



dx^ulilap

syəcəb

Volume 46 No. 22

Saturday June 7, 2025

(Tulalip See-Yaht-Sub)

**Seattle waterfront gets
permanent infusion of Coast
Salish culture** Page 6



A sleight of hand:

**Annual Stick Games Tournament
keeps ancestral spirit of competition alive**



PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #241
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Tulalip Tribes
6406 Marine Drive
Tulalip, WA 98271
Change Service Requested

See **Stick Games**, page 3

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

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

Reporter: Calvin 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. 22
June 7, 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 can contact Calvin Valdillez at kvaldillez@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov for specific issues of the paper.



HEALTHY AIR Healthy Community EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS

- **FREE** DIY box fan air filter kits
- Learn and prepare for extreme heat & smoke season
- Door and raffle prizes
- Boxed lunches
- And more!

DETAILS

WHEN
Monday, June 9
TIME
10:30AM–6:30PM
WHERE
Gathering Hall



FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@tulalipcommunityhealthdepartment

Stick Games from front page



By Calvin Valdillez

Drumbeats of various rhythms and tempos resonated all throughout the Tulalip Amphitheater during the weekend of May 30. Just audible over the dozens of songs and chants being simultaneously performed, guidance came from a pair of giant speakers as event MC, Andre Picard Jr., brought a little organization to the beautiful chaos known as the Tulalip Tribes Annual Stick Games Tournament.

Once a team heard their name called, they packed up their portable chairs and met their opponents on the battlefield, under shade provided by the large tents that were setup at the center of the amphitheater. Placing their chairs directly across from their rivals, the players then

brought out all the necessary gameplay items which included their hand drums, large sticks to keep score, and a set of bones.

The sticks and bones are often decked out in Native décor, some hand painted and some beaded with impressive designs. The bones are discreetly distributed amongst the team that is in-play, and a series of songs and hand movements are performed in order to distract the other team from seeing who is in possession of the bones. To win this Indigenous game of legerdemain, the opposing team must correctly guess where exactly the set of bones are located in order to advance in the bracket.

Organized by Carrie Ann Fryberg and family, this is an event that continues to grow year after year, with participants

hailing from all throughout the Coast Salish region. In addition to Tulalip, some of the tribes and first nations bands represented at this year's games included Ahousaht, Cowichan, Skokomish, Tsartlip, Nuuchah-Nulth, Lummi, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Swinomish, and Quinault.

According to the ancestral stories, the games have been passed down throughout each generation. Originally, stick games (a/k/a slahal, lahal, or bone games) was introduced to the people by the local Indigenous animals and wildlife thousands of years ago, as a means to prevent warfare and settle a number of intertribal disputes, such as the rights to hunting and fishing grounds.

Continued on next page





The tournament is open to all ages and provides an opportunity for multi-generational families and teams to learn, share, and enjoy the traditional game together. This year featured numerous cash prizes throughout the weekend, and the grand prize of \$25,000 was claimed by Talon Tohtsoni's crew, the first-place team in the main bracket.

Well over 100 teams competed for moola, bragging rights, and drums designed by Cy Fryberg. As always, the games extended late into each night, and the visitors were provided space to set up their tents along the Tulalip Resort Casino parking lot in order to get some rest in between their matches.

Aside from the main attraction of the games, a major highlight of the tournament for observers and players alike is supporting a number of Indigenous-owned businesses. Local artists and chefs set up shop at the amphitheater and sold the likes of Indian

tacos, kettle corn, hot dogs, caffeinated beverages, smoked salmon, as well as Native-designed clothing, blankets, and jewelry all weekend long. This included a handful of Tulalip vendors like Josh Fryberg and Family, Jared's CORN-er, TeePee Creepers, Big House of Doggs, Traveler's Drinks & Grub To-Go, KKONA cedar jewelry, and Captain Kirk's Smoked Salmon.

Following this year's tournament, Andre took to Facebook to share, "This was a very fun weekend! Big thank you to Carrie Ann Fryberg and family for organizing this Stick Games Tournament every year. It is an honor and privilege to MC and to get to speak in front of the beautiful stick game families. Safe travels home to all the stickgamers near and far. See you all soon, love you all!"





Seattle waterfront gets permanent infusion of Coast Salish culture

By Micheal Rios

“We are proud and excited to celebrate the installation of traditional native artwork on the waterfront of Seattle. We are especially thrilled about the completion of the art project by our treasured Suquamish elder and carver Randi Purser. Her work, that is part of another piece on Bainbridge Island, reflects our ancient presence on the waters between Seattle and the Kitsap Peninsula, named after two of our ancestral leaders.

“We thank the City of Seattle and the Friends of Waterfront Park for their commitment to this project honoring our heritage and traditions and the entire art team for their dedication and creativity.”

Those words were shared by Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman as he joined civic and tribal leaders at an official dedication for a highly-anticipated, publicly-sited art installation that spans multiple blocks along the revamped Seattle waterfront. Flanking the Seattle ferry terminal at Pier 52 are 22 pairs of sculpted Douglas Fir posts and beams representing the skeletal structure of a traditional longhouse.

The eye-catching longhouse installation is intentionally minimalist. With no walls, roof or doors, it serves as a potentially thought-provoking sculptural concept for millions of pedestrians who are embarking or disembarking from one of the terminal’s popular Jumbo Mark II class ferries. That’s not even accounting for all the usual and accustomed tourist foot traffic that routinely floods Seattle’s waterfront.

The visionary artist behind the installation’s design is Oscar Tuazon. He is known for his use of minimalism and conceptualism in us-





Elder Randi Purser carved a house post depicting Chief Seattle as a baby being held by his mother Sholeetsa.



Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman greets the crowd during the dedication ceremony.

ing natural materials to create large scale sculptures in populated urban areas. He's titled his latest, three-block-long art installation To Our Teachers.

"To Our Teachers is a framework for the future," explained Oscar, who grew up on the Suquamish Tribe's Port Madison Reservation. "Welcoming people at the edge of the water, the procession of post and beam frames are the beginning of a structure you can

imagine in your mind. Inspired by the living tradition of *dəq'ələd*, the distinctly Coast Salish house post that unites sculpture and architecture, the construction is designed to support the continuous evolution of the artistic culture unique to Seattle.

"Working on this project has profoundly changed how I think about art," he continued. "The opportunity to work with Randi Purser (Suquamish) and Ty-

son Simmons and Keith Stevenson (Muckleshoot) and create a structure to showcase their work has really expanded my understanding of what artists are capable of through collaboration. Together we can create spaces for community. This is why I think of To Our Teachers as a structure continuously being built— this is not the final form of the work, it is just the beginning of something bigger than me."

Seattle is a hub for urban

Natives whose roots extend across Washington State reservations and beyond. That spirit of connectedness is represented in this pier enhancing artwork. As Oscar stated, he collaborated with tribal carvers from Suquamish and Muckleshoot. Those carvers created two towering cedar house posts that are seamlessly imbedded into both longhouse entrances. Each house post is filled with deep-rooted significance for not just the artists' home tribes, but



Continued on next page

all those urban Natives who call Seattle home.

Tyson Simmons and Keith Stevenson carved the southernmost house post, which they've named Honoring Our Warriors. "This warrior figure was inspired by the carvers' warrior-uncle," explained the two carvers. "Yet, it represents the valor and sacrifice of all our warriors to secure our land, our salmon, and our native walk of life.

"Our warriors all carried spiritual gifts that cloaked them with strength and protection," they continued. "Fisher is depicted below the warrior figure to represent our warriors' myriad powers without disclosing any of their individual powers. We carry the responsibility to remember and tell our stories. The work is guided by our teachings. Our ancestors prayed for us. They didn't know who we would be, yet they prayed for us."

At the northernmost entrance is Suquamish elder Randi Purser's house post. She's dubbed hers *ʔəslaʔlabəd kʷədi bəkʷ dadatu*, which translates to Looking at All Tomorrows.

Drawing inspiration from the city's namesake, Chief Seattle, she paid homage to not just the legendary chief, but his lifegiving mother as well.

"Sholeetsa was the mother of Chief Seattle. Protected within her loving embrace is her son Chief Seattle as a baby," described Randi to the crowd who looked upon her carving. "On her dress is a design of the unfolding fern, which represents new life. Above her is the moon surrounded by frog heads. The frogs represent a time of change as they sing the winter away and the spring in. As a whole, this carving represents the people of today standing on the cusp of change."

What's on the other side of that cusp of change is subjective to any one of millions of pedestrians who every month will assuredly walk on the Seattle waterfront, pass the ferry terminal, and have an infusion of Coast Salish culture enter their peripheral vision.

However, as the artists involved shared, there is a unified desire that the change be reflec-

tive of recognizing the past that got us here and honoring still thriving Coast Salish communities in the collective future we all share. In commissioning this layered piece of public work, Seattle's Office of the Waterfront understood and shared the artists' vision.

"As we transform Seattle's waterfront, it has been important to us that we honor its history and move forward with intention," said Angela Brady, Office of the Waterfront & Civic Projects Director. "We want visitors to remember that Waterfront Park stands on the lands and shared waters of the Coast Salish Peoples, whose ancestors have resided here since time immemorial. The original inhabitants of the region built structures along the shore. These new artworks honor the important cultural history of the waterfront. I hope they encourage visitors to reflect on how we, as a city and a region, hold space for Indigenous communities, not just in our past but in our future."



To Our Teachers spans three Seattle city blocks, from Columbia Street to Spring Street.



bədaʔchəlh

Join the bədaʔchəlh Committee!

Are you passionate about supporting families and promoting the well-being of children in our community? The bədaʔchəlh 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 bədaʔchəlh 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 bodofficestaff@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov by **Tuesday, July 1, 2025.**



KAREN I. FRYBERG

**TULALIP
HEALTH CLINIC**



**20
25**

Annual Health Fair

Friday, August 15
Tulalip Gathering Hall
7512 Totem Beach Road

**9AM -
3PM**

Health Information
Booths



Fun Run/Walk



Screenings



Blood Bus



Mammogram Bus



Raffle



For information
regarding the
health fair,
please contact:

Cyena Fryberg
360.716.5688

cyenafryberg@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Tulalip Resort Casino named Best Casino in Washington and only casino in the northwest to rank among list of luckiest casinos in the U.S.



TULALIP, Wash. (May 29, 2025) – In conjunction with “International Casinos Day” on May 15, international casino review and rankings site Casinos.com presented Tulalip Resort Casino with the coveted “Best Casino in Washington” award, while also unveiling that Tulalip Resort Casino was the only casino in the Pacific Northwest to make its list of “Luckiest Casinos in the U.S” for 2025.

Casinos.com named Tulalip Resort Casino “Best Casino in Washington” based on people’s choice voting for the 2025

International Casinos Awards. The AAA Four-Diamond resort features quality gaming offerings including more than 2,200 slots, a variety of table games and the DraftKings sportsbook. The resort casino includes multiple dining options, award-winning accommodations, premium spa experiences and top local and national entertainment.

As featured in Forbes magazine, Casino.com ranked Tulalip Resort Casino #16 among the top 25 “luckiest casinos.” According to the article, each casino was ranked based on its “luck percentage,” which ranged from

25.49% (#1) to 9.65% (#25). At #16, Tulalip Resort Casino came in with an 11.64% “luck percentage.” To determine the scores, analysts sifted through Tripadvisor guest reviews, tracking how often visitors mentioned luck-related keywords such as “luck,” “lucky,” “won,” “winning,” “jackpot,” “bonus,” and “profit.” The more frequent the lucky language, the higher a casino ranked on the list. The next closest casinos to make the list were three in California and one in Las Vegas.

For more information about Tulalip Resort Casino visit everythingtulalip.com.

Obituary

Laurie Lynn Cepa
May 29, 1959 – May 27, 2025



Laurie Lynn Cepa passed away peacefully in her home on the Tulalip Reservation, surrounded by family and friends. Born in Seattle, Washington, Laurie was a proud descendant of the Snohomish, Jamestown S’Klallam, and

Lummi peoples.

Laurie was a lifelong learner and a passionate hobbyist. She found joy in knitting, macramé, basket weaving, wool spinning, gold panning, baking, and beadwork. She shared her artistic talents with others, teaching beading to members of the Tulalip community to preserve cherished traditions. Laurie also had an appreciation for the outdoors—she loved boating, fishing, crabbing, and camping. She was intrigued by stories of the past, immersing herself in genealogical research to uncover the histories of her family and friends.

Laurie approached her professional life with warmth and dedication. She worked at Seafirst Bank as a Legal Support Clerk then found success as a Real Estate Broker. Known for her kindness and approachability, she was a favorite administrator for students as Registrar at Ingraham High School, Franklin High School, and the Juvenile Detention Center. She retired as an Administrative Assis-

tant at Quil Ceda Casino.

Laurie had a big heart and a sharp wit. She was loved for her friendly demeanor, openness, humor, and the meaningful conversations she sparked with people. To know Laurie was to know laughter, storytelling, and a respect for culture and community.

Laurie was preceded in death by her parents, Larry Cepa (a member of Tulalip Tribes), and Carol (Shiplet) Cepa. She is survived by her siblings, Dennis Cepa of Tulalip, WA and Lisa Cepa of Everett, WA; uncle Larry Trimm of Duvall, WA; special cousins Sherry and Pete Guzman of Tulalip, WA; Godson, Kyle Sommer of New York, NY; beloved cats Baby, Mister, and Peaches; and a large extended family of cousins and friends. Laurie is laid to rest at the Tulalip Tribes Mission Beach Cemetery.

A celebration of her life was held, Monday, June 2, 2025 at 10 AM at Schaefer-Shipman Funeral Home.

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. Johnson (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.



sbi?bada?

SPEE-BI-DAH

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.



Join us for a fun
and memorable day!