Waves, wind, and community at annual Canoe Races



By Wade Sheldon

The shores of Tulalip Bay were alive with action May 17–18 as families, clubs, and communities from across Washington and Canada gathered for the 2025 Tulalip canoe races—part of the seasonal War Canoe Series. This year's event marked the third race in the circuit, which continues every weekend through the end of

August at various Indigenous reservations. From single and double paddler events to the 6- and 11-man races, the competition was as diverse as it was spirited. A special biathlon-style race even had participants sprint around the ball field before paddling a solo canoe through the course.

See Canoe Races, page 3

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #241
Venatchee, WA 98803

Jualip Iribes 5406 Marine Drive Jualip, WA 98271

Wellness Court Complete: Celebrating Dustin Moses and Sierra Boston



See Wellness Court, page 5

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

syacab, the weekly newspaper of the Tulalip Tribes

Reporter: Micheal Rios, 360.716.4198 mrios@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Reporter: Kalvin Valdillez, 360.716.4189 kvaldillez@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Reporter: Wade Sheldon, wsheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Tulalip News Manager: Kim Kalliber, 425.366.0570 kkalliber@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Media & Marketing Manager: Sara "Niki" Cleary, 360.716.4202 ncleary@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Volume 46, No. 20 May 24, 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

Follow @Tulalip News:











Not getting your syəcəb?

Contact Rosie Topaum at 360.716.4298 or

rtopaum@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

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.



Tuesday, August 26 at 6:40pm vs. San Diego Padres

RULES

- · Enter via lottery-style raffle
- · Must be 18yo+ to enter
- · Must be enrolled Tulalip tribal member
- · Two (2) tickets per person

HOW TO ENTER

- Email Laura Enick at lauraenick@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov to be entered into the raffle
- Include in email: T#, DOB, phone number, and if they are a veteran/elder (age 57+)

DEADLINE

- · Last day to enter is July 1st
- Winners will be notified by email on July 11th

DISCLAIMER: TICKETS ARE DIGITAL — YOU WILL NEED A SMARTPHONE TO PULL UP TICKETS THE NIGHT OF GAME



Canoe races from front page





Saturday opened with wet and blustery conditions that challenged paddlers physically and mentally. By Sunday, however, the skies cleared, offering sunshine and calmer waters that made for smoother racing and a more festive shoreline.

Among those competing was Makaio Mamac from Lummi, who participated in the men's 6and 11-man events. "Just getting out," he said with a laugh when asked about the most challenging part of racing. For Mamac, the sport is less about medals and more about community: "I mostly just do it to be with my people." He credited running as his main form of training and admitted Saturday's rainy weather made it tough to get motivated, but still, he went out and raced. "You get to meet many people and go places," he said. "It's a lot of fun."

Another pair of competitors, brothers Remus Wyse-Morris and Jacob Seward from Vancouver Island, have been paddling since childhood. "Like generations," they answered together when asked how long their family has been involved. For 17-year-old Seward, racing is more than a sport: "To me, it means life. It's about training, learning, and getting better while absorbing teachings from the water." He described his prerace routine as one of quiet focus and strategy, gauging wind and currents, and thinking through the course. While Saturday's waves were rough, the brothers especially enjoyed the unique biathlon-style race. "It was pretty fun!" said Seward, who described riding the waves as a highlight.

Wyse-Morris echoed that sentiment, saying his favorite part was "probably just the biathlon." When asked what advice he'd give a young person just starting, he responded, "It's not all about winning; it's about having a good time with the people you love."

For teen paddler Kiarra

Williams from Swinomish, staying upright in the stormy weather was a memorable experience. "OMG, I got drenched in water on Saturday!" she exclaimed. Despite the splashy start, Williams has been racing for over two years and takes pride in her focus while on the water, especially during tricky turns, which she says are the most challenging part.

Lummi paddler Kylie Bob shared similar feelings about the weekend. "Canoe racing means hanging out with friends and family, meeting new people, and enjoying everyone's company," she said. For her, the highlight was making new connections along the beach and between races.

Veteran racer Dr. Lexi Tom, also from Lummi, brought over 30 years of paddling experience to the event. Originally from Miami, Tom said starting the race season at Tulalip was special. "When I arrived Saturday, it was stormy," she recalled, "but the

weather improved significantly by the afternoon." Her crew came prepared with extra bailers and were relieved the course hadn't been extended—rough waters can add a layer of difficulty, especially at the season's start.

Tom co-founded the Marisa Mae Canoe Club with her sisters, repairing an 11-person canoe and welcoming younger paddlers into their group. For her, these races are about more than sport—connection, continuity, and culture. "It keeps the kids engaged with the water," she emphasized. "It keeps our traditions alive."

She also noted how meaningful it was to see people from many different nations and families reconnecting on the shoreline after a long winter apart. Many spent the weekend laughing, catching up, and sharing meals, whether racing or watching.















Wellness Court from front page

By Kalvin Valdillez

The courtroom was packed wall to wall on the afternoon of May 15. At the center of the room were close to a dozen Tribal members, their chairs formed in a circle. And a look around the outside of the circle showed about thirty community members beaming with pride and happiness, wiping tears from their eyes, as they gathered to celebrate two individuals for overcoming what some would consider the near-impossible.

Said Wellness Court Interim Manager, Leora Jones, "Both Sierra and Dustin have been a part of the program since I started. To watch them grow in the program and use all the tools that were given to them and be successful in the program so they can be successful outside of the program, it's been emotional. To watch two people overcome their struggles and barriers, it feels really good."

"I'm super proud," added Judge Christine Frausto. "They've worked so hard at everything they've done, and I've had the pleasure of watching them grow. They've become such a great support for their peers and for the program and I know they will continue to grow. For them to go through the program and do so well, it totally changed their lives. And it goes to show the strength of the program and that what we do works. They are the proof."

A Quick Look Back

Back in 2017, the Tulalip Justice Department implemented a new program with the intention of saving lives. At the time, the program was met with some skepticism as there had already been a few failed attempts at drug courts on the reservation in previous years.

Attending one of the very first hearings for the new Healing to Wellness Court model, Tulalip News caught a glimpse at something that would ultimately change the lives of numerous Tribal members over the coming years. As the first few Wellness Court participants took the stand, they each shared some friendly banter with the judge while also giving an update on their lives. The judge then went over their personalized plans to recovery with each participant, discussing goals and setbacks. If they were in compliance, they received an incentive of their choosing. If they strayed from their plans, they were given an opportunity to explain what happened before receiving a sanction, which ranged from a writing assignment to additional jail time.

Though participants and courthouse staff could see the changes in the participants week after week, the community was still unsure how the Healing to Wellness Court would play out. Keep in mind, this was at the beginning of some of the bleakest times in Indian Country, as the death by opioids epidemic reached an all-time high of 72,000 people in 2017. And according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Native American communities were the most affected by this

The overall perception of the program began to change about a year-and-a-half after its inception, when Tribal member Verle Smith emerged victorious as the very first graduate of the Healing to Wellness Court model. At the time Verle shared, "If it wasn't for the Wellness Court, I don't know where I'd be – if I'd even still be here. They gave me the opportunity to experience something that works for my life. I didn't know which way to turn, so I figured I'd try something different and I'm grateful for it. I want to thank the Wellness Court for it all.



"It's been one hell of a journey. I just want to say keep moving forward. It gets better if you don't put obstacles in front of yourself, "Dustin Moses.

I now plan to go through the rest of my life bringing the next person closer to where they're supposed to be, to where they're needed."

Verle kept his word. Throughout the past eight years, more and more Tribal members have found success with the Wellness Court. And one-by-one, the local recovery community has grown exponentially. And to this day, Verle can be spotted at recovery-focused events offering support to others and leading by example.

The Tulalip Recovery Community Grows

Fast forward to present day. Unfortunately, looking at things from a broad scope, not much has changed. Overall, it's gotten worse as the opioid epidemic continues to be a major issue all across the nation. In 2017, there were about 15 opioid deaths per 100,000 population nationwide.

That number jumped significantly, doubling to 31.3 deaths per 100,000 population in 2023. If we narrow that scope to just the American Indian/Alaskan Native community, there were 65 deaths per 100,000 population that same year, as this is the most current statistic by the CDC.

But what the Tulalip Justice Department is showcasing through the Healing to Wellness Court is that there is an upward trend of getting clean and sober locally. In fact, the Healing to Wellness Court has been a beacon of light for addicts looking to make a change. The program has impacted so many lives in a positive manner, that they were recognized on a national level, and held the honor of serving as a national mentor court for outside communities.

In addition to receiving a tailor-made plan to recovery, each participant must also complete a set amount of 'give-back' hours

News _______ May 24, 2025 6



"It's really hard to take care of others if you don't take care of yourself. Love who you are," Sierra Boston.

in the community. This is culturefocused and is perhaps one of the main reasons why the program has seen much success. The give-back hours help reconnect the people to their heritage and traditional way of life. It also provides an opportunity for them to reacclimate into the community, building bonds with not only fellow Wellness Court attendees, but also with tribal leaders, elders, and families. Wellness Court participants are often seen putting in work at events like Canoe Journey, Salmon Ceremony, and Smokehouse gatherings throughout their time in the program, as well as after successful completion. And every summer, the Recovery Resource Center organizes the Recovery Campout at Lopez Island. The number of participants for that outing has grown year after year, and a majority of those attendees also own a Healing to Wellness Court certificate of achievement of their own

There are several Tribal departments that assist in the recovery journey for those in the Wellness Court program, including the Tulalip Police Department, the Healing Lodge, Family Haven, Family Services, and the Recovery

Resource Center. During this time, many participants are able to find work within the Tribe as well. And with all hands on-deck, as long as the participant remains locked in, they are able to receive their certificates just 18-months after embarking on the red road. Which brings us back to the afternoon of May 15.

The Graduation Ceremony

The graduation kicked off with some words from the inner circle of the Wellness Court. Time after time, the current Wellness Court participants thanked Dustin and Sierra for their support both inside the courthouse and out in the community. Although they were happy to see the latest graduates' success, the also expressed a bit of sadness to see them leave as they each had become a prominent voice in the program's weekly talking circle.

Next, Sierra and Dustin's families, friends, and various counselors and advisors took a moment to reflect on how far each of them have come over the past 18-months, while also commending them on their determination. No matter the amount of obstacles or setbacks, these two worked

hard to attain and maintain their sobriety. They have found their true selves again and developed a deep appreciation for the culture and community. And most importantly, they have become a source of inspiration for others within the program.

"When it comes to this program, it's working because we are working with participants at their level," shared Leora. "We know they may be met with struggles, but we're going to be here to help them. We sit down with them as a team. We have judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, chemical dependency, mental health, we all sit at the table together and see how we can help them move forward. We get to know these people, we get to work with them, help them grow, and help them set long-term goals. Dustin and Sierra have come a long ways, not only in their sobriety but overall growth and they both have plans moving forward."

Dustin and Sierra were blanketed and received their certificates to an uproar and near-deafening applause as the community celebrated their milestone achievement. With the program now complete, they are both looking to make a fresh start. Their eyes are set on the future as they each plan to reunite with their families. In the next coming months, Dustin will be heading to Yakima and Sierra plans on moving to Alaska.

Before the ceremony ended, both of the graduates shared a few closing remarks with the Wellness Court participants.

Dustin

First of all, I'd like to thank the court system for putting up with me for so long. It feels amazing that I found a program that will actually work for me and help me mentally. Going in and out of the court systems, it was hard, always being on the run.

Finding this program, at first, I didn't know nothing about it. I was kind of skeptical when they

told me about it. I was going to say no and go right back out into the streets after doing my jail time - but I'm glad I didn't.

And these guys keep telling you, communication is key. It really is. It helped me. At first, I had a few speed bumps in the road in the first stages. Once I actually opened up and started getting vulnerable and asking these guys for help when I needed it, it helped me grow not only in the program but in my recovery. I'm glad to say today I'm celebrating 15 months clean.

It's all thanks to the support that I got from everyone in here. Not only the court, but my family, friends. It's been one hell of a journey. I just want to say keep moving forward. It gets better if you don't put obstacles in front of yourself.

Sierra

I as well want to thank the program. This is my third try. The first time I came in I felt like I was going to make it seem like a facade and run. I wanted to be here, but I was scared to face the trials and tribulations. The second time I was ashamed of who I was and embarrassed, so I showed up once and I ran again. I actually tried to disappear.

The third time this place, home, has saved my life. This will always be my home. The people and learning what a community is and a tribe, big or small, we're not meant to be alone. And I really had to face myself to be able to face others in both good and bad times. I will always be hoping and praying that this journey continues for all of us.

It's really hard to take care of others if you don't take care of yourself. Love who you are.

News ________ May 24, 2025 7

Tulalip to Hollywood



Comedian, writer, and producer Joey Clift discusses the nuances of creating his animated short, Pow!

By Wade Sheldon

On Friday, May 16, the Hibulb Cultural Center hosted a special screening of two films highlighting Native storytelling and resilience: *Pow!* and *Remaining Native*. The event featured the return of comedian and television writer/producer Joey Clift, a Cowlitz tribal member who grew up on the Tulalip Reservation. This marked the first time *Pow!*—his animated short—was screened in the community that helped raise him.

Clift, said the film was inspired by his experiences at powwows in Tulalip. "The powwows I went to as a kid were

on this reservation," he shared. "I went to Tulalip Elementary, Tulalip option school, and spent way too many summers blowing stuff up with fireworks from Boom City."

Pow! follows a young boy who attends a powwow with his family and faces the seemingly simple challenge of trying to find an outlet to charge his Game Boy. He learns profound lessons about family, culture, and connection.

Clift described *Pow!* as "kind of like a Looney Tunes short," but noted it was also an effort to bring contemporary Native stories into animated comedy. He broke down the film's creative use of visual styles, each one representing





a different character's perspective. A retro 16-bit aesthetic, inspired by early video games from the 1980s and 90s, reflects how the main character, Jake, sees the world through his Game Boy's pixelated, digital lens. A soft watercolor style using gentle brushstrokes and flowing color represents how

Jake's parents view the powwow experience—grounded in tradition, emotion, and community.

For the grandmother's memories, Clift used ledger art, a style rooted in 19th-century Native storytelling, where images were drawn or painted onto old accounting ledger paper



Shoshone Matthew Warbonnet from South Dakota expresses gratitude during the Q&A for bringing attention to boarding school issues, stating, "Thank you for sharing the resilience of your people and grandparents."

Continued on next page

Notices

May 24, 2025 8

to document tribal history and personal stories. Combining these styles, the film offers a layered, multi-generational visual narrative that bridges the past and present.

Now living in Los Angeles, Clift has spent over 15 years working in television. His credits include Paw Patrol, Looney Tunes, Cocomelon, Molly of Denali, and Spirit Rangers. He's also written jokes for high-profile celebrities like Tracy Morgan, John Cena, Shrek, and the Jonas Brothers.

He recounted how he originally set out to become a weatherman until college professors pulled him aside and encouraged him to pursue comedy. "That was 15 years ago," he said. "I didn't see people like me in those jobs, so I didn't think I had permission to work in those fields."

Clift emphasized how representation in media is changing and why that matters. "I've talked to Native folks in school who've sent me letters saying that because of the shows I've worked on, they want to work in TV too," he said. "That's my hope with Pow!— to create as much contemporary Native representation as possible so that I can show other Native kids who grew up on the Tulalip Rez, or any rez, that you can grow up laughing, drawing, and make cartoons too."

Native, Remaining powerful documentary directed by Paige Bethmann, a Haudenosaunee (Mohawk/Oneida), woman follows Ku Stevens, a 17-year-old Native American long-distance runner from the Yerington Paiute Reservation in Nevada, preparing to attend the University of Oregon. Alongside his athletic dreams, Ku also confronts his family's painful past—his grandfather is a survivor of the U.S. Indian boarding school system.

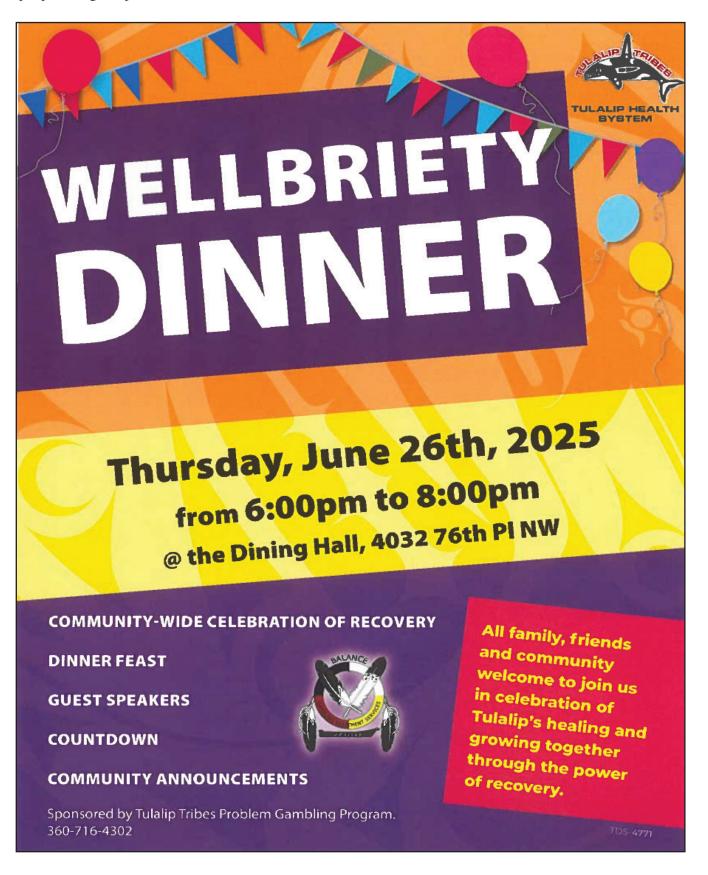
Ku attended the screening and participated in a Q&A afterward, sharing how the experience of making the film and navigating his senior year shaped him. "It was a life-altering year," he

said. When asked about living up to his Paiute name, Kutoven, which means "brings the light to the dark," he responded, "I don't think I'm there yet. People tell me that bringing my story to different communities is living up to my name, but I'm always chasing what I will be like ten years from now. We always strive to improve in anything and everything we do."

The film's emotional depth resonated with the audience, including Shoshone tribal elder and boarding school survivor, Matthew Warbonnet. "It's not just then, it's now," Warbonnet said during the Q&A. "Thank you for sharing the resilience of your people and grandparents."

Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills, who also attended the event to support Remaining Native, praised the film as a tribute to survival and legacy. "Ku speaks the truth about our struggles. That's why he's my hero," Mills said. "Truth should never be too severe to learn from."

Both *Pow!* and *Remaining Native* will be featured in the Seattle International Film Festival on May 24. For release dates and upcoming screenings, visit joeyclift.com and remainingnativedocumentary. com.





Prioritize Your Wellbeing!

Mental Health Awareness

Recognize the Signs: Learn to identify symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression. Seek help if you feel overwhelmed. Reach Out: Talk to a trusted adult, counselor, or friend. The tribe offers resources to support you.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Stay Active: Engage in regular physical activity, including traditional dances, to boost your mood and energy.

Eat Balanced Meals: Choose nutritious foods that fuel your body and mind, respecting our cultural practices.

Get Adequate Sleep: Ensure you get enough rest to help your body recover and stay focused.

are essential for your success and happiness, By recognizing signs of stress, making healthy choices, and managing stress effectively, you can

out of school.

Your mental and physical health

Stress Management Techniques

Practice Mindfulness: Use meditation and deep breathing to stay calm and centered. Exercise Regularly: Physical activity can help reduce stress and improve your well-being.

Find Hobbies: Engage in activities you enjoy, including cultural crafts and traditions, to relax and recharge.

Contacts:

Zee Jimicum

Youth Prevention Project Manager 360-716-4910

Behavioral Health







Join the bada?chalh Committee!

Are you passionate about supporting families and promoting the well-being of children in our community? The bəda?chəlh Committee is looking for dedicated individuals to join our team and make a difference!

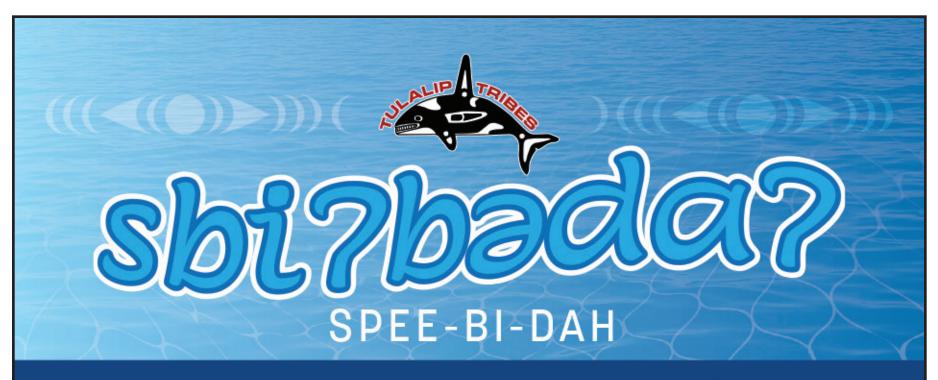


Requirements:

- Must be a Tulalip Tribal Member.
- Complete and pass a background check consistent with PL 101-630.
- Ability to adhere to strict confidentiality.
- Prior clients of bada?chalh who have successfully been reunified and have a closed case may apply.

How to Apply: Submit your letter of interest to the BOD staff receptionist or email it to bodstaff@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov by **Tuesday, May 27, 2025**.





Annual Beach Seining Gathering







Saturday, July 19 • 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Food is served at noon until supplies last

Tribal members and their families are invited to enjoy a day at the beach with friends and loved ones.

- Transportation will be provided from the Gathering Hall. Shuttles will run every 15 minutes from 9 AM to 3 PM.
- The event is handicap accessible.
 Please note that children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No pets, drugs, or alcohol are allowed.



Notices

May 24, 2025 11

Court notices

TUL-CV-CU-2021-0201 and TUL-CV-CU-2024-0986. SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Tulalip Tribal Court, Tulalip WA. Ryan Ervin, Petitioner v. Julene Williams, Respondent. To: Julene Williams YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for Custody Hearing was filed in the above-entitled Court. You are hereby summoned to appear and defend regarding the above-entitled action at an IN PERSON Hearing on Wednesday, AUGUST 6, 2025, at 01:00 P.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: May 24, 2025.

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.

Notice by Publication: CAMERON CRAIG, Petitioner v. DAVID CAVENDER, Respondent. Tulalip Tribal Court No. TUL-CV-AH-2025-0170. To the abovenamed Respondent: You are hereby summoned to appear and defend the aboventitled 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.



Public Meeting on Natural & Cultural Resources



- Are you interested in providing input on potential goals and priorities for Tulalip's growth and future development?
- Would you like to comment and learn more about what Tulalip is doing regarding natural and cultural resources?
- Join the Planning Commission and Staff for a working meeting to share your thoughts on this topic and provide comments on draft goals presented.

Planning Commission Meeting Wednesday, May 28th, from 6-7pm

In Rm. 162 of the Administration Building, 6406 Marine Drive Tulalip, Washington 98271

~ Food and refreshments provided ~



Memorial Day Services

10 AM
Priest Point
Cemetery

11 AM
Mission Beach
Cemetery

12 PM
Lunch at the
Gathering Hall





Contact: Tamur Zahir Jr. 360.716.4860 or William McLean III 360.-716.4862