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Halloween is a hit

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By Frazier Myer

Hundreds of United States military veterans and their families attended the 20th annual Veterans Appreciation Day Dinner on Nov. 11.

The gathering at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel's Events Center celebrated courageous service members. Participants were treated to a delicious salmon dinner and fry bread.

Veterans Day Committee Chair Gloria Jones served as the master of ceremonies. Gloria invited Antonio Mendez, U.S. Army Sergeant 1st class E7, to lead the invocation prayer. Chehalis tribal community veterans performed the posting of colors (right). Cheryl Waters sang the national anthem.

On behalf of the Business Committee, Chehalis Tribal Treasurer Sheilah Bray thanked veterans for their dedication and service to help protect the country.

The Chehalis Tribal Canoe Family performed songs for guests prior to dinner and while attendees dished up their food.



Honoring veterans



INSIDE

More Veterans Appreciation Day Dinner photos on [Pages 2-3](#)

Higher ed students recognized

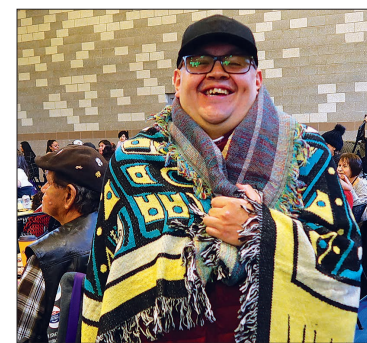
Annual Meeting focuses on successes

Chehalis higher education participants were honored for reaching their goals at the Chehalis Tribe's Annual Meeting on Nov. 4.

It was the first time in three years recognition was given to students.

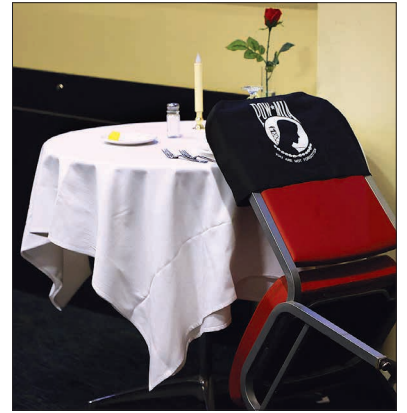
Community members met in the Community Center Gymnasium to learn about successes from the year and updates moving forward into 2024.

See **MEETING** / [page 11](#)



Chehalis tribal members gathered for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

STRENGTH OF OUR SERVICE MEMBERS



Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel hosted the annual Veterans Day dinner on Nov. 11. The evening was filled with appreciation and respect for the sacrifices of service members. **Top right:** Sheilah Bray spoke on behalf of the Chehalis Tribe Business Committee. **Bottom right:** Kaisen Mendez-Martinez, 7, led the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the dinner. Kaisen is the youngest Sons of Legion officer, Sergeant-at-Arms for Unit 17, Centralia.





Left: The Chehalis Tribal Canoe Family performed songs for veterans and their families at the annual dinner. Many volunteers helped make the event successful.



New GM shares long-term goals

Long Liu to focus on cultural sensitivity, communication, training and empowerment

By Bobbie Bush



What motivated you to apply for the position of general manager of the Chehalis Tribe?

First and foremost, I want to see the Chehalis Tribe grow and prosper. I have worked for the Chehalis Tribe for eight-plus years and understand some of the challenges faced by our community. I am dedicated to achieving positive goals. Secondly, I am motivated by the satisfaction of seeing my team succeed and reach its potential. Finally, I believe in tribal sovereignty and my past upper management experience in various industries gives me the organizational tools to contribute to the success and legacy of this tribal community.

How long did you work in Information Technology?

Eight years and nine months. I started as an IT analyst and moved up to Help Desk manager, but I have prior executive experience in the newspaper industry.

Do you have a vision for your service to the tribe?

My vision is in line with the tribe's mission statement: "To be a thriving, self-sufficient, sovereign people, honoring our past and serving current and future generations."

Here are a few things that I would like to focus on:

Cultural sensitivity: Respect and honor the Chehalis Tribe's cultural traditions, values and customs.

Community empowerment: My vision aims to empower and benefit the members of the tribe, helping them achieve their goals and improve their quality of life.

Sustainability: My service is designed for long-term sustainability, considering environmental, economic and social factors that impact the tribe's well-being.

Education and capacity building: My focus will be on education and capacity building to help the tribe develop skills and knowledge that empower them to become more self-sufficient.

Transparency and accountability:

there should be mechanisms in place for transparency, accountability and feedback from the community to ensure that the service aligns with the tribe's needs.

Ultimately, my vision of service to a tribe should be a collective effort, reflecting the aspirations and priorities of the tribe's members, leaders and stakeholders. It should be built on a foundation of respect, cultural sensitivity and a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing the tribe.

What happened to our culture and heritage?

The culture and heritage of native tribes were affected by the colonial domination of settlers that arrived from Europe, if I understand your question correctly. This had a historic negative effect. After the American Indian Movement (AIM), the U.S. government has made reparations and tried to restore cultural heritage across the nation.

How can we include more cultural education for our community through programs – especially for our youth? Wood carving? Canoe practices? Gathering native plants and making medicine?

First, I will reach out to individual directors and managers to discuss the challenges and opportunities within these programs. My goal is to strengthen youth programs and the cultural activities presented. I want to bring in native experts to do more training with a positive affirmation for wood carving, canoe traditions and gathering medicines from native plants and making those remedies.

Do you have an interdepartmental communication strategy?

Create a positive communication plan: Develop a structured communication plan that includes regular updates, reports and meetings to keep departments informed and aligned.

Encourage open dialogue: Foster a culture of open communication where employees feel comfortable sharing ideas, concerns and feedback across departments. Encourage cross-functional teams and collaborative projects.

Provide training: Offer training and resources to employees to improve their communication skills. This might include workshops, conflict resolution and cross-functional collaboration exercises.

What is going on with the clinic expansion?

We are working very closely with individual departments responsible for the expansion – Planning, Accounting and the Wellness Center – for a clear plan to be presented to our Business Committee. I will keep everyone posted after the plan is approved.

When will the building that previously housed the Elders Center be complete for Early Learning/Head Start to use?

Only a small amount of work is left for the contractor to complete the project. Afterward, the building inspector will check structural quality and general safety of the building. This transition should happen very soon based on my communication with Facilities.

“

Ultimately, my vision of service to a tribe should be a collective effort, reflecting the aspirations and priorities of the tribe's members, leaders and stakeholders.

– LONG LIU, CHEHALIS TRIBE
GENERAL MANAGER

”

PUBLIC SAFETY

Officers to serve, protect community

Law Enforcement and Corrections welcome four new members to department

By Mary Sanders

Chehalis Tribal Public Safety held a swearing-in ceremony for one corrections officer and three law enforcement officers in the Tribal Courtroom on Nov. 15.

Chief Kelly Edwards kicked off the ceremony by thanking families for their attendance and dedication to their officer while they trained out of state.

Officers were away for weeks to train and enhance their skills at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. Chief Edwards asked for their patience as officers begin law enforcement careers on the Chehalis Reservation.

Corrections Officer Aaron "Cole" Miller was the first to be sworn in by Chief Edwards. Miller graduated from the academy in May.

Jail Manager Scott Williams and Lieutenant Alicia Potts shared how Officer Miller has positively developed into a reliable and hardworking corrections officer and shows promise in expanding his career with the Chehalis Tribe.

Sergeants Matt Bogart, Sean



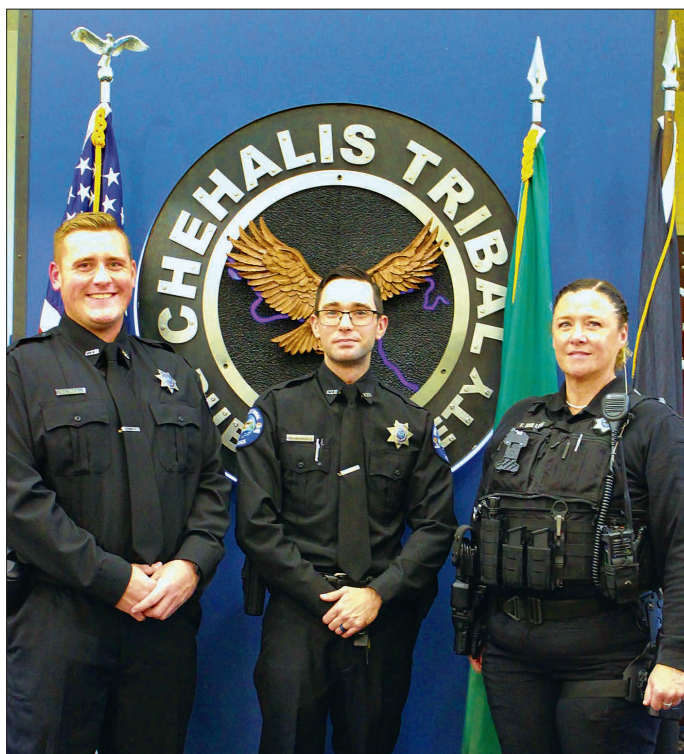
Chief Kelly Edwards swears in Law Enforcement Officer Tyghler Fiola.

Uhlich and Jake Dickerson talked about what it means to be a law enforcement officer.

Each had welcoming words of wisdom and reminded officers of the importance of the Chehalis tribal community they will be serving.

Families and Chehalis Tribal Public Safety staff clapped in congratulations of their accomplishments and wished officers well on their journey as newly commissioned officers for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

Also sworn in were Law Enforcement Officers Dameon Spurgeon, who graduated from the academy in July; Tyghler Fiola, who graduated in October; and Tracy Rollins, who is a lateral hire with almost 15 years of law enforcement experience.



Far left: Aaron "Cole" Miller stands with Lieutenant Alicia Potts and Jail Manager Scott Williams.

Left: Dameon Spurgeon and Tracy Rollins also joined the Chehalis Tribal Public Safety department.

Spooktacular HALLOWEEN BASH

Kids, families and community members party!

By Bobbie Bush

Chehalis community and tribal members had a blast at the Spooktacular Halloween Bash at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 21. The evening celebrated the Halloween spirit with cool costumes, dynamic decorations and dancing and tons of treats.

A quick, healthy meal of macaroni and cheese, chicken strips, meatballs, mini wieners, fruit and vegetable trays and cookies for dessert started kids and families off right.

A Haunted House was set up in the mid-section of the Community Center. The house included a giant werewolf, chainsaw man, creepy baby dolls, a devil and most scary at the end was a huge skeleton clown. Kids dashed out of the Haunted House and went back to the Gathering Room to dance.

James McJoe Jr., better known as DJ Ocho, got everyone – kids and adults – moving on the dance floor!

All tribal community and tribal members were welcome.



Chehalis tribal youth celebrate at the Spooktacular Halloween Bash on Oct. 21. The event featured a costume contest, dance party and music by DJ Ocho.



COSTUME WINNERS

KIDS

1st: Zombie Princess

2nd: Marshmallow

3rd: IT

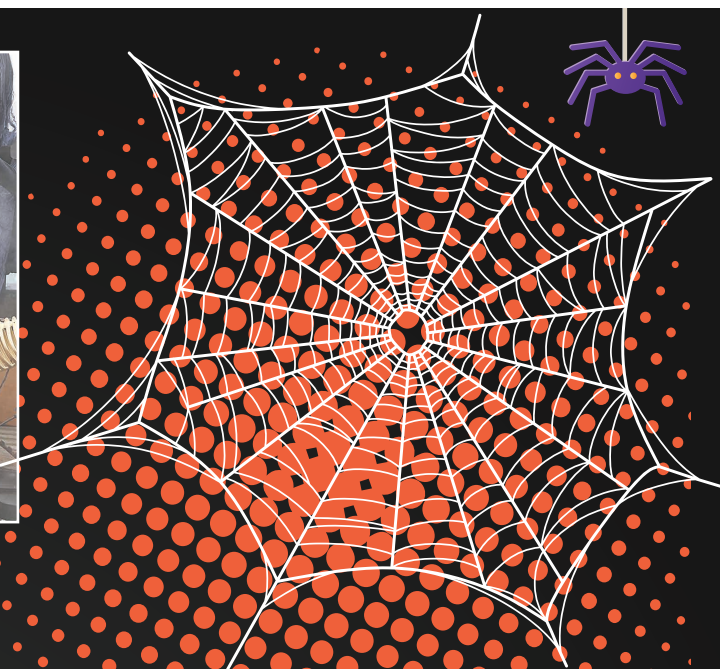
Best Couples Costume:

Steesha McJoe and Carlos Rosale as Batman and Catwoman

Best Family Costume:

Steesha McJoe and Carlos Rosale and baby as the Bat Family





HEAD START TRICK-OR-TREAT FUN

Chehalis tribal department staff members handed out candy to Head Start students in a parade of adorable costumes. While little ones showed off their outfits, parents and tribal employees also got in on the costume action.



Chehalis tribal employees such as George Sanchez and Ryan Burnett (right) dressed up and handed out candy to Head Start students during the trunk-or-treat on Halloween morning.



ELDERS

Conference offers valuable resources

Elders and caregivers find key support system

By Bobbie Bush

Thirty people participated in the Elders Caregivers Conference from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Oct. 25, organized by Chehalis Tribal Wellness.

Resource tables set up in the Community Center's Gathering Room included:

- Lewis County Aging & Disability Resource Connection Specialist Marla Lund

- Donna Feddern with the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging

- Doug Kernick with Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors

- Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for Special Diabetes Program for Indians Cathy Visser

- Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center LPN Sandra Ebel

- Cancer Programs Engagement Coordinator Cher Castello with SPIPA

- Youth Support Services Specialist Melanee Stevens

- The Northwest Justice Project

Falls prevention

The day began with a presentation on avoiding falls, which addressed concerns around the house. Donna Feddern from the Lewis-Mason-Thurston County Area Agency on Aging discussed what elders can do at home to prevent an accident or injury. Did you know that some falls can be caused by vitamin deficiency? Calcium, protein, vitamin B-12 and vitamin D deficiency can contribute to unsteadiness or dizziness.

Wills, advance directives

Jonathan Fork from the Olympia office of the Northwest Justice Project (NWJP) taught the importance of advance directives and wills. Lance Cornick from the Olympia office, Jennifer Yogi and Cina Littlebird of the Native American Unit and Sarah Glorian from the Aberdeen office all attended the event. Emphasis was placed on how good planning can



The Elders Caregivers Conference on Oct. 25 offered a wealth of information to support the well-being of elders.



Cal Bray discussed preparing for emergencies on the reservation.

help family and friends make the right decisions for health care, disposition of property and assets.

Jennifer and Cina offered education regarding the American Indian Probate Reform Act. This act provides a probate process for trust assets of American Indians. For more information or self-help publications, go to nwjustice.org or call **888-201-1014** from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Monday-Friday. The suggestion was to apply for help online.

Christina Hicks is working with NWJP to schedule a will clinic this spring.

Medicare and Medicaid

Up next, Doug Kernick had suggestions to sign up for Medicaid and Medicare, along with general eligibility

requirements. Doug is a volunteer with the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors.

Lunch from Panera was provided to all in attendance.

A presenter was scheduled to talk about elder scams but was unable to attend because of a family emergency. The session will be rescheduled for March 2024.

Ready for emergencies

The final presentation was by the Chehalis Tribe's Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bray, who urged prepping for winter weather and emergencies.

Cal explained that we are moving from La Niña to El Niño this year. La Niña winters tend to be cold with the intrusion of modified arctic air more likely to occur. El Niño winters tend to be mild with modified arctic air intrusion less likely.

Cal explained that climate patterns are changing and it's best to be prepared for any type of weather. Now is the time to get out ice scrapers and snow shovels, make sure salt or de-icer is ready, have plenty of firewood for wood stoves and ensure vehicles have at least a half of tank of gas. Stock up on ready-to-eat food.

CodeRED

Another emergency support available is the CodeRED system. It is used to send out important messages to the tribal community and tribal employees from

Chehalis Tribe's Public Safety Department. Alerts can be sent by text, voice (calls to your phone) and email, depending on which options are selected.

The goal is to utilize CodeRED for future important alerts, such as missing persons, evacuations or shelter in place, boil water notices, crime alerts, disaster recovery or weather-related business closures.

Phone service carriers supported by CodeRED: Alltel, Appalachian Wireless, AT&T, Bluegrass Cellular, Boost Mobile, Cellcom, C-Spire, Centennial Wireless, Cincinnati Bell, GCI, Immix Wireless, Inland Cellular, IV Cellular, Nex-Tech Wireless, Telos, Sprint, Metro PCS, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, United Wireless, Verizon Wireless, Virgin Mobile and West Central Wireless.

Check with your service provider if you don't see it on this list. Many smaller carriers likely provide services through one of the major carriers.

Sign up at chehalistribe.org. Choose Public Safety on the Departments tab. On the left-hand column, click on Emergency Management then the CodeRED icon, then on Sign Up for CodeRED at the top of that page.

Elders received a goody bag at the start of the conference and a \$25 gas card when it wrapped up.

The entire conference was highly informative and provided numerous resources for elders and caregivers who attended.

Coeur D'Alene journey brings folks together

Chehalis tribal elders road trip to luncheon

By Bobbie Bush

On Oct. 4, 26 people loaded up the big tour bus for a trip to the Coeur D'Alene Elders Luncheon the next day.

Because the event was more than six hours away by bus, our Chehalis tribal elders traveled there Wednesday, ate lunch on Thursday and returned Friday.

The bus stopped at 12:50 p.m. for lunch at the Buzz Inn in Ellensburg on the way. Everyone said the food was good as they climbed back on the bus.

The ride toward the Gorge was pleasant, sunny and a little breezy. The trip took elders through the agricultural fields of eastern Washington. I could see the spots where fires had come close to the road and homes.

About 4:30 p.m., we had just 17 more miles to go before reaching Coeur D'Alene.

Everyone felt excited to be almost there. Then we kept going and going past the turn off to 95 south, which would take us to the hotel casino. Next, we saw a sign that said Missoula 66 miles! This was too far.

John Youckton took out his GPS and the bus turned around. We made the turn onto 95



Chehalis tribal elders gathered for a group photo during their trip to the 2023 Coeur D'Alene Elders Luncheon.

south and soon arrived at our destination.

Everyone on the bus was relieved to be at the hotel and checked in to their rooms.

The luncheon began at 10 a.m. Thursday morning. Elders from many Indian Nations packed into the events center.

The gathering opened with the Veteran's Color Guard. Rose Creek Drum sang the entrance song and honor song when the colors were posted. An opening prayer and welcome finished the kickoff.

Door prizes were drawn immediately and quickly. Helen Sanders won a cute SpongeBob SquarePants pillow at the beginning.

Chehalis tribal elders received quite a few door prizes. Donna Glackon, Marie Bird, Nancy Romero and our bus driver Don also took home goodies!

I won \$34 during a quick session of bingo. As the game wound down, the group of hungry elders watched servers begin to prep for the abundant meal.

The luncheon was served family style and included pasta salad, cranberry sauce, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, cornbread stuffing, Waldorf salad, turkey, ham and dinner rolls. Dessert featured cherry, apple and pumpkin pie. Sugar-free pie also was available.

As the food was served and we began to eat Fleetwood Mac cover band Paper Flowers provided entertainment. Many audience members sang in unison to the song, "Don't Stop."

Rez Animal spay/neuter program is a success

Since the organization first started in 2006, Rez Animal Resources & Education has spayed or neutered 883 dogs and cats owned by Chehalis tribal members. This is a major step to improving the lives of pets and reducing the number of strays on the Chehalis Reservation.

In 2023 alone, more than 112 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered thanks to the support of Rez Animal. Through the program, tribal member pet owners can get their dogs and cats spayed at local veterinary clinics for only \$5.

If you need help getting your pet to a veterinary clinic for the surgery, they can help with that. Rez Animal has appointments available every month at two area veterinary clinics and will transport your pet.

Spaying and neutering is so important to reduce the number of homeless animals. Since the pandemic, nearly all shelters and rescue organizations are over capacity with homeless pets. To prevent your dog or cat from having accidental litters, please make sure they are spayed or neutered.

HELP FOR PETS

Rez Animal serves the Chehalis, Nisqually, Shoalwater Bay, Squaxin Island and Skokomish tribal communities.

Thanks to donations, Rez Animal is able to offer animal rescue, spay/neuter services, adoption and emergency vet care.

To receive spay and neuter assistance from Rez Animal or if you would like to donate, please call Amy Loudermilk at **253-370-6392** or email **info@rezanimals.com**.



CULTURE

Hazel Pete's proud legacy

Exhibit highlights traditional, contemporary weaving by iconic family



Hazel Pete was the matriarch of a family of artists and master weavers. An exhibit highlighting traditional and contemporary items woven by generations of the Hazel Pete Family is on display at the Leonor R. Fuller Gallery at South Puget Sound Community College through Dec. 8.



South Puget Sound Community College held the opening reception for the 15th annual Native American Art Exhibition honoring Hazel Pete's legacy and Chehalis tribal basketry on Nov. 17.

The reception was at the Leonor R. Fuller Gallery on the campus of SPSCC, where art from Hazel Pete and her six generations of master weavers is on display through Dec. 8.

Organizers recognized Native American lands and traditions and said that the exhibit's goals are to share the history of the Salish people, create relationships and enhance representation.



Yvonne Peterson, Hazel's daughter, explained that basketry knowledge, language and other social, spiritual and religious protocols are taken from all tribes in the United States and Canada by laws and policies.

Yvonne shared the history of the legendary Hazel, who lived from 1914-2003. She was a boarding school survivor who dedicated her life to her Chehalis people and culture. Hazel was sent to multiple boarding schools throughout her childhood but persevered to move on and become a member of the first graduating class at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Hazel earned a cultural teaching degree and went on to teach at various reservations and boarding schools.

She returned to the Chehalis Reservation in the 1940s and started a family. She had nine children and raised them as a single parent. Hazel also played a major part in raising several of her grandchildren, passing on teachings and traditions that still carry on today.

The gallery is featuring other forms of art influenced by Hazel Pete. Some of the curated baskets haven't been seen since her passing in 2003.



ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNIZED

GED AND HIGH SCHOOL 21

Christopher Secena: Centralia College

TECHNICAL/CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Elijah Quilt: Washington Trucking Company

Hector Canales: CDS Trucking School

Emily Ortiz: Fosbre Academy of Hair Design

Faith Hoheisel: PIMA Medical Institute

Russell Baker: West Coast Training

Lela Pulsifer: Charter College, Certified Medical Assistant

Destiny Demeo: Centralia College, Accounting Clerk

ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Kendra Youckton: Centralia College

Adam Lower: Grays Harbor College

Kaylena Delgado: Centralia College

Kayley Trott: Centralia College

Deidra Hawks: Centralia College

Eva Delamater: Centralia College

Kammi Wittwer: Centralia College

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Arielle Burnett: Washington State University

Kirsten Secena: Washington State University

Eva Delameter: Evergreen State College

Halle Colson: Eastern Washington University

Jeanette Boyd: Washington State University

Josh Burnette: Western Governors University

Ronald Gains: San Francisco State University

Selena Kearney: Evergreen State College

Shanin Clancy: Evergreen State College

MASTER'S DEGREE

Ranessa Goddard: Western Governors University

Amanda Batres: Lamar University

Madeline Colson: University of Montana

Chris Richardson: Washington State University

Adam Flores: Evergreen State College

DOCTORAL

Mary DuPuis: Te Whare Wananga O Awanuiarangi



Chehalis tribal members pick up items from tribal departments and enterprises at the Annual Meeting.

MEETING

From page 1

After lunch, Higher Education Coordinator Racheal Mendez and Education and Development Director Mary DuPuis along with Business Committee members called forward the first person to be recognized for his success. Christopher Secena completed his GED certificate. Each higher education participant was called to the front and draped in a beautiful Pendleton blanket to spotlight their hard work and diligence. Those who completed a master's degree or PHD were given a blanket and a handcrafted canoe paddle.



From left: Cammie Wittwer, Eva Delamater, Adam Lower, Deidra Hawks and Kayley Trott were all celebrated for earning associate degrees. The Annual Meeting provided the perfect opportunity to highlight achievements of Chehalis tribal members in education and training.



MORE ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS ON PAGE 12

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

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
photographers include Chehalis
tribal community members/staff.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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



Top: Chehalis
tribal members
were recognized
for their academic
achievements
during the Annual
Meeting. **Middle:**
Members of the
Business Committee
honor Mary DuPuis
for earning her PHD.
Right: Housing
Authority was on
hand to provide
information.



USDA food pickup

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

SPIPA's program offers
food to fill up your freezer,
refrigerator and cupboards.
Items are first-come,
first-served (one pickup
per household). Each
month features different
items. Please allow priority
to elders and low-income
households. Must present
tribal ID at time of pickup.



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: Dec. 14

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

