The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, 'People of the Sands'

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2025 FIND HISTORY, HERITAGE & RESOURCES AT CHEHALISTRIBE.ORG

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Pulling together

Canoe Journey celebrates rich culture, tradition





Almost a hundred acres that has remained a haven for wildlife will return to the Chehalis Tribe.

Pristine land returns

95-ACRE DONATION COULD CREATE CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

By Bobbie Bush

Representatives from the Chehalis Tribe, Conservation Northwest, the Washington state Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Transportation and other supporters gathered July 18 on Case Road in Rochester to celebrate a collaborative effort to develop a wildlife corridor over Interstate-5.

The Erickson Family of Vine Maple Farms hosted the celebration that kicked off at 11:30 a.m. and featured a traditional salmon lunch at 1 p.m. Chehalis Tribal Fisheries provided and cooked fish in the traditional way.

The Chehalis Tribe has been working with Conservation



The group who met up in Rochester celebrated the return of Tribal lands and a safer future for animals crossing Interstate-5.





Summer party celebrates employees and their many wonderful contributions.

Picnic honors workers

Families join Tribal employees for a fun day of appreciation

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribe held its annual Employee Picnic at Columbus Park on Aug. 15.

Hundreds of employees and their families attended the event to enjoy a day at Black Lake in Olympia.

Although the rainy weather meant no volleyball and cornhole competitions this year, Events staff still created a successful afternoon.

The picnic started with recognition of longtime

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LAND

From page 1

Northwest to acquire and protect important conservation lands in support of shared conservation goals. The objective of the project is to create a wildlife corridor that connects the Olympic Mountains to the Cascade Mountains. Ideally, this might include a future wildlife bridge over I-5 that would give elk, bear, mountain lions and other wildlife the chance to access their historical migration corridors.

Vine Maple Farms, owned by the Erickson Family, is 95 acres. The farm was purchased in 1890 from the railroad. The original family home was built in 1893. Five generations of the Erickson family have lived there. The matriarch of the family, Mrs. Janice Erickson, welcomed visitors to the land.

Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine McCloud opened the event with a prayer and said: "Very thankful for everyone that showed up, our Tribal Elders, Tribal fishermen, and friends we have not met yet."

Several speakers gave background and context to the collaboration.

Marla LeFevre Janice Erickson's granddaughter

"We were thrilled that we were contacted by Conservation Northwest talking

about these 93 acres that is mostly pristine land, forest, fields. We knew this was going to be a great solution for having some safe wildlife habitat."

She provided history of the land and her family and said, "My family settled here in 1890. It was Anna and Andrew Erickson who came from Sweden and purchased 80 acres from the railroad. We have had five generations of our family here and we feel very fortunate we have been able to steward this land. We always wanted to maintain respect for the animals that live here. We did not want to do any kind of development or any kind of hazards for the animals. Now that it's just my mom and I (she's 88 years old and she has lived in the blue house for 60 years), we are thrilled. This was just a fantastic solution to invite the Tribe and Conservation Northwest to bring this property back to how it was naturally. This is a fullcircle moment that this property should belong to the Chehalis



Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine McCloud offered a prayer before representatives from the state, Conservation Northwest and the Chehalis Tribe spoke about the significance of the land acquisition.

Tribe because we know that this was originally the Chehalis Tribe's property. Welcome to each and every one of you."

Margan Carlson Director of Conservation Policy for Washington state Department of Fish & Wildlife



"I would like to speak briefly about how important this connectivity work is to our mission. The legislation has given us the responsibility on behalf of all of you and all the people to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage all Washington state wildlife. None of us can do this alone. The leadership at the Tribe, Conservation Northwest, Department of Transportation and many others and the leadership that we each are showing already and are going to have to keep showing to realize connectivity and to maintain it across the landscape is such a big deal."

Julia Michalak Section Manager for Priority Habitats and Species at WDFW

Julia spoke about the Washington State Habitat Connectivity Action Plan.

"Thousands of animals are hit each year by vehicles. It causes injuries to people and wildlife in Washington state at great economic costs to our state. On interstates like I-5, the traffic can

be so intense that animals no longer even try to cross. They just approach the highway, then turn around and go back so it forms a nearly complete barrier to wildlife. Furthermore, we have seen a lot of development in many forms that contribute to habitat loss and fragmentation and can disconnect even some of our amazingly protected large spaces. So, despite these challenges, we do know that through thoughtful and sciencebased planning, we can provide enough space for both people and these large, protected landscapes that are needed to support Washington's wildlife. Protecting these landscapes is essential to protecting resilient wildlife populations and is even more critical as wildlife need to move to adapt to climatic conditions."

Ahmer Nizam Environmental Services Director at Washington state Department of Transportation



"I want to express gratitude to the spirits of this land – past, present and future – whom we honor today with our intentions and our sincere wish that we may honor tomorrow with our actions."

Glen KaliszWSDOT, Habitat Connectivity Biologist – Fish & Wildlife Program

"I typically say my job is finding ways to reduce collisions

with wildlife and helping animals safely navigate the highway systems. Where we are standing is one of our critical wildlife corridors between the Olympics. the Cascades and beyond. This area is one of our highest-priority locations in the state. The greatest barrier to wildlife is here. We can all hear it (I-5 traffic noise). Here, I-5 carries about 70,000 vehicles per day. Studies have indicated that 10,000 vehicles per day can be a complete barrier to wildlife movement. A Wildlife Crossing Structure Feasibility Study was completed in November 2024. The main goal of the study was to look at this stretch of I-5 and identify and recommend ideal wildlife locations based on biological data and engineering limitations. There were four possible sites identified at that time. Two of those sites have been developed and are no longer viable options. Two locations remain around mile post 96.1 and at 92.8 which is associated with the location where we are standing, 1/4 mile from where we are. As part of that feasibility study, we identified potential structure types and high-level cost estimates to get us a little farther along this path of ultimately building structures once we get the funding. What we recommended was a structure about 150 feet wide and 350 long to cross six lanes of traffic. That is about the size of the Snoqualmie crossing. We know that a structure like that with the right habitat features can facilitate wildlife movement for all species in this area, from salamanders all the way up to elk and everything in between. That type of structure crossing six lanes of I-5 can cost up to 30 million, but compared



MP 92.8: Nev

to other structures we have built, that cost estimate is in about the middle."

Chehalis Tribe Business Committee members spoke next.

Sheilah Bray Chehalis Tribe Vice Chairwoman

"Hello everybody, I am Sheilah Bray, Chehalis Tribe's Vice Chairwoman.



I am not here alone. I am here with our 5th Council and Treasurer from our Business Committee, and I ask them to come up here with me just so you can see that we take this very seriously. We heard that this great event was happening, we had the invite and we said we are not missing this. Unfortunately, our chairman is coming back from the airport Friday afternoon. We don't expect to see him for a few hours. Our secretary is working with the youth program and could not get away. Otherwise, we would all be here. I want to thank you all for giving us the opportunity to be invited to come here and listen to all the great information you shared on why this is such a good project that we need to get off the ground. To be good stewards of the land is so important. I hope everyone realizes that most Tribes have done that for centuries taking care of the land and taking care of the animals on the land. If you take care of them, they will take care of you. We are not here on this Earth by ourselves. We have to take care of those who cannot help themselves. That would be our animals. Everything here is for us to use - the fruit on the trees, the animals. Let's not abuse it. Let's make sure we can come together and do this better. I am really glad to hear all the information about



This map shows plans for a crucial wildlife overcrossing at milepost 92.8 on Interstate-5.

how we have cut off that pathway for the animals and how we undo that. I wouldn't want to cross I-5 on foot to get food. It's a really scary thing. Vehicles are coming very quickly. So when this idea was first presented to us from the Tribe's point of view, we could not be more excited that this idea was not just a pipe dream but all these different agencies and governments coming together to say, "Are we in this together? Who is here to help?" Sheilah concluded, "I want you to know that Chehalis Tribe is very committed to this project. We are honored to be invited to this luncheon."

Thomas Trott Chehalis Tribe 5th Council member

"It's very beautiful out here. Thank you for the opportunity to be



here. I look forward to our work in the future. It's the third crossing in Washington state. It's a very beautiful thing - the first across I-5. I think if we can continue on the path that we are on, we are doing good things we need to do protect the animals and the Earth."

Mitch Friedman **Executive Director** of Conservation **Northwest**

"There were many years where

my staff would promote the idea of trying to keep the Cascades and Olympics connected, and I was a skeptic. The interstate is here with all the associated development with it, you know. I had to be sold on the idea. Initial research was encouraging. It was an opportunity, so we gave it a

go. I am not a spiritual person, but sometimes things just fall in place. We hosted a summit about a year ago at Great Wolf Lodge, and there is Janice Erickson, and we became acquainted. She loved what we were doing and described this property. We are working together to do this. Here are the pieces - these 90 acres here where we are standing today. It's amazing. It's intact."

As Mitch described the serendipitous meeting and how things sometimes just align themselves to resolve challenges, his voice cracked a little with emotion. He wrote in an email, "The property is 95 acres. The plan is for the Tribe to purchase it at fully appraised market value, with Conservation Northwest providing the funding."

Voice recordings of speakers for quotes were shared from Jacob Moore of The Chronicle. Thank you, Jacob.



Marla LeFevre and Janice Erickson



Salmon cooked the traditional way by Chehalis Tribal Fisheries.



















Photos by Frazier Myer

Chehalis Canoe Family took the floor to share their songs and dances to finalize the 2025 paddle to Elwha on Aug. 2. The Canoe Family took time during their ceremony to thank the host tribe (Elwha) as well as other tribes that assisted them along the journey.









The Chehalis
Canoe Family
(far left) took
a moment
to honor
Chehalis Tribal
Elder Sylvia
Cayenne for
her year of
leadership and
commitment
to keeping
the customs
and culture
thriving.







The rich traditions Canoe Journey participants learned will carry on for generations.



















Kona Ice was one of the highlights of the Chehalis Tribe's annual Employee Picnic at Columbus Park. Longtime employees were honored at the gathering.

PICNIC

From page 1

Chehalis Tribe employees. A raffle drawing and catered barbecue lunch followed. A friendly watermelon-eating contest provided great entertainment.

Thank you to all Chehalis Tribal Employees for your hard work and contributions to the Tribe's success. We celebrate those who have worked for the Tribe:

15-19 years

Stacy Youckton Joseph Wittwer Scarlett Romero Amy Loudermilk Beth Klatush Melanie Hielm Sharon Hall Maria Garcia Jeremy Fanning Pam Ezparza Sean Draper Robert Cayenne Sr. Courtney Bushnell Kristy Burke Marcus Bolton Matthew Bogart Maria Esquivel

20-30 years

Theresa Youckton Philip Youckton Farley Youckton

Dinell Youckton Star Thomas Lee Star Eli Snell Jodie Smith JJ Shortman Misty Secena Stephanie Pickernell Frances Pickernell Diana Pickernell Shawn Ortivez Racheal Mendez Marla Medina David Jessen Merry Beth Hofstetter Tom Hayden John Grandorff Heather Galloway Todd Frost

James Elder Kelly Edwards Jake Dickerson Glen Connelly Sheilah Bray Cal Bray Connie Baker Chris Aldrich

30+ years

Christina Hicks Darrin Jones Charlotte Lopez Anthony Youckton Sr. Cheryle Star

40+ years

Chris Ortivez Raymond Secena Jr.

YOUTH



Spending Frenzy imparts money wisdom

Chehalis Youth Workers learn financial literacy

By Carol Strader

The Chehalis Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) Program partnered with the SPIPA Entrepreneurship Academy to host Spending Frenzy: Smart Money Moves for GWE Funds on July 10.

Twenty-five Youth Workers Program participants were welcomed to the interactive event. Youth were 100 percent engaged throughout the activity!

The event was designed to teach the basics of financial literacy in a fun, hands-on way. Each participant received a budget representing their General Welfare Exclusion funds and moved through stations where they had to make decisions about real-world expenses such as housing, food, transportation, phone plans, savings and more.

Along the way, they faced challenges such as unexpected bills or financial setbacks, helping them see how important it is to plan ahead and spend wisely. Youth learned to identify the difference between wants and needs, how to balance a budget and how saving early can help in the long run.

"This was one of the most rewarding events we've done," said Carol Strader, Chehalis TVR Program Manager. "Every youth stayed engaged the entire time and really thought about their choices. It showed us how ready they are to

INFORMATION

For details about upcoming youth financial literacy or job readiness events, contact the Chehalis Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program at **360-709-1702.**

learn about managing money and preparing for adulthood."

Spending Frenzy was made possible through collaboration with the SPIPA Entrepreneurship Academy, which focuses on building financial confidence and business thinking among Tribal youth. By combining life skills and entrepreneurship, the event supported long-term career readiness and independence.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Chehalis Tribal Government employees who volunteered their time to staff budgeting tables and guide youth through the simulation. Your support and willingness to engage with the community helped make this event a meaningful and memorable experience for everyone involved.

Because of overwhelmingly positive feedback, next year's Spending Frenzy is already in the planning stages. The TVR Program looks forward to building on this momentum to continue empowering Chehalis youth with essential life and financial skills.





As part of the Chehalis Tribe's summer Youth Workers Program, students were given real-world experience budgeting and preparing for adulthood during the informative Spending Frenzy event.

FUNDRAISING

Lively day on the links

Competitive Golf Tournament bolsters economic empowerment

By Tamra De Nova

The Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund (CTLF) hosted its fifth annual Golf Tournament on Aug. 1 at the beautiful Tahoma Valley Golf Course. It was our most impactful tournament yet!

With stunning weather, a full course and enthusiastic supporters, the day brought together golfers, sponsors and community partners to celebrate a shared commitment to financial wellness and Tribal economic empowerment.

This year's tournament featured the exciting Harley for a Hole-in-One challenge, where golfers had a chance to win a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle with a perfect shot. Though no one rode off with the bike this year, the challenge added excitement and friendly competition.

Players also enjoyed a lively putting contest with a \$2,500 prize, mouthwatering food and a raffle packed with generously donated prizes from local businesses and community supporters.

Most importantly, the event raised critical funds that will allow CTLF to continue providing access to fair lending, financial coaching and small business support for Tribal and nontribal residents across Southwest Washington.

With the help of sponsors and participants, CTLF has been able to assist hundreds of families and individuals in escaping predatory lending, launching businesses and building healthier financial futures.

We offer a heartfelt thank you to the Chehalis Tribe, our founding and sustaining supporter, whose ongoing generosity and vision make events like this possible. Your commitment continues to open doors for economic opportunity and community well-being.

"We're incredibly proud of the impact we're making together," said Tamra De Nova, Executive Director of CTLF. "Every swing, every sponsorship and every story shared out on that course contributes to real change – whether it's helping someone buy their first home, consolidate high-interest debt or turn a business dream into reality."

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable event. We can't wait to welcome you back in 2026 for another amazing day of golf, generosity and community-building.





Teams enjoy friendly competition at the annual Golf Tournament hosted by Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund.







BLACK RIVER BLUES BLUEBERRY FARM

The farm stand and U-pick is open for blueberry season from:

- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday
- **Closed Monday-Tuesday**

Black River Blues has a stand at Olympia Farmers Market, open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday-Sunday at 700 Capitol Way N., Olympia.

TALKING CEDAR RESTAURANT

Talking Cedar Restaurant's August specials

Appetizer: Goat Cheese and Roasted Garlic

Entrees: Summer Caprese Salad, Caribbean Pork Chops

Dessert: Sacher Torte

Cocktails: Prickly Spicy Mule

TALKING CEDAR BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Talking Cedar will make its debut in the fast-growing nonalcoholic beer market with Talking Cedar Hop Water – a crisp, nonalcoholic sparkling beverage brewed with Citra hops, lemon juice and carbonated water.

OAKSRIDGE GOLF COURSE

Hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday-Saturday. Players are encouraged to call ahead for course availability at 360-482-3511. Memberships at Oaksridge are available year-round. Monthly and annual options can be purchased any time.

Oaksridge plans to aerify the course, weather permitting. Nine holes closed at a time. Check our Facebook page for updates.

Coming up

- 3-6 p.m. Oct. 24: Cross Country Meet Golf
- Course closed to public after 3 p.m., driving range open
- 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 14: Grays Harbor Sheriff's Tournament
- Golf course closed to public until 2 p.m., driving range open

TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Freddie Sanchez joined Chehalis Tribal Enterprises in February 2024 and became part of the End of the Trail II team the following month.

Starting out as a cashier, Freddie quickly stood out thanks to his strong work ethic, positive attitude and willingness to help wherever needed.

His dedication didn't go unnoticed. By October 2024, he was promoted to PIC.

Since stepping into his leadership role, Freddie has consistently proven himself to be a valuable and dependable member of the team.

Whether he's supporting coworkers or helping things run smoothly behind the scenes, Freddie always shows up with a can-do spirit.

His team describes him as reliable, hard working and an allaround great guy.

Freddie is known for his love and dedication to his sweet dog Roofie.





HEALTH/WELLNESS

Naloxone works miracles on opioids

It's smart to have lifesaving drug on hand

By Lea Townsend

Every day, an average 136 people die from an opioid overdose. That's about 49,640 lives lost to addiction each year.

At the Chehalis Tribe Behavioral Health clinic, we distribute naloxone– commonly known as Narcan– a nasal spray that can reverse an overdose.

Frequently, I hear people say, "I don't need that. I don't use opioids" or "I'm never around anyone who uses substances."

But did you know you can even give naloxone to dogs? Whether you take your dog to the park or on a walk, you never know what might be on the streets or a park bench.

Fentanyl can be lethal in doses as small as 0.02 to 5.1 milligrams, depending on a person's body size, tolerance and history of use. According to the DEA, 42% of pills tested for fentanyl contain at least 2 mg of fentanyl, a potentially fatal dose.

To put that into perspective, a single grain of table salt weighs



about 0.3 mg. The size of 6-7 grains of salt could be a deadly dose of fentanyl.

Naloxone saves lives. It's not just for people using fentanyl. It works on any opioid, including legally prescribed ones, and even if opioids are combined with benzodiazepines.

Anyone using opioids – whether that's heroin, fentanyl or prescription medications – should carry Naloxone. It could save your life, or the life of a friend, a family member, a child or even a dog who

might be exposed.

At Chehalis Tribe Behavioral Health, we have Naloxone available and offer training on how to use it. It's easy to use. If someone shows signs of an overdose, Naloxone is safe to administer. Even if they're not overdosing, it won't harm them.

Naloxone is good to have on hand if you're taking prescribed narcotics. We never know who might come across them.

If you ever administer Naloxone, please call 911 immediately if you

RESOURCES

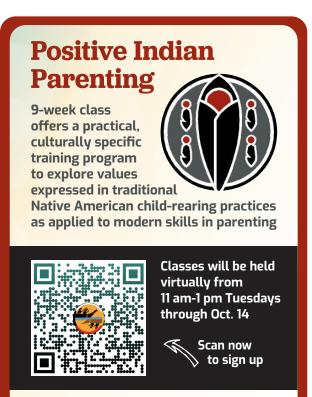
If you or a loved one is interested in substance use services, we offer assessments, as well as intensive outpatient and outpatient services. If you need resources for sober support meetings, please call **360-709-1733.**

Signs of opioid overdose

- Small, pinpoint pupils
- Falling asleep or losing consciousness
- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Choking or gurgling sounds
- Limp body
- Cold and/or clammy skin
- Discolored skin (especially lips and nails)

suspect an overdose.

We also provide locking medication bags to safely store your medications. Ask for one at the Chehalis Tribe Behavioral Health clinic. Help us be part of the solution.





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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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Expo highlights life-saving tools, tips

Chehalis Tribe's booth offers an impressive array of resources

By Clint Davis

The 2025 Grays Harbor Emergency Preparedness Expo drew a steady crowd of families, first responders and curious community members on July 26 in Aberdeen.

Participants filled the parking area of the Tractor Supply store from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The event brought together agencies and organizations from around the region to share resources, tools and life-saving tips to stay safe before, during and after emergencies.

The Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management Team stood out with an impressive display booth. The setup highlighted practical, accessible tools for personal preparedness, including sandless sandbags, portable water treatment systems, starter go bags and satellite and radio communication devices.

Clint Davis, the Tribe's
Emergency Manager and an
Executive Board Member for
Homeland Security Region 3's
Incident Management Team
(HLSR3), was present to greet
attendees and offer expert
guidance on all-hazards readiness.
Davis shared how the Chehalis
Tribe continues to build its



Chehalis Tribe's Emergency Manager Clint Davis presented expert guidance on staying safe at the Grays Harbor Emergency Preparedness Expo.

preparedness capabilities and empower Tribal members to be resilient in the face of disasters ranging from wildfires to flooding and regional power outages.

"Our goal is to help people understand that preparedness isn't just for major disasters. It's for everyday emergencies too," Davis said. "The Tribe has been working hard to ensure our community is informed, equipped and supported. Events like this allow us to share what's working and encourage others to take similar steps."

In addition to education and demonstrations, the Tribal

team distributed free starter go-kit items to visitors, including protective gloves, CPR face masks and emergency alert whistles. The simple but essential tools can save lives during a crisis.

The Expo, which continues to grow each year, included booths from local fire departments, emergency responders, amateur radio operators and nonprofit groups. All are dedicated to helping the Grays Harbor region become more resilient.

Organizers hailed the event as a success, citing strong public turnout and enthusiastic

RESOURCES

For more information about emergency preparedness and future community events, residents are encouraged to follow local emergency management offices and Tribal public safety pages.

Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management contact:

EM@Chehalistribe.org
or chehalistribe.org.

"

Events like this allow us to share what's working and encourage others to take similar steps.

CLINT DAVIS.

CHEHALIS TRIBAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT MANAGER

JJ

participation from partner agencies. With wildfire season in full swing and coastal communities facing ongoing natural hazards, the importance of emergency preparedness has never been more evident.