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## Warm holiday memories

By Bobbie Bush

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation and the Tribal community celebrated the holiday during the annual Christmas Party on Dec. 15.

Families lined up to enter the Community Center gym at 11 a.m. with excited children ready for fun! Elders were glad the day finally arrived.

Each participant received a raffle ticket to fill out according to age. Winners happily accepted their presents from Santa. Each participant also received a ticket for a cup of ice cream, which looked delicious.

Breakfast included bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, potatoes and French toast and was catered by Lucky Eagle

See **HOLIDAY** / page 3



Chehalis Tribal members and community members enjoyed pictures, a raffle and a fantastic meal at the Christmas Party.



The Employee Christmas Party brought a lot of cheer, games and merriment in December.

## Festive & fun

*Tribal employees celebrate the season  
and honor retiring co-workers at party*

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribal Government celebrated the holiday season with its annual Employee Christmas Party on Dec. 13 at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel Events Center.

Chehalis Tribal employees gathered with co-workers to enjoy a festive end to a successful year. A holiday meal was provided by Lucky Eagle food and beverage staff.

Employees took part in a blackjack tournament, raffle games for Christmas gifts, group photos in the selfie booth and a best hat competition!

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## FESTIVE

From page 1

The Chehalis Tribal Business Committee honored three of the Tribe's longtime employees who will retire during December and early January:

■ **Chehalis Tribal member Amil Starr** made the decision to retire this year. His official last day working for the Tribe was the day of the Christmas Party. He was honored with a Pendleton blanket.

■ **Don Terry was acknowledged** and honored with a Pendleton Blanket. During his decades of employment, he has been involved with many projects that have positively impacted the progress of the Chehalis Tribe. Terry was familiar with the Chehalis Tribal people when he was a child growing up in the 1970s because his father worked in the timber industry and had a working relationship with the Quinault and Chehalis Tribal people. Terry started working for the Tribe as a contractor in 1994 when he was part of various projects on the reservation, including building the Fish House and remodeling the old Youth Center (now part of Head Start). He was hired as a full-time employee for the Chehalis Tribe in 2006. Terry is known to go above and beyond as he became a part of the Tribal community during his 30 years working on the reservation. He is known to provide a helping hand or advice to Tribal members who need any type of assistance with their homes.

■ **Harold Chesnin**, Lead Attorney for the Chehalis Tribal Government, will also retire after nearly five decades working with and for the Chehalis Tribe. He has worked among the Chehalis Tribal people since 1976. During his time with the Office of Tribal Affairs, Chesnin has obtained a wealth of knowledge regarding Tribal history and sovereignty. During the party, Chesnin said the Chehalis Tribal people are a caring community that takes care of one another. "The people are wonderful," Chesnin said. "It has been my great honor to serve you." Harold finished by formally announcing to the rest of the employees that Robbi Kesler will be the next Lead Attorney.

Business Committee members took time to thank the rest of the employees for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

After the employee recognition, Wayne Barr was asked to say a prayer for the holiday meal. Events staff conducted raffle drawings during the rest of the party.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to Philip Youckton for his lively emceeing during the gathering.



The Employee Christmas Party offered a chance to play a giant Connect 4 and classic casino games along with a selfie booth, time to honor retiring staff members and so much more.







## HOLIDAY

*From page 1*

Casino & Hotel.

Bingo cards also were distributed, and rounds started after breakfast at 12:15 p.m. Three bingo blackouts ended the games.

Family pictures with Santa Claus and a festive background were offered in the Gathering Room.

Grand prizes in the raffle included flat screen TVs and a PC gaming console. Violet Snell and Norma Daniels scored a TV and Susie Sanchez landed the PC gaming console.

Thank you to all of the Santa's helpers, friends and families who made the Christmas Party so wonderful. Another one in the books!



## *Santa's little helpers*

*By Bobbie Bush*

Getting ready for a festive gathering is no small task. Santa tapped 26 helpers to bring together this year's community Christmas Party.

The determined crew made its way to the Community Center at 1 p.m. Dec. 11 to prepare for the magical event that so many Chehalis Tribal and community members look forward to each year.

Helpers came from various

Tribal departments, including Facilities, Wellness Center, Human Resources, Housing, Education, Social Services, Activities and Communications. Seven Tribal Elders also participated.

The group made quick work of the preparations, joking and visiting while wrapping up in less than an hour!

It is amazing to see how much work we can get done as a community and a Tribe when we work for the benefit of our people.





## Christmas Bazaar packed with gifts

Local vendors sold gifts for the holiday season during the 2024 Chehalis Elders' Christmas Bazaar at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel on Nov. 30. Beautiful handcrafted items for sale included baskets, jewelry, clothing and artwork.





# Wishes do come true

## ROOF toy drive delivers

By Bobbie Bush

Chehalis Tribe's Public Safety Department recently completed a toy drive for Rochester Roof Community Services. The last day to donate was Dec. 12.

Each year, the department collects toys that are then disbursed through ROOF to help brighten Christmas for local children.

Public Safety was in friendly competition with the Chehalis Tribal Gaming Agency for the department that brought in the most toys. The collection contained quite a few very nice toys.

Administrative Coordinator Mary Sanders said the Public Safety Department delivered toys to ROOF on Dec. 13. ROOF stands for Rochester Organization of Families, a nonprofit agency that assists families in need.



The Public Safety Department collected donations for ROOF.



Oakville School District Superintendent Rich Staley honored Chehalis Tribal employees during an assembly on Nov. 19.



# Oakville volunteer efforts recognized

By Bobbie Bush

Oakville School District and Chamber of Commerce held a special celebration for community members who have volunteered on Nov. 19 at Oakville High School Commons.

Roberta Wilkinson, President of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, and Rich Staley, Oakville School District Superintendent, gathered volunteers to acknowledge their important service. The diverse group of volunteers and families enjoyed spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, cucumber- and lemon-infused

water and cookies for dessert.

Three awards were given to the Chehalis Tribe:

■ **Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Dan Penn** was recognized for his attendance at parent advisory meetings, for provision of Chehalis cultural education in the classrooms and for his engagement with students in supporting Native culture in schools.

■ **Chuck Burnett** accepted for the Facilities Crew and Tribal Youth Center for maintenance and development of a great partnership with the school. The Chehalis

Tribe has generously provided access to Tribal ball fields and given our students a place to play.

■ **Information Technology and Facilities departments** supplied the district with about 150 high-quality chairs last spring for graduation ceremonies. The chairs are in great shape and were being recycled by the Tribe. IT also supplied the school district with 32 refurbished computers this fall that were being recycled. Communications Specialist Trainee Bobbie Bush accepted on behalf of the IT Department.



# FUNDRAISER

## Foundation for a successful future

*CTLF Brick by Brick empowers community by raising vital funds*

The Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund (CTLF) celebrated a remarkable evening at the fourth Annual Brick by Brick Fundraising Dinner & Auction on Dec. 6 at Great Wolf Lodge.

The event brought together community members, sponsors and supporters for a night of generosity, connection and impact. The evening was made possible thanks to support from the Chehalis Tribe and key partners, including Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, Great Wolf Lodge, Puget Sound Energy, Elite Mechanical and many more. Their contributions exemplify the power of collaboration in building stronger communities.

Guests enjoyed an elegant plated dinner, a silent and live auction and unforgettable entertainment while bidding enthusiastically on items such as handcrafted goods, vacation packages and exclusive experiences.

Highlights included the Jeff Evans Magic show, where young Brooklyn Klatush stepped up to be Magician's Assistant, and the live auction where handcrafted Native artwork and Elite Mechanical's Mystery Prize spurred a lively bidding competition.

In a heartfelt moment, CTLF honored Chehalis Tribal Elder and CTLF Board Vice Chair Trudy Marcellay for her unwavering commitment to the organization and the community. Trudy's dedication and leadership continue to inspire and guide CTLF's work, embodying the spirit of service and empowerment.

This year's dinner not only raised vital funds but also highlighted CTLF's new Affordable Homeownership Program, which aims to create pathways to homeownership for Chehalis Tribal members and rural community members. The overwhelming support from our sponsors, donors and attendees reaffirms the collective commitment to financial education, fair lending and community growth.



Chehalis tribal members and loved ones show support for CTLF during its annual fundraiser dinner.



Thanks to our supporters, CTLF continues to build financial confidence, offering education, resources and opportunities for individuals to achieve milestones such as purchasing a car, starting a business or owning a home. More than \$650,000 in loans have already been distributed in 2024, positively impacting more than 180 individuals and 20 small business owners.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our event sponsors, auction donors and attendees for making this year's event an outstanding success. Your contributions help us lay the foundation for a brighter future one brick at a time.



**For more details or to get involved: visit [ctlf-empowers.org](http://ctlf-empowers.org)**



## Honoring our veterans

On Nov. 11, the Chehalis Veterans Day Committee held the 2024 Veterans Appreciation Dinner at Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel Events Center. To all of our veterans: "Eternal thank you for your service and sacrifice." We salute you and cherish the opportunity to honor you!







# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

## Sunshine Ayala Klatush

Laela Baker  
Chase Backwith  
Marie Bird  
John Bird  
Nancy Black  
Ashton Boyd  
Kaileen Bray  
Kimberly Brown  
Jonah Brown  
Lance Burgess  
Koner Burnett  
Phillip Bush  
Ella Camp  
Dyani Cayenne  
Joshua Chum  
Rueben Chum  
Glenda Comenout  
Lana Cosman  
Jasmine Esparza-Klatush  
Alyssa Fern

## Victoria Flores

Yvette Fulton  
Shawn Goddard  
Allison Goldman  
Richard Hill  
Melanie Hjelm  
Zackary Hofstetter  
Meadow Ihrig  
Justin Irizarry  
Crystal Jones  
Jeremiah Jones-Baker  
Justin Karl  
Cayden Klatush  
Derrick Klatush  
Loren Klatush  
Juliet Kramer  
Monica Lopez  
Jason Lyons  
Roseabell  
McAllister  
Shania McCloud  
Katelyn  
McCloud

## Jerry Meas

Kly Meas III  
Adam Medina  
Natasha Moore  
Edmund Myer  
Jeana Nyland  
Anthony Olney  
Hunter Ortivez  
Nathan Patterson  
Libby Penn  
Madyson Pickernell  
Rebecca Potter  
Elijah Revay  
Andrea Robertson  
Randi Robertson  
Keira Rosado  
Joshua Sanchez

## Helen Sanders

Leah Secena  
Jacob Secena  
James Seymour  
Dahlyla Simmons  
Michael Simmons  
Sunny Slighte  
Mia Soeby  
Anthony Soeby  
Samuel Starr-Wright  
Alexa Strawder  
Raven Thraikill  
Mary Weber  
Braden Yawn  
Kindra Youckton  
Aaron Youckton  
Jerry Youckton  
Lauren Youckton  
Roberta Youckton  
Rebecca Youckton-Legg  
Bladen Zahner





# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Irene Adams  
 Zoe Albert  
 Brooke Allen  
 Russell Baker  
 Finley Beckwith  
 David Bird  
 Kyron Boyd  
 Sheilah Bray  
 Hollie Brockmueller  
 Jonathan Brown  
 Dylan Burke  
 Jake Burnett  
 Calvin Cayenne  
 Otto Cayenne  
 Megan Christjohn  
 Jacob Christjohn  
 Sidney Cole  
 Jennifer Cooper  
 Jackson Cooper  
 Bella Couillard  
 Eva Delamater  
 Alia Dupuis  
 James Dupuis  
 Chance Eichelberger-  
 Revay  
 Jeremy Fanning  
 Joyce Fanning  
 Robyn Fields  
 Samuel Flores  
 Laura Fricke  
 Daniel Gitchel  
 Patricia Gitchel  
 James Gunnels  
 Tristan Hanna  
 Morgan Hanna  
 Anna Hill  
 Cameron Hjelm-Snell  
 Alexander Hoheisel  
 Ezra Jack  
 Cheryl Jones  
 Willow Jones  
 Darrin Jones  
 June Joseph

Susette Klatush  
 Shyann Klatush  
 Mariah Klatush  
 Nathaniel Klatush  
 Ulises Klatush  
 Cheyenne Marcellay  
 Crystal Martinez  
 Makayla Mashburn  
 Avery McJoe  
 Miya McAlister  
 John McCrory  
 Daryl McCrory  
 Anna Meas  
 Max Norgard  
 Mathew Oman Jr.  
 Mya Ortizvez  
 Makayla Ortizvez  
 Jayzen Owens

Traci Parkinson  
 Ravenhawk Penn  
 Robert Phillips  
 Kathryne Pickernell  
 Christopher Pickernell  
 Lauren Quilt  
 Nikolas Romero  
 Maverick Samuel  
 Jaileen Sanchez  
 Zane Sanchez  
 Kaelen-Jay Sanchez  
 Wyatt Sanchez-Allenbach  
 Brody Sanders-Boyd  
 Dreama Secena Ferguson  
 Patrick Simmons Sr.  
 Wynoochee Siufanua-  
 Boyd  
 Kanani Siufanua-Boyd

Akasha Slighte  
 Tamika Starr  
 Jaxon Starr  
 Benjamin Starr Jr.  
 Wyatt Wittwer  
 Joseph Wittwer  
 Genesis Woosley  
 Leslye Wyatt  
 Rodney Youckton  
 Margret Youckton  
 John Youckton  
 Derek Youckton  
 Alice Youckton  
 Cheyne Youckton  
 Chayse Youckton-Bonifer  
 Allistair Youckton-Legg  
 Alex Zander  
 Kamilla Zaytsev





# HEALTH/WELLNESS



Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bray chats with Lunch & Learn attendees in December.

## Elders learn fire safety tips

By Bobbie Bush

On Dec. 3, Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management Manager Clinton Davis and Coordinator Cal Bray provided Tribal Elders important fire safety information.

Davis and Bray educated 28 Lunch & Learn participants on fire prevention during the busy holiday season. They demonstrated how to use a fire blanket and handed out backpacks with emergency kit basics.

Classes of fires were explained:

- **Class A** fire caused by combustible carbon-based solids such as paper, wood or textiles

- **Class B** fire caused by flammable liquids such as paraffin, petrol, diesel or oil (but not cooking oil)

- **Class C** fire caused by flammable gases such as butane, propane or methane

Suggestions regarding securing a fire extinguisher included making sure it is A, B and C rated and is light enough for an Elder to lift. Smaller extinguishers that have the combined rating are lighter and more manageable.

The visit was timely and offered information to help families be prepared.



### SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME

**Alarms:** Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Place a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

**House number:** It's crucial that emergency personnel can easily read your house number from the street, even at night.

**Ensure heating sources are in working order:** Poorly maintained furnaces or stoves, cracked or rusted furnace parts or chimneys with creosote buildup are dangerous.

**Check electrical wiring in your home:** Fix or replace frayed extension cords, exposed wires or loose plugs. Make sure wiring is not under rugs, attached by nails, or in high traffic areas. Make sure electrical outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring. Avoid overloading outlets or extension cords.

**Source:** American Red Cross

## CTWC moves to electronic records system

The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center is transitioning to a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, EPIC, in 2025. This change is a significant step forward in enhancing our ability to deliver coordinated, efficient and high-quality care. Our pharmacy will continue to operate using RPMS during this transition, which might present temporary challenges.

### Benefits of new system

- **Better care coordination:**

Health information will be more easily accessible by your care team, improving communication and care.

- **Streamlined services:** More efficient appointment scheduling, check-ins and follow-ups.

- **Future access:** EPIC will eventually offer online patient portals for easier access to health records.

### Potential hindrances

- **Coordination between systems:** Prescriptions might not sync seamlessly between EPIC and RPMS, possibly causing slight delays at the pharmacy.

- **Staff learning curve:** Our staff will learn to use EPIC while continuing to use RPMS for pharmacy operations, which could lead to temporary inefficiencies.

- **Adjustments:** Scheduling and other processes might have minor disruptions as we adapt to the new system.

### Support, patience

- **Understanding:** We appreciate your patience as we improve our systems.

- **Communicate:** Ensure your care team has up-to-date information (insurance, address, phone number), especially for prescriptions.

- **Staff training:** Our team is undergoing extensive training to ensure a smooth transition.

- **Clear communication:** We'll keep you informed of any changes or delays during the transition.

- **Feedback:** Your input is invaluable. Let us know how we can improve your experience. Contact the CTWC Quality Improvement Coordinator ([abennett@chehalistribe.org](mailto:abennett@chehalistribe.org)), Office Manager ([bklatush@chehalistribe.org](mailto:bklatush@chehalistribe.org)) or Director ([jsalazar@chehalistribe.org](mailto:jsalazar@chehalistribe.org)) for issues or concerns involving patient care during the transition.





## Chehalis Behavioral Health Center Weekly project update: Dec. 6, 2024

THE CBHC TEAM HAS WORKED 158 DAYS WITH ZERO ACCIDENTS!

### Current activities

- HVAC R/I
- Set mechanical equipment
- Run refrigerant piping
- Water piping insulation
- Thermal wall insulation at exterior walls
- Install storefront windows
- Electrical R/I overhead
- Install weather barrier
- Backing for T&G siding
- Install irrigation sleeves



### Coming up

Install glazing at storefront Windows, GWB exterior walls and one side wall, sound insulation, thermal insulation inspection, install metal roofing

### PEASE CONSTRUCTION TEAM MEMBERS

Tano Bailon, Steve Kathman, Jacob Phipps, Hans Wolfe, Frank Deyette, Shawn Meehan

### SUBCONTRACTORS ON SITE

CIS, DL Henricksen, John Lupo, Knight Fire, MC Pipemasters, PEP Electrical, Tough Dirt, TRS Mechanical

### SPECIAL REMINDERS

Safety requirements: Boots, hard hats, safety glasses, high-visibility work gear

## WIC services through SPIPA



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

**NEXT DATE:**  
Jan. 9

**DO YOU QUALIFY?:**  
Find out if you qualify for WIC at [doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-eligibility](https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/wic/wic-eligibility)

**CONTACT:**  
[wicnutrition@spipa.org](mailto:wicnutrition@spipa.org)  
or 360-426-3990

## USDA FOOD PICKUP



**11 A.M.-2 P.M.  
JAN. 24 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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL: 360-426-3990**



# 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

Communications Specialist  
Frazier Myer, Communications  
Specialist Trainee Bobbie Bush,  
Designer Audra J. Hill and the  
Information Technology Team

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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:** Dustin Klatush  
**Vice Chairwoman:** Sheilah Bray  
**Treasurer:** Farley Youckton  
**Secretary:** Cheryle Starr  
**Fifth Council Member:**  
Thomas Trott

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

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PURSUING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

**(HIGH SCHOOL-21 & GED: AGES 16+)**

Chehalis Tribal Higher Education  
Program is offering classes at the  
Chehalis Tribal Community Center  
to all Chehalis Tribal members,  
employees and community  
members.

\* **CLOSED JAN. 3**

\* **OPEN 10 A.M.-NOON JAN. 10**

**One-on-one instruction**  
**In-person and online GED options**  
**Earn credits for life experiences**

**Contact:** Higher Education  
Program Coordinator  
Racheal Mendez at  
360-709-1698 or  
rmendez@chehalistribe.org

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

**Keep the Heat On With LIHEAP!**



**South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency  
Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program**

**Serving Chehalis Tribal Members**

**January 16th, 2025**

**9:00am-5:00pm**

Social Services Conference Room  
420 Howanut Rd  
Oakville, WA 98568

**To Process your Application, you MUST bring:**



**Printed copy of most  
recent light bill,  
photos not allowed.  
Must be in tribal  
member's name**



**Social security cards for  
all household members**



**Verification of income  
for all household  
members 18 and over  
for September,  
October, and  
November 2024**

**For more information contact Debbie Gardipee at 360.462.3227**