

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

July-August 2023 FIND HISTORY, HERITAGE & RESOURCES AT CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG



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Blueberry bounty

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HONOR *on the* WATER

The Chehalis Canoe Family glides across Puget Sound on Tulaap during the Paddle to Muckleshoot.

Tribe pulls together to complete sacred Canoe Journey

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribal Canoe Family returned to the waterways to take part in the 2023 intertribal Canoe Journey Paddle to Muckleshoot. The theme of this year's voyage was Honoring Our Warriors Past and Present.

Tulaap is the name of the Chehalis Tribe's 27-foot vessel that the canoe family takes on the annual journey. The Chehalis people joined this year's passage on July 24 in Lower Elwha near Port Angeles. This was a main pit stop for dozens of canoe families from the Pacific Coast and British Columbia, Canada.

The group of canoes traveled together, making stops each night as tribes paddled along the Salish Sea. On July 25, they pulled into Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for a night of rest and preparation for the next leg of their journey to Port Townsend.

An issue with Tulaap arose when the

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Tribal youth embrace tradition during Rites of Passage



Chehalis tribal elder Rodney Youckton and fellow tribal elders met former Mariners player Edgar Martinez at the Legends Sports Bar grand opening.

Sports bets now at casino

Fans visit Legends Bar, meet baseball icon Edgar Martinez

Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel welcomed guests to the grand opening of its new Legends Sports Bar on July 7. Hundreds were in attendance to meet Hall of Fame Major League Baseball player Edgar Martinez as the highlight of the celebration.

The new sports bar offers betting on a variety of events, including Major League Baseball, National Football League, National Basketball Association/Women's National

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JOURNEY

From page 1

canoe family reached the next stop at Port Gamble S'Klallam. The canoe suffered damage and needed to be fixed before it was safe to take out on the water from Port Gamble to Suquamish. In Suquamish, canoes that were traveling from up north on Puget Sound joined. Members of the tribal community welcomed and hosted hundreds of people for two days.

The Chehalis Canoe Family had repair work done to Tulaap in Suquamish, which enabled them to make the final leg of the 2023 Canoe Journey and land at Alki Beach in Seattle. Historically, this location is part of the homelands of the Duwamish tribal people. The site was selected as the final landing destination to honor the long history of Native American people on traditional lands.

More than 100 canoes arrived at the beach on the sunny afternoon on July 30. Each canoe that pulled in asked Muckleshoot cultural leaders for permission to come ashore and tie their canoes, signifying completion of the journey.

This year's voyage brought a generational shift as part of the canoe family were first-time pullers. Deidra Hawks has participated in the ceremonial event since she was a child. This year, she led the group as skipper of Tulaap for the final leg as they paddled toward Alki Beach.



Photos by Frazier Myer and Christina Hicks

The Chehalis Tribal Canoe Family presented songs and dances at the final protocol of the Paddle to Muckleshoot.



Above: Thousands of people were in attendance on Alki Beach in Seattle to watch more than 100 canoes complete the final paddle of the 2023 Canoe Journey. **Right:** Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush watched as the Chehalis Canoe Family pulled in to the beach.



Heavenly harvest

Elders savor blueberries from newly purchased farm

The sun was shining as Chehalis tribal elders took part in the annual u-pick at Black River Blueberry Farm on July 22.

This year's event held special significance because the Chehalis Tribe recently purchased the farm on Moon Road in Rochester from previous owners Nik and Rebecca Pitharoulis. The land boasts more than 100 acres. The deal was finalized last spring and is important for the Chehalis tribal people who are acquiring more of their traditional lands.

Blueberries were harvested Saturday morning until noon. The day is always a

highly anticipated event. Fresh berries are enjoyed right away but also used for jam, baking and to freeze for later in the year.

As elders arrived, they staked out their rows and began picking sweet, ripe fruit. Volunteers and family members helped fill buckets for elders that couldn't take part in the physical activity. Throughout the morning, more pickers arrived as those whose buckets were full departed.

Each elder was gifted a pint of delicious honey and a full flat of blueberries in addition to those picked.



Chehalis tribal elders and their families selected the finest fruit during the annual u-pick at Black River Blueberry Farm on July 22.



Below: The Chehalis Tribe acquired the Black River Blueberry Farm this past spring. The purchase adds traditional land to the tribe's holdings.



HERITAGE

Youth explore rivers in Rites of Passage

Team-building activity teaches cultural practices

Tribal youth embraced tradition as they traveled the Chehalis Reservation's rivers by canoe this summer during Rites of Passage.

The event was practiced in the 1980s and '90s and made a return in 2018. While COVID-19 impacted the gathering, organizers now hope to offer it as an annual event.

Rites of Passage is an engaging, team-building, healthy activity. The following eight Chehalis youth committed to participate fully and complete the entire passage: Suzette, Jayzen, Mason, Malikah, Micah, Joseph, Lykaio and Jeremy.

Youth launched their canoes July 20 and traveled down the Chehalis River for the day. The group and adult supervisors paddled in their canoes throughout the morning and early afternoon, allowing youth to see parts of the river seldom enjoyed without boat access. After hours on the water, they pulled into Black River at Percy's Landing, named after former Chehalis Tribe Chairman Percy Youckton.

"It was smooth sailing in the river. My arm felt heavy after a while. That's why I only do short pulls," Malikah said.

After they landed, participants went to the fish pit near Tomahawk Stadium. Tribal fisherman taught youth how to prepare salmon the traditional way over an open fire. Fisherman explained that the fish need to cook for about 45 minutes on each side (depending on the size of the fish and the heat of the fire and rocks). Tribal youth left the fish pit to return to Percy's Landing and set up camp for the night.

Chehalis Tribal Elder Mel Youckton spoke to the youngsters as Philip Youckton prepared breakfast for the group on July 21. Mel explained that Percy is his older brother and talked about the pride he feels knowing that tribal youth are taking part in Rites of Passage. He described how he knows there are future tribal leaders among the faces he saw that day.



With adult guidance, Chehalis tribal youth learn traditional ways on and off the water during Rites of Passage.



“

It was smooth sailing in the river. My arm felt heavy after a while. That's why I only do short pulls.

– MALIKAH, RITES OF PASSAGE PARTICIPANT

”

Understanding historical trauma

Find strength and healing in culture and community

Dereck Stonefish of the Iroquois and Hunkpapa Lakota Nations presented *Our Crazy Indigenous Life* on Aug. 1-3. Chehalis Tribal Social Services hosted tribal members, staff and youth in the Community Center's Gathering Room. The training discussed the effects of historical trauma on Indian Nations and shared steps on how to heal.

Thirteen people attended the session on the first day. Dereck, training coordinator of the Native American Training Institute, kicked off the event with a prayer and a song. Participants learned how historical wounds affects their lives today and steps to heal and stop the trauma cycle.

The session started with an overview of the experiences of many Indian Nations since the time of first contact in 1492. The history of removal from traditional lands, forced assimilation, religious conversion and suppression of spiritual and cultural practices was not taught in public schools.

Dereck explained that the democracy of the United States was based on the Six Nations of the Iroquois systems of governance. In that system, everyone had a chance to voice their opinions and feelings. Consensus was a norm for the processes of decision-making in the Six Nations. Actions on needs, concerns or challenges did not happen until they were reviewed and approved by Clan Mothers. Imagine if the current democracy in the U.S. operated that way today.

Ten people arrived on Aug. 2, including several new participants. Dereck helped the group understand the historical influences of tribally connected families.

In his talk, he indicated how trauma and repression through forced educational practices at government residential schools broke familial connections, disrupted natural parenting patterns and resulted in the loss of many Indian Nation's languages and culture.

Dereck told a story about his uncle buffalo hunting. He shot a buffalo, the buffalo went down, then the herd surrounded the wounded one and leveraged it back to its feet. His uncle shot again and the



Our Crazy Indigenous Life, presented by Dereck Stonefish, discussed deep trauma experienced by Native Americans, along with healing. Youth made drums the last day of the workshop.

buffalo went down once more; the animal was lifted by the herd to its feet. The herd did not give up on the wounded one. It gathered, supported and lifted the wounded one up to help it stay on its feet.

He told us that at the approach of a thunderstorm, buffalo nations on the plains gather, group together as one big herd and face the storm together. To be strong is to face things straight on.

Youth workers training

Dereck focused on Chehalis Tribal Youth Workers on Aug. 3,

the last day of training. After offering a prayer, a colored graphic was displayed on a screen. Dereck explained the graphic. It featured a white bear awake looking up on one side with a black bear curled up asleep on the other side. The awake bear is ready to take on the world. The curled up asleep bear is sheltering itself from further trauma of the world.

Dereck told the youth they would be participating in a conversation about life and asked them a question: "What is a warrior?"

The youth responded in

different ways: a fighter, a leader, they are strong, have courage and have bravery were the answers. A lot of times, we think of warriors as being military people. Warriors rose to the occasion and took care of their families, Dereck said.

The workshop concluded with a demonstration of loss in tangible form. Dereck asked everyone in the room to take a blank piece of paper and divide and tear it into three equal-size strips. He asked the group to write their top three favorite things on each of the strips. Dereck walked around and quickly took one from each person. He read the strips aloud and asked the group how they would feel if they had their friends, family, culture, pets and money taken forcibly from them. It was a thought-provoking way to wrap up the three days.

In the afternoon, youth workers enjoyed a drum-making workshop hosted by Youth Support Services Specialist Melanee Stevens from Heritage & Culture, along with two helpers from Centralia Fur & Hide. Participants included 13 youth and seven adult helpers. The youth were fully engaged with their projects.

YOUTH

Super start to school year

Tribe sends kids back to class in style

Multiple departments held events for the Chehalis tribal community to bid farewell to the summer months and welcome the new school year on Aug. 11.

First, Chehalis Tribe's Education Department set up awnings outside of the Tribal Center to offer students back-to-school supplies and a fun-filled carnival. K-12 students were provided everything they need to be prepared for the 2023-24 school year. Each youth went home with a backpack full of

school supplies. Checks to buy clothes were distributed as well.

Native Connections, Social Services, Planning, Behavioral Health and Vocational Rehabilitation Programs all had tables with activities or give-away items. Social Services handed out notebooks and pens. Youth in attendance also enjoyed a carnival complete with bounce houses and a food booth featuring hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy.

As part of the festivities, Behavioral Health staff hosted a parade that included many departments and Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel staff. Participants dressed for the superhero theme as they proceeded down Howanut

Road and gave out goodies to kids at the parade.



Tribal departments and Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel gave students a superhero surprise before they headed back to school. The Aug. 11 event featured a parade, bouncy house and kid-favorite foods. Youth received a backpack, supplies and funds to purchase clothing.



Students gain valuable experience

Youth workers spend summer acquiring training from tribe

On June 29, 27 Chehalis summer youth workers attended a Resource Fair in the Community Center's Gathering Room.

Representatives from tribal departments Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Care for Each Other House, Education and Social Services provided information about their offerings. Thurston County Crisis Line and the University of Washington offered outreach with presentations and talks about processes to access their services.

Racheal Mendez spoke to youth about Chehalis Tribal Higher Education and how to make the most of applying with her assistance. She also highlighted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Erika Pickernell spoke about the services and programs through the Caring for Each Other House. She invited youth to stop by if they need a place to chill and relax, do bead work or just talk. A calming room is available for folks to use.

Chehalis Tribal Enterprises representatives from Great Wolf Lodge and Talking Cedar spoke to youth about future career opportunities. Thurston County Crisis center was also present to share resources available and job prospects.

Youth learned that 16 is the minimum age requirement to work at Great Wolf Lodge and Talking Cedar.

After representatives from each one of the departments and programs spoke and highlighted available services, youth visited the tables that most interested them. They earned raffle tickets at each table. Youth then paused for lunch, which was provided by Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel.

Heritage & Culture

After lunch, the youth convened in the Heritage & Culture room with Trudy Marcellay, Yvonne Peterson and Halisa Higheagle. They were shown how to complete a sweet grass and raffia medallion, focusing on their work until 3:30 p.m. Some learned the skill quickly and easily; others struggled a little but should be proud of their participation.



Chehalis tribal youth interviewed for summer job positions within tribal departments on June 29.

Employment interviews

Our 27 youth returned to the Gathering Room for job interviews on June 30. Eight departments requested workers this year: Housing, Facilities, Natural Resources, Community Center,

Wellness Center, Early Childhood Education, Head Start and Information & Technology were active and completed the interview process.

Each student was asked to indicate their top three choices for summer youth employment

placement and interviews commenced. Selections were made by each department. Because youth were able to choose their preferred placement, they enjoyed more autonomy in their positions.

The youth began their summer employment July 10.



SUMMER YOUTH WORKERS FIND A PLACE WITH TRIBAL DEPARTMENTS

Laela Baker: Blueberry Farm

Shayden Baker: Building/Grounds

Hollie Brockmueller: Youth Center

Dylan Burke: Department of Natural Resources Office

Koner Burnett: Department of Natural Resources

Dyani Cayenne: Education Development

Jace Cayenne: Housing

Dominic Delgado: Youth Center

Damious Hansen: Housing

Tom Hayden: Education

Development

Adrian Hjelm-Snell: Youth Center

Jake Jones: Blueberry Farm

Susette Klatush: Elders

Tayleena Klatush: Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center

Ulises Klatush-Cabrera: Building/Grounds

Charles Latch III: Building/Grounds

Jordan Lopez: Housing

Chloe Lopez-Palmer: Education Development

Jayzen Owens:

Information Technology

Kaytlin Pickernell: Building/Grounds

Courtney Price: Department of Natural Resources

Anjolysa Sanchez: Education Development

Kylee Secena: Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center

Rachel Simmons: Blueberry Farm

Riley Smith: Elders

Tristan Smith: Blueberry Farm

Eli Snell: Youth Center



Eli Snell



Debbie Shortman



Ray Secena



Diane Pickernell



Dan Penn

Thank you!

Picnic gives special gratitude to hard-working employees

The Chehalis Tribe honored workers during its annual Employee Picnic on Aug. 18 at Columbus Park in Olympia. The park was reserved for tribal government individuals and their families for the afternoon.

Community & Culture and Events departments set up buffet tables, the sound system, a corn hole game, volleyball and tables for raffle prizes. Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush helped prep the barbecue for everyone in attendance.

Philip Youckton began the day with a few raffle drawings and continued to draw names and

disburse prizes throughout the day.

Philip also announced years of service acknowledgments. Every year, administration recognizes personnel who have worked for a Chehalis tribal entity for 10 years or longer. Many individuals have served the tribe for more than three decades. Charlotte Lopez and Cheryle Starr both have worked for the tribe for 32 years; Darrin Jones has 33 years of service.

A few employees that have been with the tribe for more than 40 years. Ray Secena has 42 years; Chris Ortivez and Debbie Shortman have 44 years each!



Chehalis Tribal Government employees enjoy the annual Employee Picnic at Columbus Park. Games, a barbecue, raffles and employee recognitions greeted staff members and their families at the celebration on Aug. 18.



Elders travel to Lummi Nation luncheon

Bellingham-area excursion brings tribal members together for food, festivities

Fifteen Chehalis tribal elders boarded the bus to attend the Lummi Nation's Ribbon Skirts and Shirts Honoring Our Elders Luncheon on July 14.

The group took a three-hour bus ride to Lummi Indian Reservation, which is 30 minutes away from the U.S.-Canadian border. This was the first multiple-day excursion for Chehalis elders since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some elders traveled to the luncheon in their own vehicles. When the bus arrived at Bellingham, visitors checked into their hotel rooms. Many elders gathered again at 6 p.m. for dinner at the Lummi Nation Silver Reef Casino.

The next morning, the group went back to the Silver Reef for the luncheon and an afternoon of festivities provided by the



The Lummi Nation welcomed Chehalis tribal elders to a luncheon on July 14.



host tribe. Multiple tribes from the Pacific Northwest traveled to gather with elders.

After elders signed into the event, they were gifted bags that had a raffle ticket for door prizes and T-shirts. Luncheon main course options included salmon, chicken and crab.

Vendors sold indigenous medicine, beadwork, cedar hats and other Native American items.

The Lummi Nation hosted tribal members from all over the United States. Twenty-eight Indian Nations were represented at the celebration.

BETS

From page 1

Basketball Association and college offerings. It is complete with a self-serve draft beer wall and bar food.

Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush placed the first bet in the kiosk betting machines.

Seattle Mariners icon Martinez took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony alongside Chairman Klatush and Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel CEO Janessa Bumgarner.

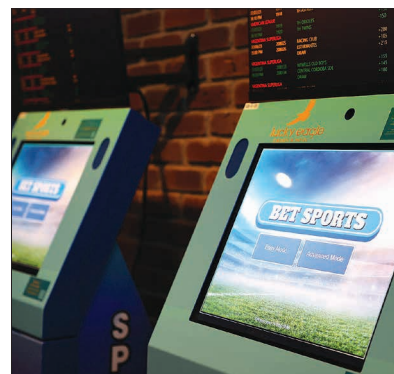
Martinez played his entire 18-year big league career in Seattle from 1982-2004.

Chehalis tribal elders enjoyed chatting with Martinez prior to the ribbon cutting.

Afterward, fans who had traveled for the event lined up to meet and take a picture with the legend.



Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel marks the grand opening of Legends Sports Bar with icon Edgar Martinez.



Fans who would like to place wagers on sports events can use self-serve kiosks at the casino.



HOLIDAY

Dazzling fireworks

The Chehalis tribal people continued the annual tradition of selling fireworks for Fourth of July festivities. Throughout the weeks leading up to the national holiday, people from surrounding counties visited the Chehalis Reservation to purchase all kinds of fantastic fireworks.

Thousands of families make the trip to shop the biggest selection and best deals in the area. Stand owners offer an impressive variety of pyrotechnics for customers to choose from, such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, artillery shells, family packs and more.

Each stand is owned by a Chehalis tribal member, providing an opportunity to make extra spending money for the summer months. The tribe provides a free fireworks show for the community each year. A group of pyrotechnics from the tribe put together the dazzling display for everyone to enjoy.



Chehalis tribal members marked another booming year of fireworks sales and an impressive show.



LGBTQIA+ event encourages creativity, pride

The Chehalis Tribe's Medicated Assisted Treatment and Substance Use Disorder Peer Support Team presented the Two Spirit LGBTQIA+ Pride event on June 28.

Community members took part in activities throughout the day from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. to show support and solidarity for LGBTQIA+ members. Janet VanStegall organized the event on the outside basketball court near the Head Start building.

This was the first event of its kind on the Chehalis Reservation and was designed to increase awareness and inclusion.

Guests spoke about the importance of treating everyone equally and to be more accepting of all people.

Participants were given the opportunity to design and create a T-shirt, handkerchiefs, a hat, an origami rose and a tote bag. Those in attendance also used fabric paint markers to color their projects with a variety of inspiring messages.



Event organizers provided arts and crafts for those in attendance to show off their creativity.

Words of encouragement included: visibility, family, inclusion, recognition and two-spirit expression.

Staff from departments occasionally walk around the ballfield during lunch break and had the chance to check out the festivities and participate. At the conclusion of the event there was a raffle.



EOT 2 gas station/store gives customers a treat

Dino Day brought some excitement to the End of the Trail 2 gas station on the Chehalis Reservation on Aug. 31. The event celebrated the transition to the Sinclair Corporation as the provider of fuel and goods for two tribal gas station stores, End of the Trail 2 and 3.

Free hot dogs, hamburgers and chips were available at 10 a.m. Vendors, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel and Legends Sports Bar, Cougar Den Fuel, Monster Energy and Skookum Creek Tobacco had booths and promotional gifts. These were shared and given to tribal community members and visitors who frequent the station.

Raffle drawings featured Seahawks gear, a signed Bobby Wagner jersey and helmet, gas

cards, gift cards and a GoPro unit. To get a raffle ticket, visitors downloaded the Sinclair App onto their smart phones. The app also allows for a .20 cent discount for gasoline. The Sinclair Corporation offered a \$1 per gallon discount on Dino Day.

It was a busy day. The line for the gas station stretched back to Anderson Road. Security from Lucky Eagle helped direct customers and participants in and out of the gas pumps and parking area.



USDA food pickup available

11 A.M.-2 P.M. OCT. 20 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

SPIPA's program offers food to help fill up your freezer, fridge and cupboards!

CALL: Debra Shortman at 360-709-1689



WIC through SPIPA

The organization meets the special nutritional needs of pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum moms; infants; and children up to age 5.

NEXT DATE: Nov. 9

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



CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

The Confederated Tribes
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'People of the Sands'

Articles and opinions expressed
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SUBMISSIONS

Tribal members are encouraged
to submit birthday and anniversary
wishes, letters, articles, photos
and drawings to be considered
for publication in the newsletter
(materials are subject to editing).
Contributing writers, artists and
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VISION STATEMENT

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



BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dustin Klatush

Vice Chairman:
Leroy Boyd

Treasurer: Sheilah Bray

Secretary: Charlotte Lopez

Fifth Council Member:

Rachelle Wells-Ferguson

chehalistribe.org

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CANOE JOURNEY PHOTOS



Chehalis tribal
members
take part in
a traditional
ceremony
during the
finale of the
2023 Canoe
Journey.
Photos by
Frazier Myer
and Christina
Hicks