbreak.

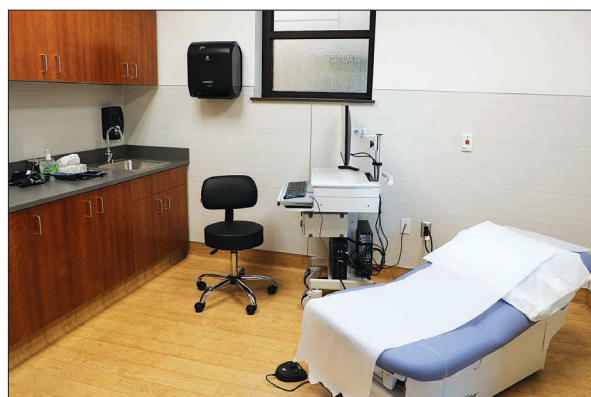
Wellness Center Director Denise Ross recognized the need to expand the building and its services for years. The tribe applied for and was granted federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to combat COVID-19 effects and to improve its medical facility.

Ultimately, the new extension will provide safety for those who need to visit the center. Ross said that when the pandemic began in 2019, patients coming in to get tested or vaccinated for COVID-19 crossed paths with people coming in for routine checkups.

The addition provides a safe solution with all rooms built to the highest standards and designed to be modified into hospital rooms. This means it can be converted to a small overnight hospital if the tribe decides to take that route in the future.

Construction began on a fast track in October 2020. Originally on a tight deadline, funding was expanded through 2021. This allowed CTWC and those responsible for design time to thoroughly complete the project within grant funding regulations.

The new timeframe gave construction crews more opportunity to acquire all materials needed for the expansion. COVID-19 delayed shipping for numerous items, which stalled completion of



The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center's recently completed expansion offers essential changes now and flexibility for the future.

the extension. The doors finally opened in October.

Recently, Ross became the Director of Behavioral Health. She plans to use additional ARPA funds to continue expanding the CTWC building. The plan is to build another wing to the

facility and relocate Behavioral Health into the modern working space. Additional plans include upgrading the x-ray machine, adding space for medical procedures such as ultrasounds and providing rooms for specialized practices such as

Tips to eat healthier this holiday season

By Cathy Visser, Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center Dietician

Do you eat more candy, cookies and desserts during the holidays starting on Halloween and continuing through New Year's Eve? Many people do.

Don't despair. It's been a tough year with the pandemic and limited ability to socialize and exercise with others. This can be a good time to find ways to eat better and move more. Here are some easy tips to incorporate:

- Bring a healthy dish to the potluck like a green salad, veggie tray, whole grain crackers and salmon dip, or fresh fruit salad.

- When eating at a potluck or holiday meal, take less of each food and savor it.

- For seconds, choose the foods you love the most and enjoy them.

- Tune in to your hunger and fullness. If you wait too long to eat

GET IN TOUCH

Contact Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center Dietician Cathy Visser for an appointment at **360-207-4052** or **trueforyounutrition@gmail.com**.

In-person appointments are available each Tuesday and remotely through Zoom on other days. Christina Hicks and I will resume Diabetes Lunch & Learn sessions in January.

between meals, you will be overly hungry and primal hunger kicks in, making it hard to stop eating.

- Start your day with a healthy breakfast such as oatmeal with nuts and fruit or eggs and wholegrain toast.

- Keep fruit close for snacking.

- Carry a water bottle and try to drink six-eight cups of water each day.

- Avoid sugary coffee drinks and sodas, which have six to 13 teaspoons of sugar per 12-ounce serving.

- Use a smaller plate for your meal so it looks fuller.

- Slow down when eating. It takes 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain that you are full.

- Chew each bite thoroughly (10-20 times) and put your fork down between bites.

- If you are the cook, use more herbs and spices and less butter and oil to flavor foods. For example, sweet potatoes are naturally sweet and can be served without added sugar or marshmallows.

- Enjoy your holiday meals even if you eat more than usual. Feeling guilty leads to restrictive eating and potentially binge eating.

- In addition to listening to your hunger and fullness, try to find ways to move more.

This can be challenging when it is rainy or snowy outside. Make a plan to meet a friend a few times each week to walk somewhere safe inside or outside.

Consider going back to the gym to work out depending on your vulnerability to COVID-19. Some gyms are offering live online Zoom classes, plus there are free yoga and exercise classes on YouTube.

Cleaning, gardening and chores around the house also count toward your daily movement. Find ways to move that you enjoy and you'll be more likely to stick with it.

It is my goal to provide medical nutrition therapy to all people served by the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday season!



Photos provided by Jodie Smith and Theresa Youckton

Spell-binding fun

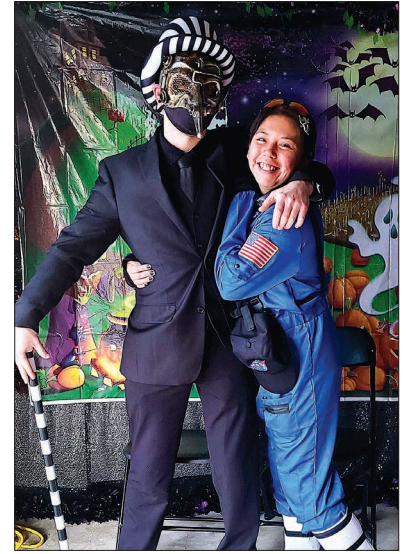
The Chehalis Tribe celebrated Halloween with multiple events in the week leading up to Oct. 31.

Festivities began with Tribal Trick-or-Treat on Oct. 28. Head Start and Early Head Start children visited various tribal buildings to collect candy and show off costumes. Staff from the Healing House, Community Center, Housing and the Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel took part with a trunk-or-treat path along the softball field.

Behavioral Health held two separate events on Oct. 29 to start a weekend of fun for the

youngsters. Healing House staff decorated the building as a haunted house to delight and spook guests. The event coincided with another activity by staff members, who put together a Halloween Carnival at the tribe's main Behavioral Health offices.

The final event of the weekend was the annual Halloween Party at the Community Center on Oct. 31. The evening was filled with activities such as a haunted house, raffle prizes, a trunk-or-treat and candy stations for youth inside the Community Center.



Healing House haunted event draws 135 community visitors

Behavioral Health gave the tribal community excellent scares at its Halloween haunted house on Oct. 29. The evening was one of various outreach events the program holds throughout the year. The haunted house kicked off early and drew in guests until late in the evening.

The event was an opportunity for community outreach and to welcome visitors to the Healing House, which provides essential services to those who live on the Chehalis Reservation. Staff members organized a photo booth, haunted maze, goody bags and a barbecue meal to go. Five dedicated members recruited helpers (ghouls) to help with the Halloween celebration. About 135 community members participated in the activities.

The Healing House, formally called the Wilson House, is a grant-funded trauma service and includes crime victims advocacy, domestic violence and youth in

CONTACT US

For questions, call **360-709-1677**. Behavioral Health members are always welcoming visitors to Healing House to meet the friendly staff and learn about services.

need of care (youth prevention). The Healing House is under the Behavioral Health umbrella. Staff offer one-on-one grief trauma counseling, cultural craft classes and support to specific group counseling.

From the Healing House: "Thank you to all who planned, helped, cooked and enjoyed our haunted house. We truly hope you had fun."



Giving thanks to those who served

The Chehalis Tribal Heritage & Culture and Human Resources departments took time Nov. 10 to honor employees that served this country in the United States armed forces.

Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. presented handmade drums to the 21 tribal government employees at the ceremony. The tribe is deeply grateful for military service provided by these brave people.

Youth Services Coordinator Melanie Stevens explained the importance of the project and the effort that went into making the custom handmade deer hide drums for the tribal veterans who represent four of the five military branches: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The drums were designed with a military emblem in the center to signify the specific branch each employee served in.

"It touches my heart. I want to thank them for their service," Stevens said. She personally has many relations and friends who served in the armed forces. Tribal leaders felt it was important to acknowledge these brave men and women on the holiday.

'It's not what we do it for but it's nice for people to acknowledge it.'

- Sean Uhlich, Chehalis Tribal Public Safety Sgt.

Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. gave a sincere thank you announcement over the intercom to all of the military service providers before they were gifted with the drums.

Chairman Pickernell said the event is "to show them how much we appreciate them and they're in our hearts. The Chehalis have a long history of having warriors in our tribe." He said it is the tribe's duty to honor the men and woman who have served and protected this country.

The tribal veterans appreciated the heartfelt gifts. Chehalis Tribal Public Safety Sgt. Sean Uhlich spoke about the recognition.

"It's not what we do it for but it's nice for people to acknowledge it," he said.



Above: Daniel "Bones" Gleason attends a ceremony honoring veterans on Nov. 10 at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel.



Left: Farley Youckton Sr. (left) is recognized for his military service.



TRIBAL VETERANS

- Rita Mercer:** Air Force
- John Williams:** Air Force
- James Elder:** Army
- Derec Filkins:** Army
- Samuel Heller:** Army
- David Jessen:** Army
- John McPherson:** Army
- Frances Pickernell:** Army
- Miguel Santiago:** Army
- Robert Strader:** Army
- Sean Uhlich:** Army
- Scott Williams:** Army
- Kyle Gulbranson:** Marines
- Edward Keller:** Marines
- Kehyn KickingWoman:** Marines
- Michael McNair:** Marines
- Gary Waer:** Marines
- Tabitha Dennison:** Navy
- Amanda Lawton:** Navy
- Nelson Terry:** Navy
- Farley Youckton:** Navy

IN LOVING MEMORY



Photos provided by grandson Christopher Secena: "I love and miss her so much!"



Roberta Josephine "Skamink" "Bootsie" Wells Secena

Sept. 16, 1939–Oct. 6, 2021

To lose someone I loved so much brings pain beyond belief. There are no words to ease my pain, sadness and grief. I feel I've lost someone so close, so wonderful and dear. I think about your special ways and wish that you were near. But although you have left this world, you'll stay within my heart guiding like an angel knowing you are always near. For love is everlasting and so are my memories and your legacy that's always there to light the way for me.

– Roberta's only daughter Allison (Secena) Carter

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me."
Psalm 23:4



Roberta's funeral service was on Oct. 12, 2021, at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center. Ben Charles Jr. officiated the ceremony. Many attended to show their love and respect for Roberta. She was buried next to her husband at Secena cemetery.

Roberta is survived by sons Raymond Jr., William, Donald and Ron; daughter Allison (Secena) Carter; siblings William, Roy and Rena; 21 grandchildren; and 32 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by husband Raymond; son Samuel; brothers Ralph, Rueban, Ronnie, Richard, Reggie, Raymond and Robert; sisters Rosetta, Ruth, Ruby and Sophie; great granddaughter Hona Daniels and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Reggie Sanders, Jeff Choke, Jerry Youckton, Joe Sanders, Mike Sanders and Roger Shortman.

Dale Francis Klatush Jr.

Oct. 31, 1959–Oct. 18, 2021

Dale Francis Klatush Jr. was born Oct. 31, 1959, at Centralia Providence Hospital. He resided in Oakville and peacefully passed Oct. 18, 2021, at Providence St. Peter's Hospital in Lacey with his loved ones by his side.

Dale Jr. was born to Vivian Rosalind Young and Dale Klatush Sr.

He met the love of his life 1981 and they started a family in 1984. He raised his nine children and 13 grandchildren to be full of love and abundance.

Dale was so full of love and such an amazingly strong man. He was all about his wife, kids and grandchildren. Anytime you saw him, you knew Paula wasn't too far behind, and vice versa.

Dale always had the biggest smile on his face and gave the best hugs. Anyone who knew him, knew when you hugged him, you had his scent on you for the rest of the day. His cologne was distinctive. Dale was a stubborn man, but he was loyal. It didn't matter what time of day, if you needed him, he was there.

Dale made it to about the ninth grade in school, then later earned his GED. First, he was employed with the Chehalis Tribal Housing Department. He helped build the End of the Trail I. He later worked at Lucky Eagle Casino.

For the past 14 years, Dale worked at End of the Trail II in maintenance alongside his wife, Paula, and nephew Christopher.

Whenever Dale wasn't at work, he was at the river, which he called his second home. Dale and his son Paul and grandsons Nathaniel and Ulises were always at the river fishing or out looking for a deer. Dale took such pride in teaching his children and grandchildren how to fish and hunt.

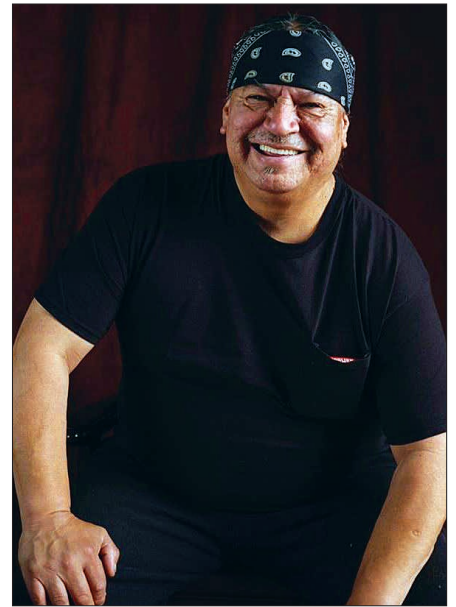
In his younger years, Dale was one of the best pool players around the Pacific Northwest. He could win a game off of a break. Dale and Paula went all around the counties playing pool with their group.

Dale was the best man in all of our lives. May this legendary man rest in peace.

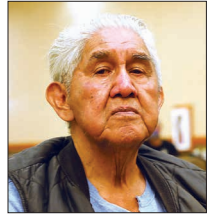
He is survived by his wife, Paula Klatush; sons Dale III, Derrick and Paul; daughters Connie, Correna, Mariah, Airel and Serenity; grandchildren Desirray, Jordan, Nathaniel, Ulises, Dakota, Dale IV, Cayden, Rena, Paulita, Francisca, Sunshine, Chase and Richard; sisters Karen and Bev; brothers Renny and Bruce; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Dale was preceded in death by his daughter Cassandra Pope; sisters Colleen Klatush and Joyleen McCrory; brother Larry Sasticum; and parents Vivian Young and Dale Klatush Sr.

Candlelight services were Oct. 26 and funeral services were Oct. 27 at the Chehalis Tribal Community Center.



Photos provided by Desirray Marie Klatush



The Chehalis Tribe's Annual Meeting on Nov. 6 at Great Wolf Lodge provided a welcome reunion after many long months of social distancing.

Tribe reconnects during Annual Meeting

Family and friends enjoy long-awaited visit while chairman provides community updates

Hundreds of Chehalis tribal members filled Great Wolf Lodge's Events Center in Grand Mound on Nov. 6 for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The day featured giveaway items from tribal departments and businesses, raffle prizes and annual updates from tribal leaders and management. It also offered an opportunity for tribal members to visit with each other.

The Chehalis Tribe is a tight-knit community. Prior to COVID-19 mandates, it would always reconnect at large gatherings. This year's Annual Meeting served as the first chance for many tribal members to visit in person with each other.

"It feels like a family reunion," one tribal elder said.

Great Wolf Lodge catered breakfast and lunch for those in

attendance. The five Business Committee members took the floor and introduced themselves, then started the meeting at noon. Chehalis tribal elder Wayne Barr said a prayer as the official introduction.

Chairman Harry Pickernell Sr. thanked tribal members and medical staff that helped keep the community safe for the past two years. Those unable to attend in person were given an online alternative.

The tribe took many precautions to ensure its members would be comfortable and follow safety guidelines. Chairman Pickernell said in-person gatherings are the most beneficial way of getting information out to the masses. He has periodically provided tribal updates on social media, but prefers face-to-face meetings.

"The video updates are nice, but it's nothing like being in person and seeing everyone's face," Chairman Pickernell said. "I enjoy this platform much better."

Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused many uncertain times for the tribe, the chairman wanted to highlight and thank tribal leaders for adjusting quickly. Various resources were utilized to keep the tribe moving forward amid the crises and uncertainty created by COVID-19.

Leadership groups kept business thriving and the tribe even developed new opportunities for its enterprises, education programs and tribal wellness.

The latest update for the community is that COVID-19 vaccines are now available for ages 5-11.

The Annual Meeting brought hope for the future that more doors will be reopened and the tribe will continue expanding and moving forward in 2022.



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, Charles Latch, Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team

TRIBAL CENTER

Main line: 360-273-5911
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

Chairman: Harry Pickernell Sr.
Vice Chairman: LeRoy Boyd Sr.
Treasurer: Sheilah Bray
Secretary: David Burnett
Fifth Council Member: Jason Gillie

chehalistribe.org

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

Exciting Oakville updates

We are so grateful for this school year to have gotten off to such a great start, even in the midst of COVID-19. Oakville School District has so much to be grateful for. Here are the highlights:

■ Our enrollment is more than 330 students. This is the most students we have had in Oakville in many years!

■ We hired almost a dozen new staff this fall. We have grown and needed to add four new staff on top of the group we already had last year.

■ We opened an Elementary



Plans are under way for construction of a new Oakville Elementary School building using bond funds.

library and are stocking it with many books for students to check out and use.

■ Finally, our school bond projects are about ready to get started. We will be replacing the old elementary building and remodeling the high school, putting in new parking lots all around campus and working on


the softball and baseball fields as well as adding bleachers to the football field. We are making several other small improvements. There will be a few inconveniences in the meantime, but it is all temporary so we can have amazing facilities next year.

Please reach out if you any questions or comments. Also, we

need classified staff and substitute teachers. If you have thought about bus driving, cooking, maintenance/custodial or paraeducator work, we are hiring staff and need more people to help serve our students. Go to oakvilleschools.org or call 360-273-0171.

- Rich Staley, Oakville School District Superintendent

WIC THROUGH SPIPA



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

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

CONTACT: Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689 or wicnutrition@spipa.org

USDA food program

9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Community Center



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

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