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syəcəb

Volume 46 No. 18

Saturday May 10, 2025

(Tulalip See-Yaht-Sub)

## Gathering of Nations

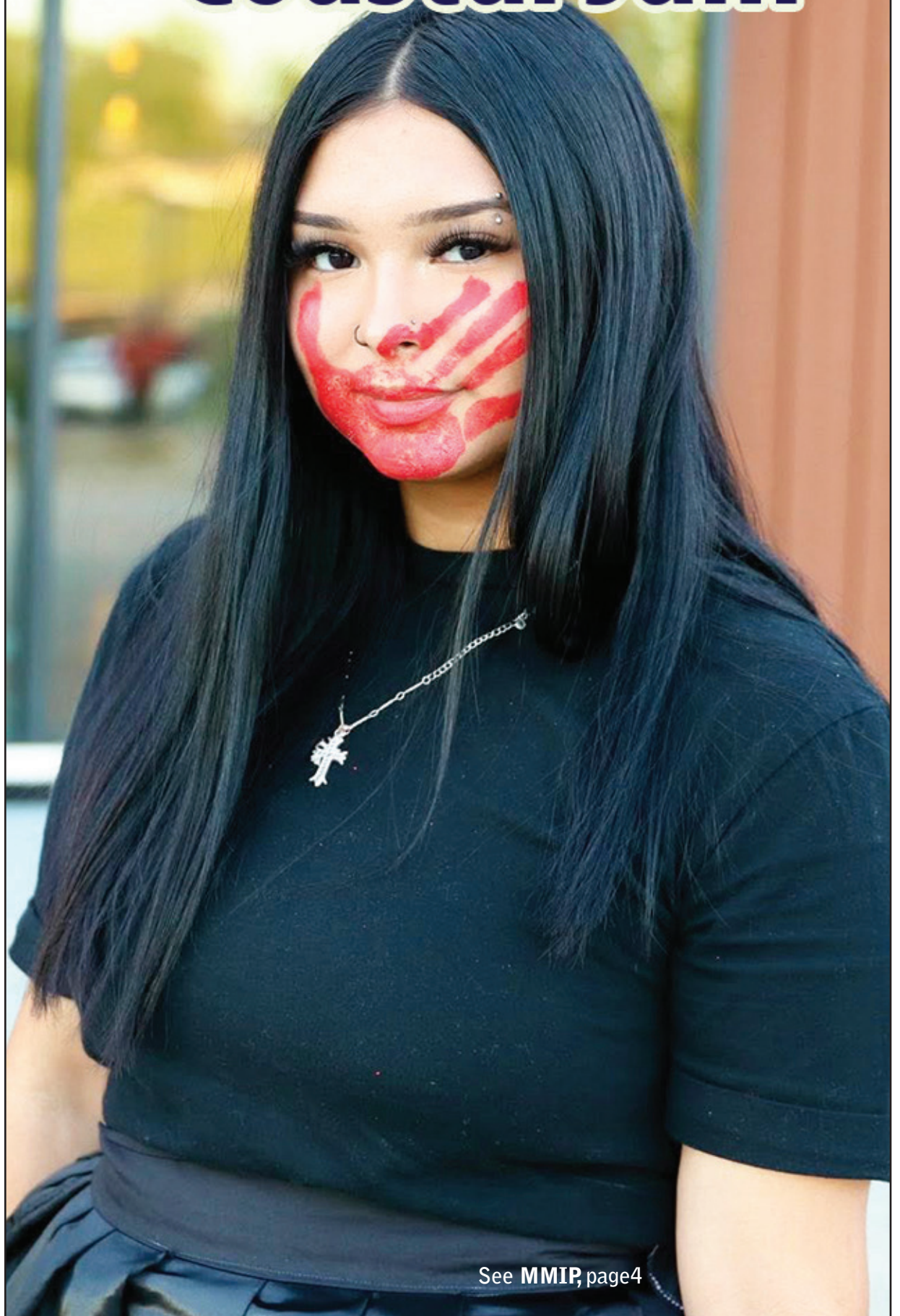


See **Gathering**, page 3

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## 2025 MMIP Coastal Jam



See **MMIP**, page 4



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

syacəb, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

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Volume 46, No. 18  
May 10, 2025  
Published once-a week by Tulalip  
Media & Marketing  
6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, WA  
98271 360-716-4200  
Deadline for contribution is  
Monday, with publication on the  
following Saturday.

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 can contact Calvin Valdillez at kvaldillez@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov for specific issues of the paper.

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

sg'aag'atəg'əl  
(talking with each other)



Join us for an engaging evening  
with our CEO and leadership team!

## DATE

Monday, June 16

## TIME

5:00 PM

## LOCATION

Gathering Hall

DINNER SERVED

## AGENDA:

Introduction to the  
Leadership Team

Discussion on the Tribe's  
Programs and Services

Q&A Session



Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and share your thoughts.  
We look forward to seeing you there!



# New elected Board members sworn in

By Wade Sheldon

On Saturday, May 3, a vital tradition was observed: the swearing-in ceremony for the newest members of the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors. Surrounded by family, friends, and fellow community members, Ryan Miller and Deborah Parker took the oath of office and officially began their term in tribal leadership.

Speaking shortly after being sworn in, Miller expressed gratitude for the community's trust in him and outlined a hopeful outlook for the future.

"It feels amazing. I feel incredibly grateful to have this opportunity to represent our community and hopefully make our community stronger and members' lives better. It's an incredible honor," he said.

Miller emphasized key priorities for his tenure, including housing, quality healthcare, a strong government, and education. He stressed the importance of collaboration with fellow board members and tribal members to strengthen Tulalip, noting the ongoing challenges in housing.

"Housing is a huge issue. We don't have enough for our members, and we need to be strategic on how we do that. It's not just low-income members who need a place to live; middle-class tribal members also need a place to live. We are looking for different partners and finding innovative ways to get housing for our members," he said.

In addition to housing, Miller highlighted the importance of addressing healthcare and mental health needs.

"We have got to find ways to make sure tribal members are

getting the healthcare they deserve. Every single tribal member deserves quality healthcare. We need to hold the federal government accountable for that. They haven't done their job holding their trust responsibility to the tribes; we are chronically underfunded."

He added that improving mental and behavioral health services would also be a significant focus, referencing a shared concern with Parker.

"Deborah Parker talked on this, and I am big on mental and behavioral health. I feel it has been left behind for too long. We need to raise the stigma around mental health as much as we can, and make sure that we are allowing everybody to be not only healthy physically but healthy mentally and spiritually."

Reflecting on the day's significance, Miller admitted the moment was emotional and humbling.

"Don't mess up is all I thought. It's hard; I'm trying not to be emotional, but it's an emotional day. I carry the weight of my life's teachings, passed down through generations, along with the

sacrifices of my children and wife, who have supported me so I can serve my tribe. It was a powerful moment, marking the start of a new journey. My first thoughts in the morning were, 'Oh, it's real. It's happening! I won, and I'm on the Board now. I have to get the work done.'"

While Miller embarks on his first term, Deborah Parker returns to the Board of Directors with deep experience and a steadfast commitment to advocating for Tulalip's sovereignty, wellness, and future generations. Known for her passionate leadership and advocacy on education, mental health, and cultural preservation, Parker shared the responsibility she feels stepping back into this vital role.

"It feels like an incredible honor to be back on the Board. My heart is in the right place, and I hope to bring a new set of skills to the Board so we can help lead Tulalip in the right direction," she said.

Outlining her goals, Parker emphasized her focus on education, sovereignty, and cultural preservation.

"My priorities are education, sovereignty, preservation of our culture and language, the health and wellness of our tribe, and making sure our treaties are protected through sound policies. Those are a few things that I want to start with," she shared.

She also spoke about her new responsibilities with the tribe's business side, which she sees as an important opportunity to help secure Tulalip's economic future.

"Now that I have been assigned to the business side of the tribe, I will focus on business enterprise. I will dig deep into how we will do trade and commerce. It'll be a new adventure to be part of the team that grows our economic prosperity."

As Parker looks ahead, she stressed the importance of unity and healing as key components of successful leadership and community strength.

"I hope our members know that together we are stronger. Whatever differences we have, I firmly believe we can work through them. Healing together is a critical part of our strength. It will take every one of us bringing our best selves to enhance the tribe," she said.

In closing, Parker reflected on the honor and responsibility of serving Tulalip. "I consider it a big honor. It's a high calling and I don't take it lightly."

With their terms officially underway, Miller and Parker now focus on the vital work ahead. Together with the rest of the Board, they will help guide Tulalip's future while honoring the trust and expectations of the community they serve.





MMIP from front page



By Calvin Valdillez

**“MMIP stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, and we need to come together every year and say their names, to keep their spirits alive. They know that we’re here and they’ve been waiting for this event. Because when we say their names, they come.”**

**- Tulalip member and MMIP mother, LaVerne Jones**

It was an emotionally heavy evening at the Tulalip Gathering Hall on National MMIWP Day. Hundreds of Tulalip families and relatives from nearby tribes met to honor the lives lost and those

who are still currently missing this May 5. The crisis that continues to impact Native families nationwide is often looked at through a statistical lens for many Americans, but on reservations it is felt a much deeper level. These individuals are a large part of the fabric of our communities. They are our mothers, fathers, children, cousins, aunties, and uncles. They play an impactful role in our day-to-day lives. They are loved unconditionally by many. And when they are taken from us untimely, the loss of their presence is felt by all. And to make matters worse, their cases rarely receive the justice and time they are due and deserve, leaving families without closure and answers. The 2025 MMIP event put an extra emphasis on uplifting

the families whose loved ones fell victim to this terrible epidemic. In 2023 and 2024, the Tribe put together a similar event to this year’s MMIP Coastal Jam. However, this year’s event was organized by the community and led by local Indigenous activist and tribal member, Sarah Hart. Prior to May 5 officially becoming a national day of observance for MMIWP victims, Sarah was the first person to bring attention to this epidemic at Tulalip. If you traveled along Marine Drive in the past couple of weeks, you may have noticed red dresses and shirts hanging up throughout the reservation. This has been Sarah’s personal project for the better half of a decade. As tears welled up in her eyes, Sarah explained, “Losing so

many sisters close to me and losing my younger cousin, Kyle Van – there just wasn’t any awareness here at Tulalip and I wanted to bring comfort and healing to start that conversation. I had this vision to start with one or two dresses, and it started to grow from there. I began wanting to hang up more and hit the spots where people were going to see them the most. The second year, Monie [Ordonia] showed up to help me, and she’s been with me ever since. She’s been my right hand, making sure I have support and has been a true treasure to me. It’s to bring awareness and healing more here at home because we don’t talk about it enough.” After being one of the sole advocates for MMIWP Awareness locally, organizing the MMIP Coastal Jam felt like a natural step





of progression for Sarah. She was determined to honor all those affected by the crisis in a good way and really lean into the healing aspect the Tribe's ancestral songs and dances provide. And she was able to accomplish this by cutting down on the number of speakers and extending the coastal jam.

In previous years, multiple guest speakers and tribal leaders were featured on the agenda and they shared their personal experiences and feelings about MMIWP. To keep things running smooth, the only guest speaker this year was Tribal Chairwoman, Teri Gobin.

Said Teri, "We are excited to have this event tonight so we can remember those who have gone on before us. This is such an important event, and I want to thank the volunteers who started to pull this together and all of our staff members who worked together on this. It's so important that we remember those who have gone on, we remember their family members who are still suffering, for those who haven't had closure because they haven't found their loved ones yet. My heart breaks for each and every one who are going through this. This happens way too often, and we just want to wrap our arms around you with love and show you this community cares about each and every one of you who have a missing or murdered loved one. We want to keep them in our prayers. We always hold out, hoping we will find our loved ones."

Similarly, at the MMIP events in years past, each of the families of Tulalip MMIP victims were called to the front of the Gathering Hall to share a few words.

Unbeknownst to event organizers, many of these families felt put on the spot and had a hard time getting through their allotted time at the podium. This year, after the potluck style dinner, Sarah opened the floor up and invited the families to come and speak and reminisce without pressure. Those who chose to get on the mic included the families of Cecil Lacy Jr., Kyle Van Jones-Tran, Jolene Leanne Flores, Mary Davis Johnson, and Gina Blatchford.

Many tears were shed as the families spoke. But one thing they all expressed was their gratitude for being surrounded by so many people and the love they felt at the Gathering Hall that evening. Once the families spoke, everybody was invited outdoors to light lanterns and send them to the heavens in remembrance of their loved ones. Though there were a few mishaps, and some lanterns caught fire, this was a special and fun way to pay tribute.

Before the coastal jam commenced, the people were invited to make medicine bundles of sage and lavender with the Tulalip Youth Council, as well as visit the Legacy of Healing resource tables, and to also write messages to those who are no longer with us on the two MMIWP walls in the halls of the venue.

As the people warmed up their drums and put on their regalia, event MC Chuckie Jones shared a few statistics. He stated, "There were 9,575 entries for missing AI/AN persons, in the FBI National Crime Information Center, filed in 2020. 71% of those cases were people under the age of 21. 43% were females under 18. And 15%



*Continued on next page*



of those cases remained active until the end of 2020. Just some numbers to think about, why we're here tonight - to celebrate and remember those who are missing. This is a national problem, not just a local thing."

With dancers and singers at the ready, the coastal jam officially kicked off with the powerful MMIW song, composed by Lummi tribal member, Antone George, who was in attendance and led the way.

After the jam was underway and the people were leaving and receiving that good medicine on the floor, Sarah took a moment to reflect on this year's gathering. She expressed, "No words can describe it. It was absolutely beautiful and breathtaking. I was a little bit worried and wasn't sure how things were going to come about and turn out, but I knew that I wanted today to be different, more community-

driven. I wanted to bring healing and medicine for everybody, and I feel like we did that today, the turnout was amazing.

"This year specifically, I requested that we start a master log of our MMIW and MMIP that will be shared with all tribal entities and could be kept somewhere. There seems to be some kind of miscommunication, so it's really important for me to get that out to the community. If you're missing a loved one, if you want to be a part of this, if you want me to add a dress or shirt, or say their name, please reach out to me and e-mail me and I'll gladly do anything I can to help support our people."

For more details and info, Sarah can be reached at [TulalipSarah@gmail.com](mailto:TulalipSarah@gmail.com).





# Gathering of Nations



By Micheal Rios

From the north's frozen tundra and south's desert pueblos, to the west's coastal villages and east's endless plains, thousands of Turtle Island representatives journeyed to New Mexico during April's final weekend. There the diverse and ever so vibrant representation of indigenous culture formed an unforgettable gathering – the legendary Gathering of Nations.

“We are so excited to welcome you to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow. As the drum beats began and the sound of bells and jingles from the dancers fill the air, allow this space in time to escape the drudgery and uncertainty of the real world for the next few days,” stated Derek Mathews, Gathering founder. “With nearly 3,000 singers and dancers returning to participate, the competition will assuredly be the best in the world.”

“Considered the most prominent and popular Native American event in North America, Gathering will once again host thousands of people and hundreds of tribes from throughout the United States, Canada, and around the world. As we come together as one tribe, we will continue to focus our work on producing the greatest event possible. Our

*Continued on next page*





continued goal is to present Native culture and pride at the highest, most visible level possible.”

In its 42<sup>nd</sup> rendition, New Mexico’s Tingley Coliseum was home to the three-day Gathering of Nations that took place from April 24-26. Widely regarded as ‘North America’s largest powwow’, the 12,000-seat Coliseum reached near maximum capacity during both Friday’s and Saturday’s awe-inspiring, evening Grand Entry.

It’s no exaggeration to say that Native culture bearers of

all ages journeyed from across the four directions to attend Gathering. From newborn babies to Golden Age competitors who give an entirely new meaning to elder status. Like the inspirational Choctaw husband and wife duo, Wilson (85) and Sharon Roberts (79), from Oklahoma.

“This is coming home for us,” said Sharon. “We’ve been on the powwow trail for so long we’ve made family everywhere. We just ran into a little girl we met years ago and now she’s all grown up and

is a beautiful dancer. We are always just so excited to see the young ones who embrace their culture and grow up to express themselves in the most beautiful of ways, whether it’s through their regalia or dance. No matter which tribe you are from or what state you live in, when we are here, together, we all dance to the same drum.”

Her husband, Wilson, provided the official Gathering invocation prior to Friday afternoon’s Grand Entry. After saying a few remarks to energize

the crowd, the remarkable eighty-five year shared he is often asked what fuels him to continue on the powwow trail at his advanced age. “But you know what? It feels like I’ve been dancing all my life, and I have no plans of stopping any time soon.

“It’s important to participate in these celebrations,” continued the Choctaw elder. “At my age, it takes a lot to get up and do this, but I know that exercise and powwow dancing is important to keep my body healthy. More







than that, it keeps my spirit healthy. It's my medicine."

Wilson and Sharon have attended so many Gathering of Nations that they couldn't put forth an exact number. When asked how many, Sharon simply said, "Oh, I don't know. A lot." The elder has spoken.

On the other end of the Gathering experience spectrum were first-timers filled with optimism and overcome with joy at being immersed in such a large-scale cultural celebration. Such was the case with father Keith Metoxen (63) and his daughter Savannah (26). They boldly drove 22-hours from their traditional Oneida Nation homelands in Wisconsin to Albuquerque, New Mexico to attend their first Gathering.

"I'm so excited to be here!" exclaimed Savannah. "We made our own traditional regalia for the occasion. Honestly, I don't know what to expect, but I'm happy to be here, experiencing it all with my dad, and I'm really hoping there's an inter-tribal dance so I can get on the floor and share my Oneida moves."

From an even higher latitude on Turtle Island journeyed a group of Mohawks from north

of the Canadian border. Hailing all the way from Kahnawake Territory, located in Quebec, was jingle dress dancer Amanda James. Accompanying her on the journey were two fellow jingle dress dancers and two fancy shawl dancers. The group of five Mohawk women glimmered spectacularly under the Coliseum's stage lighting.

"This is a dream for us to attend Gathering of Nations together," explained Mohawk jingle dress dancer Amanda. "Regardless of people's opinions about this powwow or its organizers, its such a great experience. We met so many wonderful people from all over Turtle Island that share a love for dancing, crafting, and keeping our culture alive, just as we do."

"We're a long way from home, but it's been so nice," added 14-year-old Mohawk fancy shawl dancer, Laila McComber. "While this is our first time here at Gathering, we know it's a nice opportunity to share our Kahnawake culture. For me, I just started dancing. When I dance I feel connected to those who danced before me. And for those who couldn't dance, I dance for them."

The Tingley Coliseum dance floor was constantly abuzz

*Continued on next page*



with culture bearers radiating strength and resiliency while competing in a variety of dance styles. From men’s grass, fancy feather and southern straight to women’s jingle, fancy shawl and northern traditional, each style’s dancers captivated countless pairs of eyes while energizing the shared space in a most remarkable way.

Outside the drum- and dance-filled Coliseum, the atmosphere seemed just as lively as inside. There were thousands of Native and non-Native perusing a gigantic Trader’s Market. The market showcased hundreds of vendors who specialize in a wide range of authentic, Native-made jewelry, art, and clothing. Also outside, occurring under the 86°

heat, were several dance group performances. These cultural exchanges would stop individuals, couples, and entire families in their tracks. Leaving spectators awestruck by the sights and sounds emitting from indigeneity at its finest.

Yes, Gathering of Nations is built around a competitive powwow where the best of the best

vies for titles and prize money. But it’s become so much more than that. It’s a pivotal gathering point. It’s a revered space to share stories, share tradition, and, best of all, share a solidarity that transcends boundaries and borders. In essence, Gathering is a celebration of a shared cultural identity. Powerful stuff.





**Gathering is a  
celebration of a shared  
cultural identity.  
Powerful stuff.**







## Stepping with Survivors

**First Annual Walk-a-thon provides support during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

*By Calvin Valdillez*

On the afternoon of April 30, dozens of Tulalip citizens laced up their sneakers and joined together at the Tulalip Track & Field outside of the Teen Center. Every April, communities are rising up to bring attention to a subject that isn't often openly talked about, providing a safe space for those who are ready to share their story, show support to those who aren't, and bring healing to all survivors of sexual assault.

Although this isn't the first time the Legacy of Healing and the Child Advocacy Center (LOH/CAC) participated in National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, this was the first year that they held a major event on the reservation.

The slogan for the gathering was, 'No survivor should have to walk alone', and in a symbolic effort of unity and support, participants walked upwards of three miles around the multi-sports complex to help bring attention to something that continues to happen at alarming rate in Indian Country.

According to RAINN, the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, Native Americans are at the greatest risk of sexual violence. Their study shows on average, American Indians age 12 and older experience 5,900 sexual violence per year and are twice as likely to experience sexual assault compared to all other races. The website also lists that 41% of sexual violence acts against Natives are committed by a stranger; 34% by an acquaintance; and 25% by an intimate partner or family member.

Said Legacy of Healing and Child Advocacy Center Director, Malory Simpson, "It is important to recognize and support survivors because it takes a lot of courage to disclose. In all areas of abuse, supporting and believing survivors will help to reduce any further harm. It also helps to provide a support system to help navigate the system after disclosing."

She continued, "Our team wanted to make a statement. Trying to think outside the box we came up with a Walk-A-Thon. The name,







“Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month at Tulalip is important because sexual violence affects more people than we often realize—children, teens, adults, and elders alike. At Tulalip, it’s essential to recognize that sexual assault happens here, and that survivors should never feel like they have to remain silent. Programs like Legacy of Healing and the Child Advocacy Center (LOH/CAC) play a critical role in raising awareness, educating the community, and providing a safe place for those impacted to seek help. Most importantly, April is a time to honor the strength and resilience of survivors, and to affirm that their voices matter and their experiences are seen.” - Marisa Chavez, Tulalip Legacy of Healing Lead Advocate

“Stepping with Survivors” seemed perfect to show our support for the survivors around our area. We want to see this become an annual event and are looking forward to the growth and education that will be put out into the community.”

After checking in near third base of the baseball diamond, people began walking laps around the paved track. While making their rounds, they were met with multiple posters that were placed along the fence of the fields that offered words of support such as ‘We believe you!’, ‘It’s not your fault!’, and ‘You are not alone!’ And upon completing each lap, they were awarded with a raffle ticket.

Participants were also asked to wear denim, as April 30<sup>th</sup> is recognized worldwide as Denim Day. Malory explained that this is a way to show support to an Italian woman who experienced life-threatening sexual violence at the age of 18 and pressed charges against her abuser. The abuser then filed an appeal and won, with the primary reason being that the jeans she wore were ‘too tight’ and therefore the act was deemed

as consensual. Malory provided a link, and she encourages See-Yaht-Sub and Tulalip News subscribers to read more information about Denim Day, <https://denimday.org/why-denim>.

In total, there were around 40 participants, and their ages ranged from toddlers all the way to elders. The walk itself lasted around an hour and fifteen minutes. Before the people sat down in the common area of the sports fields to enjoy a delicious Hawaiian meal, they were afforded time to peruse the many resource tables stationed near the skate park.

As the people dished up their plates from the buffet style dinner, Kennady Proctor, Sexual Assault Family Advocate bravely shared, “I am speaking here today not just as a Legacy of Healing advocate, but as a survivor. That is one of the many reasons why I became an advocate. I was in those tough and scary situations from talking with police, to getting an invasive exam, to having to face my assailant in court, feeling utterly alone, thinking what will friends and families think of me? What did I do to make this

happen? It was not until I was in college that I spoke out about what had happened to me. Many survivors of sexual assault may have had more than one incident or type of trauma that they have gone through. And unfortunately, in many communities, including this one, survivors may be too scared or nervous to reach out or make a report. Growing up we may think ‘Oh if this happens to me, I will call 911 or I will do A, B, or C.’ But truly no one knows until you’re faced with that situation. It wasn’t until later in the process of speaking up, was I offered and given an advocate. From that moment on, my perspective and viewpoint changed. I realized this is what I want to do in my future, once I have recovered and healed some from the trauma, I want to offer survivors of DV, SA, and other trauma the support, services, and give them back their voice, power, and control. Throughout the entire process, advocates can be there, and you do not have to do this alone.”

Kennady then asked for those who have been affected by sexual assault in their lifetime to

stand up and relayed, “Once you have the strength and courage to stand, you will see you are not alone. This community is trying to do what is best for our children, learn from our elders, and build a better tomorrow.”

More than half of the people in attendance stood up in response to her request and a moment of silence was observed to show support to each of those individuals.

Following Kennady’s moving speech, the LOH/CAC then held their raffle for the event. This raffle was separate from the one they were promoting all throughout April for Child Abuse Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Prizes included a T Spa gift basket, Lushootseed children’s books, and Native-designed blankets.

After it was all said and done, the LOH/CAC tallied up the amount of total steps taken at the walk-a-thon by calculating the number of raffle tickets dispersed during the event, which was 130,020 and equates to approximately 62 miles.

Walk-a-thon participant,

*Continued on next page*



Mona Soltero, stated, “I came out to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month. My daughter Savanna is also an advocate now for the Legacy of Healing. But also, in the healing work I do, I see a lot of survivors. I’ve also had my own experiences. It felt good to come out and just be here, provide some energy, hear the stories, and support everyone.”

Following a successful first year for

the walk-a-thon, that shows promise to grow as they build upon the event year after year, Malory expressed, “Today felt amazing! It truly was beautiful to witness the strength in each person with every lap completed. One word that was shared with me at the end of the event was, “VALIDATION!” A tribal elder who was there mentioned that to me after the event was over, she shared that we provided validation for

survivors, for herself - she felt validated! That warmed my heart to hear.”

For more information, resources, and support, please reach out to the Legacy of Healing at (360) 716-4100. The LOH/CAC also provided a list of winners from the Awareness Month raffle which is provided below.

## Tulalip’s journey towards sustainable and sovereign food systems



By Wade Sheldon

Tulalip News recently accompanied tribal elders and leaders, including Elders Commission Chairman Dale Jones, Interim Health System Administrator Dr. Gary Ferguson, and Diabetes Care and Prevention Coordinator Veronica Leahy, along with many other workers from different organizations in Tulalip. The group embarked on a journey across the mountains to visit Magana Farms and Yakama Nation Farms. This two-day trip, which took place on April 30 and May 1, was organized to explore partnerships with Indigenous agricultural operations and to gather ideas to strengthen Tulalip’s food sovereignty and trading opportunities. Notably, tribal member Rudy Madrigal helped organize the trip to support this initiative, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in enhancing community livelihoods.

The visit was centered on collaboration and education. “What we want to do is build a bridge and create a connection,” said Madrigal, who facilitated the visit. “Not just with vegetables, but with stone fruits, apples, cherries, peaches — and bring that variety back to our people.”

Magana Farms in Sunnyside, WA, offered insight into

their unique approach to farming. Known for a wide range of fruits, including white peaches, candy apricots, cherry plums, donut peaches, and nectarines, they supply schools, local markets, and have held a booth at Pike Place Market since 1995. “Since 1995, we’ve been at the same table,” shared farm manager Tovas Magana. “You’ll never taste fruit like this unless you get it fresh, picked right from the tree.”

The farm operates with a commitment to eliminating waste. Any unsold produce is dehydrated and repurposed. “Any fruit that doesn’t sell gets turned into something else. Apple chips, dried peaches — everything is used,” Madrigal explained.

For Tulalip, the visit to Magana Farms reinforced the vision of creating a community-based, self-sustaining food system. “Imagine our people processing deer, elk, clams, and berries in a shared space with freeze dryers, canners, and vacuum sealers,” Madrigal said. “Distributing that to elders who can’t hunt or gather — it’s about creating access and building security through our foods.”

The next stop was Yakama Nation Farms, a 1,500-acre operation purchased by the Yakama Nation in 2021. Fully functional from seed





to shipment, the farm welcomed Tulalip visitors to observe their operations and discuss the potential for future trade. Interim General Manager Jonalee Squeochs led the tour.

Dr. Ferguson reflected on the importance of the visit, saying, “I want to acknowledge our elders and invite them to share their thoughts so we can work towards healthier individuals and a healthier nation. Food is vital to our health; we should return to traditional foods and practices from our ancestors. It’s exciting to see efforts that highlight community engagement.”

Elders Commission Chairman Dale Jones also spoke, emphasizing unity and shared learning. “I want to thank you for allowing us to come visit, learn what we can, and share the brotherhood and sisterhood we have. We are all equal, nobody’s

better than anybody, and we need to get educated,” he said.

Veronica Leahy expressed hopes for continued collaboration. “The idea of growing food on a large scale has evaded us, and I’m hoping this group from many departments can be inspired by what we’ve seen here,” she said. “I want to do a work exchange with Jonalee, to show her what we are doing with Box of Goods and how we provide food for our patients.”

Squeochs detailed the farm’s evolution: “We started with five or six different crops and have now expanded to a certified organic farm covering 500 acres. Our goal is to grow our organic program to meet market demand and respond to requests for healthier options.”

As a predominantly wholesale operation supplying major retailers like Fred Meyer, Safeway, and Walmart, Squeochs highlighted a significant concern.

“I went to Safeway looking for our produce, but it often ends far away, even to California. We want to develop local food systems to enhance food security in rural and tribal areas where supply chains struggle to reach.”

She stressed the importance of food sovereignty and culturally relevant food options. “Food equity matters because it reflects who is cooking and how it relates to cultural practices,” she said. Squeochs also emphasized the connection between health and traditional diets. “Chronic diseases in our communities are linked to a lack of access to our first foods,” she added.

Finally, she shared Yakama Nation’s long-term agricultural strategy. “In 2019, our council initiated a plan to create a diversified agriculture program to manage our lands more sustainably and improve local food production.”

The Yakama Nation recognizes the importance of collaboration and innovation in achieving these goals. They aim to integrate traditional practices with modern agricultural techniques by leveraging community resources and expertise. This approach not only honors their heritage but also ensures the resilience of their food systems in the face of climate change and economic challenges.

When asked about collaborating with Yakima Farms and Tobias Farms to enhance self-sustainability, Assistant Biologist Teesha Osias expressed, “I think

it’s a fantastic opportunity, mainly because we’re at the early stages. Seeing what they offer and bringing those ideas home is incredible. This event is significant, and I feel honored to be at the table. This will fundamentally change how our reservation is perceived and enhance the Indigenous trading network. To be able to help my child move in this direction is a dream come true. I can’t believe this is happening, and there’s no turning back now. We’ve already acquired some equipment for our processing center with the help of grants, so now we need to find the right people to keep the momentum going.

As for the trip, I’m excited to return tomorrow; there’s so much work to do, and many valuable connections and conversations ahead. We are developing a five-year work plan for our food service, including hiring a director to oversee everything. We are working together to keep that vision alive and connect our community partners and programs with natural resources. They must understand our current position and aspirations.”

The journey proved to be both inspiring and productive, offering valuable insights and forging new relationships. As the group returned home, the connections made and lessons shared laid the groundwork for future collaborations, with a shared vision of building stronger, more self-sufficient tribal food systems.





# Rep Your Roots: A Celebration of Heritage, Hoops, and Healing

By William Iukes and Deion Hatch, WD Sports Nation – Not affiliated with Tulalip News

TULALIP, WA — Beneath the roar of the crowd and the squeak of sneakers on hardwood, a powerful sense of unity echoed throughout the Tulalip Youth Center and Greg Williams Court this past weekend. The 2025 Rep Your Roots tournament wasn't just about wins and losses—it was about honoring the bloodlines, stories, and traditions that connect Indigenous families through the game of basketball.

Founded by Joe Brady of the Lummi Nation, Rep Your Roots emerged in 2019 as a way to revive last-name tournaments that once flourished in communities like Lummi. “I wanted to bring families together—outside of funerals and sadness—to something that lifts our spirits,” said Brady. “Basketball has always been that healing force.”

After a COVID pause, the tournament made its return in 2022, shifting to a co-ed format and finding its new home in Tulalip. Since then, it's grown not just in size—but in soul.

## Families First

This year's tournament featured 23 last-name teams representing tribal communities from all across the Pacific Northwest: Suquamish, Lummi, Tulalip, Muckleshoot, and more. Families like the Jones (SUQ and TUL), James, Kinley, Fryberg, and Sheldon clans showed up in force—not just to compete, but to reconnect.

“It's like a family reunion on the court,” said a player from Team Enick. “We play hard, but at the end of the day, it's all love. This tournament reminds us where we come from.”

From the youth watching in the stands to the OGs lacing up one more time, the tournament bridged generations. Many retired players came out of “retirement” to rep their families, while younger players got a rare opportunity to suit up beside cousins, siblings, and even parents.

## The Dynasty

The headline of the weekend? Pakootas did it again.

With grit, chemistry, and heart, Team Pakootas ran through the winner's bracket undefeated and secured their third straight championship title. They set the tone early with a strong win against Team Enick and kept momentum all weekend, outlasting powerhouse names like

Revey, Mathias, and Miller. In the finals, they locked in once again, proving why they're the team to beat.

“Three in a row feels good,” said a member of the Pakootas squad. “But it means more because we do it together—as cousins, as siblings, as a family. That's the real win.”

## Looking Forward

Organizer Joe Brady sees even bigger things ahead. Future goals include adding competitive (Gold) and casual (Silver) brackets, expanding to youth and adult weekends, hosting a community feed, and inviting motivational speakers to pour into players beyond the court.

“Basketball brings us together, but it's about more than hoops. It's about healing, identity, and pride,” Brady said.

## Want to Support?

Rep Your Roots isn't backed by major brands—it's built by community, for community. If you want to support, donate, or sponsor next year's tournament, you can reach out to Joe Brady directly on Facebook or connect through the official Rep Your Roots Last Name Tournament Facebook group.

This isn't just a tournament. It's a movement. One game, one family, one story at a time.





# MINOR TRUST ACCOUNTS

## 2025 FINANCIAL CLASS CHANGE



### REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES

Scan the QR code to register, or type the web address below  
<https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/Dept/MinorTrustAccounts>



### PRIOR TO 1ST DISTRIBUTION

Must complete CASH and VIRTUAL classes

Registration is mandatory, no drop-ins,  
 limited to 15 members per class

## CASH CLASS



### IN-PERSON

2:30PM-5:00PM

March 7	June 13	October 17
April 25	July 25	December 5
May 23	September 5	

—OR—



### DISTANCE LEARNING

(NON-LOCAL MEMBERS) 3:30PM-6:00PM

April 22	June 10	August 26
May 20	July 22	November 18

-----AND-----



### VIRTUAL CLASS

Any time, just email Enrollment to get registered or go to the Tulalip Tribes website, Minor Trusts webpage.

### PRIOR TO 3RD DISTRIBUTION

Meet with financial advisor



### FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Provided from Tulalip or any other outside professional financial advisor

March 27 - 28	July 28 - 29
April 14 - 15	August 25 - 26
April 28 - 29	October 6 - 7
May 12 - 13	November 17 - 18
June 16 - 17	December 15 - 16

More dates to come.



LUMP SUM WILL NEED TO DO BOTH STEPS PRIOR TO THE DISTRIBUTION  
**MAKE SURE YOU PLAN AHEAD SO THERE IS NO DELAY IN GETTING YOUR FUNDS!**

Questions? Email [mriveira@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:mriveira@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov) or call 360-716-4300





*Join Us* to prepare for the Salmon Ceremony by attending practice sessions.

## WHEN

Every Thursday  
(STARTING MAY 1)

## WHERE

Gathering Hall

## TIME

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Questions? Contact: Eliza Davis  
at [edavis@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:edavis@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov)



*Save the Date!*

Salmon Ceremony  
will be held at the  
Longhouse on  
**Saturday, June 21.**

JUNE

**21**





**Jason Ian Kona**  
**Friday, March 23rd, 1973 - Sunday, April 27th, 2025**

Jason Ian Kona, a Tulalip Tribal Member, was born on March 23, 1973, in Hood River, Oregon. He passed away on April 27, 2025, at 52 years of age. He is preceded in death by his grandparents Ruth and Ervin Rodgers, Bertha and Isaac “Ike” Kona; mother, Helen Kona; wife Elizabeth Kona; friend Terry Smith; and dog, Tank.

Jason graduated high school from Columbia High in

White Salmon, where he lived his whole life. He excelled in many sports such as weightlifting, football, and baseball.

Jason always knew how to have a good time. Endless laughs, smiles, and unforgettable memories were created throughout his life.

He enjoyed spending his days on the river, around a fire, and on his down time- playing his guitar; but most of all he loved

spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his son, Seth Bierbower-Kona; daughters, Madison and Rylee Kona; grandchildren, Brynlee, Beau and Maizey, father, Lewis Kona; brothers Steve Kamekona and Tracy Kona; as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

**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 hereby 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 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 published, May 3rd, 2025.

TUL-CV-PO-2025-0169, Summons by Publication, Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip, WA. To: Jordy Amevo (D.O.B. 12/13/2004). You are hereby 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 9, 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 ANSWER 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.

# CANOE PRACTICE

## Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 pm at the Marina





**Tulalip Annual**

# CANOE RACES

**Saturday-Sunday, May 17-18, 2025**

6700 Totem Beach Rd., Tulalip WA 98271



## Races:

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

Limited camping on-site,  
alternate location available  
if needed

Contact Info:  
Natasha Fryberg  
425.422.9276

Vendor Contact:  
Josephine Fryberg  
425.876.6836

