



CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

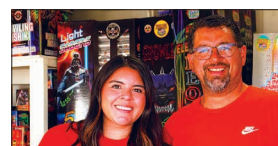
The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, 'People of the Sands'

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EMBRACING HISTORY

Tribal members celebrate 162 years of sovereignty at original Grand Mound site

By Frazier Myer

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Day celebration was held on July 8 at the Original Grand Mound in the unincorporated town of Grand Mound.

This location is one of the historical sites for the Chehalis Tribal people, as they used to gather and hold ceremonies on this piece of land.

There are legends passed down from the Elders that this was a spot with one of the highest mounds in the area. Before the view was blocked by new-growth forest, ancestors used this location as a lookout to view far in the distance when hunting or navigating the area. It's nearly 10 miles from the current/main Chehalis Tribal reservation in Oakville.

See **CEREMONY** / page 2



The Chehalis Tribe plans to utilize the historical site called Original Grand Mound. This place was used as a lookout by Tribal ancestors in previous centuries.



Photo by Dyani Cayenne

The Chehalis Canoe Family completes a reverent passage as part of the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually Medicine Creek Potlatch.

Warm welcome ashore

Canoe Journey follows ancestral highways to Nisqually

By Frazier Myer

Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine McCloud spoke at the final landing of the 2026 Canoe Journey on Friday, July 31. The ceremony took place on the Nisqually Tribe's waterways at Sequelitchew Creek in Dupont.

The Tribal Canoe Journey has been an annual event since 1989 and is held

by a different Tribal Nation each year.

More than 90 canoes completed the 2026 voyage and landed at the historical site. They asked to permission to come ashore and take part in the final protocol from Aug. 1-5.

McCloud was selected to represent the Chehalis Tribe at the event and

See **JOURNEY** / page 4

CEREMONY

From page 1

July 8, 1864, is when the Chehalis Tribe received federal recognition from the United States government, which granted them sovereignty and the right to self-govern and create policies and bylaws.

This year's ceremony marks 162 years since recognition from the United States government. It was decided to host the event at the original Grand Mound to introduce this plot of land to the Chehalis Tribal community, many of whom have never visited the historical site.

A group of Chehalis Tribal Elders and fellow Tribal members attend the ceremony, which included a small potluck and chance to gather and share stories.



Chehalis Tribal members gathered in Grand Mound for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Day.

'The Story of the Flood'

One of the stories shared was a Chehalis legend called "The Story of the Flood." As presented by the Chehalis Tribe Heritage Program, the story goes:

A long time ago, the animals and birds lived as people. In this particular village lived a young man named Thrush.

Thrush wanted to marry a certain young girl, but her parents did not approve of him. The Young girl, however, wished to marry him. The girl persisted and finally her parents gave their consent. Thrush and the young girl were married.

Thrush always had a dirty face. He never washed before he ate. His mother-in-law asked him, "Why don't you wash your face?" Thrush did not answer. The next morning, she asked again, "Why don't you wash your face? It's getting dirty." Thrush once again did not reply. She asked him the question for five days in a row.

Finally on the fifth day, Thrush said, "If I wash my face, something will happen." Nevertheless, his wife's parents still insisted. Then they gave him an ultimatum. "If you don't wash your face, we'll take our daughter away from you." So, Thrush finally gave in. "All right then, I'll wash my face." He went to the river to wash his face and sang:

"Father-in-law, mother-in-law, keep moving back from the river."

He washed his face. The dirt rolled off, leaving his face streaked all over. Then it began to rain. It rained all day.

Thrush told his in-laws: "Move back from the river. I washed my face as you asked."



The river continued to rise. It rained many days and nights. Soon, there were no places for the people to stand but in the water.

The water rose and covered everything. There was no place for them to go. Many drifted away and were never seen again.

Thrush, his wife and his in-laws landed their canoe on this side of the land, in the Upper Chehalis country. There was only the top of one tall fir tree sticking out of the water. And that is where the people tied their canoe.

They got together and planned what they should do next. They agreed that someone needed to dive in the water and see how deep it was. Muskrat dove into the water and came up with some dirt. He dove down into the water five times. Each time, he brought up some dirt.

From the dirt, he made a little mountain. He told the people to land there, that they would be safe. He told the people, "This is the mountain that I have made for you so that you can be safe". The people called that mountain Tiger Lily Mountain. It is known today as Black Mountain.



After the water receded and the earth dried up, the earth was found to be covered with dried whales (fossils). At Gate, not far from Mima Prairie, the earth remains in the shape of the waves. It extends like this for 4 or 5 miles.

After the water subsided, the earth was just like new, and people could begin all over again. It was said, "There shall never again be a person who will cause a flood when he washes his face." Thrush turned and flew away.

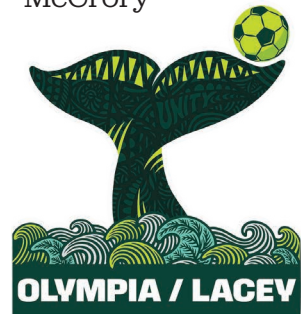


TALKING CEDAR BREWERY & DISTILLERY

Talking Cedar Brewery & Distillery was proud to be a sponsor of the Olympia/Lacey FIFA Fan Zone, providing the VIP Bar and supplying beer for the General Admission Bar. The event welcomed more than 5,500 attendees – the perfect opportunity to showcase our brewery to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Our craft beers and kegged cocktails

were incredibly popular throughout the event, with the PNW IPA standing out as a fan favorite. It was exciting to see so many guests enjoying Talking Cedar beverages and to continue building awareness of our brand at such a well-attended community event. The photos above capture our PNW IPA being served during the festivities.

By Shelby McCrory



BLUEBERRY FARM

Blueberry season is in full swing! The farm stand is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, offering both U-pick and hand-picked berries for purchase. Customers can also find our fresh blueberries from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday at Olympia Farmers Market.

Commercial harvesting is progressing smoothly with a strong crop and a successful season so far. We look forward to welcoming visitors to the farm and providing fresh, locally grown blueberries to our community throughout the season.



OAKSRIDGE GOLF COURSE

Summer is our busiest time at the golf course! If you intend to rent a golf cart, please call ahead to confirm availability.

Tournament schedule: The course will be closed in the morning on tournament days, reopening for public play in the afternoon once the tournament has finished.

Clubhouse hours: Open daily from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Last golf cart must be returned by 7:45 p.m.

Cost: \$24 for 18 holes (\$20 Elders) and \$13 for 9 holes (Elders \$12).



Photos by Dyani Cayenne

Chehalis Tribal Elder Elaine McCloud asks for permission to come ashore July 31 as Tribal representatives, including Miss Chehalis Taryn Baker, reached the end of the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually.

JOURNEY

From page 1

share a few words:

“Good afternoon, my relatives. We are the Chehalis Canoe Family. We are the Chehalis Canoe Family. We are the Chehalis Canoe Family. My name is Elaine McCloud. I’m a Chehalis Tribal Elder. We travel with these two canoes on this beautiful day out on the ancestral highways. We are so grateful for the invitation to come here with our relatives,” she said. “We are thankful for the ancestors that line these shores to welcome all the canoers ashore. We are thankful for the ancestors that traveled with us in our canoes. We are very grateful that we can carry on these traditions that our ancestors were prohibited from doing.”

She finished by saying, “It’s been a hot day. We are tired. We are hungry. And we are asking for

permission to come ashore.”

Chehalis Tribal member Shayden Baker was skipper on the Chehalis Canoe Family’s new canoe, the Chehalis Warrior, for the final pull of the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually. Shayden also asked permission to come ashore and join the final protocol.

Nisqually royalty and Council

spent the afternoon welcoming tribes to their homelands of the Medicine Creek Treaty. The Chehalis Canoe Family was greeted after days of traveling the water and camping out at various tribal reservations along the way.

This final portion of the Journey took place at the protocol tent and camp site on the Nisqually

Reservation. During the final protocol, tribes from across the region – including Natives from Alaska, Canada and Hawaii – will share their culture and traditions through songs, dances and storytelling. Those in attendance also visited various vendors selling traditional Native American arts and crafts and many types of food.



The Chehalis Canoe Family held a ceremony July 24 on the Chehalis Reservation before departing for the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually.

Solar project wraps up

Chehalis homeowners receive energy-producing panels, options for future

By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribal Planning Department recently helped six families with installation of solar panels on their homes.

Tribal homeowners will now save money on their energy bill while decreasing the carbon footprint on the Chehalis Reservation. The energy produced will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that is associated with other forms of electricity use.

From the planning and application process to final installation of panels, the project took months to complete.

South Sound Solar of Olympia wrapped up installation on July 6. The company previously worked with the Tribe during construction of the new Elders Center.

Solar power – a form of clean electricity – reduces monthly electricity bills and is designed to produce for decades. Upgrades to homes with solar will also provide backup power during outages.

“For this specific project, the average projected cumulative savings per address are estimated at approximately \$5,673 after 5 years, \$29,793 after 20 years, and \$106,630 over the estimated 40-year useful life of the system,” according to representatives from South Sound Solar via email.

Washington might not be the first place people think of for solar, but it can still work well here.

Solar panels do not need hot weather to produce electricity – they need daylight.

While production is higher during the sunnier months, systems are designed around local weather, seasonal changes, roof orientation, shading and expected annual energy production.

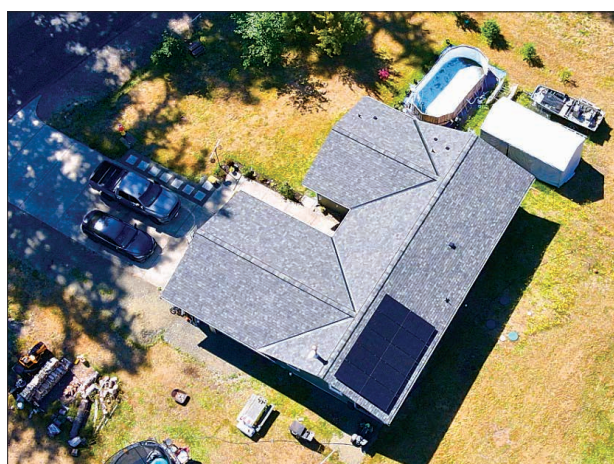
Solar companies such as South Sound Solar carefully model how much electricity a system is expected to generate over the course of the entire year, rather than judging its performance by one cloudy day or season.

In Western Washington, the longer days of spring and summer allow systems to produce more electricity, helping balance lower production during the shorter winter months.



Photos from South Sound Solar

South Sound Solar of Olympia completed installation of solar panels on Chehalis Tribal homes on July 6.

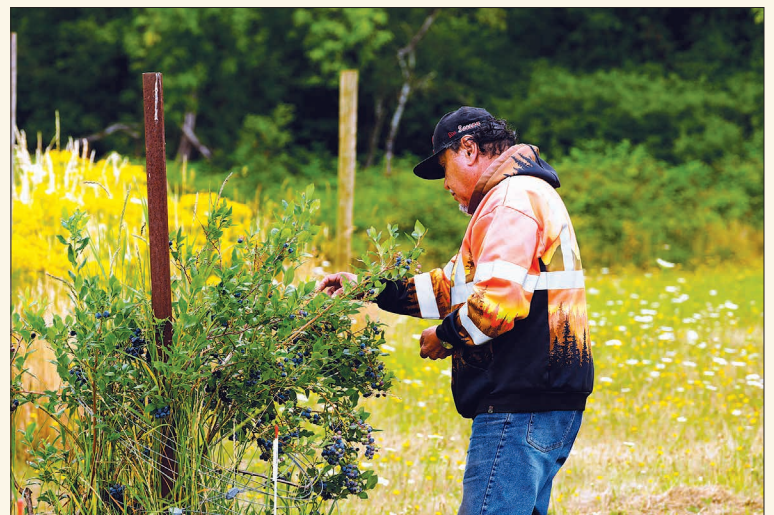


ELDERS

Bursting with flavor

Tribal Elders pick delicious blueberries at Black River Blues Blueberry Farm on the mornings of July 23 and 25. The Chehalis Tribe acquired the farm on Moon Road in Rochester during spring 2023. The berries are used for many types of baked goods and other treats.

Photos by Dyani Cayenne





Happy birthday!

The Chehalis Tribal Elders July Birthday Dinner was held at Talking Cedar Restaurant in Grand Mound on July 23. Booking the event space and offering a buffet-style dinner with a variety of delectable foods made the occasion extra special.

Photos by Dyani Cayenne



CHEHALIS TRIBAL LOAN FUND PRESENTS

6th Annual Golf Tournament

Grab your foursome for a day of golf, prizes, and community — every dollar supports financial education, coaching, and fair lending.

Aug 21

Friday, 2026
9:00 AM putting contest
10:00 AM shotgun start

Oaksridge

Golf Course, Elma WA
4-person scramble
bring your own clubs

\$125

per player
18 holes · cart · lunch
taco bar by Great Wolf
Lodge

Day-of highlights

Hole-in-One — win a Harley-Davidson \$2,500 cash putting contest
Taco Bar by Great Wolf Lodge Elite Mechanical's Hydration Station

★ REGISTER BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026 ★



PREMIER SPONSOR

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation



Call or email to register

ctlf@ctloanfund.org · (360) 226-0619
\$125 per player

USDA FOOD PICKUP

10:30 AM-1:30PM AUG. 21

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Save the
DATE!

If you or a member of your household are enrolled in a federally recognized Tribe or you live within reservation boundaries, you might be eligible for SPIPA's program. The USDA food pickup offers food to fill up your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards. Items are first-come, first-served. Must show Tribal ID at the time of pickup.

LEARN MORE:

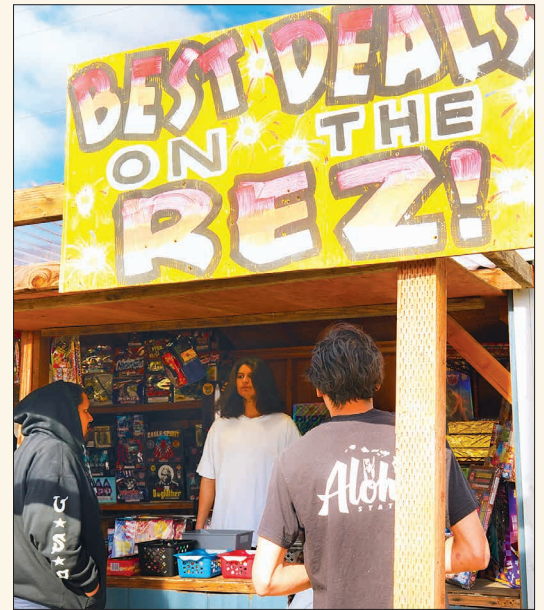
Please call
360-426-3990



HOLIDAY

Razzle dazzle

Each year, Chehalis Tribal members and their families operate fireworks stands and help the surrounding community prepare for Fourth of July celebrations and shows. The annual tradition on the Chehalis Reservation is a summer business opportunity that has been passed on through generations. Many stand owners started out as youngsters working for their parents or grandparents.





Patriotic celebration

Don Terry was honored as the Grand Marshal of the 2026 Oakville Independence Day Parade. Prior to retirement, Terry worked for the Chehalis Tribe's Planning department for years. Chehalis Tribal Royalty showcased the tribal canoe Tulap as a float in the parade.



Chehalis Tribal Member Financial Needs Survey

WHEN: Nov. 7 at the Annual General Council Meeting

ABOUT: The Financial Needs Survey will help design GWE programs/benefits and allow the Tribe to determine basic living costs of Chehalis Tribal member adults. The data can help decide benefits under programs administered under the Tribe's GWE Ordinance.



Raffle prizes are paid by check

10 people \$500
30 people \$100
40 people \$50

Diaper distribution



10:30 AM-
1:30 PM
AUG. 21

You might qualify for diapers, wipes or pull-ups! Households on or near Tribal lands and enrolled in programs such as WIC, SNAP or TANF might be eligible



**CHEHALIS
TRIBAL
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

Call 360-426-3990

Building safe communities

Tribe shares valuable resources at emergency readiness event

By Clint Davis

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation proudly participated in the 2026 Grays Harbor Emergency Management Preparedness EXPO from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. July 25 in Aberdeen.

The annual event brought together emergency management agencies, first responders, community organizations and residents to promote disaster preparedness and public safety throughout the region.

Representing the Chehalis Tribe were Tribal Emergency Manager Clint Davis and Emergency Management Coordinator Cal Bray. They staffed the Tribal Emergency Management booth and shared valuable preparedness information with community members of all ages.

Visitors to the booth received information and educational materials covering a variety of topics, including:

- Water storage and purification methods
- Wildfire and home fire preparedness
- Earthquake and family emergency planning
- Emergency communications, including backup communication options during disasters
- Building emergency supply kits for homes and vehicles

Davis and Bray spoke with attendees about the importance of being prepared before disasters occur and encouraged families to develop plans, maintain adequate emergency supplies and stay informed through reliable communication systems.

Adding to the fun and community spirit of the event, Davis joined fellow Grays Harbor emergency managers and regional fire chiefs by taking a turn in the EXPO dunk tank.

"The best time to prepare is before an emergency happens," said Davis. "Events like the Preparedness EXPO provide an excellent opportunity to educate our community, answer questions and help families become more resilient when faced with natural disasters or other emergencies."

The dunk tank at the 2026 Grays Harbor Emergency Management Preparedness EXPO in Aberdeen drew in attendees and promoted emergency preparedness in a fun and engaging way.



HONORING NATIVE COMMUNITY STRENGTH

Lung cancer impacts many of our families

Commercial tobacco increases cancer risk
Traditional tobacco is sacred/used with respect

TAKE ACTION

- Talk with your healthcare provider
- Get help quitting commercial tobacco
- Encourage family & friends to quit & get screened for lung cancer
- Take care of each other & our community



What to watch for

- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- Feeling very tired
- Unexpected weight loss

Screening

- Finding cancer early saves lives
- Ask your health care provider for a lung cancer screening

Visit americanindiancancer.org | [Lung Cancer](#), scan the QR, or Ask Your Tribal Clinic Patient Navigator for More Information



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH



APPENDIX CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Know warning signs of appendix cancer & get medical care!

- Rare cancer important to detect early
- Often found during surgery
- Signs: pain or swelling in the lower right side of the belly



Strong communities care for one another.

Learn the signs, seek care early, and help protect future generations.

Take Action

- ✓ Talk to a healthcare provider if you have ongoing belly problems
- ✓ Ask questions if something doesn't feel right
- ✓ Encourage family to get checked
- ✓ Care for yourself & your community

For More Information, talk to your healthcare provider, visit ClevelandClinic.org | [Appendix-Cancer](#) or scan the QR code.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



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@chehalistribe.org.

Wayne Barr
Merle Benda
Thomas Blacketer
Alvin Boyd
Douglas Boyd
Henrietta Boyd
Sylvanna Bracero
Jordan Bray
Renesmee Brown
Michael Brown
Adrian Brown
Johnny Bumgarner
Lon Burgess
Ryan Burnett
Allen Bush
Mark Colson
Kaiden Delgado
Leon Falk
Ronald Fanning
Cedar Flores
Kayleen Fulton
Shayleen Fulton
Elizabeth Fulton

Bradley Gitchel
James Gunnels
William Heck
Adrian Hjelm-Snell
Faith Hoheisel
Jordan Howe
Amanda Jennings
Jovonni Jimenez Sanchez
Anthony Joe
Jake Jones
Chase Klatush
Nyah McCrory
Amiyah McElvain
Kly Meas
L'Ree Minthorne
Sarah Myer
Kekoa Ortiz
Makya Ortiz-Hicks
Victoria Parent
Haken Phillips
Gerald Pickernell
Natalie Pickernell

Jenee Redecker
Mila Rogers
Monica Sanchez
Leo Sanchez
Misty Secena
Dawson Slighte
Riley Smith
Lee Starr
Syllis Sullivan
Lataya Tanner
William Thoms
Siprianna White
Eagle-Rosbaugh
Ashley Wittwer
Ares Wittwer
Cynthia Yawn
Geraldine Youckton
Sheena Youckton
Owen Youckton
Preston Youckton
Daulton Youckton
Anthony Youckton
Anthony Youckton Jr.



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

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

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Boost for Native-led loans

Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund signs lending agreement with USDA Rural Housing

Provided by CTLF

Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund (CTLF) has signed a lending agreement with USDA Rural Housing under the Native CDFI Relending Demonstration Program, marking a new chapter in the organization's mission to expand homeownership opportunities in the Chehalis Tribal community.

The agreement provides CTLF with mortgage lending capital to originate affordable first mortgage loans for eligible families on Tribal land in Grays Harbor County. For CTLF, the partnership represents a significant expansion of its lending capabilities — adding mortgage lending to a portfolio that already includes auto financing, credit building and small business development.

"This is more than a contract," said CTLF Executive Director Tamra Marlowe De Nova at the signing ceremony. "This is the beginning of a new chapter in our work to help families move closer to safe, stable and affordable homeownership."

The USDA Relending Demonstration Program channels mortgage capital through certified Native CDFIs rather than conventional lenders, recognizing that community-based organizations are best positioned to serve Native borrowers on trust land. CTLF will qualify borrowers, originate loans and

“

This did not happen overnight. It took persistence, planning and a shared belief that our community deserves access to the same opportunities as anyone else.

TAMRA MARLOWE DE NOVA,
CTLF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

”

provide long-term servicing — the kind of relationship-based lending the organization was built to do.

"We are grateful to USDA for recognizing the importance of Native-led lending and for investing in solutions that meet our communities where they are," De Nova said. "This did not happen overnight. It took persistence, planning and a shared belief that our community deserves access to the same opportunities as anyone else."

CTLF is a U.S. Treasury-certified Native CDFI and 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Oakville. Founded by the Chehalis Tribe in 2006 and independently operated since 2010, CTLF's mission — Brick by Brick: Paving the way to Financial Empowerment through Education, Coaching and Fair Lending — has guided nearly two decades of service to the Chehalis Tribal community and surrounding rural areas of southwest Washington.



USDA Washington State
Director Kirk Pearson greets
CTLF Executive Director
Tamra Marlowe De Nova and
Board Chair Kevin Bray.