

CHEHALIS TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

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

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Contributed by Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush

Fish is cooked over an open fire at the Chehalis Tribe's annual Salmon Ceremony.

Tribal Days

An action-packed Memorial Day weekend knocks it out of the park

By Frazier Myer

Hundreds of people from Native American Tribes in the local region enjoyed the 2026 Chehalis Tribal Days tournaments and festivities on Memorial Day weekend.

The annual four-day event is the time of the year when the Chehalis people invite all the local tribes to put teams in the baseball/softball tournaments. The teams compete in three different brackets: men's hardball, women's softball and co-ed softball. The games kicked off at 7 p.m. Friday evening with games at Tomahawk Stadium on both the hardball and softball fields.

Games continued first thing Saturday

See **TRIBAL DAYS** / pages 6-8



Four-day extravaganza puts baseball, art, food and supportive Cancer Walk in spotlight.

Salmon feast offers gratitude

Traditional ceremony honors sacred fish

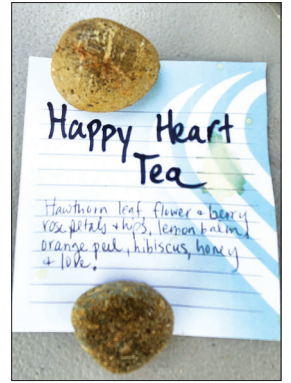
By Frazier Myer

The Chehalis Tribe's 2026 Salmon Ceremony took place on May 13. The two-part ceremony started by honoring the salmon along the Chehalis River and followed with a feast for the Tribal community.

Each year, celebrating the first fish begins early in the morning as Chehalis Tribal fisherman and other Tribal members teach youth about the meaningful cultural tradition. Salmon has served as a vital source of sustainability for Tribal people in the Pacific Northwest for centuries. As the group gathers down at the Chehalis River, youth place the remaining carcass of the salmon on a cedar plank and release it down

See **SALMON** / page 12

HERITAGE/CULTURE



Intertribal Camas Dig participants harvest bulbs bursting with healing benefits.

Dig into colorful camas

By Frazier Myer

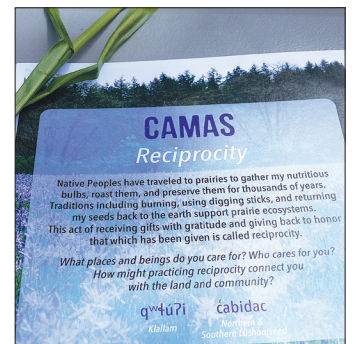
The Intertribal Camas Dig on May 9 brought harvesters to Stonewall Prairie Farm in Tenino. The cultivation of camas prairies has promoted diverse food and natural medicines for thousands of years. Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest have practiced harvesting techniques, cooking methods and prairie management for centuries.

The event was hosted in partnership between Ecostudies Institute, Squaxin Island Tribe's Salish Roots Farm and the Native Plants & Foods Institute.

Stonewall Prairie Farm has a vast acreage of fresh camas during the harvesting period from mid-April to mid-June. Native people in the area have maintained and managed the camas prairies for generations. Without this practice, prairies and their natural resources would likely be extinct.

Camas is an important food for Native people. Families traveled great distances to harvest the bulbs, which can be boiled, roasted or dried and preserved for use later. Bulbs taste bland if cooked quickly but become molasses-like when roasted for 24-36 hours.

Dietary staple used by generations harvested at Stonewall Prairie Farm



Source: Tend, Gather & Grow Resource Booklet

Woven treasures

Indigenous basketry, fiber arts techniques the focus of annual get-together

By Frazier Myer

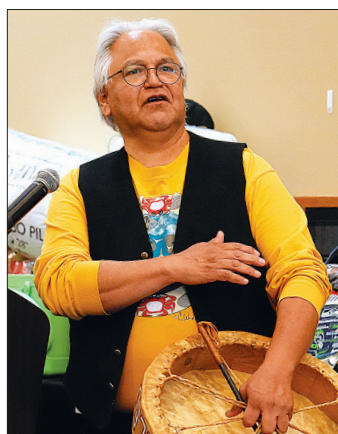
The Hazel Pete Institute of Chehalis Basketry hosted the Hazel Pete Weavers Teaching Weavers event May 8-9 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound. Weavers of all skill levels gathered at the annual event to challenge themselves, relearn and adapt basketry techniques by learning from master weavers. Multiple vendors were set up and selling traditional Native American arts and crafts. A buffet lunch was provided each day for those in attendance.



TEACHING WEAVERS

Items that could be created during the two-day event included: Quill earrings, rawhide sheath, waxed linen flat basket, rectangular cedar basket, cedar visor, cedar basket/vase, red cedar headband/belt, coil cedar root, leather belt, pine needle coil basket and more

Youth/beginner projects: Leather pouch, rawhide pouch, beaded lapel pen



Master weavers teach various techniques to those seeking to brush up their skills or try new projects at Hazel Pete event at Great Wolf Lodge.

Benefits Fair shares important resources

By Frazier Myer

Chehalis Tribal Government and Housing Authority employees were invited to attend the 2026 Benefits Fair at the Community Center throughout the day on May 12.

Various vendors were set up in the gymnasium, ready to share details and answer questions about all of the benefits and resources available to employees and their families.

Employees received a raffle ticket for their attendance and had the opportunity to get more tickets for prizes once they completed a checklist for visiting various vendors.

Raffle prizes included tool sets, gas cards, gift baskets and more.

There were also raffle drawings for grand prizes such as Mariners Suite tickets, an overnight stay at Great Wolf Lodge and a 2-in-1 electric scooter.

Employees enjoyed a free taco bar lunch inside the Gathering Room.

FAIR VENDORS

- Blue Link:** Medical
- Ameritas:** Dental and vision
- Symetra:** Life and disability
- Canopy:** Employee Assist Program
- Transamerica:** 401k and Roths
- SCS:** Financial planning
- USI:** Broker representing Navia
- Navia:** FSA, HRAs and Cobra
- Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund
- KeyBank
- Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center
- Behavioral Health
- Emergency Management
- Chehalis Tribal Housing Authority
- Head Start
- Hope & Healing Clinic
- NW Portland Area Indian Health
- Olympia Orthopedics
- Rochester Chiropractic
- South Sound Behavioral Health
- Summit Pacific Medical Center
- Walmart Vision Center (Aberdeen)
- Tribal Government HR and payroll



Valuable resources, lunch and the chance to win great prizes were made available to Tribal employees during the Benefits Fair on May 12.

FIBER INTERNET NOTICE

FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITY

All service requests, sales inquiries, billing questions, outages and support must be directed solely to Astound Fiber. Please do not contact Chehalis Tribal Enterprises, Housing, Planning or the Tribal Government for fiber assistance

CONTACT INFORMATION

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206-775-9044

robert.humphreys@astound.com



USDA FOOD PICKUP

10 AM-1:30 PM

JUNE 18

COMMUNITY CENTER

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 USDA food pickup program. Food to fill up your freezer, refrigerator and cupboards. First-come, first-served. Must show Tribal ID at pickup.



MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 360-426-3990



WE'RE HIRING!
To find career opportunities, go to chehalistribalenterprises.com

TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Congratulations to **John McCrory**. John joined Black River Blues as a seasonal blueberry pruner in our early off-season and was recently promoted to a full-time farm laborer! He is learning the ins and outs of all things blueberries as we gear up for the 2026 harvest season. The daily demands of operating the farm can be challenging and intricate. John shows a great work ethic, rain or shine, and he is awesome to have on the Chehalis Tribal Farms team.



**BLACK RIVER BLUES
BLUEBERRY
FARM**

By Shelby McCrory

CONFEDERATED CONSTRUCTION CREW

Tribal Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrades Completed:

The Petoie & Fern Wastewater System rehabilitation was successfully completed in April on time and on budget. The project included major repairs and replacements to sewer infrastructure, installation of a new STEP system and full system testing. The improvements enhance service reliability, reduce failure risks and support long-term community health and environmental protection.

The Main Tribal Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) upgrade was completed May 4. The high-priority project modernized the Tribe's central wastewater treatment facility with advanced treatment technology, structural tank repairs and upgraded systems. The treatment capacity is significantly increased and improved effluent quality, supporting the community, casino operations and future growth.

Both projects were delivered with full respect for tribal priorities, minimal disruption to residents and the highest standards of environmental stewardship.

TALKING CEDAR BREWERY & DISTILLERY

The brewery is busier than ever with consistent year-over-year production growth. At Talking Cedar Distillery, sales of Livewire RTD cocktails remain strong, and we produced our second batch of Tailfeather vodka.

April brought a successful showing at Seattle Cocktail Week. Our Amaro, Aperitivo and Triple Sec were standout hits. Custom cocktails at

the Carnival of Cocktails generated strong buzz and drew interest from a California distributor for our non-aged spirits.

Talking Cedar Brewery launched a Tropical IPA in May. It's brewed with passion fruit, orange and guava puree. Fireside IPA

is on special at EOT stores for \$7.99 for a four-pack (16-ounce cans).

With new products, collaborations and growing market interest, Talking Cedar is well-positioned for a busy and successful season ahead.

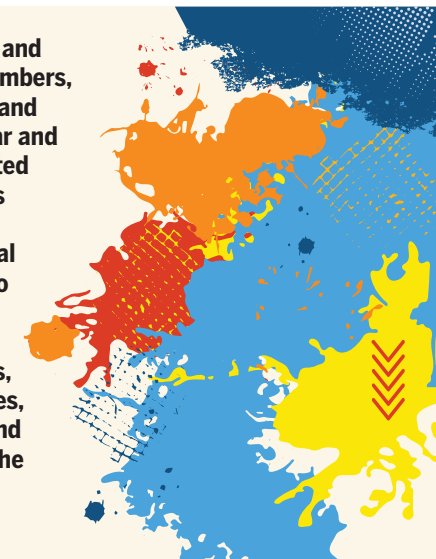
OAKSRIDGE GOLF COURSE

Regular season rates started May 1. Cost is \$24/18 holes (\$20 Elders) and \$13/9 holes (Elders \$12). Carts are first-come, first-served with a wait list at busy times. Call for availability.





Chehalis Tribal and community members, family, friends and visitors from far and wide congregated on the Chehalis Reservation during Memorial Day Weekend to view vibrant art, enjoy youth activities, watch ballgames, visit vendors and participate in the 18th annual Cancer Walk.



Mies Cayenne and Jack Jones earn All Star for their performance on the Tomahawks (above left).

Contributed by Julie Burnett
Pineapple Express won the co-ed championship (above right).



Tyler Klatush took home the MVP for men's hardball.



TRIBAL DAYS

From page 1

morning and activities ramped up as more teams and spectators arrived for the ball games at Tomahawk Stadium and Legends Fields. Multiple vendors set up around the ballfields, serving food and beverages to all those in attendance. Food options varied from many different options, including frybread/Indian tacos, burgers and fries, hotdogs, nachos, ice-cream energy drinks and more. Other vendors were selling arts and crafts and clothing.

Also on Saturday, Chehalis Tribal Fisheries hosted a tradition and staple of Tribal Days by serving the annual fish plate to all those in attendance. Hundreds of people anticipate this delicious meal each year. At \$5 a plate, it's still an affordable meal for everyone. The fish plates are also served on Sunday of Chehalis Tribal Days.

More of the activities continued Sunday. In addition to competitive ball games, the Tribe holds a Cancer Walk every year to support and bring recognition to those impacted by cancer in some form or another. Cancer has affected almost everyone's life – not only those diagnosed but those who have had loved ones who've battled cancer. This event grows each year as more people gather to walk around the reservation in support of survivors and

those who have lost their life because of symptoms of certain types of cancer.

The final day of the event is Championship Monday. Most of the teams are eliminated by this point in the tournaments and only teams competing for the top prizes remain. This year, the Chehalis Tribe had ball players on five of the hardball teams. One of the teams was C'iatqo, which included mainly Chehalis Tribal and community members. C'iatqo lost the first game of the tournament against the Blackhawks but battled their way through the loser's bracket to meet up again with the Blackhawks for a chance to advance to the championship. C'iatqo won in a 5-inning game and moved on to the final round.

The ManDoggs, a Chehalis Tribal team, was undefeated and waiting to see who they would compete against for the Championship Pendleton Jackets. Tyler Klatush started the game with a leadoff run scored for ManDoggs. Klatush was also on the mound pitching and was in control of the game with a strong defense supporting. The ManDoggs controlled both sides of the field as they rallied for many runs while at bat on their way to securing a championship win for the home team. Klatush was named MVP for his outstanding performance all weekend.

Thank you to all those in attendance and thank you to the Chehalis Tribal Events Department for coordinating another successful Tribal Days.



Contributed by Julie Burnett

Next Gen won the women's bracket, scoring championship jackets!





The Mandogs team (above) won the Men's Tribal Days Championship. Tribal families from around the region enjoyed ball games and exciting activities during a busy Memorial Day weekend.





Cemetery Cleanup

On May 15, Chehalis Tribal community members joined together in the morning and early afternoon to offer an annual deep cleaning of the Tribal cemeteries and show love and respect for those who have passed away.



Diaper distribution

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

Call 360-426-3990

10:30 AM-1:30 PM
JUNE 18
COMMUNITY CENTER

Attention community!

The Fisheries Program is asking community members to report mussels in areas that may be drying up at the Chehalis River. Because of shifting river conditions last winter, freshwater mussels are at risk in side channels that dry up as we enter the summer season and can kill entire shellfish beds.



Contact Fisheries and do NOT remove or relocate mussels yourself. They need to be tended to in a specific manner.

PLEASE CONTACT FISHERIES STAFF AT 360-709-1857

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 Delamater
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
Marsalla Jack
June Klatush
Jeffrey Klatush
Paul Klatush
Konner Klatush
Jeremy Klatush
Micheal LeClaire

Alivia Lopez
Adam Lower
Anastasya Lukianov
Tanner McCloud
Andrea McGough
Rachel Mendez
Lindsey Miller
Elaine Myer
Aaron Myer
Cheryl Ogle
Suzanne Ortivez
Joshua Phillips
Danika Pickernell
Harold Pickernell Jr.
Malina 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-Allenbach
Nikki Sanders
Jerry Santiago-Youckton
Sonya Sherman
Jeanette Siufanua
Caiden Starr
Brooke Stein
Johanna Thraillkill
Brendon Torres
Billy Uden
Heather Walker-Taylor
Darian Washburn
Raquel Wellman
Duane Williams Jr.
Winona Youckton
Cael Youckton
Stacy Youckton
Marvin Youckton
Loyala Zaytsev

Tribal Royalty selected

Community members welcomed new Chehalis Tribal Royalty members on May 20 in the Community Center Gathering Room. Pictured below are: Co-Miss Chehalis Susette Klatush (from left), Co-Miss Chehalis Taryn Baker, Junior Miss Chehalis Aryana Klatush, Lil' Miss Chehalis Brooklynn Klatush, Co-Miss Head Start Chehalis Fawn Wittwer, and Co-Miss Head Start Chehalis Alice Youckton.



MARINERS BASEBALL TICKETS



DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
June 16	Baltimore Orioles	6:40 p.m.
June 17	Baltimore Orioles	6:40 p.m.
June 18	Baltimore Orioles	1:10 p.m.
June 20	Boston Red Sox	7:10 p.m.

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

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



Hope and Healing Clinic
Šō•kwalisn

WE ARE HIRING

OPEN POSITIONS

Exciting news! We are hiring and looking for talented individuals to join our team

- Medical Provider (ARNP)
- Peer Counselor
- Safety Team Member

APPLY NOW



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, Designer Audra J. Hill and the Information Technology Team

TRIBAL CENTER

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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 Newsletter is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

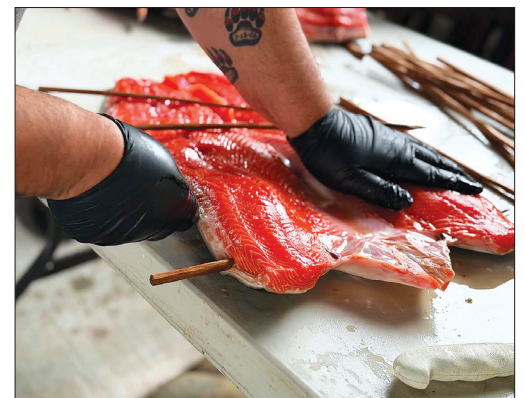
SALMON

From page 1

the river. The second part of the event is a potluck for Chehalis Tribal members and employees. Traditionally, the event is held outside by the Tribe's fish pit. The event was moved inside to the Community Center Gathering Room because of rainy weather.

Chehalis Tribe Chairman Dustin Klatush and Committee Chairman for Fish & Wildlife Adam Lower welcomed everyone. Karen Klatush handed out beaded necklaces to all those in attendance.

Tribal Elder Wayne Barr said a prayer for the food and fellow Chehalis Tribal Elders were first to dish up a fresh fish meal. Thank you to the Chehalis Tribal fishermen who caught and prepared the salmon.



Chehalis Tribal fishermen harvested spring Chinook salmon for the Tribe's annual Salmon Ceremony on May 13. A carcass was preserved and released into the river as a way to honor the sacred food source. A fresh fish meal followed in the Community Center Gathering Room.