

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

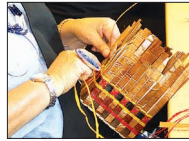
MAY 2025 FIND HISTORY, HERITAGE & RESOURCES AT CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG



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Hundreds of weavers attend Hazel Pete event
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Hard works pays off
Rodney Youckton honored with award
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Tribal Days thrills

Memorial Day weekend brings baseball extravaganza

By Frazier Myer

Thousands of people came to celebrate the 2025 Tribal Days on the Chehalis Reservation during the four-day event on Memorial Day weekend. This is the largest annual event for the Chehalis Tribe as Native Americans from neighboring areas travel to enjoy and take part in various festivities. Each year brings three separate tournament brackets for those competing in hardball or softball.

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Shawn Youckton at the plate for team Chehalis during the 2025 Tribal Days hardball tournament.

The first salmon carcass is released back into the river as part of the annual Salmon Ceremony. The event highlights a rich food source that has nourished generations.



Celebration honors salmon

Traditional gathering pays tribute to sacred fish

By Frazier Myer

On May 17, the Chehalis Tribe held the annual Salmon Ceremony to honor the fish that has sustained its people for hundreds of years.

Salmon is a main food source for the Chehalis Tribal people's diets. The gathering

shares traditional practices with youth to encourage them to learn and carry on important customs for future generations.

Each year, the ceremony begins on the Chehalis River as Tribal youth release the first fish back to the waters. The skeletal carcass of the salmon is placed on a plank of cedar and sent downstream.

Later, community members gathered

See **SALMON** / page 5



The 2025 Tribal Days brought dynamic ball games to the Chehalis Reservation during the busy and bustling Memorial Day weekend festivities.

TRIBAL DAYS

From page 1

In addition to fantastic ball games, those who attended Tribal Days had the opportunity to fill up with a delicious fish plate. Various vendors offered food, art and clothing for purchase. Another highlight this year was the 17th annual Cancer Walk. So many people showed love and support for those who have lost their life to cancer and honored cancer survivors.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a fun and successful 2025 Tribal Days!

RESULTS

WOMEN'S

1st: Nex Gen N8vs

CO-ED

1st: NDNz

2nd: BST

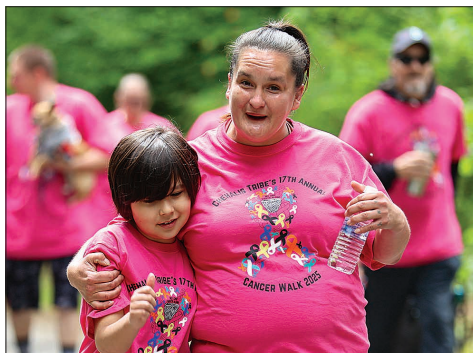
MEN'S

1st: LB

2nd: Chehalis



17th annual Cancer Walk



Youth CROWNED *royalty*



Dinner celebrates the beauty of Chehalis culture, traditions

By Bobbie Bush

The day was sunny with a few clouds as people came to the Gathering Room at the Chehalis Tribe's Community Center on May 21 to vote for Miss Chehalis, Junior Miss Chehalis, Little Miss Chehalis and Head Start Miss Chehalis.

Dan "Bones" Gleason opened the event with a prayer and a blessing. Orinda Goddard made a delicious turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans and gravy.

Business Committee Vice Chair Sheila Bray introduced Madoleen Goddard and asked her to highlight what she would do if she won the Miss Chehalis title again this year.

Madoleen, who represented the tribe as Miss Chehalis in 2024, said she would focus a lot of her energy on bringing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Contestants spoke briefly in front of family and other tribal members who gathered to vote for the Miss Chehalis positions. It was recognized that there were four royalty positions and only four contestants.

Each Tribal Royalty member was given a beautiful shawl and cedar crown and cheers from the crowd.



Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush and 2025 Tribal Royalty members (from left) Madoleen Goddard, Aryana Klatush, Brooklynn Klatush and Kahli Reynolds proudly represent the tribal community at this year's Tribal Days.

TRIBAL ROYALTY

Miss Chehalis:

Madoleen Goddard

Junior Miss Chehalis:

Aryana Klatush

Little Miss Chehalis:

Brooklynn Klatush

Head Start Miss Chehalis:

Kahli Reynolds

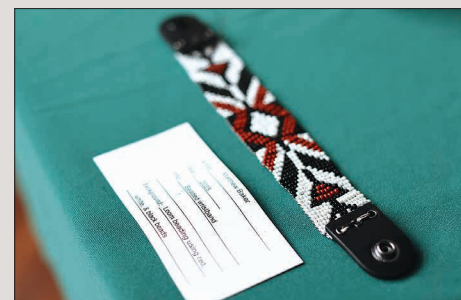
Seeking cooks, teachers

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS: If you are interested in preparing and serving lunch at Heritage & Culture classes or would like to teach a quarterly class or instruct at our Chehalis Tribal Culture Camp in August, send your name, address, phone number and what you would like to teach or cook!

GET IN TOUCH

Email Community & Culture Director Cheryle Starr at cstarr@chehalis tribe.org or Heritage & Culture Coordinator Trudy Marcellay at tmarcellay@chehalis tribe.org





Feast for the eyes

Guests at the 2025 Tribal Days weekend were able to view beautiful items skillfully crafted by Tribal members at the **Chehalis Tribal Art Show**. Art pieces included cedar hats and baskets, drums and intricate jewelry.



SALMON

From page 1

to enjoy a feast of fresh-caught salmon cooked the traditional way over an open fire.

Normally, the second part of the Salmon Ceremony is located by the fish pit near Tomahawk Field. This year, it was moved inside the Youth Center gym to stay out of the rain.

Event organizers took a moment to recognize all of the elder fishermen and fisherwomen in attendance who fought to continue traditions and the right to fish the waterways on the Chehalis Reservation.

The Salmon Ceremony highlights the start of the summer months and tribal festivities.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Payton Albert
 Allen Andrews
 Zachery Baker
 Eric Beckwith
 Tyler Beckwith
 Warren Beckwith
 Brian Benda
 Beverly Bishop
 Charles Blacketer
 Latisha Boyd
 Leroy Boyd
 Janessa Bumgarner
 Hector Canales
 Malena Canales
 Waypetemahquah
 Choke
 Leona Clary
 Autumn Cooper
 Soryn Davidson
 River Delameter
 Kaylena Delgado
 David Dupuis
 Robert Dupuy
 Jordan Eichelberger
 Erica Esselstrom
 Keziah-Maray Gleason
 Sonja Gleason
 Rena
 Hernandez-Klatush
 Tyson Hoheisel
 Emily Holmes
 Pickernell
 Farica Howe
 Jordan
 Hutchinson-Albert
 Marcella Jack
 Marilyn Johnson
 June Jones

Jeffrey Klatush
 Paul Klatush
 Konner Klatush
 Jeremy Klatush
 Michael LeClair
 Alivia Lopez
 Adam Lower
 Anastasia Lukianov
 Tanner McCloud
 Andrea McGough
 Racheal Mendez
 Lindsey Miller
 Elaine Myer
 Aaron Myer
 Cheryl Ogle
 Suzanne Ortivez
 Joshua Phillips
 Danika Pickernell
 Harold Pickernell Jr.
 Malia Pickernell
 Bailey Revay-Fern
 Bryce Reynolds
 Grayson Ristvet
 Mario Robles
 Dustin Sanchez
 Edward Sanchez Sr.
 Rick Sanchez Jr.
 Filiberto Sanchez
 Vincent Sanchez
 Susan Sanchez
 Blaze Sanchez
 Janet Sanchez
 Joseph
 Sanchez-Allenback
 Nikki Sanders
 Jerry
 Santiago-Youckton
 Sonya Sherman

Jeanette Siufanua
 Caiden Starr
 Brooke Stein
 Johanna Thrailkill
 Brendon Torres
 Billy Uden
 Heather
 Walker-Taylor
 Darian Washburn
 Raquel Wellman
 Duane Williams Jr.
 Winona Youckton
 Cael Youckton
 Stacy Youckton
 Marvin Youckton
 Loyala Zaystev



SEND IN WISHES! We would love to feature your messages to family and friends celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Send your name, the full name of the person, your wish and a picture to news@chehalistrike.org.

More than 500 weavers gather

Eager participants create beautiful handmade art during Hazel Pete event

By Bobbie Bush

There was a buzz of excitement in the air on May 9 as hundreds of weavers met at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound to attend the Hazel Pete Basketry Institute spring event.

Weavers Teaching Weavers was packed and ran from 9 a.m. until after dinner on Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

An impressive 37 teachers each had a table with projects to create. Prices for kits started at \$25 and went all the way up to \$550.

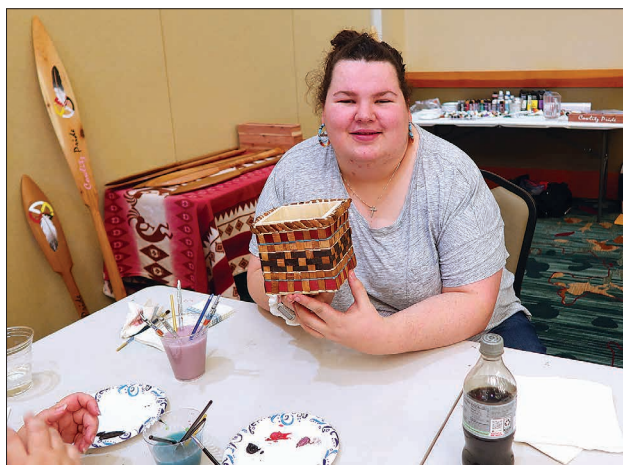
Vendors offered various goods and supplies. Youth were set up with activities in the adjoining room where they could paint rawhide rattles, create pony bead key chains, weave cat tail mats, try leather work and work on cedar weaving projects.

People arrived throughout the day on Friday. Many baskets were started and completed. As each participant finished a project, the session teacher would proudly announce the weaver's name, nation and what was created (cedar hat, conch belt, basket, etc.).

After a day of weaving, the main body of participants/students moved to the Chehalis Tribe's Community Center Gathering Room for dinner. I heard the dinner was delicious.

Saturday was exciting, too. Many weavers who had children in school or participating in sports games were able to join in the festivities!

It was great to see more than 500 people engaged with culture through weaving.



Talented teachers help students complete projects at Weavers Teaching Weavers from May 9-10.



HEALTH/ WELLNESS

Mental health education, empathy

Conversations about well-being encouraged

By Matt McIver,
LICSW Mental Health Provider

Every year, May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. This provides a chance to raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote understanding.

What exactly is mental health? It can be defined as the emotional, psychological and social well-being of a person. It affects how we think, feel and act and influences how we handle stress, relate to others and make decisions.

When our mental health is compromised, it can impact every area of our lives, such as relationships, work, education and physical health. Though the conversation around mental health has become more common in recent years, Mental Health Awareness Month reminds us to focus on the challenges people face, advocate for better and more accessible support and remind each other that mental health is an essential part of our overall well-being.

Mental health affects everyone, regardless of age, race, gender or background. According to the World Health Organization, one in four people will be affected by a mental health condition at some point in their lives.

In the United States, nearly one in five adults experience mental illness each year. That means



nearly everyone knows someone, if not themselves, who is impacted by struggles.

Despite progress, stigma surrounding mental health is still a major barrier to people seeking help. Many individuals hesitate to talk about what they're going through for fear of being judged, misunderstood or dismissed. This silence can worsen symptoms and delay access to support or treatment.

When we normalize talking about mental health, we reduce shame and create safer spaces for people to be honest about their struggles.

Mental health challenges might look different for everyone, but there are some common signs and symptoms to watch for in yourself and others:

- Changes in mood such as persistent sadness, nervousness,

- irritability or extreme mood swings
- Avoiding friends, social activities and other activities once enjoyed

- Excessive worry or fear
- Problems falling asleep, staying asleep or waking too early
- Low energy and fatigue
- Significant changes in weight or appetite
- Problems concentrating, remembering and making decisions

- Feelings of hopelessness, guilt or worthlessness
- Unexplained physical aches and pains

- Increased and excessive substance use
- Feeling disconnected from oneself or one's surroundings
- Changes in functioning such as at work, school or performing familiar tasks

If you or someone you

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Chehalis Tribe Behavioral Health: **360-709-1733**
- **Call 988:** suicide help line. Choose option 4 for the Native & Strong line.
- **Text NATIVE to 741741**
- Thurston/Mason County Mobile Crisis Team: **800-270-0041**
- Grays Harbor Mobile Crisis Team: **800-803-8833**
- Cascade Evaluation & Treatment Center: **360-623-8056** (call for available beds)
- Resource & Referral Line: **360-528-2800**
- **Call 911** or go to the nearest emergency department.

know experiences any of these symptoms, it's important to seek help. Mental health challenges are not only OK but normal and treatable.

Talk to someone, whether it be a trusted friend, family member, teacher, primary care physician or a mental health professional.

Everyone has mental health, just like everyone has physical health. Promoting understanding and empathy can go a long way in making our community healthier.

Take time to check in with yourself and others. Start conversations and share resources. Remember, you are not alone.

Bicycle Connections Survey

Now
through
June 30

Ever been bicycling and your lane just ends? Do you wish you could easily bike to more places? Riding a bicycle is a great way to travel, but there are challenges. Thurston Regional Planning Council is working on a project to make our bicycle routes safe and more connected. Please share difficulties you face and what you envision for the future.



Take our
10-minute
survey!



By Natalie Thomson

TALKING CEDAR RESTAURANT

June specials: Fried Halibut Bites appetizer; Smoked Mac & Cheese with Lobster and Barbecue Beef Short Ribs entrees; Giant Cinnamon Roll; dessert; and Raspberry Lemon Spritzer cocktail.

TALKING CEDAR BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Talking Cedar Brewery is officially partnered with Savage Brewing Co. to launch three new beers. A contract celebration was held at Talking Cedar to honor the partnership with new owners and former Seahawks Kam Chancellor, Lofa Tatupu and Walter Jones. Keep an eye out for Talking Cedar-produced Savage beer at Lumen Field and beyond when the Seahawks kick off the season this fall!

Talking Cedar is developing three new spirits it hopes to introduce into distribution in Washington this fall. These include:

Triple Sec: orange-flavored liqueur essential to top cocktails such as the margarita

Aperitivo: light, sweet-bitter botanical spirit, perfect for refreshing spritzes

Amaro: stronger, herbal liqueur featured in negronis and boulevardiers

Talking Cedar is joining Lucky Eagle in June as a vendor at the 2025 Northwest Indian Gaming Conference & Expo at ilani Casino Resort.

Organized by the Washington Indian Gaming Association, the event allows Tribes to network and learn about the current state of gaming in Washington and throughout Indian Country.



OAKSRIDGE GOLF COURSE

Oaksridge is open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. seven days a week. Nine-hole carts can be rented until 5 p.m. and 18-hole carts until 3:30 p.m. Return carts by 7 p.m. Tournaments run June 15 and 28. Tribal rates:

- 18 holes: \$26.25 walking, \$37.50 riding
- 9 holes: \$15 walking, \$22.50 riding
- Monthly unlimited membership (golf only): \$112.50

CONFEDERATED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

CCC completed repaving at Millersylvania State Park and began the Bunker Creek project. Closeout is under way for Lewis County PUD projects in Elbe and Vader. In June, CCC will begin the Oakville School Street Renovation and improvements at Thurston County Station 38.

TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Dylan Gleason-Wheeler We're excited to shine this month's spotlight on our talented and dedicated Administrative Assistant. Dylan joined Chehalis Tribal Enterprises in 2015 and returned in March 2024. She brings strong organizational skills, professionalism and a passion for supporting the team. Dylan plays a vital role in ensuring smooth daily operations – from managing filing, mail and visitor greetings to answering phones and assisting multiple departments, especially HR. She oversees inventory and supply orders, coordinates employee donations and gift card giveaways and plans staff lunches and outings. She helps to foster a positive and connected workplace culture. Dylan enjoys crafting, knitting, baking and spending quality time with her dog and cats.



Follow us on social media @ChehalisTribalEnterprises

Safe, inclusive playground dedicated

Chehalis Tribe serves local students with new space at Rochester Middle School

By Bobbie Bush

A special needs playground at Rochester Middle School was dedicated and blessed on May 15.

The fenced playground is intended to help kids who can't self-regulate stay safe while using equipment and playing with peers.

The Chehalis Tribe had excellent representation at the dedication with Tribal Elders, parents and staff.

Business Committee members Chairman Dustin Klatush, Vice Chairwoman Sheilah Bray, Secretary Cheryl Starr and Fifth Council Member Thomas Trott also attended.

Winona Youckton and Theresa Youckton were present to bless the playground at the beautiful celebration.

Cheyenne Marcellay-Howe spoke about her son, Jordan, who was getting ready to transition from one school to another last year. She wanted to know what kind of accommodation Rochester Middle School had available for Jordon, who has a rare genetic seizure condition called KCNH1.

After her initial assessment of the school, Cheyenne said she found the classroom was ready for him but there was no place for Jordon to safely play outside.

Cheyenne wanted to make sure her son was able to be outside, and she knew of funds available through the Chehalis Tribe's gaming compact that are directed toward nonprofits in the state. Requests for those 1% funds are approved by the Chehalis Tribe's Business Committee.

First, it needed to be determined if there was space for the proposed playground. An estimate of costs was then developed with Rochester School District.

The plan was presented and approved thanks to the collaboration of Tribal member parents, the Business Committee and Rochester School District's commitment to serve local students.



A special needs playground was created at Rochester Middle School with nonprofit funds provided by the Chehalis Tribe.

Chairman Klatush spoke to the group gathered to witness the blessing and dedication.

"The Chehalis Tribe receives a lot of requests for donations. Many do not get funded, but those that do get funded, my personal favorites are ones that help kids out," he said. "Today,

we're celebrating an asset that will be in the community for years to come, so my hands go up to our Tribe, Tribal leaders, our Tribal Elders, who brought us to where we are today, and the faculty here at Rochester. We appreciate everything you guys do for our kids and our community."

WHAT IT MEANS FOR SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

The following quotes are reprinted with permission from Emily Fitzgerald's article in The Chronicle:

Dr. Jennifer Bethman: "This is just a wonderful project with the Chehalis Tribe and the Rochester School District coming together for our kids."

Laura Staley, Director of Special Services and Assessment: "We're so incredibly grateful for our partnership with the tribe. Just the fact that they were willing to come in and help us with something that we as a district couldn't provide our kiddos is just incredible."

Cheyenne Marcellay-Howe posted on Facebook: "My family and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Chehalis Tribe and our elected Business Committee for fully supporting and funding a brand-new special needs playground at Rochester Middle School. My son Jordan is a sixth grader at RMS. He was born with an extremely rare genetic seizure condition called KCNH1. There are less than 100 known cases in the world and 5 known cases in the United States. Today we had the official blessing of the playground. Sharing a few photos and thank you again. This playground will benefit special needs students for years to come."

Rodney Youckton, Chief Community Relations Officer for Lucky Eagle Casino: "It's a special moment for the Rochester and Chehalis Tribe communities. Since time immemorial, we have been connected to each other for so many generations and we can continue to help each other out. When in need, there's things that we could do to help each other, support each other. It's just like the braids that we have in our hair. Each strand represents you. We put this braid together. We're strong as one. There's nothing that can break that braid because of what we believe in, what our strength is and how we can help each other out, because now we're connected."

June 27th and 28th

8am to 3:30pm (choose one day - max 20 Native youth participants per day)
Location: Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at Evergreen State College



Money Game is Coming to Your Community!



Fun money skills for Native youth!

Tired of boring financial literacy lectures and lessons? Don't miss your chance to check out the exciting financial skills money game that's taking Indian Country by storm. The \$pending Frenzy is your opportunity to:

Go shopping with \$30,000!

Identify wants and needs!

Save and invest big money!

Purchase vehicles, homes, and food!

Have a blast by taking a trial run at managing per cap, minor's distributions, seasonal income, or other lump sum payments!



Use this QR Code to register –
 or go to: <https://ctlf-empowers.org/south-puget-tribal-youth-spending-frenzy/>



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 Chairwoman: Sheilah Bray
Treasurer: Farley Youckton
Secretary: Cheryle Starr
Fifth Council Member:
Thomas Trott

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**The Chehalis Tribal
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Confederated Tribes
of the Chehalis
Reservation**

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Vision leads to Lifetime Achievement Award

Tribal leader has built a successful career

By Bobbie Bush

Rodney Youckton, Chief Community Relations Officer for Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel was nominated for a Lifetime Leadership Award through recommendations from his peers.

Rodney will have worked at Lucky Eagle for 21 years this July. He started in the Tribal Gaming Agency as a commissioner before the casino opened. He was a commissioner for seven years before he began work at the casino.

The Tribal Leadership Council award recognizes those who have served their community through many phases and years. Recipients adapt their leadership to the ever-changing environment of the nation, fostering relationships with other governments and advocating for inherent rights. Rodney is a leader that has left a remarkable imprint for future generations.

Rodney followed recommendations from the Chehalis Tribal Business Committee and the Tribal Development Program to earn his bachelor's degree. He took night courses at The Evergreen State College while employed full-time and raising children with his wife.

He also attended courses through the Dale Carnegie Leadership program and completed the University of Reno



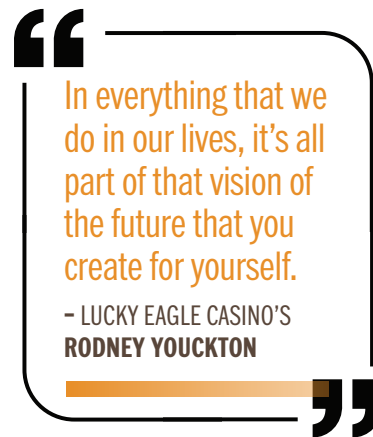
Operations Security for Title 31 certification program. Rodney acquired work experience in all departments at the casino except surveillance. He has built a successful career at the casino.

Rodney has five children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

"Our parents were strong believers in being a lifetime learner. They preached to my brothers, sisters and myself to be a lifetime learner, because once you stop learning, you die," Rodney said.

"It's so important to pick up any kind of training and certifications to go forward in your career because we all have been put on this Earth for a purpose. Finding that purpose is the main goal of your lifetime," he continued.

"Being in the Tribal Development Program, I didn't have a college degree. At age 50, I was sitting at Centralia College



freshman orientation with 17- and 18-year-olds and looking around. I did not see anyone my age. I wished I had listened to my parents about being a lifetime learner and get my college degree

when I should have when I was 18. But moving forward, I was a good mentor to the freshmen and sophomores in going to college," Rodney said.

"Another thing my parents were strict about was going to school every day, which means that you go to work every day so that you make good habits for yourself. You go to work every day, on time, you are prompt, do your work, and just like school, you do your assignments. It's so important because these are good habits that you develop. In everything that we do in our lives, it's all part of that vision of the future that you create for yourself. I was told to never give up your paddle," Rodney explained.

Congratulations Rodney on your well-deserved recognition.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR HARD WORK!



Chehalis Tribal member Kaylena Delgado graduated from Washington State University on May 3 with a bachelor's degree in business.