

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

January 2024 FIND HISTORY, HERITAGE & RESOURCES AT CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG



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Sweet celebration

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We say farewell to four tribal members
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HOOP DREAMS



Chehalis tribal seniors make the most of their last year of basketball

Multiple Chehalis tribal members competed in their senior year of high school basketball.

Tyler Klatush is the shooting guard at W.F. West High School. He earned the EvCo League MVP and led his team in scoring, assists and steals during the regular season this year.

The Oakville High School boys team had two Chehalis tribal members in their final year of high school competition.

Courtney Price and Eddie Klatush were both recognized during Senior Night after defeating Taholah.

The Oakville Acorns also honored Laela Baker during Senior Night.



Tyler Klatush (above) and Courtney Price wrapped up high school basketball.

Student support is No. 1 goal

Talisa Capoeman builds cultural connections at OSD

By Bobbie Bush

Indian Education Coordinator at Oakville School District Talisa Capoeman provided information on her work.

Talisa began her work at Oakville School District in September 2023, about a month into the 2023-24 school year. She works with students in preschool through grade 12 and makes connections from the school district with our tribal families to better serve the students. Talisa advocates for them academically and behaviorally.

She brings students and teachers together to bridge the cultural gap by helping them learn to communicate better.

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Talisa Capoeman is the Indian Education Coordinator for Oakville School District.

INSIDE

Additional basketball pictures on **Page 2**



Clockwise from left:
Tyler Klatush, Eddie
Klatush, Laela Baker
and Courtney Price
celebrated their senior
year of basketball.

2024 brings exciting initiatives

Chehalis Tribe introduces quarterly meetings, suggestion boxes; departments share goals

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

*By Chehalis Tribe General Manager
Long Liu*

As we step into the new year, I am thrilled to share exciting updates and initiatives that will shape our journey in 2024.

New quarterly meeting format: In response to the evolving needs of our community, the Business Committee has made a strategic decision to transition from one annual meeting to a quarterly meeting format. This change aims to enhance communication, foster collaboration and address any concerns that our tribal employees and community members may have.

The three quarterly meetings will have the same format with booths and presentations from the departments, however, the fourth meeting will have the Resource Directory and Annual Report publications distributed in November as in previous years. The first quarterly meeting will be on March 9.

Suggestion Box Program: We are excited to introduce the Suggestion Box program throughout the organization. This initiative encourages all employees to contribute fresh, feasible ideas and solutions. Suggestion boxes will be conveniently placed at the Tribal



Center, Wellness Center, Public Safety and Community Center. Additionally, you can submit ideas and solutions via suggestions@chehalistribe.org. Your input is important, and we look forward to hearing your valid, innovative suggestions.

There will be appropriate signage and instructions at each secure Suggestion Box location.

Director's Retreat highlights:

Recently, we had our first Director's Retreat where each department shared goals and objectives for the year. We are

focusing on key pillars: Communication, Collaboration, Trust and Vision. By aligning ourselves with these principles, we are creating an environment where everyone feels valued and safe. We believe that together, with the right mindset and tools, we can achieve remarkable things.

Stay tuned for the next edition: Be on the lookout for the next edition of the message from the General Manager, where we will delve deeper into our initiatives, updates and progress we are making as the Chehalis Tribe organization.

Thank you to everyone for your continued dedication and hard work.

“

We believe that together, with the right mindset and tools, we can achieve remarkable things.

– LONG LIU, CHEHALIS TRIBE
GENERAL MANAGER

”

CONNECTIONS

From page 1

The atmosphere in the classroom and school building contribute to student success. To help prepare for the work, Talisa asked herself, “What would help me learn better in this class?”

Greeting students daily with “ʔáy tit sq’itačʔ” (Good day) using Chehalis language to communicate and singing a morning song for our middle and high school students are some of the ways Talisa creates comfort and rapport with students.

She helps teachers understand the difference between Treaty Tribes and Executive Order Tribes and why that is important. An example is when the third grade was working on a social studies/history writing project. The third-

grade teacher requested resources from Talisa, who shared specific Chehalis Tribe histories and real histories from “The Chehalis People” book.

Talisa also requests Chehalis tribal departments visit schools to provide educational opportunities. The Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund was asked to work with students in the Oakville School District. Plant medicine will be facilitated with students through the Tribal Connections grant.

What motivated you to apply for the position of Indian Education Coordinator at Oakville School District?

Working for the students is my biggest motivation. Growing up in Taholah, I had a wonderful cultural educator, Ms. Mice. She worked with her students and built those cultural skills

through language, weaving, songs and stories and ethnobotanical knowledge. She taught us what to eat and what to gather.

“As an adult, I ensure my children know the importance of their culture and heritage. They know what to gather at each time of year here in Chehalis. These are things I share with students when they ask. She was the one who taught me who I am and where I come from. That is a powerful feeling,” she said.

Do you have a vision for your service to students?

Talisa’s goals for her life’s work are to:

- Leave the young ones with all the knowledge that she has, to help the culture stay alive.
- Support the students’ choices 100%
- Make sure students have

one of the three Es planned to guide them after graduation (enrollment, employment and enlistment).

“I believe in every student’s ability to succeed in the paths they choose. I encourage them to follow their dreams. I see potential in all the students and truly want the best for all of them,” Talisa said.

Do you have any advice for students, parents or other educators?

Talisa explained that attendance is very important for success in school. She said when students are present, they can receive support and enrichment to help them grow and learn.

“Oakville School District is grateful that the community trusts us to provide education, safety and culture for their children, and we take that very seriously,” she said.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Marie E. Connors (Fricke) Griswold

July 22, 1930–Jan. 13, 2024

Chehalis tribal elder Marie E. Connors (Fricke) Griswold passed away on Jan. 13, 2024, at age 93.

Marie was born on July 22, 1930, at home in Oakville. She had five sisters – Mae, Barbara, Geraldine, Alberta, Delores – all of whom preceded her in death.

Marie was active in tribal politics her entire adult life. She was instrumental in the creation of the tribe's first casino. She talked about the many tribal discussions and careful planning that took place before building commenced and the doors opened.

In the early days, Marie managed the tribal bingo hall and sat on the Tribal Gaming Board. She also served on the Tribal Health Board.



After retirement, Marie enjoyed basketry. She gathered with other elders to learn more weaving skills, share her skills and techniques and swap stories about early days on the reservation. She enjoyed her trips to gather weaving materials.

Marie's home was always filled with drying grasses and cedar bark. For a short while, she was a member of the Native American Basket Weaver's Association.

Marie was also fond of playing bingo with friends and spending time at the casino with her husband, Ray.

On casino days, she always had lunch with the elders. Stories were told and laughter was shared.

Marie enjoyed traveling with the elders. A definite highlight was when she attended the Seattle Mariners baseball training camp in Arizona.

Besides her sisters, Marie was preceded in death by her first husband, Allen Fricke, mother Gertrude Parson Connors and father George Edward Connors.

She is survived by her three children, Linda, Allen and Laura. She is also survived by her husband, Ray Griswold, and his daughters Cindy and Kim. Marie leaves numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Marie was laid to rest at a graveside service on Jan. 23, 2024, in the Benn Cemetery. Frances Starr conducted the service.



Patricia Lee Youckton

Feb. 28, 1968–Jan. 12, 2024

Patricia Lee Youckton, age 55, a lifelong resident of the Chehalis Reservation, died on Jan. 12, 2024, at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia. Pat was born on Feb. 28, 1968, in McCleary to David Merle and Wendy Cecilia (Daniels) Youckton. She lived in Las Vegas and Tacoma for short periods, but she always came back to her roots. She graduated from Oakville High School in 1986.

Patty liked to hustle to make her living. She became a salesperson extraordinaire and found her passion in selling fireworks. She made various friends through that endeavor. Patty had many friends from all walks of life. It seemed every time she walked into a place, she knew someone. It was sort of like Cheers: "Where everybody knows your name." That was Patty.

Patty never had children of her own, but that didn't stop her from passing on a mother's love to her nephews and nieces. For them, her love knew no boundaries.

She was a lifelong Seahawks fan and became a season ticket holder. During the Hawks' power seasons, she traveled to various away games. Patty loved to play slot machines. She and her family would travel a lot. Many trips were to Vegas, Disneyland and even San Diego. Her television was often tuned into a game. It didn't matter what it was – WNBA, college games, Kraken – she just loved to watch sports.

During the past few years, Patty battled cancer. In the end, it was a battle she lost. Even though she was sick from treatment and side effects, her open, caring side shone through.

Surviving relatives include her father, David Youckton; sisters Rita Benda (and Brian), Angelena Boyd (and Daryl), Brandy Daniels and Danika Pickernell; brother Justin Youckton; grandmother Dora Underwood; aunts Alicia Pope, Virginia Bringsyellow,



Joann Jackson and Serena Rolfe; uncles Franklin Pope and Fredrick Pope; and best friends Sue Rollie and Dora Davis. She also was survived by nieces and nephews Bruce Jr. and Ann Klatush, Aneva and Budd McMillan, Valene Klatush and Frank Boyd, Rueben Chum, Josh Chum, Devin Boyd and Emily Ortiz, Nathan Boyd, Ashton Boyd, Ava Boyd, Shaylynn Cole, Carolann Black Lilah Aguilar, Enyo Visaya, Vincent Visaya, Tailor Daniels, Jordin Godoy, Tristin Godoy, Jasmine Godoy and Jason (Jman) Jenson; great nieces and nephews Xzavier Klatush, Sander Klatush, Kammi Klatush, Clarence Youckton, Frank Boyd Jr., Leilani Boyd, Mia Boyd and Kyron Boyd. Also surviving are special friends Michael Simmons, Sara Johnston, Elaine and Rob Fazendin, Rose and Ken Choke and Chri Baker.

She was preceded in death by grandmother Irene Thompson, mother Wendy Daniels, grandfather Clarence (Butch) Pope and nephew Daryl (Bubba) Boyd.

Jason C. Medina

Sept. 18, 1969–Jan. 15, 2024

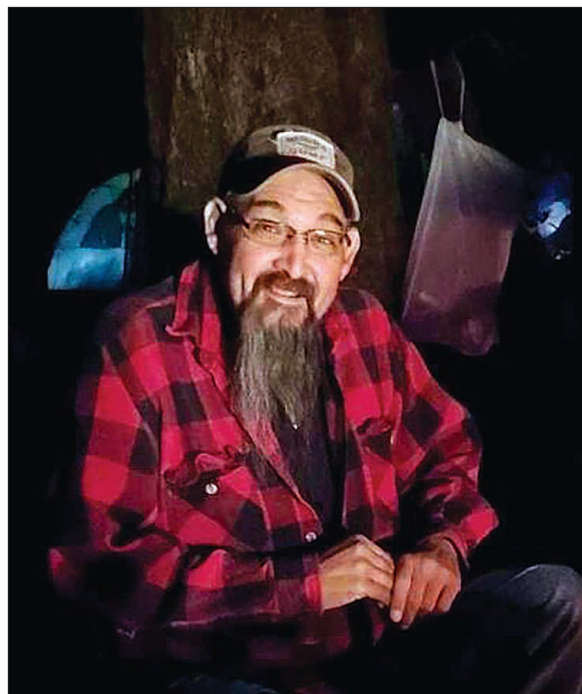
Jason C. Medina, 54, a Chehalis tribal member and Thurston County resident passed away on Jan. 15, 2024, at Saint Peters Hospital surrounded by his family.

Jason was born on Sept. 18, 1969, in Oxnard, California, to parents Michael Medina and Rita. Jason attended school in Port Hueneme, California. In 1991, he graduated Wyoming Technical Institute for automotive in Laramie, Wyoming. Jason worked for many years as an automotive technician. In 2001, Jason became an automotive teacher. He taught both in public and Native American schools in Washington and Montana. He retired from teaching in January 2023. He loved sharing his knowledge with enthusiastic minds. He helped several young students enter secondary education in the automotive field.

Jason will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 35 years, Cindy Medina; daughters Desirei Medina, Corrie (and Zack) Demers and Trisha Medina (and KamRon Capo), all of Rochester, and Kammie Medina of Arlington; grandchildren Ayden Medina, Adabelle Medina, Nayeli Medina Darnell, Amiah Medina Leslie, Hudson Capo and Hendrix Capo; mother Rita of Mesquite, Nevada; and brother Adam (and Shelley) Medina of Saratoga Springs, Utah. He will be carried in the hearts of his aunt Nancy and uncle Ray Romero, uncle Tony, aunt Joleen Medina, aunt Gloria Jones, uncle Art Medina and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jason is preceded in death by his father, Michael Medina; grandparents Manuel L. and Alice Secena Medina, Ovid and Madora Coté; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

A service for Jason was held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at Newell-Hoerling's Mortuary in Centralia. After the service, Jason had his final ride around Tomahawk Stadium and was laid to rest at Secena Cemetery.



Wayne 'Cody' Ortivez

Nov. 16, 1967–Jan. 13, 2024

Wayne "Cody" Ortivez, 56, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, passed away Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at Providence Centralia Hospital. Cody was born Nov. 16, 1967, in Olympia to Lucille Cush.

After graduating from Olympia High School, Cody lived on the Chehalis Reservation and worked for various tribal enterprises, including End of the Trail I and II stores and the Eagles Landing Hotel.

He was well known for his love of heavy metal music, playing keno, the Pittsburgh Steelers and NASCAR racing. He enjoyed going to the races in Seattle and Kent and greatly admired Dale Earnhardt and John Force.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Anna and Albert Ortivez; Albert Ortivez Jr., Manuel Ortivez, Gary Ortivez, Yolanda Ortivez, Heather Klatush, Eugene Ortivez, and Matthew Ortivez.

Surviving relatives include his mother, Lucille Cush; sisters Marie Bird, Suzanne



Ortivez, Marlene Hjelm and Chris Ortivez, all of Oakville, Anna Hill of Lacey and Rita of Olympia; brother Richard Hill of Rochester; numerous nephews, nieces and great nephews and great nieces; and Oreo, his beloved cat.

ALL NATIVE MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MARCH 1-3

**CHEHALIS TRIBAL
COMMUNITY CENTER
461 SECENA ROAD,
OAKVILLE**

COST

\$350 entry fee must be paid before first game (make all checks payable to Chehalis Tribe)

True double

Mens All Native + 1 token

1st-4th place awards

MVP and all-stars

CONTACT

**Philip Youckton at
pyouckton@chehalis tribe.
org, 360-688-3380 (text)
or 360-709-1752 (voice)**

ELDERS

A sweet TREAT

The Chehalis Tribal Elders program celebrated elders who have a birthday in January with an Olive Garden-themed dinner prepared by Chef Ricardo Charles.

Fourteen elders marked another year around the sun and visited with friends.

The delicious meal was complete with shrimp, pasta, bread sticks and more. Elders Coordinator Skylar White Eagle served cake and ice cream for dessert.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CHERYL JONES

JOHN YOUNCKTON

DARRIN JONES

KATHRYN PICKERNELL

JOYCE FANNING

SHEILAH BRAY

DIANA PICKERNELL

BEN STARR JR.

RODNEY YOUNCKTON

PATRICK SIMMONS SR.

LAURA FRICK

MARGIE YOUNCKTON

JAMES GUNNELS

DANIEL GLEASON JR.

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 21: Soap-making class with Melanee Stevens at the Elders Center from 10-11 a.m.

Feb. 22: Birthday dinner

Feb. 27: Movie night "Killers of the Flower Moon" starts at 11 a.m.

Feb. 28: Soap-making class with Melanee Stevens at the Elders Center from 10-11 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE

The Chehalis Tribe presents its fourth annual Elders Luncheon from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, April 18.

The event will be at Lucky Eagle Casino, 12888 188th Ave. S.W. Rochester.

For more information, please contact Elders Coordinator Skylar White Eagle at **360-529-7839** or **swhiteeagle@chehalis tribe.org**.



Elders Coordinator Skylar White Eagle serves Tillamook ice cream and cake to celebrate birthdays at the Elders Center after an Italian-style dinner prepared by Chef Ricardo Charles.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

JENNIFER BIRD
MICHAEL BOYD
DARYL BOYD SR.
MIA BOYD
KELSEY BRAY
VIRGINIA CANALES
LUKE CAYENNE
LINKIN CHARLES
JOURNEE CHARLES-CAYENNE
AMY COATS
TERRY COLEMAN
TOMMY COLSON
LAYNE COLSON
MARLA CONWELL
STEVEN CORTEZ-NAPOLEON
LEVI DUPUIS
MARY DUPUIS
NORMA FLORES
XAVIER FLORES
TIMOTHY GARZA
MARGARET GLEASON
KIERNAN GLEASON
TOM HAYDEN JR.
KIMBERLY HECK
SHADOW HERNANDEZ
HALISA HIGHEAGLE
LILIA HOHEISEL
ALAYNA JESPERSEN
MACKENZIE JONES
SHYLOH KINKADE
TYLER KLATUSH
KAREN LECLAIRE
CHARLOTTE LOPEZ
BRADYN LOPEZ
RENALDO LOPEZ JR.
YEVGENI LUKIANOV
CHAON MACDOUGALL
DAKOTA MARCELLAY
SHELBY MCCRORY



AALYIAH MEDDAUGH
CATHERINE NEMETH
DEVIN OLNEY
ALBERT ORTIVEZ, III
ALBERT ORTIVEZ-HICKS
SABRINA OWENS
KILYNN OWENS
MEADOW OWENS-IPPISH
BALLEY PARKINSON
CHAZE PEREZ
STEPHANIE PICKERNELL
BONNIE QUIRKE
JENNIFER REVAY
JOSEPH REVAY JR.
RITA RIVERA-HERNANDEZ
ZEDIKIAH SANCHEZ
RAYMOND SECENA JR.
SHAYLAH SEYMOUR
FREDRICK SHORTMAN
ATTICUS SIMMONS
PATRICK SIMMONS JR.
JERRI SIMMONS
LAURA STARR
CHERYLE STARR
CATHERINE STARR-SCOTT
MEI-LIEN TANNER
CHRISTOPHER TEAGUE
CARLA THOMAS
STAR THOMAS
SHARON TOLBERT
MARIAH VASSAR
KESAWIN WASHBURN
RYAN WHITE EAGLE JR.
DAKOTA WILKINS
RILEY YOUCKTON
STEVIE YOUCKTON
COLETON YOUCKTON
ZAYDEN YOUCKTON
KAYDEN YOUCKTON
ANDREA YOUCKTON



Jerri Simmons: Happy birthday Kia! Your Simmons family loves you.



Atticus Simmons: Happy 8th birthday. Love Grandma, Christina and your Simmons family.



Renaldo "Ray" Lopez: Happy birthday dad. We love you so much! Love Aria Rae and Livvy.



Shelby McCrory: I'd like to give a birthday wish to my sister. Wishing you the happiest birthday my dearest sister. May this next year be as special as you are to us. Love you, Kenzie and Jack.



Stephanie Pickernell: Happy birthday to Stephanie, the most awesome wife, mom and grandma in the whole wide world. Love your husband, boys and grandkids.



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.

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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**



TAKING ACTION: Chehalis Tribal Clinic staff and other tribal department staff members donned red attire in support of American Heart Month on Feb. 2. The American Heart Association's

Go Red for Women movement and National Wear Red Day offer support for the awareness of heart disease, celebrate survivors and provide education on risk factors.

Calling all graduates

Attention Chehalis tribal members and the class of 2024 high school seniors! Graduation is right around the corner. As most of you know, the Chehalis Tribe celebrates our seniors with a dinner and recognition ceremony. If you are aware of any graduating community or tribal members, have them get in touch to make sure they are on our list of graduates.

CONTACT: JJ Shortman at 360-709-1749
or Jodie Smith at 360-709-1897

Soap-making classes

3:30-6 P.M. FEB. 20-29
ON TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

For this Native Connections class, plan to attend Tuesday (soap pour) and Thursday (take home) of the week.



MELANEE STEVENS AT MSTEVENS@CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG