

# **Blowing bubbles for Autism**



See **Bubbles**, page 3

## Earth Day every day

PG 5



## Mel Sheldon receives visionary leadership award PG 5



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The Tulalip Tribes are successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie and Skykomish Tribe and other tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliot, January 22, 1855

syəcəb, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

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In memoriam: Frank F. Madison, 1923-2002 Sherrill Guydelkon, 1945-2008

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Note: Updates and revisions done to the mailing list happen quarterly. The list is updated February, May, August and November of each year. You an contact Kalvin Valdillez at kvaldillez@tulaliptribes-nsn. gov for specific issues of the paper.

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has prepared a final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Tulalip Tribes' construction of corridor improvements along 4th and 88th streets in the vicinity of Interstate 5. The project will improve traffic flow, improve emergency response times, and provide a more efficient transportation network for members of the community. The signed Notice of Availability, EA, and FONSI are available online at: https://projects.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/corridor. You may also request a digital copy of the EA and FONSI or additional information by contacting Tobiah Mogavero, BIA Northwest Regional NEPA Coordinator, at tobiah.mogavero@bia.gov.

This notice is published pursuant to 43 CFR 46.305 of the Department of Interior Regulations (43 CFR 46 et seq.), the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.), and in accordance with the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

# CULTURE NIGHT

## Regalia Making, Learning our Language, Singing and Dancing







## Beginning April 15 Every Tuesday at the Gathering Hall

Info: Natasha Fryberg 360.631.2737

### Bubbles from front page





#### By Kalvin Valdillez

"Bubbles!" exclaimed 7-year-old Zy'ani Johnson as countless bubbles caught in the wind and blew all about the Mission Highlands playground. While she watched a particularly big bubble fly away, young Marcus James chased it down. As it lifted high into the air, he reached it at the last second. Laughing with joy, he jumped into the sky with his index finger extended and popped it before it could get away. Returning to the bubble station, exuding jubilation and confidence from the adults cheering him on, Zy'ani welcomed him back and said, "Pop! Pop! Pop!"

This bubble extravaganza, organized by Tulalip Family Haven's Intellectual Developmental Disability Support program (IDD), took place on April 25 and was certainly heartwarming and one for the books. Held in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, the springtime get-together brought smiles to dozens of local kids either diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, or those who are in the process of receiving a diagnosis.

What made the event all the more special, was the fact that the bubble station was completely homemade, which allowed for some great interaction between the parents, kiddos, and the IDD team. Caseworkers, Alayna Helland and Talia Franza did their research and made numerous giant bubble wands simply from dowels and rope in anticipation of gathering.

When the families arrived, they got the chance to teach them how to use the bubble wands, making it a hands-on and sensory-satisfying occasion for the children. Evidenced by the happiness and gleeful expressions on their faces, the kids had a blast creating their own bubbles, which made for a much more memorable and fun experience than it would've if the IDD program decided to hire a bubble professional.

Still in its early years of infancy, the IDD program has done good work for Tribal families since its inception two years ago. Nationally, autism is becoming more prevalent in households across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in thirty-six children in the United States are diagnosed with an ASD.

Though this statistic could be considered across the board for all races and nationalities, it could also be a little misleading when it comes to children living on reservations. This is due to a general lack of resources and information available to tribal families throughout the nation. While most kids living with ASD or IDD receive



their diagnosis by the age of three, Indigenous youth often don't get an official diagnosis until middle childhood or preadolescence.

This can be overwhelming for tribal families. Without receiving that diagnosis, which is a daunting process on its own, those families don't have access to tools and resources that are helpful and fundamentally necessary during their kiddo's early childhood years. The IDD program was established to help bridge that gap between the reservation and those resources.

The program is referralbased and takes both outside referrals, from other tribal programs and/or the Marysville School District, as well as self-referrals where a family can request services by either in-person appointments or by completing an online application on Family Haven's department webpage. They offer their services to Tulalip tribal members as well as to other Natives who live in Snohomish County. IDD services include monthly play groups, weekly support groups, community outreach, connecting families with resources, and assistance with any applications in regard to their

child's needs such as medical, disability, and caregiving.

The Autism Acceptance Month bubble event encompassed all of these services in one. Inside the Mission Highlands building, there was a resource booth filled with all the necessary paperwork and informational flyers for the families to learn more about the program and how they can assist their kids throughout their journey. Most importantly, the gathering allowed families the chance to get to know each other, and also for the youngins to socialize together while engaging in bubble play. This has been proven to be impactful for kids with autism and their brain development and cognitive function because of its emphasis on patience, perception, creativity, sensory integration, visual tracking, hand-eye coordination, cause and effect, social interaction/skills, and motor skills.

While her son, Marcus, made his way back and forth from the playground to the bubble station, Yulia James shared, "I wanted for him to have fun and be around kids his age, make new friends. He is an only child, so I wanted him to get to know everybody and other people besides just his relatives. My son is not diagnosed with autism yet, we are still waiting on the diagnosis. But Alayna has helped me with everything and helped us go through all the channels. This is good to see – that he likes to have fun with different kids. I would love for more events like these to happen more often."

As his daughters Zy'ani and Anirrah, were fully immersed in that bubble life, Quincy Johnson expressed, "Both of my daughters have autism, so we were looking for programs to help us out. This is still fairly new to me, Zy'ani is seven and was diagnosed two years ago and I'm still getting my youngest diagnosed. I'm still learning and figuring stuff out as I go. I can honestly say Family Haven is a blessing. They helped with resources and support because I didn't know where to start. And today - I just love it. I feel like there needs to be more events like this for kids with autism. I didn't know how they were going to act around other kids, but they're doing fine. They love bubbles. They're loving

it, so I'm loving it too. What Family Haven is doing is wonderful and I'm so thankful for them."

The two-hour bubble bash was a success and has many families looking forward to more group play and events.

Said Alayna, "Today felt really good. The kids really took to the bubbles and the adults too. We had a lot of sensory stuff going on, the bubble play, and sidewalk chalk, and just being outside. We always try to have a sensory-based activity to keep the kids busy and interested and it seemed to really work out today. A lot of our parents feel secluded at home because kids who are autistic, they have their quirks and their ticks and there are different things about them. I feel that when we have events like this, they can be accepted for who they are. And it feels good to provide a space where they can be themselves, have fun, and be happy."

For more details about the IDD program, please contact (360) 716-4935.

## Mel Sheldon receives Elson S. Floyd Award for visionary leadership



#### By Micheal Rios

Economic Alliance Snohomish County recently held its annual meeting and award ceremony within the always stylish Orca Ballroom, the Tulalip Resort's largest banquet hall. Economic Alliance events are where locally elected politicians, business owners, and decision-makers gather to network and receive updates that impact the economic well-being and vitality of Snohomish County.

During the annual meeting, two inspirational Tulalips were propelled front and center on the podium. One was T.G.O. President Marci Fryberg when she presented the John M. Fluke Award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit and community leadership.

"On behalf of our tribal community, we welcome you to our homelands today as we partner with the Economic Alliance Snohomish County in acknowledgement of all the good work happening within our communities that we serve," said Marci to the members of Economic Alliance and invited guests before presenting the award to Craig Skotdal of Skotdal Real Estate. His family and company have played a critical role in shaping the development of downtown Everett, including bringing much-need housing to the area.

The second Tulalip to grace

the podium was none other than Mel Sheldon when he received the Elson S. Floyd Award. An award that recognizes a visionary leader who through partnership, tenacity, and a strong commitment to community has created lasting opportunities to improve quality of life and positively impact the regional economy.

Mel served on the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors for two decades, before retiring to the serenity of his motorcycle and fishing boat. Along with his fellow Board members, Mel helped to lead economic development efforts at Tulalip, including the construction of the Tulalip Resort Casino – one of the largest employers in Snohomish County – and the firstever federally chartered tribal city in the United States, Quil Ceda Village.

Under his and the Board's leadership, the Tulalip has initiated major transportation and infrastructure projects and built a strong police department and tribal court. They also completed importantenvironmental restoration projects and created strong partnerships with other community leaders and organizations.

"The Elson S. Floyd Award honors an individual whose work exemplifies his legacy – bold vision, tireless dedication, and a belief in the power of partnership to transform lives. This year's recipient is Mel Sheldon," said Dr. Paul Pitre, Chancellor for Washington State University's Everett campus.

"A longtime leader of the Tulalip Tribes and a respected figure across Everett, Marysville and the broader Puget Sound region, Mel has been a unifying force, bringing together people across sectors, across cultures, and across communities," described Dr. Pitre. "He leads with humility and purpose and his impact is felt in every corner of our great region. "From supporting

supporting education programs and job creation to promoting tourism and economic vitality, Mel has worked to ensure that growth is sustainable and inclusive. Proof that lifting up community goes far beyond just good leadership, it's about lasting legacy. He has opened doors and built bridges by strengthening relationships between tribal and non-tribal partners, and creating new pathways for progress throughout Snohomish County. Mel Sheldon reminds us that leadership is not only standing at the front, it's about showing up again and again for your people, for your neighbors, and for your future."

An active and engaged leader not just in Tulalip, but all of Snohomish County, Mel served in many capacities, including on the boards of Providence Hospital Foundation, Citizens Committee for Marysville Schools, and the Boys and Girls Club of Snohomish County. He also worked diligently on behalf of the larger Native American population when he served as alternate vice-president for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) northwest region. Last, but certainly not least, Mel also served as vice president in the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), an association representing nearly 50 tribes.

After accepting the Elson S. Floyd award for his visionary leadership, Mel shared that what he's most proud of is the development of the economic powerhouse that Tulalip has become. He also acknowledged that while much has been achieved, there is still more work to do.

"When I first got on Tribal Council twenty-four years ago, we had nothing but dirt, trees, and dreams. Now, we have the gaming properties and Quil Ceda Village, and all the businesses we've attracted there. It's helped Snohomish County and the Tulalip Reservation work together, grow together, and become not just a destination, but a desirable place where people want to live. I stand here today humbled, so honored, and eager to see the future growth of the Reservation and our County."







## Bingo night is a win-win for the community



#### By Wade Sheldon

Crowds gathered for the 22nd Annual Tribal Bingo Celebration on Monday, April 28, at the Tulalip Bingo Hall. Hundreds of tribal members came out, eager to try their luck and possibly win some extra money during this exciting celebration. The event featured three sessions, each filled with opportunities to win. There were 22 door prize winners of \$500, and the last door prize winner took home \$3000. Each session had 18 bingo games, where multiple participants could win \$1,199. Additionally, one lucky grand prize winner walked away with \$5,000, adding to the day's festive spirit.

After many years, tribal elder Mel Sheldon did not serve as the MC and instead, Tammy Taylor took the reins, energizing the crowd and preparing them for a fun bingo game. Before starting the first game, the bingo caller encouraged everyone to shout "bingo," ensuring no one left without having said it at least once.

Laverne Grove, a tribal elder who has attended the Tribal Bingo Celebration since its inception, shared her thoughts: "My favorite part about the Tribal Bingo Celebration is seeing all the people. I love to run around and hug everyone I normally don't get to see throughout the year. It's been a wonderful night because I spent it with my grandson and son, which truly makes me happy." After years of attending, Laverne finally won at bingo, expressing her excitement: "This is the first time I have ever won, so it's incredible."

Another tribal member who has been coming since its beginning was Billy Burchett, who wasn't sure about going to the event but made a last-minute decision that would turn in his favor. Burchett said, "I love coming and hanging out with my family. I get to visit with my mom, aunt, and uncle plus see a bunch of friends I don't normally see." When speaking about how the night was going for him, he said, "It's going great. I won \$1199."

As the evening ended, a sense of community and shared experience hung in the air. Participants departed with a sense of contentment, carrying memories and reflecting on the event, already anticipating next year's gathering.





# Earth Day every day



### By Wade Sheldon

Approximately 20 percent of the Tulalip Reservation comprises wetlands—natural systems that help prevent flooding, filter contaminants from water sources, and provide vital habitat and spawning grounds for salmon native to the Salish Sea. These ecosystems play a crucial role in both environmental health and cultural preservation.

Cleansing Mother Earth and empowering tribal members to protect their homelands for future generations has never been more urgent. On Tuesday, April 22, Tulalip's Earth Day Celebration brought the community together for a day of learning, restoration, and stewardship across several locations on the reservation. At the Tulalip Health Clinic, participants revitalized the community garden by repurposing raised beds and transplanting plants grown for giveaways, including calendula, a healing herb often used to make salves. Meanwhile, community members gathered at Mission Beach to remove debris along the shoreline, while others participated in a cleanup effort along 27th Avenue near Heritage High School.

A guided plant walk took place around the ballfield behind the Youth Center, educating attendees about the reservation's wetlands. Booths were also set up at the Youth Center, offering tips on nutrition, home renovation, gardening, and recycling. Creative and sustainable living ideas were introduced, such as using hempcrete—a biocomposite building material made from hemp—to construct affordable homes. Tulalip is set to become one of the first tribal communities to build a hempcrete house in collaboration with the Indigenous Habitat Institute later this year.

Other booths shared exciting initiatives. TERO provided information about solar panel installation programs available to Tulalip residents. Knox Cellars encouraged families to support pollinator populations by raising backyard beehives. At a fruit nutrition station, attendees could spin a prize wheel to win fruit and learn about healthy eating.

Tribal member Joyia Kinlicheeney was among those who

came out to support the Mission Beach cleanup. As garbage bags were handed out and participants began making their way toward the shore, Joyia cheered, "And it starts!"—capturing the day's spirit.

Michelle Bahnick, Wetland Biologist with Tulalip Natural Resources, led the plant walk and shared her expertise on local plant species. When the group reached the first wetland, Bahnick asked if anyone could identify a plant. A young girl excitedly called out, "Cattails!" Bahnick confirmed and explained their dual role. While cattails filter pollutants and provide habitat, their aggressive growth can threaten biodiversity by overtaking native species.

"We have excellent stormwater developments, but it's





Continued on next page

nothing compared to what nature can do," Bahnick said. She pointed to the wetlands surrounding the ballfield as an ecological restoration site. "If you impact an environmentally sensitive area, you become responsible for offsetting those impacts," she noted, referring to replanting efforts that have taken place near the Youth Center.

Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator Melissa Gobin spoke passionately about fostering a deeper connection between the community and the land. "I want them to love the land like I love it. I want them to take care of this land and take pride in it. I don't want people coming here and throwing garbage everywhere. This is where we all have to live, and we need to act as a community. I want them to love it like it's their mother."

She also sees youth education as the key to lasting change. "Teaching kids through outreach education is what I think will get people more passionate about caring for the land—it's contagious," she said.

Gobin warned that neglecting the land will bring severe consequences. "If we don't care for Mother Earth, she will fight back. You can expect a polluted environment where fish could become extinct, and animals will have nowhere to live. The water will be polluted, the air will suffer, and climate change will worsen. We're already seeing these effects and need to act to prevent further damage."

When speaking on how all those who came out took away

from today, she hopes participants walked away feeling inspired and empowered."I want them to develop a love for nature, to get their hands in the dirt and truly appreciate what Mother Earth provides. They should feel empowered to grow one plant or start a garden. They can volunteer and learn about important restoration projects for salmon, bees, and other pollinators. It's all connected, forming one huge cycle of life that we must protect."

Tulalip's Earth Day celebration served as a reminder

that environmental responsibility doesn't begin and end with a single day- it's a continuous commitment rooted in culture, community, and care for the land. From restoring gardens to learning about native plants and sustainable building, every action taken reflects a movement growing toward harmony with nature. As more people participate in these efforts, the hope is that Earth Day becomes more than a date on the calendarit becomes a way of life. Let every day be Earth Day.





## **KKONA LLC attending SWAIA Native Fashion Week (SNFW)**



Tulalip artist, Kiana Kona, attended her first cedar weaving workshop at the Tulalip Hibulb Cultural Center, where her passion for the craft inspired her to establish KKONA LLC, a jewelry company rooted in cultural artistry. While Kiana began creating jewelry in high school, cedar weaving introduced her to a new and deeply meaningful creative dimension. She became captivated by the process and cultural significance of sustainably harvesting cedar to crafting finished pieces. Over the years, Kiana has released multiple jewelry collections, blending natural, eco-conscious materials. Her innovative approach, combining woven salmon skin and cedar, has defined her signature style, pushing the boundaries of traditional design.

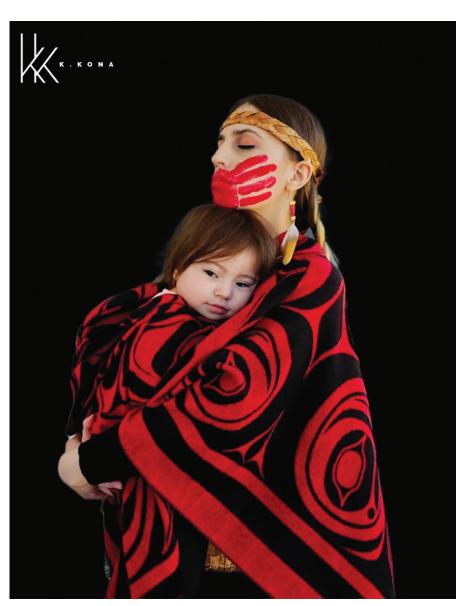
KKONA LLC's products are now sold throughout the Pacific Northwest at powwows, fashion shows, cultural centers, gift shops and online. In a significant milestone, Kiana recently launched her MMIW Collection One, dedicated to raising awareness for



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Kiana was recently invited to represent Tulalip artistry at the prestigious SWAIA Native Fashion Week (SNFW) in May, that is "a platform for Native designers to shape the future of the industry while honoring their culture and community." The event marks a pinnacle in Kiana's career. Reflecting on the opportunity, Kiana shared, "Participating in SNFW has been a dream. I never imagined it would happen so soon. I'm deeply honored to showcase my work and represent my community this year."

Kiana Kona, CEO and Artist Instagram @kkonallc kkonallc@outlook.com https://www.kkonallc.com/









## TULALIP BAY AFFORDABLE WORK RENTAL

7111 21ST DR. NE, TULALIP WA 98271

\$2050/ MONTH

OPEN HOUSE 5/6/25 & 5/8/25 AT 4:00P.M.-6:00 P.M.

LOTTERY DRAWING ON MAY 15, 2025 AT 2:30 P.M. AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

CONTACT (360)716-4129 FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE WITH THE APPLICATION



### TULALIP TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY!



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SCAN QR CODE FOR APPLICATION





THIS 4 BEDROOM, 1.75 BATH HOME FEATURES A BONUS ROOM W/ FRENCH DOORS AND PATIO, WASHER/DRYER HOOKUPS, NEW APPLIANCES, FORCED AIR HEATING, 2-CAR GARAGE, AND 1,564 SQ. FT. OF LIVING SPACE.

> APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5/12/2025 AT 4:00 P.M.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL TO <u>JHERNANDEZ@TULALIPTRIBES-NSN.GOV</u> OR <u>LEASINGDEPARTMENT@TULALIPTRIBES-NSN.GOV</u>

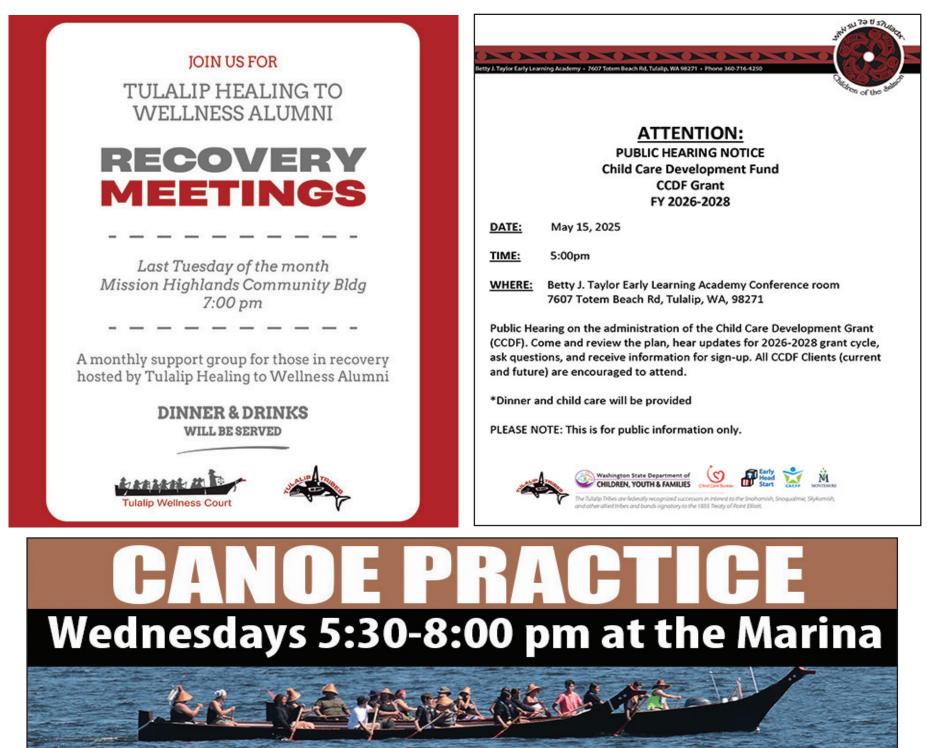
## **Court notices**

TUL-CV-2025-0213, Summons by Publication, Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip, WA. To: Michael P. John-son (D.O.B. 7/05/1965). You are herby notified that a petition for a domestic violence protection order was filed on the above entitled court pursuant to TTC 4.25 You are hereby summoned to appear regard-ing the above-entitled action at a hearing on June 11th, 2025 at 9am, at Tulalip Tribal Court 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. Notice: You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. If you fail to answer, judgment may be rendered against you. Date first pub-lished, May 3rd, 2025.

TUL-CV-P0-2025-0169, Summons by Publication, Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip, WA. To: Jordy Amevo (D.O.B. 12/13/2004). You are herby notified that a petition for a domestic violence protection order was filed on the above entitled court pursuant to TTC 4.25. you are hereby summoned to appear regarding the above-entitled action at a hearing on June 3rd, 2025 at 9am, at Tulalip Tribal Court 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. Notice: You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. If you fail to answer, judgment may be rendered against you. Date first published, April 26th, 2025. TUL-CV-YI-2025-0260. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA. In Re the Welfare of: B. J. E. TO: ALISHIA MARIE ELLIS, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition and Order for Emergency Pick Up and Protective Custody was filed in the above-entitled Court pursuant to TTC 4.05. You are hereby summoned to appear and defend regarding the above-entitled action at an IN PERSON Adjudicatory Hearing as to Mother on TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025, at 09:00 A.M. IN PERSON in Tulalip Tribal Court; go to: 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. NOTICE: You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER JUDGMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU. Date first published: April 19, 2025.

TUL-CV-AH-2025-0118. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA. To: JOANNE GRACE FRYBERG. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for Anti-Harassment Protection Order was filed in the above-entitled Court. You are hereby summoned to appear and defend regarding the above-entitled action at a hearing on MAY 7, 2025, at 10:30 A.M. IN PERSON in Tulalip Tribal Court, 6332 31st Ave NE, Suite B, Tulalip, WA 98271. NOTICE: You have important legal rights and you must take steps to protect your interests. IF YOU FAIL TO AN-SWER JUDGMENT WILL BE RENDERED AGAINST YOU. Date first published: April 12, 2025.

Notice by Publication: CAMERON CRAIG, Petitioner v. DAVID CAVENDER, Respondent. Tulalip Tribal Court No. TUL-CV-AH-2025-0170. To the above-named Respondent: You are hereby summoned to appear and defend the above-entitled action in Tulalip Tribal Court at 9:00 a.m. on July 1, 2025. You must attend the hearing AND answer the complaint by filing a response within 60 days of the first publication of this summons. If you fail to do so, judgement will be entered against you according to the demand of the complaint. This is an anti-harassment protection order case. A copy of the complaint is on file with the Tulalip Court Clerk. Date summons first published: April 19, 2025. Address for service:7412 Larry Price Loop Rd., Unit B, Tulalip, WA 98271.



# Tulalip Annual **CANOL RACES** Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18, 2025

### 6700 Totem Beach Rd., Tulalip WA 98271



### Races:

- Single
- Double
- 6-Man
- 11-Man
- Special on Saturday

Contact Info: Natasha Fryberg 425.422.9276

Vendor Contact: Josephine Fryberg 425.876.6836 Limited camping on-site, alternate location available if needed

