



CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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

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Tribal youth craft beautiful art while embracing cultural traditions at Generation Rising Youth Art Day.



Early Learning and Head Start youngsters had a great time celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Next-gen creativity

By Frazier Myer

Tribal youth and their families were invited to gather for celebration and learning at Generation Rising Youth Art Day on March 14.

The event was for youth of all ages from local Native American Tribes to learn new skills by creating Indigenous art. Youth from tribes including Chehalis, Nisqually, Puyallup, Makah and more gained wonderful skills.

At each table, participants learned to make an item. For each piece of art created, youth were asked to make another one to be given away to the Nisqually Canoe Family. They will be handed out during the ceremony at the final landing during the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually.

The second part of the event was a celebration to bring out youth master weavers and gatherers from the Nisqually and



Kids find the clever trickster

Leaping leprechaun! Hunt ends with treats

By Bobbie Bush

Each year, the wild and crazy leprechaun tries to hide out in the main lobby of the Chehalis Tribal Administration building.

On March 17, young ones from Early Learning and Head Start searched for the wary trickster.

Tribal departments sent representatives to staff tables of treats as the youngsters searched and searched for the leprechaun.

More than 75 littles stopped by for snacks, juice boxes, toys (ducks and glow sticks), temporary tattoos, mini bubble wands and other prizes.

Vocational Rehabilitation, Tribal Administration,

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CREATIVITY

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Puyallup Tribes.

The gathering was sponsored by the Hazel Pete Institute of Chehalis Basketry, the House of Welcome at The Evergreen State College, the Braiding Community Collaboration, Civic Engagement program at Evergreen and the Native Pathways Program at Evergreen.

A delicious meal was cooked and provided by The Wizard's Table club from Evergreen.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this celebration a success. And thank you to everyone who joined and took part in all of the activities.



LEPRECHAUN

From page 1

Chehalis Tribal Housing Authority, Communications, Information Technology, Elders Center, Human Resources, Behavioral Health, Early Learning and Head Start, Realty, Emergency Operations, Public Safety and Tribal Education programs all had treat bags or little prizes for the children to circle around and gather.

The youngest started to arrive at 9:30 a.m. Kids excitedly visited the stations. Before they left the Administration Building, children were able to see the tricky leprechaun in the Business Committee Meeting Room.



FUNDRAISER

Market benefits Rez Animals

By Bobbie Bush

Indigenous art vendors set up their wares in the Chehalis Tribe's Gathering Room on March 7-8 during Rez Animals Resources & Education's second Spring Art Market.

The purpose of the market was to provide artists with a venue to showcase their work and to raise funds for Rez Animals. Vendor fees and raffle tickets raised \$854 for the organization.

Saturday was busy with more customers than Sunday. Piper's Pantry from Elma provided food for purchase at a reasonable price. The food was excellent - fresh, tasty and served with smiles.

Vendors offered paintings, weavings, clothing, custom printed T-shirts, beaded jewelry, laser-cut wood items, ceramics and snacks.

Rez Animals was started in 2006 to help dogs and cats on five Indian reservations in Washington state. Tribes served include Chehalis, Nisqually, Skokomish, Squaxin Island and Shoalwater Bay.

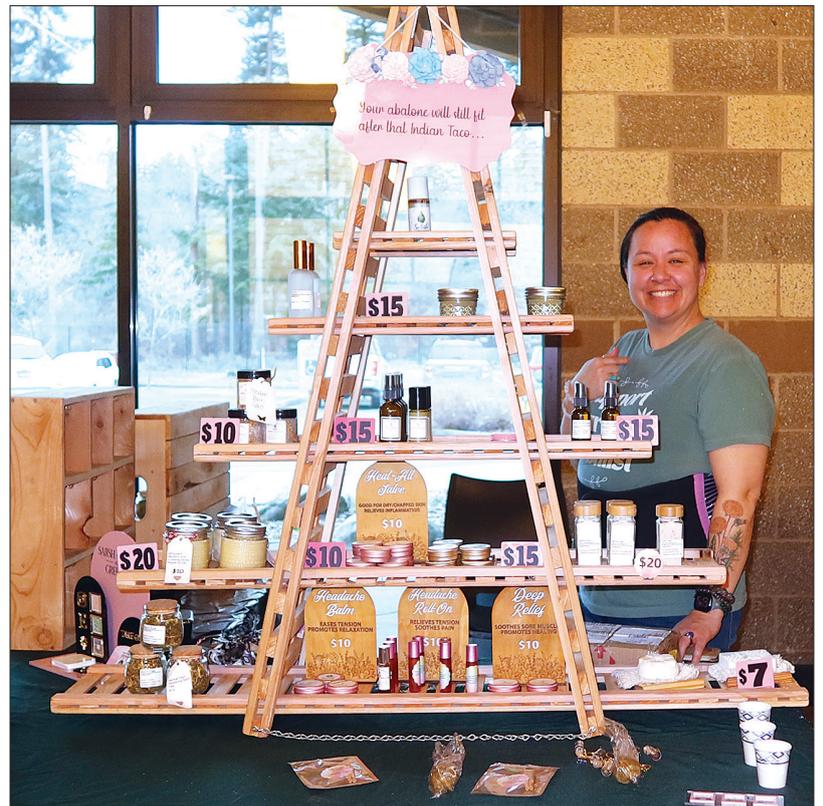
Since 2006, the organization has significantly reduced the number of stray animals and support a better quality of life for animals in the Tribal communities.

Through its programs, Rez Animals has spayed/neutered 2,887 pets owned by Tribal members.



CONTACT US

For more information about Rez Animals Resources & Education, please email info@rezanimals.com or call **253-370-6392**. Donations are very much appreciated and can be given through the website rezanimals.com. A PayPal link is available for donations.



Indigenous artisans sold paintings, beaded jewelry, medicinal items and more to support Rez Animals Resources & Education at Spring Arts Market.

Emergency Management's year in review

Team reports notable responses, preparation

By Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management Manager Clinton Davis and Coordinator Cal Bray

During 2025, Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management responded to seasonal and weather-related incidents consistent with regional trends.

These included minor roadway flooding, temporary access limitations to public buildings and power outages resulting from winter storm activity in November and December.

In advance of anticipated severe weather conditions, the Emergency Management (EM) team proactively enhanced operational readiness.

Newly acquired deployable emergency shelters from DLX (Oregon) were placed into service to support temporary housing, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions and triage operations when necessary. The team also expanded and updated emergency food supplies and improved water treatment capacity to ensure continuity of services during extended incidents.

Training and preparedness efforts remained a priority throughout the year. Personnel participated in enhanced instruction in mass casualty response, CPR, first aid and active shooter response protocols to strengthen community resilience and coordinated emergency response capabilities.

Wildland fire mitigation efforts also progressed in 2025. A total of 67 Tribal-owned homes were evaluated for Firewise USA safety compliance. Based on assessment



Left: An aerial view shows the Chehalis Reservation during the 2025 flood.

Below: Emergency Management's deployment shelter demo in August.

Lower left: Clinton Davis provided training to all Tribal employees last spring.



GET IN TOUCH

For more information, direct questions to Emergency Manager Clinton Davis at **360-709-1770** or **cdavis@chehalistribe.org** and Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bray at **360-709-1691** or **cbray@chehalistribe.org**.

findings, two micro-grants are anticipated in 2026 to support vegetation management, tree trimming and related mitigation activities to reduce wildfire risk.

Overall, 2025 reflected a continued commitment to preparedness, mitigation and response capacity enhancement for the Chehalis Tribe.



CANOE JOURNEYS CRAFTING AND DINNER

▶▶ RED DOORS, SOUTH END OF COMMUNITY CENTER

ALL ARE WELCOME AT 6 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY



Veterans wrapped IN Quilts OF Valor

Service members honored with symbol of healing

By Bobbie Bush

Twenty people gathered around the fireplace in the Elders Center on Feb. 17 to recognize the service of two of our Elder servicemen, Curtis DuPuis and Jimmy Burnett.

A group of four volunteers – Lynn Wiltzius, Debbie Aust, Val Gordon and Mary Brawner – from the Quilts of Valor Foundation presented two beautiful quilts to our Tribal members in recognition of their service in the armed forces.

The Quilts of Valor organization began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq.

"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered

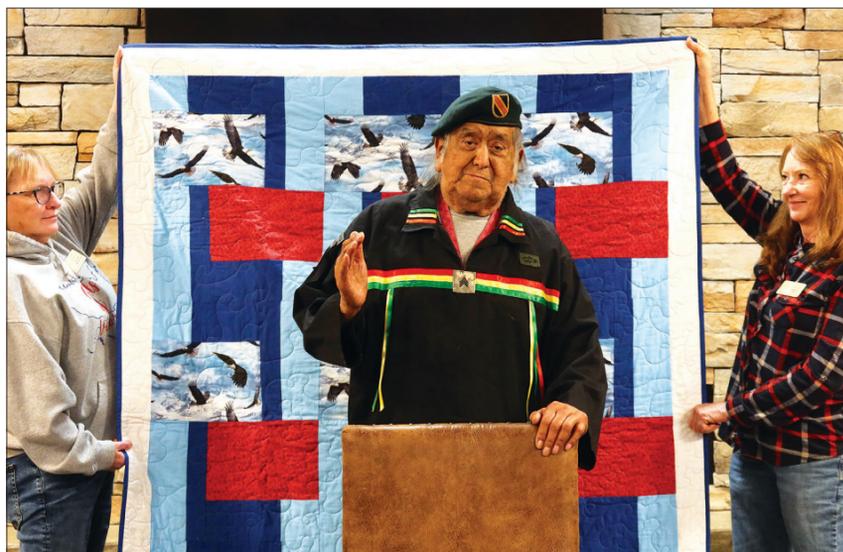
around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter," Catherine said. "Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was quilts equal healing. The model appeared simple: have a volunteer team who would donate their time and materials to make a quilt. One person would piece the top and the other would quilt it. I saw the name for this special quilt: it was Quilt of Valor, a QOV." (Provided by QOV.org)

Volunteers introduced the first veteran to receive his quilt.

"My name is Sergeant Curtis Dupuis. I was in Special Forces. I went to Vietnam in '66, '67 in two camps – EA 225 Lahai, EA 226 Chai Mon Nang Chu Riau. And I was the youngest sergeant," Curtis explained.

He described his service in the hot

See **QUILTS** / page 8



Chehalis Tribal Elder Curtis Dupuis speaks about his service in Special Forces during a recognition ceremony where he was gifted a lovingly crafted quilt from Quilts of Valor.



Volunteers from the organization honored Curtis and Jimmy Burnett, who served in the Army. Quilts of Valor offers hope and healing to those who have served our country.



“ They were a group of fishermen who went out and said, ‘We’re going to keep fishing,’ in response to the repression and terror invoked on the people who were just trying to put food on their families’ tables. ELAINE MCCLLOUD, CHEHALIS TRIBAL ELDER ”

Retired Indian educator attends Billy Frank Jr. Day

By Bobbie Bush

More than 180 students from six classes gathered for a presentation of historical facts regarding Nisqually Tribal member Billy Frank Jr.'s legacy and leadership on March 9 at Rochester Middle School.

Ms. Amber Parsons, a teacher at Rochester Middle School, invited Elders and parents to gather at the gym in the morning for a video, PowerPoint presentation, hands-on learning and a verbal presentation from one of our Chehalis Tribal Elders.

The video shown was "The Legacy of Billy Frank Jr. | Treaty Rights & Salmon Conservation" from YouTube, which was produced by Northwest Public Broadcasting. The video is available for viewing on the YouTube platform. Also, if you type "As long as the river flows Fish Wars" in the platform's search field, numerous historic videos are available to view.

Ms. Parsons asked the young students open-ended questions at the end of the video about the obstacles Tribal leaders faced during the Fish Wars. Very observant responses from the students included jail time for those arrested, racism from some of the opposition, ignorance of treaty guarantees and reserved rights for treaty Tribes.

Elaine McCloud, Chehalis Tribal Elder and retired Indian educator, spoke after the video and brief discussion with students. She said that the Renegade Six – Jack McCloud Sr. (her husband's father), Don McCloud, Billy Frank Jr., Neugen Kautz, Herman John Jr. and Al Bridges – were pictured on her bag.

They were a group of fishermen who went out and said, "We're going to keep fishing." This was in response to the repression and terror invoked on the people who were just trying to put food on their families' tables.

Attendees received stickers, informational pamphlets and smoked salmon. A small 3D replica of a statue of Billy was passed from student to student. It was explained that two bronze cast statues would be created and installed in the Washington State Capitol Building and in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy of Ecotrust

Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine McCloud (above) shares the contributions of Billy Frank Jr. (left), a renowned environmental leader and advocate of treaty rights.

QUILTS

From pages 6-7

environment of Vietnam. It was 85 degrees at night there, and that was a cool night.

"There were a lot of good days, a lot of bad days. I don't usually talk about the bad days. But for the good days, mail would come in on the airplanes and they'd be parachuted in. So every six weeks, we'd get our mail," Curtis said.

He spoke for a while reminiscing and concluded, "I hope I didn't speak too long and I am glad for your honor and appreciation."

Volunteers from Quilts of Valor wrapped Curtis in a beautiful quilt decorated with eagles.

Next to speak was Jimmy Burnett, who served in the Army.

"We had people coming from all over the world to be trained at Fort McClellan and my job was to orient them to post. See that they got their proper training in chemical warfare. It was

all administrative. I was non-combatant," Jimmy explained. "I got out in 1963 just as Vietnam was starting so my duty was all clean. I wasn't out there in the brush with those guys, but it was an honor for me to serve our country. If they'd take old men, I'd do it again."

Jimmy was wrapped in a quilt featuring a large eagle in the middle of the main square.

Volunteer Mary Brawner read a poem: "Proud of our veterans, we are proud of our veterans. Proud of you all who are patriots and heroes who answered the call with courage, strength and sacrifice. You saw our country through. Thank you, thank you, thank you to you. We are proud of our veterans, proud of you all. You are citizens with honor and faith standing tall. Our freedom is assured to us because you all came through. Thank you, thank you, thank you to you all. Thank you, thank you, thank you to you all. Thank you, thank you, thank you to you."



The Burnett Family accepts a stunning quilt featuring an eagle.

Chehalis Tribal Days

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA



PLUS A COASTAL JAM!

5 p.m. Friday, Community Center gym (with dinner)

LUCKY EAGLE CASINO & HOTEL ROOMS: Book online using offer code TRIBAL DAYS or call 360-273-2000 or 800-720-1788 and mention the code

MAY 22-25

- Men's hardball +1 token
- Women's softball +1 token
- Co-ed softball +1 men's token and +1 women's token

\$400 entry per team

Make checks payable to: Chehalis Tribe, P.O. Box 536, Oakville, WA 98568

Awards: First through fourth place, MVP, all-stars and best bat

CHEHALIS TRIBAL ART EXHIBIT

Noon-4 p.m. Saturday/Sunday at the Tribal Center lobby. Chehalis Tribal members who are interested in displaying their art should contact Sheilah Bray at 360-709-1783 or sbray@chehalis-tribe.org.

18TH ANNUAL CANCER WALK

Noon Sunday at Legends Field picnic area. Show your support with family and friends!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES & MORE

CONTACT: Email Phil Youckton at pyouckton@chehalis-tribe.org or call/text 360-688-3380 for questions about the tournaments, Cancer Walk, Coastal Jam or vendor spaces

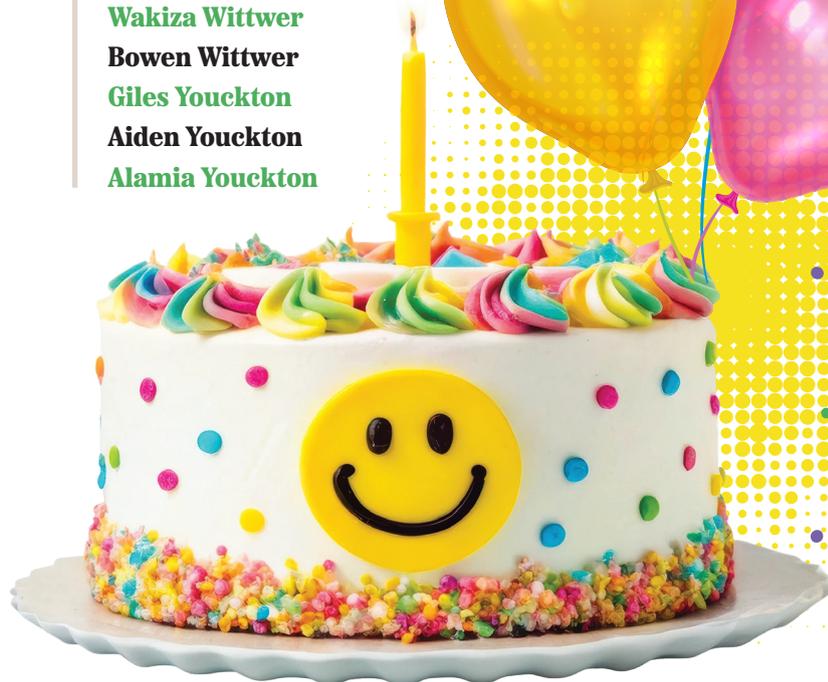
FOOD VENDORS: Chehalis Tribal members only

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kenedy Adams
Amy Andrews-Mashburn
Kelli Baker
Amanda Batres
Daryl Beckwith
Cristina Blacketer
Glen Bobb
Rodney Boyd
Samuel Boyd
Kevin Bray
Nadine Burnett
Gregory Burnett
Hector Canales Jr.
Emma Caverly
Gaughe Culver
Claudea Daniels
Joselyn Delameter-Neifert
Dominic Delgado
Asher Demeo
Emma Fern
Remy Garrety
Jesse Gleason
Daniel Gleason Sr.
Eldon Gleason
Steven Gunnels
Dennis Gunnels
Jean Haltom
Amber Hanna
Deidra Hawkes
Dakota Hernandez

Rhonda Higgins
Lynn Hoheisel
Jack Jones
Makya Klatush
Emmarie Klatush
Charles Latch Jr.
Avery Lockett
Rycker Longino
Jordan Lopez
Javier Lopez-Sanchez
Normaraye Lyons
Max Lyons
Stephanie Medina
Anthony Medina
Jared Mordhorst
Jazmyn Nath
Angelia Oliver
Gary Ortivez Jr.
Dalia Perez
Bonnie Phillips
Segne Phillips
Tracy Pickernell
Jessica Pickernell
Daniel Poling Jr.
Randall Powell-Johnson
Courtney Price
Maureen Prince
Kaleah Quilt
April Reynolds
Antonio Sanchez
Robert Sanchez

Brandy Sanchez
Freddie Sanchez III
Ayden Sanders
Chavez Secena
Daryl Shortman
Serena Starr
Andrew Starr
James Teague Jr.
Gavin Vigil
Enyo Visaya
Annie White
Lykaios White
Eagle-Rosbaugh
Jonathan Williams
Hawk Wittwer
Wakiza Wittwer
Bowen Wittwer
Giles Youckton
Aiden Youckton
Alamia Youckton





55+ Chehalis ELDERS LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 16th, 2026
@Lucky Eagle Casino

Doors- 10:00AM
Theme: Sports

Come Dressed in your favorite sports attire

- **Door Prizes** **Block of rooms available at**
- **Raffles** **Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel**
- **Vendors** **Please Call (360)273-2000**

MORE INFO  Skye White Eagle
swhiteeagle@chehalisribe.org
(360)709-1731



Attention class of 2026

Just a friendly reminder to high school seniors and their families that graduation is right around the corner. The Chehalis Tribe will celebrate our graduating seniors with a dinner and recognition ceremony. If you are aware of any community or Tribal member who is getting ready to graduate, please have them contact us to make sure they are on our list of graduates.




GET IN TOUCH
Please contact JJ Shortman at 360-709-1749 or Jodie Smith at 360-709-1897



CALL FOR CANCER WALK SIGN SPONSORSHIP

\$60 SINGLE – \$50/EA MULTIPLE

Get a personalized Awareness Ribbon!

We are looking for individuals, families, or organizations who would like to sponsor an awareness ribbon to have along the path during the annual Cancer Walk. Come get an application!

CHEHALIS TRIBAL COMMUNITY CENTER
461 Secena Rd., Oakville, WA

Personalization Includes:

- Name of loved one on the ribbon
- Color of ribbon for type of cancer
- Saying on ribbon, 'Fighter', 'In Loving Memory', 'Survivor', other

Become a sponsor and help us get more people recognized!




kolland@chehalisribe.org (360)709-1721 jduenas@chehalisribe.org

CHEHALIS TRIBAL MEMBERS MARINERS BASEBALL TICKETS





CONTACT: Kelsey Bray at kelsey.bray@chehalisribe.org or 360-709-1781; Jodine Duenas at jduenas@chehalisribe.org or 360-709-1721

Limited tickets available. You must provide an email to have tickets sent. Chehalis Tribal members ages 18-54 and those who haven't signed up before will be given priority

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
April 12	Houston Astros	1:10 p.m.
April 13	Houston Astros	1:10 p.m.
April 17	Texas Rangers	6:40 p.m.
April 20	Athletics	6:40 p.m.
April 21	Athletics	6:40 p.m.
April 22	Athletics	1:10 p.m.

By Shelby McCrory

TALKING CEDAR BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Talking Cedar Brewery showcased its products at two prominent events in February – Ilani Brewfest and Hops & Props at the Museum of Flight. During the gatherings, around 6,000 attendees were served, connecting with beer enthusiasts from all over the region. The standout star at both festivals was our Raspberry Blonde, which received enthusiastic

**TALKING
CEDAR**



feedback and kept the taps flowing throughout the weekend.

Production momentum continues to build at the brewery. February was outpacing January and on track to exceed any monthly production totals from 2025.

Supporting this growth, our new keg washer, sanitizer and filler system is now fully commissioned.

The equipment upgrade is delivering significant improvements in operational efficiency, consistency and overall product quality.

Talking Cedar attended the Reservation Economic Summit (RES) 2026 from March 23-26 and showcased products in a new booth designed to welcome attendees, share our story and offer samples of our spirits. The space will serve as a place to connect with industry partners and fellow Tribal enterprises while introducing more people to the Talking Cedar brand.

END OF THE TRAIL STORES

End of the Trail recently launched Garlic Parmesan Battered Joes, a crispy twist on a beloved classic that is receiving positive feedback. A new grilled chicken entrée is in the works and has the potential to become a menu staple. EOT is now offering Talking Cedar Juicy Imperial (19.2 oz cans) and Chehalis Light 24-packs.

OAKSRIDGE GOLF COURSE

The Men's Club is excited to announce its first tournament of the season on March 21. The course is available for public play after 10 a.m.

Winter rates and hours continue. Please call ahead for availability as weather conditions might affect business hours and cart availability.

We're hiring! For career opportunities, visit chehalistribalenterprises.com



TRIBAL TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to **Laura Boyd**. Laura is a valued host/cashier at Talking Cedar Restaurant. She often steps in to serve and is ready to help when others can't make their shift. As the first person guests see when they walk through the doors, she consistently creates a warm and welcoming first impression. When last-minute lunch meetings or unexpected groups arrive, Laura is quick



to step in to ensure excellent service. Her positive attitude and team-first mindset make a meaningful difference in daily operations. Laura is eager to continue growing and learning new responsibilities at Talking Cedar to expand her skills and step into a supervisory role. Laura is a great asset to the Talking Cedar team.

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.

STAFF

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

TRIBAL CENTER

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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



Sharing gratitude for our Tribal employees

Thanks for all you do!

More than 200 employees gathered at the Chehalis Tribe's Community Center on March 6 for the annual Employee Appreciation Brunch.

The Business Committee welcomed workers and their families to the gym. Everyone lined up for the celebratory meal featuring scrambled eggs, bagels and cream cheese, fruit plates, sweet pastries, bacon, sausages and biscuits and gravy.

Business Committee members expressed their appreciation for the hard work and dedication staffers provide to the Tribe.

After the remarks, the raffles kicked off. Philip Youckton served as the MC with Cheryl Starr, Sheila Bray and Kelsey Holland as backup for raffle record keeping.

It was great to visit with each other and accept gratitude from the Business Committee.



Chehalis Tribe employees and their families connected over good food at the Employee Appreciation Brunch.